



SEQUOIA NEEDLES

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

Volume 61, No. 5
June-August 2011

BIRDERS FLOCKING TO SAN MATEO COUNTY

BY JENNIFER RYCENGA

From the ocean to the bay, the foothills to Skyline, the marshes to the oaks: those of us fortunate enough to live here in San Mateo County know the glories of our local habitats and birds. In September and October, our county experiences the peak of migration. This fall, Sequoia Audubon invites the birding world to our backyard with a series of special events co-sponsored with leading national and regional birding organizations.

The Seventh Annual **Monterey Bay Birding Festival**, co-sponsored this year by Sequoia Audubon, will expand to include Año Nuevo, Gazos Creek Road, and Gazos Beach Access in the southwestern corner of San Mateo County. The Festival, with headquarters in Watsonville, is held from Thursday, September 22nd to Sunday, September 25th. Program and registration will be available soon; look for more information on Se-

quoia's website and the Festival's website (<http://www.montereybaybirding.org/>).

This festival, which regularly tallies over 200 species, has built an enthusiastic following, attracting superb exhibitors of optic and digital equipment. Best of all, the Monterey Bay Birding Festival's keynote speaker this year is Sequoia Audubon member and mentor to countless Bay Area birders, Joe Morlan. In addition to listening to his wisdom, the Festival will celebrate Joe's winning of the Ludlow Griscom Prize from the American Birding Association (ABA).

San Mateo County's birding riches in fall cannot be contained in just one festival! Sequoia Audubon member and noted ornithologist Alvaro Jaramillo, working with the revitalized American Birding Association, under new president Jeffrey Gordon, has arranged to co-sponsor the **ABA Half Moon Bay Conference**, from Friday, September 30th to Monday, October 3rd. Sequoia will welcome ABA members from around the country and introduce them to our rich weave of habitats, avifauna, migration, culture and history. Registration opens May 25th; spaces are strictly limited,

(Continued on page 4)



Western Grebe at Princeton Harbor. Photo by Bob Cossins

Monthly Meetings

San Mateo Garden Center
(See program details on page 2)

June

Thursday, 9th Birds in the Garden

September

Thursday, 8th Birding Class: SBBO

Upcoming Field Trips

(See trip details on page 3)

June

Saturday, 4th Junipero Serra County Park

Sunday, 5th Pescadero Marsh Docent Tour*

Sunday, 12th Edgewood County Park

Sunday, 19th Pescadero Marsh Docent Tour*

Sunday, 26th Gazos Creek Road

July

Sunday, 3rd Pescadero Marsh Docent Tour*

Sunday, 17th Mori Point*

Sunday, 17th Pescadero Marsh Docent Tour*

August

Sunday, 7th Pescadero Marsh Docent Tour*

Saturday, 20th Sacramento Valley

Sunday, 21st Pescadero Marsh Docent Tour*

* Beginner/Family Trip

Check the field trip descriptions for any special information or requirements. Late comers may be disap-

(Continued on page 3)

Sequoia Audubon Society

OFFICERS

President

Jennifer Rycenga 650-440-0063

Vice President

Open

Secretary

Nelle Lyons 650-726-8819

Treasurer

Michael Roche 408-249-6791

DIRECTORS

Nancy Arbuckle, George Chrisman,
Laurie Graham, Melissa Hero,
Ginny Marshall, Don Pendleton

STANDING COMMITTEES

Audubon Canyon Ranch Host

Laurie Graham 650-589-2133

Audubon Canyon Ranch

Advisory Board Representative

Francis Toldi 650-344-1919

Bluebird Recovery

Margaret Gabil 650-572-9709

Christmas Count

Al Demartini 650-345-6988

Leslie Flint 650-573-6279

Conservation Bayside

Nancy Arbuckle 650-366-0750

Laurie Graham 650-589-2133

Conservation Coastsides

Open

Education

Nelle Lyons 650-726-8819

Field Trips

Ginny Marshall 650-349-3780

Hospitality

Edwin Geer 650-273-2902

JC Shaver 650-726-6840

Membership Database

Susan Stratton 650-574-7253

Needles Editor

Justine Carson 650-560-9776

Programs

Sue Cossins 650-347-9358

Sonny Mencher 650-814-8028

PO Box 620292

Woodside, CA 94062-0292

650-529-1454

office@sequoia-audubon.org

www.sequoia-audubon.org

Send comments and contributions
to:

sas_editor@yahoo.com



Printed on recycled paper

MEETING PROGRAMS

BY SUE COSSINS AND SONNY
MENCHER

Birds in the Garden

By Toby Goldberg, Programs Coordinator,
Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society
and Arvind Kumar, President, California
Native Plant Society (Santa Clara Valley
Chapter)
Thursday, June 9, 7:00 PM

