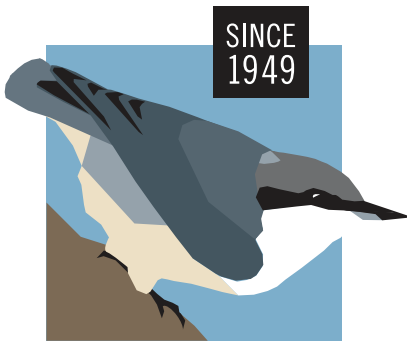




SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Bulletin of the Sequoia Audubon Society, San Mateo County

*Volume 74, No. 4
October - December 2023*

Meet Sequoia's new president, an interview with John Epperson

I recently had the pleasure of spending some time with John Epperson, the new President of Sequoia Audubon. Having been part of John's Christmas Bird Count Circle the past few years, I'd already met him briefly, but enjoyed getting to know a bit more about him during our conversation.

Q: Can you tell us about your involvement with Sequoia Audubon leading up to your new role as President?

John: *I've been a member of the Sequoia Audubon board for the past four years, attending meetings and serving as a liaison with California Audubon and the local Audubon Chapters. After Jennifer retired as President, it was clear we had some big shoes to fill! I decided to step up and volunteer to take on the role to keep us moving forward.*

In addition to maintaining communications with the other Audubon chapters, my new role will include organizational tasks, record keeping, membership activities, arranging program speakers, field trips and volunteer outreach.

Q: What are some of your immediate goals?

John: *A big focus will be to encourage more active members and volunteers to fill vacant leadership, organizational and volunteer roles. We are currently well staffed on the Conservation Committee and Christmas Bird Count teams but are looking for Field Trip Coordinators and volunteers to help.*

Q: Do you have to be an expert birder to be a volunteer?

John: *No, you do not have to be an expert birder to bring value! We value all talent as it takes more than just birders to run the organization. Our Volunteers are very important as they bring energy and enthusiasm, and skills that may not be directly related to birding. In fact, I've taken on the role of President, yet I am not an expert birder. Are you interested in helping out with a Field Trip but leading a group of people may be out of your comfort zone? You can still participate by helping us plan, answer email questions and track attendee reservations!*

A great big thank you to our outgoing President, Jennifer, for her years of dedication and commitment! And another big thank you to our new President, John, as he guides us forward in the future! *Joyce Courtney*

Monthly Meetings

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

October 12 - Hybrid

San Bruno Mountain:

a guide to the flora and fauna
Doug Allshouse & David L. Nelson

November 9 - Hybrid

Purple Martins – Midpeninsula
Regional Open Space

Karine Tokatlian

December 14 - TBD

Conservation Update

No summer doldrums for Sequoia's Conservation Committee.

Redwood Shores. We stuck it out (thank heavens for Zoom) through about 50 speakers to Redwood City city council on July 24 about delaying the push to change the Westport Specific Plan affecting Redwood Life biotech development. The council voted to consider repealing the plan and replacing it with a new Precise Plan. The latter would permit building of the height and size that the developer seeks. There are still parts of the plan that haven't been completed, so we think moving forward is premature. However, an RFP (Request for Proposal) was then issued. The RFP closed on Sept 8.

Foster City. City council awarded a contract for control of Canada Geese. But, thanks to our members and others, they specified the use of non-lethal means.

Portola Valley. MROSD has a Working Group to plan for The Hawthorns, an estate near Windy Hill OSP. We co-signed a letter (with SCVAS, Green Foothills, CNPS Sierra Club) reminding them to include restoration and habitat in their work, not only on access. We received a prompt response acknowledging that habitat is important and will be a later focus.

East Palo Alto. We co-signed a letter (with Sierra Club, Green Foothills) about the Ravenswood Business District/4 Corners urging the city to do more community outreach to let people know of the upcoming Specific Plan and EIR.

Menlo Park. SAS and Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge were invited to view Meta's CitizenM, the new hotel facing Bayfront Expressway, which plans a huge, illuminated artwork on the side of the hotel. The developer listened to our input regarding light intensity, request to dim lights at night, and to adjust uplighting for time of day and for migration periods. The glass installed on the front of the hotel is bird-safe (fritted).

