



SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

Volume 70, No. 3
July - September 2019

The Slow Days of Summer by *Chris O'Connell*

Summer is the slow season for birding. Many birds go to ground and quietly raise their young, performing their primary duty. Migration is minimal. The days are hot. But nonetheless, interesting things are always happening.

Junco juveniles abound, tricking novices with their funky appearance. Chickadee chicks squeak and flit, bouncing around in small and ubiquitous family units. And the unusual is always possible, if not expected. Elegant Terns were recently discovered at the National Wildlife Refuge in Menlo Park, breeding in the shadows of the Dumbarton Bridge. Peter Metropolis reports this as not only the first nesting record of the county but also a first for Northern California! While the inclination is to celebrate this, it also reflects a changing climate, blunting the warm, fuzzy feelings. Black Oystercatchers are also nesting at this site, which is an extreme rarity for the bayside.

In early June, Kent Forward found evidence of Say's Phoebes breeding along Higgins Canyon Road in Half Moon Bay. Peter Metropolis confirmed this as the first breeding record in the county. You just never know what you might find, but you will never find it if you don't look.

Sequoia Audubon does not have Board of Directors meetings in July or August. We don't have our monthly membership meetings either. It's the slow season. Field trips become a bit scarce. This newsletter is only 4 pages long. But nonetheless, interesting things are always happening.

We have our day-long Summer Planning meeting in August, brainstorming on ideas for the coming year. We have our Volunteer Appreciation Lunch at Cameron's Inn in Half Moon Bay in June. And we have a new Field Trip Coordinator! Casey Girard has gamely stepped up to replace Adam Dudley, who has moved out of the area (see page 2 for details). And finally, our Youth Scholarships have been awarded.

Originally, we planned to give out 2 youth scholarships to the American Bird Association's Camp Colorado, but one thing led to another and we ended up with 4 deserving recipients. After assessing the applications, the Scholarship Committee recommended the following young naturalists: Aeon Lem, 15, of Belmont, Abigail Nix, 16, of San Mateo, and the brothers Cedrik von Briel, 15, and Dominik von Briel, 13, of Redwood City. They will attend the camp in August and we are confident they will have a great experience in Colorado.

Sequoia Audubon has raised enough money to ensure this scholarship will continue next year. We hope to make it a long-term, annual program and encourage donations earmarked for this cause.

Monthly Meetings

2nd Thursdays 7:00 pm
San Mateo Garden Center
605 Parkside Way, San Mateo

September 12

Birding the World's Wine Regions
Alvaro Jamarillo

Upcoming Field Trips

July

Sat. 20th Don Edwards NWR
Sun. 21st Burleigh Murray

August

Sat. 17th Pillar Point Harbor
Sat. 18th Burleigh Murray

September

Wed. 4th Coyote Point Park
Sun. 15th Burleigh Murray
TBA Bedwell Bayfront Park



Hermit Warbler in El Corte Madera Creek OSP
photo by Donna Pomeroy

MEETING PROGRAMS

605 Parkside Way, San Mateo

September 12, 2019, 7 pm

Birding Wine Regions of the World - California, Chile, South Africa and Beyond

Speaker: Alvaro Jamarillo

Join us for a fun talk about how climate affects the environment, as well as the birding! The climate type is the Mediterranean zone with dry summers and wet winters – sound familiar? We live in a Mediterranean-type climate, and this happens to be the type of region where people produce the finest wines. But similar climates don't always have similar avifaunae. In some cases, there are clear-cut differences, while in other situations we have very different birds that fit a similar niche in separate Mediterranean parts of the world. Come see a view of what makes Mediterranean regions tick, the great birding to be enjoyed, and maybe we will even talk a bit about the wine!

Alvaro Jamarillo runs Alvaro's Adventures, offering local pelagic day trips as well as tours of Japan, Cuba, South Africa and more. He is a world-renown ornithologist, author, and tour leader who also happens to be a regular guy residing in our beautiful county. He also serves as the Senior Outreach Biologist for the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory.



