



SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Our Christmas Bird Counts: A Little History by Leslie Flint

Prior to the turn of the 20th century, people engaged in a holiday tradition known as the Christmas “Side Hunt”: they would choose sides and go afield with their guns; whoever brought in the biggest pile of feathered (and furred) quarry won. Many observers and scientists were becoming concerned about declining bird populations. Beginning on Christmas Day 1900, ornithologist Frank Chapman, an early officer in the then-budding Audubon Society, proposed a new holiday tradition – a “Christmas Bird Census” – that would count birds in the holidays rather than hunt them.

So began the Christmas Bird Count (CBC). Twenty-seven dedicated birders participated in 25 CBCs held across North America that day. Those original 27 counters tallied around 90 species on all the counts combined!

In trying to find out more about Sequoia Audubon’s history with the CBC, I read through the archives of *The Needles* (these can be found on the Sequoia website). Here is some of what I was able to find.

The Crystal Springs CBC marked the beginning of Sequoia Audubon. James P. Rigby organized the first count in 1948 with the help of San Mateo County members of Santa Clara Valley Audubon who founded Sequoia Audubon in 1949. When he moved out of the area in 1949 the count was abandoned by SCVAS and not revived until 1955 by SAS. The 1948 count produced only 112 species but two of them have never been found again in the count circle. The Blue Goose (then a separate species) and Rufous-crowned Sparrow are still the only CBC records of these species.

Reported in the December 1955 (Vol. 6, No. 1) Newsletter *The Sequoia* (as it was called then): “This year the Sequoia Audubon Society is attempting its first Christmas count: The Crystal Springs Christmas Census, covering a fifteen mile diameter circle including Pillar Point on the west, the approach to the San Mateo Bridge on the east, and extending from the center of San Andreas Lake on the north to the northern edge of Woodside on the south... Though we are beginners we should be able to make a creditable showing in such a rich field.” Twenty-two counters showed up and they recorded 125 species.

In the December 1972 (Vol. 22, No. 4) issue of *The Sequoia*, the first Año Nuevo CBC was announced. It was conducted over an entire weekend and described as a “weekend assault”. This count was apparently done the previous year with 7 observers but not “in conjunction” with Sequoia Audubon.

An account of the December 30, 1961 CBC by Dr. B. Neil Dickinson (March 1962, Vol. 13, No. 3) lamented the drop from 164 species seen in 1959 to a mere 139 species. It cited the problem of too few volunteers and gunplay! “A distressing observation is that the coast from Pillar Point southward throughout our territory is one big rifle range during a mild weekend... And the birds were “spooky” and remained well off shore.”

Neil Dickinson was the compiler from 1956-1971 and, according to some, was very conservative in his sighting reports. For example, in 1979 he wrote, “My biggest regret is that I didn’t report the Yellow-billed Loon in 1971... Bob Bailey and I studied the bird in Upper Emerald Lake long enough with a 40 power spotting scope in excellent light.” There never were any other sightings on the count.

Monthly Meetings

2nd Thursdays 7:00 pm
San Mateo Garden Center
605 Parkside Way, San Mateo

October

Thursday, October 12th 7 pm
Spoon-billed Sandpipers in Burma
Aaron Maizlish

November

Thursday, November 9th 7 pm
Mekongga Mountains
Andrew Engilis

December

Thursday, December 14th 7 pm
Biking for Birds
Dorian Anderson

Upcoming Field Trips

October

Wed. 4th Hayward Shoreline
Sat. 7th Coal Creek OSP
Sun. 8th Big Sit/Big Ride
Fri. 20th Fitzgerald Marine
Sat. 21st Filoli Estate
Sun. 22nd Purisima Old Town

November

Wed. 1st Las Gallinas
Fri. 17th County Coastline

December

Wed. 6th Pescadero Beach
Sat. 9th Cowell-Purisima

(continued on page 2)

Some other interesting observations:

(continued from page 1)

- “It was disquieting to observe for the first time that starlings are wintering in San Mateo County” (1958).
- “Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teals strayed into our area for the first time” (1960).
- “Snow Geese are often seen now at Crystal Springs” (1965).
- “A gratifying development is the great increase in stilt in recent years” (1965).
- “The count of one thousand Knots was made by Al Bergeron on a single long but narrow shell bar near Foster City” (1968).
- Rock Wren was found on the first count in 1948 but not found again until 1989.
- Smew wintered in Foster City (1981 and 1982).
- Sandhill Crane sighted (1985 - CS).
- Horned Lark noted every year from 1959-1992 (173 in 1975); none since.
- Thick-billed Kingbird recurs (1998, 1999, 2000).
- Eurasian Collared-Doves make their debut in 2004.
- Royal Terns first reported at Año Nuevo (2015).
- Northern Gannet arrives (2015 and 2016).



