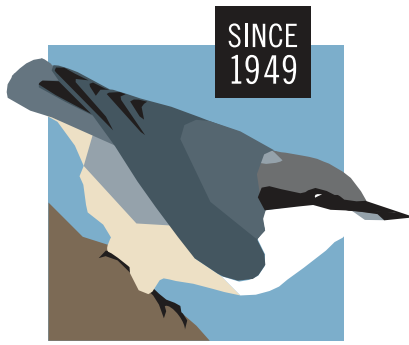




SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Bulletin of the Sequoia Audubon Society, San Mateo County

*Volume 72, No. 4
October - December 2021*

Birders - Flock to Field Trips!

Field trips are back!

September saw our first SAS field trips since the initial San Francisco Bay area COVID-19 pandemic shelter-in-place orders in March 2020, and we now have upcoming trips scheduled for October, November, and December. I have now started as the new field trip coordinator. Because of the pandemic, we have made some changes to our field trip protocols and may need to make more changes in the future to respond to future public health orders, or other changes in conditions. The current protocols for SAS field trips are below. You can email me with any questions at: SequoiaFieldTrips@gmail.com. Additional details on individual field trips can be addressed to me or the individual field trip leaders.

Advance registration and field trip size limit: SAS is currently requiring RSVPs for all field trips and is limiting the trip size. We are using Eventbrite as our reservation platform. We are publicizing field trips in our printed newsletter first, to allow our members to sign up for field trips before we publicize them to a larger audience. I encourage you to look at which trips you may want to go on as soon as you receive your printed newsletter, as some trips fill up very quickly. But please, only sign up for trips you intend to go on, so as not to take a space you do not use from others who want to go. Also, please cancel your reservation if your plans change to free up a space for others. We are leaving the exact maximum number of participants up to field trip leaders, usually a maximum of 15 participants plus leaders.

COVID Vaccination Required to Participate: SAS field trips are open to individuals who have been vaccinated against COVID-19. The vaccine is currently available to people ages 12 and up. Field trips are also open to children under the age of 12 who are currently ineligible for vaccination. We require children under 12 to wear a face covering on field trips. If you have not yet been vaccinated, we look forward to seeing you on future field trips after you have completed your vaccination process (no sooner than two weeks after your final vaccine dose).

Participants required to sign liability waivers to participate: SAS is in the process of simplifying our process for field trip participants to sign waivers of liability to participate on field trips. The updated waivers will address COVID-19, and we are working to have this be an on-line process instead of our old paper forms. We are trying to set this up so that people don't have to sign a new waiver for every trip, but perhaps do so once a year. Please be patient as we figure this out. You will notice that we have also added a photographic release form that participants can elect to sign.

Social distancing: Maintaining the social distance recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention can be difficult on a birding field trip, especially on narrower trails or in forested areas. SAS requests all field trip participants be mindful of the CDC recommendations on field trips and take it as the responsibility of each participant to consciously try to adhere to social distance recommendations as much as practicable, as the COVID-19 virus Delta variant is known to be easier to transmit between people than other strains of the virus. Everyone needs to be responsible for this and we recognize it is probably not going to be perfect. However, trip leaders want to help everyone see birds – not spend their time monitoring people.

Monthly Meetings

2nd Thursdays at 7:00 pm
San Mateo Garden Center
605 Parkside Way, San Mateo
AND online: check website

October 14

**A Message of Hope
Island Conservation
Heath Packard**

November 11

**Bay Area Ridge Trail:
400 Miles of Nature Nearby
Simone Nageon de LeStang**

December 9

**Birds & Wildlife of the
Western Pacific
Joe Morlan**

Upcoming Field Trips

October

**Sun., Oct. 17th Burleigh Murray
Thurs., Oct. 21st Francis Beach
Fri., Oct. 29th Palo Alto Baylands**

November

**Wed., Nov. 3rd Arrowhead Marsh
Sun., Nov. 21st Wavecrest Open**

Space December

**Wed., Dec. 1st Pillar Point Bluff
Sat., Dec. 11th Bedwell Bayfront Park**

(continued on page 2)

Trip cancellations: If the weather is bad enough that you don't want to go on a field trip that day, chances are your trip leader doesn't want to go either! Field trips will typically be cancelled for heavy rain, but not for light mist. SAS is also adding a provision to cancel trips due to poor air quality. We'd rather not have trip participants exposed to poor air quality due to the adverse effects on human health. We also want to respect that air quality agencies request the public avoid unnecessary air pollution emissions when air quality is poor. We will cancel trips when the Air Quality Index (AQI) is over 150 at the trip location. This policy may change as needed. You can check the AQI of a location at www.purpleair.org.