Is your garden visited by birds you can't
identify? Do you want to attract more birds
but don't know where to begin? Find out
what birds want and how to provide it.



House Finch eating
blackberries

Photo by Justine Carson

Learn about gardening for habitat,
environmentally friendly gardening with
native plants, and the birds you can attract.
This talk will show how California native
plants can attract birds, butterflies, and
beneficial insects and still retain color,
texture, and curb appeal. Handouts of bird
and plant lists will be available.

Monthly Meetings

San Mateo Garden Center
605 Parkside Way, San Mateo
*Parkside Way is west of
Alameda de las Pulgas between 26th
& 28th Avenues.*

SAS DOESN'T MEET IN JULY OR
AUGUST.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

**Birding Class: Tracking Bay Area Birds
with the San Francisco Bay Bird
Observatory** (With a focus on Snowy
Plover recovery efforts and the California
Gull monitoring program)

By Stephanie Ellis, Outreach and
Communications Director, SFBBO
Thursday, September 8, 7:00 PM

Birds are excellent indicators of ecosystem
health since they are sensitive to the
slightest environmental change. The San
Francisco Bay Bird Observatory pays close
attention to environmental impacts on birds
and their habitats and gathers crucial data
specific to bird populations in the South
Bay. Stephanie will discuss numerous
projects the Bird Observatory conducts to

preserve our native birds. Find out about
the Bird Observatory's 30 years of
landbird and colonial waterbird research,
and its leadership of the Bay's Western
Snowy Plover recovery effort. Please
join us for this fun and informative talk.

Accompanying Field Trip

Saturday, September 10

(Place, Time, and Leader TBD)

Please check the SAS website or call

SAS @ 650-529-1454 for information.

Summer Planning Meeting

Our summer planning meeting will be
held Saturday, July 16. If you are inter-
ested in joining the board or in other
ways shaping the future of our chapter,
we welcome your attendance. Please
contact us at 650-529-1454 or [sas-
sue@earthlink.net](mailto:sas-sue@earthlink.net) to join in.



FIELD TRIPS

BY GINNY MARSHALL

Pescadero Marsh – State Park Docent Nature Walks

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

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

June walks are on June 5 and 19.

July walks are on July 3 and 17.

August walks are on August 7 and 21.

Come and discover Pescadero Marsh. The California State Park Docents will lead a field trip to learn about the marsh. The docents will point out the plants and animals that inhabit this San Mateo County treasure. If it is not raining, meet in the parking lot just over the bridge at Pescadero State Beach. Wear clothing in layers for cold and windy to sunny weather. Heavy rain cancels.

Contact: Docent Rita Jennings at 650-728-2254

Directions: Go south from Half Moon Bay on Hwy 1, about 12 miles. 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.

Beginner/Family Nature Hike

Junipero Serra County Park, San Bruno

Saturday, June 4, 8:30 AM

In spring this park can be very birdy with local breeders such as Black-headed Grosbeak, Orange-crowned Warbler, Brown Creeper, and Bewick's Wren. The ecosystem is varied, with open fields and streamside wooded areas. See the San Mateo County Birding Guide for more details on expected species <http://birding.sequoia-audubon.org/>.

Directions: We will meet at the Upper Meadow View parking lot at 8:30 AM. From the Northern Peninsula going south on I-280, exit on Crystal Springs Road, the exit after Sneath Lane/San Bruno Avenue. Turn right on Crystal Springs Road, drive 1/2 mile, and turn left into the park. If traveling north on 280, exit on San Bruno Avenue, continue to El Camino Real, turn south (right), continue to Crystal Springs Road, turn right and drive 1-1/2 miles to park entrance on left. From north or south on 101, take 380 west to the El Camino Real exit. Go south on El Camino (SR82); turn right on Crys-

tal Springs Road; go 1-1/2 miles, and turn left into park entrance. Do NOT follow the directions on the county park website – that route is unsigned, confusing, and less direct. As this is a county park, there is a \$5 parking fee.

