A Message from the President:

Dear Members,
As you are reading this my reign as president will be over. It has been a busy and wonderful year. I have been amazed by all the energy our volunteers pour into this organization. Our volunteers do school programs, lead field trips, monitor rookeries, count and survey birds, keep track of conservation issues and so many other things. Thank you all for your hard work. Sequoia Audubon could not exist without you.

Our organization is losing a good friend this month as Sue Cossins, our long-time administrative assistant is retiring. Sue has done a wonderful job, handling the public and the board with her unflagging smile and common sense. She will continue to monitor the heron rookery and we hope to see her at the meetings and out in the field. We will miss Sue, but all is not lost. Board member, Pati Rouzer, has been hired as our new Chapter Coordinator, combining Sue’s position with fund-raising and outreach. I am excited about the new opportunities this offers Sequoia Audubon.

Thank you for allowing me the experience of presiding over this unique organization. I have enjoyed every minute of it. Now I’m going birding!
Ginny Marshall, Past President

Migrations - Comings and Goings

Welcome Rob Furrow to the Board. Many of you many know him through his postings on online birding list-serves, have followed his Big Green Day, or have seen him biking around the hills and bay with binoculars on. Recently graduated from Stanford with a PhD in Evolutionary Biology, his interest in nature began with collecting insects in high school, but soon moved to birds & trees, then to mathematical analysis of bird song. Rob blogs his green birding adventures at http://www.slowtwitchbirding.com. Join Rob on his field trip Birding Foster City by Bike, Saturday Aug. 22. See details under Field Trips.

Returning from a year’s sabbatical, our dynamic Jennifer Rycenga, will once again lead our chapter as President. We’re excited to get her back to west coast birding!

New Board Member
Rob Furrow
Summer is a quiet time for birds and the chapter with a break from monthly programs until September when Sequoia’s Consulting Biologist, Alvaro Jaramillo, presents Cuba!

Cuba is one of the closest neighbors to the United States, but due to politics it might as well be on the other side of the world. Few Americans have traveled there, and birders have been restricted to a few legal survey trips a year, or going there illegally through Canada in order to enjoy its birds. But things are finally starting to open up and we expect that more and more birders will be able to enjoy the amazing diversity, and incredible level of endemism (species found nowhere else on earth). Cuba is a fantastic birding destination. It is safe, birdy, has much protected habitat and forest cover, and there is still a lot to learn there. In fact it may be the place where the Ivory-billed Woodpecker actually still lives! Alvaro has been lucky to have birded in Cuba on more than 6 occasions over the years, and he is excited to be able to show you some of the gorgeous bird life, teach a bit about the interesting biology of Cuban wildlife, and give you a sense for the culture, people and how Cuba remains a charming, friendly and very jovial place even though the people there have had to endure so much!

Alvaro Jaramillo is a former SAS board member, author and owner of Alvaro’s Adventures, and runs popular pelagic trips out of Half Moon Bay where he magically makes pelagic birding fun and rewarding. 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*, and has recently finished the *ABA Field Guides to the Birds of California*. 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.
Summer at the Salton Sea  
Friday July 10 through Sunday morning, July 12  
This is a very long drive to a very hot place, for both temperatures and birds. “Should see” birds include Gambel’s Quail, Laughing Gull, Yellow-footed Gull, Common Ground Dove, Inca Dove, Gila Woodpecker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Abert’s Towhee. “Hope for” birds include Least Bittern, Neotropic Cormorant, Wood Stork, Gull-billed Tern, Bronzed Cowbird. You never know what else might wander up from the Gulf of California at this time of year, so we’ll have our eyes and ears open for surprises (but none guaranteed). Expect extreme conditions, with daily temperatures in excess of 105 degrees, necessitating pre-dawn starts to the birding day. Roads are dusty and rugged, and other than the comfortable lodging opportunities in Brawley (our base of operations), conditions are very basic. Driving time from San Mateo to Brawley is approximately 9 hours, not counting traffic out of the Bay Area and while transiting the Los Angeles Metro Area. The leader reserves the right to cancel the trip or change the destination in the event of inappropriate climactic or birding conditions. Please contact the leader in advance to discuss whether this trip makes sense for you to attend, and for information on recommended driving and lodging strategies. Carpooling is strongly recommended.  
Leader: Francis Toldi, ftoldi@yahoo.com, 650-638-0919.

