



SEQUOIA NEEDLES

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

Volume 60, No. 4
April-May 2010

JUDY SPITLER: SAS MEMBER IN THE SPOTLIGHT

As many of you know, I have been associated with the Wildlife Department of the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA (PHS/SPCA) in San Mateo for many years. In the spring of 1998, I started as a Baby Bird Volunteer, and then later in the year, when a staff position opened, I applied for it. Thus, a rather lopsided circle in my job evolution was completed: from registered nurse in my twenties to café owner, and now back to nurse – but my patients have feathers and fur. I worked full time for four years and now work part time on the “dog and cat side” of the shelter. But my heart remains with wildlife.

The birding community has a marvelous county resource in PHS/SPCA for the caring of any sick or injured birds, but I find that many people are unaware of its existence. The Wildlife Center is also a member of the state’s Oiled Wildlife Network and able to accept and stabilize oiled birds before they are moved to International Bird Rescue in Cordelia, California.

Natasha Rathburn and Judy Spitler are shown tube feeding an oiled Common Murre in 2001. This was the year that the source was identified of a periodic (since 1992) “mystery spill” that would occur along the San Mateo coast during rough winters. The source was the freighter Luckenbach that sank outside the Golden Gate in 1953. In 2001 over 2,100 oiled birds, mostly murrelets, were brought in. In 2002 they pumped out as much oil as possible and sealed the rest.



I asked Glenda Niven, the current Supervisor in the Wildlife Department, to share a couple of recent stories, which she graciously agreed to do.

“Late one evening this past December, a motorist struck a Great Horned Owl while driving in Woodside. Upon reaching her home and finding the owl stuck in her grill – 30 miles later – she flagged a police officer. Daly City Police contacted the Peninsula Humane Society and an officer rushed to the scene. The officer carefully removed the stunned bird from the car’s grill and brought him back to the PHS/SPCA Wildlife Care Center.

Staff gave the owl a full exam and found just a small tear on the inside of his left wing. Radiographs confirmed no fractures or internal injuries. Amazingly, the owl had survived the initial impact and 30-minute car ride with just a minor wound, which healed quickly under PHS/SPCA’s care. Following a period of observation in the shelter’s flight aviary, he was released back into the wild a week later.”

“Another patient, a Red-tailed Hawk, arrived in August missing her primary flight feathers and, five months later, was still in our care. We were told she’d been tethered in someone’s yard, which raised interest

(Continued on page 4)

Monthly Meetings

September — June

San Mateo Garden Center

(See program details on page 2)

April

Thursday, 8th, 7:00 PM

Program: Breeding Strategies of Birds in California

May

Thursday, 13th, 7:00 PM

Program: Bird Sound Workshop

Upcoming Field Trips

(See trip details on page 3)

April

Sunday, 4th Pescadero Marsh*

Sunday, 18th Pescadero Marsh*

Sunday, 18th San Bruno Mountain*

Saturday, 24th Filoli Estate

May

Sunday, 2nd Mines Road

Sunday, 2nd Pescadero Marsh*

Saturday, 15th Burleigh Murray Ranch

Sunday, 16th Pescadero Marsh*

**Beginner/Family Trip*

Check the field trip descriptions for any special information or require-

(Continued on page 3)

Sequoia Audubon Society

OFFICERS

President

Sonny Mencher 650-814-8028

Vice President

Jennifer Rycenga

Secretary

Nelle Lyons 650-726-8819

Treasurer

Michael Roche 408-2496791

DIRECTORS

Nancy Arbuckle, George Chrisman,
Laurie Graham, Melissa Hero,
Ginny Marshall, Don Pendleton