Leader: Robbie Fischer
robbie22@pacbell.net

Edgewood County Park and Preserve – Birds, Wildflowers, and Checkerspot Sunday, June 12, 7:45 AM to Noon

Join a walk at Edgewood Park as a perfect follow-up to the SAS June 9th evening program, "Birds in the Garden." On this three- to four-mile, moderately strenuous walk through woodland, chaparral, and grassland, you will learn what resident and migrant birds nest at the park and what native plant communities they depend on. You may even spot an endangered Bay Checkerspot Butterfly, recently reintroduced to Edgewood. Friends of Edgewood Docent, Susan Peterson, will point out which special plants the butterfly requires. The newly completed Bill and Jean Lane Education Center opens on weekends at 9:30 AM, and the walk will end at the Center so you can visit there at your leisure.

Directions: The Edgewood Park entrance is east of Hwy 280 on Edgewood Road in Redwood City. Gather at the bridge in the outer parking lot.

Leaders: Sue Cossins sue@earthlink.net, 650-347-9358; Martha O'Neal monealbirds@att.net, Susan Peterson susan.peterson@mindspring.com

Birding Gazos Creek Road Sunday, June 26, 8:00 AM

Gazos Creek Road, south of Pescadero, is one of San Mateo County's birding hot-spots. MacGillivray's Warbler, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Swainson's Thrush are some of our target birds, but on this road there are usually surprises. If you have never heard the song of the Swainson's Thrush you are in for a treat. There are few parking spots along the road so we will walk the lower half (about two relatively flat miles) and carpool back to the start. Those who have time and energy can walk the upper half as well.

(Continued on page 4)

pointed. For all field trips bring your binoculars, sun block, and water; wear sturdy walking shoes or boots, and a hat, and always dress in layers for hot, sunny weather to cool, windy conditions. While we will attempt to stay on schedule, circumstances may dictate changes to field trip leaders, dates, or times.

For the latest schedule and updates always go to the Sequoia Audubon website or contact the trip leader.



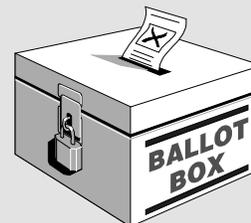
SAS on Vacation

Just a reminder – There will be no general meetings in the months of July and August, but field trips are ongoing. We will return with our September 8th general meeting.

Have a great summer 'til we see you in September

SAS Board of Directors Election to be held at our June 9 general meeting.

Please check our website homepage as the election date approaches for the proposed slate of



officers for the term ending May 31,

2012. All SAS members are eligible to vote.

(Field Trips, continued from page 3)

Directions: Meet at the dirt parking area at the corner of Highway 1 and Gazos Creek Road. Gazos Creek Road is 23 miles south of Highway 92, and will be on the left side of the road.
Leader: Ginny Marshall, ginnysbirding@sbcglobal.net or 650-223-9180

Mori Point – Pacifica Birding

Sunday, July 17, 8:00 – 11:00 AM

Join us at Mori Point in Pacifica for fascinating birding in a changing habitat. Mori Point has been undergoing restoration by Trails Forever, including a new boardwalk, man-made ponds for Red-legged Frogs, and plantings of natives -- all of which is attracting birds. California Thrashers have returned after an absence of 30 years.

Directions: Meet at 8:00 AM at the trailhead at Bradford Way, Pacifica.