Not seen on our CBCs since 1992, Horned Larks bred at SFO and San Bruno Mountain in 2016. *Photo by Donna Pomeroy*

**This year the Crystal Springs CBC will be held on December 16 and Año Nuevo on December 30.
JOIN US for the 118th National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count!**

For more information or to sign up for this year's Count, contact Leslie Flint (lfint@earthlink.net).

The President's Message *by Jennifer Rycenga*

Sequoia Audubon Society continues to lead the way in boosting Citizen-Science (a.k.a. Community Science) as part of our mission. From our earliest days, our chapter has been active in the Christmas Bird Count. Our excellent San Mateo county Breeding Bird Atlas, a product of the 1990s, is another shining example of this commitment.

Since the dawn of the 21st century our chapter has endorsed and encouraged our members to use Cornell's eBird database, and the California Academy of Science's iNaturalist platform. The results are truly impressive! Little San Mateo – third smallest county in the state - ranks among the top counties in California for eBird list submission! On iNaturalist, there are over 100,000 individual observations from San Mateo, from over 2500 individuals.

In April of 2017, we participated in the nation-wide City Nature Challenge, as part of the San Francisco Bay Area team. While we did not win – Dallas won for most observations, and Houston for most species – the outpouring of enthusiasm for Community Science around the country was wonderful to observe.

Alison Young and Rebecca Johnson of the Cal Academy, who spoke at a recent Sequoia meeting, are both Marine Biologists, and so they have hatched the Snapshot CalCoast bioblitzes to monitor our coastline. In a flurry of small bioblitzes up and down the coast, San Mateo hosted seven half-day explorations. This enabled birders to note the presence of breeding Black Oystercatchers at a variety of locations.

Scenic coastal views are an attractive dimension enhancing Sequoia Audubon's participation in the Brown Pelican Survey. This California Audubon project, now in its second of at least five years, was launched due to concerns with colony breeding failures for this landmark species. Small teams, following a carefully developed protocol, count Brown Pelicans twice per year, in late spring and late summer.

Citizen-science, though still young, is now a fully fledged social movement. When support for science seems to be ebbing, marshaling our observational skills as birders and taking advantage of the powerful technologies at our fingertips – from apps to cameras – can be a source of hope. We at Sequoia should be proud of the role we've played in helping to jumpstart this participatory movement.



Intrepid bioblitzers at Pescadero Point Beach. L-R: Ken-ichi Ueda, Donna Pomeroy, Rebecca Johnson and Alison Young. *Photo by Jennifer Rycenga.*

MEETING PROGRAMS

2nd Thursday of each month
San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo

October 12, 2017, 7 pm

“Surveying Spoon-billed Sandpipers in Burma” with Aaron Maizlish

In January 2017, Aaron traveled to Burma to attend the Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force Meeting and participate in an annual survey of the sandpiper’s wintering grounds. The Spoon-billed Sandpiper is the smallest of the 24 *Calidris* species. About half of the estimated 500-600 remaining birds winter in the Gulf of Mottama in Burma, a vast tidal estuary that is beginning to get official protection. The survey took place on small traditional 2-man fishing boats that move with the tides twice daily. It was a successful survey, with about 70 “spoonies” found among the 50-100,000 wintering shorebirds. Aaron will discuss reasons for the decline of Spoon-billed Sandpipers and other migratory species on the East Asian flyway, and talk about the international team working for the permanent protection of critical breeding, migratory, and wintering sites.

Aaron Maizlish is an avid birder and photographer with a background in environmental businesses. In 2016, Aaron co-founded the Bird Conservation Fund, a new non-profit that provides small grants to conservation projects protecting threatened and endangered species. The BCF has provided financial support for Spoon-billed Sandpiper monitoring in Bangladesh. Aaron holds a degree in Geography and Development Studies from U.C. Berkeley, and resides with his family in San Francisco.