STANDING COMMITTEES

Audubon Canyon Ranch Host

Laurie Graham 650-589-2133

Audubon Canyon Ranch

Representative

Francis Toldi 650-344-1919

Leslie Flint 650-573-6279

Bluebird Recovery

Susan Kritzik 650-851-4529

Christmas Count

Al Demartini 650-345-6988

Leslie Flint 650-573-6279

Conservation Bayside

Nancy Arbuckle 650-366-0750

Laurie Graham 650-589-2133

Conservation Coastside

Open

Education

Nelle Lyons 650-726-8819

Field Trips

Robbie Fischer

Sue Cossins 650-347-9358

Hospitality

Eileen Kay 650-592-4626

Membership Database

Steven Russell 650-306-9598

Needles Editor

Justine Carson 650-560-9776

Programs

Sue Cossins 650-347-9358

Sonny Mencher 650-814-8028

PO Box 620292

Woodside, CA 94062-0292

650-529-1454

office@sequoia-audubon.org

www.sequoia-audubon.org

Send comments and contributions
to:

sas_editor@yahoo.com



Printed on recycled paper

MEETING PROGRAMS

BY SUE COSSINS AND PAULA MILLER

Breeding Strategies of Birds in California

By Bob Stewart

Thursday, April 8, 7:00 PM

The amount of up-to-date information available about breeding birds has been augmented by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's "Birds of North America" online. What is missing from the many studies analyzed and listed in this wealthy source are the field experiences of the authors, including interesting details that are left out of formal scientific publications. Utilizing photographs, Bob will discuss breeding strategies within the two major categories of precocious (hatching with eyes open and ready to jump or run) and altricial (hatching with eyes closed and helpless).

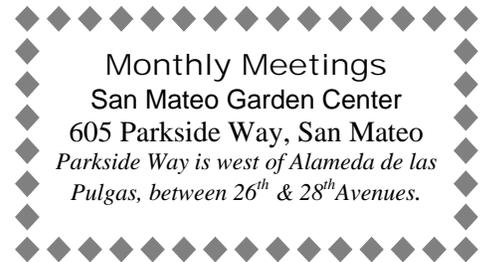
Within the latter group the relationships between male and female adults are fascinating and run the gamut from very tight togetherness in all aspects of breeding behavior including singing to promiscuity with many variations in between. Wrentits, for instance, have extremely tight one-to-one relationships where the male and female share everything equally including nest building, incubating, brooding, feeding nestlings, and caring for fledglings. Both sexes sing but they are very aggressive toward Brown-headed Cowbirds so they have a low rate of parasitism. Some vireo males, while having a more-or-less equal sex role like the Wrenit, have a habit of singing from the nest, which allows the cowbirds to locate and parasitize them.

At the other extreme of sex roles are Red-



Western Tanager, Photo by Bob Stewart

winged Blackbirds and Hummingbirds where the females do most or all nest building and caring for the young. Taking an organized approach to the role of male and female relations, Bob will relate unique behavioral facts for each



Monthly Meetings

San Mateo Garden Center

605 Parkside Way, San Mateo

Parkside Way is west of Alameda de las

Pulgas, between 26th & 28th Avenues.

species including personal experiences from his many years of watching nesting birds as a researcher and teacher.

Bob Stewart has been a naturalist since 1962. His career includes biology teacher in the California public schools (Junior High through Junior College), biologist/teacher at the Point Reyes Bird Observatory (1968-1979), and naturalist for the Marin County Open Space District (1982-1997) where he gave over 2,000 free walks to the public. He has also lead innumerable field trips in California, Arizona, Texas, Mexico, Costa Rica, and Trinidad and Tobago. He has published two photographic butterfly books: *Common Butterflies of California* (1997) and *Butterflies of Arizona* (2001).

Birding Class: Bird Sound Workshop

By Alvaro Jaramillo

Thursday, May 13, 7:00 PM

Birders are attracted to birds for many reasons – aesthetics, the thrill of the chase, and bird behavior, amazing flying powers, and migration – but one aspect of birds that transcends all else is their ability to sing. Now, one can just sit back and enjoy bird song, but it is also interesting to dig a little deeper and understand a little more about it, and learn how to differentiate songs. This SAS workshop does just that. This is not a class solely devoted to identifying birds by song, although we will deal with learning bird songs, and in particular the trickier songs we hear in the County. This workshop will also delve into understanding the ecology and behavior of bird sounds.

