



Madrone LEAVES

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

VOLUME 49

Summer 2016

Number 6

Congratulations to our 2016 Award Recipients

Each year Madrone Audubon is pleased to recognize and acknowledge some of the special contributions to our Chapter and its activities. We appreciate all of the volunteer efforts and hours. We are especially pleased to announce the following award winners:

The Evalyn and Les Bowen Award – Stacy Li and Kathleen Barker

Les and Evalyn Bowen started our Chapter 49 years ago by offering their energies and expertise to the young organization. The Bowen Award recognizes the dedication given by members to sustain the Madrone Audubon Chapter.

Dr. Stacy Li, Corresponding Secretary for two years and a long-time Madrone Audubon member also became Co-Compiler with Peter Leveque of the Christmas Bird Count in 2014 and will continue on with the Christmas Bird Count. This is great news for our Chapter. While Corresponding Secretary, Stacy also authored a series of three articles for the Leaves on “The Deep and Troubled Waters in California,” exploring many water-related issues and drawing upon his 28 years of consulting experience in aquatic biology. Stacy streamlined our administrative process for receiving correspondence, membership renewals and donations and recording this voluminous data in an organized and understandable way, further supporting Membership and the Treasurer. Stacy’s partner, Marguerite, also willingly volunteered at the Post Christmas Bird Count dinner and has been very supportive of Chapter activities. Stacy has made significant contributions to our Board of Directors’ decision making process and embodies a spirit of giving back and a willingness to serve.

Kathleen Barker has served as our Chapter’s Treasurer for two years. She has utilized her experience in financial management for nonprofit organizations to update and streamline our bookkeeping and reporting procedures, as well as helped improve many administrative procedures. Kathleen’s contributions will serve Madrone Audubon for many years to come! Her keen professionalism and astute judgment on often complex issues have been deeply appreciated. Her willing participation in our Chapter’s outreach has also included the Waterbird Festival at Richardson Bay

Sanctuary and the Optics Festival hosted by Sonoma Birding. Kathleen has also enthusiastically joined the annual Christmas Bird Count. She volunteers for the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory, is a dedicated wildlife advocate and bird enthusiast, and is always interested in learning as much as possible. Kathleen’s service to Madrone Audubon has been significant, and we are grateful.

Bewick’s Wren Award – Linda Hammer; Janet Bosshard, Janeann Erickson, Marcia Johnson and Kathie Noguchi

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NO GENERAL MEETINGS DURING THE SUMMER

GENERAL MEETING

Monday, September 19, 7:00 PM

First United Methodist Church • 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa

“Japan: Red-crowned Cranes, Stellar Sea Eagles, Snowy Owls, and Snow Monkeys”

Lyle and Deanna Madeson will be giving a program on their recent trip to Japan featuring the Red-crowned Crane, Stellar Sea Eagle, the Snowy Owl and Snow Monkeys.

In order for the Japanese Snow Monkeys to survive the cold, snowy environment, they spend the majority of the day in a natural hot springs (about 108 degrees). Photos will include family units interacting, the Alpha males, and the antics of the babies.

Of the total of 2,700 Red-crowned Cranes thought to remain in the world, about 1,000 of this endangered species reside on the island of Hokkaido, Japan.

Other birds the Madesons photographed include the Black-tailed Kite, White-tailed Sea Eagle, and the magnificent Stellar Sea Eagle, which is on average, the heaviest eagle in the world. Several owls will also be featured in their program, including the beautiful Snowy Owl. As recently as four years ago, Snowy Owls have been migrating to parts of Japan.



Red-crowned cranes



AWARD RECIPIENTS

Continued from page 1

The Bewick's Wren is a very active and energetic bird. This award recognizes active and energetic volunteers who contribute to our Chapter.

Linda Hammer, a member of Madrone Audubon for almost seven years, serves as Madrone's Hospitality Chair providing tasty treats and beverages to enjoy at each membership meeting. Linda also is the Hospitality Chair for Redwood Regional Ornithological Society. Her dedication to Madrone Audubon and willingness to serve in any way needed, including helping with membership renewal envelope mailings and volunteering at the Post Christmas Bird Count dinner are just normal ways of being for Linda. Her service to Madrone Audubon is exceptional and exemplifies the very best of human kindness: a willingness to contribute and offer friendship to our members and our Chapter.

We also recognize our Youth Education Team of four: Janet Bosshard, Janeann Erickson, Marcia Johnson and Kathie Noguchi. They have shepherded the very successful Lincoln School Bird Festival in May, which started in 2009. They schedule activities for all the grade levels, involve experts from the Community, and provide an important urban birding experience organized around the West 9th Street rookery of herons and egrets just down the street from the school. Janeann and Janet also stepped up to offer some programs for Junior Audubon, while Marcia has sent Audubon Adventures newsletters into many Sonoma County classrooms as well as organizing our Bird-a-thon to raise monies for these educational activities. Their collective efforts are greatly appreciated.

