



# SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

*Volume 73, No. 4  
October - December 2022*

## SAS NEEDS YOU

Sequoia Audubon is a great local Audubon society! We have it all - history, accomplishments, innovations, fabulous field trips, and a track record of standing up for the environment of San Mateo County. BUT we need YOU! Specifically, we need volunteers to work on the Conservation and Education committees, help with the San Mateo County Birding Guide, and consider Board Positions. We are especially eager to have younger people step up with the concerns of the twenty-first century and take their place on the committees and boards. It would be wonderful to add people with backgrounds in fund-raising and conservation to the board. Keep Sequoia strong! Volunteer today.

– Jennifer Rycenga, President

## Join us for this year's Christmas Bird Count

Sequoia Audubon sponsors two CBC's: Crystal Springs, which will fall on Saturday, December 17, 2022, and Año Nuevo (ready to celebrate?) on Saturday, December 31, 2022.

New counters are always welcome: we'll probably team you with someone more experienced for your first time. It's a great way to contribute to science for birds and have a fun day out as well.

News: Leslie Flint has retired as the Coordinator of the CBC after 17 years! Our new CBC Coordinator is Chris MacIntosh. Al DeMartini will continue this year as Compiler until he can find a replacement. Is there anyone out there willing to learn this task and take over from Al in future years?

Perhaps you prefer not to spend an entire day counting birds for the CBC; if not, how about helping us with either or both of the two CBC compilation dinners? We are planning to hold the dinners in person this year (COVID willing) and it would be a great help to the Coordinator to have help assistance coordinating the dinners. One is in San Mateo and the other is coast-side. No bird skills needed!

Visit our website to learn more about participating and sign up.  
Or contact Chris MacIntosh, [cbc@sequoia-audubon.org](mailto:cbc@sequoia-audubon.org), 650.464.2877

## Monthly Meetings

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays at 7:00 pm  
San Mateo Garden Center or Zoom  
605 Parkside Way, San Mateo

### October 13 - Zoom

C3JV - American Bird Conservancy  
*Connor Jandreau*

### November 10 - Garden Center

BioBlitzes  
*Jennifer Rycenga & Merav Vonshak*

### December 8 - Garden Center

Birds & Wildlife of SE Arizona  
*Joe Morlan*

## Upcoming Field Trips

### October

Thurs., Oct. 6 - Filoli  
Sat., Oct. 8 - Lower La Honda OSP  
Sat., Oct. 15 - Laurelwood  
Sun., Oct. 16 - Bedwell Bayfront  
Sun., Oct. 23 - Wavecrest  
Thurs., Oct. 27 - Natural Bridges  
Sun., Oct. 30 - Woodside  
Mon., Oct. 31 - Pillar Pt. Harbor

### November

Thurs., Nov. 3 - Filoli  
Fri., Nov. 11 - Wavecrest  
Sat., Nov. 12 - Pescadero & Palo Alto  
Sat., Nov. 19 - Bair Island  
Tues., Nov. 22 - Pescadero

### December

Sat., Dec. 3 - Bedwell Bayfront  
Fri., Dec. 9 - Pillar Pt. Bluffs  
Sat., Dec. 10 - Nob Hill Pond

## MEETING PROGRAMS

### **October 13 – Zoom**

#### **California Central Coast Joint Venture** – American Bird Conservancy, *Connor Jandreau, Conservation Coordinator*

The California Central Coast Joint Venture (C3JV) is a cooperative, regional partnership of Federal, Indigenous, State, Local, Academic, and Non-Governmental Organizations working collaboratively to steward healthy and resilient habitats for birds, other wildlife, and people. California's Central Coast boasts superlative ecological diversity, ranging from the southern extent of old-growth redwoods, the state's largest stands of coastal oak woodlands, to some of earth's rarest dune ecosystems. The rich complexion of soil regimes, geophysical variation, climatic factors, and millennia of human land uses have resulted in this complexity of natural communities, in turn supporting some of the highest measures of biodiversity and endemism in North America. The C3JV region includes portions of what are known today as San Mateo, San Benito, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Kern, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties-- the sacred homelands of dozens of Indigenous Chumash, Hokan, and Penutian Linguistic groups. The C3JV, fiscally sponsored by American Bird Conservancy, is on the road to recognition as a United States Fish and Wildlife Service Migratory Bird Joint Venture, joining a community of 23 JVs across North America representing regional partnerships working to conserve, enhance and protect habitats for birds.