(Continued on page 4)

San Bruno Mountain

Sunday, April 18, 8:00 – 11:00 AM

San Bruno Mountain stands as an island of open space on the border of San Mateo and San Francisco Counties. It is home to a wealth of wildlife, hidden pockets of woodland, and sheltered canyons. We will look for quail, nuthatches, towhees, vireos, warblers, mockingbirds, thrushes, flycatchers, sparrows, wrens, hummingbirds, and many other migrants. Depending on the winter rains we may see spectacular wildflower displays.

Directions: Take Highway 101 north to the Bayshore Boulevard/Brisbane exit. Proceed on Bayshore Boulevard to Guadalupe Canyon Parkway. Turn west onto Guadalupe Canyon Parkway toward the mountain and proceed up the hill to the Park entrance on your right. Park fee is \$5. Meet in the main parking lot just beyond the entrance kiosk. Dress in layers for warm to cold and windy weather. Wear sturdy walking shoes/boots and bring fluids and snacks. We have binoculars to share. Not suitable for strollers. Heavy rain cancels.

Leaders: Jeff Fairclough and Laurie Graham at 650-589-2133 or fair80@comcast.net

Beginner/Family Trip

Filoli Estate, Woodside

Saturday, April 24, 8:30 AM – Noon

Filoli Estate is the property of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. We have been invited for a morning of birding at this beautiful site on the edge of the San Francisco watershed land. The grounds of Filoli have a beautiful formal garden surrounded by large oaks and trails leading to riparian, redwood and farm habitats. Over 96 species of birds have been found here. In addition to birds, the wildflowers should be very plentiful at this time, especially in the shadier areas on the back roads. Reservations required because this trip is limited to 20 people maximum (sorry, no children under 14). Call Sue James at 650-348-0315 to reserve your spot. No food or picnicking is allowed but all are welcome after the walk to buy light food and beverages at the Café and visit the gift shop.

Directions: Take Hwy 280 to the Edge-

wood Road exit; go west. Turn right/north on Cañada Road and drive approximately one mile to the entrance of Filoli. We will meet in front of the Visitors' Center. If you want to remain after the field trip to walk through the house and / or formal gardens, there will be a \$15.00 entrance fee. Heavy rain cancels.

Leaders: Sue James and Donna Petersen

Mines Road – The Ultimate Spring Bird Trip

Sunday, May 2, 8:00 AM

Scouting trip, Thursday, April 29, 8:00 AM

A variety of habitats provides a fascinating array of birds not found elsewhere in the Bay Area. This will be an all-day trip to this area in the Coast Range Mountains between Livermore and the Central Valley and Hwy 5. We will look for Phainopepla, Prairie Falcon, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Lewis' Woodpecker, and Golden Eagles, along with sparrows and hummingbirds. If we are very lucky we may even see a Wild Turkey or Roadrunner. Have a full tank of gas, water, and food since facilities are scarce. There are only two reliable restroom facilities, one at the lunch-time stop and another at mid-afternoon at a county park. Weather is unpredictable, from cold and windy to hot and dry. Heavy rain cancels.

Directions: Take the San Mateo Bridge (Hwy 92) east and follow the signs to Hwy I-580. Stay on 580 for about 25 miles to Livermore. Take the South Vasco Road exit and follow Vasco Rd. to Tesla Road. Turn right on Tesla; go about ½ mile and turn left on Mines Road. Follow Mines Road for about ¼ mile to the Murietta Wells Winery turnoff on the right. The winery has installed a new gate so simply pull up to it; go through, and drive to the parking area by the winery itself where we will meet.

Call Leslie for carpooling.

