



SEQUOIA NEEDLES

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

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November-January 2010-2011

THE CHANCE OF A LIFETIME

BY NANCY ARBUCKLE

Let your mind wander back to a time before diking and development dried the marshlands and paved over 85% of San Francisco Bay wetlands. Picture in particular 1433 shoreline acres in Redwood City...

The sky is filled with ducks and other waterfowl; there is an expanse of marshlands as far as the eye can see. Now watch as the tide comes in and lightly lifts the cordgrass. Look with your mind's eye for California clapper rails, moving through the marsh in search of invertebrates. Scan the horizon for birds of prey as they hunt in the nearby fields and grasslands. Count the shorebirds along the edge of the muddy slough, each beautifully adapted to this rich environment. Listen to the quiet — and the sound of the birds.

Now picture an alternative scene, one so jarring in its difference as to be almost inconceivable. The place is the same only now it is a small city. The marshlands have been filled in and one million (1,000,000) square feet of office and retail space cover what were once cordgrass-filled alleyways where clapper rails hid. As many as 12,000 homes stand where raptors once hunted and snowy plover nested. An estimated 8,000 vehicles come and go every hour during rush hour. It is a city of 30,000 on what was once a thriving salt marsh habitat.

A Mini-City on the Bay

Too frightening to be true? As shocking as it sounds, Minnesota-based agribusiness giant, Cargill, in conjunction with luxury-home developer, DMB Associates, propose to build a small city on restorable salt ponds on the east side of Highway

101 in Redwood City.

As the two entities that stand to make billions from this massive development, Cargill and DMB have done their best to win support for their project. They have spent millions on television and newspaper ads that deny the truth about the site's restorability. They suggest the development will create jobs and consumer spending but neglect to mention the cost of police and fire services, schools, libraries, wastewater treatment, traffic, and future levee construction and maintenance such a project inevitably requires. All of these will be borne by taxpayers long after Cargill and DMB have cleared out with their cash.

Other Salt Ponds Restored

Not only is restoration necessary, it is possible. Restoration of the Redwood City salt ponds is needed for flood protection and clean water as well as wildlife habitat. For example, just a few weeks ago we watched as the levees were breached at Cargill's former salt ponds along the Napa River. As the tide came in from San Pablo Bay, more than 1,000 acres that had been used to crystallize salt began gradually to flood. Soon they will be home to fish, birds, and other wildlife.

Redwood City's own zoning prohibits housing on these wetlands, identifying them in the General Plan as tidal plain and therefore inappropriate for housing. (Housing goals can be easily met elsewhere in the city, near transit and other amenities.)

(Continued on page 4)



Clapper Rail
Photo by Bob Cossins

Monthly Meetings

San Mateo Garden Center

November

Thursday, 11th, 7:00 PM

Program: Birding Class: Drawing Birds

December

Thursday, 9th, 7:00 PM

Program: Optics, Binocular, and Scoping Clinic

January

Thursday, 13th, 7:00 PM

Program: Birding Class: Winter Birding

(See program details on page 2)

Upcoming Field Trips

(See trip details beginning on page 3)

November

Saturday, 6th Shoreline Mountain View*

Sunday, 7th Redwood Shores

Sunday, 7th Pescadero Marsh*

Saturday, 13th Palo Alto Duck Pond

Saturday, 20th Pearson Arastradero

Sunday, 21st Pescadero Marsh*

December

Sunday, 5th Pescadero Marsh*

Sunday, 19th Colma Cemeteries

Sunday, 19th Pescadero Marsh*

January

Sunday, 2nd Pescadero Marsh*

Sunday, 9th Under-birded State Beaches

Saturday, 15th Bayside Localities

Sunday, 16th Pescadero Marsh*

* Beginner/Family Trip

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MEETING PROGRAMS

BY SUE COSSINS & SONNY
MENCHER

Birding Class: Guidelines for Drawing Birds

By Edward Rooks

Thursday November 11, 7:00 PM

Did you know that anyone can be taught to draw? Join naturalist and wildlife artist Edward Rooks to uncover the budding artist within you! Bring a pencil and some

Monthly Meetings

San Mateo Garden Center

605 Parkside Way, San Mateo

*Parkside Way is west of Alameda de las
Pulgas, between 26th and 28th Avenues.*

paper and we will draw a crow, an owl, a duck, an egret, and a hummingbird from projected photographs using guidelines and some basic understanding of bird anatomy.