Edgewood County Park  
Sunday, July 12  8:00 am- hike will last 3-4 hours  
Explore this gem of a park with Susie Hons. Hike through oak woodlands and natural meadows. Look for California Thrasher, Wrentit, Oak Titmouse and Western Bluebird year round. Hike 3-5 miles with some hills. Directions: Take 280 to Edgewood Rd. in San Carlos. Go east down Edgewood to the park entrance on the right. Meet at the Nature Center.  
Leader: Susie Hons susieturtlewings@mac.com

Pillar Point and Princeton Harbor  
Friday, July 17, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
Join us on a weekday for birding this popular destination without the weekend crowds. Pillar Point is a hot spot for birding year-round with great habitat for a variety of waterbirds. Our field trip timing is set to be there at low tide. Most of the walking will be on fairly level dirt trails, but if time permits, we may hike up onto the bluff top for a better view out to sea. Bring binoculars, camera, and a scope if you have them. Be prepared to dress for warm or cool temperatures. Bring water and snacks. A primitive restroom is available at the parking lot. Heavy rain cancels. Directions: The harbor is located just west of Hwy 1, which is 18 miles south of San Francisco and 4 miles north of Half Moon Bay. From Hwy 1, turn west at the stoplight at Capistrano Road and continue along the north side of the harbor to Prospect Way. Turn left onto Prospect, then a brief jog right on Broadway, to an immediate left on Harvard Avenue. Proceed through the boat yards to the end of Harvard Avenue, then turn right onto West Point Avenue, which curves around a marshy area and heads uphill to an Air Force Radar Facility. Meet at the “West Shoreline Access” parking lot below the “Golf Ball”.  
Leader: Malia DeFelice and Chris Hayward malia.defelice.sas@gmail.com

Pillar Point Harbor  
Saturday, August 15, 8:00-11:00 AM  
Pillar Point is a hot spot for birding year round. We should find a variety of resident birds and migrant shorebirds. Most of the walking will be on fairly level dirt trails, but if time permits, we may hike up onto the bluff top for a better view out to sea. Scopes will be useful here, so if you have one bring it along. A primitive restroom is available at the parking lot.  
Directions: The harbor is located just west of Coast Hwy One, 18 miles south of SF and 4 miles north of Half Moon Bay. From Hwy 1 turn west at the stoplight at Capistrano Rd. and continue along the north side of the harbor to Prospect Way. Turn left onto Prospect, then a brief jog right on Broadway, to an immediate left on Harvard Ave. Proceed through the boat yards to the end of Harvard Ave, then right onto West Point Ave, which curves around a marshy right and heads uphill to an Air Force Radar Facility. Meet at the “West Shoreline Access” parking lot below the “Golf Ball.”  
Leader: Susie Hons susieturtlewings@mac.com

Birding Foster City by Bike  
Saturday, August 22, 8:00 am - Noon  
When you drive through Foster City, don’t you wish you could stop to check out all of the little ponds, canals, mudflats, and sloughs? On this biking trip, we’ll begin at the Foster City Shell Bar to take in the splendors of fall

(Continued on Page 4)
shorebird migration, then head along bike trails over to Seal Point and the 3rd Avenue Marsh. We’ll observe a diversity of waterbirds, while keeping our eyes and ears open for songbird migrants and local breeders. Expect 6-8 miles of biking in total. Heavy rain cancels. Any bike is fine, but you should be prepared with binoculars, water, sunscreen, snacks and a biking helmet.

Directions: We’ll meet at the bike path by the intersection of Beach Park Blvd and Tarpon St. Parking is available on Beach Park Blvd. Coming from the west, head east on Hwy 92 towards the San Mateo Bridge. Take the Foster City Blvd exit. Turn left onto Metro Center Blvd from the exit, then immediately turn right onto Foster City Blvd. At the next light, turn left on Hillsdale Blvd, which will turn into Beach Park Blvd as it curves to the east. Park along Beach Park Blvd anywhere between Marlin Ave. and Tarpon St.

