



# SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

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October - December 2016*

## **Snowy Plovers Hatch and Fledge at Francis Beach** *by Malia DeFelice*

Two Snowy Plover chicks were confirmed to have hatched and fledged this spring at Francis Beach in Half Moon Bay. The last time a chick fledged was about 8 years ago.

On April 13, Evie Tutorow (State Park volunteer) saw two plovers mating on the beach. On May 3, Alvaro Jaramillo located a single egg (and later three eggs) in a nest not far from where Evie saw the pair mating. Alvaro contacted State Park personnel and they added symbolic fencing around the nest site. The next day, I saw an adult sitting in the sand and figured this was the nest Alvaro had found. Alvaro happened to be jogging by and stopping to chat, pointed out a nest but the nest I had found was a second different nest!



*Snowy Plover Chick photo by Leslie Flint*

This began intense monitoring by Snowy Plover Watch volunteers and a hatch date for one of the nests was estimated around the first of June. The nests were located right on the sand not far from the regular foot traffic of beach goers, dogs, Ravens and the Peregrine Falcon that frequents the area. All hoped these birds would make it through incubation, hatching and fledging especially with the heavy tourist pressure of the Memorial Day Weekend coming up. Even knowing where the nests were, they were hard to find, but Snowy Plover volunteers Leslie Flint, Rita Jennings and Gail Stevens took great care during their surveys not to bring attention to the vulnerable nests located so close to the beach crowds.

On the evening of May 20, Chris Hayward and I went down to the beach to check on the nests and Chris yelled out "There's a CHICK!" and took photographs. However, when Nelle Lyons reviewed the photos, she noted a SECOND chick nestled very close to the parent bird! By May 26, the chicks were energetically covering lots of ground trying to catch insects with watchful parents attempting to keep up with the youngsters and by June 20, the fledglings were able to fly. Want to become a Snowy Plover Volunteer? Contact Nelle Lyons at [nelle.lyons@parks.ca.gov](mailto:nelle.lyons@parks.ca.gov).



*Snowy Plover Parent and Chicks photo by Leslie Flint*

## **Monthly Meetings**

San Mateo Garden Center  
605 Parkside Way, San Mateo

### October

**Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup> 7 pm**  
**Wildlife of the American West:  
Behavior and Photography**  
*Brent Paull*

### November

**Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup> 7 pm**  
**Birds of Belize and Tikal, Guatemala**  
*Rich Cimino*

### December

**Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> 7 pm**  
**Birding Antarctica by Cruise Ship**  
*Joe Morlan*

## **Upcoming Field Trips**

### October

**Sat. 1<sup>st</sup>** Point Reyes  
**Sun. 2<sup>nd</sup>** Point Reyes  
**Wed. 5<sup>th</sup>** Pescadero SB  
**Sun. 9<sup>th</sup>** Edgewood County Park  
**Sat. 15<sup>th</sup>** Fitzgerald Marine Reserve  
**Sat. 22<sup>nd</sup>** Filoli Estate

### November

**Wed. 2<sup>nd</sup>** Radio Road  
**Sat. 12<sup>th</sup>** Coyote Point  
**Sun. 20<sup>th</sup>** Wavecrest  
**Sat. 26<sup>th</sup>** Pescadero SB and Environs

### December

**Wed. 7<sup>th</sup>** Pillar Point  
**Sat. 10<sup>th</sup>** Coswell-Purisima Trail  
**Sat. 10<sup>th</sup>** Best of San Mateo Bayside

## **Other Events**

**Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>** The Big Sit/Ride  
**Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>** Crystal Springs CBC  
**Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>** Ano Nuevo CBC

## Meet the New Board Members!

**Doug Brown** - I am pleased to participate on the Sequoia Board, and look forward to making a difference in San Mateo County. I think Sequoia Audubon can make a difference in our community and support the environment in general. I learned to bird later in life, but learn every day and use eBird regularly. My non-birding spouse and I have 2 grown daughters and 2 young grandchildren who will be exposed to birds early on. My day job is Manager for the Social Security Administration in San Francisco. My home turf is Bayside in San Mateo.



Doug Brown



Marshall Dinowitz

**Marshall Dinowitz** - Marshall is a retired virologist with a background in research and teaching in molecular virology and medical microbiology. In the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry, he was involved in the development and license approval of numerous clinical and approved medical products. He has a life-long passion with photography, which he avidly pursues with landscape and nature photography that naturally led him into his interests in birding and environmental activism.