Recommended supplies: a 5mm, HB mechanical pencil, eraser, and paper. Any pencil will do, but you will need a sharpener if you bring a regular wood barrel pencil.

Edward grew up on the Caribbean island nation of Trinidad and Tobago where he worked at the Asa Wright Nature Centre. Among Edward's awards and honors for his artwork are: 1st place for his painting of Trinidad's Oilbirds at the Los Gatos Art Gallery and 1st place for his painting of a California Tiger Salamander in the California Department of Fish and Game's Native Species Stamp Contest in 1994. His Golden Trout appeared on the 1993 California Sport Fishing License. Edward's illustrations appear in biological journals, nature magazines, booklets, newsletters, calendars, and brochures. In 2009 he illustrated a bilingual children's book. Edward teaches nature drawing in Antarctica for Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris, and he teaches drawing part-time at Santa Clara University. He has also given workshops on drawing at numerous local venues.

Since 1990, Edward has been leading natural history/birding tours to Trinidad and Tobago for the Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris. The next one will be in May 2011. For more information, see his website:

<http://www.rooksart.com/>

Accompanying Drawing Field Trip Palo Alto Duck Pond

2775 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto
Saturday November 13, 9:00 AM –
Noon

The duck pond is an ideal place to draw large tame birds at close range. Fall and winter is a great time to see the ducks, geese, gulls, and shorebirds that make their way to this popular pond. The field trip is open to everyone with a \$5.00 fee paid to the instructor. Same supplies recommended as for the class – please see above.

Directions: Drive east on Embarcadero Road in Palo Alto toward the Lucy Evans Baylands Nature Interpretive Center. Before you reach the Center you will see the duck pond on the left. It has an east and west parking lot. We'll meet in the east lot. There is a small picnic area nearby.

Potluck Dinners Cancelled

Due to declining attendance and rising costs of using the kitchen at the Garden Center, the SAS Board of Directors has decided to cancel our traditional December and June potlucks.

A May/June bird walk and potluck picnic at a local park has been proposed instead. Also, at 6:30 PM on December 9 a holiday dessert and hot beverages will be provided prior to the meeting and program. Thank you for your attendance in the past.

Overview of Modern Optics and Hands-on Binocular and Spotting Scope Clinic

By Steve White, Asst. Manager, Scope
City San Francisco
Thursday December 9, 7:00 PM

This invaluable clinic is for those who want to learn more about the primary tools of birdwatchers and nature lovers. Steve White, Senior Optical Advisor for Scope City in San Francisco, will talk about the different types of binoculars and spotting scopes

(Continued on page 5)

Shoreline Mountain View
Saturday November 6, 9:00 – 11:00 AM

This bayside location with salt marshes and shrubby grassland will provide views of a good variety of migrating and wintering waterfowl as well as land birds. Large flocks of White Pelicans are often a dramatic sight and there is a good chance for Black Skimmer, Cinnamon and Blue-winged Teal along with a variety of shorebirds. Viewing conditions are generally excellent for sorting out species with binoculars and telescope.

Directions: We will meet at the end of the San Antonio Road North exit from Hwy 101, about 35 miles (45 min.) south of San Francisco. Park along Terminal Blvd. (<http://tinyurl.com/367ebt8>).

Leader: Allan Ridley, 415-516-5999
Beginner/Family Trip

Redwood Shores**Sunday November 7, 8:30 AM – Noon**

Redwood Shores is more than Radio Road. Learn some of the other great places to bird. Nob Hill Pond, Davit Lane, Starboard and Marlin Parks, Belmont Slough, Oracle Pond, and the Sofitel Lagoon are some of the sites we will visit. We will take an approximately five-mile walk over flat terrain, passing several rest rooms.

Directions: Meet at 8:30 in front of Starbucks, next to Nob Hill Market, located about 1/3 mile east of the Holly Street/Redwood Shores Parkway exit off Highway 101.