Leader: Rob Furrow  robertfurrow@gmail.com

Enid Pearson Arastradero Preserve
Sunday August 23,  8:00am - 12:00pm
Arastradero is a wonderful park with rolling hills, oak trees and meadowland. We will look for Bluebirds, Swallows, Lazuli Bunting, Acorn Woodpeckers and several hawk species. Golden Eagle is also possible here. We will walk 2-4 miles at a birders pace. It can get hot here so bring water.

Directions:  take highway 280 south.   Exit Page Mill Rd and go west (right). Turn right on Arastradero Rd. The parking lot will be on the right.

Leader: Ginny Marshall.  ginnybirder@sbcglobal.net

Half Moon Bay Pelagic Trip
Sunday, Aug. 30 arrive at dock at 6:30am for 7:00am departure
Ever wonder what you can see if you venture off offshore? Incredible things! Whales and dolphins, Albatross and Shearwaters and there is always the chance for that rare Petrel or Tropicbird or anything! This all day boat trip will stay in San Mateo County waters for you county birders. The trip may be cancelled if the seas are too rough. Wear warm clothes and take seasickness medication if you are prone to it. Sign up early, as space is limited. There is a fee of $130 for this trip. For more information and to sign up go to: http://alvarosadventures.com/boat-trips/pelagics/

Leader: Alvaro Jaramillo alvaro@alvarosadventures.com

Coyote Point County Park
Wednesday, September 2, 9:00 am-12:00 pm
We will meet at the parking lot by the yacht club for a leisurely stroll around Coyote Point Park looking at the abundant shorebirds and hopefully, some fall migrants. With such a variety of habitats at Coyote Point, we should be able to see quite a number of species. There is an admission charge to the park of $6 or free for seniors.

Directions: Exit Peninsula Ave from Hwy 101 and follow the signs to the park.

Leader: Donna Pomeroy  dpom@comcast.net

Edgewood County Park
Sunday, September 13   8:00am- hike will last 3-4 hours
Explore this gem of a park with Susie Hons. Hike through oak woodlands and natural meadows. Look for California Thrasher, Wrentit, Oak Titmouse and Western Bluebird year round. Hike 3-5 miles with some hills. Directions: Take 280 to Edgewood Rd. in San Carlos. Go east down Edgewood to the park entrance on the right. Meet at the Nature Center.

Leader: Susie Hons  susieturtlewings@mac.com

Moss Landing/Elkhorn Slough
September 16, whole day trip  8:30 AM – 3:00 PM
This trip will explore some of Monterey county’s best fall birding hotspots. We will plan to bird at Moss Landing, Moon Glow Dairy, Zmudowsky State Beach, and other spots as we have time. Plan to have lunch with the group at a great local seafood restaurant. Contact the leader to reserve a space and for carpooling and directions info.

Leader: Leslie Flint  lflint@earthlink.net

Bluff Walk and Sweetwood Group Camp, Half Moon Bay
Saturday, Sept. 26, 9:00 am – Noon
This approximately 2.5 mi. loop walk will take us through Sweetwood Group Camp and along bluff-top trails that overlook Dunes State Beach and Venice State Beach. Frenchman’s Creek mouth and Pilarcitos Creek mouth will also be visited during our walk. Beginning Birders Welcome! Directions: Meet at the restrooms at Venice Beach State Park. Park at Venice State Beach for a $10 day use fee (which can be used at any State Beach that day) or there is free street parking at the north end of Pilarcitos Ave. at Wave Ave. and on adjacent streets. If opting for free parking, park, then walk towards the beach, where you will intersect with the paved coastal trail. Head north along the paved trail to the meet-up location at Venice State Beach.