The Bentley-Smith Award – Louise Hallberg

Martha Bentley and Ernie (Ernestine) Smith spent their lives working to protect and

enhance the environment through conservation and education. This award, established in 2002, recognizes similar lifetime contributions by Madrone members.

This year we honor Louise Hallberg. Louise is on the February 27, 1967 list of Madrone's Charter Members. We salute her lifetime efforts to protect, preserve, and connect people with the environment. Louise was surrounded by Pipevine Swallowtail butterflies as a young child when in the 1920s her mother planted Dutchman's pipevine because she found the native flower so unique. When Louise retired from her job as Registrar at Santa Rosa Junior College after 35 years, she turned to work on the garden. She opened it for the first time to Oak Grove School children in 1988. In 1990, she began to add both host and nectar plants to attract and sustain populations for more than 54 butterfly species who have found this haven. Vaux's Swifts have also been welcomed into Louise's chimney for nesting over many years. Hallberg Butterfly Gardens, now a non-profit organization, has welcomed over 30,000 visitors from across the country to her special nine acres where docent-led walks and self-guided tours are provided for young and old alike. It is Ms. Hallberg's wish and commitment that the Gardens remain protected and continue to be a place for education, conservation and inspiration in perpetuity. Louise's connection to nature, first experienced as a young child, has endured through the Butterfly Gardens, and her efforts inspire us all. www.hallbergbutterflygardens.org/butterflies.shtml

Burridge Award - Hank Birnbaum and Fort Ross Conservancy Marine Mammal Monitoring and Marine Ecology Program

This award was established in 1988 to honor Betty Burridge for her lifetime contributions to Citizen Science. The cash award is given to a Madrone or community member to promote the recipient's continued research education or research projects in the area of conservation science.

In 2016 we recognize Hank Birnbaum and volunteers with Fort Ross Conservancy Marine Mammal Monitoring and Marine Ecology Program. These volunteers began collecting data on

the Harbor Seal and Steller Sea Lion population at Fort Ross to better understand seasonal population shifts, instituted Rocky Intertidal surveys, as well as a BeachWatch survey. Their Marine Ecology Program (MEP) offers a citizen science, environmental educational and monitoring program for teachers, students and parents. Middle and high school aged students have the opportunity to learn through hands-on activities about marine ecology, while being immersed in the natural coastal environment of Fort Ross State Historic Park. Their goal is to foster a deeper appreciation of marine science and nature and encourage these students to focus on marine stewardship and the environmental sciences. Madrone is very pleased to encourage their efforts in both monitoring and teaching.

Madrone Audubon Special Recognition – Sue Goranson, CPA; Jeffrey Pierce, Esq., Jennifer Golinveaux, Esq. and Joe Mornin, Esq.

This award goes to a business, agency or contact who has assisted Madrone Audubon Society or the environment in a noticeable way. We wish to provide Certificates of Recognition and to thank the following:

Sue Goranson, CPA, is given special recognition for her pro-bono guidance to the board regarding non-profit accounting and fiscal sponsorships, meeting with us on two occasions in 2015. Her firm also prepared our annual tax statements. We appreciate her time and expertise shared with Madrone.

This year we also honor three attorneys who have given selflessly and very effectively in the second and third years of the Cliff Swallow/Petaluma River Bridge litigation and settlement agreement. Jeffrey Pierce of Animal Legal Defense Fund has steadfastly advised Plaintiffs and interfaced with Caltrans to represent our Coalition. Jennifer Golinveaux and Joe Mornin of Winston & Strawn joined our legal representation in 2015-16 to continue to address concerns and observations at the Petaluma River Bridge and communication with Caltrans. The expert guidance of these attorneys has further strengthened Madrone Audubon's and our Co-Plaintiffs' positions to ensure that terms of the settlement agreement are

Dear Members – if you prefer to receive *Leaves* in PDF format, just email your request to:
info@madroneaudubon.org



AWARD RECIPIENTS

Continued from page 2

met and migratory birds are protected. We are very grateful for their expertise and their compassion for wildlife.

Madrone Audubon would like to thank the members of the Awards Committee—Gordon Beebe, Linda Hammer, Diane Hichwa, and Susan Kirks-- for making the final selections and for contributing to this article.

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**MADRONE 2016
BIRD-A-THON...
A Success, with More
Money Coming!**

Total so far: \$7,405.35

ZONOTRIPIAS: Bill Doyle, Helen Kochenderfer, Don Kirker and Bob Speckles

After a slow start in the pre-dawn darkness, with only one rail at Ellis Creek, and no owls



*Western Kingbird
Courtesy of Gordon Beebe*

at all at Sugarloaf State Park, the team was treated to a beautiful Golden Eagle, perched atop a power pole as the sun came up over Los Alimos Road.

