



Madrone LEAVES

Madrone Audubon Society, Inc., Post Office Box 1911, Santa Rosa, California 95402

VOLUME 57

Summer 2024

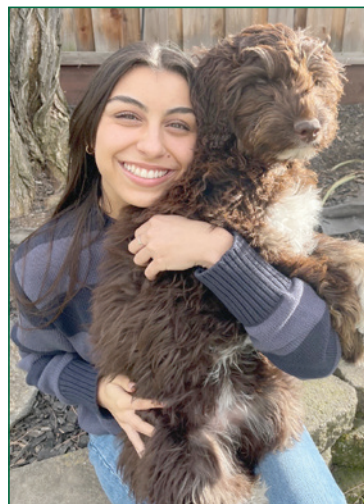
Number 6

7th Annual Madrone Audubon/Ernestine Smith Scholarship Award

by Riley Zajonc

The 2024 Madrone Audubon/Ernestine Smith scholarship recipient is Aubry Cordova. This scholarship is awarded to a student who attends or has attended Santa Rosa Junior College, transferring to a 4-year university for further education in the fields/majors of biological sciences, life sciences and/or environmental studies.

Ms. Cordova grew up in Santa Rosa and graduated from Piner High School early before attending the Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC) amidst the coronavirus pandemic. She has always had a passion for helping the environment. Her childhood curiosity for gardening, animals, and helping people led her to study and further her education in environmental studies.



Aubry with Willow

Ms. Cordova's relationship with the environment was also influenced by her family's culture of Pomo heritage and growing up in Sonoma County.

She has been raised to celebrate being Pomo/Native American and says she was influenced by her father and uncles ever since childhood. She said she feels privileged to be able to be here and have all of the resources being Pomo. Ms. Cordova was able to experience her culture growing up in Sonoma

County and some of her favorite experiences as a child were attending Pomo Strawberry Festivals as well as experiences at the beaches along the coast. To this day, some of her favorite areas in Sonoma County are Portuguese Beach, Duncans Landing, and Salmon Creek.

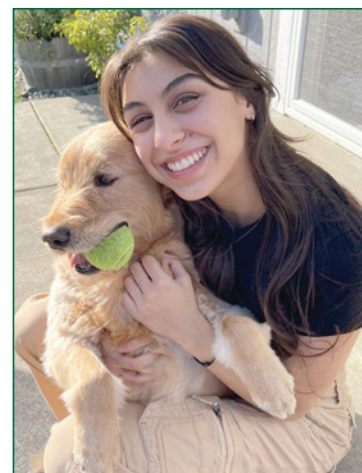
Ms. Cordova graduated from the SRJC with degrees in Environmental Studies and Natural Sciences. She has been taking classes at the SRJC since her sophomore year of high school and many members of her family have also attended the school. She said about her time while at the college, "I'm extremely grateful for my time at the SRJC, the

school helped me be really academically focused, kept the college credits I took while in high school and it has helped me become a better student now." Two of her favorite classes have been Biology and Environmental Philosophy; she was a Peer Assisted Learning Specialist for the latter. Ms. Cordova also interned with the Pepperwood Preserve where she collected native grass seeds, prepping for volunteer days, assisting with seed cleaning, and helped prepare the Preserve for controlled burns.

Ms. Cordova will be attending UC Berkeley in the fall, double majoring in Society & Environment, and Environmental Science. While at Berkeley, she looks forward to becoming involved in research opportunities and further exploring paths in Biology, Ecology, sustainability, and biodiversity. She hopes to teach at the college level further down her career path and plans on becoming a research assistant during her time at Berkeley.

Outside of her education, Ms. Cordova enjoys time with her two dogs, Winston & Willow, going to the beach, painting watercolors, reading, taking care of her houseplants, hiking along her favorite trails in the foothills, and volunteering. She has volunteered at Elk Grove and the Hare and Shadow farm, a regenerative farm utilizing sustainable native practices. Ms. Cordova also shares information with her family, friends, and the public about the environment, sustainability, native practices, and eco-friendly swaps. She says, "I really enjoy finding brands that are doing new and different environmentally friendly practices and I'm cautious about consumerism. I hope to get more people on the wave of sustainability and get the climate crisis on everyone's radar."