Starting in September, the Bay Advocate program will be offered by the local Sierra Club chapter. Some of us took the class a couple of years ago and found it useful. If you're interested in learning more about understanding how cities work with developments, using your voice effectively, and network with other like-minded people, see <https://www.sierraclub.org/loma-prieta/bay-advocate-program-2023>

If anything here is of concern to you and you'd like to help our team, please get in touch. We'd love to have your help. conservation@sequoia-audubon.org

MEETING PROGRAMS

October 12 – Hybrid

San Bruno Mountain: a guide to the flora and fauna – Doug Allhouse and David L Nelson

San Bruno Mountain was originally owned by the Crocker Land Company, the same Crocker who completed the transcontinental railroad. They wanted to cut 250,000,000 yards off the top the mountain and build a city of 50 to 70,000 residents. Due to local conservationists, it is now a nature preserve, the nation's first Habitat Conservation Plan. Despite being one of our great nature resources, most of the residents of the Bay Area have never been up to see its treasures. There are five plants that grow in the Park but nowhere else in the world, with 530 species in total. This talk will cover some of the geologic and climatic reasons for the Park's rarity and diversity of plants, by one of the authors of the definitive book on the Park: *San Bruno Mountain: a guide to the flora and fauna*, published by Heyday Books, a nonprofit publisher in Berkeley and available online.



November 9- Hybrid

Purple Martins – Midpeninsula Regional Open Space, Karine Tokatlian

Purple martin (*Progne subis arboricola*), a California Species of Special Concern, historically nested in cavities in existing power poles at Mt Thayer in Santa Clara County. By 2008, only 100-220 pairs were estimated to live in the southern coastal section of California from Marin to Santa Barbara counties and are suggested to be close to local extirpation, making this small Mt Thayer population regionally significant. For several years the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District has been monitoring martin breeding activity and providing a variety of nesting structures ranging from traditional nest boxes to experimental hollow cavity poles that emulate natural habitat, to assist with meeting state goals of 1) achieving a statewide species inventory, 2) reaching >2,000 martin pairs, and 3) supporting nesting in cavities rather than houses. In 2023 a livestream camera system was installed to monitor nesting activity within artificial cavities including egg hatching, chick fledging, intraspecies aggression and infanticide. Join

Karine Tokatlian, a wildlife biologist who manages the District's purple martin enhancement project, who will share the project's history, challenges, and success over the years. She will also briefly discuss the District's work with marbled murrelets and peregrine falcon populations.



Young chicks feeding



Sequoia Field Trips



All times are a.m. and rain or Air Quality Index over 150 cancels, unless otherwise stated.
Bring binoculars, water, snacks, sunscreen, and dress in layers as weather can change.

Tuesday, October 10, Filoli Historic House and Garden, Woodside (9:30-12:00) Join us for a 2-2.5 mile moderate walk on the Filoli Gardens and Estate trail. Habitats include mixed oak, redwood, madrone woodlands, riparian corridor, and historic horse pastures. Restrooms are available. Directions to 86 Canada Road, Woodside: From Hwy 280, exit Edgewood Rd and head west. At the T intersection, turn right onto Canada Rd. In ½ mile, turn left into the property. Park under the oaks on the left side of the lot and look for the leader there. **Leader:** Kimberlie Moutoux, kimberliemoutoux@gmail.com Register: <https://bit.ly/461A6Bk>

Saturday, October 21, William Sisters Ranch (WSR) Audubon property, Woodside (8:30-11:30) This is a very special restricted reserve with a unique history and a rich mosaic of habitats. Access from Skyline Blvd, moderate trails with some nice hilltops, mixed grassy pastures, mixed forest, riparian and chaparral patches. We'll look for local species, fall migrants, and lots of other wildlife. Limited to 8 participants, directions provided to confirmed reservations. **Leader:** Troy Pittock, troypittock@gmail.com Register: email fieldtrips@sequoia-audubon.org

Sunday, October 22, Wavecrest Open Space Preserve, Half Moon Bay (8:00-12:00) This is a 2-3 mile level walk through a vital hawk and raptor wintering site ending with an ocean scan for loons and other seabirds. Scopes are useful. We expect to see Northern Harriers, American Kestrels, White-tailed Kites, and others! Directions: Meet at 399 Wavecrest Rd by Smith Field, 1.5 miles south of SR 1 & 92. **Leader:** Ginny Marshall, ginnysbird@gmail.com Register: <https://bit.ly/3EARn3R>

Sunday, October 22, Sunrise Dr, Woodside (8:30-11:00) Our ~2.5-mile walk will take us by tributaries of Alambique Creek to a historic logging bridge. Our route has paved or unpaved roads of slight to moderate grade. Typical woodland hazards such as ticks, poison oak, and yellowjackets are present. There is no water or restroom at the parking area, although there is a pit toilet about 1/3 of the way along the walk. Directions: Take Hwy 84 west, turn right on Skywood Way then right on Sunrise Dr and park along the shoulder. **Leader:** Christin New: new.a.christin@gmail.com. Register: <https://bit.ly/488Cok5>

