

SEQUOIA NEEDLES

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

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June-August 2006

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR CAVITY NESTERS

OAK TITMOUSE (*BAEOLOPHUS*
INORNATUS)

BY HATCH GRAHAM

The Oak Titmouse (formerly Plain Titmouse) is resident in oak woodlands throughout California. Its close relative, the Juniper Titmouse, occurs in Modoc and Lassen Counties and in the Providence Mountains in eastern San Bernardino County.

As early as 1944, Grinnell and Miller in *Distribution of the Birds of California* reported retraction of the Oak Titmouse range where oaks had been cleared for agriculture. This has continued with clearance for subdivisions and industrial parks. The Breeding Bird Survey reported that the titmouse population has declined 35% since 1968.

Titmice will use bluebird boxes and will even squeeze into wren boxes with a 1" opening. Probably the best size for them is 1 and 1/4". Titmice seem to prefer nestboxes mounted on trees and hanging boxes, although they will use boxes on poles or fence posts if they are close to oak trees. They are territorial with their own kind as are bluebirds. The closest nestings so far reported were about 40 yards apart with most being 90 yards or more. Titmice will nest in paired boxes alongside bluebirds and Tree Swallows.

The Oak Titmouse may well be the first to occupy your nestboxes. Since they are resident, they often will use the nestbox for roosting in the winter and may begin to build their nest in late winter, although the egg-laying usually starts in late March around the vernal equinox. Their nest is usually a base of moss and lichens, weeds and fibers, topped and lined with fur and feathers. The eggs are

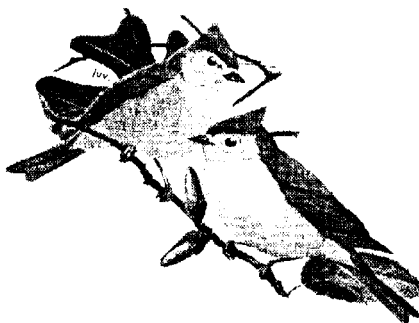
non-glossy white and usually unmarked though some eggs with fine reddish dots have been reported. Six to 8 (usually 7) eggs are laid, and then incubated by the female for 14 days. The nestlings fledged in 21 to 23 days.

As you approach a box containing Ms. Titmouse, you may be greeted by her vigilant mate with a *Tsik-di-di-di!* scolding which shows their close relationship to cousin chickadee. On opening the box, don't be surprised to meet the defiant gaze and staccato chatter aimed at driving you away. This little hen will have her crest elevated to its fullest and may hiss at you, sometimes moving her head side to side like a Balinese dancer.

In order to properly monitor the nest you will have to gently enclose her in your hand and raise her from the nest. After counting the eggs or young replace her on her clutch or brood, close the door and move quietly away. She won't budge. The worst that can happen is she may pinch your finger with her bill. Don't drop her; endure it, and she'll be fine when you put her back

Oak Titmouse

Baeolophus inornatus



Hal H. Harrison, in *Western Birds Nests*, reports that 11 of 14 recaptured pairs of banded titmice were with the same mate the second year.

The Oak Titmouse aids in controlling oak moths, eating multitudes of grubs, scale,

(Continued on page 2)

Monthly Meetings

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

June

Thursday, 8th, Potluck Meeting-
Potluck and Fundraiser: 6:30 PM;
Program: 8:00 PM
Program: Madagascar 2003

Upcoming Field Trips

(See trip details on page 3)

May

Saturday-Sunday, 13th & 14th

International Migratory Bird Days

Sunday, 14th SF Aquatic Park*

Saturday, 20th Mt Diablo State Park

Sunday, 21st Pescadero Marsh
Work Day

Sunday, 28th Edgewood Park

June

Thursday, 1st Pescadero Marsh
Beginners Bird Walk*

Saturday-Sunday, 10th-11th

Yuba Pass & Sierra Valley Weekend

Sunday, 11th Pescadero Marsh
Work Day

Sunday, 18th SF Aquatic Park*

July

Sunday, 16th Pescadero Marsh
Work Day

August

Sunday, 13th Pescadero Marsh
Work Day

*Beginner/Family Trip



(Continued on page 3)