Trip descriptions: SAS would like to use our newsletter space to the best advantage we can. For this newsletter we expanded the trip descriptions and directions a bit. Let us know how you like it. I have tried to add to trip descriptions which entity owns/manages the property we are visiting. It is not an accident that we have so many good birding spots in our area. Local, state, and federal governments, and non-governmental organizations like land trusts and private landowners, have all made efforts to preserve parks and open space for birds and wildlife. As you have the opportunity, let them know you appreciate it, whether it's when you visit the property, attend a meeting, or at the ballot box.

A note about trip directions and Geographic Positioning Systems (GPS). I have expanded the directions to our trip locations, at least for now. I'd appreciate any comments regarding whether that is worth it or not. We have the SAS online San Mateo County birding guide showing locations, and most people now have smart phones with GPS capabilities. I am starting to include decimal degree coordinates as an alternative way to route to some of our field trip meeting locations. Just don't take that *exact* GPS location too literally when you are looking for a field trip gathering point. Look for all those people with binoculars, spotting scopes, and often "field" clothes and boots – you know the type - we will be waiting for you.

Field trip ideas and leaders always needed. SAS can do as many – or as few – field trips as we have field trip ideas and leaders to lead them. If you would like to lead a trip to a particular location and/or on a particular date, please submit the proposed location, proposed date, start time, approximate end time (if known), and brief trip description to email: SequoiaFieldTrips@gmail.com. We need submittals about 8 weeks ahead of our newsletter mailing date to be included in the next newsletter (Oct 18 for the Jan-Feb-Mar newsletter). If you would like to try your hand at leading a trip, but are not sure where to go, or whether you are ready to lead a trip, don't worry. Just let me know your interest and I can suggest some good locations that we visit each year, or pair you with an experienced trip leader so you can try out helping to lead a trip. You don't have to be the best birder to lead an enjoyable trip. You just need to have the desire to help people find birds and enjoy a day of birding while you manage the trip's pace to move the group along! Half the fun of leading a bird walk is learning from the other participants. Also, if you are an experienced field trip leader, but haven't led a trip in a while, we'd love to have you come back to lead a trip once or twice a year. It might just remind you how much fun it can be!

– Doug Pomeroy, Field Trip Coordinator



Sooty Shearwaters at Dunes Beach, Half Moon Bay, *photo by Marie Susa*

MEETING PROGRAMS

October 14

A Message of Hope – *Heath Packard, Island Conservation*

How would you like to prevent extinctions? How about protecting at-risk island communities and coral reefs? Come learn how you can! Heath Packard will present on his experiences, observations, and hopes for the future with Island Conservation (IC) — our world's only global, not-for-profit conservation organization whose sole mission is to prevent extinctions by removing invasive species from islands.

Island Conservation works where the concentration of both biodiversity and species extinction is greatest – islands. Removing a primary threat – introduced, damaging invasive species – is one of the most effective interventions for saving at-risk island communities, plants and animals, and for restoring island and coral ecosystems. Once invasive species are removed, native island species and ecosystems recover, often with little additional intervention.

Since 1994, Island Conservation and partners have successfully restored 64 islands, benefitting 468 species. But we cannot rest on our laurels. More than 40% of the world's most endangered land animals rely on islands. Coral reefs, which support a quarter of all marine life (~1 million species) and half a billion people, have shown the greatest increase in extinction risk. Invasive rodents alone have been introduced to 80% of the world's island groups. We must dramatically increase the scale, scope and pace of island invasive eradications so we can significantly curb these crises. We are convinced that Silicon Valley holds an under-tapped cadre of friends, connectors, and supporters who can help innovate new tools and methods to do more, better, faster. Let's talk!

Heath has served as field director for the National Wildlife Refuge Association; a groundfish observer in the Bering Sea, Alaska; Washington state policy director for National Audubon Society; and director of legislative and external affairs for the Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources and the independently elected Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands.

When he's not busy finding new and compelling ways to recruit new friends, partners, and supporters to IC, Heath can be found camping, cooking, making music, racing sailboats in Monterey Bay, running, biking, and hiking. IC is headquartered in Santa Cruz, CA with field offices in Chile, Ecuador, Hawaii, New Zealand, Palau, and Puerto Rico.



November 11

Bay Area Ridge Trail: 400 Miles of Nature Nearby – *Simone Nageon de LeStang, Trail Planner*

Over 30 years after its inception, the Bay Area Ridge Trail is now close to 400 miles of dedicated trail, open to the public and ready to explore. Join the Ridge Trail for a discussion of the history and future of this regional, multi-use trail network, as they work with land managers around the Bay to close the remaining gaps and promote responsible recreation. We will get a broad overview of the trail system and hear about some favorite spots, especially in and around San Mateo County. Simone Nageon de LeStang, a staff Trail Planner, will also share recent and current projects to connect the trail, in collaboration with regional partners like Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District and San Francisco Public Utilities Commission.



