



# SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

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*October 2013 - December 2013*

## **Welcome Back to the Future: Birding with Sequoia Audubon in the 21st Century!**

**By Jennifer Rycenga, President, Sequoia Audubon Society**

Fall migration: the best time to be a birder in Northern California! Pelagic birds, vagrant passerines, ocean birds in mass feeding frenzies off the coast, hawks heading south, the return of shorebirds and waterfowl, and the puzzling plumages of immature warblers and stubbornly silent empidonax Flycatchers – all these spectacles contribute to an abundance of opportunities, thrills, challenges and memories for birders.

Recognizing this, Sequoia Audubon Society has, over the past few years, launched, sustained and expanded an ambitious fall calendar, with the support and participation of YOU, our members. This year, we are highlighting two key aspects of birding in the twenty-first century: local conservation efforts, and involvement in citizen-science monitoring projects.

San Bruno Mountain Watch helps protect the unique ecosystems of San Bruno Mountain and nearby areas in Pacifica, Daly City, and Montara Mountain. Specialties of the area include two endangered butterflies and many local plants, but the birds of San Bruno Mountain are also compelling. The area attracts many migrants and rarities, and, because of its elevation, has proven to be a good location for hawk migration. Therefore, Sequoia Audubon is joining with San Bruno Mountain Watch to sponsor a joint hike on Sunday October 6th, giving the memberships of both organizations an opportunity to meet and share our

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The First Big SIT! October 9, 2011 at Pescadero Marsh.

From left to right: Mark Kudrav, Cliff Hawley, Leonie Batkin, Ron Thorn, J.C. Shaver, Al DeMartini, and Edwin Geer, all within or near a “loosely” drawn circle 17.5 feet diameter. Photo by Jennifer Rycenga

### **Monthly Meetings**

San Mateo Garden Center

#### October

Thursday, Oct. 10, 7 pm

Raptors of Belize

#### November

Thursday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> 7 pm

Birding Ethiopia

#### December

Thursday Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> 7 pm

Gull I.D.

### **Upcoming Field Trips**

#### October

Tue., 1<sup>st</sup> Burleigh Murray

Wed., 2<sup>nd</sup> Pescadero St. Beach

Wed., 2<sup>nd</sup> Hawk Hill

Sun., 6<sup>th</sup> Pescadero Marsh

Sun., 6<sup>th</sup> San Bruno Mt.

Sun., 13<sup>th</sup> BIG SIT

Sun., 13<sup>th</sup> Edgewood Park

Sat., 19<sup>th</sup> Rancho Corral de Tierra

Sun., 20<sup>th</sup> Pescadero Marsh

Sun., 20<sup>th</sup> Brisbane

Sat., 26<sup>th</sup> Filoli

#### November

Sat., 2<sup>nd</sup> Bedwell-Bayfront Park

Sun., 3<sup>rd</sup> Pescadero Marsh

Wed., 6<sup>th</sup> Wavcrest-HMB

Sat., 9<sup>th</sup> RAPTORAMA

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## Sequoia Audubon Society

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Online Birding Guide:

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

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/  
SequoiaAudubon](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SequoiaAudubon)

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[https://www.facebook.com/  
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## MEETING PROGRAMS

### Raptors of Belize

By Ryan Phillips

Thursday, October 10, 7:00pm

Nearly all species of Neotropical raptors are virtually unknown to the science community and remain a mystery. As threats to these raptors continue, we may lose some species without ever knowing them. With the formation of the Belize Raptor Research Institute (BRRI) this trend is being reversed. During this talk you will learn about BRRI's cutting edge research and conservation projects dedicated to protecting raptors in the Neotropical gem of Belize. These projects include the Solitary Eagle Project, Stygian Owl Project, Hook-billed Kite Project and the first Raptor Watch Program in Belize. BRRI strives to form community-based projects through collaboration to give opportunities to locals to protect their biodiversity. Learn how BRRI is making strides in raptor conservation and unraveling the mysteries of these enigmatic species.