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Members are encouraged to submit original or uncopyrighted material – articles, artwork, cartoons, photos – for Needles. The deadline for submission 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 CAROL MASTERSON

Madagascar 2003

by Ted Chandik

Thursday, June 8th, 6:30 PM

Join Ted in reliving his travels to Madagascar where he was able to see birds from five endemic families. Ted Chandik is the former naturalist for the City of Palo Alto. He has taught birding/nature classes for many years. He now leads local birding tours and is well known and respected in birding circles.

This meeting is a "potluck" meeting.

Potluck begins at 6:30; program at about 8:00. Bring your own plate and utensils. Please bring a main dish, casserole, or salad to share. Sequoia Audubon will provide coffee, tea, and dessert. Come and meet our friendly members and vote on our slate of officers and directors.

Monthly Meetings

San Mateo Garden Center

605 Parkside Way, San Mateo

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

WILDLIFE HAZARDS IN NESTING SEASON

BY JUANITA HEINEMANN

Before pruning in your garden, observe trees and shrubs for bird activity. Birds, especially hummingbirds, are masters at camouflaging their nests. If possible, postpone felling trees until after the nesting season. Woodpeckers, nuthatches, and squirrels are only a few of the animals that use trees as nesting sites.

Avoid overuse of insecticides and pesticides. They may poison insects, which are the main food source for many birds and their young.

Cellophane grass, fine thread or string and dryer lint are not suitable for nest building,

(Cavity Nesters, continued from page 1)

and crawling creatures that infest the native oaks. They are found gleaning the leaves, twigs, and bark of oaks most of the year. Insects make up over half their diet. In winter, they will resort to weed seeds, grass seeds, and especially delight in poison-oak berries. But the vegetable mainstay of their diet is the acorn, which they are quite capable of cracking.

It is always a delight to find an Oak Titmouse in a nestbox. We know we're helping another cavity-nester stay off the threatened list.

This article was originally published in the California Bluebird Recovery Program Newsletter, Spring 1999.

If you are interested in helping with the Sequoia Audubon Bluebird Nestbox Monitoring program, please contact Howard Rathlesberger (650) 561-9332 or hjrath@aol.com. We especially need help monitoring boxes in the Menlo Park and Portola Valley areas.

so avoid leaving these materials where birds will have access to them. Chlorine bleaches and other laundry additives can be absorbed from lint as the birds use their beaks and mouths to build their nests. Also, active young birds may get their wings, legs, or necks entangled in the fine strings.

Be sure to keep feeding stations clean and free of mildewed foods, such as old seeds, fruits, and sugar syrup.

Kentucky Warbler on nest



Photograph courtesy of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



FIELD TRIPS

BY CAROL MASTERSON

International Migratory Bird Days – Half Moon Bay

Saturday & Sunday, May 13 & 14, starts at 10:00 AM

Join the nation in celebrating and learning about migratory birds and enjoy fun and learning for the whole family. The weekend of May 13-14 is designated Migratory Bird Days. Activities include: exhibits, arts and crafts, learning about birdhouses, guided bird walks, and activities for children. If weather is bad, activities will be indoors. Admission to the State Park is \$6 per car.

Directions: Take Hwy 92 to Hwy 1. Go south on Hwy 1 to the first intersection -- Kelly Ave. Turn right and go west to the Half Moon Bay State Beach entrance. Dress in layers for warm-to-cool weather; bring a picnic lunch and fluids. Be ready for a fun day.

Beginner/Family Event – Wheelchair Accessible

San Francisco Aquatic Park

Sunday, May 14, 9:30 AM

Join National Park Service Ranger Carol Kiser on this beginners bird walk to see shore, migratory, citified, and resident birds as we walk along Hyde Street Pier and Aquatic Park. Bring binoculars, bird books, and dress in layers. We will meet at the Hyde Street Pier entrance at Hyde and Jefferson Streets and will go for about 1½ - 2 hours. There is no charge and walk is wheelchair accessible.