Simone brings experience in trail planning, project management and grants; she started her career working in habitat restoration, environmental education, and guiding outdoor excursions. From the Everglades, she had her first outdoor jobs in python catching and diving for sponge restoration in the Florida Keys.

December 9

Birds and Wildlife of the Western Pacific – *Joe Morlan*

Joe Morlan will present photos and discuss the birds and wildlife seen on a 2019 cruise in the Western Pacific starting in Tokyo, Japan and ending in Sydney, Australia. This presentation will include the remote islands of Okinawa, Saipan, Papua New Guinea, Guadalcanal, and New Caledonia. Highlights will include White Tern, Long-tailed Triller, Mariana Fruit-Dove, Moustached Treeswift, New Caledonia Imperial-Pigeon, Midget Flowerpecker, and the mysterious Kagu. Please join us for what promises to be an educational and entertaining presentation.



Joe Morlan taught Field Ornithology at City College in San Francisco for forty years. He was awarded the American Birding Association's Ludlow Griscom Award for outstanding contributions to regional ornithology in 2010 and served on the California Bird Records Committee for thirty years, most recently as Chair.



Sequoia Field Trips



Sunday October 17, 2021 Burleigh Murray Ranch State Park, Half Moon Bay (8:00-12:00)

Join us for a leisurely 3-4 hour walk in this bird-rich gem on our coast. The gravel trail is a one mile long, relatively level former ranch road leading to the historic barn. There are several pit toilets on the route. Plan layers for cool temps, morning fog and sunshine. Heavy rain or AQI over 150 cancels. Registration limited. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/176413737237>

Directions: Meet at the lower parking lot to the Johnston House, 110 Higgins Canyon Road. At press time for this newsletter, the SR1/Main Street intersection is under construction. If construction is still ongoing, take Poplar to Main St. turn right on Main Street and go to intersection with Higgins Canyon Road then turn left to meet at the parking lot for Johnston House. Johnston House is the big white 1850s farmhouse on the hill. Due to limited parking we will caravan to Burleigh Murray. Leader: Ginny Marshall ginnybirder@gmail.com

Thursday, October 21, 2021 Francis Beach (Half Moon Bay State Beach) (8:30-11:00)

This is an easy, wheelchair accessible birding field trip along the Coastal Trail, north from the Visitor Center at Francis Beach to Dunes Beach and back. We will look for resident birds and arriving winter migrants. Depending on participant interests and abilities, we may go out on the beach to look at shorebirds, gulls, and birds on or flying over the ocean. Plan layers as cool temps and morning fog can change to sunshine and moderate breeze, and wear shoes you don't mind getting sandy. There are restrooms on the route. Rain or AQI over 150 cancels. Registration limited. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/176417368097>

Directions: From SR1 in Half Moon Bay take Kelly Avenue west to the end and meet at the Half Moon Bay State Beach Visitor Center, 95 Kelly Avenue. The day use parking permit fee is \$10.00. The day use permit can be used to visit any other local state park for the remainder of the day. Frequent State Park visitors may consider purchasing a pass. www.parks.ca.gov

Leader: Nelle Lyons nelle.lyons@parks.ca.gov Co-leader: Rita Jennings

Friday, October 29, 2021 Palo Alto Baylands Nature Preserve, Palo Alto (8:30 – 11:30)

Meet at the Lucy Evans Baylands Nature Interpretive Center, Palo Alto Baylands, 2775 Embarcadero Rd. for a leisurely walk on level gravel trails where we will explore this San Francisco Bay treasure. We should see a variety of ducks, waterbirds and we will look for wintering sparrows. Heavy rains or AQI over 150 cancels. Registration limited. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/176437087077>

Leader: Donna Pomeroy dpom@comcast.net

Wednesday, November 3, 2021 Arrowhead Marsh, East Bay Regional Parks District, Oakland (9:00 - 12:00)

Join us for a slow-paced trip along a level trail, 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 binocular views and photo opportunities. We should see a variety of water birds with a chance for Ridgway's Rail. Heavy rains or AQI over 150 cancels. Registration limited. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/176442864357>

Directions: From I-880 in Oakland take Hegenberger Road or 98th Avenue to Doolittle Drive, and turn right (west), turn right (north) at Swan Way and take first left to Arrowhead Marsh and proceed to the last parking lot. Leader: Donna Pomeroy dpom@comcast.net
Coordinates 37.74194693104805, -122.20896756181864

Sunday, November 21, 2021 Wavecrest Open Space Preserve, Half Moon Bay (8:00 – 12:00)

