



SEQUOIA NEEDLES

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

Volume 60, No. 1
September-October 2009

SEQUOIA AUDUBON RECEIVES GRANT FROM AUDUBON CALIFORNIA

BY GARY DEGHI

SAS has been selected to receive a grant of \$11,000 from Audubon California related to the California State Parks/ Audubon California Partnership. The funds became available through the Audubon Endowment for State Parks, which is intended to fund joint projects between Audubon chapters and California State Parks. The funded projects must have an emphasis on State Parks that fall within designated Important Bird Areas (IBAs) and benefit species of special concern. The Año Nuevo State Reserve is an IBA within the area served by SAS. Supervising Ranger Gary Strachan, State Environmental Scientist Chris Spohrer, and Gary Deghi of SAS developed an idea for a riparian habitat restoration project along Cascade Creek within the State Reserve. Audubon California selected the SAS project from four proposals received from various Audubon chapters in California.

The quality of habitat within Cascade Creek has been impacted in the last century by placement of dams, outdated agricultural practices, use of pesticides, and a proliferation of exotic, non-native species. Current State Park policy encourages removal of exotic species and restoration of wetlands and riparian areas. Within the State Park jurisdiction of Cascade Creek, there are four stands of non-native eucalyptus and planted Monterey cypress within the riparian corridor. These non-native stands impact the quality of the habitat for

native bird species by displacing native riparian tree species that would provide more optimal habitat.

The project funded through the grant is a restoration project for Cascade Creek that involves removal of at least a portion of the non-native eucalyptus trees from one of these stands and replacement with native riparian species such as arroyo willow. Watchlist species that could benefit from such restoration include the San Francisco Common Yellowthroat, which nests in riparian habitats near wetlands on the San Mateo County coast, and possibly Allen's Hummingbird and Belted Kingfisher. Volunteers from SAS completed a breeding bird survey within the chosen eucalyptus stand in the spring of 2009, and this information will be compared to breeding bird data taken in years after the restoration. Species found to be breeding in the grove this spring included Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Wilson's Warbler, and Purple Finch, among others.

The money from the grant will be used to hire treecutters to remove the non-native eucalyptus trees. The tree removal is planned for late August, after the nesting season, to ensure that this work does not impact nesting birds. One of the goals of the project is to foster good working relationships between Audubon chapters and State Parks, and restoration work is planned along the creek this winter using volunteers from both organizations. Replanting of the riparian corridor is expected to be done with cuttings taken from willows onsite, and this work is scheduled for January 9, 2010. Anyone wishing to help out with this activity should contact Sue Cossins at 650-347-9358 or sas-sue@earthlink.net



Monthly Meetings

San Mateo Garden Center

September

Thursday, 10th, 7:00 PM

Program: Resources for Wildlife in the Urban Landscape

October

Thursday, 8th, 7:00 PM

Program: Images of Bhutan, Land of the Thunder Dragon

(See program details on page 2)

Upcoming Field Trips

(See trip details beginning on page 3)

September

Sunday, 6th Pescadero Marsh*

Saturday, TBD Urban Habitat Improvement

Sunday, 20th Pescadero Marsh*

October

Sunday, 4th Fitzgerald Marine Reserve

Sunday, 4th Pescadero Marsh*

Sunday, 18th Pescadero Marsh*

Saturday, 24th Filoli Estate

November

Sunday, 1st Pescadero Marsh*

Sunday, 15th Pescadero Marsh*

* Beginner/Family Trip

Check the field trip descriptions for any special information or requirements. Late comers may be disappointed. For all field trips bring your binoculars, water, sturdy walking shoes or boots, sun block, and hat, and always dress in layers for hot sunny weather to cool windy

(Continued on page 3)

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MEETING PROGRAMS

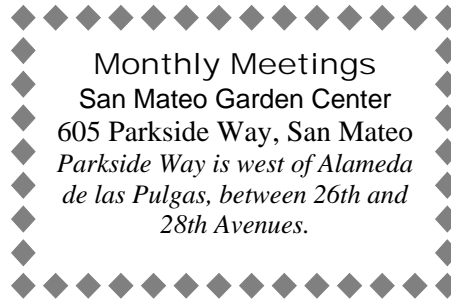
BY SUE COSSINS AND SONNY MENCHER

Birding-related class: Resources for Wildlife in the Urban Landscape

By Josiah Clark

Thursday, September 10, 7:00 PM

This presentation will offer information about how to improve local urban wildlife habitats. The first step in improving habitat is identifying the resources that local wildlife need and use. In this talk Josiah will discuss wildlife resources and will compare and contrast native and non-



native plants and their uses by wildlife. He will also address the importance of water, dead wood, and dense cover.