Leader: Leslie Flint 650-573-6279

Follow-up field trip for the May 13th birding class

Burleigh Murray Ranch State Park, Half Moon Bay

Saturday, May 15, 9:00 AM

The field trip will aim to listen to bird

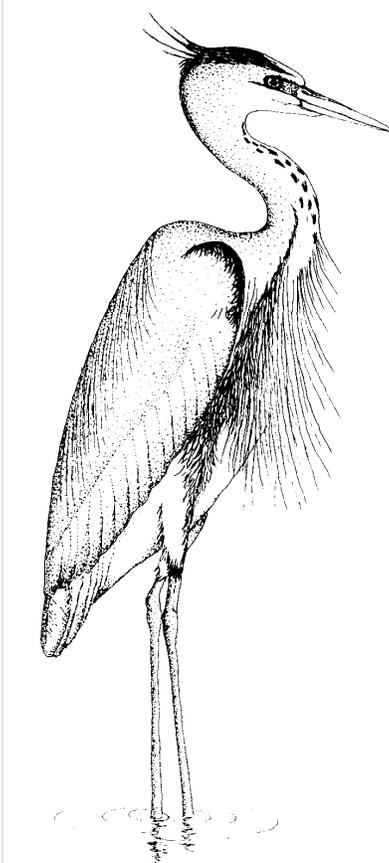
(Continued on page 4)

Upcoming Field Trips

(Continued from page 1)

ments. Late comers may be disap-

pointed. For all field trips, bring your binoculars, water, sun block, and a hat; wear sturdy walking shoes or boots, 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 website; contact the trip leader, or call Sue Cossins at 650-347-9358.



(Field Trips, continued from page 3)

sounds in nature and also to learn a few bird songs while we are at it!

Directions: The park is on the San Mateo County coast near Half Moon Bay, just over a mile south of the intersection of Highways 1 and 92. Turn east off Highway 1 onto Higgins-Purissima Road. Proceed just over 1 ½ miles to the park. A small graveled parking area is located a short distance from the entrance to the park. Open to everyone with a \$5.00 fee paid to the instructor.

Leader: Alvaro Jaramillo

Beginner/Advanced Trip

Pescadero Marsh – State Park Docent Nature Walks

First Sunday of each month is a morning walk from 10:00 AM – Noon

Third Sunday of each month is an afternoon walk from 1:00 – 3:00 PM

April walks are on April 4 and 18.

May walks are on May 2 and 16.

Come and discover Pescadero Marsh. The California State Park Docents will lead a field trip to learn about the marsh. The docents will point out the plants and animals that inhabit this San Mateo County treasure. If it is not raining, meet in the parking lot just over the bridge at Pescadero State Beach. Wear clothing in layers for cold and windy to sunny weather. Heavy rain cancels.

Directions: Go south from Half Moon Bay on Hwy 1, about 12 miles. Just past the bridge over Pescadero Creek, look for the south parking lot. If you get to the intersection of Pescadero Road and Hwy 1 you have gone too far.

Contact: Park ranger station at 650-879-2170 for voice mail information or Rita Jennings at 650-728-2254

Beginner/Family Nature Hike

2010 Shearwater Journeys Pelagic Trips

Princeton Harbor, Half Moon Bay

July 31

August 1

September 13, 17, 18, 19, 27

October 2, 10, 11

Register early and get the SAS discounted rate of \$103.00, not including any fuel surcharges. For new sign ups ONLY – no refunds if you've already reserved at full price. Regular rates start at \$148.

All trips depart from Huck Finn Center, 15 Johnson Pier at Pillar Point Harbor on Half Moon Bay in El Granada, CA.

Certain conditions apply: Discounts apply only to Sequoia Audubon members, not their friends or families. Discounts are non-refundable and non-transferable for any reason. Only a certain number of spaces at the discounted rate will be available on each trip. Advance reservations are a must. Include full name, address, phone, and e-mail address, as required by the Harbor Master. Any discounted reservation that does not include this information will be returned to the sender. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Farallon Islands Pelagic Trip

August 8

SAS members may also get a discount on this trip – \$129, not including any fuel surcharges. Regular rate is \$149. Departs from Emeryville on the Superfish (same as last year). Same conditions as above apply.

Debra Shearwater

Shearwater Journeys, Inc.

PO Box 190

Hollister, CA 95024

831.637.8527

debi@shearwaterjourneys.com

www.shearwaterjourneys.com

(Programs, continued from page 2)

Alvaro leads birding tours of California and South America for Field Guides and has authored two birding books: *The Birds of Chile* and *New World Blackbirds: The Icterids*, as well as contributing both popular and scientific articles to various publications. He also wrote the icterid chapter in *The Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior*.