Last year, a rare Black Vulture was spotted spending time with Turkey Vultures and a seal carcass at Año Nuevo State Park. Many local birders flocked to the site over the ensuing couple of weeks. One day, Alvaro was 5 miles north at Gazos Creek State Beach observing the gull flock when the Black Vulture soared over his head. This led Aaron Maizlish to cogently observe, "He doesn't chase rarities, the rarities chase him. He is... the most interesting birder in the world."



Thank you Adam and Jane!

Adam Dudley and Jane Dixon have joined Naturetrek as tour guides and recently relocated to Arizona. They will be leading tours throughout North America for visitors from the United Kingdom. Adam put in a great effort as a Board member and field trip coordinator these past 4 years so we thank him and will miss him, as well as his co-leader Jane. Bon voyage!

Other Events: Pescadero Marsh Guided Walks

Pescadero State Beach and Pescadero Marsh Natural Preserve comprise a rich ecosystem with many birding opportunities. The Coastside State Parks Association is a nonprofit group that, among other things, trains docents to lead walks at the marsh there. The paragraph below is taken from their website and provides some details.

One or more docents and volunteers lead guided walks from the central parking lot onto the beach and into the Marsh twice a month on the first Sunday at 10 a.m. and the third Sunday at 1:00 p.m... Docents emphasize stewardship as vital in the Natural Preserve: to stay on the trails, view animals quietly at a distance, not to collect plants or seeds and not to leave litter behind. Docents also plan and lead special walks as requested by the Volunteer Coordinator for school groups, college classes and community organizations. Volunteers at the Marsh may also help with bird, fish and water-level monitoring projects and trail maintenance.



**COASTSIDE
STATE PARKS
ASSOCIATION**



Sequoia Field Trips

Don Edwards NWR Ravenswood Salt Pond SF2

Saturday, July 20, 8:00 am - 11:00 am

We will meet at the end of the parking near the gated entrance to the salt pond. Caspian Terns, Forster's Terns, Black Skimmers and now Elegant Terns nest here! We will check out the breeding colony as well as look for shorebirds, raptors, gulls, and American White Pelicans. **Directions:** Drive down east 84 towards the Dumbarton Bridge. Take the last exit before you head over the bridge, parking is on your left. Heavy rain or Air Quality Index over 100 cancels. **Leader:** Casey Girard. **Contact:** casey.girard@gmail.com.

Burleigh Murray Ranch State Park

Sunday, July 21, 8:00 am – Noon

Join us for a leisurely 3-4 hour walk in this bird-rich gem on our coast. The trail is a one-mile former ranch road leading to a historic barn. Plan layers for cool temps, morning fog and sunshine. **Heavy rain cancels. Directions:** We will meet at the lower parking lot to the Johnston House, located on Higgins Canyon Road in Half Moon Bay. Higgins-Canyon Rd. begins just off of Hwy 1, going east where Main Street ends. The Johnston House is the big white 1850s farmhouse on the hill. We will caravan to Burleigh Murray, which is 1½ miles up Higgins-Purisima Road from here. **Leader:** Ginny Marshall. **Contact:** ginnybirder@gmail.com.

Pillar Point Harbor

Saturday, August 17, 8:00 am - 11:00 am

Pillar Point is a hot spot for birding year-round. We should find a variety of resident birds and hopefully, some migrating shorebirds. Most of the walking will be on fairly level dirt trails, but if time permits, we may hike up onto the bluff top for a better view out to sea. Scopes will be useful here, so if you have one, bring it along. A primitive restroom is available at the parking lot. **Directions:** The harbor is located just west of Coast Hwy One, 4 miles north of Half Moon Bay. From Hwy One, turn west at the stoplight at Capistrano Rd. and continue along the north side of the harbor to Prospect Way. Turn left onto Prospect, then a brief jog right on Broadway, to an immediate left on Harvard Ave. Proceed through the boatyards to the end of Harvard Ave., then turn right onto West Point Ave. Meet at the "West Shoreline Access" parking lot, popularly known as the parking lot to Mavericks, just below the radar station. **Leader:** Donna Pomeroy. **Contact:** dpom@comcast.net.