Leaders: Laurie Graham & Jeff Fairclough,
fair80@comcast.net

Beginner/Advanced Birding

Swarmin' Swainson's in the Sacramento Valley

Saturday, August 20, 8:00 AM

Each year Swainson's Hawks migrate to Argentina. Before flying south, they gather in the Central Valley and can be found in large flocks on the ground eating grasshoppers stirred up by tractors plowing fields. We will drive around the back roads near Davis looking for them on the ground and in the air. There can be spectacular numbers of this extraordinary hawk. This trip will also visit the Davis Wastewater Treatment Plant for

(Birders Flock to San Mateo County, continued from page 1)

so mark this date on your calendar, and bookmark the ABA's dedicated webpage for this event: <http://www.aba.org/events/2011halfmoonbay/>. In addition, there will be some volunteer opportunities for Sequoia members: watch our website (<http://www.sequoia-audubon.org/>) for information. Another thing you can do to help us present our best to the birding world is to review the contents of the San Mateo County Birding Guide, and, when you hike in these areas, send updates and improvements to smcbgeditor@earthlink.net.

On Sunday, October 9th, the **Big Sit** will take place. To celebrate completion of the new bridge, Sequoia's participation will happen at Pescadero State Beach. The Big Sit, co-sponsored by Bird Watcher's Digest and the New Haven Bird Club, is an annual event, in which teams stay within a proscribed circle and detect as many species as possible without leaving that circle. Sequoia Audubon will have a presence from before dawn to after dusk, and will conduct the Big Sit as a come-when-you-can, leave-when-you-must fundraiser for Sequoia. Please contact smcbgeditor@earthlink.net if you have a particular time-segment (one, two, or three hours) during which you wish to participate.

Sequoia Audubon's involvement in these three projects raises
(Continued on page 5)

migrating shorebirds and the Vic Fazio Yolo Wildlife Area in search of Yellow-headed Blackbirds, White-faced Ibis, Cattle Egrets, and bitterns. This trip starts early in the day because the Valley can get quite hot at this time of year. We will start at the Yolo Basin (Vic Fazio) Wildlife Area. From there we will check the Davis Wastewater Treatment Plant and then spend the afternoon in search of large flocks of Swainson's Hawks.

Directions: From San Mateo, take Hwy 101 north toward San Francisco. Take Hwy 80 East over the Bay Bridge and go 74 miles to the Mace Boulevard exit in Davis. Turn left at off-ramp light onto Chiles Road. Go straight through the next light at the Mace Boulevard and Chiles Road intersection. Continue east on Chiles Road. Drive up onto the levee at the end of Chiles Road (do not go under the freeway). Turn left at the top of the levee and enter the Yolo Wildlife area. Meet in the first parking lot (Lot A) on your left at the beginning of the auto tour. The drive should take approximately two hours depending on your driving speed.

Leader: Leslie Flint cell: 650-619-0836;
lflint@earthlink.net (Let Leslie know in advance that you are planning to come so she can wait for you if necessary.)

NORTHERN FULMARS ALONG THE SAN MATEO COASTLINE

BY SONNY MENCHER

Northern Fulmars are a rare site along the San Mateo County coastline. Birders on pelagic trips can sometimes see them in feeding flocks out at sea. This flock containing all three plumage variations was routinely seen feeding near the Blue Whale carcass that washed ashore on October 5, 2010.

Investigators have determined the pregnant 80-foot Blue Whale likely died after colliding with a ship.



Northern Fulmars in December at Bean Hollow State Beach. Photo by Sonny Mencher

SUMMER BIRDING IN SAN MATEO COUNTY

BY SUE COSSINS

By browsing through the SAS San Mateo County Birding Guide, I noticed that winter isn't necessarily the only season of interest to birders. Summer (mid-June through July) offers its share of migrant breeders -- mostly in parks along Skyline Drive.

The San Mateo County summer three- and four-star-rated birding areas include Russian Ridge and Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserves and Pigeon Point. Remember to check bay-side areas for these early returning shorebirds.

For help in your bird watching endeavors in San Mateo County and suggestions for prime areas in which to bird, go to our web reference page: birding.sequoia-audubon.org/



Sue Cossins is feeding a Ruddy Turnstone on the beach at Blue Waters Inn, Tobago, in mid-April. Usually this species uses its short upturned bill to flip over rocks and debris in search of food on rocky shores, beaches, and mudflats. The flock of fifteen Ruddys at this beach are unusually tame and approach people hoping for handouts. The cover story of the Sept/Oct Needles will feature an article about birding in Trinidad and Tobago by SAS member Lynda Brothers. Photo by Bob Cossins

(Birders Flock to San Mateo County, continued from page 4)
our national visibility among birders. Such activity not only brings the joy of birding to beginners and experts alike, but will gain us valuable allies as we seek to protect the habitats, and provide valuable educational opportunities, for the places, birds, wildlife, and people of San Mateo County. Looking forward to seeing all of our members — and an extraordinary number of extraordinary avian friends — this fall!