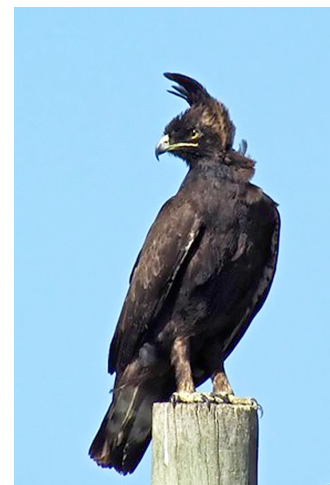
Ryan Phillips is the Executive Director of the Belize Raptor Research Institute. He is a California native with a passion for the Neotropics. He spent much of his teen years studying in Costa Rica and from that experience he knew he wanted to pursue ornithology as a career. He received his Bachelor of Science in Wildlife, Fisheries, and Conservation Biology with a specialization in Ornithology from the University of California at Davis. After UC Davis, Ryan received a position in Belize with The Peregrine Fund's Harpy Eagle Restoration Project, where he spent three years on the project. After working for The Peregrine Fund, Ryan returned to California and received a teaching position at De Anza College in the Kirsch Center for Environmental Studies. As well as teaching and being the Executive Director of BRRI, Ryan sits on the Belize Bird Record Committee, guides various bird trips and is currently working on a photographic field guide on the raptors of Belize and the region. In 2008, Ryan Co-founded the Belize Raptor Research Institute, which represented the culmination of one of his lifelong goals of creating a bird conservation organization.

### Birding in the Horn of Africa: Ethiopia

By Richard Kuehn

Thursday, November 14, 7:00pm

Members of SAS and others are invited to join Richard Kuehn, a retired Obstetrician/Gynecologist and former member of our chapter now living at The Sea Ranch, as he presents the program "Birding in the Horn of Africa: Ethiopia". In this land of dramatic natural contrasts and ever-changing scenery dominated by an isolated mountain mass of central Ethiopia/Eritrea - the most extensive fertile highland plateau in Africa bisected by the Rift Valley and its series of important lakes - Rich joined a small group of like-minded individuals in Addis Ababa for an 18-day adventure. They traveled to this rarely visited part of Africa best known for its periodic droughts and famines in search of many



Long-crested Eagle  
Photo by Rich Kuehn

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## FIELD TRIPS

BY GINNY MARSHALL

**Pescadero Marsh – State Park Docent Nature Walks**  
**First Sunday of each month is a morning walk starting at 10:00 am till Noon**  
**The Third Sunday of each month is an afternoon walk starting at 1:00 pm till 3:00 pm**  
**Walks in October are on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**Walks in November are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**Walks in December are on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Burleigh Murray State Park and Purisima Creek OSP**  
**Tuesday, Oct. 1, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm**

Meet at 8:00 am at the Burleigh Murray parking lot approximately 1 ½ miles east of Hwy 1 on Higgins Road, Half Moon Bay. The walk through Burleigh Murray SP will last approximately 3 hrs. It's an easy round trip out and back from the parking lot. Depending on pace, we will possibly go as far back as the historic barn. The habitats include mature eucalyptus groves, grassy valleys, and an extensive riparian corridor along the ranch road. Year-round resident birds as well as early fall migrants can be observed along this lovely hike. Our next visit will be to the Purisima Creek OSP to experience our lovely coastal redwoods. It is always best to wear layers as temperatures can vary at this time of year.

**Leaders:** Malia DeFelice and Sonny Mencher  
[malia.defelice.sas@gmail.com](mailto:malia.defelice.sas@gmail.com)

**Pescadero State Beach**

**Wednesday, Oct. 2, 9:00 am - 12:30 pm**

We will meet at the furthest end of the second (middle) parking lot for Pescadero State Beach. This is the dirt 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 land birds. There is a wide variety of habitats in this park and we will hope to see quite a few species. Please bring a scope 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 [dpom@comcast.net](mailto:dpom@comcast.net)

**Hawk Hill, Marin Headlands**

**Wednesday, Oct. 2, 11:00 am -2:00 pm**

There has been an official raptor count in the Marin Headlands for more than 25 years. Peak migration lasts from mid-September through mid-October. Robbie Fischer has

(Upcoming Field Trips from Page 1)

**November**

Sun., 10<sup>th</sup> RAPTORAMA  
 Sun., 10<sup>th</sup> Edgewood Park  
 Sun., 17<sup>th</sup> Pescadero Marsh  
 Sun., 17<sup>th</sup> Redwood Shores  
 Sun., 24<sup>th</sup> Brisbane

