

Bulletin of the Sequoia Audubon Society, San Mateo County Founded 1949 Volume 69, No. 4 October - December 2018

Sequoia Turns 70 by Jennifer Rycenga

Back in 1949, some enterprising bird lovers decided that San Mateo County needed and deserved its own Audubon chapter, and thus was Sequoia Audubon Society born! Part of a large post-World War II boom in civic activity, but decades prior to the environmental movement, Sequoia Audubon Society sponsored field trips and conservation advocacy from its earliest days. The results of these forward-thinking founders are now clear.

Sequoia Audubon Society has developed over the past three-score and ten years into a vital advocate for birds and their habitats. Our organization has educated generations of school children in San Mateo County on birds, conducted thousands of field trips, sponsored two of the most successful Christmas Bird Counts in the country, helped to save Pescadero Marsh, supported our birding community's enthusiastic participation in the electronic age of the 21st century, honored our local birding superstars, sponsored festivals, assisted in bringing pelagic birding back to our waters, and much more!

In honor of our distinguished record and happy anniversary, Sequoia Audubon has chosen to celebrate our seventieth in style, with special guest speakers, field trips, honors, games, and innovations. Come to our meetings and events, and be a part of the next generation to carry this torch of love for all things avian. Look for new logo gear celebrating the 70th, and a new feature here in the newsletter looking back at older entries. Our history will be something we want to collect – if you have memories of incidents in the life of the club from the twentieth century, please share them with the newsletter editor, or with Jennifer Rycenga, for archiving.

Let's throw a year-long party for the BIRDS, for our chapter's success so far, and for a positive outlook for birds in San Mateo County's future.



Pygmy Nuthatch in El Granada, July 2018 *Photo by Donna Pomeroy*

Monthly Meetings

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

October 11

Shakespeare's Birds *Martin Hyatt*

November 8

New Zealand and more Joe Morlan

> <u>December 13</u> CBC Panel

Upcoming Field Trips

October

Wed. 3rd	Coyote Point
Sat. 6th	Pescadero
Sat. 6th	Coyote Point
Sat. 6th	Shorebirds Bayside
Sun. 7th	SF Botanical Gardens
Sat. 13th	Bedwell Bayfront
Sun. 14th	Edgewood Park
Sun, 14th	Big Sit / Big Ride

November

Filoli Estate

Wed. 7th	Hayward Shoreline
Sat. 10th	Bedwell Bayfront
Sun. 11th	Edgewood Park

Sat. 20th

December

Wed. 5th Millbrae Bayfront

Migrations

We welcome Chris MacIntosh and John Epperson as new members of the Board of Directors. Chris has been a Midpeninsula Regional Open Space Docent for over 30 years, leading walks on all topics - fungi, dark skies, general natural history. She has lived in the area for 40 years. Chris has a passion for introducing people to the outdoors around them and will bring a lot of energy to her new position.



John Epperson is a long-time member who recently stepped down as a Director at Audubon Canyon Ranch. He was Sequoia Audubon's Representative to that North Bay organization. John brings a keen mind and a wealth of experience to his new duties.



The organization lost Director Rob Furrow to the central valley and the University of California, Davis. Rob led many field trips and was a pioneer in Sequoia Audubon's biking and birding activities. We wish him flat roads and persistent tail winds. And many good birds, too. Thanks for all your work, Rob.

Bird Friendly Signage in Foster City by Leslie Flint

In a cooperative effort between Sequoia Audubon and Foster City Public Works and Parks & Recreation, the kiosk at Marlin and Beach Park Boulevard has a new sign and improved educational information. The Foster City Shell Bar is an important feeding/resting spot for thousands of shorebirds that spend the winter on San Francisco Bay. Too often these birds are disturbed by the public walking their dogs off leash there or simply finding it amusing to scare the birds.



Sequoia met with Foster City representatives and suggested they put up a sign asking people to respect the birds and to keep their dogs on-leash. They were very responsive and the sign was

a sign asking people to respect the birds and to keep their dogs on-leash. They were very responsive and the sign was recently completed and installed. It includes Sequoia's logo and contact information. In addition, Matthew Dodder designed a new poster illustrating the common species of shorebirds at the Shell Bar for the kiosk. We are hoping this will educate the public to the importance of our wintering shorebirds.