Josiah Clark leads international birding tours and environmental stewardship programs for urban youth and writes on environmental issues. He started Habitat Potential in 2002 and has worked as a consulting ecologist for a wide range of clients including the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, San Francisco Park and Recreation Department, and the Golden Gate Audubon Society. He is an expert in the urban-wildlife interface, and has investigated natural processes and the specific needs of wildlife in the urban setting for the past 15 years.

Accompanying Field Work for the birding class. Free & open to everyone. Exact Date and time not confirmed, but will be one weekend day in mid September -- possibly Saturday, September 12 or 19.

Assist Habitat Potential with planting habitat for the declining, breeding White-crowned Sparrows.

Location: Bison Paddock, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco

Accompanied by a free bird walk for those who participate.

Leader: Josiah Clark:

Josiah@habitatpotential.com

For information updates check our

website: www.sequoia-audubon.org

Images of Bhutan, Land of the Thunder Dragon

By Doug Cheeseman

Thursday, October 8, 7:00 PM

Join Doug Cheeseman on an amazing virtual journey to Bhutan over the prayer-flag laden high passes, through valleys filled with rivers of Himalayan melt water, past overlooks of vivid rhododendrons, and among forest trees home to intriguing birds and mammals. This pastoral country has protected 70% of its forests, providing abundant habitat for birds that have been eliminated elsewhere. Travel in the springtime when birds are busy with courting, nest building, and mating. Attend a colorful Buddhist festival where the gods and demons come to life in a swirl of color and song. Come on this photo safari to a unique and mysterious country nicknamed Land of the Thunder Dragon.

Doug and Gail Cheeseman have found leading safaris to be a fresh way of blending a desire to observe nature with a wish to inspire travelers towards the values of conservation and education. Doug inspired biology majors in his zoology and ecology classes at De Anza College during his long teaching career. Retired from teaching, he now devotes all his time to leading tours to sought-after places such as Africa, Antarctica, and South America. Doug has a contagious passion for observing wildlife behavior and capturing it in his photography. Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris is celebrating its 30th year of safaris to the best wildlife viewing areas in the world.



Accompanying Field Work for the birding class. Free & open to everyone.

Date and time TBD, but will be one weekend day in mid-September, possibly Saturday, September 12th or 19th

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Location: Bison Paddock, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco

Leader: Josiah Clark

Josiah@habitatpotential.com

For information updates check our website: www.sequoia-audubon.org

Pescadero Marsh – State Park Docent Nature Walks

First Sunday of each month is a morning walk from 10:00 AM — 12:00 Noon

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

September walks are on September 6th and 20th

October walks are on October 4th and 18th

November walks are on November 1st and November 15th

December walks are on December 6th and 20th.

Come and discover Pescadero Marsh. The California State Park Docents will lead a field trip to learn about the marsh. This beautiful park has a mile-long shoreline, rocky cliffs, and of course, a world-famous 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.

Contact: The park ranger station for voice mail information (650) 879-2170 or Rita Jennings at 650-728-2254.

Directions: From Half Moon Bay, go south about 12 miles on Hwy 1. 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. [http://www.greenfoothills.org/news/2001/08-](http://www.greenfoothills.org/news/2001/08-2001_PescaderoButano.html)

[2001_PescaderoButano.html](http://www.greenfoothills.org/news/2001/08-2001_PescaderoButano.html)
Beginner/Family Nature Hike

Fitzgerald Marine Reserve Family Fun Day: What Bird Is That?

Sunday, October 4th, 9:00 AM – Noon
Veteran birder Shannon Lyday from the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary will lead a bird-spotting expedition through the southern part of the reserve. She will start at the Pillar Point Marsh and work her way along the harbor beach to the famous Maverick's Beach to look for fall migrants. Bring binoculars and a bird guide if you have them. (If you don't, mention you'd like to borrow some for the tour when you register, and they'll try to accommodate you with loaners.) Meet at the Maverick's parking lot. Space is limited to 20 so register early. Heavy rain cancels. For information: www.fitzgeraldreserve.org (Not an official SAS field trip.)

Filoli Estate Bird Walk

Saturday, October 24, 8:30 AM
The Filoli Estate is a 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 planted garden surrounded by large oaks and trails leading to riparian, redwood, and farm habitats. Over 96 species of birds have been found there. **Reservations required.** This trip is limited to 20 people maximum (Sorry, no children under 14). No food or picnicking is allowed but all will be welcome after the walk to buy light food and beverages at the Café and visit the gift shop.