Directions: Bus numbers 10, F, 30, 47, 49, and the cable car stop nearby. Call (415) 673-MUNI for details. As meter parking lasts only for one hour, parking is best at garages nearby for about \$2.50 per ½ hour at the Anchorage Shopping Center or at Ghirardelli Square.

Leader: Ranger Carol Kiser (415) 561-7100

Beginner/Family Trip – Wheelchair Accessible

Mount Diablo State Park

Saturday, May 20, 8:00 AM to 2:30 PM

Meet at the South Gate entrance to Mount Diablo State Park at 8:00 AM. We will begin by birding the road outside the South Gate, and then cover several picnic areas within the park. On a clear day there are extensive views from

the top of the mountain. Wear layers and be prepared for a variety of weather conditions. Hats are advisable. Bring lunch, snacks, and liquids. There are restroom facilities at several locations.

Directions: To get to the East Bay take the San Mateo Bridge (Highway 92) to I-880. Go north on I-880 about 5 miles to Highway 237. Take Hwy 237 east to I-580 and continue east on I-580 to I-680. Go north on I-680 past Pleasanton to Diablo Road in Danville. Follow the road signs to the Park. There is a park entrance fee of \$6.

Leader: Joe Macho (650) 692-8138

Pescadero Marsh Work Day

Sunday, May 21, 10:00 AM – 12:00 NOON

Help keep the Sequoia Trail at Pescadero Marsh clear. Volunteer to come, once a month, to work for 2 hours and enjoy some birding. Bring water, gloves, and whatever garden tools you like to work with. Have some fun; meet some new people, and help Pescadero Marsh.

Directions: Meet at the parking lot south of the bridge on Hwy 1 at 10:00 AM or join us on the trail if you arrive after 10:00. For information call Norma Vite (650) 560-9740.

Leader: Ranger Dave Augustine is our host for these work days and he will bring the power tools.

Environmental Restoration Activity

Edgewood Park – Spring Birds, Butterflies, and Flowers

Sunday, May 28, 8:00 AM

Springtime birds, butterflies, and wildflowers abound at Edgewood Park. Talk with the leader Lee Franks about the important ongoing conservation studies and programs at the park. Starting at 8:00 AM sharp will increase our chances of seeing all the interesting resident and vagrant bird species.

Directions: Meet in the paved parking lot adjacent to the Main Gate. Take Hwy 280 to Edgewood Road. Go east on Edgewood toward Redwood City and look for the park entrance and parking on the south side of the road.

Leader: Lee Franks (650) 592-7733

(Continued on page 4)

Upcoming Field Trips

(Continued from page 1)

Special Discounted Pelagic Trips

August

Sunday, 6th Farallon Islands

Saturday, 26th Fort Bragg

September

Friday, 29th Monterey Bay

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

For the latest schedule and updates always go to the Sequoia Audubon web site, contact the trip leader, or call

Carol at 650-347-1769



Marsh Wren - Spherical in cattails or reeds

(Field Trips, continued from page 3)

Pescadero Marsh Beginners Bird Walk

Thursday, June 1, 9:00 AM – 12:00 NOON

Visit this beautiful marsh on the San Mateo County coast south of Half Moon Bay. Learn basic birding skills and enjoy a day at the beach. We will have binoculars to share. Dress in layers for cool and windy to warm weather. Wear good walking shoes or boots, hat, and sunscreen. Bring fluids and picnic lunch for after the walk.

Directions: Meet at the parking lot, south of the bridge on Hwy 1, just before the Pescadero Road turnoff.

Beginner/Family Trip. Not suitable for strollers.