Save the Date for Coming Events

Christmas Bird Counts

- * Crystal Springs CBC December 15, 2018
 - * Año Nuevo CBC December 29, 2018

The Big Sit and Big Ride

The 8th Annual Big Sit and the 4th Annual Big Ride take place on October 14 in Pescadero. The Big Sit happens all day as a birder tailgate party at the top of the hill over the bridge at Pescadero Marsh. Donate, hang out, get some exercise, gather pledges – this is one of our major fundraisers as well as a fun-raiser. See the field trip section for more info on the Big Ride.

Sequoia Field Trips

Coyote Point County Park Wednesday, October 3, 9:00 am - Noon

We will meet at the parking lot by the Yacht Club for a leisurely stroll around Coyote Point Park looking at the abundant shorebirds and hopefully, some fall migrants. With such a variety of habitats at Coyote Point, we should be able to see quite a number of species. There is an admission charge to the park of \$6 (free for seniors). **Directions:** Exit Peninsula Ave. from Hwy 101 and follow the signs to the park. **Leader:** Donna Pomeroy **Contact:** dpom@comcast.net.

October Global Big Day 2018: Pescadero (RSVP) Saturday, October 6, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

We will spend some time looking for shorebirds and seabirds from the bluff, then walk across the road to explore the marsh. We will



Bullock's Oriole at Burleigh Murray Park, July 2018

Photo by Donna Pomeroy

then spend the morning exploring most of the birding sites around Pescadero to look for landbirds, with exact itinerary depending on the weather and recent sightings. There is a wide variety of habitats in and around this park and we will hope to see quite a few species; vagrants are always a possibility at this time of year, so we will adapt the itinerary depending on what has been reported recently. Scopes will be very useful on this trip, so bring one along if you have one. **Directions:** From Half Moon Bay take Hwy 1 south about 15 miles. 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. GPS coordinates of the parking lot are: 37.265163, -122.412225. **Co-leaders:** Jane Dixon and Adam Dudley. **RSVP** to adamandjane@mac.com.

October Global Big Day 2018: Coyote Point County Park Saturday, October 6, 8:00 am - 11:00 am

We will meet in the parking lot by the Yacht Club and walk trails at a leisurely pace. We will bird the freshwater marsh, the shoreline out to the harbor entrance and the trail through the eucalyptus grove to the grassy area above the museum - about 1 1/2 miles all told. **Directions:** Take Hwy 101 and follow the signs to the park. There is an admission fee of \$6. Beginners welcome! *Heavy rain cancels.* Leaders: Sue Cossins (susancossins@gmail.com) and Martha O'Neal (monealbirds@att.net).

October Global Big Day 2018: Bayside Shorebird Sweep Saturday, October 6, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

We will start at the Foster City Shellbar and continue south to Bair Island and Bedwell Bayfront Park. The goal will be to amass a high species count as part of the October Global Big Day. Carpooling is encouraged. *Light rain ok but heavy rain cancels.* Directions: Park and meet across the street from Sweet Basil Thai Cuisine at 1473 Beach Park Boulevard in Foster City. Leaders: Donna Pomeroy and Jennifer Rycenga. Contact: gyrrlfalcon@earthlink. net and dpom@comcast.net, or 650-440-0063 (Jennifer) for more information or clarification. No need to reserve a space.

San Francisco Botanical Garden, Ninth and Lincoln, San Francisco

Sunday October 7, 8:00 am -11:00 am

Visit this beautiful garden at the height of fall migration. This walk is co-sponsored by Golden Gate Audubon Society, which



American Redstart at Bedwell Bayfront Park, Sept. 2018

Photo by Chris O'Connell

hosts this walk monthly. Travel paved, mostly level trails suitable for wheelchairs. **Leader:** Ginny Marshall. **Contact:** ginnybirder@gmail.com.

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

Beginner / Refresher Bird Walk, Bedwell Bayfront Park Saturday, October 13, 10:00 am - Noon

All are welcome to join Friends of Bedwell Bayfront Park and Sequoia Audubon Society for a 1 to 2-hour beginner/refresher bird walk. If you are an educator who is bringing your class or sending students on their own, we're very happy to have you! We do ask that you let us know in advance so we can ensure we have adequate leadership to enrich your students' experience. We should see wintering ducks and shorebirds, perhaps egrets, a raptor or two, and some LBBs (little brown birds). Bring binoculars if you have them; if not, we'll share ours with you. **Directions:** Meet at the parking lot by restrooms at Bedwell Bayfront Park, 1600 Marsh Road, Menlo Park. *Heavy rain cancels.* For more information: Chris MacIntosh Contact: chrismac@alumni.upenn.edu or phone 650-839-1523.