Burleigh Murray Ranch State Park

Sunday, August 18, 8:00 am – Noon

See July 21 for details.

Coyote Point County Park

Wednesday, September 4, 8:00 am - 11:00 am

We will meet at the parking lot by the yacht club for a leisurely stroll around Coyote Point Park looking at the abundant shorebirds and hopefully, some fall migrants. With such a variety of habitats at Coyote Point, we should be able to see quite a number of species. Scopes can be useful here. If you have one, bring it along. There is an admission charge to the park of \$6 or free for seniors. **Directions:** Exit Peninsula Ave. from Hwy 101 and follow the signs to the park. **Leader:** Donna Pomeroy. **Contact:** dpom@comcast.net

Bedwell Bayfront Park

Late August or September (details TBA), 8:00 am - 11:00 am

We will meet at the restrooms. We will then walk along the channel to the treatment plant at the back looking for fall migrants. This area catches many migrating birds with high chance for rarities. Let's see what we find. We will also see incoming wintering shorebirds and ducks. **Directions:** Meet at the parking lot by the restrooms at Bedwell Bayfront Park, 1600 Marsh Road, Menlo Park. Heavy rain or Air Quality Index over 100 cancels. **Leader:** Casey Girard. **Contact:** casey.girard@gmail.com.

Burleigh Murray Ranch State Park

Sunday, September 15, 8:00am – Noon

See July 21 for details.

OFFICERS

Acting President: Jennifer Rycenga
Vice President: Open
Secretary: Susan Stratton
Treasurer: Kriti Diwan

At Large: Doug Brown, Marshall Dinowitz, Adam Dudley, John Epperson, Nelle Lyons, Chris MacIntosh, Doug Pomeroy

Consulting Biologist

Alvaro Jaramillo

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MISSION STATEMENT

Sequoia Audubon Society protects native birds and other wildlife and their ecosystems in San Mateo County by engaging people of all ages in conservation, education, advocacy and enjoyment.

Sequoia Audubon Society

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Support our Chapter's Work - Donate

Please consider an extra donation to your chapter in support of the work we do to provide birding trips, monthly programs, monitoring conservation concerns around the county, education and outreach. Thank you!

Give a Gift Membership or in Recognition

Has someone inspired you, or just done something kind for the world or for the birds? A donation in recognition gives toward supporting our Chapter's work.



Support SAS through Amazon Smile when you shop online

A percentage of your purchase can be donated to support the work of SAS whenever you shop on Amazon. You get the same products, prices and service and support our work to protect native birds and other wildlife and their ecosystems. The only difference is that, to support SAS through Amazon Smile, you must access the site: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-60929053>.

We're looking for Volunteers! Get Involved! Take Action!

You can make a difference! How can you help? Join our team! For more information, email: office@sequoia-audubon.org

Make Sure Your Coffee Supports Birds – Buy Bird Friendly SMBC Certified Coffee

Does your daily coffee support bird habitat or contribute to the demise of Neotropical landscapes? If it doesn't have the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center (SMBC) Bird Friendly certification seal your money does not support farming practices that support resident and migratory birds. During our monthly public meetings Sequoia proudly serves Certified Bird Friendly coffee, 100% organic and shade grown from *Birds and Beans, The Good Coffee* (<https://www.birdsandbeans.com>) and generously donated for each monthly meeting by Susan Rowinski.



Sequoia Audubon Society Membership Form

Senior or Student membership	\$ 15.00
Individual membership	\$ 20.00
Family membership	\$ 25.00
Supporter	\$ 100.00
Donation to SAS	\$ _____
	Total \$ _____

Yes, I am interested in volunteering _____

Newsletter Preference:

_____ Mail and / or _____ E-mail

E-mail address _____

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Contact us: 650.529.1454

or

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www.birding.sequoia-audubon.org

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