Yuba Pass and Sierra Valley Weekend

Saturday-Sunday, June 10-11

Join us on this fun trip to a really great birding location. We will bird for summer residents including Dipper, Flycatchers, Warblers, and Calliope Hummingbirds. We will also be on the lookout for more rare birds such as Blue Grouse, Mountain Quail, Black-backed Woodpecker, and Williamson's Sapsucker. On Sunday, we will look for birds of the eastern Sierra, including White-faced Ibis, Black-billed Magpie, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Horned Lark, Mountain Bluebird, vesper Sparrow and Lewis's Woodpecker. This is a favorite spot for birders this time of year and many other birding groups visit this area.

Directions: Take I-80 to Truckee. Go north on Hwy 89 to Sierraville and take Hwy 49 west about 19 miles to Yuba Pass summit. On Saturday, we will meet at 8:30 AM at the Yuba Pass summit parking lot.

Make your hotel reservations early. There are campgrounds in the area and a number of hotels. Please call Joe Macho to let him know if you will attend.

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

Beginner/Family Weekend Trip.

Pescadero Marsh Work Day

Sunday, June 11, 10:00 AM – 12:00 NOON

For details, see entry under May 21.

Environmental Restoration Activity

San Francisco Aquatic Park

Sunday, June 18, 9:30 AM

For details, see entry under May 13.

Beginner/Family Trip – Wheelchair Accessible

Pescadero Marsh Work Day

Sunday, July, 16, 10:00 AM – 12:00 NOON

For details, see entry under May 21.

Environmental Restoration Activity

Pescadero Marsh Work Day

Sunday, August 13, 10:00 AM – 12:00 NOON

For details, see entry under May 21.

Environmental Restoration Activity

Three Special Discounted Pelagic Trips

Farallon Islands Pelagic Trip with Shearwater Journeys Sunday, August 6

Special Sequoia Discount Cost \$100 – regular price \$125

Join Debi Shearwater and her team to see Tufted Puffins, Common Murres, and Pigeon Guillemots. Last year we saw Long-tailed Jaeger, South Polar Skua, Rhinoceros and Cassin's Auklets, Black-footed and Pink-footed Shearwaters, Wilson's Storm-Petrel, and more. This is a fun trip. We may also see Humpback Whales and dolphins.

Fort Bragg – Offshore Pelagic trip for Mega-rarities Saturday, August 26

Special Sequoia Discount Cost \$130 – regular price \$170

This is a trip not to be missed. Drive up to Santa Rosa and spend the night. Then head out for a great day of pelagic birding off the northern California coast. You have the real possibility of seeing some very rare birds, such as Merham's Storm-Petrel, Streaked Shearwater, Dark-rumped Petrel, and Yellow-billed Loon. Sign up early, this trip sells out.

Monterey Bay Pelagic Trip with Shearwater Journeys - Fall Seabird Classic

Friday, September 29

Special Sequoia Discount Cost \$85 – regular price \$125

This fun all-day pelagic trip is organized by Debra Love Shearwater, an expert in seabird identification. This is an excellent time of year to see Southern Hemisphere seabird rarities with possible sightings of Black-footed Albatross, Laysans, Short-tailed Albatross, and Bulwer's Petrel. This is also a good time for terns and Long-tailed Jaegers. We will also be on the lookout for Blue Whales and other marine mammals.

Deadline for these special rates is June 23. After that date the rates increase. Please note these trips are some of the most popular trips of the year and fill up very quickly. Sign up ASAP.

To make your reservation send a check or money order to: Shearwater Journeys, PO Box 190, Hollister, CA 95024. This discounted rate is **non-refundable for any reason**. Because of changing fuel costs there may be a fuel surcharge. Please mention that you are with Sequoia Audubon for the discounted rates, don't miss out on this great deal. For questions call Carol Masterson (650) 347-1769.



Green-backed Heron Loose platform in shrubbery of trees

BIRD NESTS AND NEST BUILDING

All birds lay eggs in a place called a nest. The earliest bird nests were probably on the ground in depressions that birds scraped out with their bills and feet and molded to the shape of their bodies by repeated turning. Some of the nests may have been on the floors of natural cavities, including burrows and tree cavities, which the birds excavated.

