

SEQUOIA NEEDLES

Bulletin of the Sequoia Audubon Society, San Mateo County
Founded 1949

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November-January 2003-2004

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

A Year Later

BY MARTHA O'NEAL MACHO

On September 28 the first White-crowned Sparrows appeared in our backyard, reminding us that autumn was now outside as well as on our calendar. I think of this season as being the start of our "birding year," and also as the unofficial start of Sequoia Audubon's administrative year. Thinking back to a year ago, we were initiating our local memberships that allow people to join Sequoia Audubon without joining National Audubon Society and to allow people to belong to multiple Audubon chapters. In the intervening year we have added a number of local members and are expanding our distribution of membership brochures.

National Audubon will give us some financial support this year. Two years ago they moved from a dues-sharing policy based on chapter membership numbers to the current "safety net" concept that has substantially cut their financial support to chapters. They are currently gathering information on how National and chapters could work together, and how National might support chapters. National Audubon's Board of Directors has pledged to review its financial support policy by July of next year.

One of the reasons National Audubon has cut back on financial support to chapters is to use the funds to build Audubon Centers throughout the United States. One such center is to be located in the Bay Area. Audubon-California, which is a part of National Audubon and which operates on a state level, is searching for locations around San Francisco Bay. They intend for the Centers to be educational and to

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BLUEBIRD JOURNAL

BY HOWARD RATHELSBERGER

The 2003 San Mateo County Bluebird Recovery Program results are complete. All of the 65 volunteer monitors can be very proud of their efforts in monitoring 461 boxes in 48 individual trails. The 2003 results were 1147 chicks fledged of 11 cavity nesting species. There were 269 attempted nestings.

The Western Bluebird (WEBL) tops the list with 90 starts and 329 chicks fledged. Next was the Violet Green Swallow (VGSW) with 55 starts and 221 fledged. The Chestnut Backed Chickadee (CBCH) and Oak Titmouse (OATI) tied for 3rd place. The Ash Throated Flycatcher (ATFL) surprised us all with 14 tries and 33 fledged. This is more than double any previous year for this bird.

There are many more opportunities to place boxes in good habitat so there's really much more to accomplish. We can always use additional volunteers to help carry on the program.

Sequoia Audubon December Potluck & Raffle

The December 11 monthly meeting will be preceded by a Potluck Dinner and Raffle to raise money for Sequoia Audubon. Raffle items include gift certificates to local restaurants, birdhouses, bird seed, and gift items from local stores. Donation is \$1 per ticket. The dinner starts at 6:00 PM, so bring your favorite dish to share.

Monthly Meetings

San Mateo Garden Center
(See program details on page 2)

November

Thursday, 13th, 7:30PM

Program: Corvid Natural History

December

Thursday, 11th, 6:00PM

Program: Potluck and Parrots of the Peruvian Amazon

January

Thursday, 8th, 7:30PM

Program: Birds and Bears on the Cook Inlet

February

Thursday, 8th, 7:30PM

Program: The Dazzling Dragonflies of the Bay Area

Upcoming Field Trips

(See trip details on page 3)

November

Saturday 1st Bair Island*

Saturday 8th Pescadero Marsh

Sunday 9th Redwood Shores*

Saturday 15th Año Nuevo

Sunday, 16th Coyote Point

Saturday 22nd Sea Cloud Park

Saturday 22nd & Sunday 23rd

Sacramento Wildlife Refuges

Sunday, 23rd Palo Alto Baylands

Sunday, 30th Edgewood Park

December

Saturday, 13th Private Nature Preserve

Sunday, 14th Pre-Christmas Count Walk at Twin Pines Park, Belmont*

Thursday, 18th Las Gallinas Sewer Ponds

Saturday, 20th Christmas Count - Crystal Springs

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Members are encouraged to submit original or uncopyrighted material – articles, artwork, cartoons, photos – to be published in the Needles. The

deadline for the submission of materials is the first day of the month preceding publication. Send comments and contributions to:

sas_editor@yahoo.com



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MEETING PROGRAMS

BY BARBARA WILSON

Corvid Natural History, Behavior, and Rehabilitation

By Elaine Friedman

Thursday, November 13

Which birds “hum” as they tuck sticks into a nest? Who develops an almost bald head in the fall? And who has the intelligence to use a discarded gallon ice cream tub as an echo chamber to enhance a vocalization? Using slides, examples, and live birds, Elaine Friedman of Corvid Connection will introduce you to the