Accompanying Field Trip:

Saturday, May 15, 9:00 AM

Burleigh Murray Ranch State Park, Half Moon Bay

The field trip will aim to listen to bird sounds in nature and also to learn a few bird songs while we are at it! Please see listing in Field Trips for details.

(Judy Spitzer, continued from page 1)

among our shelter's Investigations staff. While it's unclear whether we will have enough information to pursue a cruelty case, we feel she has a good chance of regaining her flight feathers by the spring and being released."

These two cases represent the range of circumstances under which wild animals have come into our care for more than three decades. Annually, PHS/SPCA treats 3,500 to 5,000 visitors (300 per day during peak times), including ducklings, owls, songbirds, gulls, hummingbirds, raptors, and mammals that come from San Francisco through northern Santa Clara County. A "rare bird" in the animal welfare field, PHS/SPCA is one of just a handful of humane societies in the entire country which operates extensive rehabilitation services for wildlife in addition to providing a safe sanctuary for stray, abused, and unwanted dogs and cats.

As it has been since its first days in 1974, PHS/SPCA's wildlife rehabilitation work and related community outreach is made possible by generous donations and dozens of volunteers who work alongside a small number of paid staff.

Watch for the 2011 opening of the new state-of-the-art PHS/SPCA facility at 1450 Rollins Road, Burlingame. It will be named the "Tom and Annette Lantos Center for Compassion" in memory of its benefactors, the late Congressman and his wife.

RARE BIRDS IN SAN MATEO COUNTY

BY KRIS OLSON AND GEORGE CHRISMAN

On January 6, 2010 George Chrisman wrote:

As 2009 came to a close, the first edition of the San Mateo County Year list was finalized, largely through the ambitious efforts of Kris Olson. On January 5, 2010, Kris posted the 2009 year end recap totaling 335 species observed in the county. On the morning of January 6, 2010 Kris Olsen passed away in her sleep, leaving a huge void in the lives of everyone who knew her, especially her family, friends, business associates, Girl Scouts and other non-profits, and the local birding community. In addition to being the originator and compiler of the San Mateo County Year List, Kris was an active member of the Sequoia Audubon Society Board of Directors and the recognized "Cheerleader of San Mateo County Birding." Kris will be greatly missed and fondly remembered. The continuation of this list is in tribute to the amazing life of Kris Olson and all she has done to enrich the lives of everyone she reached out to touch. Thank you Kris Olson for all you have meant to us.

The following is the San Mateo County year end recap that Kris Olson wrote:

December brought 2009 to a close with two new bird species for San Mateo County: PHAINOPEPLA (rarity code "5") and RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER ("4"). The Phainopepla was found at Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve at Stanford on Dec. 14 by Phil Leighton and his team of docents and has lingered, showing up for the Palo Alto Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on December 21. It was last reported Jan. 3. The Red-naped Sapsucker was seen just once, on December 19 by Al DeMartini at the private Crystal Springs Golf Course.

Those two species brought the year's total to 335 or 74% of the county list of 453. 2009 added 5 species never before recorded in San Mateo County: Short-tailed Albatross, Gull-billed Tern, Cook's Petrel, White-chinned Pet-

rel and Iceland Gull. There is an additional species, a Hawaiian/Dark-rumped Petrel that has been submitted to the California Bird Records Committee for review. Since an annual compilation of total sightings has not been tracked before for San Mateo, we don't know if this was an average year or not — but we are going to find out!

The list below and sightings data could not be compiled without the contributions of many, many observers, from beginner to professional, this year. There were 59 names on the list for January 2009 and by the end of December, there were 172 -- not including several Audubon groups, Christmas Bird Counters, SFBBO, bird clubs, etc. who reported sightings. Wow! Thank you all so much for your contributions to this small effort to learn more about our local birds.