After picking up Mountain Quail and Rufous-crowned Sparrow there as well, the birding began to pick up. Howarth Park, the West 9th Street rookery, Willowside Trail and Delta Pond all produced great birds, including some first-of-the-season, while the group continued to miss expected species. A thorough search of Bodega Bay and the surrounding area more than doubled their count as they ate lunches while scoping out shore-

birds at Doran Spit mudflats. Heading north along the coast, they stopped at Duncan's Landing, before checking out Willow Creek Road, where fine views of both Rufous and Allen's Hummers were seen, along with many other great birds. After picking up the dependable Wood Ducks at Casini's Resort, they headed back south to Shollenberger Park and Ellis Creek. The Zonotripias finished their day at Sonoma State University, and though the birding had seemed to be slow all day, they were pleased to find that the tally had equaled last year's effort. Perhaps next year, with all this rain, new records will be set.

SPONSORS: Simon Andrews, Mary Ellen Baker, Rita and Bill Bevans, Tish Brown, Anita Doyle, Charles Doyle, Jimmie Doyle, Teresa Doyle, Sarita Eastman, Grace Harris, Jeff Hanson and Peggy Kearns, Kochenderfer Business Services, Carol Kochenderfer, Bret Lane, Suzie Lewis, Brooke Loomis, Rick and Jan Marsi, Anne Marston, Ken Wilson and Becky Olson, Ruth Rudesill

SPECIES SEEN: 144
AMOUNT RAISED: \$1,027.00

ROADRUNNERS: Betty Groce, Don McCarthy

February 12th, a glorious spring-like day was Betty's and Don's BAT day. Unfortunately it was a holiday weekend, but they wanted to beat a rainy forecast. The usual start in Betty's yard was disappointing, so they went to parks in Santa Rosa, including A Place To Play, where they found the only American Pipit of the day. The high point was seeing nine White-faced Ibis at Ellis Creek in Petaluma. On to Bodega Bay which lived up to Cy Stewart's BLOW-dega Bay. Not a Sandpiper to be seen, and the waves were so high, nothing could be seen in the ocean. Driving their regular route of 25+ years, they somehow missed a couple of turns, resulting in missed birding spots. Hard to believe, but true, they ended up with only 83 species.

Thanks to all of you who are supportive of this octogenarian team who had fun anyway, and plan to be out there again next year. After all, that's what it's all about!

SPONSORS: Carol Baer, Judith Barker, George Batchelder, James Batchelder, Dennis

Beall, Gordon Beebe, Malcolm Blanchard, Janet Bosshard, Ann Conger, Neal Conner, Rachel Corso, Steve DeSalvo, D.D.S. and Diane DeSalvo, June Dever, Nancy Dill, Richard and Darlene Donat, Kathleen Dowdakin, Joanne Dranginis, Harriet Draper, Marilyn Edmondson, June England, Janeann Erickson, Joe Ferrari, Robert Frescura, Stan Gold, Terry Haag, Gordon Harlander, Susan Harris, Catherine Hickey, Donald Howard, Jr., Richard Hurley, Susan Kirks, Karen Kubrin, Andy LaCasse, Joan Langfeld, Dennis Luz, Patricia Marsh, Sandra Martenson, Shirley Maxson, Tom McCuller, Alexandra McDonald, Judy Morrison, Rob O'Donnell, Carol Orme, Norm Ortman, Benjamin Parmeter, Liz Parsons, Gaines Post, Jr., John and Polly Post, Gail Purtell, Frank and Marilyn Rathman, Cynthia Rathky, Rhio Reigh, Suzanne Reta, Tom Reynolds, Jaci Rienecker, Ruth Rudesill, Maureen Rumford, Joylyn Ryan, Marilyn Sanders, Virginia Schrock, Robin Schudel, Monica Swalbenberg-Pena, Bonnie Saito, Minnie and Tom Silman, Daphne Smith, Virginia Stewart, Marilyn Strand, Lawrence Taylor, Barbara Toschi, Ernestine Trujillo, Frances Waska, Elizabeth Witchey, Thomas Wysham

SPECIES SEEN: 83
AMOUNT RAISED: \$2,523.30

THE GREY-HEADED SEERSUCKERS:
Ken Wilson, Becky Olsen, Ian Morrison

March 29th was BAT day for this team, starting at 7 AM and ending at 7 PM. This very productive date did not include Cedar Waxwings, Rufous and Allen's Hummingbirds, and Pine Siskins which showed up at Ken's and Becky's home early the next morning.