As Conservation Coordinator of the C3JV, Connor Jandreau relocated to the Central Coast in late 2020 with his family to help build the JV program. Originally raised in western Colorado, the traditional territory of the Nuu-ahga-tuvu-pu (Ute) Nations, Connor has traversed widely across the intermountain west and internationally seeking to contribute meaningfully to human-land relationships. His work has focused on the nexus between community and conservation, striving for answers to the elusive adage of living on the land 'without spoiling it.' He is motivated by models of land use that bridge human well-being and biodiversity conservation. As Coordinator, he supports, facilitates, and fosters the emergent C3JV as we envision strategies that strengthen outcomes for birds, wildlife, and people. Connor earned a B.A. in studio art, a B.S. in fish, wildlife, and conservation biology, both from Colorado State University and an M.S. in Natural Resource Management from the University of Manitoba, Canada.

### **November 10 – Live at the San Mateo Garden Center and Zoom**

#### **Longitudinally Yours – A Decade of Grassroots BioBlitzes in the Bay Area** – *Jennifer Rycenga, Sequoia Audubon President and Merav Vonshak, BioBlitz Club President*

Since the first BioBlitz to build on the iNaturalist platform was held at Ft. Funston in 2013, the community has grown. Sequoia Audubon joined early, with BioBlitzes every year since 2014. In 2019, the South Bay eagerly and persistently joined the fray with the formation of the BioBlitz Club, which holds blitzes every month and sometimes two or three per month.

A BioBlitz is a kind of Flash Mob for Nature observation. People with any interest in nature – whether general or specific to one taxa like birds, bugs, or slime molds – gather at a specific place on a pre-announced day. Once assembled, they do a curiosity-and-interest-driven informal survey of whatever they can find there. At the conclusion participants gather to help each other with identifications and to share unusual sightings.

The BioBlitz as a form of nature outreach has proven to be quite resilient, as it appeals to all ages and interests. It is also a natural way to build coalitions with other groups, from the most prestigious (like California Academy of Sciences) to the most humble (like park associations and troops). BioBlitzing is not only fun, but it is the smartest use of a smartphone!

But is it useful? This skeptical question can now be answered, as we are starting to build data sets at the regional, county, and local levels that contain some surprises and, in an era of rapid climate change, form a strong control set of data for tracing future change.

Merav Vonshak and Jennifer Rycenga have organized, between them, almost one hundred bioblitzes in the past decade. They will discuss the who, what, where, when, and why of this budding community-science approach to engagement with the natural world. You will also be invited to a BioBlitz on November 12 sponsored by SAS and the BioBlitz Club.

Jennifer Rycenga is the Board President (outgoing) of Sequoia Audubon Society, a role she has held for more than a decade. She edits the local online site guide, the San Mateo County Birding Guide. ([birding.sequoia-audubon.org](http://birding.sequoia-audubon.org))

Merav Vonshak has a Ph.D. in entomology from Tel Aviv University and completed her postdoctoral work at Stanford University. She is president of the BioBlitz Club.

### **December 8 – Live at the San Mateo Garden Center and Zoom**

#### **Birds and Wildlife of Southeastern Arizona** – *Joe Morlan*

Joe Morlan will present photos and discuss the birds and wildlife seen on summer visits to Southeastern Arizona. We will be visiting several "sky islands," mountain ranges with connections to Pine Oak habitat more closely associated with Northern Mexico. We will also explore grassland habitat which enjoys a "second spring" in late summer with monsoon thundershowers that turn the grass green and allow special birds to breed for a second time. Highlights will include a variety of rare sparrows, flycatchers, brilliantly colored hummingbirds, Elegant Trogon, and the mysterious Mexican Duck. Please join us for what promises to be an educational and entertaining presentation.

