



SEQUOIA NEEDLES

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June-August 2007

EAST MOJAVE PRESERVE TRIP REPORT

BY FRANCIS TOLDI

Nine intrepid birders joined me on a wonderful, bird-rich trip to the Mojave National Preserve in San Bernardino County from April 13 through 15. I insisted on using the word "exploratory" in my trip description since I had only been to the Preserve twice before, and the last visit was over five years ago. The Eastern Mojave is such a rich area. My hope was that despite my limited knowledge of this vast area and its at times challenging avifauna, we could spend a pleasant few days birding the area. All the while keeping an eye out for other interesting features of the region. This trip just scratched the surface, but that brief introduction provided us with three days of excellent birding (including a number of species with very limited ranges in California), spectacular scenery, and beautiful flora (despite it being an "off" year for wildflowers).

Late cancellations reduced the group to a hardy ten, which was actually a bit of a blessing. This allowed us to move in a small group and easily fit into four cars. Dusty desert roads are no place for a large car caravan! Should we do this trip again I would probably recommend—or even insist—that our desert driving be in just two rugged vehicles.

The adventure started early. All participants elected to drive down the day before and spend the night in a motel in Barstow to allow us to get an early start on the first day's birding. That sounds like a simple proposition. In fact, we had to drive to Barstow by a labyrinthine alternate route since for a period of time all roads into Barstow were closed due to high winds (75-90 mph), hail, and snow! Despite the weather challenge we all

converged on Barstow on Thursday evening, set our plan for the next day, enjoyed an early dinner, and went to bed.

We were up before dawn on Friday, and after a Denny's breakfast met at "The World's Tallest Thermometer" in Baker. From there we headed into the Preserve and the "real" trip began. In the desert, mornings are of particular importance, since the bird life tends to settle down dramatically as the day warms. The generally brisk temperatures on this trip probably helped us by extending the productive birding period longer than it would have been in "good" weather. We spent the morning in the Joshua tree woodland in the Cima Dome area. Our first stop produced a brilliant adult **Scott's Oriole**, with an adult male **Hooded Oriole** on the next tree over for handy comparison. Moments later a **Bendire's Thrasher** — one of our most hoped-for birds on the trip — flew up right in front of us and burst into song! Here and in adjacent areas we easily saw and heard a number of other more common desert birds such as **Cactus Wren**, **Black-throated Sparrow** (including one on a nest), **Brewer's Sparrow**, **Gambel's Quail**, **Ladder-backed Woodpecker**, and others.

In the middle of the day we stopped by the newly restored Kelso Train Station, which is now the very well-appointed visitor's center for the Preserve. They have done an excellent job in the restoration and creation of exhibits and the bookstore. It will be a few years before the cottonwoods fill in on the surrounding grounds, but maybe one day the Kelso depot again will be a stop for confused avian vagrants and the birders who love them.

We drove up to the Mid Hills Campground in the Providence Mountains. Sadly, this area burned badly two years ago. It will be many years before this area resembles the verdant desert landscape that I remember from years past. There are patches of unburned desert, though, and fortunately for us one of those areas incorporated about a

(Continued on page 2)

Monthly Meetings

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

June

Thursday, 14th, Potluck Meeting

Potluck and Fundraiser: 6:00 PM;

Program: 7:00 PM

Program: Costa Rica Birding Tour

Upcoming Field Trips

(See trip details on page 3)

May

Saturday, 19th Jasper Ridge

Biological Preserve

Saturday-Monday, 26th-28th

Mono Lake*

Sunday, 27th Edgewood Park

August

Sunday, 18th Pescadero Marsh
Work Day

*Beginner/Family Trip

Special Discounted Pelagic Trips

July

Tuesday, 31st Bodega Canyon
and Cordell Bank

August

Sunday, 5th Farallon Islands

Friday, 10th Fort Bragg

September

Monday, 24th 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, and a hat, and always dress in layers

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Sequoia Audubon Society

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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:
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MEETING PROGRAMS