Monthly Meetings

San Mateo Garden Center

605 Parkside Way, San Mateo

Parkside Way is west of Alameda de las Pulgas, between 26th and 28th Avenues.

ravens, crows, magpies, and jays of the Bay Area. Topics will include natural history of the various species of corvids, behaviors, and a glimpse into what it is like to rehabilitate and release an injured or orphaned corvid.

Elaine Friedman, a former pharmaceutical chemist for the federal Food and Drug Administration, is currently the director of Corvid Connection, a 501(c)(3) wildlife education non-profit. Corvid Connection has federal and state permits to present permanently injured wild birds for the purpose of teaching wildlife preservation and education to groups of all ages. Elaine has been an educator and wildlife rehabilitator since 1985, and currently is the Corvid Species Manager for the Wildlife Department of Lindsay Wildlife Museum in Walnut Creek, CA. Elaine will also discuss behavioral stimulation of captive wildlife at Coyote Point Museum in San Mateo and other Bay Area wildlife facilities and how people are trained to handle raptor and non-raptor bird species at Wildcare in San Rafael.

Parrots of the Peruvian Amazon

By Bonnie Zimmerman

Thursday, December 11

Bonnie will present a slide talk on extreme travel in the Peruvian Amazon and her work with the Tambopata Macaw Research Project.

Bonnie has been involved with the parrot world since 1984 when she adopted her first parrot. Bonnie is the founder of The Wild Connection, an organization whose mission is to promote the education, conservation, rescue, rehabilitation and awareness of parrots in captivity and in rainforests worldwide. With the cooperation of the the Tambopata Research Center and the Indonesian Parrot Project, she is involved in producing a documentary that will shed light on the true behaviors of these special creatures. Read more about her organization at www.thewildconnection.org.

Birds and Bears on the Cook Inlet

By David Cardinal

Thursday, January 8, 2004

Located in the center of Alaska, the Cook Inlet is often overlooked by travelers going South on coastal cruises or North to see the splendor of Denali or the birds of Nome. Fishermen flood the region every summer, but the region is also a treasure trove for spending time with unusual birds and Coast Brown (“Grizzly”) Bears. Wildlife photographer and author David Cardinal has been visiting the area annually for several years and has photographed dozens of bird species, including Horned and Tufted Puffins, Bald Eagles, and Pacific Loons. He has also captured many unique photographs of the region’s Brown Bears. His presentation will cover some of the options for visiting the Cook Inlet as well as plenty of gorgeous slides of the area and its animals.

David Cardinal is a long-time wildlife photographer who specializes in North American mammals and birds. His images of creatures in the wild help communicate the importance of our natural heritage and our responsibility to preserve it. David is co-author with Moose Peterson of the *DI Generation*. His articles and images appear in *Outdoor Photographer*, *PC Magazine*, *Inside Look*, and *The BT Journal*. You

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FIELD TRIPS

BY CAROL MASTERSON

Bair Island

Saturday, November 1, 9:00 AM
Come to Bair Island and see what wintering birds have arrived. Easy walking on flat trails. We have binoculars to share.

Directions: Take Hwy 101 to Whipple Ave exit in Redwood City. Follow the frontage road around until you reach the National Wildlife Refuge parking lot on the right. There are no restroom facilities. Please call the leader to reserve your spot.