Ground nests are still used by modern birds. Shorebirds, pelicans, terns, and murrelets utilize unlined ground nests (or lay eggs directly on a fork or depression on a horizontal tree branch), while most ducks, geese, and quail line their nests. Most ground-nesting birds are protectively colored to conceal them in the nest or they place their nests on islands or cliff faces, inaccessible to predators. The floating nests of coots and grebes are probably derived from ground nests. Cavity nests are typical of woodpeckers, petrels, kingfishers, puffins, and a few ducks such as Goldeneyes.

Platform nests are built of accumulated materials but, not having a uniform support surface, they may represent the second stage of nest building. This type of nest is used by herons, hawks, eagles, and pigeons. The location may be in trees, on a cliff, or on the ground, depending on the bird species.

The majority of bird species in the world build some sort of cup nest. The cup nest is the most advanced nest type, in which coarser materials are placed on the exterior and softer materials are used for the lining. These nests are adopted to fit diverse environments and show a variety of forms:

- ❑ Nests with upright rims supported from below -- Hummingbirds and most perching birds
- ❑ Nests suspended by the rim from a tree fork (Pensile Cup Nest) -- Vireos and Golden-crowned Kinglet
- ❑ Nest is a woven bag with a deep cup within (Pendulous Cup Nest) -- Orioles and Bush-tits

(Continued on page 6)

Sequoia Audubon Officers Slate for the 2006-2007 Year

President: Carol Masterson
Vice President: Open
Second Vice President: Howard Rathlesberger
Secretary: Norma Vite
Treasurer: Open
Board of Directors --
Terms ending 2007: Open
Terms ending 2009: Open

OTHER BIRDING ACTIVITIES

(These activities are not sponsored by Sequoia Audubon.)

Wings over the Basin – Big Basin State Park

May 19-21

Big Basin Redwoods State Park invites you to the 5th Annual Wings Over the Basin on May 19-21. Experience the park's varied birdlife at the height of the nesting season on guided bird and butterfly walks. All activities are free and open to the public. We are lucky to have a special group campsite under the redwoods near headquarters (\$15/per person for the weekend). Space at the group campsite is limited, so reserve your spot soon by going to our website, downloading the Registration PDF, and sending in the registration form. See our website at: <http://home.comcast.net/~wingsoverthebasin/> Whether you camp at the park or drive in for the day the charge is \$6 day use/parking fee.

Beginner/Family Weekend Trip

30th Annual Western Field Ornithologists Annual Conference – Boulder, Colorado

September 21-24

An annual event that includes the best of the West: science sessions, 1/2 and full-day field trips with leaders in the field of ornithology, keynote speakers, social events, and workshops. Everyone is welcome to attend. Beginning birders to seasoned field ornithologists will find something of interest every day at this yearly meeting.

Contact: Western Field Ornithologists, 12079 Samoline Avenue, Downey, CA 90242 (562) 869-6718 or www.wfo-cbr.org/confer.html

Monterey Bay Birding Festival

September 22-24

Sign up for guided outings around the Monterey Bay area. There will be a full weekend of activities. This area is one of the premier destinations along the Pacific Coast, providing great diversity and abundance for the visiting birder. For info call 1-800-833-3494 or go to <http://www.montereybaybirding.org/>

Beginner/Family Weekend Trip

Annual Kern River Valley Turkey Vulture Festival, Weldon, California

September 30 – October 1

Visit Southern Sierra's "Valley Wild" (Kern River Valley) to experience one of the U.S. and Canada's largest known Turkey Vulture migrations and the height of fall land bird migration at desert oases. You will enjoy bird banding, bird trips, vulture and condor programs; astronomy nights; bat, geology, and tree trips; moth and reptile workshops; and children's activities. You will observe California specialties: 50-80 species per trip; 130-160 species per festival. Contact Kern River Preserve, PO Box 1662, Weldon, CA 93283 or call (760) 378-3044 or go to <http://kern.audubon.org/tfest.htm>