BY CAROL MASTERSON

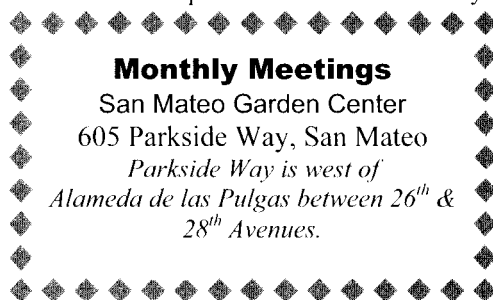
Birding Tour of Costa Rica

Thursday, June 14, 7:00 PM

By Bob and Sue Cossins, and Larry and Eileen Kay

Come along on this photo journey to Costa Rica. This small Central American country boasts over 800 species of birds and spectacular wildlife, steamy jungles, active volcanoes, and beautiful beaches. This is one of the really great birding destinations. Learn about the recent trip that our own members enjoyed earlier this year. They will have great stories to tell and great pictures to share.

Eileen Kay is our Hospitality Chairperson; you have probably seen her happy smile when you arrive at our Thursday evening programs. Eileen is active in the Plover Watch program at Half Moon Bay and has been a field trip leader. Her husband Larry



Monthly Meetings

San Mateo Garden Center

605 Parkside Way, San Mateo

Parkside Way is west of

Alameda de las Pulgas between 26th & 28th Avenues.

owns the NAPA auto parts store in Half Moon Bay. He volunteers many hours as referee for high school varsity basketball. Sue Cossins has been an active member of Sequoia Audubon for many years. She has served as our Secretary, and is the current Audubon Canyon Ranch host, a field trip leader, active in Edgewood Park and Filoli bird monitoring and nest box programs, and is currently on our Board of Directors (Sequoia could not function without her.) Sue's husband Bob is a nature photographer who has presented numerous photo exhibits in the Bay Area. He has generously donated photos for our fundraising auctions.

This meeting is a "potluck" meeting.

Potluck begins at 6:00; program starts at about 7:00. 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.

(Mojave Preserve, continued from page 1)

third of the campground. The Park Service has replaced all of the vault toilets, picnic tables, and water pumps, so the campground is actually quite nice. We found two adjoining campsites, quickly set up camp, and headed off for more desert exploration.

My plan was to drive north to the New York Mountains for the rest of the afternoon. I misread the map, and instead we found ourselves in the Hole in the Wall Campground, which I had intended to visit the next day! If any of the participants had any remaining illusions that my use of the word "exploratory" was mere modesty, they were now dispelled! Rather than spend yet more time on the bumpy, dusty roads correcting my error, we decided to spend the rest of the day birding and exploring this interesting area. The campground was more open and much less appealing than our Mid Hills home, even though this area was outside of the burn zone. We took a walk through the famous "Hole in the Wall" narrows, putting our squeeze-through-12"-fissures and haul-ourselves-up-by-gripping-iron-rings skills to the test. All passed spectacularly and enjoyed a good, if strenuous, outing. There were good birds here, too. **Crissal Thrasher**, **Black-tailed Gnatcatcher** (an adult feeding young), **Phainopepla** (very cute sitting on a nest!) and **Green-tailed Towhee** headed up the list. Also very engaging was an Antelope Ground Squirrel dashing about a desert wash.

We enjoyed a pleasant dinner back at our desert camp, with good food, wine, desert, and company. Dessert-desert—I always wanted to use both of those words in one sentence! The stars were utterly glorious. I slept out and watched them from time to time when I awoke, amazed each time at how the giant wheel of the heavens had shifted since my last viewing.

I dragged everyone out of bed early the next morning for another outing. This time I managed to find the right road to the New York Mountains. The birding was terrific along the way, including great looks at **Pinyon Jay**, **Mountain**

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FIELD TRIPS

BY CAROL MASTERSON

Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve – Stanford University

Saturday, May 19, 7:45 AM

Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve is a private biological reserve. It is managed as a perpetual resource by Stanford University for research and advanced teaching. The preserve is a remarkable 1,189 acres, forming a natural laboratory for researchers studying plant and animal ecosystems. We should see some great birds and enjoy a beautiful, almost untouched refuge. This tour has been arranged by the docents of Jasper Ridge. A \$5.00 preserve fee is charged. To decrease the impact to the environment we will need to carpool and stay together as a group once inside the preserve gate.

Advance reservations are required.

Meet at 7:45 AM sharp

Please call Carol Masterson at (650) 347-1769.