November 9, 2017, 7 pm

“Biological Exploration of the Mekongga Mountains, Sulawesi, Indonesia” with Andrew Engilis

Join Andy Engilis as he shares the fantastic biological discoveries made in an unexplored region of Indonesia, the Mekongga Mountains of Southeastern Sulawesi. Never before systematically surveyed for its diversity, Andy will highlight the plants, insects, and vertebrates discovered in this very remote region of the World, including many species new to science. The expeditions took place from 2009 – 2011 and the results have led to the establishment of a new national park protecting this unique rainforest system of Wallacea – one of the world’s biodiversity hotspots.



Born and raised in Sacramento and Davis, California, Andy Engilis has been the Curator of the Museum of Wildlife Fisheries Biology (MWFB) at the University of California Davis since the year 2000. He is a Research Associate of the Bishop Museum, Hawaii. Andy has published 80 professional papers dealing with avian distribution, systematics, and life histories in California, Hawaii, Western Great Basin, Chile, Tanzania, Mexico, and New Guinea. Andy served (1989-2000) as a Senior Biologist for Ducks Unlimited, Inc. based in Sacramento, California. He supervised the wetland restoration and initial management of the Cosumnes River Preserve,

established the Pacific Northwest and Hawaiian Islands programs for Ducks Unlimited and represented the company as a biologist, around the Pacific Rim.

December 14, 2017, 7 pm

“Biking for Birds: 365 Days, 18,000 Miles, 617 Species, 1 Amazing Adventure” with Dorian Anderson

On January 1, 2014, Dorian Anderson set out on the adventure of a lifetime. During the next 12 months, he biked nearly 18,000 miles around the United States on the first solo, nationwide bicycle Big Year. Beyond the clear emphasis that his journey placed on environmentally sustainable transportation, his efforts raised close to \$50,000 for bird conservation. His daily blog was incredibly popular as it allowed readers to accompany Anderson at each stage of his journey. His talk will detail the birds that he found, the physical and mental challenges he faced, the landscapes through which he rode, and the logistics required to move about the country using just a bicycle. His blend of birding, biking, environmentalism, and humor should not be missed!



Dorian Anderson started birding in Pennsylvania and New Jersey at age 7. Dorian attended Stanford University where he majored in Cellular and Molecular Biology. He obtained his PhD in Developmental Genetics and Molecular Cell Biology from NYU before accepting a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Neurobiology at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School. It was during this last stretch that his birding passion was awakened. Anderson resigned his research position to embark on his year-long Biking for Birds Big Year adventure. He currently lives in San Mateo with his wife, Sonia. You can follow his birding adventures at his blog, The Speckled Hatchback – <http://thespeckledhatchback.blogspot.com>.



Sequoia Field Trips

Hayward Regional Shoreline

Wednesday, October 4, 8:30 am – 12:00 pm

Hayward Regional Shoreline is an excellent location for ducks, shorebirds, raptors, and songbirds. The eucalyptus, fennel, and coyote bush at the end of Winton Road often yield interesting land birds and the shoreline is home to many species of wintering ducks and shorebirds. Bring a scope if you have one. Easy, level trails. **Directions:** Take Hwy 92 east across the San Mateo Bridge; take the first exit -- Clawiter / Eden Landing – and go north to Winton. Turn left. Follow Winton past the old park office to where the road ends at the last parking lot inside the gates.

Leader: Donna Pomeroy. **Contact:** dpom@comcast.net.

Underbirded Areas - Coal Creek OSP: Alpine Road Migrant Adventures – RSVP

Saturday, October 7, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Alpine Road between Page Mill Road and Portola Valley is part of Coal Creek Open Space Preserve. We will hike the whole two miles, creatively parking cars to avoid walking uphill, in search of migrating passerines. Due to parking constraints, we will be limited to eight participants, so register now. We will meet at 8:00 am, coordinates to be shared with participants, over by 1:00 pm. **RSVP Required; space limited due to parking.** **Leader:** Jennifer Rycenga. **Contact:** smcbgeditor@earthlink.net.

Big Sit and Big Ride, Pescadero State Beach and Marsh Natural Preserve

Sunday, October 8

Join us for this pair of annual fun(d)raiser events! All day at the top of the hill above the metal bridge for the Big Sit! Come when you can, leave when you must. **Leader:** Jennifer Rycenga. **Contact:** smcbgeditor@earthlink.net. If you wish to participate in the Big Ride, contact **Leader** Rob Furrow at robertfurrow@gmail.com for starting point and time information.