Leader: Sonny Mencher,
sequoiaaudubon@yahoo.com

Field Trip Accompanying Drawing Class**Palo Alto Duck Pond****2775 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto**
Saturday November 13, 9:00 AM – Noon

The duck pond is an ideal place to draw large tame birds at close range. Fall and winter is a great time to see the ducks, geese, gulls, and shorebirds that make their way to this popular pond. The field trip is open to everyone with a \$5.00 fee paid to the instructor. Same supplies recommended as for the class – see

above.

Directions: Drive east on Embarcadero Road in Palo Alto toward the Lucy Evans Baylands Nature Interpretive Center.

Before you reach the center you will see the duck pond on the left. It has an east and west parking lot. We'll meet in the east lot. There's also a small picnic area nearby.

Leader: Edward Rooks,
Edward_rooks@comcast.net

Pearson-Arastradero Preserve Palo Alto**Saturday November 20, 8:00 AM – Noon**

Arastradero hosts many wintering hawks in meadows and oak woodlands. A pond may have wintering ducks and the oak trees attract woodpeckers, White-breasted Nuthatch, and other oak specialists. This is one of the best local spots to see the elusive California Thrasher. We will walk 3-4 miles slowly with some low hills.

Directions: From 280 take Page Mill Rd west. Turn right on Arastradero Rd. The entrance to the parking lot will be on your right.

Leader: Ginny Marshall,
ginnybirder@sbcglobal.net
Beginner/Family Trip

Scouting the San Francisco CBC at the Colma Cemeteries**Sunday December 19, 8:00 AM – Noon**

We will visit Cypress Lawn, Holy Cross, and Olivet cemeteries. Cypress Lawn Cemetery forms a beautiful park-like setting that happens to have amenities favorable to birds. The large lake and the smaller ornamental ponds at the entrance off El Camino Real are used in the recycling of the water used to maintain the grounds. The appeal to birds was undoubtedly secondary. The lake, ponds, and shores are populated by gulls, ducks, American Coots, Canada Geese, Black-crowned Night Herons, passerines, Rock Pigeons, and the occasional surprise bird. The surprises include Green-winged Teal, Greater White-fronted Geese, Eurasian Wigeon, and a lost Red Phalarope during the famous 'wreck' of December 26, 2005. One Marbled Godwit has been recorded there and a lone Pectoral

(Continued on page 4)

Audubon Canyon Ranch
Changes Preserve Name to
Honor Martin Griffin

By Leslie Flint

Audubon Canyon Ranch (ACR) honored ACR founder Dr. Martin Griffin by renaming the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve to the Martin Griffin Preserve effective August 1, 2010.

ACR was founded in 1962 by Griffin to save one of the largest heronries on the West Coast and to prevent intensive commercial development in the pristine area surrounding the colony. Since its founding, ACR has expanded to include the Cypress Grove Research Center in Marshall and the Bouverie Preserve in Glen Ellen. Today, ACR protects the native lands and species by conducting world-class conservation science and research, habitat protection and restoration projects, and delivering environmental education programs for adults and children.

For more information about ACR visit their website at www.egret.org.

George Chrisman's
County Report

The San Mateo County Year List through the end of August is posted on the SAS website at <http://www.sequoia-audubon.org/SMCbirds.php>.

August was an exceptionally quiet month for new species, but the prospect of adding several new species during upcoming fall pelagic trips and fall migration of warblers and shorebirds provides ample opportunity to add to the list in September. August ended with 291 species observed year-to-date, well behind last year's total. Please report all new sightings to this list, or e-mail me directly at geodani55@yahoo.com. Sightings reported to eBird at www.ebird.org are recorded too!

(Chance of a Lifetime, continued from page 1)

The beautiful marshlands that existed before diking and development need not live only in our imaginations. They can be restored and our chance is now.

Take Action!