To Aubry Cordova, we wish her the best at UC Berkeley and the many amazing opportunities she will have, and we are so happy she has accepted the 7th annual Madrone Audubon/Ernestine Smith Scholarship.



Aubry with Winston



SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

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Madrone Audubon/Ernestine Smith Scholarship Recipients



2018 – Emily Hoeft

2019 – Yesenia Lopez

2020 – Luis Orozco

2021 – Riley Zajonc

2022 – Emma Watkins

2023 – Quinn Randall-Darter

2024 – Aubry Cordova



Board Openings

We hope many are able to take some time off this summer for respite. Our Chapter is quite busy, addressing questions about nesting birds and making connections for rescue as well as possible federal and state regulatory violations. As we look toward Autumn 2024, we would appreciate volunteers for open Board positions. These include Corresponding Secretary, to assist with acknowledgment letters and communication, and Publicity Chair, to assist with outreach to main and social media. We so appreciate Susan Webb's service as our Publicity Chair for this last year. Susan will be moving on and will continue to help with habitat gardening. Info: susankirks@sbcglobal.net, 707-241-5548.

BIRD-A-THON

Still Time to Support!

Our 2024 Spring fundraiser continues to June 30. We appreciate donations to our teams and general donations! We can accept donations until June 30, so there is still time to contribute to support our Chapter. For convenience, donate via the PayPal button on our website (<https://www.madroneaudubon.org>) or mail your check to Madrone Audubon, PO Box 1911, Santa Rosa, CA 95402. Our teams have been out diligently identifying and counting species.

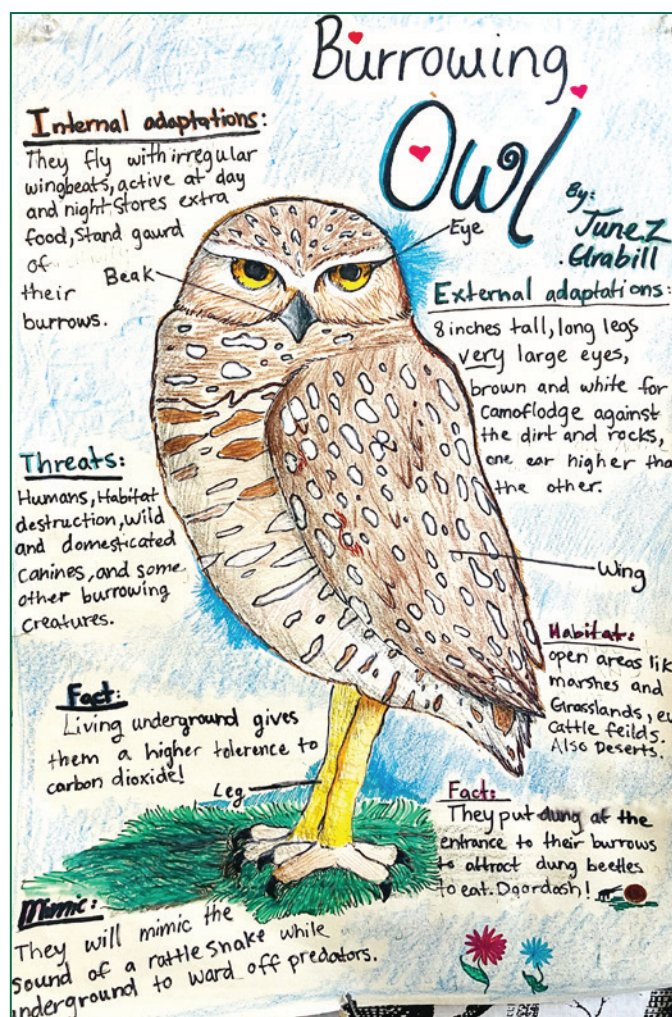
Oakmont Birding Buddies, led by Carolyn Greene (cgnpark@icloud.com).

Grey-headed Seersuckers, led by Ken Wilson & Ian Morrison (ken@talontours.com).

March Madness, led by Gene Hunn (enhunn323@comcast.net).

Burrowing Owls, led by Susan Kirks & Art Slater (susankirks@sbcglobal.net)

Funds raised will support Chapter operations, newsletter expenses, habitat gardening for climate action, and many conservation efforts, including a new proposal for drone light shows to replace all fireworks in Sonoma County, the ongoing Farallon Islands alternative to poisoning, legislation advocacy for birds and wildlife, and environmental protections for birds and habitat areas.



