



Madrone LEAVES

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A Childhood with Sandhill Cranes

By Daphne Smith

Dr. Liz Thach is a very busy woman. A business professor at Sonoma State University and a professional writer, she came to SSU ten years ago, and now focuses her teaching and writing about the wine business. She is passionate about grape growing and winemaking and has published four textbooks for the wine business. For pleasure she writes mystery novels that revolve around the wine business, under the penname Liz Tosh (as her last name is pronounced) and with a co-author, Kathleen Kelly.

Did we say something about Sandhill Cranes? This busy professional woman has a very up close and personal attachment to these cranes, which she relates in a new children's book, *Tarsi, the Sandhill Crane*, written under her full name, Liz Drewien Thach. She spent many summers of her childhood in Grays Lake, Idaho, where her father, wildlife biologist Rod Drewien, was studying a flock of nesting Greater Sandhill Cranes. One day he brought home an orphaned baby crane, and over that summer "Tarsi" became a member of the family, to the delight of Liz and her two younger sisters.

Tarsi grows rapidly, interacts with family and friends, learns to go in and out of the house, tags along on daily walks and even rides in the family car. He spends two winters in a wildlife zoo and is reunited with the family for two more summers before he leaves for good to join a wild flock of cranes in Utah. The Drewien family eventually raised 15 orphaned baby cranes during their summers at Grays Lake. It's a truly engaging story for teaching about wildlife and living close to nature.

Tarsi is also a family project. Liz says that she had notes for this book a long time ago but recently realized it could be done with self-publishing through Amazon. Her artist mother did the delightful drawings of Tarsi as he grows up, and her sister, a graphic designer, put the final work together. The book includes information written by her father about the Rocky Mountain population of Greater Sandhill Cranes—their nesting habits at places such

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APRIL GENERAL MEETING

"Giacomini Wetlands Project: Improving the Health of Tomales Bay"

Monday, April 18, 7:30 PM

First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa

Shorebirds and waterfowl are found in increased numbers and other wildlife is more abundant at the southern end of Tomales Bay, thanks to the Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project. Project Manager Lorraine Parsons will discuss the evolution of former pasturelands into salt marsh wetlands by restoration carried out in 2007 and 2008 and followed in 2009-2010 by an innovative, long-term monitoring program in the wetlands.

The National Park Service acquired the Waldo Giacomini Ranch in 2000. One of the primary objectives of the restoration work was to improve not only the quality of water within the former dairy ranch itself, but also the quality of water flowing downstream to Tomales Bay. Because the Project area is in the north-

ern district of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, it is managed by Point Reyes National Seashore.

Lorraine Parsons is the Vegetation/Wetland Ecologist at Point Reyes National Seashore. She has been at Point Reyes since 2001. In addition to managing the Giacomini project, she is doing planning and management for a hundred-acre dune restoration scheduled to start in 2011 at Abbott's Lagoon. She has a Master's in Wetland Ecology from San Diego State University and undergraduate degrees in biology and journalism.

Please bring your own MUG or CUP to the meeting!!! Madrone will continue to supply the instant coffee and tea.

Coming May 16: "Bringing Back the Burrowing Owl,"

by Scott Artis of the Burrowing Owl Conservation Network



calendar

All walks and meetings are open to the public. Bird walks are recreational and educational in purpose, and all levels of expertise are welcome. Bring field equipment and wear comfortable shoes and layered clothing for variable weather conditions. Please carpool whenever possible. Forecasted heavy rain cancels. There is no charge for activities unless otherwise specified, but some parks have day-use fees.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE exchanges information by phone and e-mail as soon as possible when an issue surfaces. Please contact Diane Hichwa at 785-1922 or dhichwa@earthlink.net.

Saturday, April 2, 8:00 AM to Noon

CRANE CREEK REGIONAL PARK. A beautiful trail through a thriving sample of Sonoma County oak savannah and riparian woodlands. Meet at Crane Creek Regional Park parking lot. Take Roberts Ranch Road east on Petaluma Hill Road, just south of Sonoma State University. Parking fee (\$6), unless you have a permit. Informal carpool meets at 7:15 AM at the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District Office, 747 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa. The parking lot is behind the office (access from Carrillo Street). Rain cancels. Leaders: Tom Cashman, 217-5103; Bill Doyle, 483-8773; and Bob Speckels, 569-0563.