Here's what you can do:

- Get the facts. Visit DontPaveMyBay.org.
- Raise your voice against this massive development. Talk to your friends and neighbors.
- Write a letter to the editor of your local paper. This free forum can influence thousands.
- Urge other groups to which you belong to stand up for San Francisco Bay and to join the fight against this massive development.
- Write to the Redwood City Council outlining your opposition to the project (City Council, P.O. Box 391, Redwood City, CA 94064).
- Attend RWC Council meetings at which the DEIR will be discussed. Speak out! Check the city website for dates and times.
- Donate to SAS to support our ongoing campaign against this development and our unflinching commitment to full restoration of the Redwood City salt ponds.

Nancy Arbuckle
SAS Bayside Conservation Committee
crockerbuckle@mindspring.com

(Field Trips, continued from page 3)

Sandpiper was seen on the mudflat of the lake during a drain-down. Wood Ducks are frequent; Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser and Great Blue Heron are occasional. All species of swallows hunt over the lake, and Cliff Swallows nest on the old Columbarium. It is an excellent place to study gulls; so far there are nine species and one hybrid recorded. There is, as might be expected, a serenity felt in strolling among monuments to the dead. The statuary and architecture are remarkable. This field trip is limited to 12 people. Please, review Cemetery Etiquette for Bird-watching, <http://birding.sequoia-audubon.org/cemetery.html>.

Directions: We will meet at the ponds at Cypress Lawn Cemeteries and go for 2-4 hours.

Going south on I-280, exit at Serramonte; turn left under the freeway while in the central turn lane. At Junipero Serra Blvd., continue north on Serramonte Blvd. Turn right on El Camino Real. Move to the left lane. After two blocks, turn left into the cemetery. Park there or on El Camino alongside the ponds.

Going north on I-280, exit at Hickey Blvd. Continue on Hickey until it dead-ends on El Camino, at which point you will want to be in the left lane. Turn left onto El Camino Real, move into the right lane. In about 1 mile, the cemetery will appear on your right. Be aware of merging traffic from Old Mission Road on your right just before the cemetery entrance.

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

Exploring the Under-birded State Beaches of the San Mateo Coast: San Gregorio, Pomponio, and Bean Hollow
Sunday January 9, 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

We will also stop in briefly at Pescadero Marsh if there are recent

sightings of interest. Car-pooling encouraged. Bring a State Park Pass, or pay the State Park day use fee. Heavy rain cancels.

Directions: Start at the parking lot of San Gregorio State Beach, junction of SR 1 and SR 84 at 8:00 AM sharp.

Leader: Jennifer Rycenga, 650-440-0063, 650-712-0194, email gyrrlfalcon@earthlink.net

Bayside Localities, starting at Radio Road, Redwood Shores

Saturday January 15, 8:00 AM

Accompanying Field Trip to the January 13 Birding Class

The field trip will take in several Bayside localities and our route will be partly determined by unusual species found on the Christmas Bird Count.

Directions: Meet at the Radio Road Pond in Redwood Shores. From US 101, take exit 411 and go east on Redwood Shores Parkway for a few miles. Go past Shearwater Parkway, and 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; to your left is the left spur of Radio Road. Take a right to reach the main parking for Radio Road and South Bayside System Authority.

Open to everyone with a \$5.00 fee paid to the instructor.

Leader: Alvaro Jaramillo, chucaco@coastside.net

Contact Ginny Marshall for more information:

ginnybirder@sbcglobal.net

Beginner/Advanced Trip

Pescadero Marsh – State Park Docent Nature Walks

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

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

Walks in November are Nov 7 and Nov 21

Walks in December are Dec 5 and Dec 19

Walks in January are Jan 2 and Jan 16

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.

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.

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

Beginner/Family Nature Hike

(Meeting Programs, continued from page 2)

and the latest developments in optics. Topics include coatings, design, construction, magnification, aperture, exit pupil, eye relief, field of view, waterproofing, and quality.

This program is a show-and-tell: Steve will bring binoculars and spotting scopes from major manufacturers for you to test and compare. You can bring your own binoculars and scopes and learn how to clean and maintain them, as well as how to test your binoculars for alignment and quality.

Steve will inspect and test the collimation of EVERY binocular you bring in!

Steve, who is also an astronomer, has taught college-level astronomy and optics, and has more than two decades of experience testing and repairing optics. For six years he was a factory representative for TeleVue Optics and handled product development, customer service, and repairs for Swift Optics. He also worked for many years as the head optical tech for Orion Telescopes and Binoculars.