Chestnut-backed Chickadee in El Granada, July 2018

Photo by Donna Pomeroy

Edgewood County Preserve from Education Center Sunday, October 14, 8:00 am – Noon

Explore this gem of a park while hiking 3-6 miles through oak woodlands, some hills and natural meadows. Look for California Thrasher, Wrentit, Oak Titmouse & Western Bluebird year-round. **Directions:** Take 280 to Edgewood Rd. in Woodside. Go east down Edgewood to the park entrance on the right. Meet at the Education Center. **Leader:** Susie Hons **Contact:** susieturtlewings@mac.com.

Big Ride - Coastal Birding by Bicycle Sunday, October 14, 7:00 am (duration 6-8 hours)

This is a Bike Birding field trip done simultaneously with the Big Sit. We will begin at Gazos Creek State Beach parking area for a short seawatch to look for seabirds and shorebirds. Next, we head along Gazos Creek road which is a fantastic riparian corridor, looking for warblers and other goodies. We will move away from the creek into grassland looking for Loggerhead Shrike and other open area birds. We then head into the town of Pescadero, birding the back roads before cruising over to Water Lane which can be super for rare vagrants. We finish up birding around the edge of Pescadero marsh looking for rails and shorebirds. This is our 4th year doing the Big Ride and we found some nice rarities in the past, including Prairie Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler and Lawrence's Goldfinch. The ride is about 10 to 12 miles at a very leisurely pace. **Directions**: Meet at 7.00am at the Gazos Creek State. **Leaders:** Chris Hayward and Chris O'Connell. **For more info:** Chris Hayward at p_t_nymph@hotmail.com.

Filoli Estate - RSVP Required Saturday, October 20, 8:30 am to Noon

Filoli Estate is the property of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Bay Area Audubon members have been invited for a morning of birding at this beautiful site on the edge of the San Francisco watershed. Over 96 species of birds have been found here. **Filoli has limited this invitation to Audubon members from the Bay Area Audubon chapters. Reservations are required and there is a limit of 20 people maximum** (sorry, no children under 14). Participants may remain after the field trip to walk through the house and /or formal gardens at no charge. Picnic tables are available near the Visitor Education Center if you wish to enjoy your own lunch, or you can purchase a wide variety of food 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 approx. one mile to the entrance of Filoli. We will meet in front of the Visitors Center. **Heavy Rain Cancels.** To reserve your spot: Call Sue James at 650-348-0315. **Leaders:** Sue James and Tricia Jordan.

Hayward Regional Shoreline

Wednesday, November 7, 8:30 am – Noon

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.

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

Beginner / Refresher Bird Walk, Bedwell Bayfront Park Saturday, November 10, 10:00 am - Noon

All are welcome to join Friends of Bedwell Bayfront Park and Sequoia Audubon Society for a 1 to 2-hour beginner/refresher bird walk. We should see wintering ducks and shorebirds, perhaps egrets, a raptor or two, and some LBBs (little brown birds). Bring binoculars if you have them; if not, we'll share ours with you. Directions: Meet at the parking lot by restrooms at Bedwell Bayfront Park, 1600 Marsh Road, Menlo Park. Heavy rain cancels. For more information: Chris MacIntosh. Contact: chrismac@alumni.upenn.edu **or** phone 650-839-1523.

Edgewood County Preserve from Education Center Sunday, November 11, 8:00 am - Noon

Explore this gem of a park while hiking 3-6 miles through oak woodlands, some hills and natural meadows. Look for California Thrasher, Wrentit, Oak Titmouse & Western Bluebird year-round.



Baird's Sandpiper at Ravenswood NWR, Sept. 2018 Photo by Chris O'Connell

Directions: Take 280 to Edgewood Rd. in Woodside. Go east down Edgewood to the park entrance on the right. Meet at the Education Center. Leader: Susie Hons. Contact: susieturtlewings@mac.com.

Millbrae Bayfront Park

Wednesday, December 5, 9:30 am -11:30 am

Millbrae Bayfront Park is one of the best locations in San Mateo County to look for the endangered Ridgway's Rail. As high tide approaches at 10:30, we will have a very good chance to see this normally elusive bird out in the open. This is also an excellent location to view the large number of ducks and shorebirds that use this part of San Francisco Bay as wintering grounds. Meet at the free public parking for the Marriott Hotel. Directions: Take US 101 to the Millbrae exit, and go east. Where Millbrae Avenue ends, turn right onto Old Bayshore Hwy. Take your next available left (a turn lane is provided) into the Marriott Hotel's parking lot, and bear left. There are a handful of spaces here set aside for Bayfront Park or look for street parking on one of the side streets to the west of Bayshore. **Leader:** Donna Pomeroy. **Contact:** dpom@comcast.net.