Directions: Take Hwy 280 to the Edgewood Road exit and go west. Turn right/north on Cañada Road and drive approximately ½ 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

(Continued on page 4)

Upcoming Field Trips

(Continued from page 1)

conditions. While we make every attempt to stay on schedule, circumstances may dictate changes to field trip leaders, dates, or times.

For the latest schedule and updates always check the Sequoia Audubon web site or contact the trip leader

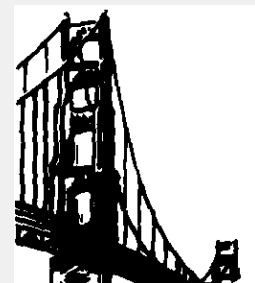
Sequoia Audubon on the Web

Remember to check out our web site for updates on field trips, conservation news, and links to great birding sites.

www.sequoia-audubon.org

Nature Within Reach – A New Bay Area License Plate

The application period has been extended to July 2010 for a new, nature-oriented license plate. The image on these yet-to-be-issued plates will be the Golden Gate Bridge and will feature the tagline "Nature Within Reach." Money received for this new plate will fund the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program (under the auspices of the California Coastal Commission - the folks who work so hard to preserve healthy open space along our stunning northern California coast). Only 7500 pledges are needed to bring this license plate into the public arena. Go to <http://bayarealicenseplate.org> to view the image and for details on ordering.



(Field Trips, continued from page 3)

house and /or gardens, there is a \$12.00 entrance fee. Heavy rain cancels.

Call leader Sue James (650) 348-0315 to reserve your spot.

2009 Special Discounted Pelagic Trips

Debra Shearwater has again offered Sequoia Audubon some great discounts on California Coast boat trips. Please don't wait to sign up for these discounted trips. Follow the registration information below.

Bodega Canyon and Cordell Bank

Wednesday, September 16th

Special Sequoia Discounted Price \$145 – regular price \$ 185

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, and possibly, Laysan, and Black-footed Albatrosses. We may see Artic Terns. Buller's, Pink-footed, and Sooty Shearwaters are all possible. At low tide Bodega Harbor can be teeming with shorebirds. Don't miss this trip at a great price.

Fort Bragg – Mega-Rarities Offshore

Friday, September 18

Special Sequoia Discount Price \$145 -regular Price \$185

Some real rarities have been seen on this always exciting trip. Buller's Shearwaters, Laysan Albatross, Pomarine, Parasitic, and Long-Tailed Jaegers are all possible. On past trips we have seen some exciting birds such as a Streaked Shearwater, a South Polar Skua, Dark-Rumped and Hawaiian Petrel. We will always be on the look out for Blue Whales.

Monterey Bay Pelagic Trip with Shearwater Journeys - Fall Seabird Classic

Sunday, September 27

Saturday, October 3

Saturday, November 28

Special Sequoia Discount Price \$100 – regular price \$138

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 Albatrosses, 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.

Reservations are made on a first come, first serve basis, and many trips sell out months in advance. Please indicate a second choice trip, in case your first choice is sold out. If making reservations for more than one person, include each person's name, address, phone/email. The USCG requires this. 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. A return confirmation letter will be sent to you. 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>

SUMMER MUSINGS

BY SUE COSSINS

The Northern Mockingbird

In late May 2009, I stayed for a week in Manteca in the Central Valley. There was a male Northern Mockingbird singing loudly and flying among the tops of four trees in the neighborhood, claiming his territory of about an acre or so.

I was interested in hearing his song and watching his behavior. I recognized many other birds' songs that he was imitating – American Robin, Brown-Headed Cowbird, Woodpecker species, Yellow-Billed Magpie, Steller's Jay, and Western Scrub Jay. The most accurate imitations he did were Killdeer and Budgerigar (parakeet). With short breaks of a half to one hour, the songs were repeated all day and much of the night. I often could hear another male Mockingbird in the distance claiming his territory also and this seemed to make my bird sing in response. He would occasionally do a loop-flight starting from an exposed perch, displaying his white wing patches before settling back onto the perch. Occasionally a non-vocal Mockingbird flew through the yard and he would chase her. I learned that this is the typical mate chase believed to be part of courtship.

When I returned to the house in mid-June, the bird was still singing loudly. He probably hadn't found a mate yet.

I researched the Northern Mockingbird song and found out a bit more.