Wavecrest Open Space Preserve is an important hawk and raptor wintering site, with open fields that are partially managed for those birds. We will walk 2-3 level miles in a large loop. We expect to see Northern Harriers, American Kestrels and White-tailed Kites with other species possible. We will circle around to the shoreline and scan the ocean for loons and other seabirds. Scopes are useful if you have them. Heavy rain or AQI over 150 cancels. Registration limited. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/176447909447>

Directions: SR1 in Half Moon to Wavecrest Rd and go west to the end of the road to parking area adjacent to Smith Field Little League Park. Leader: Ginny Marshall ginnybirder@gmail.com

Wednesday, December 1, 2021 Pillar Point Bluff County Park, Half Moon Bay (9:00 - 12:00)

This small San Mateo County Park has only been open since 2011. It has sweeping views of both the agricultural land and the ocean, with an uncrowded trail system. There is a nice mix of birds here including California Thrashers. Dress in layers and bring sunscreen and water. There is a restroom in the parking lot. The trail is moderately easy with a short, but steep descent at the end of the loop. Heavy rain or AQI over 150 cancels. Registration is limited. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/176451520247>

Directions: Take SR1 to the Half Moon Bay Airport and proceed west to Airport St from either Cypress Street (if coming from the north), or Capistrano Road (if coming from the south). Meet at the Pillar Point Bluff parking lot adjacent to the west side of the Airport. Leader: Donna Pomeroy dpom@comcast.net

Saturday, December 11, 2021 Beginner/Refresher Bird Walk, Bedwell Bayfront Park, Menlo Park (10:00 – 12:00)

Join Friends of Bedwell Bayfront Park and Sequoia Audubon Society for a family-and beginner-friendly 1-2 hour bird walk. Wintering shorebirds and waterfowl will have arrived from their summer breeding grounds. Raptors, egrets and LBBs (little brown birds) can usually be seen as well. Bring your binoculars. Restrooms are available. Heavy rain or AQI over 150 cancels. Registration limited. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/176454208287>

Directions: From US 101 take Marsh Road east (SR84 East). Meet at the parking lot near the restrooms. Leader: Doug Brown dduggy3@yahoo.com
Coordinates 37.4902122807694, -122.17716898448292

COMMUNITY SUBMISSIONS

Dog Charges Heron in Pacifica *Submitted by B. C. Sequoia Audubon member*

Afternoons, dog walkers bring their dogs to romp and socialize at Oceana High School in Pacifica.

On occasion, a Great Blue Heron shows up, hunting for gophers. I was proud to see how most people gave the heron plenty of space, and all seemed fine for the moment.

Fine until someone's off leash dog noticed the still heron, intent on a gopher hole. The small dog charged tentatively at the heron, which retreated a few yards.

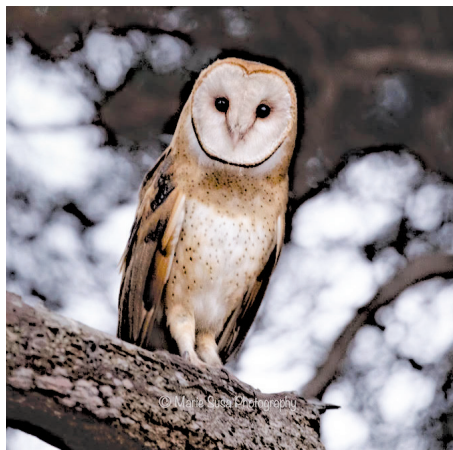
I yelled at the dogs' owner, "control your dog!" She didn't, replying, "the bird can go someplace else".



Cooper's Hawk, *photo by Judith Griffiths*



Pectoral Sandpiper, *Coyote Point 9/19/21*



Barn Owl, *photo by Marie Susa*



Pomerine Jaeger, *photo by Barbara Dye*



Great Horned Owl, *photo by Barbara Dye*

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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

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Seeking Newsletter Contributions – Articles and Photography!

Do you enjoy reading articles by “just regular birders”? How about writing a short article for this newsletter? Sequoia’s newsletter is *for* you, so why not *by* you? You don’t have to be an expert birder. If you can write about how you got into birding/ what enthalls you about it/a good day out/rarities conservation, and other areas of interest, please email Davena at office@sequoia-audubon.org. High quality resolution photos, from San Mateo County, are especially appreciated.

Support our Chapter’s Work – Donate

Please consider a donation in support of the work we do providing monthly programs, conservation, education and nest box monitoring programs. Thank you!

Shopping online more? Support SAS through Amazon Smile!

A percentage of your purchase is donated to SAS whenever you shop on Amazon using their Amazon Smile site. You get the same products, prices, and service while at the same time supporting our work! Sign up here: <http://smile-amazon.com>.

Christmas Bird Count

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, December 18, 2021 – Crystal Springs
Sunday, January 2, 2022 – Año Nuevo

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

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