Wednesday, April 6, 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM

LAKE SONOMA AND WARM SPRINGS DAM. Bird Walk. Meet at the Lake Sonoma Visitor Center, approximately five miles west of Geyserville. From Highway 101, take Canyon Road to Dry Creek Road, then Rockpile Road to the Center. Bring lunch. For information contact Tom McCuller at sisypus@sonic.net or 546-1812.

Wednesday, April 6, 7:00 PM

BOARD MEETING. Sonoma County Environmental Center, 55A Ridgeway Avenue, Santa Rosa. For agenda information, contact Bob Speckels at robertspeckels@yahoo.com.

Saturday, April 9, 9:00 AM

SHOLLENBERGER PARK. Petaluma Wetlands Alliance/Madrone Audubon leads a nature walk. Meet at the first kiosk. Rain cancels. Contact Gerald Moore at 763-3577.

Thursday, April 14, 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

STAFFORD LAKE AND LAS GALLINAS PONDS. Bird Walk. Meet at Stafford Lake County Park (\$5 parking) west of Novato in Marin County. After birding Stafford Lake, we will bird the Las Gallinas oxidation ponds, also in Marin County. Bring lunch. For information, contact Tom McCuller at sisypus@sonic.net or 546-1812.

Friday, April 15, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

MAYACAMAS FIELD TRIP SERIES. Naturalist and retired biology professor Peter Leveque leads a general nature hike. For details, see page 5.

Saturday, April 16, 7:30 AM to Noon

SPRING LAKE REGIONAL PARK. Come explore this jewel of Santa Rosa birding. Parking fee (\$6) for non-permit holders. From Summerfield Road in Santa Rosa, go one block east on Hoen Avenue, turn left on Newanga Avenue, turn right inside the park entrance gate, and meet in the parking lot near the restrooms at the top of the hill. Rain cancels. Leaders: Tom Cashman, 217-5103; Bill Doyle, 483-8773; and Bob Speckels, 569-0563.

Saturday, April 16, 10:00 AM

SHOLLENBERGER PARK. Petaluma Wetlands Alliance leads two children/family nature walks. One-to-two hours, dependent on age of children. Meet at the first kiosk. Rain cancels. For the children/family walk in English, contact Gerald Moore at 763-3577; for the walk in Spanish, contact Connie Peabody at 338-2237.

Monday, April 18, 7:30 PM

APRIL GENERAL MEETING. Lorraine Parsons of the Point Reyes National Seashore will talk about the Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project at the southern end of Tomales Bay. The restoration work has improved the health of the Bay and brought more wildlife to the area. First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa. Please see the front page announcement. The public is always invited to attend these programs.

Wednesday, April 20, 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM

PUTAH CREEK AND SOLANO COUNTY PARK. Bird Walk. Meet at Monticello Dam on Lake Berryessa on Highway 128 (Napa County). Parking fee of \$5 at Solano County Park. Bring lunch and liquids. For information, contact Tom McCuller at sisypus@sonic.net or 546-1812.

Saturday, April 23, 9:00 AM

ELLIS CREEK WATER RECYCLING FACILITY, PETALUMA. Petaluma Wetlands Alliance leads a walk at the Ellis Creek ponds. Go to the end of Cypress Drive and through the gates. Parking lot is on the left. Rain cancels. Contact Bob Dyer at 763-2934.

Thursday, April 28, 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM

ANNADEL STATE PARK. Bird Walk. We will search for returning passerines, mainly along Channel Drive. To get to the meeting place go east on Montgomery Drive in Santa Rosa, continue 0.6 miles on Channel Drive to the meeting place, an unpaved parking lot on the left side of Channel Drive. There is a \$6 entrance fee for the park. Bring lunch. For information, contact Tom McCuller at sisypus@sonic.net or 546-1812.

Sunday, May 1, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

MAYACAMAS FIELD TRIP SERIES. Digital Nature Photography for the Eco-Tourist with Bryant Hichwa. For details, see page 5.

Wednesday, May 4, 8:30 AM to Noon

SPRING LAKE REGIONAL PARK. Bird Walk. Parking fee (\$6) for non-permit holders. From Summerfield Road in Santa Rosa, go east on Hoen Avenue, turn left on Newanga Avenue, turn right inside the park entrance gate and meet in the parking lot near the restrooms at the top of the hill. For information, contact Tom McCuller at sisypus@sonic.net or 546-1812.

Sunday, May 8, 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM

MAYACAMAS FIELD TRIP SERIES. Botanist and ecologist Peter Warner leads a plant walk. For details, see page 5.