As an added bonus, Scope City has a special offer for Sequoia Audubon members who purchase optics at the store at 350 Bay Street, San Francisco, 415-421-8800. (See ad on back page.)

[If time permits, our President, Sonny Mencher, will show a few of his recent bird images.]

Birding Class: Winter Birding in San Mateo County

By Alvaro Jaramillo

Thursday January 13, 7:00 PM

We are lucky birders. Here in San Mateo County birding is good throughout the year. In many places in North America there are few birds to see in winter. Most the birds are farther south – just where we can see them! In winter, an abundance of waterbirds migrate to our shores and marshes. We will talk about some of the local winter birding spots as well as the birds themselves in this class. While we can't cover every winter species, we will concentrate on waterbirds, give some tips on identification, their distribution and migration, and also where to find them. We will not ignore landbirds – they will get their due – but we will give more attention to those that are found here during winter migration.

Accompanying Field Trip

Meet at the Radio Road Pond in Redwood Shores.

Saturday January 15, 8:00 AM

The field trip will take in several Bayside localities and our route will be partly determined by unusual species found on the Christmas Bird Count. This field trip is open to everyone with a \$5.00 fee paid to the instructor.

Directions: See description in the Field Trip section on page 4.

OTHER BIRDING ACTIVITIES

(Sequoia Audubon does not sponsor the following activities.)

Aquatic Park, San Francisco – Bird Watching for Children and Beginners

Sundays October 31 and November 14, 10:00 – 11:00 AM

Come learn how to find and identify birds at Aquatic Park, San Francisco, using binoculars and guide books. Dress in layers, wear a hat and sunblock, and bring binoculars if you have them. Guide books will be available to borrow. There is no charge for this activity.

Leader: Carol Kiser, National Park Service Ranger

Directions: Meet at the entrance to Hyde Street Pier at Jefferson Street. Parking is at the foot of Van Ness Ave. (four hours for free), at Ghirardelli Square, or the Anchorage garages.

For questions call 415-447-5000 from 9:30 – 4:45 daily.

Bay Area Bird Photographers

November 3, December 1, and January 5, 7:30 – 9:00 PM

The Lucy Evans Baylands Interpretive Center

2775 Embarcadero Rd., Palo Alto

BABP is co-sponsored by the Recreation–Open Space & Science Division of the City of Palo Alto and the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society. Meetings are open to the public and are held on the first Wednesday of the month, September through May. Meetings usually include a slide presentation by a member or a guest speaker.

Directions: From 101, take Embarcadero Rd. going east towards the Baylands. At the stop sign at the very end of Embarcadero, take a left (staying on Embarcadero). The Interpretive Center is on the left along the jetty path after the Duck Pond. Parking is on Embarcadero, in the lot on the right just as the road bends again.

Contact: Pete LaTourrette, 650-961-2741, for information.

14th Annual [Sandhill Crane Festival](#)

November 5 – 7

Hutchins Street Square, Lodi, CA

Events include viewing the state's largest concentration of Greater Sandhill Cranes, workshops, exhibits, children's stories, dancing, face painting, live wild animals, and fine art.

Contact: info@cranefestival.com or 800-581-6150

14th Annual [Central Valley Birding Symposium](#)

November 18 – 21

Stockton Hilton Hotel

2323 Grand Canal Blvd

Stockton, CA

This year for our evening programs we have dynamic photographer and author Paul Bannick giving a program based on his research on "Owls and Woodpeckers of the West." Author of dozens of books and articles and award-winning photographer Moose Petersen will give a presentation on "California's Threatened and Endangered Birds."

Workshops include Jon Dunn on sparrows and Joe Morlan's shorebird ID workshop focusing on loons and grebes. There are many other workshops, on topics ranging from Central Valley Raptors to Beginning Birding, and digiscoping to bird sketching.

(Other Birding Activities, continued from page 5)

Our field trips always turn up exciting birds. Add in the always entertaining and educational Bird ID Panel, the wonderful display of art and gifts for yourself or others at the Birder's Market, and the camaraderie of hundreds of like-minded folks, and you know you'll have a good time!