**Adam Dudley** - Originally from the UK, Adam developed his birding passion nearly 35 years ago when a children's TV show showed him how to build a nest box for his back yard. He started out recording and learning bird songs, and spent his formative years looking for birds throughout UK and Europe. During this time, he became a leader for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Young Ornithologists Club in the UK. Since 2001 he has lived in the USA, spending 12 years on the East Coast before moving to San Mateo in 2014. He has been a guide on birding tours to Namibia, Madagascar, and Kenya with an African Wildlife tour company and recently led trips with SAS as a field trip leader. Adam is the new Field Trip Chair for SAS!



Adam Dudley



Doug Pomeroy

**Doug Pomeroy** - Doug grew up in a family that loved the outdoors and passed that love on to him. Doug studied wildlife biology in college earning BS and MS degrees and has been working as an agency environmental specialist in the San Francisco area since 1986. Doug has been on executive boards of several small non-profit groups over the years and hopes to use that expertise to help Sequoia Audubon where he can. Doug considers himself to be an extremely lucky birder as he gets to regularly bird with his wife, Donna, who leads the Sequoia Audubon Society first Wednesday field trips.

## Other Changes in the SAS team

Welcome our new Administrative Assistant and Newsletter Editor:

### Administrative Assistant – Chris O'Connell

Chris grew up in New Jersey. He received a Biology degree from Rutgers University and his final course was an Introduction to Ornithology. This was 1991. That planted the seed for birding and naturalism in general. He relocated to the Bay Area in 2008 and has lived in Redwood City ever since. He rediscovered his love of birds in 2012 and promptly joined the Sequoia Audubon Society. He then took up the hobby in a more serious way (but not too seriously).

### Newsletter Editor – Malia DeFelice

While working for the county Agricultural Dept., trapping and identifying exotic fruit flies and other insect pests, Malia DeFelice met an Australian birder who introduced her to birding in San Mateo county. She has been hooked on the pursuit since 1992. Malia has an academic background in California Archaeology and Cultural Anthropology. She produces the cumulative year list report each month for SAS and is an eBird moderator

for the county. She has been involved in the ethnic dance arts for over 40 years and currently teaches Middle Eastern Dance and believes diversity is the spice of life!



Chris O'Connell



Malia DeFelice

## Big SIT! and Big RIDE! Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup> 8:00 am to 6:00 pm by Jennifer Rycenga and Rob Furrow

The Big SIT! is an international bird-watching event, in which teams of birders try to accumulate high counts from one designated spot over the course of the day. Each year, Sequoia Audubon Society fields an open-ended team of birders counting at the top of the hill overlooking the North Pond at Pescadero Marsh Natural Preserve. While looking for birds, participants enjoy the camaraderie of other birders in what is the birding equivalent of a tailgate party. Now in its 6<sup>th</sup> year, the Big SIT! has become one of Sequoia Audubon Society's principal social birding gatherings as well as an important FUN(d)raiser for Sequoia Audubon and YOU ARE INVITED!

JOIN US! Bring yourself, scope and binoculars, water and snacks. Dress in layers and if you plan to stay a while, a portable chair is handy. You can show up at any hour and stay for as long or as short as you like. Anyone, of any skill level, can participate. Kids are welcome! You can be a part of the bird-watching team or you can pledge an amount per species seen; e.g., if you pledge \$1.00 per species, and the team sees sixty species over the course of the day, your pledge would equal \$60.00. All the funds raised in this pledge drive further Sequoia Audubon's mission: protecting native birds and other wildlife and their ecosystems by engaging people of all ages in conservation, education, advocacy and enjoyment. Let's have fun AND help the birds we love! **To participate, pledge or for more information, contact: Jennifer Rycenga: gyrrlfalcon@earthlink.net**

**Location:** Destination Pescadero State Beach/Pescadero Marsh Natural Preserve! There are two parking options, both with restrooms. The northernmost parking lot for Pescadero State Beach has an \$8.00 parking fee. Or, to reach the middle parking lot, continue south on Hwy 1, over the concrete bridge at Pescadero Creek. This middle lot has no fee. From either parking lot, cross Hwy 1 and you will see the group up on the hillside. A link to a map of Pescadero Marsh and Natural Preserve is here: <http://www.coastsidestateparks.org/pdfs/Pescadero%20marsh%20map.pdf>