Joe Morlan taught Field Ornithology at City College in San Francisco for forty years. He was awarded the American Birding Association's Ludlow Griscom Award for outstanding contributions to regional ornithology in 2010 and served on the California Bird Records Committee for thirty years, most recently as chair.



## Sequoia Field Trips



### **Thursday, October 6, 2022, Filoli Historic House and Garden, Woodside (9:30-12:00)**

Join us for a 2-2.5-mile moderate bird walk in the Filoli Gardens and Estate trail in mixed oak, redwood, and madrone woodlands, riparian corridor and historic horse pasture. The walk around the historic house and gardens is on brick, cement, and flat dirt paths. The Estate trail is a mile on dirt paths with a slight incline. Restrooms are available. We may see as many as 50 bird species, 33 of those year-round residents. Our leader, Kimberlie Moutoux, has been walking these trails four times a week for the last two years and is excited to share her knowledge of the property and its bird species. Bring your binoculars! Directions: 86 Canada Rd, From I- 280, exit Edgewood Rd and go west. Turn right at Canada Rd. In ½ mile, take a left turn into the property. Register by emailing the leader. Your confirmation email will provide ticket purchase instructions. Tickets are \$25/ adult, \$22/ senior, \$20/ student, teacher, military, and free for Filoli members. Explore the historic house and grounds after the bird walk.

**Leader:** Kimberlie Moutoux, kimberliemoutoux@gmail.com. Rain or AQI over 150 cancels.

### **Saturday, October 8, 2022, Lower La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, La Honda (8:00-12:00)**

Easy, mostly level, 2-3 mile bird walk in scrub, grassland, and a small forest. We'll look for resident grassland species, including Wild Turkey, California Quail, and raptors.

A primitive restroom is available, water is not.

Directions: Take SR 84 to La Honda, turn north on Sears Ranch Rd (opposite Applejacks bar), and follow it to the Lower La Honda Creek Preserve parking lot, 900 Sears Ranch Rd.

**Leader:** Troy Pittock, TroyPittock@gmail.com. National Weather Service Red Flag Warning Weather conditions cancel the trip as the preserve is closed under those conditions. Rain or AQI over 150 cancels. Register <https://bit.ly/3Cg5ikV>

### **Saturday, October 15, 2022, Laurelwood Park, San Mateo (8:30-11:00)**

Join us for a 2-2.5-mile moderate bird walk in mixed oak woodland, chaparral, riparian, and suburban habitat. Laurelwood Park is a mixed-use neighborhood park with a children's playground, field, and picnic tables. There are packed dirt trails with moderate hills. We'll look for resident birds as well as fall migrants. Optional: After the walk, take the steep climb to the top of Sugarloaf Mountain for spectacular views.

Directions: Laurelwood Park 3471 Glendora Dr. From Hwy 92, Exit DeAnza Blvd East, DeAnza turns into Glendora. You will see the park in the valley on your right. Meet at the dirt parking lot at Glendora Dr. and Parkwood Dr.

**Leader:** Emily Kim, ekim5631@gmail.com. Rain or AQI over 150 cancels. Register <https://bit.ly/3dAN3MG>

### **Sunday, October 16, 2022, Bedwell Bayfront Park, Menlo Park (10:00-12:00)**

Beginner and family-friendly bird walk exploring the upland and wetland areas of the park. Wintering shorebirds and waterfowl will be present. Raptors, egrets, and LBBs (little brown birds) can also be seen. Bring your binoculars and refillable water bottle.

Directions: From US 101, take Marsh Rd east (SR84 East), then continue straight on Marsh Rd into the park. Meet in the parking lot with restrooms.