Saturday, May 7, 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

WILLOW CREEK, DUNCAN'S LANDING, JENNER. One of our most productive bird walks—not to be missed! Meet at the parking lot of Sizzling Tandoor Indian Restaurant in Bridgehaven at the south end of the Russian River Bridge on Highway 1 (Coast Highway). Informal carpools meet at 7:00 AM at Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District Office, 747 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa. The parking lot is behind the office (access from Carrillo Street). Bring lunch. Rain cancels. Leaders: Tom Cashman, 217-5103; and Bob Speckels, 569-0563.

Thursday, May 12, 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM

MAYACAMAS FIELD TRIP SERIES. Birdwatchers' Walkabout led by Tom McCuller of Madrone Audubon. For details, see page 5.



SANDHILL CRANES

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as Grays Lake and their migration routes to wintering areas in west-central New Mexico, notably in the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge.

Liz is a member and strong supporter of Madrone Audubon. When she first came to Sonoma State she became involved in the chapter and served as membership chair in 2001-2002. She was also a member of the Mayacamas committee and helped out with Pee Wee Audubon.

Tarsi, the Sandhill Crane is available at Copperfield's Books and on Amazon. The age range for young readers is about 8 to 11 years old. Liz says she's had good feedback from letters that came from school children who have read the book in local classes. For local Auduboners who visit the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys to see the wintering waterfowl, it's always a special thrill to find a flock of the Lesser Sandhill Cranes, see their "dancing" movement and hear their wild calls.

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Baby Songbirds – To rescue or not to rescue?

By Veronica Bowers,
of The Songbird Hospital

It's spring and our feathered neighbors are busy building nests and raising families. Baby songbirds sometimes genuinely need human assistance, but how can you tell? If you encounter a baby bird that you suspect may need to be rescued, some knowledge of their natural development is helpful.

Hatchling songbirds are naked, featherless, and helpless; their eyes are closed during the first few days of life. They are in the nest and must be constantly cared for by their parents. Their bodies will be covered in just-developing feathers called pinfeathers. Older nestlings will be mostly feathered, but their tail and wing feathers are still growing in.

The length of the nestling stage for songbirds is usually 10-14 days from the time they hatch. Swallows and swifts are an

exception as they remain in the nest until they are approximately 21 days of age. Nature's plan for baby songbirds is for them to grow quickly—the longer they're in the nest, the more vulnerable they are to predators.

The fledgling is at the most critical stage of development. In much the same way human toddlers crawl before they can run, songbirds hop and walk around on the ground before they're able to fly. The only exceptions to this are swallows and swifts—these species are flight capable when they fledge the nest.

The majority of fledgling songbirds are well feathered on their body with short wing and tail feathers. They're able to stand, walk and hop and perhaps make short flights from branch to branch or up to low branches. They are vocal but still dependent on their parents. They are commonly observed on the ground, out in the open, on branches, in bushes – they're all over the place! The parents are not always on hand, but they remain in vocal contact. It will take a few days to a full week before young songbirds can fly well enough to evade danger. If you have outdoor cats, the kindest thing you can do for the birds is keep your cats indoors.

So, what do you do if you find a baby bird? Here are some steps to follow that will help you determine when a baby bird may need your help.

Is it a nestling on the ground? If it seems healthy, can you find the nest? If yes, put the baby back in the nest and observe the nest from a distance for one hour and see if the parents return to care for the baby. If the parents do not return after one hour, or you cannot find the nest, call a wildlife rehabilitator for further advice.

Is the fledgling hopping around and vocalizing? Make sure the area is clear of pets and people. Watch the baby for one hour, non-stop. If the parents are around, everything is fine. If it seems truly orphaned, bring it to a wildlife rehabilitator at once.

Is it a healthy fledgling in an unsafe place, like the middle of the street? It is okay to move the baby to the nearest bush, or low tree limb. Birds have a poor sense of smell; parent birds will not abandon their baby if

a human has touched it.

Finally, is the bird sick or hurt? Is it bleeding, unable to flutter its wings or stand, weak, shivering, or covered with insects? Did it have contact, or suspected contact, with a cat? Cats have bacteria in their mouth and claws that is lethal to birds. Is it a swallow or swift on the ground and unable to fly?

If you answer "yes" to any of the above questions, please bring the bird to a wildlife rehabilitator as soon as possible. See the boxed note on local resources you can contact.