Burrowing Owl

by June Grabill



Spring and Summer News Updates

by Susan Kirks

May 19 Annual Picnic – Lovely weather at the Shady Oaks Picnic Area at Spring Lake Regional Park was out setting. We enjoyed sandwiches and guacamole from Goatlandia Kitchen in Sebastopol along with chips, cookies and watermelon. Also, refreshing flavored mineral water and bottled water. This is our new tradition, so plan to join us next Spring! We'll decide if the day will be a Sunday afternoon or a return to an early light dinner on the traditional Monday. Thanks so much to our picnic committee – Claudia Rannikar, Riley Zajonc and Susan Webb.



Snowy Egret

Courtesy of Tom Reynolds

West 9th Street heron and egret nesting 2024 – Unusual rains and weather changes were part of this year's beginning to nesting. Before we installed the fencing and straw via our encroachment permit with the City of Santa Rosa, a mass falling and death event of about 30-40 nestlings occurred in early April. This was a first, and timing from observing egg shells on ground to installation of the usual project was unfortunately missed. Bird Rescue Center staff checked the area, wondering about avian flu, but the event was not related to avian flu and then nesting continued, with our installation complete within days. Strong winds have also been a factor in our fence going down on a regular basis, so weights and reinforcements have been added. This is also a first in terms of the power of the wind. We always appreciate input from community members, and Bird Rescue Center could use additional volunteers based in Santa Rosa to help with rescue of nestlings. We continue to the end of August, steadily, day by day, addressing all that is needed to maintain the enclosure and also replace fencing when vehicles strike it and knock it down (already has occurred twice as we go to press).

In Loving Memory

Dr. Marty Griffin

1920-2024

New Members

Santa Rosa

Marilyn Huey

Sebastopol

June & Thomas Cunningham

Anne Fisher

Joan Knowel

Madrone Audubon Receives a National Audubon Grant – We're very pleased to share our grant application for *Audubon in Action* has received a grant award in the 2024 grant round. See details in **Habitat Gardening** on page 6.

We will submit an application in June to the Sonoma County Fish and Wildlife Commission for support with our West 9th Street project and management expenses, and hope for success as well!



Female Wood Duck with Ducklings

Courtesy of Tom Reynolds

Proposal to Use Brodifacoum at the Farallon Islands to Attempt to Eradicate Mice – We regularly attend California Coastal Commission meetings (since 2019) and contribute with comments where appropriate, ranging from our opposition to a fish factory on the coast in Humboldt County to support for the Commission's Whale Tail grant program. We have learned the proposed project to attempt to eradicate mice, using a second generation anticoagulant poison, on the

Continued on page 4



NEWS UPDATES

Continued from page 3

Southeast Farallon Island, with an inadequate Environmental Impact Statement and multiple outstanding questions and deficiencies, has not been funded in the USFWS federal 2024-25 budget. Funding to support Point Blue Conservation



Juvenile Black-crowned Night Heron

Courtesy of Tom Reynolds

Science on the islands has been reduced. We often speak to the Commission about new research revealing the Farallon Islands as a sacred place for Indigenous peoples, as part of a mortuaries complex and a last resting place. We recommend

the new book, *Stars on Earth*, authored by Dr. Luan Makes-Marks and Dr. Stephen Janes, detailing history that includes the Farallon Islands. This is relevant and a fascinating read. The abundance of marine life and bird life at the Farallones occurs within a context about which we are just learning.

Pacific Indigenous Leaders Create Treaty to Give Whales Personhood – “Losing one whale is like losing an ancestor.” (Mere Takoko, Māori conservationist). A movement is underway by Pacific Indigenous groups to protect whales, making them legal persons with inherent rights. This multi-dimensional effort includes quantifying whales’ monetary value as carbon-absorbing “bioengineers of the oceans” and using the latest technology to track boats that harm whales. The treaty is non-binding and will require government recognition to become law. The intent is that personhood will create significant new protection for these magnificent creatures. The treaty has been signed by the Māori of New Zealand, groups from the Cook Islands, and Indigenous leaders from Tahiti, Tonga, Hawaii, and Easter Island. The treaty is known as the Whakaputanga Moana treaty. (See *Leaves* Dec 2021-Jan 2022 for in-depth information about whales and climate action.) (Source: CNN/CNN Climate, June 14, 2024).