<http://www.stanford.edu/~petelat/>

<http://jrpbp.stanford.edu/overview.php>

Mono Lake Area – Holiday Weekend Trip

Saturday-Monday, May 26-28

Depending on local conditions, we will bird around Mono Lake and other locations east of Yosemite. If you plan to attend, make motel reservations in Lee Vining as soon as possible, as trip will be on Memorial Day weekend. Check AAA or the Web for motels in Lee Vining area. Trip reservations are requested so we know how many to expect. Call leader for further information.

Leader: Joe Macho. Contact at home: 650-692-8138 or cell: 650-291-6196.

Beginner/Advanced Birding Weekend

Edgewood Park Walk

Sunday, May 27, 8 AM – 11 AM

This is the last bird walk at Edgewood until after the heat of the summertime doldrums. We will look for hummingbirds, flycatchers, swallows, Swainson's Thrush, warblers, Northern Oriole, California Thrasher, and many, many more. Ask leader Lee Franks about The Sequoia Audubon Bird Conservation Program at Edgewood Park and how you can get involved. Starting at 8 AM increases the chance of seeing all the interesting birds at Edgewood. The walk is

over moderately strenuous terrain.

Heavy rain cancels.

Directions: Meet the leader Lee Franks in the paved parking lot at the main gate. The Edgewood Park entrance is east of Hwy 280 on Edgewood Road in Redwood City.

Leaders: Lee Franks and Marilyn Travis. 650-592-7733

Audubon Trail with the Trail Center Volunteers – Pescadero Marsh

Saturday, August 18, 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Come out and help the volunteers from the Trail Center. The Trail Center is a non-profit volunteer group. They are experts on how to clear and maintain trails (and they have power tools!). They work in the greater Bay Area creating, mapping, maintaining, and advocating for trails on public lands. Check out their web site: <http://www.trailcenter.org/tcinfo.htm>.

Directions: Meet in the parking lot on Hwy 1 across from the north pond, about one mile north of Pescadero Road. Meet at 8:30 to get assignments and start work at 9:00. Bring lunch, lots of fluids, and energy snacks. Boots, gloves, long-sleeved shirts, and long pants are the dress for the day. These guys are hard working and devoted. You will be inspired! Come and lend a hand. <http://www.trailcenter.org/trailbuilding/projects/2007/coastside2007/coastside2007.html>

Leader: Hank Magnuski 650-714-2409. In case of rain call 650-968-7065 for updates.

Four Special Discounted Pelagic Trips with Shearwater Journeys

Bodega Canyon and Cordell Bank Tuesday July 31 - Special Sequoia Discount Price \$140; regular price \$170

Historically we have seen Ashy Storm-petrels, Wilson's Storm-petrels, Northern Fulmars, Pomarine and Long-tailed Jaegers, Tufted Puffins, Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklet, Pigeon Guillemots as well as Laysan and Black-footed Albatross. We may see Arctic Terns, Buller's, Pink-footed, Sooty, and Short-

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Upcoming Field Trips

(Continued from page 1)

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

SAS on Vacation

Just a reminder SAS is on vacation during the months of July and August. We will return in September with our September 13th member program night. The program, African Wildlife and Birds, will be presented by Sequoia members Bill and Peggy Bechtell, starting at 7 PM.

Have a great summer 'til we see you in September.



Flesh-footed Shearwaters

(Field Trips, continued from page 3)

tailed Shearwaters are all possible. At low tide Bodega Harbor can be teeming with birds. Don't miss this trip at a great price.

Farallon Islands Pelagic Trip

Sunday, August 5 – 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

Friday, August 10 – Special Sequoia Discount Cost \$140; 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, like Merkhams Storm-petrel, Streaked Shearwater, Dark-rumped Petrel, and Yellow-billed Loon. Sign up early; this trip sells out.

Monterey Bay Pelagic Trip - Fall Seabird Classic

Monday, September 24 – Special Sequoia Discount Cost \$100; 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, Laysan, and 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 29**. After that date the rates increase. Please note these are some of the most popular trips of the year and fill up very quickly. Sign up ASAP.

http://www.mbnms-simon.org/sections/submarineCanyons/maps_graphs.php?sec=se

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 more information, check out <http://www.shearwaterjourneys.com/reserve.shtml>.