**Leader:** JR Blair, JRBlair20@gmail.com. Rain or AQI over 150 cancels. Register <https://bit.ly/3w8SM2O>

### **Sunday, October 23, 2022, Wavecrest Open Space Preserve, Half Moon Bay (8:00-12:00)**

This is a 2-3 mile level bird walk through a vital hawk and raptor wintering site ending with an ocean scan for loons and other seabirds on the water. Scopes are useful. We expect to see Northern Harriers, American Kestrels, White-tailed Kites, and other species.

Directions: Meet at 399 Wavecrest Road by Smith Field. It is 1.5 miles south of SR 1 & 92 in Half Moon Bay. Look for the red double-decker bus at Cameron's Pub and Inn.

**Leader:** Ginny Marshall, ginnybirder@gmail.com. Rain or AQI over 150 cancels. Register <https://bit.ly/3PtsY8e>

### **Thursday, October 27, 2022, Natural Bridges State Park, Santa Cruz (8:30-12:00)**

We will take a 2-3 mile walk looking for fall migrants, shorebirds, and water birds. Monarch Butterflies should be present since they overwinter in the park.

Directions: From SR1, southbound entering Santa Cruz, turn right on Western Ave, right on University Business Park, left on Natural Bridges Dr, and proceed to the intersection with Delaware Ave. Turn right on Delaware Ave and park. Approx. address 2340 Delaware Ave. AQI over 150 or rain cancels.

**Leader:** Nelle Lyons, 1tigger1nl@gmail.com. Register: <https://bit.ly/3ecwAhO>

**Sunday, October 30, 2022, Sunrise Drive, Woodside (8:30 – 11:30)**

We will look for birds in an area of willows, oak, and buckeye trees along a small creek and in second-growth redwoods. We are likely to see year-round resident birds, birds arriving for winter, and maybe migrating birds making a brief stop before heading further south. This 2.5-mile walk will take us by tributaries of Alambique Creek to a historic logging bridge. Most of the route is on paved or unpaved roads of slight to moderate grade. There is a pit toilet along the way.

Directions: Take Hwy 84 (La Honda Rd) headed west from I-280 to Skywood Way. Turn right on Skywood Way, right on Sunrise, and park alongside the right shoulder (Use 100 Sunrise Dr, Woodside for GPS). Rain or AQI over 150 cancels.

**Leader:** Christin New, new.a.christin@gmail.com. Register: <https://bit.ly/3dwgsrg>

**Monday, October 31, 2022, Pillar Point Harbor, Half Moon Bay (8:00-11:00)**

Pillar Point is a year-round birding hot spot. We'll find a variety of resident birds and, hopefully, some migrating shorebirds. Scopes will be helpful here. Most of the walk will be a fairly level dirt trail with some sand. A primitive restroom is available. Directions: The harbor is west of SR 1, 18 miles south of San Francisco, and 4 miles north of Half Moon Bay. From SR 1, turn west at Capistrano Rd. Turn left onto Prospect, then a brief jog right on Broadway, to an immediate left on Harvard Ave. Proceed through the boat yards to the end of Harvard Ave, then turn right on West Point Ave. Meet at the "West Shoreline Access," the parking lot to Mavericks. Rain or AQI over 150 cancels.

**Leader:** Donna Pomeroy, dpom@comcast.net. Register: <https://bit.ly/3bUJAIs>

**Thursday, November 3, 2022, Filoli Historic House and Garden, Woodside (9:30-12:00)**

See October 6 trip for description and registration information. An entrance fee is required.

**Leader:** Kimberlie Moutoux, kimberliemoutoux@gmail.com.

**Friday, November 11, 2022, Wavecrest Open Space Preserve, Half Moon Bay (9:00-12:00)**

The grasslands of Wavecrest Open Space Preserve are important wintering grounds for a variety of raptors species, 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. Scopes will be helpful here.

Directions: Meet at 399 Wavecrest Road, 1.5 miles south of SR 1 & 92 in Half Moon Bay. Look for the red double-decker bus at Cameron's Pub. Rain or AQI over 150 cancels.