A Sincere Thank You to our 2023 Donors

\$500 and above

Mary Bates Abbott, June & Tom Atwood, Jacob Corre, Esq., Diane Hichwa, Regina Milavec, Friends of Paula Lane Action Network, Jean Schulz.

\$200 to \$499

Blackbaud Giving Fund, Janet Bosshard, Geraldine Brown, Mercy Sidbury, Darlene & Richard Donat, Dr. Linda Fraley & Dr. John Nichols, Barbara Kendrick, Ellen Krebs, Louisa Leavitt, Martha McCabe, Richard & Rhonda Shipps, Wendy & Steve Smit, Warren Watkins, Wild Birds Unlimited.

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Bald Eagle

Courtesy of Tom Reynolds

Drew McCauley & Marilyn Greer, Michael Nelligan, Elaine Nickison, Jill Osborne, Anna Ransome & Cary Fargo, Earl & Kathy Rathbun (M.D.), Thomas Reynolds, Mary Savage, Mark Schlesinger & Christine Russell, Pamela Stevens, Ellen Stillman, Raini Sugg, Christopher Taylor, Rae Lynn Thomas, Barbara & Gene Toschi, Catherine Vancik, Judy Withee.

Continued on page 5



2023 DONORS

Continued from page 4

\$50 to \$99

Susan Porter Bass, Judith Barker, Lance Barlas, Rita Bevans, Alice Bethke, Bonnie Black, Malcolm Blanchard, Ellen Blustein, Cynthia Boyer, Barbara Bowman, Louise Brewer, Clark Bridgman, Geraldine Brown, Patricia Brown, Alyson Butler, Scott Cameron, Judith Christensen, Stephanie Chalmers, Ann Conger, Leslie Comrack, Cassie Crall, Richard Cuneo, Patricia & Joe Currie, Wallace & Janice Curtis, Susan & John Dean, Nancy & James Dempsey, Bill Doyle, Give Lively Foundation, Katherine Foster, Mac & Helle Griffis, Mary Haber, Grace Harris, Ellie Held, Moss Henry, Denise Herzberg, Donna Hoberg, Ann Howald, Mary Huber, Albert Janulaw, Norma Jellison, Marlee Jensen, Jeffrey Johnson, Judy Johnson, Robin Kelley, Douglas Kerr, Michael Knappman, Julie Lander, Ruth Lombard & Trymon Hunter, Norma Jellison, Jeffrey Johnson, Judy Johnson, Barb Kobabe, Helen Kochenderfer, Julia Lander, Samuel Leader, Mary Lee Family Trust, Dr. Stacy & Marguerite Li, Cindy Lima, Julie

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HABITAT GARDENING

Audubon in Action Grant Award

Madrone Audubon is a 2024 *Audubon in Action* Grantee! We received an \$8,200 grant award to support our Habitat Gardening program. National Audubon provided a total of \$305,000 to 26 community chapters in the U.S. The *Audubon in Action* grant program supports principles of National Audubon's strategic plan, Flight Plan, with plans and actions for climate strategy and action to help habitat and birds as well as our people power with a strong diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging component. Other California Chapters receiving grant awards include Redbud, Monterey, Morro Coast, Plumas, San Diego and Ventura,

Our grant award will be creatively used to cultivate our Habitat Gardening program. We are assuming responsibility for the Lincoln Elementary School garden on West 9th Street, located close to the Wet 9th Street rookery where we've installed and maintained nesting support, now in our 12th year. Our encroachment permit management of that area includes interfacing with City of Santa Rosa staff and departments as well as residents of the neighborhood. The habitat garden at Lincoln Elementary has received significant creative and material support from the School Garden Network with whom we will also partner. We want to enhance the existing garden, especially for support of resident and migratory birds, and consider a large open grassy area not far from the rookery



Western Kingbird

Courtesy of Tom Reynolds

for additional habitat support. Our project will also include wood-art sculpting for a possible garden sign and/or kiosk as well as a bilingual info card to share with teachers and the community about the area about migratory and resident birds, habitat plants, and the nature-school interface. We are very excited about expanding our West 9th St. presence and support for the environment! If you would like to volunteer with us in our Habitat Gardening program, we would love to have you join us! Please reach out – 707-241-5548, susankirks@sbcglobal.net. As part of our Habitat Gardening template for schools and open spaces, we are also helping with provision of the water element for the McNear Elementary School in Petaluma. We also hold out hope and intent to return and support habitat gardening and community science at the Paula Lane Nature Preserve in West Petaluma.