Fitzgerald Marine Reserve – RSVP Required

Friday, October 20, 9:00 am - 11:00 am

Some of the best birding can be found right near the parking lot in the willows by the road and in the cypress trees by the picnic tables. So that is where we will start! We will then proceed down to the beach area to scan for seabirds and shorebirds. From there we will take a leisurely walk into the park itself where there is a mix of good riparian habitat and a dense stand of conifer trees which should have some good migrant warbler possibilities. **Directions:** Meet at the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve parking lot. The Reserve is located west of Hwy 1 in Moss Beach. From Hwy 1 in Moss Beach, go west on California Ave. and proceed to the parking lot at the end of the street. The Reserve's main entrance is at the end of California Ave. On weekends, allow 45 minutes to reach the Reserve from the intersection of Hwys 280 and 92. There are restrooms at the parking lot.

Leaders: Malia DeFelice and Chris Hayward. **Contact:** malia.defelice.sas@gmail.com to RSVP or 650-346-2009 (call if you are running late or lost). **Heavy rain cancels.**

Filoli Estate (Reservations required)

Saturday, October 21, 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

Filoli is the property of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. We have been invited for a morning of birding on this beautiful estate on the edge of the San Francisco Watershed land. The grounds of Filoli include a beautiful formal garden surrounded by large oaks and trails leading to riparian, redwood and farm habitats. Over 96 species of birds have been found here. **Reservations required** because this trip is limited to 20 people (sorry, no children under 14). Participants may remain after the field trip to walk through the house and formal gardens at no charge. Picnic tables are available near the Visitor Education Center if you wish to enjoy your own food, or you can purchase a wide variety of lunch items and beverages at the Quail's Nest Cafe. The gift shop will also be open. **Directions:** Take Hwy 280 to the Edgewood Road exit; go west. Turn right/north on Cañada Road and drive about one mile to the entrance. We will meet in front of the Visitor Education Center. **Heavy Rain Cancels. Call Sue James at 650-348-0315 to reserve your spot.** **Leaders:** Sue James and Martha O'Neal.

Check our website and Facebook page for updates and new listings.

Purisima Old Town Site and Cowell-Purisima Coastal Trail

Sunday, October 22, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

We will look for migrants and returning winter visitors by walking through coastal grasslands, ending up on the blufftop trail. We will then visit the Purisima Old Town Site (POTS) by special invitation of the Coastside Land Trust. The rows of Cypress and Eucalyptus trees remain that were planted in front of the 17-room Dobbel mansion in the mid-1800s, but the remnants of the once-flourishing town are gone, leaving a variety of habitats including a meadow and riparian area. The site is normally closed to the public because it is known to be a nesting spot for raptors. The group may also visit the Purisima Cemetery, just east of POTS. **Directions:** Meet in the parking lot at the Cowell-Purisima Trail (3 miles south of 92) off of Hwy 1. **Leaders:** Adam Dudley and Barbara Dye. **Contact:** adam.dudley@icloud.com.

Las Gallinas Ponds, San Rafael

Wednesday, November 1, 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

The Las Gallinas Ponds include the treatment ponds, tidal marsh and surrounding agricultural fields at LGVSD's Wastewater Treatment Reclamation Project. This is an excellent area to view a wide variety of waterfowl and other wetland birds and maybe even a chance to see one of the resident River Otters. These are level trails along a series of levees. This is a slow-paced trip, excellent for all levels of birding. A scope is useful here, if you have one, but many of the birds are close enough for great photo opportunities. **Directions:** From Hwy 101 in San Rafael take the Smith Ranch Road exit, then go east on Smith Ranch toward the McInnis Park entrance. Turn left immediately after crossing the railroad tracks, staying on Smith Ranch, and go about .5 miles to the end of the road, at the Las Gallinas Ponds parking lot. Meet in the parking lot. **Heavy rain cancels.** **Leader:** Donna Pomeroy. **Contact:** dpom@comcast.net.