The mockingbird is limited to imitating short units of sound, which it repeats three to six times before moving on to a new sound. Species with repetitive songs, such as the Carolina Wren, are effectively copied, but species with long, complex songs, such as the Song Sparrow, cannot be effectively imitated by the mockingbird. As a result, the mockingbird sounds much better to a human ear when imitating some species more than others. It imitates birds and incorporates a variety of sounds such as barking dogs and car alarms into its repertoire.

The Northern Mockingbird, in addition to being a good mimic, is one of the loudest and most constantly vocal of birds. It often sings through the night, especially unmated males, or when the moon is full. Individual males have repertoires of 50 to 200 songs. Mockingbirds usually sing loudest in the twilight of the early morning when the sun is on the horizon. Both sexes sing in the fall, claiming feeding territories.

(Summer Musings, continued from page 4)

The meaning of the vast majority of songs is essentially the same: a call, first of all, from male to male, proclaiming territory and warning other males away; secondarily to females, advertising his maleness to any prospective mate. Singing becomes more frequent and more aggressive when another male is within hearing. Should the interloper cross the invisible line that defines the territory, he is attacked, but usually a song is enough to send him on his way.

Is song innate or acquired? Certain gifted musicians, such as nightingales and mockingbirds, must learn their art from older birds, even though as untutored youngsters they may have a song of a sort, formless but apparently innate.



While the ability to mimic is innate, the songs mimicked are undoubtedly acquired. Mockingbirds in California specialize in imitations of California tree frogs, California woodpeckers and Scrub Jays, whereas mockingbirds in Kentucky or Maryland, who do not hear these sounds, never include them in their repertoire.

This species was often captured for sale as a pet from the late 1700s to the early 1900s, and thus it became scarce along much of the northern edge of its range. Thomas Jefferson kept a caged mockingbird. After the cagebird trade was stopped, the Mockingbird again became common in many areas. Its success in the northeast may also be due to widespread planting of multiflora rose, a source of favorite berries, and good nest sites.

Sources:

Wikipedia

Kenn Kaufman's, *Birds of North America and Lives of North American Birds*

Donald and Lillian Stokes', *A Guide to Bird Behavior The Nature Companion's Backyard Birding*, Fog City Press: Life Nature Library, *The Birds*

YUBA PASS BIRDING

BY SONNY MENCHER

A group of 20+ birders spent the weekend of June 26-29 birding the Yuba Pass/Sierra Valley area. Overall we logged 118 species, including birds seen by individuals on the drive up, near lodgings, or on side trips. The entire group saw approximately 100 of these. Most of us stayed at Buttes Resort in Sierra City, others at Herrington's Resort, and several camped at the summit.

We spent Saturday at the campgrounds – North and South Fire Roads, then Bassets area, and finally Sardine Lake. Sunday

was spent in Sierra Valley. Before giving bird sighting highlights let me mention a beautiful spot for a short evening walk – rapids, waterfalls, old wooden bridge, and fantastic sunset. Head east out of Sierra City. About a mile past town is a sign on the right – Pacific Crest Trail. Go past this about 100 yards to a large gravel parking area on the right. There is a cable strung between two trees. Step around it and take the narrow trail to your left for a beautiful 4-5 minute walk through the woods to the old wooden bridge and waterfalls. The trail has some easy up and down portions but no significant elevation change. Reports are that a family of dippers is often found here.

Saturday: With a 6 AM start, we found several nesting species, including Mountain Chickadee, Dusky Flycatcher, White-Headed Woodpecker and Warbling Vireo. At Campgrounds/ Highway 49, we saw Evening Grosbeak, Cassin's Finch, and Pine Siskin. Along the North fire road, White-Headed Woodpecker, Dusky, Hammond's, and Olive-Sided Flycatchers along with MacGillivray's, Hermit, Wilson's, Yellow, and Nashville Warblers, along with Golden-Crowned Kinglet, Mountain Chickadee, and Brown Creeper. Highlight of the morning was two Northern Pigmy Owls sitting out in the open.

On the South side we had great views of a Williamson's Sapsucker and while in the campgrounds having lunch, a nesting Warbling Vireo. Then off to Bassetts Restaurant for ice cream and Calliope Hummingbirds. Finally, at Sardine Lake we walked the boardwalk around the pond and added Cassin's Vireo to the list. Back to Buttes Resort for a potluck dinner.

