

# Thursday, December 1, 2016: The Big Year, Napa Style

**Birding Information:** Maury Stern will discuss the newest changes in the AOU list. He will explain the reasons for the changes, the process involved, and a bit of DNA science.



**Main program:** The Big Year, Napa Style - Wendy Schackwitz

Inspired by books like *The Big Year* and *Kingbird Highway*, Napa residents, Mike and Wendy Schackwitz, attempted their own Big Year in 2015. Their efforts took them from San Diego to New Brunswick, from the Florida Keys to Nome, Alaska, and almost everywhere in between. Wendy will talk about the triumphs, trials, and tribulations of doing a Big Year, and what they learned along the way.

Wendy Schackwitz is President of Napa-Solano Audubon, a scientist at the Joint Genome Institute, and an avid birder with more than 700 birds on her life list. Dr. Schackwitz received her BS in Biology from Oregon State University and PhD in Genetics from the University of Washington. She has worked for the last 12 years as a scientist at the Joint Genome Institute/Lawrence Berkeley National Lab in Walnut Creek where she leads a group that studies the genetics of organisms important for bio-fuel production.

More detailed information about the December program is available in our December 2016 Quail newsletter. (Photo Credit: Mike Schackwitz)