**The Big RIDE!:** If you'd like to get to know several birding hotspots in the nooks and crannies of Pescadero, join the Big RIDE! This is a bike-birding trip, traversing the shore, lush creekside forests, grasslands, and farmland. Pescadero is dense with birds and with habitat, so the ride covers a lot in only 10-15 miles, spread over ~4 hours. Birding by bike is a truly different experience from birding by car. Instead of stopping at the tried and true spots, you can allow yourself to get caught up wherever a new flock of birds appears. You discover new wooded groves full of insect-eating warblers, tiny little marshes with sneaky Virginia Rails, or berry-laden bushes overrun by hungry thrushes. And you can do all of this without the rumbles and slams of engines and car doors. Last year, The Big RIDE! team rode for 13 miles and found exactly 100 bird species, including a Prairie Warbler and a Chestnut-sided Warbler that had navigated off-course during their long southward fall migration. The Big RIDE! even creates a new way to pledge donations – instead of donating a fixed amount or a per-bird quantity, you can donate an amount per hour or mile ridden! Entering its second year, The Big RIDE! is a relatively new addition to the events of The Big SIT!. We hope it will become a long-standing tradition. **To participate in the BIG RIDE!, or to pledge, contact Rob Furrow: robertfurrow@gmail.com**

The Big SIT!<sup>TM</sup> is hosted by *Bird Watcher's Digest* and the New Haven Bird Club, and is sponsored by Swarovski Optik. The Big SIT! is a registered trademark of the New Haven Bird Club, Inc. The Big RIDE! is an idea hived off from the original by the sheer brilliance of the fit, adventurous, and green members of Sequoia Audubon Society.



The Big SIT! photo by Donna Pomeroy



## Count With Us on the Christmas Bird Count!

This is the Christmas Bird Count's 117<sup>th</sup> year, the longest running citizen science project in the US. The data is used to study the long-term health and status of bird populations. SAS has two count circles. The Crystal Springs count will be held on Saturday, December 17, and the Ano Nuevo count on Saturday, December 31 (come celebrate New Years Eve with us). Post-count dinners wrap up the day. Contact Leslie Flint at [lflint@earthlink.net](mailto:lflint@earthlink.net) or register online beginning October 1 at <http://www.sequoia-audubon.org/>



## SF Bay Habitat Restoration Measure AA Passes

Voters in nine Bay Area counties passed Measure AA, which will raise \$500 million for wetland restoration throughout San Francisco Bay. The Measure needed a two-thirds vote by all voters in the nine Bay Area counties and passed by a 69% percent margin (71.4% in San Mateo County). The Measure imposes a flat tax of \$12 per parcel per year on properties throughout the region for the next 23 years. The purpose of the tax is "to protect and restore San Francisco Bay to benefit future generations by reducing trash and harmful toxins, improving water quality, restoring habitat for fish, birds and wildlife, protecting communities from flooding and increasing shoreline public access and recreation areas." Specific projects in San Mateo County include: Coyote Point, Bair Island, and the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project: Ravenswood.

Thank you to everyone who voted!

## MEETING PROGRAMS

### October 13, 2016 “Wildlife of the American West: Behavior and Photography” with Brent Paull

Brent will present a fascinating program about the wildlife of the western United States, and wildlife photography tactics. His emphasis will be on photographing bobcats in California and wildlife photography in Yellowstone National Park.



Charging Cinnamon Black Bear photo by Brent Paull

Brent was born in Redwood City, raised in Gilroy, camped each summer in Yosemite and Lake Tahoe and has spent countless hours exploring the California coast and the Sierra Nevada Mountains. After graduating from Brigham Young University, he and a friend made a trip to Yellowstone and that trip led to his first published article with photos. From that point on, he was determined to create a life for himself in nature in the western United States, through photography and by writing about all he saw and discovered. He leads photo safaris around the west and teaches photography in 22 cities in California.