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS – WE NEED YOU!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, July 7

All members are encouraged to attend the Summer Planning Meeting. We will brainstorm, review our goals, and plan for the future of Audubon in San Mateo County. Call Carol Masterson (650) 347-1769 for time and place.

(Eastern Mojave, continued from page 2)

Bluebird and a very probable **Gilded Flicker**. This latter bird was at the junction of Cedar Canyon and Lanfair Roads. The "probable" moniker is required because our brief view couldn't decisively rule out some hybrid Gilded/Northern Flickers known to be in this area as well. We saw the yellow underwing and undertail, the pale head, a flash of a red malar, and no black on the side of the face, but didn't have the opportunity to study the extent of gray/brown on the head and the size of the black chest spot, two important field marks. Each to his or her own list conscience! Interestingly, there was also a flamingo present at this intersection, although the lonely telephone that I remember from my last trip here is long gone.

We pushed on to the bottom of Keystone Canyon at the base of New York Mountain. Unfortunately two of our cars would probably not have made it over a very rough patch of road at the start of the two-mile approach to the canyon. We walked it instead. With the fairly cool, breezy weather, it was not unpleasant. Gradually the terrain shifted and the habitat improved. After an hour we were at the start of the more interesting part of the canyon, in a relict coastal chaparral habitat. We continued for another hour and half mile or so. Growing fatigue and the knowledge that we had to walk all of the way back prevented us from reaching the heart of this magnificent area, but the taste we got was very sweet indeed. Birds here included the **Gray Vireo** (usually extremely local and difficult to find in California), **Cassin's Vireo**, **Gray Flycatcher**, **Juniper Titmouse**, and **Black-chinned Sparrow**. The group got to experience my tenuous Empidonax flycatcher identification skills. I was able to confirm the **Gray Flycatcher**, and, somewhat earlier, a **Hammond's**, but more than I want to admit went down as "Empidonax species." You would think I could do better than that by now. You would be wrong! The famed relict White Fir forest on the ridges above this canyon beckoned, but will have to wait for another trip.

We looped around via civilization (the part of Interstate 15 where most motorists probably say, "Wow, we are in the middle of nowhere!"), then back into the Preserve for a second go at the Cima Dome area. The birds were much fewer this time, due to the deteriorating weather conditions. The wind was up and the sky mostly overcast. Interestingly, the odd couple — the **Scott's** and **Hooded Orioles** — were still present on Cima Dome in the same place we saw them the day before.

We returned to camp and had another jolly dinner, even though this evening it was colder, windier, and somewhat more forbidding than the previous night. This time I set up and slept in my tent. It was a good thing, too — in addition to the cold, it rained and hailed in the night. In the morning bits of frozen rain and hail could still be found here and there. One participant put a fused cluster of hail on the picnic table to show us all what was on her tent; when we broke camp an hour later it was still there, not having melted in the

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(Eastern Mojave, continued from page 4)
slightest!

On our final morning, we drove past the Cima Dome forest for yet another look. Birds were few and far between on this cold morning, but the desert "forest" was lovely to see. The sky was bright blue overhead. We slipped out to the south and west, driving out through much different and drier habitat on Kelbaker Road. In one area along the road the shrubs (species unknown) were festooned with mistletoe. "This looks like a great place for a **Phainopepla**!" someone remarked. Moments later, there it was, along with **Sage Thrasher** and **Costa's Hummingbird**!

We stopped in at the former New Age health colony of Zzyzx, now a desert research center run by the California State Universities system. Large artificial ponds with surrounding thickets of mesquite and tamarisk contained a few birds: singing **Lucy's Warbler**, a gorgeous male **Western Tanager**, and **Solitary Sandpiper** headed the list. The old auto graveyard was rather interesting and unexpected as well.

At this point we all separated and went our various ways. The lucky ones continued on into the desert for further travels. Others of us began the long drive back to work and waiting families. To be sure, the trip was too short, but any time in the desert is better than no time in the desert!