OTHER BIRDING ACTIVITIES

10th Annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua Lee Vining, California, Friday – Sunday, June 17 – 19

Three days of evening presentations, workshops, field trips, art, music, food, and great birding! All proceeds support continuing research in the Mono Basin.

Special musical guests: [Keith Greeninger](#) and [Dayan Kai](#)
Contact: Mono Lake Committee, P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541, 760-647-6595, birding@monolake.org

Hummingbirds

By Joe Morlan San Pedro Valley Park, Pacifica Saturday, August 13, 8:00 PM

This presentation for the Friends of San Pedro Valley Park will include photos from California, Belize, Costa Rica, Trinidad, and Ecuador. Meet at the Park Visitors' Center. Entrance to the park is at 600 Oddstad Boulevard, Pacifica. Admission is free.

Young Audubon Summer Adventure: Bird Banding with San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory

As advertized on the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society website www.scvas.org

Saturday, August 13, 8:00 -- 10:00 AM

Join us for Conservation Science in Action! Come share in a very special opportunity to witness a live bird banding demonstration provided by experts from the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory. An invaluable tool for conservation, restoration, and mitigation research, this bird banding activity will allow participants to view a wild bird up close and personal, as well as tour an area of active habitat restoration. This tour is for ages 7 and up and lasts approximately 1 1/2 to 2 hours. Due to the special access involved, participants will need to carpool/caravan into the research site. Prompt arrival at **7:45 AM** at the meeting location is required.

Space is limited. Call 408-252-3740 for reservations.

Groups with children receive priority. Cost is \$25:00 for a family or \$8.00 for a child and \$10.00 for the adult.

Directions: Meet at the Borders Bookstore parking lot at the McCarthy Ranch in Milpitas, located one exit west of the 237/880 interchange. More specific directions will be sent to registered participants the week prior to the activity.

36th Annual Conference of Western Field Ornithologists (WFO)

Sierra Vista, Arizona Wednesday – Sunday, August 17 – 21

If you have never been to southeast Arizona during the late summer season (or even if you have), this is an opportunity you won't want to miss. The rains that come during this time create breeding conditions for some species and, for others, ideal conditions for molting prior to movement to their wintering grounds. This phenomenon of molt migration will be

(Continued on page 8)

SAS NEWS

Conservation Report by Nancy Arbuckle



The SAS Conservation Committee recently submitted comments regarding scoping for the Environmental Impact Report for the massive development Cargill is planning for the Redwood City salt ponds. To learn more about the issues go to the Save the Bay webpage www.dontpavemybay.org

The SAS Board of Directors has recently signed on to two letters:

1. From the American Bird Conservancy calling for the Interior Department to develop a Feral Cat Management Policy. Steve Holmer, Senior Policy Advisor of ABC, states: "Addressing the feral cat problem will require institutions such as the U.S. Department of the Interior to develop science-based policies to conserve wildlife." The letter was sent to Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar.

Nancy Arbuckle states: "Feral cats account for hundreds of millions of bird deaths annually. This is in direct violation of the Endangered Species Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act yet there is no national policy to address this. This letter seeks to begin a conversation with the Interior Secretary such that this catastrophe might begin to be addressed."

2. From the Burrowing Owl Conservation Network. Scott Artis, Founding Director, Burrowing Owl Conservation Network states: "Because Burrowing owls are already in such a decline as to merit listing under the California Endangered Species Act, a Burrowing Owl Comprehensive Conservation Strategy is absolutely imperative and is a now well-overdue precursor to the protections that are truthfully needed to ultimately preserve this species across our state. Thus, we are planning to submit the attached letter to state officials on or about March 25th." To view the letter, go to <http://BurrowingOwlConservation.org>.

Gaining Endangered Species Act protection for the Burrowing Owl has been a priority for many local Audubon chapters.



Three BIG upcoming events involving SAS: Mark your calendars! (See Jennifer Rycenga's article on page one for more information.)