Brent Paull

### November 10, 2016 “Birds of Belize and Tikal, Guatemala” with Rich Cimino

Rich will share photos of the birds and maps of Belize and Tikal, which have been assembled over the years by him. Belize, a part of the Yucatan Peninsula, is a bird-rich country located on the migration path for some of our spring and summer species. Lying on the Caribbean Sea, it is bordered by Mexico to the north and Guatemala to the west. Rich is from Marin County and is the the owner and operator for Yellowbilled Tours which offers annual field trips into Alaska, Belize, Guatemala and US birding destinations. This is Rich’s second presentation to Sequoia Audubon. Last year he presented his Birds of Alaska. Rich is also the compiler for the eastern Alameda County CBC and is active in the Altamont Pass Wind Turbine repowering program, north bay shorebird and heron rookery surveys and other conservation initiatives.



Rich Cimino

### December 8, 2016 “Birding Antarctica by Cruise Ship” with Joe Morlan



King Penguins photo by Joe Morlan

Joe Morlan will describe the birds and wildlife encountered while on a 21-day cruise from Valparaiso to Buenos Aires in February 2015. Large cruise ships can provide a stable, comfortable platform for watching seabirds. Numerous penguins, petrels and albatrosses grace the imposing Antarctic seascape while cruising through Drake Passage, past Cape Horn to Antarctic Sound, Danco Coast, and Palmer Archipelago. Joe also arranged land bird expeditions at various ports of call. Flightless Steamer-Ducks and an endemic subspecies of the Fire-eyed Diucon were at Chiloé Island. Black-chested Buzzard-Eagles and Correndera Pipits were in the highlands above Puerto Chacabuco. The enigmatic Magellanic Plover and Band-tailed Earthcreeper were at Punta Arenas. Stops at Ushuaia, the Falklands and Montevideo offered such species as Dolphin Gull, King Penguin, and Giant Wood-Rail. Join us for what promises to be an entertaining and informative presentation.



## Sequoia Field Trips

### Seeking Vagrants at Point Reyes National Seashore

#### Saturday & Sunday, October 1 & 2 (RSVP required)

Join us for spectacular birding at one of the best locations in the country! In early October fall migration is in full swing, and this is peak time for arrival of vagrant species that may have been blown off course. Our trip will focus on looking for any vagrants that have been previously reported, as well as visiting most of the well-known vagrant “traps” to find our own! Certain species of wood warblers reliably appear every fall: American Redstarts and Palm, Blackpoll, Prairie, and Chestnut-sided warblers are some of the most “common” vagrants, but almost anything can turn up. With a supporting cast of returning winter visitors, this is an amazing place to spend a fall weekend! This trip will start with dinner on the evening of Friday Sept 30. **Please confirm your participation to Adam Dudley (Adam.Dudley@iCloud.com).** Note: trip is full but waiting list available.

### San Francisco Botanical Garden

#### Sunday, October 2, 8:00 am-11:00 am

Combined walk with Golden Gate Audubon & San Francisco Botanical Garden, Ninth and Lincoln, San Francisco. Join the Golden Gate Audubon Society monthly walk. We will stroll around the garden, admiring the plants and birds. This is an easy walking tour and could be suitable for wheelchairs (contact the leader for more info). This month we will be hoping for migrants. **Directions:** Take Hwy 280 north to 19th Avenue. Go north on 19th Ave, then right on Judah, and left on Ninth. Cross Lincoln into the Park and park on the street. The entrance will be on the left. **Leader:** Ginny Marshall (ginnybirder@gbcglobal.net) and others.

### Pescadero State Beach

#### Wednesday, October 5, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

We will meet at the furthest end of the second (middle) parking lot for Pescadero State Beach. This is the parking lot just south of the creek mouth. It does not require a fee. We will spend some time looking for shorebirds and seabirds from the bluff, then drive a short distance to another part of the park to look for landbirds. There is a wide variety of habitats in this park and we will hope to see quite a few species. Scopes will be very useful on this trip, so bring one along if you have one. Expect cool and breezy weather here, but warmer when we go inland. **Directions:** From Half Moon Bay, take Highway 1 south, about 15 miles toward Santa Cruz. As you approach Pescadero, you will see extensive marsh on the east side of the highway and the second parking lot will be on your right, just after you cross the bridge over Pescadero Creek mouth. **Leader:** Donna Pomeroy **Contact:** dpom@comcast.net

### Edgewood County Park

#### Sunday, October 9, 8:00 am (hike will last 3-4 hours)

Explore this gem of a park with Susie Hons. Hike through oak woodlands and natural meadows. Look for California Thrasher, Wrentit, Oak Titmouse and Western Bluebird year round. Hike 3-5 miles with some hills. **Directions:** Take 280 to Edgewood Rd. in San Carlos. Go east down Edgewood to the park entrance on the right. Meet at the Nature Center.