Many "first of season" birds included Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Cassin's Vireo, Yellow and Wilson's Warblers, Black-headed Grosbeak and both Bullock's and Hooded Orioles. Interesting moments included finding a female Hooded Oriole and Northern Flicker perched atop the chaparral on Bodega Head. Scope views revealed the beautiful contrast of the emerald-green eye and yellow-orange facial skin of the Double-crested Cormorant and the white filamentous plumes displayed down the head and neck of Brandt's

**BIRD-A-THON**

Continued from page 3

Cormorant, enhanced by the electric-blue gular pouch.

The highlight of the day came when they found a pair of close-by Cooper's Hawks along Santa Rosa Creek. They watched as the male supplied food to the female, followed by copulation and the female flying up to their nest. And, all this with much calling by both, especially the female.

The team had a very rewarding day and thank Madrone Audubon and their Sponsors for the motivation to keep searching for the next species. It did take them, however, until the end of the day to find their first American Kestrel.

SPONSORS: Sue Bass, Gordon Beebe, Bill and Rita Bevans, Veronica Bowers, Bill Doyle, Ted Eliot, Jack and Deyea Harper, Jeff Holtzman, Mia James, Anne Howald and David Leland, Lisa Peters, Kathy and Earl Rathbun, Ruth Rudesill, Daphne Smith

SPECIES SEEN: 141

AMOUNT RAISED: \$675.55

FEATHER QUESTERS: Diane Hichwa with help from Bryant at Sea Ranch

Feather Questers spent the 21st year in the field for the Bird-A-Thon. The Spring migrants had just returned...some overnight...and were singing. Heard was the descending song of Orange-crowned Warblers, the increasingly loud song of Wilson's Warblers, Warbling Vireos and Pacific-slope Flycatchers with three repeat parts to sing, and Rough-winged Swallows devouring bugs over the Gualala River. Red-throated Loons, Surf Scoters and Cackling Geese were in long lines migrating north! TWO Red-breasted Sapsuckers worked to get sap from trees at Ohlson Ranch House. Both a Virginia Rail AND a Sora answered the calls from Diane's cell phone at Hwy 116/Hwy 1 pond, while a Marsh Wren sang and sang. A few Brown Pelicans passed, and a single White Pelican waited at Bodega Bay.

Diane had an unexpected sighting of a BEAUTIFUL Harlequin Duck at Sea Ranch and in rivaling beauty, a Wood Duck on the Russian

River. And, Sonoma State STILL has a Barn Owl who dutifully had left pellets below its roost! It is heartening to see him/her still in place all 21 years of Diane's Bird-A-Thons!

SPONSORS: Dorcas Allison, David and Jeanne Marie Black, Veronica Bowers, Scott and Florence Campbell, Philip Carlsen, Lynn Cominsky and Ganett Jernigan Gerry and Buff Corsi, Kit and David Daine, Gwen Dhesi, Joanne and Mike Dranginis, Don and Donna Friedrich, Jim and Glenda Gentile, Dorothy Gregor, Karlene Hall, Jack and Deyea Harper, Steve Hemenway, Katherine Hichwa, Lynn Cominsky and Garrett Jernigan, Debby and Lloyd Kreuzer, Bill and Paget Lenarz, Peter and Olivia Leveque, Ann Luft, Cynthia and Kevin McCullough, Alida Morzenti, Kathy Mugele, Karen and Ted Nagel, Mike Nelligan, Becky Olsen, Mike and RuthMary Parmeter, Sally Pola, Dave and Chris Powell, David and Sharon Rachor, John and Linda Reichel, Marilyn Scott, Jim and Judy Seeser, Gloria Shay, Richard Shipp, Daphne Smith, All Tails Wagging Veterinary Clinic/Avra Tracht, Danna Vough, Janice Vough, Cathy and Larry Zbikowski, Loretta and Richard Zewig

SPECIES SEEN: 125

AMOUNT RAISED: \$2,837.50

MARCH MADDNESS: Gene Hunn

March 9th was Gene's BIG DAY. He enjoys birding on foot with bike, as he avoids all the jumping in and out of cars, and he continually has a high number of species. He figured that this year, Tolley Lake Regional Park with Ellis Creek and Shollenberger would be his plan. He enjoyed a narrow window of relatively clear weather, so this was to be the day. His long-suffering wife, Nancy, dropped him and his bike off at 6:20 AM at the Tolley Lake entrance gate in a heavy drizzle.

He took shelter in the barn until the rain stopped around 7 AM and tallied his first bird of the day, a Barn Owl. Through sloppy terrain, Gene had a productive morning hiking all around Tolley Lake Park, tallying 70 species by 10:30 AM, including a Golden Eagle. At this point, he hopped on his bike

and cruised down to Ellis Creek polishing ponds. Here was his first disappointment: the wintering flock of White-faced Ibis was nowhere to be found...can you believe!! He did spot three Wilson's Snipe, hundreds of Long-billed Dowitchers, both scaup species, a pair of Hooded Mergansers (always a treat), and heard a single Virginia Rail, plus several species of gulls and the resident raptors. Gene also managed to NOT see a single Great Blue Heron! The tide was very high by the time he got to Shollenberger, normally good for shorebirds. But, he did manage to find Avocets, Stilts, seven Willets and a single Western Sandpiper among the many Least and Dunlins. A Merlin busy ripping into some bird prey was a treat. It was still mid-afternoon, but he had run out of likely target species, so he rode home for a shower and a G & T.