Leader: Robin Smith 650-325-3360.

Beginner/Family Trip

Pescadero Marsh

Saturday, November 8, 9:00 AM
Pescadero Marsh is one of the premier birding spots in the country. Located on the Pacific Flyway, it serves as an important stop-over for migrant shorebirds, wintering ground for waterfowl, and breeding ground for a variety of marsh birds. The weather may be cool or warm depending upon fog and wind conditions. Boots are suggested for wet conditions. Walking is relatively easy on level grades.

Directions: Hwy 1 South. Meet at the parking lot opposite where Pescadero Road meets Hwy 1.

Leader: Gary Deghi 650-726-1340.

Redwood Shores

Sunday, November 9, 9:00 AM
Visit two very special "duck pond" sites. One is a known tern rookery; the other is usually packed with shorebirds and waterfowl, depending on the season.

Directions: Meet at 9:00 AM in the parking lot at Marine World Pkwy and Island Dr. (near two tennis courts). We'll proceed by caravan/car to the two spots. Nice and short, no hills. Heavy rain cancels.

Leader: Teri Tith 650-341-7724.

Beginner/Family Trip

Año Nuevo State Reserve

Saturday, November 15, 8:00 AM
Año Nuevo is one of the most picturesque and ecologically rich areas along the central California coast. The reserve is about 4,000 acres of coast beaches, marshes, rolling dunes with coastal scrub, grasslands, and a coastal

mountain range. The reserve is famous for the Elephant seals and sea lions that visit the beaches here. Along the shore we will look for loons, scoters, and lots of wading birds. We'll also explore the reserve for resident, migrant, and visiting bird rarities.

Directions: Take Hwy 92 west to Hwy 1 in Half Moon Bay. Go across Hwy 1 at the light into the Safeway parking lot. We will meet to carpool at the southwest corner of the lot. Dress in layers. Wear walking shoes; bring fluids and snacks. Heavy rain cancels.

Leaders: Sue Cossins 650-347-9358, Eileen Kay 650-592-4626, Kay Partelow.

Coyote Point

Sunday, November 16, 9:00 AM
Fall and winter are great times to view birds at Coyote Point. The wetland fronting the San Francisco Bay attracts numerous shore birds. The trees and grassy areas also provide good birding.
Directions: Take 101 to the Peninsula Ave. exit in Burlingame. Go east following the signs to Coyote Point; meet in the parking lot behind the Yacht Club. Tell the gatekeeper that you are with Sequoia Audubon Society to get in free.

Leader: Sue Cossins 650-347-9358.

Sea Cloud Park, Foster City

Saturday, November 22, 8:45 AM
This trip is designed for beginning birders and those with young families. We will help you identify birds and answer your birding questions. We have binoculars to share.

Directions: Take Hillsdale Ave. East from Hwy. 101 and make a right turn on Edgewater Blvd. Go 1.3 miles to Pitcairn Drive and turn left. Look for the park entrance on the right. Meet at the far end of the parking lot at 8:45 AM.

Leader: Leslie Flint 650-573-6279.

Beginner/Family Trip

Sacramento Wildlife Refuges Trip

Saturday & Sunday, November 22 & 23
The Central Valley is considered to be the single most important wintering site for waterfowl in the Pacific Flyway. Come join us for a weekend of great birding at the Sacramento Refuge Complex. This area has freshwater marshes, riparian

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Upcoming Field Trips

December, continued

Sunday, 28th Edgewood Park

January

Saturday, 3rd Christmas Count-Año Nuevo

Saturday, 10th Wavecrest Raptors

Sunday, 11th Arrowhead Marsh, Alameda County

Sunday, 18th Panoche Valley

Sunday, 25th Edgewood Park

**Beginner/Family Trip*

Check the field trip descriptions for any special information or requirements. Late comers may be disappointed. For all field trips bring your binoculars, water, wear sturdy walking shoes or boots, sun block, hat, and always dress in layers for hot sunny weather to cool windy conditions. While we attempt to stay on schedule, circumstances may dictate changes to field trip leaders, dates, or times.