Contact: <http://www.cvbs.org> or Frances Oliver at hummer52@sbcglobal.net. For hotel reservations call 209-957-9090.

Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival

January 14 – 17

Morro Bay, CA

This festival is held every January on the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend. All-day and half-day tours take participants to a wide variety of habitats, including deep water pelagic, oak woodland and riparian, wetland and estuary, and the unique grassland habitat of the Carrizo Plain. Workshops cover a vast array of topics ranging from beginner birding classes to gull identification. Outstanding speakers make presentations on Saturday and Sunday evenings. A variety of vendors will be present with nature-related artwork, books, field equipment, attire, and local merchant wares.

Morro Bay is one of the few remaining estuaries on the Pacific flyway. Christmas Bird Counts on the bay have numbered above the 200 species mark, and the festival bird lists have totaled over 220 species for the weekend, making this area on the central California coast a prime birding destination.

Contact: <http://www.morrobaybirdfestival.org/>

12th Annual Snow Goose Festival of the Pacific Flyway

January 27 – 30

Chico and Red Bluff, CA

Experience the sights and sounds of the Pacific Flyway migrating waterfowl at the Snow Goose Festival! A weekend full of fun, adventure, and learning for all ages with field trips, presentations, and workshops available to all.

Contact: 800-852-8570, ext. 313 or <http://www.snowgoosefestival.org/>

PROP 21: A LEGACY FOR CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

Did you know that 52 Audubon California Important Bird Areas, totaling 156,000 acres, are at least partially owned by California State Parks? Audubon California, The Nature Conservancy, Save the Redwood League, and California State Parks Foundation are sponsors of The State Parks & Wildlife Conservation Trust Fund Act ("State Parks Initiative") appearing on the November 2, 2010 statewide ballot as Proposition 21.

Prop 21 works like this: Vehicles registered in California will get free, year-round, day-use admission to all California state parks in exchange for a new annual \$18.00 vehicle license fee, a considerable savings if you go to more than two state parks in a year.

The funding will provide a stable, reliable, and adequate source of funding for the state park system, for wildlife conservation, and for increased and equitable access to those resources for all Californians. The park budget will no longer be subject to cuts by the legislature or the Governor; the Trust Fund cannot be borrowed from or raided, and work can begin on acquisitions and deferred maintenance as soon as the funds become available.

The passage of this proposition is a conservation legacy that all of us Audubon members in California can leave to future generations! But the proposition faces opposition. YES ON 21 needs volunteers to organize campaigns in cities, towns, neighborhoods, and communities. If you can give any volunteer time to the campaign, please go to <http://yesforstateparks.com/> and GET INVOLVED!

**Save our State Parks
Help pass Proposition 21 in November!**

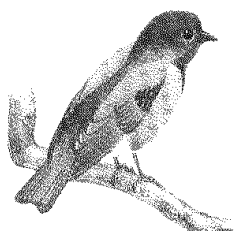
CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS – WE NEED YOU ON DEC 18 AND/OR JAN 2

While there is a specific methodology to the Audubon Christmas Bird Count and you need to count birds within an existing Christmas Bird Count circle, everyone can participate! If you are a beginning birder, you will be able to join a group that includes at least one experienced birdwatcher. If your home is within the boundaries of a Christmas Bird Count circle, then you can stay home and report the birds that visit your feeder or join a group of birdwatchers in the field.

San Mateo County has two count circles – the Crystal Springs circle in the northern half of the county and the Año Nuevo circle along the southern coast. You can access the Christmas Count database at the Audubon website www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/.

The Crystal Springs Count is on Saturday, December 18 and the Año Nuevo Count is on Sunday, January 2. For information, contact Jennifer Rycenga gyrrlfalcon@earthlink.net, Leslie Flint lfint@earthlink.net 650-573-6279, or Gary Deghi at gdeggi@h-bgroup.com.