Remember that all native birds are federally protected and can only be cared for by a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. We're fortunate in Sonoma County to have three licensed wildlife rehabilitation centers that care for native birds:

- **The Songbird Hospital of Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue:**
484-6502 or
www.songbirdhospital.org
- **Bird Rescue Center of Santa Rosa:**
523-2473
- **The Kenwood Wildlife Center:**
575-1000

We Need Your Help!

We appreciate our members—we love to see you at our meetings and outings and you support us generously. BUT (you knew that was coming!) we have reached the end of this operating year with a very real need of help to fill out some important positions on our Board.

We gratefully acknowledge that our President Bob Speckels and Vice-President Susan Kirks will remain "on Board."

Three crucial Board positions are vacant, or will be at the end of this year: Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer. Admittedly the post of Treasurer requires maintaining financial records, not everyone's cup of tea, but our finances are good and we contract with someone to file our taxes. Recording Secretary means attending most monthly meetings and taking notes, but no other requirements.

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WE NEED YOUR HELP

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The Corresponding Secretary picks up the mail from downtown Santa Rosa, replies to donations and queries, monitors phone calls—most everything can be done at home and on your own time.

Two other positions would be of great help to our program: Junior Audubon Coordinator, to organize several youth activities during the year, and Publicity Chair, to help make the broader public aware of our programs and activities.

Please consider whether you could give us some help OR if you could suggest someone we might contact about any of these positions. Let us know! The nominating committee is Diane Hichwa and Bob Speckels. Contact Diane at dhichwa@earthlink.net, 785-1922 (Sea Ranch) or 483-3130 (cell).

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Madrone Bird-A-Thon 2011 is History

By Marcia Johnson,
Bird-A-Thon Coordinator

The funds are just beginning to come in supporting Madrone's largest fundraiser, the Bird-A-Thon. These funds support our educational and environmental activities. If you have pledged to support your favorite team, please get your donations in as soon as possible. However, it is still not too late to support a team of your choice. Make your checks out to "Madrone Bird-A-Thon" or BAT and reference the team you are supporting. Checks should be turned in to someone on the team that you are supporting.

It is also not too late to give a donation in the name of Phyllis Schmitt, better known as the 'Dabbler.' Send a check to: Marcia Johnson, 1460 Big Cedar Lane, Sebastopol, CA 95472, and reference Phyllis and BAT.

Our teams this year are: 'Roadrunners' with **Betty Groce** and Don McCarthy; 'FeatherQuesters' with **Diane Hichwa**; 'Gray-Headed Seersuckers' with **Betty**

Burridge and friends; and our new team, 'The Wandering Tattlers' with **Barbara Arbvnich**, Lisa Shiffrin and Carol Zeidman. Please thank them for their work and support them.

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Have You Seen Banded or Tagged Wildlife?

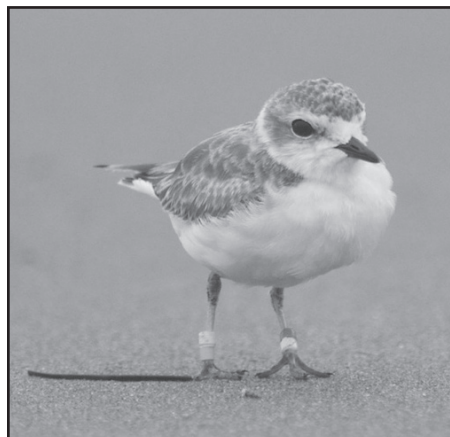
By Diane Hichwa

Noticing and reporting banded or tagged birds or other wildlife can be a very valuable aid to research, as well as an intriguing puzzle to be solved. Whenever possible, follow-up on these sometimes-colorful tags and bands can provide information about the age, health and migratory habits of the wildlife around us.

For example, over a thousand California Gulls have been banded since 2008 in South San Francisco Bay in an effort to learn more about their movements after their main breeding colony in the former Cargill salt flats was restored to tidal action in December, 2010. In the past few years new sightings of these gulls have occurred in Santa Cruz and in Davis (see below for reporting information).

