Sequoia Turns 70 by Jennifer Rycenga

Back in 1949, some enterprising bird lovers decided that San Mateo County needed and deserved its own Audubon chapter, and thus was Sequoia Audubon Society born! Part of a large post-World War II boom in civic activity, but decades prior to the environmental movement, Sequoia Audubon Society sponsored field trips and conservation advocacy from its earliest days. The results of these forward-thinking founders are now clear. Sequoia Audubon Society has developed over the past three-score and ten years into a vital advocate for birds and their habitats. Our organization has educated generations of school children in San Mateo County on birds, conducted thousands of field trips, sponsored two of the most successful Christmas Bird Counts in the country, helped to save Pescadero Marsh, supported our birding community’s enthusiastic participation in the electronic age of the 21st century, honored our local birding superstars, sponsored festivals, assisted in bringing pelagic birding back to our waters, and much more!

In honor of our distinguished record and happy anniversary, Sequoia Audubon has chosen to celebrate our seventieth in style, with special guest speakers, field trips, honors, games, and innovations. Come to our meetings and events, and be a part of the next generation to carry this torch of love for all things avian. Look for new logo gear celebrating the 70th, and a new feature here in the newsletter looking back at older entries. Our history will be something we want to collect – if you have memories of incidents in the life of the club from the twentieth century, please share them with the newsletter editor, or with Jennifer Rycenga, for archiving.

Let’s throw a year-long party for the BIRDS, for our chapter’s success so far, and for a positive outlook for birds in San Mateo County’s future.
Migrations

We welcome Chris MacIntosh and John Epperson as new members of the Board of Directors. Chris has been a Midpeninsula Regional Open Space Docent for over 30 years, leading walks on all topics - fungi, dark skies, general natural history. She has lived in the area for 40 years. Chris has a passion for introducing people to the outdoors around them and will bring a lot of energy to her new position.

John Epperson is a long-time member who recently stepped down as a Director at Audubon Canyon Ranch. He was Sequoia Audubon’s Representative to that North Bay organization. John brings a keen mind and a wealth of experience to his new duties.

The organization lost Director Rob Furrow to the central valley and the University of California, Davis. Rob led many field trips and was a pioneer in Sequoia Audubon’s biking and birding activities. We wish him flat roads and persistent tail winds. And many good birds, too. Thanks for all your work, Rob.

Bird Friendly Signage in Foster City by Leslie Flint

In a cooperative effort between Sequoia Audubon and Foster City Public Works and Parks & Recreation, the kiosk at Marlin and Beach Park Boulevard has a new sign and improved educational information. The Foster City Shell Bar is an important feeding/resting spot for thousands of shorebirds that spend the winter on San Francisco Bay. Too often these birds are disturbed by the public walking their dogs off leash there or simply finding it amusing to scare the birds.

Sequoia met with Foster City representatives and suggested they put up a sign asking people to respect the birds and to keep their dogs on-leash. They were very responsive and the sign was recently completed and installed. It includes Sequoia’s logo and contact information. In addition, Matthew Dodder designed a new poster illustrating the common species of shorebirds at the Shell Bar for the kiosk. We are hoping this will educate the public to the importance of our wintering shorebirds.

Save the Date for Coming Events

Christmas Bird Counts

* Crystal Springs CBC - December 15, 2018
* Año Nuevo CBC - December 29, 2018

The Big Sit and Big Ride

The 8th Annual Big Sit and the 4th Annual Big Ride take place on October 14 in Pescadero. The Big Sit happens all day as a birder tailgate party at the top of the hill over the bridge at Pescadero Marsh. Donate, hang out, get some exercise, gather pledges – this is one of our major fund-raisers as well as a fun-raiser. See the field trip section for more info on the Big Ride.
Sequoia Field Trips

Coyote Point County Park
Wednesday, October 3, 9:00 am - Noon
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 (free for seniors). Directions: Exit Peninsula Ave. from Hwy 101 and follow the signs to the park. Leader: Donna Pomeroy Contact: dpom@comcast.net.