Beginner / Refresher Bird Walk, Bedwell Bayfront Park Saturday, December 8, 10:00 am - Noon

All are welcome to join Friends of Bedwell Bayfront Park and Sequoia Audubon Society for a 1 to 2-hour beginner/refresher bird walk. We should see wintering ducks and shorebirds, perhaps egrets, a raptor or two, and some LBBs (little brown birds). Bring binoculars if you have them; if not, we'll share ours with you. **Directions:** Meet at the parking lot by restrooms at Bedwell Bayfront Park, 1600 Marsh Road, Menlo Park. *Heavy rain cancels.* For more information: Chris MacIntosh. Contact: chrismac@alumni.upenn.edu or phone 650-839-1523.



Lawrence's Goldfinch breeding in Brisbane, July 2018 Photo by Donna Pomeroy

MEETING PROGRAMS

San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo

October 11, 2018, 7 pm "Shakespeare's Birds" with Martin Hyatt

Birds have magical qualities. They fly, they sing, and they anticipate the seasons. They have inspired artists and writers in every age and society. Shakespeare filled his works with bird imagery, drawing upon renaissance, medieval, Roman, Greek, and biblical sources, as well as his own experience. He was quite the birder, mentioning over 60 species. Shakespeare was also famously compared to birds. At the start of his career, he was labelled an "upstart crow," and after his death, he was eulogized as the "swan of Avon." Dr. Hyatt will explain how understanding the literary traditions involving birds leads to some surprising discoveries about Shakespeare and his works.

Dr. Martin Hyatt is a biologist with degrees from Harvard University and the University of Pittsburgh. He has tracked radio-tagged homing pigeons from a small plane, chased down gorged albatrosses from an inflatable boat, found roadrunners in the mountains, and observed penguins in the desert. Now, he pursues Shakespeare's birds.



Red Kite Photo by Steve Nesbitt

November 8, 2018, 7 pm "Birding New Zealand and the Subantarctic" with Joe Morlan

Joe will describe the birds and wildlife encountered while on a two-week trip to New Zealand in January 2017. Joe will describe his adventures on the ship "Professor Khromov" visiting some of the more remote islands on Earth. Access is limited to these uninhabited outposts where numerous penguins, petrels and albatrosses inhabit the Subantarctic seascape. Of particular interest are island endemics such as Snares Penguin and Campbell Island Teal. New Zealand is home to some of the world's most imperiled birds including the South Island Takahe, North Island Kokako, North Island Saddleback, Rifleman, Stitchbird and the bizarre Wrybill. Join us for what promises to be an entertaining and informative presentation.



Paradise Shelduck Photo by Joe Morlan

Joe Morlan is a California birding legend who has taught field ornithology at City College of San Francisco since 1978. He is the coauthor of "Birds of San Francisco and the Bay Area" and "Birds of Northern California." He has served as Chair of the California Bird Records Committee and was the recipient of the 2010 ABA Ludlow Griscom Award for contributions to regional ornithology.December 13, 2018

December 13, 2018 San Mateo Christmas Bird Counts: History and Best Practices Featuring Peter Metropulos, Francis Toldi, Gary Deghi, Leslie Flint, Al DeMartini and Dan Keller

In this special kick-off presentation for Sequoia Audubon's Seventieth Anniversary in 2019, we will feature our own rich history, camaraderie, and shared wisdom. With our two marquee Christmas Bird Counts only days away (Crystal Springs and Año Nuevo), come hear some of our most experienced members reminisce about early CBCs in the county, and sharing

their birding anecdotes and technical hints about the joy of these annual citizen-science events – and the revelries of countdown dinners. Jaw-dropping rarities, hijinks and comedies, revelries at countdown dinners, and the nerdiness of all the statistics: come out to this first-of-a-kind event. Our annual book sale – and new Sequoia logo gear – will also be available, just in time for your holiday shopping needs.

Gary Deghi, Leslie Flint, and Al DeMartini, all members of Sequoia Audubon for the entire 21st century, are the co-organizers and compilers of the San Mateo county CBCs. Francis Toldi, Peter Metropulos, and Dan Keller have been participating in the local CBCs for more decades than they would like to have recorded in print.



Pacific Wren Photo by Jennifer Rycenga

Bird Quote - Acrostic #1 by Francis Toldi

Ponds near the airport of this south of the border city could yield you Limpkin, Thick-billed Kingbird and Streak-backed Oriole

37 19 115 151 87 64 47 4 56 93

Like a heraldic knot (trust me, you'll have to look this one up, now!