Kris Olson
August 21, 1949 – January 6, 2010

A memorial fund has been set up by SAS in Kris's name. If you wish to donate, checks (made payable to "Kris Olson Memorial Fund") may be sent to SAS: PO Box 620292, Woodside, CA 94062.

Another sign of the growing participation of birders in San Mateo is evidenced by the Peninsula Birding Yahoo Groups messages. When the group was started in August 1998 (thank you, Adam Winer) there were an average of 12 messages per month. Last year there were 91 per month, and this year 136 -- for a total of 1631 posts during 2009. Exciting rare bird sightings, two pelagic trips, the new Sequoia Audubon Birding Guide and field trips all contributed to the increased participation and interest.

SAN MATEO COUNTY 2009 CUMULATIVE YEAR LIST

<http://www.sequoia-audubon.org/SMCbirds.php>

Here is to an exciting 2010!

Kris Olson

As always, please send updates, corrections, omissions, etc. my way. Also suggestions!

PS: I have been stumbling through the tracking effort for this first year with the dedicated and patient guidance of Peter Metropulos (San Mateo official bird record keeper -- he makes the decisions; I just write them down), David Suddjian (Santa Cruz) and Bill Bousman (Santa Clara), whom I wish to thank and acknowledge, as well as our incomparable SAS webmaster, Bill Groll.

As I get further into it, I have thought of more ways we can track the data -- so if any of you out there use Excel and would like to chunk off a manageable project, or invent one, please let me know. It would be fun to collaborate!

SAS NEWS

A Big Thank You!!

SAS member Julie Frey of Menlo Park recently donated a Kowa scope and tripod for use on our field trips.

SAS is forming a Yahoo group.

This is similar to the birding list servers – penbird, southbay birds, etc. It will give us a way to communicate with each other efficiently. This is not intended to replace any of the current bird report lists. Rather it will be used for Sequoia Audubon communication -- meetings, field trips, or other announcements that really don't belong on penbird. Sign up is optional although we hope everyone interested in Sequoia Audubon activities will join. The information is kept confidential and is not shared. If interested go to: www.sequoia-audubon.org and follow the link to the discussion group. Sign up is easy and you can unsubscribe at any time. If you have any questions contact us at sequoiaaudubon@yahoo.com

Changes in Board of Directors

Nominating Committee Report and Upcoming Election

After many years on the Board, Gary Deghi resigned because of a conflict of interest with his full-time job as a wildlife ecologist and wetland scientist. Some of the projects Gary or his employer were working on were in conflict with Sequoia Audubon's conservation activities. We will miss Gary on the Board, although he will continue to participate in other SAS activities.

On a sadder note was the untimely passing of Kris Olson, one of the Directors. A memorial fund has been established in her honor. Donations can be made to Memorial Account for Kris Olson and sent to the Sequoia Audubon Office.

The By-Laws provide that the Board of Directors can fill vacancies through the next annual meeting. Here is the new board. Moving from Directors-at-Large to Officers: Sonny Mencher – President, Jennifer Rycenga – Vice President, Nelle Lyons – Secretary. Filling the now vacant Director-at-Large positions: Ginny Marshall, Don Pendleton, and Melissa Hero.

A nominating committee has been formed consisting of Gary Deghi, George Chrisman, and Sonny Mencher. They have proposed a slate of the above six individuals plus Michael Roche, the incumbent Treasurer, to be voted on by the membership at the June 10, 2010 General Meeting.

Conservation



Cargill/DMB's Massive Bay Fill Development Proposal Grinds On

by Nancy Arbuckle
Conservation Chair – Bayside

At their "Study Session" on February 1, 2010, the Redwood City Council determined that the Cargill project had passed its Tier 1 Review and could move into the next phase. Documents prepared by consultants indicated no "insurmountable issues" in the areas of transportation, water availability, and jurisdiction that would prevent the city from proceeding with the project. However, even a cursory look at the proposal (a city of 30,000 with 12,000 housing units and 1 million square feet of office space built on restorable wetlands) has incurred the opposition of neighboring cities. What the tier 1 study fails to mention is that:

- ◇ No housing has been approved on any Bay salt pond in the last 40 years.
- ◇ The salt ponds are Bay, NOT industrial as DMB Inc. states in its advertisements. According to the EPA in a letter dated Jan 5, 2010, these salt ponds are "critically important aquatic resources that warrant special attention and protection." They fall within Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) jurisdiction and are "waters of the United States."
- ◇ The State of California's Climate Adaptation Strategy recommends wetland restoration and habitat protection and suggests prohibiting development in areas vulnerable to sea level rise such as this one.