October Global Big Day 2018: Pescadero (RSVP)
Saturday, October 6, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm
We will spend some time looking for shorebirds and seabirds from the bluff, then walk across the road to explore the marsh. We will then spend the morning exploring most of the birding sites around Pescadero to look for landbirds, with exact itinerary depending on the weather and recent sightings. There is a wide variety of habitats in and around this park and we will hope to see quite a few species; vagrants are always a possibility at this time of year, so we will adapt the itinerary depending on what has been reported recently. Scopes will be very useful on this trip, so bring one along if you have one. Directions: From Half Moon Bay take Hwy 1 south about 15 miles. 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. GPS coordinates of the parking lot are: 37.265163, -122.412225. Co-leaders: Jane Dixon and Adam Dudley. RSVP to adamanjdjane@mac.com.

October Global Big Day 2018: Coyote Point County Park
Saturday, October 6, 8:00 am - 11:00 am
We will meet in the parking lot by the Yacht Club and walk trails at a leisurely pace. We will bird the freshwater marsh, the shoreline out to the harbor entrance and the trail through the eucalyptus grove to the grassy area above the museum - about 1 1/2 miles all told. Directions: Take Hwy 101 and follow the signs to the park. There is an admission fee of $6. Beginners welcome! Heavy rain cancels. Leaders: Sue Cossins (susancossins@gmail.com) and Martha O’Neal (monealbirds@att.net).

October Global Big Day 2018: Bayside Shorebird Sweep
Saturday, October 6, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm
We will start at the Foster City Shellbar and continue south to Bair Island and Bedwell Bayfront Park. The goal will be to amass a high species count as part of the October Global Big Day. Carpooling is encouraged. Light rain ok but heavy rain cancels. Directions: Park and meet across the street from Sweet Basil Thai Cuisine at 1473 Beach Park Boulevard in Foster City. Leaders: Donna Pomeroy and Jennifer Rycenga. Contact: gyrrlfalcon@earthlink.net and dpom@comcast.net, or 650-440-0063 (Jennifer) for more information or clarification. No need to reserve a space.

San Francisco Botanical Garden, Ninth and Lincoln, San Francisco
Sunday October 7, 8:00 am -11:00 am
Visit this beautiful garden at the height of fall migration. This walk is co-sponsored by Golden Gate Audubon Society, which hosts this walk monthly. Travel paved, mostly level trails suitable for wheelchairs. Leader: Ginny Marshall. Contact: ginnybirder@gmail.com.
Beginner / Refresher Bird Walk, Bedwell Bayfront Park
Saturday, October 13, 10:00 am - Noon
All are welcome to join Friends of Bedwell Bayfront Park and Sequoia Audubon Society for a 1 to 2-hour beginner/refresher bird walk. If you are an educator who is bringing your class or sending students on their own, we’re very happy to have you! We do ask that you let us know in advance so we can ensure we have adequate leadership to enrich your students’ experience. We should see wintering ducks and shorebirds, perhaps egrets, a raptor or two, and some LBBs (little brown birds). Bring binoculars if you have them; if not, we’ll share ours with you. **Directions:** Meet at the parking lot by restrooms at Bedwell Bayfront Park, 1600 Marsh Road, Menlo Park. **Heavy rain cancels. For more information:** Chris MacIntosh
Contact: chrismac@alumni.upenn.edu or phone 650-839-1523.

Edgewood County Preserve from Education Center
Sunday, October 14, 8:00 am – Noon
Explore this gem of a park while hiking 3-6 miles through oak woodlands, some hills and natural meadows. Look for California Thrasher, Wrentit, Oak Titmouse & Western Bluebird year-round. **Directions:** Take 280 to Edgewood Rd. in Woodside. Go east down Edgewood to the park entrance on the right. Meet at the Education Center. **Leader:** Susie Hons
Contact: susieturtlewings@mac.com.