104 38 8 51 16

No ego here

63 100

Bob Marley-loving Gruiformes, apparently no longer valid in Florida (2 words)

33 123 76 134 101 128 14 110 44 50 30 130 66

Nail smoothing board

162 125 107 96 26

Light, porous volcanic rock F.

120 79 62 94

Old name for Noio (2 words)

161 9 22 137 72 119 114 39 99 74 153 116 129

Sometimes bad bacteria (Latin, abbreviation plus word)

34 91 159 68 150

Pnoepyga pusilla is my favorite one of these (hyphenated word)

142 49 61 138 52 43 133 154 108 132 163

What the biologist did to the Canada Goose egg to reduce breeding success ("_ __ it")

141 32 113 122 57 11

Traditional Sioux dwelling

54 152 88 3 102

Sleeve end

121 118 83 13

Bank and barn family (latin)

2 89 35 98 73 136 65 20 103 18 27 149

, Young Man" advice to the young

William O. Douglas, and a memoirs title

41 70 148 55

Was one, now two is it nine, species of Fringillid (two words) 0

106 158 45 77 135 97 10 71 25 40 146 84

Gloomy anxiety, such as what the birder mentioned in clue T is feeling

85 6 105 42 160

Berries much beloved by Northern Mockingbirds, American Robins Cedar Waxwings and California Thrashers

81 23 155 78 131

Owl or pipit or eagle or piculet or frogmouth

58 86 15 147

Followed (as in advice)

157 48 29 139 67 21

Nervously irritable, like a birder still trying to find the stakeout seen by everyone who got there first

126 60 95 69

Teased, what the unkind birders mentioned in the previous clue did to the birder who hadn't seen the stakeout yet

24 109 90 127 140 36 7

Raptor that is bigger than a buteo

12 53 28 145 112

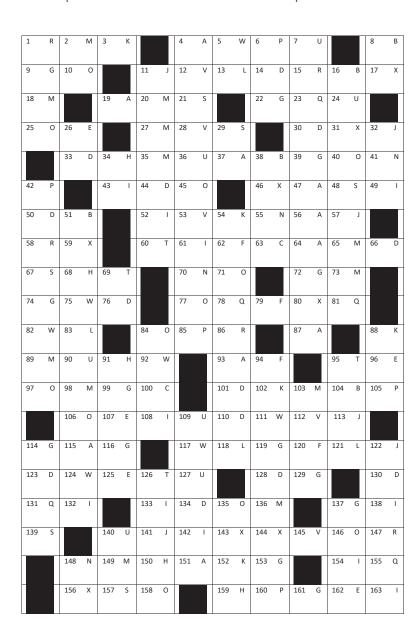
Majestic tree or venerable Audubon chapter

111 92 117 75 82 124 5

Pig Treasures

156 80 144 46 143 31 17 59

The format for this game is modeled after-and inspired by-Polly Wright's brilliant puzzles in the Sunday San Francisco Chronicle. Fill in the clues and transfer the letters to the indicated grid squares, or work backwards from the grid. The completed grid spells out a quote (from a bird book, of course), with black squares separating each word and no punctuation. Words continue from the previous line, unless there is a black square at the end. There is no vertical component as in a crossword puzzle. The first letter of each clue spells out the author and title of the work from which the quote was selected.



Answers will be on the website and in the next issue

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President: Open Vice President: Open

Secretary: Susan Stratton Treasurer: Kriti Diwan

At Large: Doug Brown, Marshall Dinowitz, Adam Dudley, John Epperson, Nelle Lyons, Chris MacIntosh, Doug Pomeroy, Jennifer Rycenga

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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 NON-PROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE PAID SAN MATEO, CA PERMIT NO. 293

Support our Chapter's Work - Donate

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!*

Give a Gift Membership or in Recognition

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.

amazonsmile

Support SAS through Amazon Smile when you shop online

A percentage of your purchase can be donated to support the work of SAS whenever you shop on Amazon. You get the same products, prices and service **and** support our work to protect native birds and other wildlife and their ecosystems. The only difference is that, to support SAS through Amazon Smile, you must access the site: http://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-60929053.

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.

Seguoia Audubon Society Membership Fo	rm

Senior or Student membership	•	\$15.00
Individual membership		\$20.00
Family membership		\$25.00
Supporter		\$100.0
Donation to SAS		\$
	Total	\$
es, I am interested in volunteering _		
Newsletter Preference:		
Mail and / or	E-mail	

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or

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