Sunday: Another 6 AM start. First stop was the UC Research Station, where we found American Dipper, Hermit Thrush, and Black Bear – mom and cub. Off to Sierra Valley where we stopped at large barn outside Sierraville and saw White-Faced Ibis, Black-Billed Magpie, Wilson's Snipe, and California Quail. At stops on the way toward Loyalton we added Brewer's and Vesper Sparrows, Green-Tailed Towhee, Horned Lark, and seven Sage Thrashers in one bush. Nesting birds included Western Kingbird, Yellow-Headed Blackbird, Marsh Wren, and Cliff Swallows. A downer was seeing a Ring-Billed Gull making off with a Cliff Swallow chick twice in 20 minutes.

At the Sierraville cemetery – Chipping Sparrow, Mountain Bluebird, and White-Breasted Nuthatch. Near the grocery store for refreshments we found Lazuli Bunting, Western Kingbird nesting on power pole, and a Swainson's Hawk. On the way to the bridge at Marble-Hot Springs Road — Sandhill Crane, Marsh Wren, Cliff and Barn Swallows, Yellow-Headed Blackbird, Virginia Rail, Ruddy Duck, Pied-Billed Grebe, Gadwall, Peregrine Falcon, American White Pelican, and Osprey. Heading back to Sierra City we saw a Pronghorn.

Enjoying left-over potluck at Buttes resort, we relaxed and reviewed our lists. As we were about to finish, a Townsend's Solitaire landed in the cherry tree.

Target birds missed: Mountain Quail and Black-Backed Woodpecker.

Photos at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/sonnyjeff/>

SAS NEWS



BLUEBIRD PROGRAM UPDATE

Susan Kritzik, San Mateo County Coordinator
sgkritzik@sbcglobal.net

By now, nesting season is about over. I hope that everyone had some good results! Don't forget to clean out nest boxes and note the ones that need repairs or relocation this winter. It's also time now for everyone's favorite activity, end of season reporting. We now report online, as you probably know. To enter your data, go to the CBRP website, www.cbrp.org. Scroll down to "End of Season Reporting" and click on "instructions/options for reporting." Follow the instructions and links. Your user ID and password should be your first initial followed by your last name. If you can't get in or your trail isn't listed when you sign in, contact Dick Blaine, dick@theblaines.net.

There are three other reporting options as well. These are detailed at the CBRP website, above. And for those who hate to use the computer, the good old nest box work sheets may be mailed to Dick Blaine at 22284 N. De Anza Circle, Cupertino, CA 95014. I will also be happy to help with data entry questions.

We are looking for carpenters to help with building and repairing both nest boxes and retrievers. If you have the time and ability, we can use the help!

P.S. from Dick Blaine, Director, CA Bluebird Recovery Program: The current issue of the newsletter, *Bluebirds Fly* (as well as previous issues) is available at: <http://cbrp.org/newsletters/index.htm>. The annual report and next issue are due out in early January.



CONSERVATION COMMITTEE NEWS

By Nancy Arbuckle

The threat to fill the Bay looms ever larger as Cargill's plan to pave over its salt-making operations has been officially submitted to the City of Redwood City. Cargill's plan to build a mini-city of 12,000 housing units and a million square feet of office and retail space on restorable wetlands appears to have the support of the Redwood City Council but local and regional environmental groups are unified in their opposition. SAS has taken an active role in preventing this tremendous threat to the Bay. We are a signatory to a letter of opposition developed by a number of local groups that has been released to the press. It reads as follows:

Save the Redwood City Salt Ponds

We strongly oppose Cargill and DMB's bay salt pond development project in Redwood City. We urge Redwood City, state, and federal agencies to reject the project and promote full restoration and protection of habitat and open space on the site.

The project would destroy Bay shoreline open space that should be restored and put new development in the path of flood waters and rising sea level. This is not an infill site and it is not an appropriate place for housing and commercial development; Redwood City should continue its smart growth redevelopment downtown.

The Redwood City salt ponds should be permanently protected for restoration to natural habitat that benefits people and wildlife.

Signed: Save the Bay; Sierra Club—Loma Prieta Chapter; Clean Water Action; Committee for Green Foothills; Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge; Sequoia Audubon Society; Friends of Redwood City; Friends of Bedwell Bayfront Park

In addition, Audubon California has prepared a strongly worded statement in support of our chapter's efforts to prevent this development. It reads, in part: "Audubon California supports our local Audubon chapter, Sequoia Audubon Society, in its opposition to the Redwood City Saltworks development. A development on San Francisco Bay lands is inconsistent with Audubon's long-standing commitment to protecting and restoring San Francisco Bay. These remaining bay lands should be protected and restored."