Birding the Eastern Mojave; photo by Jeff Mencher

Sequoia Audubon Officers Slate for the 2007-2008 Year

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Vice President: Gary Deghi
Secretary: Norma Vite
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Sue Cossins
Robbie Fischer
Jennifer Rycenga
Rita Jennings

POINT PELEE, ONTARIO AND CRANE CREEK, OHIO

BY ROBBIE FISCHER

Joe Morlan and I visited Point Pelee and Crane Creek in Ontario for spring migration for the first time in mid-May 2003. At Point Pelee we were barely a quarter mile inside the park when Joe pulled over, intrigued and enchanted by the myriad bird songs filling the woods along Sanctuary Pond. Most of the warblers were Yellow-rumped but we weren't disappointed. It's always a pleasure to see and hear common winter birds all decked out in spring finery and singing away. Tree, Northern Rough-winged, Cliff, Bank, and Barn Swallows patrolled the marsh but, luckily for us, the mosquitoes had not hatched yet.

Next we drove to the Visitor's Center and learned that a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher had been seen earlier in Tilden's Wood. This was one of the few birds Joe had never seen (nor had I) so we walked the trail and had great looks at the bird in short order. I was elated, our first target was cooperative, and now we could just enjoy whatever came our way.

The early morning storms were fortuitous. The wind kept the birds close to the ground and soon we were enjoying Black-throated Blue, Chestnut-sided, Nashville, and Magnolia Warblers practically underfoot. Baltimore Orioles and Least Flycatchers were abundant, as were Black-and-white Warblers and American Redstarts. Regulars at Point Pelee were calling this a "fallout".

With so many birders, information on special species was passed easily by word of mouth. We heard that American Woodcocks could be seen performing their courtship display at the DeLaurier Parking Area at dusk. At Point Pelee in mid-May, dusk comes about 9 PM. We arrived expecting to see other cars parked in anticipation. As the darkness descended, our hopes waned as we waited alone. Finally, Joe heard a woodcock and we got out to see if he could locate it. Immediately, we saw one in display flight directly over the car and it landed in the adjacent field. It was almost too dark for binoculars but our vigil hadn't been in vain.

The next morning at Point Pelee was sunny, cold, and windy. We began the day at Tilden's Wood, on the east side of the peninsula and somewhat sheltered from the wind. A Kentucky Warbler and a Blue-winged Warbler were a treat. Both birds are noteworthy species in the park. At the point, there were amazing numbers of swallows all huddled together on the beach. The rangers had roped off areas so the Barn, Cliff, Bank, and other swallows would be undisturbed. We speculated that they were exhausted and cold after crossing the lake from Ohio in the fierce wind. It is difficult to forget how life-threatening migration can be after seeing those thousands of swallows trying to keep warm and recover. Once again, the wind kept the birds low and we had excellent views of Hooded and Black-throated Green Warblers, Orchard and Baltimore Orioles, and male and female Scarlet Tanagers.

(Continued on page 6) **5**

(Point Pelee and Crane Creek, continued from page 5)

Our last day at Point Pelee was sunny and windy again. We headed out to the Point early and saw our first Yellow-billed Cuckoo of the trip. There was a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at the edge of the woods near the beach. On my way to the tram, a couple people mentioned there was a Little Blue Heron in a maple nearby so I joined the search and was lucky to see this rarity perched about 20 feet above the ground. It was also the first day we encountered migrating raptors, with Sharp-shinned, Red-tailed, and Broad-winged Hawks all making an appearance along with a Northern Harrier. Joe and I reluctantly left in the early afternoon for the drive to Crane Creek, in Ohio, having seen about 100 species in Ontario.

(Continued next issue with Crane Creek report.)

PENINSULA TRAIL GUIDE Now Available

Peninsula Tales & Trails, by David Weintraub, is a comprehensive guide to the magnificent, unspoiled public open spaces in the San Francisco Midpeninsula area. This trail guidebook was created in celebration of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's 30 years of preservation, restoration, and enjoyment for all. It contains information about the District's 25 open space preserves, which encompass nearly 55,000 acres in San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz Counties. It describes the District's preserves and trails, including highlights of flora and fauna, the natural and cultural resources and history of the preserves, and the District's programs and recreational opportunities.

Peninsula Tales & Trails features 38 selected routes in 22 open space preserves, highlighting many special features of the beautiful mountains, foothills, and shoreline of the midpeninsula. This trail guide is designed for all users — hikers, bicyclists, equestrians, and families. Stunning images, including color and historic photographs and 39 maps, richly illustrate the open space lands described in this 384-page book.