**December**

Sun., 1<sup>st</sup> Pescadero Marsh  
 Wed., 4<sup>th</sup> Millbrae Bayfront  
 Sun., 8<sup>th</sup> Edgewood Park  
 Sat., 14<sup>th</sup> Half Moon Bay  
 Sun., 15<sup>th</sup> Pescadero Marsh

been a Hawkwatch volunteer for ten years. We will enjoy the spectacle and attempt to identify raptors as they fly by Hawk Hill. Here is the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory website for additional background <http://ggro.org/>

**Directions:** Cross the Golden Gate Bridge and take the second exit, Alexander Avenue. Get in the left lane following signs that read “101 San Francisco.” Turn left at the stop sign and cross under the freeway. Turn right onto Conzelman Road and drive 1.8 miles to Hawk Hill. Park alongside the road at the top of the hill, just before the road becomes one way. Walk up the west side of Hawk Hill past the locked gate. It's just a few hundred feet to the summit. Bring binoculars, lunch and a chair if you like.

**Leader:** Robbie Fischer [robbie22@pacbell.net](mailto:robbie22@pacbell.net)

**San Bruno Mountain Park - Main Parking Lot**

**Sunday, Oct. 6, 8:00am**

In the first of what we hope becomes an annual event, Sequoia Audubon will lead a hike in San Bruno Mountain State and County park, during the peak weekend for hawk migration. The park has long been a magnet for migrant and vagrant species, especially in fall migration. We will be working with San Bruno Mountain Watch's dedicated local conservationists as we explore this significant park. Watch for information on the Sequoia Audubon website, the Sequoia Audubon Facebook Page, and peninsula-birding email group. The trip will include both lower and upper portions of the park.

**Directions:** Take the Bayshore Blvd. off Hwy. 101 N.

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Proceed on Bayshore Blvd. to Guadalupe Cyn. Pwy. Turn W. on Guadalupe to the park entrance on the right. Meet in the main lot, just beyond the kiosk. Park fee is \$5.00

**Leader:** to be announced **Contact:** Ginny Marshall  
[ginnybirder@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ginnybirder@sbcglobal.net)

### **The Third Annual SAS Pescadero BIG SIT!**

**Sunday, Oct. 13**

Relaxed all-day event - the birding equivalent of a tailgate party - will be conducted at Pescadero State Beach, on a hilltop overlooking the North Marsh. This event is also a pledge fund-raiser for SAS. Be a part of the bird-watching team, the SASsy Seawatchers, be a pledge seeker, or a pledge donor - PARTICIPATE! There will be PRIZES!!!

### **Edgewood County Park and Natural Preserve**

**Sunday, Oct. 13, 8:00 am - hike will last 3-4 hours**

Explore Edgewood Natural Preserve throughout the seasons with Susie Hons. Hike through oak woodlands and natural meadows. Look for California Thrasher, Wrentit, Oak Titmouse and Western Bluebird year round. In fall and winter the park hosts many migrant birds. Hike 3-5 miles with some hills.

**Directions:** take 280 to Edgewood Rd. in Woodside. Go east down Edgewood to the park entrance on the right. Meet at the Nature Center.

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

### **Rancho Corral de Tierra**

**Saturday, Oct. 19, half-day hike, 7:30 am to 12:30 pm.**

This area in Montara (just south of the new Tom Lantos Tunnel, sandwiched between Montara State Beach and McNee Ranch State Park) has recently become part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). Habitats include riparian, coastal terrace prairie, chaparral, ranch land, and areas that have produced vagrant warblers and other migrants in past years. This trip will include about 3 miles of hiking. Bring water, wear sturdy shoes, and dress in layers. Heavy rain cancels. Meet at Montara State Beach Parking lot at 7:30 am (just south of La Costanera restaurant, 8150 California Route 1, Montara). Depending on the number of participants, we may repark cars closer to the starting and ending points for the hike. Check out the Rancho Corral de Tierra entry in the San Mateo County Birding Guide:

<http://birding.sequoia-audubon.org>

**Leader:** Jennifer Rycenga 650-440-0063

[smcbgeditor@earthlink.net](mailto:smcbgeditor@earthlink.net)