Big Ride - Coastal Birding by Bicycle
Sunday, October 14, 7:00 am (duration 6-8 hours)
This is a Bike Birding field trip done simultaneously with the Big Sit. We will begin at Gazos Creek State Beach parking area for a short seawatch to look for seabirds and shorebirds. Next, we head along Gazos Creek road which is a fantastic riparian corridor, looking for warblers and other goodies. We will move away from the creek into grassland looking for Loggerhead Shrike and other open area birds. We then head into the town of Pescadero, birding the back roads before cruising over to Water Lane which can be super for rare vagrants. We finish up birding around the edge of Pescadero marsh looking for rails and shorebirds. This is our 4th year doing the Big Ride and we found some nice rarities in the past, including Prairie Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler and Lawrence’s Goldfinch. The ride is about 10 to 12 miles at a very leisurely pace. **Directions:** Meet at 7.00am at the Gazos Creek State. **Leaders:** Chris Hayward and Chris O’Connell. **For more info:** Chris Hayward at p_t_nymph@hotmail.com.

Filoli Estate - RSVP Required
Saturday, October 20, 8:30 am to Noon
Filoli Estate is the property of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Bay Area Audubon members have been invited for a morning of birding at this beautiful site on the edge of the San Francisco watershed. Over 96 species of birds have been found here. **Filoli has limited this invitation to Audubon members from the Bay Area Audubon chapters. Reservations are required and there is a limit of 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. Picnic tables are available near the Visitor Education Center if you wish to enjoy your own lunch, or you can purchase a wide variety of food items and beverages at the Quail’s Nest Cafe. The gift shop will also be open. **Directions:** Take Hwy 280 to the Edgewood Road exit; go west. Turn right/north on Cañada Road and drive approx. one mile to the entrance of Filoli. We will meet in front of the Visitors Center. **Heavy Rain Cancels. To reserve your spot:** Call Sue James at 650-348-0315. **Leaders:** Sue James and Tricia Jordan.

Hayward Regional Shoreline
Wednesday, November 7, 8:30 am – Noon
Hayward Regional Shoreline is an excellent location for ducks, shorebirds, raptors, and songbirds. The eucalyptus, fennel, and coyote bush at the end of Winton Road often yield interesting land birds and the shoreline is home to many species of wintering ducks and shorebirds. Bring a scope if you have one. Easy, level trails. **Directions:** Take Hwy 92 east across the San Mateo Bridge; take the first exit (Clawiter / Eden Landing) and go north to Winton. Turn left. Follow Winton past the old park office to where the road ends at the last parking lot inside the gates. **Leader:** Donna Pomeroy. **Contact:** dpom@comcast.net.
Beginner / Refresher Bird Walk, Bedwell Bayfront Park  
Saturday, November 10, 10:00 am - Noon  
All are welcome to join Friends of Bedwell Bayfront Park and Sequoia Audubon Society for a 1 to 2-hour beginner/refresher bird walk. We should see wintering ducks and shorebirds, perhaps egrets, a raptor or two, and some LBBs (little brown birds). Bring binoculars if you have them; if not, we’ll share ours with you.  
Directions: Meet at the parking lot by restrooms at Bedwell Bayfront Park, 1600 Marsh Road, Menlo Park. Heavy rain cancels. For more information: Chris MacIntosh. Contact: chrismac@alumni.upenn.edu or phone 650-839-1523.

Edgewood County Preserve from Education Center  
Sunday, November 11, 8:00 am – Noon  
Explore this gem of a park while hiking 3-6 miles through oak woodlands, some hills and natural meadows. Look for California Thrasher, Wrentit, Oak Titmouse & Western Bluebird year-round.  
Directions: Take 280 to Edgewood Rd. in Woodside. Go east down Edgewood to the park entrance on the right. Meet at the Education Center. Leader: Susie Hons. Contact: susieturtlewings@mac.com.