A Banded Snowy Plover

On August 22, 2009 a friend walking the sand at Sea Ranch sent a photograph with his comment " I shot this [picture] this



morning; I was not sure if it was a rehab bird or a tracking bird. I thought it was important that you see it." With a GPS on his camera he could report, besides seeing it on

Walk-On Beach, exactly what its longitude and latitude coordinates were. Knowing that Snowy Plovers are followed by Mendocino Coast Audubon we sent the inquiry to one of their researchers, Ron LeValley, who commented, "Well, it's GL:YP (known formally as Green Lime Yellow Pink). It's not one of our birds and it hasn't been seen on the north coast by any of our cooperators. I've copied Frances Bidstrup on this who keeps track of our color-band codes. Maybe she can add to the discussion."

Later that same day we learned that "GL:YP" fledged in 2009 from Marina State Beach in Monterey County. An interesting path this bird is taking!

A "White Winged" Turkey Vulture

On January 28 of this year a woman from Healdsburg called me to say that she had seen a Turkey Vulture at Lake Sonoma on January 9 and wondered about the "thing" on its wing. She had watched and indicated that it could fly just fine. However, she was concerned and asked, "Was it a growth? A plastic tag? Or something else?"

I queried Bob Kieffer of Peregrine Audubon, since a distant memory was tripped about watching for tagged Turkey Vultures, and I asked if it was part of the study that I thought he had mentioned a year or so ago. The photo she got showed a white tag on the wing. With some fancy processing we could read a number—#67! On January 31 we had a reply from Bob, who said that #67 was tagged at UC-Hopland Research Center, about three years ago.

More information came from a Davis researcher, Terra Kelly, who said, "This is a female vulture that we captured on August 28, 2008 as a hatch-year bird. We are just wrapping up our research investigating lead exposure in scavenging birds in California. This vulture was sampled during the deer hunting season and found to be one of few with a low blood lead concentration. Our results are scheduled to be published in an open access online journal 'PLoS one' in a couple of months."

Tagged harbor seals and sea lions

Another day another sighting: there's a harbor seal with an orange tag on her right rear flipper, #13551, in the midst of animals on

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TAGGED WILDLIFE

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a pocket beach at Sea Ranch. When the numbers were double-checked and scoped it was found to be harbor seal #1333 named Marshall, a female that was found on Marshall Beach within Point Reyes National Seashore on May 2, 1999 as a pup. She had been monitored overnight and admitted to The Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito the next day. She was found to be emaciated, separated from her mother, but over 10 days old. She was released July 1, 1999 at Pebble Beach in Monterey County.

A Few Reporting Ideas...

Many are familiar with the silver US Fish and Wildlife Service bands that, if seen, can be reported to: USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center Bird Banding Laboratory: <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/homepage/call800.htm>. For the California Gulls mentioned above, please send reports and any additional information to: Caitlin Robinson-Nilsen, Waterbird Program Director, cnilsen@sfbb.org. The program will provide observers with a history of the banded gull reported.

If you call the Madrone Audubon phone number, 546-7492, you'll get referrals to Betty Burrige and Diane Hichwa. They may be able to direct your inquiry.

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2011 Mayacamas Sanctuary Field Trips

Sponsored by Madrone Audubon

GENERAL INFORMATION: The field trips are free and open to the public. Bring your lunch and refreshments for the day; wear layered clothing, hats, and sun protection. Sturdy walking shoes or hiking boots recommended. Be prepared for rain showers, but heavy rain cancels the hikes unless otherwise indicated. No dogs, no smoking, preserve is not wheelchair accessible. Be aware that spring is the season for the emergence of poison oak, ticks and rattlesnakes. Meet on Pine Flat Road between Red Winery Road and the Sausal Creek Bridge. Pine Flat Road begins 1/4 mile past the Jimtown Store on Highway 128 East. Reservations for the field trips are NOT required.

NOTE: Some may wish to form informal car-pools, about a half-hour before the field trip at the parking area along Russian River Road just west of Highway 101. For more information contact Suzanne at 829-7234.

Friday, April 15, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Join naturalist and retired biology professor, Peter Leveque in a general nature hike. We might find the Fawn Lily. A moderately strenuous hike on Clark Foss Road; you'll need your hiking sticks and boots. Limited to adults.

Sunday, May 1, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Digital Nature Photography for the Eco-Tourist with Bryant Hichwa. Come to the Mayacamas at the height of the wildflower season. Experience the beauty and ruggedness of this preserve. Our in-the-field photo workshop will include tips for the semi-professional nature photographer as well as fundamentals for the beginner. We'll compare various types of digital cameras, work on close-up shooting techniques. Children OK under careful supervision.