Peninsula Tales & Trails is available through selected book stores, Internet retail sites, and at the District office. A limited number of slightly damaged books signed by the author are available at half price at the District office.

List price: \$19.95, paperback. Published by Graphic Arts Center Publishing Company.

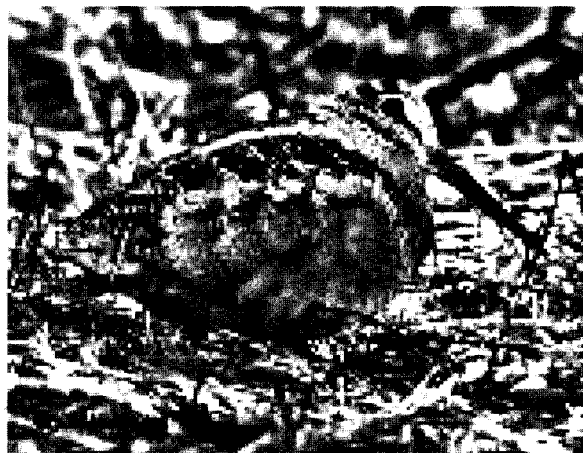


Photo by Bob Moul

American Woodcock

Fall Birding Classes in San Francisco

Evening bird classes taught by Joe Morlan and endorsed by Golden Gate Audubon Society will be starting September 5, 6 and 11, 2007. 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*, 5th ed., 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**) starts September 11 and ends October 23; Part B (**EA105**) is a continuation of Part A. It begins October 30 and ends December 11.

- **Field Ornithology II** meets on Wednesdays. It is a continuing, in-depth study of the identification and status of North American water birds including shorebirds and gulls. Part A (**EA110**) starts September 5 and ends October 17; Part B (**EA115**) starts October 24 and ends December 12.

- **Field Ornithology III** meets on Thursdays. It is a continuing study of North American land birds including pipits, waxwings, and warblers. Part A (**EA120**) starts September 6 and ends October 25; Part B (**EA125**) starts November 1 and ends December 13.

The instructor may arrange optional field trips on weekends. Please bring binoculars and field guides to class if you have them. Fees are \$140 for each seven-week course (\$125 for EA125 which is six weeks), with a \$10 discount if you pre-register at least a week early. Pre-registration is strongly advised. For further information call (415) 561-1860. To enroll, please register online at <https://www.evolveveww.com/cc.ccsf/> or mail or fax the registration form found at this website: http://www.ccsf.org/Services/Continuing_Education/images/regform/reg.html.

For additional information see the instructor's web site at <http://fog.ccsf.edu/~jmorlan/fall07.htm>

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

BY CAROL MASTERSON

Want to help the birds? Get involved? There are 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 are available on the SAS website.

Needles Newsletter Writer

Move over Clark Kent - Would you like to write for the Needles Newsletter? Keep our members informed about current SAS events. Interview members, write about birding events, and edit articles sent to the newsletter.

Requirements: Enjoy writing on topics that would be of interest to our members

Time: A few hours every two months.

Location: Your home or the SAS office.

Contact: Carol Masterson (650) 347-1769 or Justine Carson (650) 560-9776

Fundraiser

Help keep SAS going and ensure that we have sufficient funds for our programs. Write our annual fundraising letter to our members. Help with the birdseed sale and silent auctions.

Requirements: Ability to communicate to our members by phone or writing. Grant-writing ability a plus but not required.

Time: A few hours per month.

Location: Your home or the SAS office.

Contact: Carol Masterson (650) 347-1769

Event Planner for Sequoia Audubon

Like to party? Help plan special nature and birding events for SAS. We need someone who has good organizational skills to work with community organizations (such as Filoli, conservation organizations, State and County Parks) to help organize events.

Requirements: Enjoy organizing events. Ability to work with community organizations.

Location: Your home or SAS office.

Time: 2-5 hours per event

Contact: Carol Masterson (650) 347-1769

Help Restore Pescadero Marsh

Play an active and vital role in habitat restoration. Help maintain trails, remove invasive plants, build new trails, and plant California native plants.

Requirements: A pair of work gloves and enthusiasm. Be ready to have fun, work hard, and help the environment. No experience required.