Gene thanks you all for your support and your generous contribution to Madrone Audubon Society. He asks that you make checks payable to Madrone Audubon BAT and mail them to 204 Fair Ave., Petaluma 94952.

SPONSORS: John and Susan Dean, Nancy Hunn, Brook and Orion O'Connor

SPECIES SEEN: 99

AMOUNT RAISED: \$75.00



Black-throated Gray Warbler
Courtesy of Gordon Beebe

BURROWING OWLERS: Susan Kirks, Nathaniel Roberts, Linda Hammer

This team had a really good year. The trio birded over an extended period of time to accommodate life and work schedules - an hour here, an hour there - pretty much everywhere...coastal, inland, in-state, out-of-state. They were always looking for species to add to their list! Linda's highlight was seeing a Merlin



All walks and membership 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.

Summer 2016 calendar

NOTE: There are no General Meetings during June, July, and August.

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

Wednesday, June 1, 7:00 PM

BOARD MEETING. Sonoma County Environmental Center, 55 Ridgway Ave, Santa Rosa. For agenda information, contact Susan Kirks at susankirks@sbcglobal.net.

Saturday, June 4, 7:30 AM to 3:00 PM

WILLOW CREEK and DUNCAN'S MILLS. Bird Walk. Meet at the junction of Highway 1 and 116, at the triangular parking area at the stop sign near the north end of the Russian River Bridge on Highway 1 (Coast Highway). We will carpool to Willow Creek Rd, then walk sections of the road, covering riparian and chaparral/grassland habitats. Bring lunch for Duncan's Mills, with a final stop at Cassini Ranch for Wood Ducks. Leader: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115.

Wednesday, June 15, 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM

BODEGA BAY. Bird Walk at Bodega Bay Harbor and environs. To meet the group, drive north on Highway 1 in the town of Bodega Bay. On the edge of town, turn left at East Shore Road (the Bodega Head turnoff), then turn right at the stop sign, and continue 0.3 miles to the unpaved parking lot on the right. The group will search the harbor and adjacent seas and woodlands for birds, including Doran County Park. Weather permitting, the group will eat a picnic lunch at the Westside County Park on the west side of the harbor. A Sonoma County park permit or \$7 entrance fee is required for both Westside and Doran County Parks. Leader: Tom McCuller, t.sisyphus@comcast.net, 707-546-1812.

Saturday, June 18, 7:30 AM to Noon

SALMON CREEK ROAD. Bird Walk. Another beautiful rural road in Sonoma County, with riparian, grassland, and mixed forest habitats. Meet on Salmon Creek Road at the corner of Bodega Highway, in the town of Bodega (not Bodega Bay). There is limited space on Salmon Creek Rd, so we will combine into as few cars as possible. Leader: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115.

Saturday, July 16, 7:30 AM to 1:00 PM

WILLOW CREEK, DUNCAN'S LANDING, AND JENNER.

Bird Walk. Meet at the junction of Highway 1 and 116, at the triangular dirt parking area by the stop sign at the north end of the Russian River Bridge on Highway 1 (Coast Highway). We will carpool to Willow Creek Rd, then walk sections of the road, covering riparian and chaparral/grassland habitats. Next, we will visit Duncan's Landing on the coast, with a final stop in Jenner. Bring lunch. Leader: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115.

Wednesday, July 20, 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM

BODEGA BAY. Bird Walk at Bodega Bay Harbor and environs.

To meet the group, drive north on Highway 1 in the town of Bodega Bay. On the edge of town, turn left at East Shore Road (the Bodega Head turnoff), then turn right at the stop sign, and continue 0.3 miles to the unpaved parking lot on the right. The group will search the harbor and adjacent seas and woodlands for birds, including Doran County Park. Weather permitting, the group will eat a picnic lunch at the Westside County Park on the west side of the harbor. A Sonoma County park permit or \$7 entrance fee is required for both Westside and Doran County Parks. Leader: Tom McCuller, t.sisyphus@comcast.net, 707-546-1812.

Saturday, August 13, 7:30 AM to 1:00 PM

WILLOW CREEK, DUNCAN'S LANDING, AND JENNER.