Saturday, October 28, Bedwell Bayfront Park, Menlo Park (9:00-11:30) Beginner and family-friendly walk exploring the upland and wetland areas of the park. Wintering shorebirds, waterfowl, egrets, and raptors can be expected. Directions: From Hwy 101 take Marsh Rd east and continue straight into the park. Meet near the restrooms. **Leader:** JR Blair, JRBlair20@gmail.com Register: <https://bit.ly/45K6NDz>

Saturday, November 4, Lower La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, La Honda (8:30-11:30) Easy, mostly level 2-3 mile walk in scrub, grassland, and a small forest. We'll look for resident grassland species including Wild Turkey, California Quail, and raptors. A primitive restroom is available, water is not. Directions: Take SR 84 to La Honda, turn north on Sears Ranch Rd (opposite Applejacks bar) and follow it to the preserve parking lot, 900 Sears Ranch Rd. **Leader:** Troy Pittock TroyPittock@gmail.com Register: <https://bit.ly/482LLlc>

Saturday, November 11, Charleston Slough/Shoreline, Mountain View (9:00-11:00) This is a beginner and family-friendly 1-2 mile walk along easy level trails at the slough and Coast Casey Forebay that's a hotspot for birds year-round. We'll look for shorebirds, ducks, waterfowl, and some little brown birds (sparrows, wrens, etc.). Restrooms available. Directions: From US 101 take exit 400 B San Antonio Rd and continue to the end which becomes Terminal Rd where the parking lot fills quickly on the weekends. **Leader:** Emily Kim, ekim56310@gmail.com Register: <https://bit.ly/469f6bN>

Thursday, November 16, Filoli Historic House and Garden, Woodside (9:30-12:00) See October 10 trip details **Leader:** Kimberlie Moutoux, kimberliemoutoux@gmail.com Register: <https://bit.ly/3ETiegJ>

Saturday, November 18, Bedwell Bayfront Park, Menlo Park (10:00-12:00) See October 28 trip details **Leader:** Doug Brown outreach@sequoia-audubon.org Register: <https://bit.ly/3sRYes0>

Sunday, November 19, Birds and Art, Stanford University (9:00-12:00) Join us for a walk on Stanford campus to see birds, alive and extinct. We'll walk to the art installation "The Lost Birds" (<https://anderson.stanford.edu/exhibitions/the-lost-birds/>) as well as some of the other (nonbird) outdoor art while enjoying seeing and hearing living birds around us. The terrain is flat, mostly paved, expect to walk about 2 miles. Restrooms available, no fee to park on weekends. Directions: Meet in front of the Anderson Collection, Lomita Dr. **Leaders:** Chris MacIntosh conservation@sequoia-audubon.org and Christin New Register: <https://bit.ly/3PiEzsv>



Sunday, November 26, Bair Island Trail, Redwood City (9:00-11:30) We'll explore Bair Island on level dirt trails. We should see a variety of ducks, shorebirds, and smaller songbirds. Restrooms available. Directions: From US 101 exit Whipple Ave. Heading east, it winds for 0.5 mile becoming East Bayshore Rd, then Bair Island Rd. Meet at the Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge Bair Island Trail parking lot. **Leader:** J.R. Blair, JRBlair20@gmail.com Register: <https://bit.ly/45PAq6q>

Sunday, December 3, Nob Hill Pond, Redwood Shores (9:00-11:30) This walk goes to a very productive area to view a variety of ducks and other waterbirds. Time permitting, we may check some other birding sites nearby. Bring spotting scopes. Restrooms available nearby. Directions: From US 101 in San Carlos, take the Redwood Shores Parkway exit east past the Nob Hill shopping plaza, turn right on Bridge Parkway, then turn right at Tiller Lane, proceed to Spar Dr, turn left to 698 Spar Dr, where there is a small cul-de-sac. **Leader:** JR Blair, JRBlair20@gmail.com Register: <https://bit.ly/45Pxxzw>

Saturday, December 9, Bair Island Trail, Redwood City (9:00-11:00) A beginner and family-friendly walk, see November 26 trip details. **Leader:** Emily Kim, ekim56310@gmail.com Register: <https://bit.ly/3EJkTZx>

Sunday, December 17, Sunrise Dr, Woodside (8:30-11:00) See October 22 trip details. **Leader:** Christin New, new.a.christin@gmail.com Register: <https://bit.ly/3PhDeT5>

~ *Passing of Doug Pomeroy* ~

We lost a long-time supporter of Sequoia Audubon Society in August. Doug had been an active member for many years. Doug served on the Board of Directors since 2016. He also served as the Field Trip Coordinator since 2021. We will share a further remembrance of Doug in the next newsletter. Our sympathies go out to his wife Donna, also a long-time member and field trip leader for our chapter, and their son Kevin.