Time: One day a month for about three hours.

Location: Pescadero Marsh on the San Mateo County Coastside.

Contact: Norma Vite (650) 560-9740 or nolema@coastside.net for schedule of restoration days and carpool information

Publicity Chairperson

Help advertise the programs for Sequoia Audubon. Keep the community informed about our programs, field trips, and special events. Place ads in local papers; contact the news media about special events.

Requirements: Interest in helping to advertise our events. Ability to use email.

Location: Your home or the SAS office.

Time: 1-4 hours per month

Contact: Sue Cossins (650) 347-9358 or Carol Masterson (650) 347-1769

Sequoia Audubon eNews Editor

Help us get our eNews "email newsletter" out to the members of Sequoia Audubon. This job involves converting the Needles to e-mail format the start of each month.

Requirements: Use of computer email. Ability to edit information from the Needles newsletter.

Location: Your home or the SAS office.

Time: A few hours at the start of each month.

Contact: Carol Masterson (650) 347-1769
carolmasterson@sbcglobal.net

Coordinator for Christmas Bird Count Dinner

Do you like to organize social events? Want to feed hungry birders? Help direct volunteers to setup, serve, and clean up the Christmas Count Dinner.

Requirements: Enjoy working with people. Meal organization. (No cooking required – only reheating and serving)

Time: 4-5 Hours on the evening of the Christmas Count

Location: San Mateo Garden Center

Contact: Norma Vite (650) 560-9740 or
nolema@coastside.net

Letter Writer

Be an Armchair Activist and help support conservation issues that effect birds and the environment. Hand-written letters sent to your public official on important conservation issues do make a difference. We will give you ideas on what to write.

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

Location: Your home

Time: 15 minutes to 1 hour per month

Contact: Cynthia McLaughlin (650) 299-9469

Bird Box Monitor – Menlo Park

We desperately need a Bird Box Monitor to take over the trail at Sharon Heights County Club. There are about 26 boxes. This trail is very productive and has had lots of nests over the years. If you have never been a box monitor we will teach you how – it's easy and this should be a fun area to monitor.

Time: A few hours each Monday during nest box season. (Monday is the best day to monitor; there is no golf that day.)

Location: Sharon Heights County Club

Contact: Robin Smith (650) 325-3306
rwinslows@sbcglobal.net or Susan Kritzik (650) 851-4529
sgkritzik@sbcglobal.net

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

Name _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Amount _____

SEND TO:

Sequoia Audubon Society

PO Box 620292

Woodside

CA 94062-0292

Thank You!

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HOW TO GET INFORMATION ABOUT SEQUOIA AUDUBON

There are three ways that you can get information about Sequoia Audubon and its activities

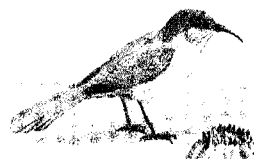
☐ *The Needles* – When you join Sequoia Audubon you automatically get the *Needles* newsletter mailed to you. The *Needles* is published 5 times a year and has bird related articles, Sequoia news, field trips, and more.

☐ The Sequoia Web Site – Our internet web site is another way to keep informed of Sequoia activities. It will have up to date information on field trips and Sequoia member programs. We have links to bird and conservation related sites. You will also find bird photographs and trip reports. In the future we will have a calendar of events. www.sequoia-audubon.org

☐ Sequoia eNews – The eNews is a monthly update sent to your email address about current activities of Sequoia Audubon. It has the most current list of field trips, other birding activities, and current conservation concerns. If you wish to receive the eNews please send your email address to office@sequoia-audubon.org.

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.



LeConte's Thrasher

THE BIRD BOX
**RARE BIRD
ALERT**

415-681-7422

SUMMERTIME FUNDRAISER *Sequoia Audubon June Potluck*

Our June 14 monthly meeting includes election of officers and directors! Please see election slate on page 5. The meeting will be preceded by a Potluck dinner, silent auction, and book sale to raise money for Sequoia Audubon. The dinner starts at 6:00 PM. Please bring your favorite main course, salad or hors d'oeuvres, and plates and utensils. We will provide dessert and coffee.

Help support all of Sequoia Audubon's ongoing education, scientific, and conservation activities. We will have some great items donated by our members and local businesses.

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