**Leader:** Susie Hons **Contact:** [susieturtlewings@mac.com](mailto:susieturtlewings@mac.com)

**Big SIT! Sunday, October 9 – to participate contact: gyrrlfalcon@earthlink.net**

**Big RIDE! Sunday, October 9 – to participate contact: robertfurrow@gmail.com**

### Fitzgerald Marine Reserve

#### Saturday, Oct 15, 9:00 am - 11:00 am

Some of the best birding can be found right near the parking lot in the willows by the road and in the cypress trees by the picnic tables. So that is where we will start! We will then proceed down to the beach area to scan for seabirds and shorebirds. From there we will take a leisurely walk into the park itself where there is a mix of good riparian habitat and a dense stand of conifer trees which should have some good migrant warbler possibilities. We will have the option of walking down to the beach via the stairs at the south end of the park. Our trip back to the parking lot will be along the bluff top where we will have good views of the ocean and birds passing by. **Directions:** Meet at the Fitzgerald Marine parking lot. Fitzgerald Marine Reserve is located west of Highway 1 in Moss Beach, 7 miles north of Half Moon Bay, and 21 miles south of San Francisco. From Highway 1 at Moss Beach, turn west on California Avenue and proceed to the parking lot at the end of the street. The Reserve’s main entrance is at the end of California Avenue. On weekends, allow 45 minutes to reach the Reserve from the intersection of Highways 280 and 92. There are restrooms at the parking lot. **Leaders:** Malia DeFelice and Chris Hayward. **Contact:** malia.defelice.sas@gmail.com or 650-346-2009 (call if you are running late or lost). *Heavy rain cancels.*

### Filoli Estate (RSVP required)

#### Saturday, October 22, 8:30 am to 12:00 pm

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. Reservations are required because this trip is limited to 20 people maximum (sorry, no children under 14). Participants may remain after the field trip to walk through the house and/or formal gardens at no charge. No food or picnicking is allowed but light food and beverages at the Cafe are available for purchase and the gift shop will be open. **Directions:** Take Hwy 280 to the Edgewood 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. **Heavy Rain Cancels. Call Sue James 650-348-0315 to reserve your spot.**

**Leaders:** Sue James and Martha O'Neal.

### **Radio Road**

#### **Wednesday, November 2, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm**

The ponds at Radio Road are productive year-round for waterbirds of all kinds. In winter, there are a large number of ducks and shorebirds that rest and feed here. This location is a favorite among bird photographers. Bring binoculars, cameras, and scopes if you have them. This location is mostly flat and we will never be very far from the cars. It is wheelchair accessible. No restroom is available at this location. We will meet at the parking lot for the dog park. **Directions:** Radio Road is located at the northeastern end of Redwood Shores Parkway. From US 101, take exit 411 to Redwood Shores Parkway and head toward the bay. In a few miles, look for the tall electrical towers just past a slough on your right. There is a sign there that says "SBSA 1400 Radio Road." Turn right at this sign; you are now on Radio Road. You come to a stop sign; in front of you are the ponds of Radio Road; to your right is the Dog Park. Turn right and you will reach the main parking lot for Radio Road.

**Leader:** Donna Pomeroy **Contact:** [dpom@comcast.net](mailto:dpom@comcast.net)

### **Coyote Point County Park**

#### **Saturday, November 12, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm**

We will meet in the parking lot by the Yacht Club and walk trails at a leisurely pace. We will bird the fresh-water marsh, the shoreline out to the harbor entrance and the trail through the eucalyptus grove to the grassy area above the museum - about 1 1/2 miles all told. High tide is 9:55am so we will be there at a good time to see shorebirds close-in as the tide recedes. **Directions:** Take Hwy 101 and follow the signs to the park. There is an admission fee of \$6 per vehicle. Beginners welcome! **Heavy rain cancels.**