For the latest schedule and updates, go to the Sequoia Audubon web site, contact the trip leader, or call Carol at 650-347-1769.



Great Blue Heron

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woodlands and valley grasslands. We will travel in a car-caravan since walkers tend to disturb the wildlife in some areas. Motel reservations are advised. Willows and Williams have a good selection of motels in all price ranges. Camping is available at the Colusa-Sacramento River State Recreation Area in Colusa. Our precise itinerary will depend on where the birds are. Trip reservations are requested.

Directions: Take Hwy 80 Northeast towards Sacramento; go North on Hwy 505 to meet Hwy 5 North towards Williams and Colusa. We will meet at the parking lot inside the entrance to the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge at 9:00 AM sharp.

Leaders: Joe & Martha O'Neal Macho 650-692-8138.

Palo Alto Baylands by Canoe

Sunday, November 23, 9:00 AM

Get a different view of the birds at Baylands on this Save the Bay sponsored canoe trip. The fall migration will be in full swing as we paddle around the marshes. We can observe wildlife and learn about the area's ecology. This trip is for Sequoia Audubon Society members ONLY. Cost is \$40. Reservations required. Call Save the Bay at 510-452-9621.

Leader: Francis Toldi

Edgewood Park

Sunday, November 30, 8:00 AM

Warblers, sparrows, hawks, thrushes and more are all possible. We start at 8 AM to increase your chances of seeing the resident and migratory species at Edgewood Park as we head into fall.

Directions: The Edgewood Park entrance is East of Hwy 280 on Edgewood Road in Redwood City. Meet at 8:00 AM sharp in the parking lot adjacent to the Day Camp area. Heavy rain cancels.

Leader: Lee Franks 650-592-7733.

Private Nature Preserve, San Mateo County

Saturday, December 13, 9:00 AM

This is a special field trip to SAS member Georgia Stigall's private nature preserve in the south Skyline region of San Mateo County. Georgia will describe her restoration efforts and plans as a private land owner and as the director of Native Habitats (www.nativehabitats.org). Participation is limited to 12. Conditions include ridge top and steep trails, but we will walk at a slow pace with lots of time to bird. Dress in layers because of variable weather at this 2400 foot site. Please contact Georgia Stigall for full details and to make reservations: gstigall@aol.com or 650-941-1068.

Pre-Christmas Count Walk at Twin Pines Park, Belmont

Sunday, December 14, 9:00 AM

Get prepared for the Christmas Count. Never been on a Christmas count? Come and learn "how to" from some experienced birders. Come and practice your skills.

Directions: From El Camino, turn west onto Ralston Ave, in Belmont, watch for the Twin Pines Park entrance on the left. Meet in the parking lot at 9:00 AM sharp. We will have binoculars to share. Heavy rain cancels.

Leaders: Eileen Kay 650-592-4626 & Sue Cossins 650-347-9358.

Beginner Skills Walk

Las Gallinas Sewer Ponds Mid-week Walk

Thursday, December 18, 8:30 AM

Bruce Bajema from the Marin Audubon Society will lead this walk. We will look for shorebirds in the shallow ponds and waterfowl in

the deep ponds. The surrounding fields have sparrows, owls, pipits, kinglets, and more.

Directions: Take Hwy 101 North to San Rafael; take the Smith Ranch Road exit; go East to the McInnis Park entrance. Turn left after crossing railroad tracks; go to the end of the road. Meet at 8:30 in the Las Gallinas Sewer Ponds parking lot.

Leader: Bruce Bajema 415-456-6271

Christmas Count — Crystal Springs

Saturday, December 20

See page 8 for details.