Leaders: Malia DeFelice and Chris Hayward  mlia.defelice.sas@gmail.com

Hawk Hill
Tuesday, Oct.  13, 11:00am – 2:00pm
There has been an official raptor count in the Marin (Continued on Page 5)
Headlands for more than 25 years. Peak migration lasts from mid-September through mid-October. Robbie Fischer has 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

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**Filoli Estate**

**Saturday, October 24, 2015, 8:30 AM to Noon**

Filoli Estate is the property of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. We have been invited for a morning of birding at this beautiful site on the edge of the San Francisco watershed land. The grounds of Filoli have a beautiful formal garden surrounded by large oaks and trails leading to riparian, redwood and farm habitats. Over 96 species of birds have been found here. Reservations are required because this trip is limited to 20 people maximum (sorry, no children under 14). Participants may remain after the field trip to walk through the house and/or formal gardens at no charge. No food or picnicking is allowed but light food and beverages at the Cafe are available for purchase and the gift shop will be open. Directions: Take Hwy 280 to the Edgewood Road exit; go west. Turn right/north on 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

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**My years with SAS –from Sue Cossins**

Back in the mid 1980’s a friend who knew I was interested in bird-watching encouraged me to join SAS. I started going to meetings and field trips and met some really nice people who shared my interests. At the time I was a divorced mother of two teen-agers and worked three midnight shifts a week as an RN at Sequoia Hospital in the Cardiac Surveillance Unit. I had a full life but was very passionate about nature study – plants, animals, and especially birds. I’ve always liked exploring the outdoors camping, hiking, bicycling, gardening, etc. so learning more about the birds fit right in. My first volunteer job with SAS resulted from a phone call from Anne Moser, the SAS President. She was so pleasant and persuasive that before I knew it I had committed to being Hospitality Chairperson. Since that time I’ve worn many hats with SAS – Board Member, Conservation Committee member, ACR Hosting Chair, Field Trip Leader and Program Chairperson. The last position that I held for seven years from April 2008 to May 2015 was a paid position - Administrative Assistant. That job involved being the office person and newsletter editor, along with my husband, Bob, working out of our home.

When I made the decision to retire and have more time for my other interests, especially travel, I was very happy to have Pati Rouzer take over the job in an expanded role as Chapter Coordinator.

Good luck, Pati. I know you’ll do a terrific job. I’m looking forward to making many new friends at future SAS events.

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Great Egret in Flight

by Bob Cossins

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Sue Cossins demonstrating the length of a Great Egret’s wingspan.

Photo by Pati Rouzer
Photographer’s Corner
Sequoia welcomes photos from members showcasing birds of San Mateo County. Contact us at office@sequoia-audubon.org.

Forester’s Tern with Chicks
by Pati Rouzer

Western Grebe’s Courtship Display
by Bob Cossins

The Bay Area Bird Photographers (BABP)
BABP hosts monthly meetings at the Lucy Evans Baylands Interpretive Center, 2775 Embarcadero Road in Palo Alto. Sponsored by the Santa Clara Valley Audubon, meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month. Check the site for speakers at http://www.scvas.org/index.php?page=text&id=babp

Gull with leg band
by Pati Rouzer
Report Gulls with bands to www.pwrc.usgs.gob/BBL

Birding Classes
San Francisco: Fall
Joe Morlan is one of the foremost birders in Northern California. The MIT graduate has taught field ornithology at City College of San Francisco since 1978. He is the coauthor of “Birds of San Francisco and the Bay Area” and “Birds of Northern California.” He is the Chair of the California Bird Records Committee and recipient of the 2010 Ludlow Griscom Award for contributions to regional ornithology. Link here to check out the schedule http://fog.ccsf.edu/~jmoran/fall15.htm

Palo Alto: Fall
Palo Alto Adult Education offers evening classes from Birding Basics, to Intermediate and Advanced levels with weekend field trips. http://paadultschool.org/class/birding/

South Bay: Ongoing Field Seminars
Alvaro Jaramillo, Senior Biologist with the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, SAS’s Consulting Ornithologist, author, and owner of an international birding tour company (Alvaro’s Adventures) teaches intensive workshop and field seminars throughout the year and at various locations on the peninsula. Check his schedule at http://www.sfbbo.org/activities/workshops.php
Conservation

Advocating for birds in our community

Port of Redwood City Rookery
Sequoia members continue to monitor the rookery at Port of Redwood City as part of the long-standing heron/egret Colonial Waterbird Survey. Sue Cossins leads SAS’s watchful eye on the colony, connecting the business property managers and arborist on bird-safe tree trimming this spring.