Exploring our San Mateo County Coastline – RSVP - parking fee

Friday, November 17, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

November is a wonderful time to be on the coastside. The combination of shoreline and blufftop habitats afford a unique and rich opportunity to view a large number of species of birds including waterfowl, loons and grebes, cormorants, herons, raptors, shorebirds, gulls, warblers, sparrows and more. We will start our day at Venice Beach/Pilarcitos Creek mouth checking out the gull flock, then walk through the Sweetwood group camp to Dunes Beach. From there we will caravan to San Gregorio SB, Pomponio SB, Pescadero SB and will end up at Gazos Creek coastal access. At each stop we will check the gull flocks and shoreline, then hike short distances to vista points to overlook and scope out over the ocean. **Please confirm if you intend to attend this field trip.** **Directions:** Meet in the Venice Beach parking lot near the restrooms. The large parking area is at the west end of Venice Blvd. which turns off Hwy 1 just north of downtown Half Moon Bay. Unless you possess an annual State Parks pass, you must pay a fee for day-use beach access. Your receipt/envelope stub will allow you to visit all state beaches that day. **Leaders:** Malia DeFelice and Chris Hayward. **Contact:** malia.defelice.sas@gmail.com to RSVP or 650-346-2009 (call if you are running late or lost). **Heavy rain cancels.**

Pescadero State Beach

Wednesday, December 6, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

We will meet at the furthest end of the second (middle) parking lot for Pescadero State Beach. This is the dirt parking lot just south of the creek mouth. It does not require a fee. We will spend some time looking for shorebirds and seabirds from the bluff, then drive a short distance to another part of the park to look for landbirds. There is a wide variety of habitats in this park and we will hope to see quite a few species. Scopes will be very useful on this trip, so bring one along if you have one. Expect cool and breezy weather here, but warmer when we go inland. **Directions:** From Half Moon Bay, take Hwy 1 south about 15 miles toward Santa Cruz. As you approach Pescadero, you will see extensive marsh on the east side of the highway and the second parking lot will be on your right, just after you cross the bridge over Pescadero Creek mouth. **Heavy rain cancels.** **Leader:** Donna Pomeroy. **Contact:** dpom@comcast.net.

Check our website and Facebook page for updates and new listings.

Cowell-Purisima Trail - RSVP

Saturday, December 9, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

This morning's field trip will explore Cowell-Purisima Trail. We will look for raptors and grassland birds like sparrows and meadowlarks. Ocean views provide good seawatching opportunities for sea birds. This area features the coastal terrace prairie habitat, similar to Wavecrest and Blufftop parks further north in Half Moon Bay. At the turnaround point of our walk, there is a good riparian area where we can search for wintering warblers. This trip would be especially appropriate for photographers - both new and experienced - because of the sweeping vistas and hawks in flight. The plan is to walk a 4-mile roundtrip to the creek and back. The walk is flat except for the last descent into the creek area and return ascent back to the flat trail. There are restrooms at the parking lot. **Please confirm if you intend to attend this field trip. Directions:** meet at the parking lot on California Hwy 1, about three miles south of 92, across from Bob's Produce Stand. **Leaders:** Malia DeFelice and Chris Hayward. **Contact:** malia.defelice.sas@gmail.com to RSVP or 650-346-2009 (call if you are running late or lost). **Heavy rain cancels.**

Central Valley Birding Symposium 2017

The Central Valley Bird Club will be hosting the 21st annual Central Valley Birding Symposium Nov. 16-19, 2017, at the Stockton Hilton Hotel in Stockton, CA. The Great Central Valley, in the heart of California and the Pacific Flyway, is uniquely situated for excellent birding. Please join us as the CVBS again celebrates the best of birding in the Central Valley! Come meet the board and staff members! Reconnect with old friends and meet new ones!

New this year is a Thursday field trip with Jon Dunn. Then the CVBS kicks off with a scrumptious hors d'oeuvres buffet & no host bar on Thursday night, followed by one of our favorite keynotes, outstanding photographer and presenter, Ed Harper, with his program on *"Wings over the Central Valley"*.

Friday night's keynote program *"Bank Swallow Colonies on the Upper Sacramento River"* will be presented by Dawn Garcia. Saturday night's keynote program, *"Birding Without Borders: An Epic World Big Year"* will be presented by Noah Strycker.