Edgewood Park

Sunday, December 28 8:00 AM

Make this your New Year's walk. Come and visit Edgewood Park for the last time in 2003. We should see wintering birds as well as year-round species. Heavy rain cancels.

Directions: The Edgewood Park entrance is East of Hwy 280 on Edgewood Road in Redwood City. Meet at 8:00 AM sharp in the parking lot adjacent to the Day Camp area.

Leader: Lee Franks 650-592-7733.

Christmas Count — Año Nuevo

Saturday, January 3, 2004

See page 8 for details.

Wavecrest Raptors

Saturday, January 10, 2004, 3:00 PM

The North Wavecrest area is considered by the Sequoia Audubon Society to be the most important habitat for wintering raptors in San Mateo County, supporting a greater diversity of raptors and number of individuals than any other site. Possible development of Wavecrest Village in this area would destroy this unique habitat for raptors on the coast. We will expect to see Red-tailed and Red-shouldered hawks, Northern Harriers, White-tailed Kites, American Kestrels. We will make a special effort at dusk to see Short-eared Owls (a species of special concern), which winter here every year. If we are lucky we may see rarities such as a Ferruginous Hawk or Rough-legged Hawk.

Directions: Hwy 1 South of the intersection with Hwy 92. Turn right – West – on Wavecrest Road. Meet at the ball fields at the end of Wavecrest Road at 3:00 PM.

Leader: Gary Deghi 650-726-1340

Arrowhead Marsh, Alameda County

Sunday, January 11, 2004, 9:00 AM

You would never suspect that between the Oakland Airport and the Coliseum would be a hidden jewel -- Arrowhead Marsh. This 50-acre wetland was saved from developers and restored. It has become an important stop-over on the Pacific Flyway for hundreds of shorebirds, waterbirds, raptors, possible Clapper Rails, and is even an oasis for Bay Trail walkers. Join East Bay birders Marilyn Nasatir and Inge Svoboda for a morning of great birding.

Directions: Take Hwy 880 to the Hegenberger exit and go west on Hegenberger Road. Turn right at Doolittle Drive. Turn right at the first traffic light onto Swan Way. After one block turn left and take the dirt road to the parking lot at the

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end. Meet at the fishing pier at the end of the parking lot. Bring a scope if you have one. Dress in layers for variable weather. Heavy rain cancels. Call Carol Masterson for information: 650-347-1769.

Panoche Valley

Sunday, January 18, 2004, 8:00 AM

We will meet at the Paicines store at the intersection of Highway 25 and Panoche Road at 8:00 AM. We will bird Paicines Reservoir and Panoche Valley, looking for Mountain Plovers, Greater Roadrunners, Long-eared Owls, Mountain Bluebirds, and raptors. We will return to Paicines store about 5:30 PM. Please bring your FRS radio if you have one and pack a lunch. Feel free to call us for more information and please call if you plan to attend.

Leaders: Joe and Martha O'Neal Macho 650-692-8138

Edgewood Park – Mushrooms and Birds

Sunday, January 25, 2004, 8:00 AM

This should be a wonderful trip – mushrooms and birds are a natural combo and not just in the kitchen. Our mushroom leaders for this walk will be Debbie Viess and Fred Stevens. Debbie is a biologist, writer and artist who enjoys sharing her love of mushrooms with others. She is the Education Chair of the Mycological Society of San Francisco (MSSF) and is past president of the Ohlone Audubon Society. Fred has been a member of the MSSF for over 25 years and is its former president. He is a tireless taxonomist, a patient teacher and a talented mushroom photographer. Check out his web site Mykoweb.com to see over 1500 photos of California mushrooms.

Directions: Edgewood Park is east of Hwy 280 on Edgewood Road in Redwood City. Look for the park entrance on the south side of the road. Meet at 8:00 AM sharp in the parking lot nearest to the day camp area. Heavy rain cancels. Please contact Lee Franks, our monthly walk leader, for information. 650-592-7733.