Millbrae Bayfront Park  
Wednesday, December 5, 9:30 am -11:30 am  
Millbrae Bayfront Park is one of the best locations in San Mateo County to look for the endangered Ridgway’s Rail. As high tide approaches at 10:30, we will have a very good 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 wintering grounds. Meet at the free public parking for the Marriott Hotel. Directions: Take US 101 to the Millbrae exit, and go east. Where Millbrae Avenue ends, turn right onto Old Bayshore Hwy. Take your next available left (a turn lane is provided) into the Marriott Hotel’s parking lot, and bear left. There are a handful of spaces here set aside for Bayfront Park or look for street parking on one of the side streets to the west of Bayshore. Leader: Donna Pomeroy. Contact: dpom@comcast.net.

Beginner / Refresher Bird Walk, Bedwell Bayfront Park  
Saturday, December 8, 10:00 am - Noon  
All are welcome to join Friends of Bedwell Bayfront Park and Sequoia Audubon Society for a 1 to 2-hour beginner/refresher bird walk. We should see wintering ducks and shorebirds, perhaps egrets, a raptor or two, and some LBBs (little brown birds). Bring binoculars if you have them; if not, we’ll share ours with you. Directions: Meet at the parking lot by restrooms at Bedwell Bayfront Park, 1600 Marsh Road, Menlo Park. Heavy rain cancels. For more information: Chris MacIntosh. Contact: chrismac@alumni.upenn.edu or phone 650-839-1523.
**October 11, 2018, 7 pm**

*“Shakespeare’s Birds” with Martin Hyatt*

Birds have magical qualities. They fly, they sing, and they anticipate the seasons. They have inspired artists and writers in every age and society. Shakespeare filled his works with bird imagery, drawing upon renaissance, medieval, Roman, Greek, and biblical sources, as well as his own experience. He was quite the birder, mentioning over 60 species. Shakespeare was also famously compared to birds. At the start of his career, he was labelled an “upstart crow,” and after his death, he was eulogized as the “swan of Avon.” Dr. Hyatt will explain how understanding the literary traditions involving birds leads to some surprising discoveries about Shakespeare and his works.

Dr. Martin Hyatt is a biologist with degrees from Harvard University and the University of Pittsburgh. He has tracked radio-tagged homing pigeons from a small plane, chased down gorged albatrosses from an inflatable boat, found roadrunners in the mountains, and observed penguins in the desert. Now, he pursues Shakespeare’s birds.

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**November 8, 2018, 7 pm**

*“Birding New Zealand and the Subantarctic” with Joe Morlan*

Joe will describe the birds and wildlife encountered while on a two-week trip to New Zealand in January 2017. Joe will describe his adventures on the ship “Professor Khromov” visiting some of the more remote islands on Earth. Access is limited to these uninhabited outposts where numerous penguins, petrels and albatrosses inhabit the Subantarctic seascape. Of particular interest are island endemics such as Snares Penguin and Campbell Island Teal. New Zealand is home to some of the world’s most imperiled birds including the South Island Takahe, North Island Kokako, North Island Saddleback, Rifleman, Stitchbird and the bizarre Wrybill. Join us for what promises to be an entertaining and informative presentation.

Joe Morlan is a California birding legend who 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 has served as Chair of the California Bird Records Committee and was the recipient of the 2010 ABA Ludlow Griscom Award for contributions to regional ornithology.

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**December 13, 2018**

*San Mateo Christmas Bird Counts: History and Best Practices*

Featuring Peter Metropulos, Francis Toldi, Gary Deghi, Leslie Flint, Al DeMartini and Dan Keller

In this special kick-off presentation for Sequoia Audubon’s Seventieth Anniversary in 2019, we will feature our own rich history, camaraderie, and shared wisdom. With our two marquee Christmas Bird Counts only days away (Crystal Springs and Año Nuevo), come hear some of our most experienced members reminisce about early CBCs in the county, and sharing their birding anecdotes and technical hints about the joy of these annual citizen-science events – and the revelries of countdown dinners. Jaw-dropping rarities, hijinks and comedies, revelries at countdown dinners, and the nerdiness of all the statistics: come out to this first-of-a-kind event. Our annual book sale – and new Sequoia logo gear – will also be available, just in time for your holiday shopping needs.