**Leader:** Donna Pomeroy, dpom@comcast.net. Register <https://bit.ly/3Cffg5R>

**Saturday, November 12, 2022, Water Lane and Pescadero State Nature Reserve (8:30–12:00)**

Easy 2 to 3-mile bird walk at Water Lane on the eastern marsh edge featuring a mix of habitats. We will start at the parking lot, and depending on bird activity; we may relocate our vehicles and visit additional marsh areas. There are no restrooms or water at Water Lane, but public restrooms are available at Pescadero State Beach nearby.

Directions: Take SR1 towards Pescadero and then turn east at Pescadero Creek Road. Proceed about 1.1 miles east and look for the Water Lane street sign on the left (north) side and turn left to approx 350 Water Lane, where you will see a California State Park sign.

**Leader:** Troy Pittcock, TroyPittcock@gmail.com. Rain or AQI over 150 cancels. Register <https://bit.ly/3K2cbI4>

**Saturday, November 12, 2022, Charleston Slough for Beginning Birders, Palo Alto (8:30-11:00)**

A family-friendly and beginner 1-2 mile bird walk along level trails at Charleston Slough. We will look for shorebirds, ducks, other waterfowl, and some "little brown birds" (sparrows, wrens, etc.) The slough and Coast Casey Forebay is a hotspot for birds year-round. Restroom available.

Directions: From US 101 exit 400 B San Antonio Rd North. Follow it to the end, which becomes Terminal Rd. The parking area fills up quickly on weekends. Meet near the Palo Alto Baylands Nature Preserve Trailhead.

**Leader:** Emily Kim, ekim56310@gmail.com\_Rain or AQI over 150 cancels. Register <https://bit.ly/3K1MkA1>

**Saturday, November 19, 2022, Bair Island Trail, Redwood City (9:00 – 11:00)**

Family-friendly beginner bird walk on level dirt trails exploring the Bair Island area. We should see a variety of ducks, shorebirds, and smaller songbirds. Restrooms are available in the parking lot.

Directions: From US 101 exit at Whipple Avenue. Heading east, it winds for 0.5 mile becoming East Bayshore Road, then Bair Island Road. Meet at the Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge Bair Island Trail parking lot.

**Leader:** J.R. Blair, JRBlair20@gmail.com. Rain or AQI over 150 cancels. Register <https://bit.ly/3w8uq98>

**Tuesday, November 22, 2022, Water Lane and Pescadero State Nature Reserve (8:00–12:00)**

Easy 2-3 mile bird walk at Water Lane on the eastern edge of the Pescadero Marsh, including a mix of upland, riparian, and wetland habitats. See November 12 trip for details.

**Leader:** Nelle Lyons, ltigger1nl@gmail.com. Rain or AQI over 150 cancels. Register: <https://bit.ly/3wNXsv5>

**Saturday, December 3, 2022, Bedwell Bayfront Park, Menlo Park (10:00-1:00)**

See October 16 trip description..

**Leader:** JR Blair, JRBlair20@gmail.com. Co-leader Chris MacIntosh. Rain or AQI over 150 cancels. Register <https://bit.ly/3pmHMuI>

**Friday, December 9, 2022, Pillar Point Bluff County Park, Half Moon Bay (9:00-12:00)**

Pillar Point Bluff Park has sweeping views of agricultural land and the ocean, with an uncrowded trail system. There is a nice mix of birds here, including California Thrashers. The trail is 1.5 -2 miles and is moderately easy, with a short but steep descent at the end of the loop. Restroom in the parking lot.

Directions: Meet at the Pillar Point Bluff Park parking lot on Airport Street. Rain or AQI over 150 cancels.

**Leader:** Donna Pomeroy, dpom@comcast.net. Register <https://bit.ly/3JXCPSB>

**Saturday, December 10, 2022, Nob Hill Pond and Redwood Shores for Beginners (9-11:30)**

This beginner and family-friendly bird walk is in a very good area to view a variety of ducks and other waterbirds. Time permitting, we may check some other birding sites nearby. Bring spotting scopes if you have them. Restrooms are available in the nearby shopping center.