Beginner/Family Weekend Trip

(Bird Nests and Nest Building, continued from page 5)

- ❑ Nests adherent to vertical surfaces (Adherent Cup or Mud Nest) -- Many Swallows and Martins
- ❑ Cup nests built in cavities or burrows (Cavity Adopters) -- Bluebirds, Nuthatches, Woodpeckers, Bank and Rough-winged Swallows
- ❑ Cupped nests on ground in forest, grasslands, or marshes -- Blackbirds & some Wrens

The length of time to build a nest depends on the nest type. A small perching bird in temperate areas takes about six days, three days for the outer layer and three days for the lining. Nests in the tropics are generally more complex and require more time.

Study the birds nesting in your yard. Note where the nest is built, the materials used and how long it takes. Nesting bird records are valuable to learn more about the birds in our area. But remember that the collection of birds' nests is illegal under federal law.

Some interesting bird nesting habits from around the world:

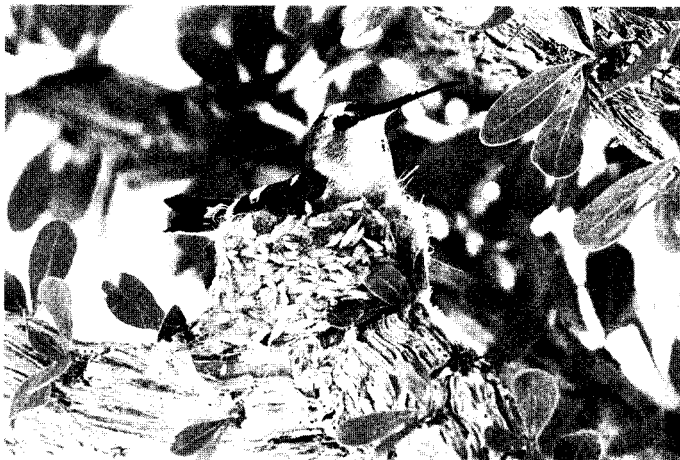
Tailorbirds of Southeast Asia sew leaves together to build a funnel-shaped nest. Using their sharp bills like needles, these tiny birds pierce holes along the edges of large green leaves. They thread plant fibers through the holes and knot them so the stitches won't fall apart.

The **Edible-nest Swiftlet of Southeast Asia** makes its nest entirely out of hardened saliva. The saliva looks like spaghetti when fresh, but hardens when exposed to the air. These translucent nests are the main ingredient of the Chinese delicacy bird's nest soup. To gather the nests for bird's nest soup, collectors climb hundreds of feet up ladders. Thousands of nests (about 20 to 30 tons) are exported from Borneo each year.

The **Nuiabo'ou Megapode** lives only on one tiny volcanic island in the South Pacific. The female buries her eggs in the volcanic ash near the rim of the crater, relying on the heat from the volcano to incubate them.

Some birds, such as **Eurasian Cuckoos**, lay their eggs in the nests of other birds. Cuckoos lay eggs that mimic those of the host species in color. After hatching, the young cuckoo shoves the other eggs and young out of the nest. The foster parents devote all their energy to raising the young cuckoo which then grows larger than the parents.

The platform nest of the **Eurasian White Stork** is a massive platform of sticks and earth up to six feet across, often placed on top of roofs or chimneys. These nests are used year after year. One nest in Germany was occupied from 1549 through 1930!



Photograph by Bob Cossins

Hummingbird on cup nest — Anza Borrego

Fall Birding Classes in San Francisco

Evening birding classes taught by Joe Morlan and endorsed by Golden Gate Audubon Society start September 6, 7, and 12, 2006. All classes meet 7-9:15 p.m. in room 307, Marina Middle School, 3500 Fillmore at Bay St. Free parking is in the school lot off Bay St. on the east side of the building.