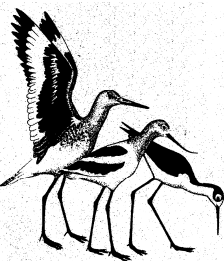
And don't forget the dinners held after the counts. Have some great food and review what birds were found on the count. **Note new dinner locations:** The Crystal Springs dinner will be held from 4:30 – 6:30 PM at Round Table Pizza, Laurelwood Shopping Center, 1304 W. Hillsdale Blvd., San Mateo. The Año Nuevo dinner will be held at Cameron's Pub Restaurant, 1410 So. Cabrillo Hwy., Half Moon Bay.



San Mateo County Bluebird Recovery Program

By Susan Kritzik, County Coordinator

Nestbox monitors, be sure to submit your season results to the data base so we can count your work! The data entry portal address is www.eichlerrealtor.com/birds/. We do have a few trails available, if you are interested in becoming a nestbox monitor. I will publish a summary of our season totals when we get all of the results. To sign up as a monitor or for more information, contact me at sgkritzik@sbcglobal.net. Thanks for all your efforts!



Hello Bedwell Bayfront Park Birders, Friends, and Neighbors

By Chris MacIntosh

I want to start discussing what we want to do for community outreach at Bedwell Bayfront Park this winter season. For the past couple of years we've held a birding "open house" every second Saturday of the month for two hours, from 9 – 11 AM, September through April or May. We did either a walk or a stationary viewing site with scope and binoculars to catch the attention of park users.

Friends of Bedwell Bayfront Park now has a nice, stable sign. About 30" high, it has a large logo and white board space so we can write "Birds! Now!" or whatever. This will help visibility. I have posted events on the Palo Alto Online Community Calendar and Baynature.org, as well as sometimes the Redwood City calendar.

Shall we continue these open houses? Since we don't get many people in the morning, perhaps we could try a different time. I don't remember where I read it, but one birding group said they switched a beginners' activity from morning to afternoon, and more than doubled attendance. *Birders* know that morning is a good time, but not-yet-birders don't. So we could try something like 2 – 4, or 3 – 5 PM (might have to flex to actual daylight available). What do you all think?

I'm happy to try to organize bird mornings once a month. If eight or so of you would volunteer as the "leader" or "scoper" for one month, we could do this again. What else would you like to have us do?

Who could help out between now and May 2011? I can volunteer for second Saturday of November and/or January. Don't be intimidated; this is not an Audubon outing. If you can point out a Snowy Egret and can tell a Green-winged Teal from a Northern Shoveler, you're eminently qualified to help. If you know others I could approach, please tell me.

Other things related to outreach and informational activities at Bedwell:

- New map on permanent sign in the parking lot, plus interpretive panels at the viewing area overlooking the salt ponds.
- Again this year I've tried, not very consistently, to put on the notice board a featured natural history item (geese, cliff swallows, ground squirrels, snakes – there are a couple of reports of largish gopher snakes, including a purported one which bit a dog).
- This past spring, we did a couple of walks jointly with the Don Edwards NWR, which were quite successful. They talked about the refuge and salt pond restoration and we talked about the park. I hope we can continue these.

[For more information, contact Chris: cmaci@sbcglobal.net, friendsofbayfrontpark@gmail.org, or www.friendsofbayfrontpark.org]

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Hospitality Co-chairpeople for SAS Monthly Meetings

SAS is currently looking for additional Hospitality Co-Chairs to help with the monthly general meetings. This is a great opportunity to be of service to SAS and meet other people who share your birding interest. In this role you'll greet visitors and new members and assist with refreshments. We meet on the second Thursday evening of every month September through June, for approximately three hours a month, from 6:00 – 9:00 PM, at the San Mateo Garden Center. For more information contact Sonny Mencher at Sequoiaaudubon@yahoo.com or 650-366-3571.

Bluebird Coordinator

Our current coordinator is looking for someone to take over next year. Contact Susan Kritzik at sgkritzik@sbcglobal.net or 650-851-4529 for a job summary. It's fun and interesting! For more information contact Sonny Mencher at Sequoiaaudubon@yahoo.com or 650-366-3571.


**It's that time of year
again!
Enclosed is an
envelope
for our annual fund-
raising appeal.**

**We sincerely
appreciate your
donation to keep SAS
going.**

Sequoia Audubon Society

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(See the SAS program listing for December 9 for more info.)



Yellow-billed Cuckoo

THE BIRD BOX

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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.