Crystal Springs Watershed
The SF PUC is considering opening the watershed for daily hiking, biking, and equestrian use. Currently docents lead trips three times a week. Under the new proposal, annual access permits will be required for entrance, however it appears that there will be no staff available to monitor folks coming into the watershed. SAS board is opposed to unregulated access but supports an increase in the docent program. Marbled Murrelet are known to breed in the watershed and since 2013, Bald Eagles.

Corporate Outreach
SAS and Santa Clara Valley Audubon began doing monthly surveys in June for Facebook on their new West Campus’ 9 acre Green Roof. The goal of the survey is to monitor bird response to the roof’s landscape, most of which are native plants, and to engage and inform fb employees about the birds around them. The campus sits adjacent to the Baylands and has spectacular views to the bay and surrounding marsh. Surveys are the first Friday of the month. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Pati Rouzer. Shani Kleinhaus of SCVAS leads the project.

Legislative Action
SAS encourages its members, friends, family and birding buddies to follow Audubon in Action Alerts found online at https://www.audubon.org/takeaction. It takes just a few minutes to read about the work our state and local Audubons are doing to protect birds nationwide- and to click on the Send button to show your support.

Coffee for the Birds
Is your coffee bird friendly? If it doesn’t have the Smithsonian Institute certification seal (see logo) it you can’t guarantee that your money is not supporting farming practices harmful to resident and migrating birds. During our monthly public meetings SAS proudly serves Bird Friendly coffee certified by the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center (SMBC) Bird Friendly® coffee which is 100% organic & shade grown. SAS serves SMBC coffee because it supports our mission, to conserve and educate. SAS member Susan Rowinski generously donates the coffee through Birds and Beans at https://www.birdsandbeans.com. For more information on SMBC coffee visit: http://nationalzoo.si.edu/SCBI/MigratoryBirds/Coffee/default.cfm

Birds in Our Backyards
Backyard birds, be they resident or migrants, need our support. You can help them by providing food and shelter with feeders, native trees, shrubs and flowers, a water source and as predator safe as you can manage. Check your windows for bird strikes and apply collision preventers (see http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/collisions/pdf/collisions_flyer.pdf). Sit back, enjoy and submit your backyard bird sightings to eBird – it makes a difference in knowing where and how our birds are doing. For detailed information on how to clean your feeders, go to our eNewsletter http://www.sequoia-audubon.org. & WildCare guides at http://www.wildcarebayarea.org/site/PageServer?pagename=takeaction_salmonella_outbreak.

California’s drought is tough on birds. We can offer a water saving source for birds by installing a dripping line into a shallow basin. The sound of water will draw birds. Check out a Water Wiggler for more fun at your birdbath. The Birder’s Garden has fountains and baths in stock, or can help with an order. It is located in San Carlos or at http://www.birdersgarden.com. Sequoia members get a 10% discount.
Sequoia Audubon Society
P.O. Box 620292
Woodside, CA
94062-0292

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.

Clark’s Grebes “Rushing” by Bob Cossins

amazon smile

Help support SAS through Amazon Smile when you shop online.
A percentage of your purchase can be donated to support the work of SAS whenever you shop on Amazon. You get the same products, prices, and service in a way to support our work to protect native birds and other wildlife and their ecosystems. The only difference is that, to support SAS through Amazon Smile, you must access the site: http://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-6092953 When you do, 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases will be donated to SAS. Thanks for the support -- and don’t forget to tell your friends!

Donation to Sequoia Audubon.
Please consider an extra donation to your chapter in support of the work we do to provide birding trips, monthly programs, monitoring conservation concerns around the county, education and outreach.

Memorial Giving: Doug Landauer
Recently a lover of nature and especially birds, who had an encyclopedic knowledge of the flora and fauna of the California wilderness, passed away. A dear friend of Doug and his wife, set up a request to donate to Sequoia Audubon in Doug’s memory. Many of Doug’s friends and colleagues generously donated gifts in his name. Doug would surely have been pleased. Thank you to all who donated.

Volunteer Opportunities
Volunteer Coordinator Position
Publicity
Graphic Design
Single Day Jobs ie: organize a beach clean-up or other events
Please contact Pati Rouzer for more information: parouzer@yahoo.com