**Leaders:** Sue Cossins ([susancossins@gmail.com](mailto:susancossins@gmail.com)) and Martha O'Neal ([monealbirds@att.net](mailto:monealbirds@att.net))

### **Wavecrest, Half Moon Bay**

#### **Sunday, November 20, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm**

The focus on this trip will be on raptors. The grasslands of Wavecrest are an important wintering grounds for a variety of species of raptors, especially White-tailed Kites, Northern Harriers and Red-tailed Hawks; as well as Red-shouldered Hawks and American Kestrels. The numbers of these birds here are impressive! We will also walk down to the bluffs overlooking the ocean and look for shorebirds and waterbirds. Expect cool and breezy weather. Scopes will be useful here, so bring one along if you have one.

**Directions:** Meet at the west end of Wavecrest Road by the ball fields. Wavecrest Road is 1.5 miles south of Highways 1 & 92 in Half Moon Bay at the intersection with the red double-decker bus at Cameron's Pub and Inn.

**Leader:** Leslie Flint **Contact:** [lfint@earthlink.net](mailto:lfint@earthlink.net)

### **Pescadero State Beach and Environs**

#### **Saturday, November 26, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm**

Work off those Thanksgiving meals with a long, but easy, hike exploring the Pescadero Marsh area! We will meet at the northernmost end of the second (middle) parking lot for Pescadero State Beach. This is the parking lot just south of the creek mouth. It does not require a fee. We will spend some time looking for shorebirds and seabirds from the bluff. We will then drive a short distance to a dirt parking lot at the intersection of Hwy 1 and Pescadero Road where we will journey into the marsh and walk along trails which will allow us to view waterfowl, herons, egrets, raptors and other marsh birds up close and personal. If time and energy allows, we will head over to Water Lane to look for land birds. Water Lane takes us to the "back" of the marsh and is a great spot for warblers in fall and winter. There are a wide variety of habitats in this park and we will hope to see quite a few species. Expect cool and breezy weather here, but warmer when we go inland. Restrooms are located at the first parking lot. **Directions:** From Half Moon Bay, take Highway 1 south, about 15 miles toward Santa Cruz. As you approach Pescadero, you will see an extensive marsh on the east side of the highway and the second parking lot will be on your right, just after you cross the bridge over Pescadero Creek mouth. **Leaders:** Malia DeFelice and Chris Hayward. **Contact:** [malia.defelice.sas@gmail.com](mailto:malia.defelice.sas@gmail.com) 650-346-2009 (call if you are running late or lost) **Heavy rain cancels.**

### **Bedwell Bayfront Park, Menlo Park**

#### **Saturday, December 3, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm**

If you are just starting to dip your toe in the duck pond and would like to learn about ducks, shorebirds, what the Pacific flyway is

and how our region features in it, then join us for an early winter look at what birds have arrived so far. There should be land birds to see, too. This trip is for beginning birders and those trying to remember the ID skills they learned last winter. **Directions:** Take Marsh Road exit from Highway 101 and go Bay-ward straight through traffic light at Bayfront Expressway and Haven Avenue into the park. Meet in the parking lot (by the restrooms). Entrance is free. **Leader:** Chris MacIntosh **Contact:** cmaci@sbcglobal.net, 650-839-1523.

### **Pillar Point Harbor**

#### **Wednesday, December 7, 9:00 am -12:00 pm**

Pillar Point is a hot spot for birding year-round. We should find a variety of resident birds and wintering 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 Highway One, 18 miles south of San Francisco and 4 miles north of Half Moon Bay. From Coast Highway One, turn west at the stoplight at Capistrano Road 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 Avenue. Proceed through the boat yards to the end of Harvard Avenue, then turn right onto West Point Avenue, which curves around a marshy area and heads uphill to an Air Force Radar Facility. Meet at the “West Shoreline Access”, popularly known as the parking lot to Mavericks, just below the radar station. **Leader:** Donna Pomeroy **Contact:** dpom@comcast.net