Meet at the junction of Highway 1 and 116, at the triangular dirt parking area by the stop sign at the north end of the Russian River Bridge on Highway 1 (Coast Highway). We will carpool to Willow Creek Rd, then walk sections of the road, covering riparian and chaparral/grassland habitats. Next, we will visit Duncan's Landing on the coast, with a final stop in Jenner. Bring lunch. Leader: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115.

Wednesday, August 17, 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM

BODEGA BAY. Bird Walk at Bodega Bay Harbor and environs.

To meet the group, drive north on Highway 1 in the town of Bodega Bay. On the edge of town, turn left at East Shore Road (the Bodega Head turnoff), then turn right at the stop sign, and continue 0.3 miles to the unpaved parking lot on the right. The group will search the harbor and adjacent seas and woodlands for birds, including Doran County Park. Weather permitting, the group will eat a picnic lunch at the Westside County Park on the west side of the harbor. A Sonoma County park permit or \$7 entrance fee is required for both Westside and Doran County Parks. Leader: Tom McCuller, t.sisyphus@comcast.net, 707-546-1812.



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September 2016 calendar

Wednesday, September 7, 7:00 PM

BOARD MEETING. Sonoma County Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway Avenue, Santa Rosa. For agenda information, contact Susan Kirks at susankirks@sbcglobal.net.

Monday, September 19, 7:00 PM

GENERAL MEETING. First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa. "Japan: Red-crowned

Out & About

Family Birding Day in the Laguna de Santa Rosa

Sunday, June 12, 2016, 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Heron Hall, Laguna Environmental Center, 900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Take a free guided family walk in the Laguna de Santa Rosa and learn about the birds of the area. Pre-registration required. Information at www.lagunafoundation.org/laguna_walks_classes.shtml.

History and Birding on Alcatraz Island – Marin Audubon Society

Tuesday, June 21, 8:45 AM to 2:00 PM

Boat trip and tour for people interested in the history of both humans and birds on this island.

www.marinaudubon.org/events-alcatraz-history-birding.php

Annual Open Gardens Celebration - Hallberg Butterfly Gardens

Sunday, June 26, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

8687 Oak Grove Ave., Sebastopol, CA

Tour beautiful gardens and learn about how to attract and support bird and insect pollinators.

www.hallbergbutterflygardens.org/annual.shtml


Learn Bay Area Bird Songs

The Environmental Action Committee of West Marin (EAC) has produced a boxed set of 2 CDs which include more than 100 Bay Area bird songs. Each song can be repeated. The songs are arranged by habitat type. The CDs are narrated by EAC's Carolyn Longstreth. You can order the CDs at www.eacmarin.org/online-store, or call 415-663-9312 to order your set. All proceeds go to EAC's bird conservation program.

Are you a National Audubon member?

Please consider joining our local chapter, Madrone Audubon.

(see membership form, back page)



<u>New Members</u>	<u>Donations</u>
Petaluma Julie D. Clark	<i>In memory of</i> Betty Burrige by Michael Nelligan
Piedmont Rubi Abrams	by Mike and Sally Parmeter



BIRD-A-THON

Continued from page 4

perched in a tree about 20 feet above the path where her birding group was walking on one of Gordon's Saturday bird walks at Las Galinas ponds.

Nathaniel identified a Townsend's Warbler in his yard, which he'd been wanting to ID for quite some time. Susan's highlight was the reliable return and ID of the West 9th St. Black-crowned Night Herons, Great Egrets and Snowy Egrets. No Burrowing Owls this year, but maybe in 2017! River Otters and some signs of American Badger foraging were intermixed with their observations, always an ecosystem delight. The Burrowing Owls are very grateful to our Sponsors.

SPONSORS: Kathleen Cooke, Marianne Sackman, Chester and Coco Kirks, Susan Kirks, Richard Woodman

SPECIES SEEN: 114
AMOUNT RAISED: \$330.00

THE PIED WAGTAILS: Jann Eyrich, Tiffany Erickson

Our newest BAT team picked March 26 for their BAT adventure, on Breeding Bird Atlas Day! They covered six different blocks in the Alexander and Dry Creek Valley area.

As Jann was about to leave Bennett Valley to meet Tiffany, she watched a pair of wrens sp. busily carrying nesting materials to a tree behind the picket fence. This promised to be a good day! The duo found two pairs of Western Bluebirds carrying nest material to boxes. Both Tree and Violet-green Swallows were investigating nest holes, while Northern Roughwinged were back at the local underpasses. A pair of Nuttall's Woodpeckers and a pair of Tree Swallows were sparring over a nest site.

At many stops, Orange-crowned Warblers had returned in force and were singing and chasing each other. Wilson's Warblers and Warbling Vireos were heard, a first-of-the-season for the team. Yellow-rumped Warblers were in breeding plumage, getting ready for migration. This team had a small group of Tricolored Blackbirds, including a male singing his heart out at a vineyard property.