Volunteer for Sharp Park! [Restore Sharp Park](http://www.restoresharpark.org) needs your help! Go to www.restoresharpark.org for more information. The [San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department](http://www.sanfrancisco.org/recreation) released a preliminary analysis of alternative uses at Sharp Park Golf Course on July 31, 2009. Get ready to write letters in support of the restoration alternatives at Sharp Park! If you want to volunteer for the campaign contact Brent Plater at bplater@yahoo.com.
(Continued on page 7)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

(Please email Sue Cossins (sas-sue@earthlink.net) if you are interested in an open position listed on the masthead on page 2.)

Co-Representative from SAS to the Audubon Canyon Ranch Board of Directors

Leslie Flint has had to step down from the ACR board after many years of doing a great job of representing SAS. She will be sorely missed, but this is an opportunity for someone else to carry-on with our co-rep, Francis Toldi. The monthly evening board meetings are in Marin County; once a quarter the meetings are held at one of the three preserves on a Saturday.

For more information email Leslie Flint: lflint@earthlink.net or Francis Toldi: ftoldi@earthlink.net

Corresponding Secretary

Do you have a little spare time to send out thank you letters to our generous donors and renewal reminders to our members? Don't worry - no handwriting involved! This position requires basic computer skills and takes about four hours of your time per month. **For more information write or call Carole Farina**

cfarina@stanfordalumni.org or 650-368-2402

Field Trip Co-Chairperson

After many years of doing a wonderful job in this position, Carol Masterson would like to find a replacement. This position involves planning field trips and sending write-ups to the Program Coordinator for publication in the newsletter and website.

For more details call Carol: 650-347-1769 or email: carolmasterson@sbcglobal.net

Bird Enthusiasts

Help the birds of Edgewood Park and Preserve in their struggle to survive and reproduce by participating in our Bird Conservation Program. The Program, now in its 10th year, has substantially helped Western Bluebirds, Bewick's Wrens, and Western Meadowlarks. Current emphasis is on the California Quail, which as of May 2008 had become extinct in the park. We need census takers, nest monitors, and behavior observers.

Requirements: No experience necessary. We will train you. You must be willing to commit a few hours once a month. Edgewood Park and Preserve is located in Redwood City near Hwy 280.

Contact: Lee Franks 650-592-7733

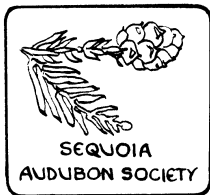
Cattle Ranch Birding

Years ago, the Williams family donated their 1200-acre working cattle ranch in the Santa Cruz mountains to Audubon. While the Ranch is not open to the public, over the years several birders have visited the Ranch to view some of the sensitive species that use the various Ranch habitats, such as the Loggerhead Shrike, Grasshopper Sparrow, and the Purple Martin. Now we wish to go beyond looking and implement a Monitoring Program in order to identify habitat preferences and breeding locations of these sensitive species. We're looking for a few experienced birders with survey exposure to participate in the program.

Requirements: Must be willing to spend 3-4 hours bi-monthly, hiking the ranch roads collecting data and compiling it online. The Ranch is located on Skyline Blvd, near the Windy Hill parking lot.

Contact: Lee Franks 650-592-7733

(SAS News, continued from page 6)



ON THE SAS WEBSITE: What Birds Are in San Mateo County This Month?

By Kris Olson

In case you are curious about which birds are being seen each month throughout San Mateo County, check out the new monthly listing on the SAS website: <http://www.sequoia-audubon.org/SMCbirds.php>. There you will find the total number of species seen year-to-date. You will also learn when different rarities are likely to be seen as they migrate through our county and how difficult each species is to see.

So far this year, through June, we have collectively spotted 285 species in San Mateo County, out of a possible 451 species. In May, a Gull-Billed Tern was seen, for the first time in Northern California, at Radio Road in Redwood Shores for two days. In June, two Indigo Buntings were seen – at Windy Hill and Monte Bello. San Mateo is host to many interesting birds throughout the year.

We'll be adding photos of the rarities over time, so stay tuned!

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


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THANK YOU SAS FIELD TRIP LEADERS


Thank you to all our wonderful field trip leaders for leading some really great trips this past year. We appreciate your donation of time and talent to help us find the birds!

- | | |
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| Gina Barton | Ranger Carol Kiser |
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| Eileen Kay | Marilyn Travis |



Photo by Sonny Mencher

Western Wood Peewee



Purple Martin

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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.*