September 22 -- 25: The Seventh Annual Monterey Bay Birding Festival (<http://www.montereybaybirding.org>). Links to the Festival website and Facebook page are available on the Sequoia Audubon website. **Saturday, September 24th** Joe Morlan will be the keynote speaker. Joe will be discussing the history of Bird Identification from before Peterson to the present day.

September 30 -- October 3: The American Birding Association (ABA) Half Moon Bay Conference.

Please visit the websites of Sequoia Audubon and the ABA for more information as soon as it becomes available: <http://www.aba.org/> and <http://www.aba.org/events/>

Sunday, October 9: The 17th Annual Big SIT!

For more information on the Big SIT visit <http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/bwdsite/connect/bigsit/index.php?sc=migration>

End of Bird Census Program at Edgewood Park

"Edgewood Bird Man" Lee Franks has spearheaded a bird census program at the park for ten years. Five two-person teams spent about four hours once a month identifying and counting birds. At the end of 2010, after 363 census days, Lee feels that there are enough data to influence habitat management decisions at the park. Some of the findings of the census program are:

- ♦ **Western Bluebird** populations have increased approximately 33% over the ten-year period. This is due primarily to religious annual monitoring and modifications to the 29 nest boxes installed, resulting in very low mortality rates.
- ♦ **Western Meadowlark** populations have decreased approximately 54%.
- ♦ **California Quail** have essentially left the Park over the past four years. Seven years ago we were recording around 400 per year. In 2010 we recorded only eight.

Thank you, Lee, for your hard work, dedication, and stewardship on behalf of Edgewood's birds!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event

SAS hosts this annual event as a way of saying thank you to all our active volunteers of the past year. The volunteers are invited to bring one guest to this free event. This year's event was held on Sunday, May 15. The day started with a bird walk at Burleigh Murray State Park in Half Moon Bay led by SAS President, Jennifer Rycenga and past board member and field trip leader, Gary Deghi. After the bird walk everyone was treated to a chicken and ribs BBQ luncheon at Cameron's Restaurant and Inn in Half Moon Bay.

NATURE EVENTS

Wildflower Walks at Edgewood Natural Preserve Saturdays and Sundays, March 19 to June 5, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Walks start from the main entrance of the Nature Preserve, on Edgewood Road. On the five Saturdays in April, walks will also start from the Clarkia Trailhead for easier access to the grassland flowers.

For information and maps: www.friendsofedgeswood.org

California Coastal Plants Thursday, June 2, 7:00 PM

San Carlos Public Library, 610 Elm St, San Carlos

Much of the Bay Area enjoys a coastal climate, and coastal plants can be grown in our gardens with ease. Horticulturist, instructor, and author Glenn Keator introduces us to an array of beautiful plants from the California coast. The talk is followed by a weekend hike to San Bruno Mountain for a look at coastal plants in their native habitat.

For more information: www.cnps-scv.org

California Native Perennials Tuesday, June 14, 7:00 PM

Campbell Library, 77 Harrison Ave, Campbell

Beautiful and vibrantly colorful California native perennials require little input from the gardener, yet provide unmatched habitat value for birds, butterflies, bees, and other beneficial insects. Learn about popular, cultivated native perennials from the major plant communities of the Bay Area.

For more information: www.cnps-scv.org

Native Plants in Containers Thursday, June 30, 7:00 PM

San Carlos Public Library

A 1.5 hour educational workshop led by California Native Plant Society professional Pete Veilleux. This program will appeal to all ages.

For more information go to: www.cnps-scv.org

FOUND AN ORPHANED OR INJURED BIRD?

Here's what we suggest:

Baby Birds

If you find what you think is an orphaned baby bird -- one with baby fuzz or feathered with short tail and can't fly -- DON'T PICK IT UP unless it is in immediate danger or looks very young with no feathers. Some fledgling birds spend time on the ground unable to fly but are still being cared for by their parents. It would be a shame to take them away from their parents. Station someone a short distance from the bird to watch it and keep children and other animals away while you check the information at [Peninsula Humane Society](http://PeninsulaHumaneSociety.org).