Aleutian Cackling Geese



Doug and Sparrow on goose job 1981

Doug's first seasonal job after graduating from Humboldt State University in 1981 was following the world's entire population of the then endangered Aleutian Canada Goose, since split as Cackling Goose. The goose population in 1981 was a precarious 800-1000 birds. With good management, the population of this subspecies of Cackling Goose recovered and was removed from endangered status. This goose always had a special place in Doug's heart, as did his year as a wild goose chaser.

A Tribute to Anne Moser, by Chris MacIntosh

We lost a long-time member in April of this year. Anne Moser was a former president and board member, serving from 1992-1999. She was 95 and had lived in Menlo Park for decades.

The then editor wrote of her in *Needles* “Anne has been one of three outstanding presidents during my 17 years of association with SAS. She has also been, in my opinion, the most effective member of the Board of Directors during that period. Besides that, she is a very fine lady.”

She also served on the nominating committee, was field trips coordinator for a time, and coordinated/problem solved getting the newsletter printed (the grateful editor thanked her often in print).

With her friend Robin Smith she helped with bluebird nest boxes. They traveled together, including camping on Baffin Island – that resulted in a talk to SAS entitled “Ice, Inuits, and Ivory Gulls”.

Besides her service to Sequoia, Anne birded nationally and internationally and served on the board of the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory – in addition to raising her family and work as a teacher and school board member.

Sue Cossins remembers “I became a member of SAS in 1989. When I walked into the San Mateo Garden Center for my first meeting I was met by a smiling, friendly person who I quickly realized was Anne Moser, President. It was to be the start of my long and continuing connection with SAS.”

Francis Toldi, who also served as President not long after Anne’s term, commented “Anne was a remarkable leader and a fine person. Her leadership style was very subtle and very effective. She didn’t present herself as the big authority, but instead quietly got us all focused on doing our respective tasks well to move the organization forward. She was very skilled in cultivating leadership growth in others. She was very strong, but never heavy-handed.”

Rick Johnson adds “Anne was a friendly, reliable, dedicated person who showed up, sized up what was needed, and got things done. In 1992, Sequoia Audubon Society needed its next President. Anne accepted that nomination and fulfilled the job well. And, she did all this with a good sense of humor.

I didn’t meet Anne until 2005, when we each became founding members of Friends of Bayfront Park (now Bedwell Bayfront Park), in opposition to Menlo Park’s plan to allow a developer to put a golf course there. She was the “wise woman” who steered hotter heads in more productive directions, and who seemed to know everyone on city staff. She cared about people and listened to them. After weekly meetings in a freezing church hall, with Robin Smith of SAS and the legendary Lennie Roberts of Green Foothills, and after a lot of hard work, signature gathering, letters to media, in November 2006 the “No on J” ballot measure passed with over 60%.

Anne always valued birds and SAS, and when she could no longer go on bird outings, she enjoyed her garden birds.

A very fine lady, indeed. *Chris MacIntosh*

OFFICERS

Acting President: John Epperson
Vice President: Open
Secretary: Melissa Hero
Treasurer: Julie Dull

At Large: Linda Adler, Doug Brown,
Beverly Cronin, Marshall Dinowitz,
Nelle Lyons, Chris MacIntosh,

Consulting Biologist

Alvaro Jaramillo

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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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94062-0292

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Mark your Calendar! Save the Dates!

The Christmas Bird Counts are scheduled: Crystal Springs Saturday,
December 16 and Año Nuevo Saturday, December 30.
cbc@sequoia-audubon.org

Seeking Snowy Plover Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to conduct regular surveys of snowy plovers on the State Park beaches on the San Mateo coast. Volunteers are especially needed for Gazos Creek and Pescadero beaches. Volunteer training will



be scheduled this fall. If you are interested in participating in the training to become a plover surveyor, please email Nelle Lyons at ltigger1nl@gmail.com to sign up.

Sequoia Audubon Society Membership

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 _____

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Contact us: 650.529.1454

or

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Check out our Online Birding Guide:

www.birding.sequoia-audubon.org

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