Our Board and Conservation Committee meetings are held virtually. For Board meeting information, contact President Susan Kirks, 707-241-5548, susankirks@sbcglobal.net. For Conservation Committee meetings and information, please contact Diane Hichwa, 707-785-1922, dhichwa@earthlink.net. Also, please visit our website, www.madroneaudubon.org for updates.

Summer 2024 Outings

Bring binoculars and wear outdoor clothing suitable for the weather forecast. Our outings are free for members and the public. (We may have binoculars to loan for your outing.)

Thursday, June 13

8:30-10:30 AM

Riverfront Regional Park, Windsor

Leader: Janet Bosshard

Take US 101 North, take Windsor River Road Exit. Turn left and proceed to Eastside Road. Turn left and go about 2 miles. Park Permit is required. We will meet near the Redwood grove/restrooms.

Info: (707) 480-3432



Pacific Loon

Courtesy of Tom Reynolds



Great-horned Owl

Courtesy of Tom Reynolds

Thursday, July 11

8:30-10:30 AM

West County Trail, Forestville

Leader: Janet Bosshard

Near Forestville, between Graton and Forestville. Traveling north on Highway 116, turn left onto Ross Station Road. The parking lot will be on your left. We will walk the path to the sewer ponds and back.

Info: (707) 480-3432

Thursday, August 8

8:30-10:30 AM

Campbell Cove, Bodega Bay

Leader: Janet Bosshard

Hwy #1 North, take a left onto Bay Flat Road to Westside Road. We will meet in the Campbell Cove, Hole-in-the Head parking lot, just before you go up the hill to the Bodega Head lot and view the Pacific Ocean.