Sunday, May 8, 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM

A walk to appreciate the ecology of plants, trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and grasses, led by botanist and ecologist Peter Warner. Peter leads field trips for the California Native Plant Society and other groups, discussing environmental issues and their implications for sustaining the plants that make our lives possible, if not downright pleasant. Walk will be slow to moderate; please bring field guides, hand lenses, cameras. Children OK with supervision. A plant list will be provided.



Thursday, May 12, 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM

Birdwatchers' Walkabout led by Tom McCuller. We'll explore the varied habitats of the preserve for the many species that can be seen in the Mayacamas in the spring. We will travel by car and make stops along the road. Bring binoculars and field guides, lunch and liquids. Carpool at the meeting spot on Pine Flat Road.



A Birding Festival in Our Backyard – Don't Miss It!

2011 Point Reyes Birding and Nature Festival

April 29 – May 2

Register today at www.pointreyesbirdingfestival.org

The Point Reyes region supports one of the highest levels of bird diversity in the country. As home base for some of the nation's top birders and naturalists, it offers the ideal setting for a spring festival for bird and nature enthusiasts of all levels.

Last year, 500 Festival participants took part in over 50 fabulous bird walks and Festival outings tallied a cumulative total of 200 species of birds (not to mention dozens of mammals, butterflies, marine mammals, and other wildlife!) in Western Marin and Sonoma Counties. Madrone Audubon is a co-sponsor of the Festival.

This year the Festival is offering more than 70 outings and presentations, with events for beginners and kids. Alvaro Jaramillo will give the keynote address. The award-winning documentary, Ghost Bird, about the search for and "rediscovery" of the legendary Ivory-billed woodpecker, will also be shown.

The 2011 Festival website and registration went live in mid-February. Last year, nearly every walk and outing sold out well before the Festival weekend, so, before you forget, go online to sign up now!

The Festival benefits the habitat conservation work of the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin. You can read about some of EAC's conservation work at www.eacmarin.org.



Memorial Gifts

In memory of Diane Cobb
Catherine Hickey

In memory of Molly
Cynthia Boyer

PWA Stewardship Days at Shollenberger/Alman Marsh

Second Saturdays and last Sundays of each month

1:00 to 4:00 PM in April; 9:00 AM to Noon in May

Petaluma Wetlands Alliance stewardship days are open to all and may include mulching, watering, and/or weeding. Volunteers enjoy the natural beauty of the area and camaraderie of others with similar interests. We meet at Kiosk #1 in Shollenberger Park. If you can't stay three hours, then join us anytime within that time period (the workday location will be posted on Kiosk #1).

Contact Mary Edith Moore at 763-3577 if you're coming, so she will have sufficient gloves (if you don't have your own), tools, and supplies for the workday.

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APRIL SPECIALS

A Sonoma Birding event: "Ghost Bird"

*Stone Hall at the Vintage House,
264 First Street East, Sonoma
Tuesday, April 26, 7:00-9:00 PM;
\$5 at the door*

Documentary and conversation with Filmmaker Scott Crocker. Set in a murky swamp overrun with birders, scientists, and reporters, "Ghost Bird" explores the limits of certainty, the seductive power of hope, and how one phantom woodpecker changed a sleepy Southern town forever. This thrilling eco-noir film investigates the strange but true story of a small town in Arkansas overrun by a nation of birders all searching for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. See www.sonomabirding.com.

Heron Festival and Wildflower Brunch

*Clear Lake State Park, Kelseyville
April 30 - May 1*

The Heron Festival celebrates the return of the Great Blue Herons to their nesting sites around Clear Lake. Activities include pontoon boat rides to view the heronry and guided kayak trips to view birds on Kelsey Creek. Nature presentations are held at Clear Lake State Park along with a Wildflower Brunch. Come and see the courtship displays of the "dancing" Western Grebes. Contact Redbud Audubon Society or call 263-8030; email at help@heronfestival.org.

Saturday Morning Wildflower Walk Series

*Sonoma County Regional Parks
Five Saturdays in April, 10 AM to Noon*

- Helen Putnam Regional Park
- Riverfront Regional Park
- Crane Creek Regional Park
- Shiloh Ranch Regional Park
- Steelhead Beach Regional Park

Join this series of free Saturday morning walks in Sonoma County Regional Parks and learn to identify local wildflowers with Sonoma County Master Gardeners. Meet in the parking lot and wear sturdy shoes: bring drinking water, sunscreen and a hat. Parking fees apply. For more information or to pre-register, call 565-2041 or visit our website at sonomacountyparks.org.