The owners came out to talk to them and were very interested in the birds. They would like a list of species from their property and were open to future exploration of their land. Band-tailed Pigeons were ubiquitous, continuing lots of sightings all winter.

Lastly, their most interesting sighting was a stunning male Peafowl in full display mode, plus female. Tiffany and Jann were captive witnesses to their breeding festival...feral birds that they are!

At home in Windsor, Tiffany also included a male Hooded Oriole enjoying his grape jelly, and around the winery, House Finches, House Sparrows and Starlings were competing for nest sites.

SPONSORS: Jann and Tiffany thank all their Sponsors.

SPECIES SEEN: 62
AMOUNT RAISED: \$132.00

Many thanks to Marcia Johnson for her years of organizing the Madrone Bird-a-Thon.



Goodbye to Cherished Madrone Members

We note with sadness the passing of **Betty Burridge** on March 24th. A leading advocate of wildlife conservation and long-term member of Madrone Audubon, Betty led many winter bird counts in West Sonoma County, worked for years surveying, then editing the Sonoma County Breeding Bird Atlas, and was an enduring advocate for preserving natural spaces where birds and other wildlife can thrive. She had a special interest in the Mayacamas and the large connected lands as habitat for birds and wildlife. Betty shared her talents of observation and social influence with many others, helping to ensure that open spaces in Sonoma County will remain vital in years to come.

A later issue of Leaves will include more about Betty's contributions as a pivotal member of Madrone Audubon.

Madrone lost another friend on March 30th, when **Tom Cashman** died at age 68. As a "Beginner's Bird Walk" Saturday field trip leader for many years, he graciously helped and encouraged many new birdwatchers. He

always had extra binoculars to lend and print-outs on various bird-related topics to share. He usually arrived with a box of freshly baked goodies from Downtown Bakery! Tom had a special fondness for the Mayacamas Sanctuary and contributed his skills to many bird counts and surveys there. He volunteered to be a presence in the area on routine patrols during a time when the property was not well covered. Tom came from Connecticut and was a teacher and a volunteer at a children's hospital. He had lived in Healdsburg since 1990 and was employed over the years at several locally owned market and retail establishments. Tom was reliable, thoughtful and kind, and possessed a dry wit, which many recalled at his memorial celebration.

Thanks to Helen Kochenderfer for this fond farewell to Tom.



Yes on Measure AA

Our Letter to the Editor first appeared in the Saturday, May 14th, issue of the Press Democrat:

EDITOR: Our wetlands and wildlife habitat areas connected to the San Francisco Bay are exceptional and also need our help.

On June 7, Bay Area voters will consider Measure AA for a clean and healthy bay. The \$12 annual parcel tax, or \$1 per month, would generate \$500 million over 20 years.

The four North Bay counties would receive at least \$45 million. The San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority would provide funds to protect and restore wetlands and habitat to benefit our diverse bird, fish and wildlife populations. Funds also could be directed to pollution prevention, flood prevention and improved public access. In Sonoma County, important habitat restoration work by Sonoma Land Trust, National Audubon, Audubon CA and others could continue and expand.

The restoration authority would consult with an advisory committee. An independent citizens' oversight committee, six members of the public, would also be appointed to review expenditures, financial reports and conformance with the measure and to publish an annual financial report.

Sonoma County citizens have always shown



MEASURE AA

Continued from page 7

foresight in voting for reasonable funding to protect and restore our beautiful lands. Measure AA represents collective regional wisdom. Please vote yes for a clean and healthy bay. Help us also continue to share with visitors our special natural resources.

GORDON BEEBE
President, Madrone Audubon Society
Santa Rosa



**West 9th Street
Nesting Begins**

by Susan Kirks

In mid-March, Black-crowned Night Herons began settling in to nest on West 9th Street in Southwest Santa Rosa near Lincoln Elementary School. By early April, the Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets and a Cattle Egret had filled the eucalyptus and surrounding residential tall trees with their nests. Audubon Canyon Ranch researchers can now be observed standing on a nearby grassy lawn with their viewing scopes and notebooks, documenting quantity of nests and species. Madrone Audubon's nesting support project was installed three weeks earlier this year compared to 2015. Feedback from volunteer rescuers of Bird Rescue of Sonoma County revealed this would be helpful. Last year, nestlings began falling from nests in the last week of March.