Info: (707) 480-3432



Common Loon

Courtesy of Tom Reynolds



Observations

Spring 2024 • Dan Nelson • 479-2918 • birdsurf64@sbcglobal.net

Blue-winged Teal (9)	4/1	Las Gallinas treatment ponds	DE
Blue-winged Teal (2)	4/25	Las Gallinas treatment ponds	DE
Long-tailed Duck	5/10	Bodega Harbor	DN
Eared Grebe (2)	3/19	Bodega Harbor	DN
Red-necked Grebe	4/16	Bodega Harbor	DN
Yellow-billed Loon	5/14	Bodega Harbor, continuing since 1/13	KMcD, DN, et al
Green Heron	4/25	Las Gallinas treatment ponds	DE
Swallow-tailed Gull	4/25	S.E. Farallon Is.	fide GMcC
Glaucous Gull	3/30	Gull Rock, S. Cronkhite Beach, Marin Co.	WL, JW
Bonaparte's Gull (190)	5/15	Rush Creek Marsh, Binford Rd. Marin Co.	DM
Bonaparte's Gull (200)	5/14	Valley Ford Wetlands	LH
Bonaparte's Gull (400)	5/3	Bolinas Lagoon	WL
Bonaparte's Gull (600)	5/3	Salmon Creek Beach	LH
Black-legged Kittiwake	4/4	Bodega Head, just offshore on water	MK
Swainson's Hawk (2)	4/27	Crane Creek Park	DM
Bald Eagle (nesting attempt)	4/10	Mare Island, Solano Co.	PH, RL
Bald Eagle	5/15	Rush Creek Marsh	DM
Mountain Quail (4)	4/29	Hood Mountain Regional Park	DM
Barred Owl	4/4	McCurdy Trail, W. Marin	JW
Red-necked Phalarope (4)	5/9	Rush Creek Marsh	RC
Red-necked Phalarope (3)	5/11	Rush Creek Marsh	DE
Black-chinned Hummingbird	4/22	Pleasant Hill Rd. Sebastopol	MC
Rufous Hummingbird	4/7	Paula Lane, Petaluma	DN
Vaux's Swift	3/31	Pacheco Valle area, Novato	DE
Western Kingbird	4/13	Stafford Lake, Marin Co.	JW
Western Kingbird	4/27	Crane Creek Regional Park	DM
Tropical Kingbird (continuing)	4/10	E. end Bel Marin Keys Blvd. w short new tail feathers	JW
Olive-sided Flycatcher (2)	4/20	Stinson Gulch	DW
Olive-sided Flycatcher	4/26	Taylor Ln. S.W. of Occidental	MH
Ash-throated Flycatcher	4/22	Taylor Ln. S.W. of Occidental	MH
Ash-throated Flycatcher	4/22	Pleasant Hill Rd., Sebastopol	MC
Western Flycatcher	3/28	Paula Lane, Petaluma	DN
Western Flycatcher	3/31	Taylor Ln. S.W. of Occidental	MH
Cliff Swallow	3/22	Las Gallinas treatment ponds	DE
Blue Rock-Thrush	4/25-26	S.E. Farallon Is.	fide GMcC
* Note: This was likely the same individual photographed at Cannon Beach, ORE. on 4/21.			
Swainson's Thrush	4/19	Five Brooks, Marin Co.	DE
Cedar Waxwing	4/13-18	Paula Lane Petaluma; feeding on ripe privet berries	DN
White Wagtail	5/2-3	Bolinas, ag field near school (black-backed form)	SE, JW
House Wren	April	Paula Lane, Petaluma – new to neighborhood	DN
Cassin's Vireo	4/24	King Ridge Rd.	DN
Warbling Vireo	4/24	King Ridge Rd.	DN
Yellow Warbler	5/15	San Antonio Creek @ Hwy 101, Marin side.	DM
Black-thr. Gray Warbler	4/20	N.E. of Mt. Tam Amphitheater	DW
Hermit Warbler	5/10	Kent Lake area, Marin Co.	JW
Wilson's Warbler	3/19	Limantour Rd.	DN
Wilson's Warbler	4/10	Taylor Ln. S.W. of Sebastopol	MH
Nashville Warbler	4/22	Pleasant Hill Rd, Sebastopol	MC
MacGillivray's Warbler	4/29	Redwood Creek, Muir Beach	JW
Yellow-breasted Chat	5/15	Inverness Park, Marin Co.	RDiG
Western Tanager	4/29-30	Paula Lane, Petaluma	DN
Western Tanager	5/1	Owl Canyon, Bodega Bay	DN
Hooded Oriole	3/20	Paula Lane, Petaluma (calling female)	DN
Bullock's Oriole	4/13	Stafford Lake, Marin Co.	JW
Bullock's Oriole (pair)	4/28	Cotati Grade	DN
Grasshopper Sparrow	3/26	Crane Creek Reg. Park (over-wintered)	DN, et al
Chipping Sparrow	4/22	Pleasant Hill Rd. Sebastopol	MC
Swamp Sparrow	4/8	Las Gallinas treatment ponds	DA
Lazuli Bunting	4/20	Top of Lucas Valley Rd., Marin Co.	DW
Black-headed Grosbeak	4/26	Sonoma, 5th St. West	CB
Black-headed Grosbeak	5/1	Paula Lane, Petaluma	DN

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Madrone Audubon Society

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Summer 2024

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**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL
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MADRONE LEAVES



Madrone Audubon Society meets on the third Monday of each month, except in June, July, August, and December. Meetings start at 7:00 PM at First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Dr., Santa Rosa. All membership meetings and walks are open to the public. Information: e-mail - info@madroneaudubon.org.

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John Lundblad - jlundblad@srcs.k12.ca.us 707-484-8638
Bird Rescue Center: 523-BIRD
Native Songbird Care & Conservation: 484-6502
Northern California Rare Bird Alert 415-681-7422
Audubon-California: Gaylon Parsons - gparsons@audubon.org 415-644-4605
Publicity Chair: Position open
National Audubon Society: 225 Varick Street, NY, NY 10014. 212-979-3000

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Please complete this form if you wish to join Madrone Audubon or renew your Madrone membership

Please note: We are a chapter of National Audubon, but membership in and donations to Madrone Audubon are separate and support our local chapter. Membership and donations are tax deductible.

- ☐ New member ☐ Renewal
- ☐ Senior \$20 ☐ Basic Member \$25 ☐ Family \$30 ☐ Student \$15
- ☐ Sustaining \$50 ☐ Supporting \$100 ☐ Patron \$500

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Detach this panel and mail to: **Madrone Audubon Society,**

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Visit us on the Web at: <http://www.madroneaudubon.org>