Welcome New Friends of Madrone Audubon Society

Windsor

Marilyn Volpert

Santa Rosa

Jerry Charton

Rohnert Park

Gayle Pena

Sebastopol

Joseph & Arlene Ulmer

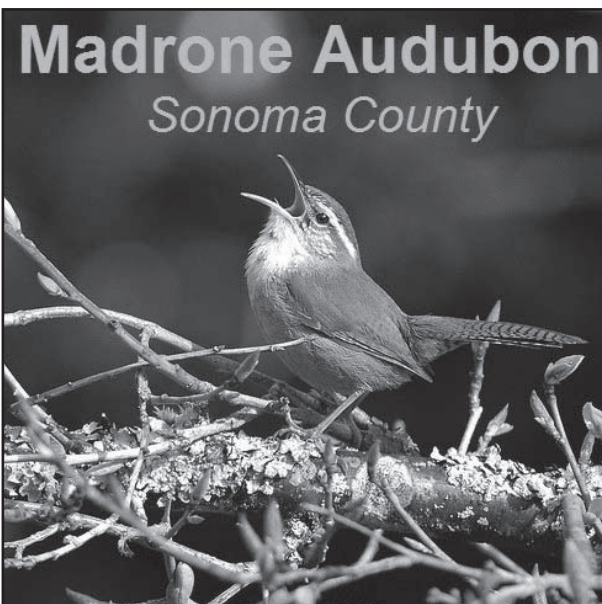
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PLANNING AHEAD...

Western Field Ornithologists Conference

Sierra Vista, Arizona, August 17-21

If you've never been to southeast Arizona during the late summer season (or even if you have), this is an opportunity you won't want to miss. Besides a program of speakers and workshops, we will offer field trips to all the southeast Arizona hotspots looking for local specialties. To register and see full details go to www.westernfieldornithologists.org and click on the "Annual Conference" banner in the middle of the page.



Find us on Facebook for conservation alerts, birdwalk reminders, special announcements and more.

**Observations**

January-February • Dan Nelson • 479-2918 • birdsurf64@sbcglobal.net

Eurasian Wigeon	2/26	Doran Park, pond at entrance kiosk	B Barton
Long-tailed Duck	2/13	S.F. off Sutro Baths, Mile Rock lighthouse area	LK
Long-tailed Duck	2/23	Miller-Knox Regional Shoreline, Contra Costa County	A DeM
Tufted Duck (male)	2/11	Stafford Lake, Marin County	RL, et al
Hooded Merganser	Dec-Jan	Green Valley Road pond	KJ
Wood Duck	Dec-Jan	Green Valley Road pond	KJ
Greater White-fronted Goose	2/1	Petaluma; Paula Lane, many vocal night-time fly-overs	DN
Tundra Swan (3; 2 ad.1 juv.)	1/15	Flooded field 1 mile W. of Bloomfield	F & MJ
Tundra Swan (2 ads.)	2/28	Valley Ford/Franklin School Road (same birds as above?)	P Hamilton
Slaty-backed Gull (ad.)	2/25-3/2	Scully Road, S. of Hwy #12, Solano County	R Muscat
Slaty-backed Gull (ad.)	2/13	Ferry Point, Point Richmond	TE
Glaucous Gull (ad.)	3/2	Jepson Prairie, E. Solano County	RMuscat
Glaucous Gull (imm.)	Dec-Jan	Rohnert Park, "Doubletree" pond, just E. of #101	RL, RM, et al
Laughing Gull	2/11	Marin County Civic Center/ Fairgrounds pond	RL
Black Skimmer (10)	2/15	Coast Casey Forebay, San Mateo County (roosting)	PM
Caspian Tern (1st arr.)	3/2	Half Moon Bay State Park, San Mateo County	PM
Laysan Albatross	2/23	S.F. off Sutro Baths, Mile Rocks area, (also seen here last year)	BF
Merlin	Dec-Jan	Green Valley Creek area	KJ
Merlin	1/9	Graton area	AR
Peregrine Falcon	Dec-Jan	Doran Mudflats	KJ, et al
Bald Eagle (1 ad. 1 imm.)	1/24	Russian River mouth at Jenner	G & AW
Bald Eagle (ad.)	1/20	Lagunitas Lake, Marin County	WS
Golden Eagle (ad.)	2/25	Cotati Grade, over Denman Hill just E. of #101	DB
Osprey	1/20	Lagunitas Lake, Marin County	WS
White-faced Ibis (1)	2/15	Coast Casey Forebay, San Mateo County	PM
Green Heron	2/20	Lagunitas Lake, Marin County, S. end	WS
Northern Saw-whet Owl	2/25	Ryer Island (E. end) San Joaquin County (day-roosting in redwoods)	ADeM
White-winged Dove	2/13	John Muir Drive, Lake Merced, San Francisco	LK, et al
Common Poorwill	1/28	Kirby Cove entrance road, Marin Headlands	DN
Tree Swallow	2/3	Paula Lane, Petaluma	DN
Hammond's Flycatcher	2/25	Garron Regional Park, Alameda County (along creek to Jordan Pond)	A DeM
Townsend's Warbler	1/8-10	Downtown Santa Rosa, making daily visits to suet feeder	FP
Townsend's Warbler	Dec-Jan	Bloomfield, regular visitor to suet feeder	F & MJ
White-throated Sparrow	Dec-Jan	Graton (yard visitor)	KJ
Evening Grosbeak (20+)	1/6-12	Bloomfield, seen in poplar	F & MJ