IF YOU CAN'T IDENTIFY A BIRD, TRY SKETCHING IT

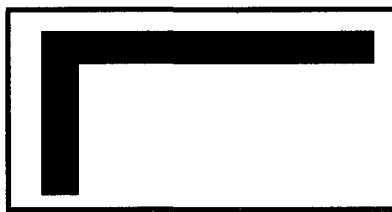
BY DARRYL WHEYE

You're on a bird walk. You've just had a good look at a bird, but you can't find it in your field guide. Time is short. You decide to sketch the mystery bird and proceed to do so. When the walk is over, and you have a moment to compare your sketch with a field guide, you are dismayed to find that you still cannot identify the bird. Next time, start with a pre-drawn bird outline taped to a Post-It® Note.

Pre-drawn outlines

Get an outline of a generic bird. Draw a box around it. (Make several photocopies, including one for future use as a template.) Cut along each box and tape each bird to a Post-

It® Note. Mount as many of these Post-It® Notes as you think you'll need onto the first few pages of your field guide for use during your bird walk. If you keep a log, you can readily transfer your drawing to your journal page.



You may find it useful to get outlines of, say, a floating bird, a perching bird, a soaring bird, and a large standing bird, or outlines of birds from families you're likely to see that pose an identification challenge, perhaps a sparrow, a warbler, a gull etc.

Color Guide

Prepare a color strip about 1" x 6" to tape into your field guide. You will need about 12 colors (white, cream, black, gray, yellow, orange, red, pink, purple, blue green brown black). Number each color. You can make a strip using a set of colored pencils, an old magazine, paint color samples from your local paint store, etc.



Note: Unless you have time to color the bird outline during your bird walk, just indicate color and special field marks (using a number and an arrow) on the drawing.

Post-It® Notes

You might want to add a few large Post-It® Notes to the front of your field guide for notes about your unidentified bird, such as time, location, type of habitat, behavior, special field marks, etc. Give both your drawing and your notes about the bird the same identifying name or number for later reference.

Colored Pencils, Pens, or Watercolors

There is a wide variety to choose from. You can, for example, buy 12 Faber Castell colored half-pencils for \$2; or full-sized colored pencils for \$3. You can also buy six erasable colored pencils for \$3.40. An inexpensive set of felt pens or watercolors, of course, will also do fine, but are not as easy and compact to carry.

Drawing your own outlines

You can quickly teach yourself to draw the outlines. Pick a bird in your field guide and copy its outline. Compare the original and your outline by holding both up to a mirror. You'll know when your sketch is adequate for your needs.

Let Carol Masterson (650-347-1769) [carolmasterson@netzero.net] know if these suggestions have been useful, if you need more information, and if you would like to practice sketching or filling in outlines on a group bird walk. If there is sufficient interest in trying this on a group walk, one can be scheduled for December 6.

Note: If you are interested in bird art, have access to the Internet and would like to see some very fine bird paintings, visit the Artist Registry for Ornithological Researchers website (artist-registry.stanford.edu).

MEETING PROGRAMS

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can learn more about David and his photography at www.cardinalphoto.com.

The Dazzling Dragonflies of the Bay Area

By Kathy Biggs
February 8, 2004

Did you know that the dragonflies are Earth's first fliers or that they come in every color of the rainbow, including metallic ones? And, as birders, we already have developed skills for watching and learning about them. Come and meet Kathy Biggs, author of *Common Dragonflies of California*, who will introduce us to the approximately 60 species of dragonflies that occur in the Bay Area and to their unusual and fascinating lives through a talk and slide show.

When Kathy discovered that there were no guides available for dragonflies, she began collecting her own data, which, as an educator, she decided to first publish on the Internet to share with others. The web site eventually evolved into her first book, *Common Dragonflies of California, A Beginner's Guide*, which will be for sale at the meeting.

Learn more about dragonflies at her California Dragonfly website: www.sonic.net/dragonfly/.