Directions: From US 101 in San Carlos, take the Redwood Shores Parkway exit east past the Nob Hill shopping plaza, turn right on Bridge Parkway, then almost immediately turn right at Tiller Lane, proceed to Spar Drive, turn left to 698 Spar Drive, where there is a small cul-de-sac.

**Leader:** JR Blair, JRBlair20@gmail.com. Rain or AQI over 150 cancels. Register <https://bit.ly/3AzCnab>

## CONSERVATION UPDATE

As you will read below, Sequoia's Conservation Committee is never bored! We welcome help from our new members, whether sending an email to city council or commission, writing a Letter to the Editor in support of bird-safe building design or monitoring city meetings and actions on a project near you. Please get in touch with conservation @sequoia-audubon.org.

**Burlingame:** We are monitoring 3 large developments along the Bay shore, working to get bird-safe elements included in the design. We've commented on the development planned for 620 Airport Blvd. Our representative gave comments at the Planning Commission meeting, met with staff, and (together with Sierra Club reps) met with the developer of Peninsula Crossing, 1200-1340 Bayshore. The design is now updated to include bird-safe glass and lighting.

**Redwood City:** 4 projects Bay-side in this city. Redwood Life (Redwood Shores). We notified city Planning Dept of our concerns (other environmental organizations genuinely concerned). The Planning Dept rejected the proposal as incomplete as it left out crucial details. We await the revised proposal.

**East Palo Alto:** We continue to follow the 4 Corners/Ravenswood projects.

**Menlo Park:** The Corps of Engineers has revised its plans for the ecotone levee along Westpoint Slough (at Bedwell Bayfront Park). – *Chris MacIntosh*, Conservation Committee

**OFFICERS**

**Acting President:** Jennifer Rycenga  
**Vice President:** Open  
**Secretary:** Susan Stratton  
**Treasurer:** Julie Dull

**At Large:** Doug Brown, Beverly Cronin, Marshall Dinowitz, John Epperson, Nelle Lyons, Chris MacIntosh, Doug Pomeroy

**Consulting Biologist**

Alvaro Jaramillo

**COMMITTEES**

**Cavity Nesters Recovery Program**

Ronnie Eaton and Christin New  
cnp@sequoia-audubon.org

**Christmas Bird Count (CBC)**

Al Demartini al\_demar@yahoo.com  
Chris MacIntosh cbc@sequoia-audubon.org

**Speakers Programs**

OPEN programs@sequoia-audubon.org

**Conservation**

Chris MacIntosh conservation@sequoia-audubon.com

**Education**

OPEN education@sequoia-audubon.org

**Field Trips**

Doug Pomeroy fieldtrips@sequoia-audubon.org

**Hospitality**

OPEN hospitality@sequoia-audubon.org

**Membership Database**

OPEN needles@sequoia-audubon.org

**Newsletter Editor**

Davena Gentry office@sequoia-audubon.org

**Outreach**

Doug Brown outreach@sequoia-audubon.org

**Administrative Assistant**

Davena Gentry davena@sequoia-audubon.org

**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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**Seeking Newsletter Contributions – Articles and Photography!**

Do you enjoy reading articles by “just regular birders”? How about writing a short article for this newsletter? Sequoia’s newsletter is *for* you, so why not *by* you? You don’t have to be an expert birder. If you can write about how you got into birding/ what enthralles you about it/a good day out/rarities conservation, and other areas of interest, please email Davena at office@sequoia-audubon.org. High quality resolution photos, from San Mateo County, are especially appreciated.



**Conservation Through Federal Duck Stamps**

Buying Federal Duck Stamps is the simplest way to participate in wildlife and habitat conservation. We’re encouraging members to buy the stamp through the American Birding Association. <https://www.aba.org/store/2022-2023-duck-stamp>

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

Contact us: 650.529.1454

or

office@sequoia-audubon.org

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)

**Join our Discussion Group:**

General: <http://sequoia-audubon@groups.io>

Conservation: <http://conservation@sequoia-audubon.groups.io>

**Like us on Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/SequoiaAudubon>

**Sequoia Audubon Society Membership**

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:

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