Gary Deghi, Leslie Flint, and Al DeMartini, all members of Sequoia Audubon for the entire 21st century, are the co-organizers and compilers of the San Mateo county CBCs. Francis Toldi, Peter Metropulos, and Dan Keller have been participating in the local CBCs for more decades than they would like to have recorded in print.
The format for this game is modeled after—and inspired by—Polly Wright’s brilliant puzzles in the Sunday San Francisco Chronicle. Fill in the clues and transfer the letters to the indicated grid squares, or work backwards from the grid. The completed grid spells out a quote (from a bird book, of course), with black squares separating each word and no punctuation. **Words continue from the previous line, unless there is a black square at the end.** There is no vertical component as in a crossword puzzle. The first letter of each punctuation.

The first letter of each clue spells out the author and title of the work from which the quote was selected.

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<td>Ponds near the airport of this south of the border city could yield you Limpkin, Thick-billed Kingbird and Streak-backed Oriole</td>
<td>Like a heraldic knot (trust me, you’ll have to look this one up, now!—ed)</td>
<td>No ego here</td>
<td>Bob Marley-loving Griformes, apparently no longer valid in Florida</td>
<td>Nail smoothing board</td>
<td>Light, porous volcanic rock</td>
<td>Old name for Noio</td>
<td>Sometimes bad bacteria (Latin, abbreviation plus word)</td>
<td>Pneopyga pusilla is my favorite one of these (hyphenated word)</td>
<td>What the biologist did to the Canada Goose egg to reduce breeding success (“______ it”)</td>
<td>Traditional Sioux dwelling</td>
<td>Sleeve end</td>
<td>Bank and barn family (Latin)</td>
<td>“Go _____, Young Man” advice to the young William O. Douglas, and a memoirs title</td>
<td>Was one, now two is it nine, species of Fringillid (two words)</td>
<td>Gloomy anxiety, such as what the birder mentioned in clue T is feeling</td>
<td>Berries much beloved by Northern Mockingbirds, American Robins Cedar Waxwings and California Thrashers</td>
<td>Owl or pipit or eagle or piculet or frogmouth</td>
<td>Followed (as in advice)</td>
<td>Nervously irritable, like a birder still trying to find the stakeout seen by everyone who got there first</td>
<td>Raptor that is bigger than a buteo</td>
<td>Majestic tree or venerable Audubon chapter</td>
<td>Pig Treasures</td>
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| 120 | 79 | 62 | 94 | 162 | 125 | 107 | 96 | 26 | 120 | 79 | 62 | 94 | 162 | 125 | 107 | 96 | 26 | 120 | 79 | 62 | 94 | 162 | 125 | 107 | 96 | 26 |

Answers will be on the website and in the next issue.
Sequoia Audubon Society
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94062-0292

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Supporter  $100.00
Donation to SAS  $

Total  $

Yes, I am interested in volunteering
Newsletter Preference: [ ] Mail and / or [ ] E-mail
E-mail address

Support our Chapter’s Work - Donate
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. Thank you!

Give a Gift Membership or in Recognition
Has someone inspired you, or just done something kind for the world or for the birds? A donation in recognition gives toward supporting our Chapter’s work.

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 and 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/94-60929053.

We’re looking for Volunteers! Get Involved! Take Action!
You can make a difference! How can you help? Join our team! For more information, email: office@sequoia-audubon.org

Make Sure Your Coffee Supports Birds – Buy Bird Friendly SMBC Certified Coffee
Does your daily coffee support bird habitat or contribute to the demise of Neotropical landscapes? If it doesn’t have the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center (SMBC) Bird Friendly certification seal your money does not support farming practices that support resident and migratory birds. During our monthly public meetings Sequoia proudly serves Certified Bird Friendly coffee, 100% organic and shade grown from Birds and Beans, The Good Coffee (https://www.birdsandbeans.com) and generously donated for each monthly meeting by Susan Rowinski.