The instructor is co-author of *Birds of San Francisco and the Bay Area* and *Birds of Northern California*. He is also coordinator of the recorded "Northern California Birdbox" sponsored by Golden Gate Audubon Society. Slides illustrate all lectures, and the text for all classes is *A Field Guide to Birds of North America*, 4th edition, by the National Geographic Society. *The Sibley Guide to Birds* is recommended as an adjunct text for Ornithology II & III.

Field Ornithology I meets on Tuesdays. It is an introduction to birds and birding, combining basic field skills with the study of bird ecology, biology, evolution, and behavior. Part A (**EA101**) runs Sept 12-Oct 24; Part B (**EA105**) continues Part A: Oct 31-Dec 12.

Field Ornithology II meets on Wednesdays. It is a continuing in-depth study of the identification and status of North American birds including ducks, vultures, and hawks. Part A (**EA110**) is from Sept 6-Oct 25; Part B (**EA115**): Nov 1-Dec 20.

Field Ornithology III meets on Thursdays. It is a continuing study of North American land birds including flycatchers, shrikes, vireos, jays, larks, and swallows. Part A (**EA120**) runs Sept 7- Oct 26; Part B (**EA125**): Nov 2-Dec 16.

The instructor may arrange optional field trips on weekends. Please bring binoculars and field guides to class if you have them. Fees are \$130 for each seven-week course (\$115 for EA125, which is six weeks). Pre-registration is strongly advised. For further information call (415) 561-1860. To enroll, please register online at <https://www.evolveus.com/ee.ccsf/> or mail or fax the registration form at: http://www.ccsf.org/Services/Continuing_Education/images/regform/reg.html. Registration for the fall begins July 1st.

For additional information, see the instructor's web site at <http://fog.ccsf.edu/~jmorlan/fall06.htm>.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

BY CAROL MASTERSON

Want to help the birds? Get involved? There are still many opportunities to volunteer for important Sequoia Audubon programs and projects. 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. Details on these jobs and others available on the SAS website.

Treasurer for Sequoia Audubon

The treasurer tracks Sequoia Audubon's income and expenses using QuickBooks and presents monthly reports to the Board of Directors. The Treasurer is also a member of the Investment Committee. The Treasurer tracks the investments using Quicken.

Requirements: Manage the accounts payable and receivable; print checks; cash receipts; reconcile bank and investment accounts; work closely with the person who manages the Membership Data Base; manage annual budget process.

Time: about 4 hours/month plus the monthly Board Meeting.

Location: Your home or the Sequoia Office in Woodside.

Contact: Peter Grace (415) 467-0343 or Carol Masterson (650) 347-1769

Membership Coordinator or Volunteer Coordinator

Our members are our most important asset. We expend effort to make all members feel welcome and keep track of them on a sophisticated computer database. This opportunity involves processing and mailing welcome letters and other member benefit literature. It is an important part of our membership program.

Time: Varies by time of year; approximately 8-10 hours a month at your convenience.

Location: Your home or the Sequoia office in Woodside. Email access is a requirement of this position.

Contact: Carol Masterson (650) 347-1769

Greeter at our monthly meetings

Help 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

Pescadero Marsh Docent and State Park Volunteer

Join a docent program for marsh interpretive walks or do marsh restoration and train maintenance. Sequoia Audubon was instrumental in protecting Pescadero Marsh. This area is of great importance for migrant shorebirds and a wintering ground for waterfowl and marsh birds.

Requirements: Interest in helping preserve a beautiful marsh on the Pacific Flyway and helping others learn about the wildlife and birds at the marsh. Ability to attend training class.

Location: Pescadero Marsh on the San Mateo County coast.

Time: A few hours each month.

Contact: Norma Vite (650) 560-9740 or Carol Masterson (650) 347-1769

Bluebird Box Monitor

Help restore Bluebirds and other cavity-nesting birds in San Mateo County by volunteering to monitor Bluebird nest boxes. Be part of the California Bluebird Recovery Program and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology Birdhouse Network.