### **Brisbane**

**Sunday, Oct. 20, 8:00 am -**

Join Jeff & Laurie as they bird their newest "patch", the town of Brisbane. We will walk the Crocker Industrial Park Recreation Trail, beginning at 8 a.m. and lasting 3-4 hours. Leaving early is very easy, as the trail is a loop around the industrial park. Bring the usual (water, snack, and jacket). Be aware of two things: the trail is gravel, which is hard on the feet if you wear soft shoes, and Brisbane is usually much warmer than the surrounding area, as it is in a bowl. Anyone feeling adventurous may wish to BYO lunch and explore the north side of San Bruno Mountain in the afternoon. With luck, we may get to see Red-masked Parakeets! Map coordinates 37.687477,-122.404609. Do not park in the two-hour Dog Park spaces; park across the street.

**Leaders:** Laurie Graham & Jeff Fairclough  
Email [fair80@comcast.net](mailto:fair80@comcast.net) for more info.

### **Filoli Estate, Woodside**

**Saturday, Oct. 26, 8:30 am to Noon (please plan to stay for the entire time!)**

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 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 Café 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 Canada Road and drive approx. 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

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

**Saturday, Nov. 2, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm**

With its marsh, mudflats, open fields and trees any bird can turn up at this park. Come and look at shorebirds, waterfowl and resident birds. Join Don at this local gem and view the Cargill salt flats that may soon become a housing development.

**Directions:** Take hwy 101 to Marsh Rd. in Menlo Park. Travel east on Marsh Rd. When Marsh Rd. ends at Bayfront Expressway go straight into the park. Meet at the parking lot by the restrooms.

**Leader:** Don Pendleton [pen55ton@yahoo.com](mailto:pen55ton@yahoo.com)

(Field Trips from Page 4)

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

**Wednesday, Nov. 6, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm**

The focus of this trip will be raptors. The grasslands of Wavecrest are an important wintering ground 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. Please bring a scope if you have one.

**Directions:** Meet at the west end of Wavecrest Road by the ballfields. 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:** Donna Pomeroy [dpom@comcast.net](mailto:dpom@comcast.net)

### **RAPTORAMA! Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 9-10**

SAS will co-sponsor, with Coastside Land Trust, a 2-day celebration of the birds of Wavecrest, specifically the large numbers of birds of prey that use this special coastal area in Half Moon Bay. Visit Coastside Land Trust on the web at [www.coastsidelandtrust.org](http://www.coastsidelandtrust.org)

See our website for more information and developments on all of these events. [www.sequoia-audubon.org](http://www.sequoia-audubon.org)

### **Edgewood County Park and Natural Preserve**

**Sunday, Nov. 10, 8:00 am - hike will last 3-4 hours**

(See write-up for Oct. 13)

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

### **Redwood Shores Walking Tour**

**Sunday, Nov.17, 8:30 am - Noon**

Visit many of the best birding sites in Redwood Shores other than Radio Road. We will walk about 4 miles at a leisurely pace on level ground. Several restroom sites will be available. Beginners are welcome. Bring a beverage and trail snack.

**Directions:** Meet in front of Starbucks next to Nob Hill Market, located about 1/3 mile east of the Redwood Shores/Holly St/101 interchange.

**Leader:** Sonny Mencher Questions?

Email [sequoiaaudubon@yahoo.com](mailto:sequoiaaudubon@yahoo.com). (even morning of trip)

### **Brisbane**

**Sunday, Nov. 24, 8:00 am -**

See description for Sunday, Oct. 20

**Leaders:** Laurie Graham & Jeff Fairclough

Email [fair80@comcast.net](mailto:fair80@comcast.net) for more info.

### **Millbrae Bayfront Park**

**Wednesday, Dec. 4, 10:30 am -12:30 pm**

Millbrae Bayfront Park is one of the best locations in San Mateo County to look for the endangered California Clapper Rail. As high tide approaches around noon, we will have an excellent chance to see this normally elusive bird out in the open. This is also an excellent location to view the large number of ducks and shorebirds that use this part of San Francisco Bay as a wintering ground. Meet at the free public parking for the Marriott Hotel.