Cargill/DMB proposes a water transfer from Kern County for credits in other water systems. Water rights being what they are in this arid state, this promises to be a flashpoint at the very least, if determined to be legal. And DMB's claim that their project is "transit-oriented" is patently false. It does not lie on a major transit corridor like Caltrain or BART. Its primary access points, Woodside Road and Marsh Road, already exceed their capacity. Acquisition of property to build new roadways and connections to 101 present major challenges and may be infeasible.

Letters to the Editor of all local papers are potent weapons in the fight to protect and restore these salt ponds. We are also circulating petitions urging Redwood City and all state and federal agencies involved to reject the project and promote full restoration and protection of habitat and open space on the site. Please contact me for more information at conservation@sequoia-audubon.org.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Audubon Canyon Ranch

The public season at Audubon Canyon Ranch starts on March 20 and runs through July 11. The hosting responsibilities are shared by four Audubon chapters: Golden Gate, Marin, Ohlone, and Sequoia. Being a host is a very easy task that involves counting people, telling them where the trailheads and ponds are, explaining a few rules, and asking for donations. Hours are from 10 AM – 4 PM, with two breaks and a lunch. The setting is beautiful and usually warm and sunny. Best of all, hosts are allowed to stay overnight at Volunteer Canyon either the night before, or the night of your host day. Birding in Volunteer Canyon is wonderful, and it is not open to the public. This is an amazing opportunity.

The dates we have been assigned are: 3/27, 3/28, 5/1(taken), 5/2, 5/15, 5/16, 6/19, 6/20 (Father's Day), and 7/10. If you can host on any of these days, please let me know as soon as possible. If you would like to host on a different day, let me know also. This year, we are going to fill any remaining open dates on a first-request basis. So if our assigned dates aren't good for your schedule, don't despair! We can probably accommodate you. **Contact** Laurie Graham, 650-589-2133, fair80@comcast.net.

For other volunteer opportunities, please visit http://www.egret.org/volunteer_opps.html.

JULIA AND JUDE DAMASCO SAS DONATION

A letter from *Julia and Jude Damasco* regarding their donation to the **Sequoia Audubon Society**:

“As the owners of Damasco & Associates LLP we have donated \$30,000 over a two-year period to help with the restoration of the Pescadero Marsh Trail System. Our donation is part of our obligation as members of **1% For the Planet** through which we contribute 1% of the gross revenue of Damasco & Associates LLP to environmental causes. Many years ago Julia (Mandeville, at the time) served as a board member and President of Sequoia Audubon. A rank beginner bird watcher (as she still is), she was greeted with open arms by her colleagues at Sequoia Audubon. Francis Toldi tolerated her during a Christmas Bird Count and other members tried to help her improve. But she was and is destined to be a nature generalist with a special interest in birds and the conservation and education work of Audubon. Her duties included serving on the Audubon Canyon Ranch board. The then President of the ACR board, Steve Thal, and his wife Britt, introduced Jude and Julia on a blind date. Jude was doing the audits for ACR at the time. We were married shortly after. We lived in San Francisco for a few years, then moved to the Coastside and three years ago were fortunate to move most of our practice to Half Moon Bay. After joining 1% For the Planet we knew Sequoia Audubon would be one recipient of our 1% For the Planet donations. We wanted to concentrate on coastal issues in San

OTHER BIRDING ACTIVITIES

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society's 3rd Annual Beak and Feather Boutique

Saturday, April 3, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

McClellan Ranch Park, Cupertino

This is a great opportunity to pick up some great second-hand birding items that have been donated by SCVAS members. Items include binoculars, scopes, books, clothing (vests, etc.), birdhouses, bird feeders, paintings, photography, bird jewelry, DVDs, and CDs. Proceeds support their education and conservation programs.