Learn more about building ponds for wildlife at: www.bigsnestpond.net.



SAS'S NEWEST BEGINNER/ FAMILY BIRD WALK: REDWOOD SHORES

BY TERI TITH,
SAS MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Redwood Shores offers year-round, consistent birding for the enthusiast. It provides an excellent venue for beginners and families as well as advanced birders wanting to brush up on their water birds. Children are most welcome and one could almost do this "walk" from the car. The slope rating is zero, as there is no grade in this area. Redwood Shores is located off the Ralston/Marine Parkway exit from the 101. It is graced with well-stocked man-made lagoons and levees built on the SF Bay in this planned community circa 1950.

The bird walk in Redwood Shores is held on the second Sunday of every month, starting at 9:00 a.m. It can be one hour long or longer, depending on conditions and the interests of the group.

This is a no-fee field trip program offered by the Sequoia Audubon Society, serving San Mateo County since 1955. It is open to members and non-members alike. Please contact field trip leader Teri Tith at 650-341-7724 if you would like to join up as the meeting place can vary, depending on the time of year.

Summer months are not known to be the best birding months as the breeding and nesting season is over and few birds have begun migrating along the Pacific Flyway. The months of November through May are the most productive. However, even in September, Redwood Shores offered up the following sightings:

Stop #1 Island Drive/Shorebird Park levee: Belted Kingfisher (female), Mourning Dove, Canada Geese.

Stop #2 Indian Creek waterway: Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, House Finch, Long-billed Curlew, Avocets, Black-necked Stilt, House Sparrows, House Finch.

Stop #3 Davit Lane Lagoon: Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Pied-billed Grebe, Mallards, Brewer's Blackbird, Trumpeter Swans (non-native), Cormorants, and White-fronted Geese.

Stop #4 SBSA Water Treatment site: Greeted by lots of ducky butt "salutes," Northern Shovelers, Mallards, Coots, Pintails, Forster's Tern, Great Egret, Common Crow, Snowy Egret, Great Blue Heron, and Killdeer (heard but not seen!).

The Redwood Shores monthly bird walk is a great way to learn about these "backyard" birds unique to the SF Bay Area, particularly waterfowl and shorebirds. Impress your friends with your knowledge of local birds the next time they visit and spread the enthusiasm to the next generation.

OTHER BIRDING ACTIVITIES

(Sequoia Audubon does not sponsor the following activities)

Sandhill Crane Festival, Lodi

November 7th-9th Information: www.lodichamber.com.

Central Valley Birding Symposium, Stockton

November 20th-23rd Information: www.CVBS.org.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

reach segments of the population who are not currently involved in environmental conservation. Other than the financial aspect of our changing relationship to National Audubon, we also have the challenge of how, and whether, to assist National in its changing vision of birding conservation. Opinions are diverse, but our commitment to conservation in San Mateo County remains primary to our considerations.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT SEQUOIA AUDUBON

BY CAROL MASTERSON

Want to help the birds? Get involved? Here are some great opportunities to support conservation in San Mateo County. There are lots of volunteer opportunities available. Sequoia Audubon is an **all-volunteer** organization and we need your help. Many jobs are ones that you can do at home and that take only a few hours a month. Here are just a few volunteer jobs available:

Greeter at our monthly meetings

Help to greet visitors and new members at our Thursday night monthly meetings.

Requirements: Enjoy meeting new people. Help make new members welcome.

Time: Approximately 2 hours per month at our monthly meeting

Location: San Mateo Garden Center

Contact: Eileen Kay 650-592-4626

Field Trip Leader

Do you have a favorite birding spot you want to share with others? Enjoy teaching people about birds and birding?

Requirements: Love of birds and birding and willingness to share your birding knowledge. Should be patient and enjoy working with people.

Time: Varies: 3 – 4 hours for each walk.