Informative and entertaining workshops include: *"Wintering Burrowing Owls in the Central Valley"* with Lynne Trulio, *"Neotropic Migrants"* with Joe Morlan, *"Winter Waterfowl in the Central Valley"* by Jon Dunn, and an update on Central Valley bird conservation and research programs. Build your skills at workshops: Image Editing (Bob Steele), Bird Sketching (Keith Hansen), Beginning Birding (Sal Salerno) and Carving (Jim Burcio).

Field trips, offered Friday, Saturday and Sunday, always turn up exciting birds. Add in the entertaining and educational Bird ID Panel, the wonderful selection of optics, art and gifts at the Birder's Market plus the camaraderie of hundreds of like-minded folks, and you know you'll have a good time! There's something for everyone interested in birds. Come and join us to bird, learn, and just have fun!

To look over the schedule of events, go to www.cvbirds.org/events/symposium/info/. Registration begins September 8, 2017.



Trip Report: Mono Lake Basin & Eastern Sierra Slope, July 21-23rd 2017 by Adam Dudley

Thirteen birders had an exciting visit to 9 of the premier birding areas in the Mono Lake Basin along the Eastern Sierras. This fast-paced trip explored a variety of habitats and focused on target species that are difficult to see elsewhere.

We arrived in June Lake, checked into the motel, and headed out to a local birding site for a relaxing, but windy, afternoon walk. This was an introduction to some of the more common species in this area: Clark's Nutcracker, Cassin's Finch, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Gray Flycatcher, Mountain Chickadee, Brewer's and Vesper Sparrows, and Green-tailed Towhee.

After dinner, we continued towards Mono Lake, South Tufa area. As the sun set behind the Sierras we visited a spot providing excellent vantage to look for nocturnal birds emerging from their daytime roosts. Parking the cars, we immediately heard Common Nighthawks right above us! Over the next 30 minutes we were treated to a fantastic show as the birds tumbled, chased, and dived at each other, sometimes overhead and alongside our position. At nightfall, we drove towards the highway via a dirt road and were delighted as a Common Poorwill hunted and fed before us. Everyone in the group got great views in the 'scope. We made it back to our beds by 10:00 pm.

Saturday, we went to Wildrose Canyon for dawn. We soon heard our first Plumbeous Vireo in a stand of aspens; a specialty of this Canyon and a target species. Continuing slowly up the canyon, we noted both Gray and Dusky Flycatchers among



Adam's Posse at Mono Lake, photo by Sonny Mencher



Mountain Quail, photo by Donna Pomeroy

many of the common species. We had views of Plumbeous Vireo feeding young. Two very unusual observations were unfortunately seen by only a few in our group: a Hermit Warbler; and a stunning pair of Lawrence's Goldfinches. Juniper Titmouse was similarly elusive. However, the Canyon's reputation was well deserved with 43 species seen in total: other birds of note included 3 species of Hummingbird (Black-chinned, Rufous and Calliope), Green-tailed Towhee, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Clark's Nutcracker, Cassin's Finch, Black-throated Gray Warbler, and Nashville Warbler. Many species of butterfly were also seen in this canyon.

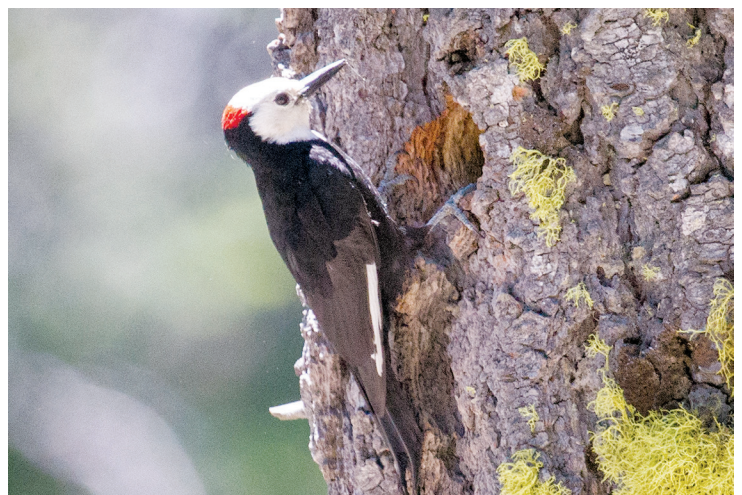
Next was Chidago Canyon and our birding started with incredible views of a covey of Mountain Quail! A handsome male perched atop a tree branch for 10 minutes, allowing everyone to enjoy a view with the 'scope. We had good views of the recently-described Sagebrush Sparrow, but had to be content with only hearing Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay (new species as of 2016). Even in the desert heat we located all our target species including hearing several flocks of noisy Pinyon Jays, getting

excellent views of Black-throated Sparrows and Sage Thrashers, and seeing several Loggerhead Shrikes.