### **Cowell-Purisima Trail**

#### **Saturday, December 10, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm**

This morning's field trip will explore Cowell-Purisima Trail. We will be looking for raptors and grassland birds like sparrows, meadowlarks and pipits. Ocean views provide good seawatching opportunities for sea birds. This area features the coastal terrace prairie habitat, similar to Wavecrest and Blufftop parks further north in Half Moon Bay. At the turnaround point of our walk, there is a good riparian area where we can search for wintering warblers. This trip would be especially appropriate for photographers - both new and experienced - because of the sweeping vistas and hawks in flight. The plan is to walk a 4-mile roundtrip to the creek and back. The walk is flat except for the last descent into the creek area and return ascent back to the flat trail. There are restrooms at the parking lot. **Directions:** meet at the parking lot on Hwy 1, about three miles south of 92, across from Bob's Produce Stand. **Leaders:** Malia DeFelice and Chris Hayward. **Contact:** 650-346-2009 (call if you are running late or lost) **Heavy rain cancels.**

### **Best of San Mateo Bayside Winter Birding (RSVP required)**

#### **Saturday, December 10, 12:00 pm - dusk**

Join us for spectacular winter birding in San Mateo County! Early December is peak time to see most of the wildfowl, shorebirds, raptors and songbirds that spend the winter with us. The exact itinerary will be flexible and based on birds that have been reported over the previous few days. But expect to visit sites such as Redwood Shores and Foster City Lagoons, Nob Hill Pond, Radio Road, and Coyote Point, finishing the day at Bair Island around dusk. Birds such as Short-Eared Owl, Barrow's Goldeneye, Harlequin Duck, Greater White-Fronted and Cackling Geese, Eurasian Wigeon and Loggerhead Shrike may join our more regular winter visitors. This trip can be combined with the morning SAS trip to Cowell-Purisima Coastal Trail (led by Malia DeFelice and Chris Hayward) or enjoyed on its own. **Please register your interest with Adam Dudley at Adam.Dudley@iCloud.com. Trip limited to 14 participants.**

**Christmas Bird Count, Saturday, December 17 to participate contact: lflint@earthlink.net**

**Christmas Bird Count, Saturday, December 31 to participate contact: lflint@earthlink.net**

## ***State Park Trips***

### **Monthly Nature Walks Offered by California State Park Docents at Pescadero Marsh:**

Docents lead nature walks the first Sunday of each month from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm (Oct 2, Nov 6, Dec 4); and third Sunday from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm (Oct 16, Nov 20, Dec 18). Dress in layers, bring binoculars, water, wear a hat, and enjoy the marsh. Meet the volunteer docents in the middle parking area for Pescadero State Beach on Highway 1. Pescadero State Beach has three parking areas. **Directions:** From the north, the parking area for marsh walks is immediately south of the bridge, on your right. From the south, the lot is 1/4 mile past the flashing light at Pescadero Road and before you reach the bridge, on your left. More info: [http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=26931](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=26931)

## OFFICERS

**President:** Ginny Marshall (acting)  
**Vice President:** Ginny Marshall  
**Secretary:** Rob Furrow  
**Treasurer:** Aakansha Mehrotra  
**At Large:** Doug Brown, Marshall Dinowitz, Adam Dudley, Nelle Lyons, Doug Pomeroy, Jennifer Rycenga, Susan Stratton

## Consulting Biologist

Alvaro Jaramillo

## COMMITTEES

**Audubon Canyon Ranch Representative**  
John Epperson

**Bluebird Recovery**  
Caryl Carr caryl@gmail.com

**Christmas Count**  
Al Demartini al\_demar@yahoo.com  
Leslie Flint lfint@earthlink.net

**Speakers Programs**  
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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**  
P.O. Box 620292  
Woodside, CA  
94062-0292

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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.

**amazon**smile

## 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>.

## Have fun and help birds – volunteer!

We're looking for an Environmental Educator, Graphic Designers, Field Trip Leaders and a home office. If you have skills, talents and enthusiasm, we want you!

## 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

Individual membership for seniors (>62)  
and students (<25) \$15.00  
Individual membership \$20.00  
Family membership \$25.00  
Donation to SAS \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I am interested in volunteering \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter Preference:

\_\_\_\_\_ Mail and / or \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

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**P.O. Box 620292, Woodside, CA 94062-0292**

Contact us: **650.529.1454**

or

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Visit our website: [www.sequoia-audubon.org](http://www.sequoia-audubon.org)

**Check out our Online Birding Guide:**

[www.birding.sequoia-audubon.org](http://www.birding.sequoia-audubon.org)

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