Location: In the field

Contact: Carol Masterson 650-347-1769

Birdseed Sale Chairman

One of the ways SAS earns money and helps members is through the sale of birdseed. The coordinator job doesn't include pickup or delivery of seeds.

Requirements: We will show you how to coordinate with the supplier and the delivery volunteers.

Time: Seed sale are three times a year, April, September, and February. It will take approximately 6 – 8 hours for each sale.

Location: Your home

Contact: Martha O'Neal 650-692-8138

Letter Writer

Be an Armchair Activist and help support conservation issues that effect birds and the environment. Hand write letters to public officials on important conservation issues. We help you with ideas on what to write.

Requirements: Interest in environmental issues and willingness to write letters to public officials.

Location: Your home

Time: Varies 15 minutes to 1 hour per month

Contact: Cynthia McLaughlin 650-299-9469

Assistant Membership Coordinator

Our members are our most important assets. We need to keep track of all our member names and addresses in our easy-to-use computer database.

Requirements: Attention to detail and accuracy. Willingness

to learn data entry. We will train you.

Time: Varies: 8-10 hrs. per month – your schedule.

Location: On your personal computer at your home

Contact: Teri Tith 650-341-7724

Exhibit/Display Designer

Create and design an exhibit for public libraries and schools to teach the public about birds and birding.

Requirements: An artistic ability.

Time: Varies - 1-8 hours per month – your schedule

Location: Work at your home and delivery of exhibit to local libraries and schools.

Contact: Carol Masterson 650-347-1769

THANK YOU, TRIP LEADERS

... THE UNSUNG HEROES OF THE SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Birding is at the very core of what SAS is all about — exploring nature and watching and learning about birds. By sharing your time, knowledge and love of birds, you have made it possible for new and advanced birders alike to explore great birding areas and increase their birding skills. We could not do it without you.

Three cheers and a round of applause to all our field trip leaders!!!

Teri Tith
Sue Cossins
Robin Smith
Rick Johnson
Pete Popin
Merry Haveman
Martha O'Neal Macho
Lynne Trulio
Leslie Flint
Lee Franks
Judy Spitler

Joe Macho
Gloria Heller
Gary Deghi
Roy Carlson
Garth Harwood
Francis Toldi
Sue James
Donna Peterson
Dan Keller
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2003 Annual Christmas Bird Counts



Sign up today by calling Al at (650) 345-6988 or email to Al_DeMar@yahoo.com

The Christmas count is done every year to record as many individuals and different species in one day as possible. The data gathered gives us important information about the birds of San Mateo County. This year the counts are scheduled for:

Crystal Springs Count – Saturday, December 20, 2003

Año Nuevo Count – Saturday, January 3, 2004

We will break into teams counting birds on the coastside, hills or bayside. After the count everyone gathers to tally the results and enjoy a compilation dinner.

Counters with all levels of experience are welcome. For beginning birders, this is a great opportunity to gain experience working with the old pros. We also need feeder watchers to count birds at their home feeders for a period of time in December. Come practice your skills at a Pre-Christmas walk. This will be a chance for first time birders to learn the skills necessary to participate on the counts. The Pre-Christmas Count walk will be at Twin Pines Park in Belmont on Sunday December 14, 2003, 9:00 AM.

When you sign up for the Christmas Count please let us know your phone number, email address, experience and whether you'd be interested in counting bayside or coastside. Be prepared to spend the day looking for birds, rain or shine.

Each count costs \$5 to cover the expense of publishing the CBC results. Be sure to sign up for the informal compilation dinner. For a mere \$5 enjoy tasty warm food and lively stories about the counts. Reservations requested so we can plan accordingly.

The Christmas Bird Counts will be some of the best birding you will do for the year!

Mission Statement

The mission of Sequoia Audubon Society is to participate in environmental education, and conservation and in the restoration, preservation, protection and enjoyment of our native natural resources with emphasis on birds and their habitats.