**Directions:** Bayfront Park is located at the corner of Millbrae Ave. and Old Bayshore. Take US 101 to the Millbrae exit, and go east. Where Millbrae Ave. ends, turn right onto Bayshore Hwy. Take your next available left (a turn lane is provided) into the Marriot Hotel's parking lot, and bear left. There are a handful of spaces here set aside for Bayfront Park. There are a handful of overflow spaces in the Westin lot, which is the first right off of Bayshore after you turn off of Millbrae.

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

### **Half Moon Bay**

**Companion Field Trip to our Dec. General Meeting: Gull Identification**

**Saturday, Dec. 14**

Join Al Jaramillo in Half Moon Bay to learn the fine points of gull ID. Al actually makes gulls fun! The time and location will be announced later.

There will be a \$5.00 fee for this field trip.

**Leader:** Al Jaramillo - **Contact:** Ginny Marshall [ginnysbirder@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ginnysbirder@sbcglobal.net)

### **Edgewood County Park and Natural Preserve**

**Sunday, Dec. 8, 8:00 am - hike will last 3-4 hours**

(See write-up for Oct. 13)

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

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## **Cub Scout Summer Day Camp**

SAS volunteers worked two days in July at the Cub Scout summer day camp at Coyote Point. Groups of scouts were led through bird watching activities including bird walks. SAS was charged with working on requirements for the Webelos Naturalist Activity Badge.

One day the total bird species seen on the walks was 37 - quite a lot of birds for the boys to observe.

Thank you SAS members Larry and Eileen Kay, Bob and Sue

Cossins, Roy Carlson, Sonny Mencher, Martha O'Neal and Sue James for your dedication and hard work!



*(Back to the Future - Continued from Page 1)*

work in protecting birds and their habitats (see <http://www.mountainwatch.org/> and the Field trips page in the newsletter for more information on the October 6th event). In November, Sequoia Audubon will partner with Coastside Land Trust to sponsor the first Raptorama festival in Half Moon Bay. The protection of Wavecrest – an extensive area of coastal terrace prairie in Half Moon Bay – helps raptors and owls to flourish along our coast line. The Raptorama festival, scheduled for November 9 and 10, will introduce many people to the habitats and endangered species of the San Mateo coastside, underscoring the importance of land conservation and responsible stewardship. There are expenses associated with this event, and registration is obligatory; details will be provided at meetings and on the Sequoia website.

Sequoia Audubon Society has gained a national reputation for our participation in projects like the Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), and eBird. Now, following up on our spring meeting featuring iNaturalist, Sequoia will sponsor San Mateo County's first Bio-Blitz. What is a Bio-Blitz, you ask? It is a concentrated, single-day event, in which naturalists with all sorts of specializations descend on one park and document every living thing they can get their cameras to record! The Bio-Blitz enriches the biological records for understudied areas, while also being an excellent opportunity for learning. Sightings will be documented in both eBird and iNaturalist. This first-of-its-kind event for our county takes place on Saturday October 5th, at Laurelwood Park/Sugarloaf Mountain in San Mateo. Free registration for the event can be accessed at <http://sequoiabioblitz.eventbrite.com>. The Bio-Blitz is a fun activity, and there will be lunch and dinner breaks to identify photos, relax, and visit. You will not want to miss this launch (and lunch), which presages a new approach to birding, integrating our skills and knowledge with other lovers of nature.

Finally, on Sunday October 13, we will have our Third Annual Big SIT! at Pescadero State Park, at the top of the hill, across from the bridge that Sequoia helped build. This event is a big PARTY as well as a bird-watching challenge par excellence! We will detect as many birds as we can from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm, to raise funds for our active chapter. You can collect pledges, make a donation, sit with the counters, bring food to the party, or participate however you want! Just be sure to mark that day as one when you want to be on the coastside. We will maintain an eBird list, and participate, as always, in the international competitive aspect of the Big SIT! Each of our first two years, we finished near the top for U.S. sites. Let's see if we can get well over 100 species this year!

Tell your friends and neighbors to join Sequoia – as members, as supporters, and as participants – as we continue to forge innovative, responsible, and enjoyable ways to bird into the foreseeable future!