We left Chidago Canyon happy to have seen such quality birds, and travelled to our lunch stop via the eastern shores of Lake Crowley. Here we found an impressive diversity of both water and land birds, with highlights being 2 more species of sparrow (Vesper and Savannah), several Horned Larks, 3 Red-necked Phalaropes, a Caspian Tern, and 7 White-faced Ibis.

After lunch, we hiked at higher elevation with great views of several White-headed Woodpeckers, a specialty of the area. Further along the trail, the group flushed a female Sooty Grouse and her chicks! We had prolonged, close views of the adult perched in a tree as she assessed the danger to her family. Meanwhile, Mountain Chickadees, Clark's Nutcrackers, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Golden-crowned Kinglets, and Thick-billed Fox Sparrows were seen in the surrounding trees...

Ed. Note: Due to space limitations, this article has been abruptly cut. To see the full report, go to the Field Trips section of our website: www.birding.sequoia-audubon.org/reports.html



White-headed Woodpecker, photo by Donna Pomeroy

OFFICERS

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At Large: Doug Brown, Marshall
Dinowitz, Adam Dudley, Nelle Lyons,
Doug Pomeroy, Susan Stratton

Consulting Biologist

Alvaro Jaramillo

COMMITTEES

Audubon Canyon Ranch Representative

John Epperson johnnepperson2010@gmail.com

Bluebird Recovery

Chris O'Connell sequoiaaudubon@mail.com

Christmas Bird Count (CBC)

Al Demartini al_demar@yahoo.com

Leslie Flint lfint@earthlink.net

Speakers Programs

Leslie Flint lfint@earthlink.net

Conservation

Marshall Dinowitz marshall2003@comcast.net

Leslie Flint lfint@earthlink.net

Education

Nelle Lyons 650-515-9052

Field Trips

Adam Dudley adam.dudley@icloud.com

Hospitality

Laurie Graham greylag64@gmail.com

Membership Database

Susan Stratton needles@sequoia-audubon.org

Newsletter Editor

Chris O'Connell sequoiaaudubon@mail.com

Administrative Assistant

Chris O'Connell office@sequoia-audubon.com

MISSION STATEMENT

Sequoia Audubon Society protects native birds and other wildlife and their ecosystems in San Mateo County by engaging people of all ages in conservation, education, advocacy and enjoyment.

Sequoia Audubon Society

P.O. Box 620292

Woodside, CA

94062-0292

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Please consider an extra donation to your chapter in support of the work we do to provide birding trips, monthly programs, monitoring conservation concerns around the county, education and outreach. **Thank you!**

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Has someone inspired you, or just done something kind for the world or for the birds? A donation in recognition gives toward supporting our Chapter's work.

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We're looking for Volunteers! Get Involved! Take Action!

You can make a difference! How can you help? Join our team! For more information, email: office@sequoia-audubon.org

Make Sure Your Coffee Supports Birds – Buy Bird Friendly SMBC Certified Coffee

Does your daily coffee support bird habitat or contribute to the demise of Neotropical landscapes?

If it doesn't have the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center (SMBC) Bird Friendly certification seal your money does not support farming practices that support resident and migratory birds. During our monthly public meetings Sequoia proudly serves Certified Bird Friendly coffee, 100% organic and shade grown from *Birds and Beans*, *The Good Coffee* (<https://www.birdsandbeans.com>) and generously donated for each monthly meeting by Susan Rowinski.



Sequoia Audubon Society Membership Form

Senior or Student membership	\$15.00
Individual membership	\$20.00
Family membership	\$25.00
Supporter	\$100.00
Donation to SAS	\$
	\$
Total	\$

Yes, I am interested in volunteering _____

Newsletter Preference:

_____ Mail and / or _____ E-mail

E-mail address _____

P.O. Box 620292, Woodside, CA 94062-0292

Contact us: 650.529.1454

or

office@sequoia-audubon.org

Visit our website: www.sequoia-audubon.org

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