Requirements: An interest in helping the recovery of Bluebird populations in San Mateo County. A willingness to learn about care of nest boxes.

Location: At nest box sites. At your house or locations in San Mateo County.

Time: Monitor nest boxes one day a week on your schedule. (15 minutes to 1 hour +)

Contact: Howard Rathlesberger hjrath@aol.com (650) 561-9532

Letter Writer

Be an Armchair Activist and help support conservation issues that affect birds and the environment. Hand write letters to your 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: 15 minutes to 1 hour per month

Contact: Cynthia McLaughlin (650) 299 - 9469

Exhibit/Display Designer

Create and design an exhibit for public libraries and schools to teach the public about birds and birding. Help to spread the news about Sequoia Audubon and birding.

Requirements: Artistic ability.

Time: 1-8 hours per month at your convenience

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

Contact: Carol Masterson (650) 347-1769

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 a willingness to share your birding knowledge.

Time: 3-4 hours each walk

Location: In the field

Contact: Carol Masterson (650) 347 - 1769

Community Outreach/Education Coordinator

Help teach the community and share your knowledge of birds and birding by representing the SAS at various community events and schools.

Requirements: Enthusiasm for sharing your love and knowledge of birding and SAS.

Time: 3-4 hours per month.

Location: Various community locations, may

(Continued on page 8)

SAS appreciates your tax-deductible donations which help fund the Chapter's education, conservation and ongoing activities

SEND TO:

Sequoia Audubon Society

PO Box 620292

Woodside

CA 94062-0292

Thank You!

Name

Address

Email Address

Amount

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(Volunteer Opportunities, continued from page 7)

include, schools, parks, senior centers and birding events.

Contact: Carol Masterson (650) 347-1769

Bird Surveyor

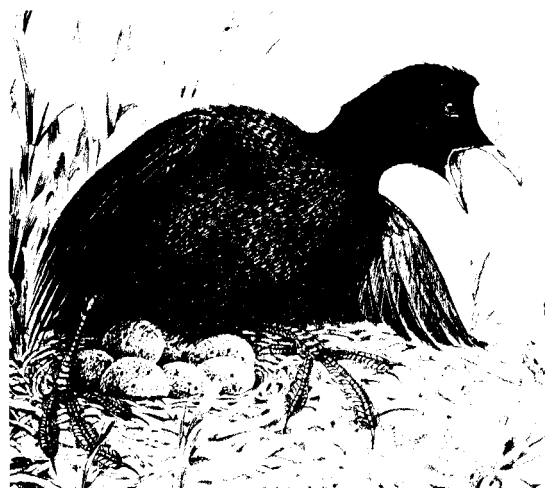
One of the ways SAS protects birds and habitats is through the Edgewood Park & Preserve Bird Conservation Program. It's like practicing for the Christmas Bird Count all year round!

Requirements: A good pair of binoculars and a "morning" mentality.

Time: Conduct one 3.5-hour bird survey a week/month (flexible), hiking over moderately hilly trails sectioned into 9 monitored zones. Report the findings to BCP coordinator, Lee Franks, for compilation in the annual report.

Location: Edgewood Park & Preserve, San Carlos.

Contact: Lee Franks funseekerslm@aol.com (650) 592-7733



American Coot incubating eggs

SUMMERTIME FUNDRAISER

Sequoia Audubon June Potluck

The June monthly meeting will be preceded by a Potluck dinner and Fundraiser for Sequoia Audubon. We will have a silent auction and book sale of natural history and birding books. The dinner starts at 6:30 PM, bring your favorite dish to share (also bring your own plate and utensils).

If you have items or services to donate to Sequoia Audubon, contact Carol Masterson (650) 347-1769.



Ivory-billed Woodpecker

THE BIRD BOX

RARE BIRD
ALERT

415-681-7422

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.