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*(Programs Continued from Page 2)*

of the more than 800 species of birds - 16 of which are endemic. They also hoped to glimpse some of the country's intriguing mammals, like the endemic Gelada Baboon, Beisa Oryx, and the critically endangered Abyssinian Wolf - now the rarest member of the Canid family with slightly more than 500 animals surviving today, before these species disappear. Despite recent terrorism in the Afar region, Rich felt safe throughout his trip and he will share some images of the local tribal people, who he found quite friendly and welcoming. He will also present a few cultural images of the peoples living and worshipping at the monolithic, rock-hewn churches of Lalibela, carved from stone below ground more than 800 years ago, connected to one another by a tangled maze of tunnels and passages, and still used regularly for worship today.

### **Gull Identification for Regular Folks**

**Thursday, December 12, 7:00pm**

**By Alvaro Jaramillo**

Gull identification scares the pants off people! This is because admittedly gulls are not simple; they look different as they age, they hybridize and do various tricky things. But, the overwhelming number of gulls you can identify without much trouble. All it takes is some simplification, rather than focusing on the oddities, the arcane details, you take a big picture look at them and begin by identifying the common and abundant ones before moving on to the rarer one. Ignore everything you have been told about gulls and come and see how gull identification can be broken down into a more manageable manner of looking at them, and before you know it you will be identifying the majority of gulls without even thinking about it!

A Saturday morning (December 14) field trip is planned to the Half Moon Bay area to look for early winter gulls.

Alvaro Jaramillo was born in Chile but began birding in Toronto, Canada, where he lived as a youth. He was trained in ecology and evolution with a particular interest in bird behavior. He is the author of two books, including the Birds of Chile, an authoritative yet portable field guide to Chile's birds. Alvaro writes the Identify Yourself column in Bird Watcher's Digest. He runs a birding and nature tour company Alvaro's Adventures, where the focus is to have fun, learn a thing or two and just enjoy birds and nature. Alvaro lives with his family in Half Moon Bay, California.

## Other Birding Activities

*(SAS does not sponsor the following activities)*

### **Golden Gate Raptor Observatory Public Programs Weekends in September and October**

Hawk Talks and Banding Demonstrations occur every Saturday and Sunday during September and October, weather permitting (heavy fog or rain cancels). We recommend that you arrive at Hawk Hill around 11:30, watch some hawks, listen to the talk, then stay longer if you wish. **For information:** [www.ggro.org](http://www.ggro.org) or <http://www.parksconservancy.org/conservation/plants-animals/raptors/docent-programs.html>

### **17th Annual Sandhill Crane Festival**

**November 1-3, Hutchins Street Square, Lodi, CA**

For 16 years, Lodi's Sandhill Crane Festival has celebrated the return of the cranes. In partnership with the City of Lodi, the Festival continues this November, welcoming an ever-growing circle of friends to our community to share the wonder of the Sandhill Crane.

**Contact:** [info@cranefestival.com](mailto:info@cranefestival.com) or 800-581-6150 or <http://www.cranefestival.com/>

### **17th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium**

**November 21-24, Stockton, CA**

Stockton Hilton Hotel, 209-957-9090 (hotel reservations) Activities include field trips, Bird ID Panel and workshops led by Joe Morlan and Jon Dunn among others. Keynote speakers include Ed Harper, Ed Pandolfino and Kimball Garrett.

**Contact:** <http://www.2013cvbs.org/>

### **18th Annual Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival**

**January 17-20, 2014, Morro Bay, CA**

**Special Events:** Kimball Garrett will be the keynote speaker on Saturday, January 18 and Jon Young will follow him on Sunday evening.

**Contact:** <http://www.morrobaybirdfestival.org/> or 866-464-5105

### **15th Annual Snow Goose Festival of the Pacific Flyway**

**January 23-26, 2014, Chico, CA**

Experience the sights and sounds of the Pacific Flyway migrating waterfowl at the SNOW GOOSE FESTIVAL! Three days of fun, adventure and learning for all ages with field trips, workshops, art show with reception, banquet, and auction. Registration begins in early December.

**Contact:** (530) 345-1865 [www.snowgoosefestival.org](http://www.snowgoosefestival.org)  
email: [info@snowgoosefestival.org](mailto:info@snowgoosefestival.org)

## 2013 Christmas Bird Counts

### **2013 Christmas Bird Counts**

The annual Christmas Bird Counts for San Mateo County are among Sequoia Audubon's favorite traditions. Sequoia's first Crystal Springs count was in 1948 with Santa Clara Audubon and began regular annual counts in 1955. The Ano Nuevo Count began in 1972. Participation in the count is free.