Injured Birds

If you find an injured bird and can safely pick it up without injury to yourself, place it in a closed cardboard box and put the box in a warm, quiet place. Then contact the Peninsula Humane Society.

Other Animals

For other animals besides birds, contact the Peninsula Humane Society.

Contact Information:

Peninsula Humane Society, 12 Airport Blvd., San Mateo, 650-340-7022, extension 314.

Serving San Mateo County and Palo Alto. Note: they have recently merged with Wildlife Rescue in Palo Alto.

Great Backyard Bird Count Results from February 18 — 21

For the third year in a row, checklists submitted to the Great Backyard Bird Count topped 92,000. Your participation in the 14th annual count, helped set new bird checklist records in 11 states and in 7 out of 13 Canadian provinces and territories. Altogether an estimated 60,000 people took part, identifying 596 species, and making 11 million bird observations.

This year's GBBC featured movements of irruptive species such as finches and Red-breasted Nuthatches as well as a surprising increase in numbers of Evening Grosbeaks reported. For the first time in eight years, the American Crow has moved onto the GBBC Top 10 List of Most Numerous Birds. The Eurasian Collared-dove continues its march across the continent with GBBC reports of the species from Alaska for the first time. There were two brand new species reported to the GBBC and other rarities to give participants a thrill. Read the full GBBC summary at <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/press/news-stories/2011summary>

The next GBBC is February 17 — 20, 2012!

**SUPPORT LOCAL
CONSERVATION ISSUES**

Speak out! Your voice matters.
YOU can make a difference in local
conservation issues.

I'd like to be an e-mail "armchair
activist" once a month.
My e-mail address is:

.....

SAS will NOT share your e-mail address
with other organizations.

Clip and send this form to SAS
or send your contact info to
conservation@sequoia-audubon.org

Sequoia Audubon Society

PO Box 620292
Woodside
CA 94062-0292

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SAN MATEO, CA
PERMIT NO. 293

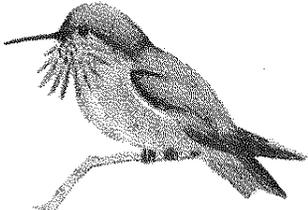
Printed on Recycled Paper 

Time Valued Material—Please Do Not Delay

(Other Birding Activities, continued from page 5)

the subject of a keynote address by Peter Pyle during the conference, and will be make the field trips particularly interesting. As always, we will have Science Sessions on Friday and Saturday afternoons, a wide variety of field trips to all the local hotspots, and workshops on topics such as fly-catcher identification, bird banding, study skin preparation, and wilderness first aid. Dan Fischer will give a talk about the first naturalists to visit the Southwest. We are offering pre-and post-meeting field trips to the Chiricahua Mountains and California Gulch, as well as a Sunday trip focusing on butterflies and dragonflies. Many local experts will help out with workshops and field trips including Tony Battiste, Bob Behrstock, Homer Hansen, Melody Kehl, Michael Marsden, Ted Mouras, Heather Swanson, Wezil Walraven, Jack Whetstone, Sheri Williamson, and Erika Wilson.

For more information: Go to <http://www.westernfieldornithologists.org/> and click on the "Annual Conference" banner in the middle of the page. Check out the "Conference Details" document, and then register. **Please register soon** because events are filling unusually quickly. Why? Because there's a great line-up of speakers, field trips, and workshops!



Caliope
Hummingbird

THE BIRD BOX
**RARE BIRD
ALERT**
415-681-7422

**Golden Gate Raptor Observatory Public Programs
Weekends in September and October, 10:00 AM – 2:00
PM**

Come up to Hawk Hill and see the hawks, falcons, osprey, kestrels, harriers, accipiters, and eagles. The best migration viewing is on fog-free days between 10 AM and 2 PM, September through November. The best spot is in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area on Hawk Hill in the Marin Headlands. During September and October, GGRO docents give weekend public programs on Hawk Hill to introduce visitors to the basics of the migration. Join them for a free Hawk Talk at noon or a 1:00 PM Banding Demonstration. Rain or fog cancels.

For information: <http://www.ggro.org>

Birding Classes taught by Joe Morlan will be starting up in September. Stay tuned or see Joe's web site at: <http://fog.ccsf.edu/~jmorlan/> for details.

**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.