Information: Call the SCVAS office 408-252-3747

Olympic Birdfest 2010

Sequim, WA (on the Olympic Peninsula)

Friday – Sunday, April 9 – 11

Information: BirdFest program information can be found at www.olympicbirdfest.org

Registration: www.olympicpeninsulaudubon.org

15th Annual Godwit Days

Arcata, CA

Thursday – Sunday, April 15 – 21

Information: For further information go to

www.godwitdays.com or

Registration: Call 1-800-908-WING or 707-826-7050.

First Point Reyes Birding Festival

Friday – Sunday, April 23 – 25

Information: Go to <http://www.eacmarin.org> to learn more about this exciting event.

San Francisco Bird Observatory

Saturday, April 24, 8:30 – 10:30 AM

A Bird in the Hand Tour

Information: Coyote Creek Field Station - Milpitas

RSVP required: E-mail outreach@sfbbo.org or call 408-946-6548, x10

Heron Festival and Wildflower Brunch

Clear Lake State Park

Mateo County and on streams, watershed, and water quality. So, when SAS President Carol Masterson told us about the Pescadero Marsh project we decided it was a perfect fit. We are looking forward to an improved Sequoia Audubon Trail someday and maintaining the quality and educational value of the Pescadero Marsh. Like other donors we feel that in difficult economic times people and foundations who can give should give more not less, as non-profit causes suffer greatly during tough economic times. We trust that our donation to help out at the Pescadero Marsh will lead others to give, as well.”

Sincerely,

Julia and Jude Damasco

SUPPORT LOCAL CONSERVATION ISSUES

Speak out! Your voice matters.
YOU can make a difference in local conservation issues.

I'd like to be an e-mail "arm-chair activist" once a month. My e-mail address is:

.....

SAS will NOT share your e-mail address with other organizations.

Clip and send this form to SAS or send your contact info to conservation@sequoia-audubon.org

Sequoia Audubon Society

PO Box 620292
Woodside
CA 94062-0292

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SAN MATEO, CA
PERMIT NO. 293

Printed on Recycled Paper 

Time Valued Material—Please Do Not Delay

Clip and return this half of page for renewal



(Other Birding Activities, continued from page 7)

Kelseyville, CA

Saturday – Sunday, April 24 – 25

Information / Registration: www.heronfestival.org or 707-263-8030

**16th Annual Kern River Valley Spring Nature Festival
Weldon, CA**

Saturday – Sunday, May 1 – 2

Information: <http://www.kern.audubon.org/KRVSNF.htm>

**California Redwoods Bird & Nature Festival
Crescent City, CA**

Friday – Sunday, May 7 – 9

Information: Redwood Economic Development Institute,
140 Marine Way, Suite A, Crescent City, CA 95531
800-343-8300; 707-465-0880 or soar2@northcoast.com

**12th Annual Great Salt Lake Bird Festival
Farmington, UT**

Thursday – Monday, May 13 – 17

Information: www.greatsaltlakebirdfest.com

**Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua
Lee Vining, CA**

Friday – Sunday, June 18 – 20

Information: Lisa Cutting, Mono Lake Committee,

P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541 760-647-6595

<http://www.birdchautauqua.org>

**Explore Bay Area Nature All Year Long –
just \$18!**

Bay Nature magazine is offering a subscriber special to supporters of the Sequoia Audubon Society. Sign up for one year of award-winning *Bay Nature* for \$18 (regular price \$21.95). Just go to baynature.org/store and enter promo code SDK2SA at checkout, or call 888-BAYNAT and mention promo code SDK2SA.

Every quarter *Bay Nature* takes you out into the natural world of the Bay Area to visit beautiful places, learn about interesting wildlife, and meet the people dedicated to protecting them. Come explore with us! Visit BayNature.org to learn more.

Gull-billed Tern



**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.