CONTRIBUTORS: Dave Barry, Brian Barton, Al DeMartini, Todd Easterla, Bryan Fitch, Patrick Hamilton, Fred & Marian Jacobs, Kathi Jacobs, Logan Keil, Rick Lebadour, Richard Merriss, Peter Metropolis, Roger Muscat, Dan Nelson, Fred Park, Anna Ransome, Will Simkins, Al Wellman, and Glo Wellman.



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

April 2011

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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 7:30 PM at First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Dr., Santa Rosa. All meetings and walks are open to the public. Information: telephone answering service - 546-7492, e-mail - madroneaudubon@um.att.com.

- President:** Bob Speckels - robertspeckels@yahoo.com 569-0563
- Vice President:** Susan Kirks - susankirks@sbcglobal.net 773-3215
- Recording Secretary:**
- Co-Corresponding Secretary:** Cindy Miller - millercynthia@earthlink.net 575-7548
- Co-Corresponding Secretary:** Sabrina Hearst - sabrinahearst@earthlink.net 575-7548
- Treasurer:** Mary Wheeler - mrywheeler@sbcglobal.net 494-6415
- Membership:** Lisa Shiffri - lshiffri@yahoo.com 775-3752
- Conservation:** Diane Hichwa - dhichwa@earthlink.net 785-1922
- Education Kits:** Barbara Novak - enovak3697@aol.com 795-3996
- Audubon Adventures:** Janeann Erickson - Erickson@ap.net 795-2498
- Program & Circulation:** Joanne Dranginis - joanhd@comcast.net 523-4373
- Outreach:**
- Junior Audubon:**
- Publicity:**
- Webmaster:** Jeff Holtzman - Madrone707@hotmail.com 823-8290
- Bird Walks and Field Trips:** Tom McCuller - sisypus@sonic.net 546-1812
- Saturday Bird Walks:** Bob Speckels - robertspeckels@yahoo.com 569-0563

- Bird-A-Thon Coordinator:** Marcia Johnson - owlsnest@hughes.net 829-3808
- Leaves Co-Editor:** Mary Edith Moore - maryedithmoore@comcast.net 763-3577
- Leaves Co-Editor:** Daphne Smith - dwarsm@comcast.net 546-7808
- Leaves Production:** Kris Hutchins - krishutch@comcast.net 477-8156
- Hospitality:** Linda Hammer - linda@divinedelights.com 823-4389
- Observations:** Dan Nelson - birdsurf64@sbcglobal.net 479-2918
- Past President:** Janeann Erickson - erickson@ap.net 795-2498
- ACR Rep & MMAS Steering Committee:** Bryant Hichwa 579-1182
- ACR Rep:** Patrick Woodworth 829-8915
- Petaluma Wetlands Alliance:** Gerald Moore - glmemoore@comcast.net 763-3577
- Sonoma County Water Coalition Rep:** Paula Zerzan - pzerzan@comcast.net 935-1523
- Research and Breeding Bird Atlas:** Betty Burridge 527-0225
- Christmas Count and IMBD:** Veronica Bowers - vlbowers@gmail.com 829-2955
- Honorary Board Member:** Ernestine Smith 545-4255
- Bird Rescue Center** 523-BIRD
- Northern California Rare Bird Alert** 415-681-7422
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