### **Crystal Springs CBC, Saturday, December 21, 2013**

The Crystal Springs CBC is one of the top counts in the country consistently placing in the top 10 in terms of number of species seen. In 2011/12 we were 10<sup>th</sup> in the nation with 198 species. Last year we counted 188 species. The count circle is centered on the Peninsula and includes the Burlingame shoreline to Redwood Shores on the Bayside and southern Pacifica through Half Moon Bay on the Coastside with the Watershed, Skyline Blvd., and the suburbs in between. The compilation dinner will take place at Bel-Mateo Shopping Center Round Table Pizza, 61-43<sup>rd</sup> Ave., San Mateo.

### **Ano Nuevo CBC, Saturday, January 4, 2014**

The Ano Nuevo Count is also one of the highest ranking counts, consistently in the top 50 counts in the Country. In 2011/12 we were 38<sup>th</sup> in the nation with 170 species. Last year we counted 164 species. This Count circle includes the area from Pescadero south to Ano Nuevo and up as far as Big Basin and Sam McDonald State Park. This year our compilation dinner will again be held at a Ranch on the Coast with guests invited.

### **How to Register for the Christmas Bird Count**

Participants can register online, using a form that will be linked from the CBC announcement on the webpage or they can contact the CBC Coordinators directly via email. Registration for the Crystal Springs Count will close on December 10 and December 25 for the Ano Nuevo Count to give the coordinators time to organize the teams and provide all participants with instructions and information.

Questions? For more information about the two Christmas Bird Counts, send an email to Leslie Flint, Coordinator [lflint@earthlink.net](mailto:lflint@earthlink.net)

### **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)*

**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	\$ _____
<b>Total</b>	\$ _____

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

Newsletter Preference: \_\_\_\_\_ Mail and / or \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail

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

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

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### SAS Fall Spectacular for San Mateo County Birds and Birders

Join us for these fun-filled weekend events exploring the diverse beauty of San Mateo County’s great outdoors. Meet new people! Discover arriving migrant birds! Get some Sequoia Audubon logo gear! See Details below:

#### Bio-Blitz at Laurelwood Park in San Mateo Saturday, Oct. 5

The first of a planned series of Bio-blitzes in San Mateo County co-sponsored by SAS, California Academy of Science, Nerds for Nature and iNaturalist. The Bio-Blitz is a short, intensive study of bio-diversity in one specific location, bringing scientists and volunteer citizen-scientists together. All living things are noted and recorded to the greatest specificity possible - birds, mammals, herps, butterflies, insects, spiders, plants, mushrooms, even slime molds! People of all ages, levels of knowledge, and skill are invited to participate. Bring a camera (or your smart phone!), binoculars, magnifying glasses, butterfly nets, and whatever else will help you record what you observe.

We will be entering observations in iNaturalist, and maintaining eBird lists for the day, too.

To register go to <https://sequoiabioblitz.eventbrite.com>

Contact Jennifer Rycenga at [smcbgeditor@earthlink.net](mailto:smcbgeditor@earthlink.net) for more information; include “Bio-Blitz” in the subject line.

#### The Third Annual SAS Pescadero BIG SIT! Sunday, Oct. 13

Relaxed all-day event - the birding equivalent of a tailgate party - will be conducted at Pescadero State Beach, on a hilltop overlooking the North Marsh. This event is also a pledge fundraiser for SAS. Be a part of the bird-watching team, the SASsy Seawatchers, be a pledge seeker, or a pledge donor - PARTICIPATE! There will be PRIZES!!!

#### RAPTORAMA! Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 9-10

SAS will co-sponsor, with Coastsidelandtrust, a 2-day celebration of the birds of Wavecrest, specifically the large numbers of birds of prey that use this special coastal area in Half Moon Bay. Visit Coastsidelandtrust on the web at [www.coastsidelandtrust.org](http://www.coastsidelandtrust.org)

See our website for more information and developments on all of these events. [www.sequoia-audubon.org](http://www.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.*