Our nesting support project consists of orange traffic delineators used as "fence posts" to which orange security fencing is attached with large zip-ties to form a large fenced area around the two median street trees. About 40 bales of rice straw are brought to the site and pads of straw placed over the closed asphalt traffic lane under the trees and in the median. The straw mats cushion the falls of young birds, preventing direct contact with asphalt. Beginning in late May, fresh straw mats will replace the old ones in sections until the end of the nesting season, just to try and maintain some cleaning for the nearby human community. This year, Madrone Audubon communicated with a group in Long Beach, CA, creating a similar support project for

Black-crowned Night Herons there. We also sent big wishes of support to Golden Gate Audubon for their continued effort to protect Black-crowned Night Herons nesting in trees in urban Oakland neighborhoods, including the creative flash mob of sidewalk bird art in a nesting area there. Feedback from the West Santa Rosa community members for Madrone's support project is encouraging. While installing the last of the straw mats this year, a driver passing by slowed her car, rolled down her window and asked, "Are you putting in the straw?" The answer was yes! And then, "Thank you!" A few weeks before the nesting support project was installed, now in our fourth year, we received a phone inquiry from a community member asking, "When is the straw being placed? The birds are arriving." Our nesting support project on West 9th Street is installed from late March until approximately Labor Day.



**Petaluma River Bridge
& Cliff Swallows – Third
Year of Settlement**

by Susan Kirks

Spring 2016 marks the third year of the Settlement Agreement between Co-Plaintiffs Native Songbird Care and Conservation, Veronica Bowers, Madrone Audubon, Marin Audubon, Golden Gate Audubon and Center for Biological Diversity. On March 17, 2016, State Assembly member Marc Levine hosted a press conference at the Sheraton Marina parking lot in close proximity to the Petaluma River Bridge. Each Plaintiff was represented at the press conference and a Caltrans spokesperson also attended. Several members of the media were present. KGO-TV Channel 7 ABC broadcast a story that evening about the press conference, bridge construction and nesting cliff swallows. Assemblymember Levine talked about the construction in its last year for the new bridge and the importance of ensuring nesting cliff swallows and other migratory birds were protected from harm and solutions achieved in the settlement and afterward as productive. The

Assemblymember was responsible for passing legislation in 2013 requiring Caltrans' budget approval to be connected to a requirement to confer and accept input from conservation organizations prior to construction and the 2014 nesting season. Our coalition was grateful to Assembly member Levine's innovative and effective approach to communication with Caltrans. Prior to the beginning of the 2016 nesting season, a very long platform spanning the entire west side of the river bridge, used for walking and access to the upper deck, was removed by Caltrans. We had expressed concern the platform would create an entirely new nesting surface, which would need to be excluded. Based on our observations in the 2015 nesting season, Caltrans' contractor's nest scraping and exclusion practices were not adequate. Removal of this long platform was welcomed by the Plaintiffs. In mid-April, Cliff Swallows arrived and began busily constructing their mud nests – with the bridge now open for nesting. In late April, hundreds more Cliff Swallows arrived. We encourage you to stop by the Petaluma River Bridge now and enjoy the sights and sounds of the large Cliff Swallow colony, able to nest without being harmed, thus far, for this nesting season. Our daily monitoring of construction and nesting at the Petaluma River Bridge will continue through late August this year.

We are grateful for the guidance of our legal team, Jeff Pierce, Esq., of Animal Legal Defense Fund, and Jennifer Golinveaux, Esq. and Joe Morning, Esq. of Winston & Strawn.

**Opportunity Knocks –
Will you answer?**

Madrone Audubon needs help in the following positions: Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, Program Chair, and Leaves co-editor.

For information, or to volunteer, contact Susan Kirks, susankirks@sbcglobal.net, Gordon Beebe, gdbeebe@earthlink.net, or Diane Hichwa, dhichwa@earthlink.net.

**Observations**

Late Winter – Spring 2016 • Dan Nelson • 479-2918 • birdsurf64@sbcglobal.net

Blue-winged Teal (pr.)	4/11	N. end of Petaluma, off Willow Brook Ct.	AW
Blue-winged Teal (pr.)	4/21	N. end of Petaluma, off Willow Brook Ct.	SC, et al
Redhead (pr.)	4/17	Nicasio Reservoir, Marin Co.	BB
Harlequin Duck (fem.)	3/10	Campbell Cove, Bodega Harbor	BO'C
Tufted Duck (male)	3/31	Stafford Lake, Marin Co.	RO'D, et al
Snow Goose (2)	4/29	Ellis Creek	WD
Tundra Swan (8)	2/4	Tomales Rd.	RO'D, DN
Glaucous Gull (late 2nd yr.)	2/1	Lucchesi Park	DN (photo)
"Kumlien's" Iceland G	3/7	Russian River mouth	LH
Elegant Tern (57)	4/20	Bolinas Lagoon	PP
Elegant Tern (111)	5/3	Bolinas Lagoon	PP
Common Tern (2)	5/3	Bolinas Lagoon	PP
Caspian Tern (2)	3/10	Bodega Harbor	DN
Leach's Storm-Petrel (1)	1/23	Bodega Harbor at Smith Brothers Rd.	WA, DK, SS, et al
Black-footed Albatross (1)	3/19	Seen from land, 1 mi. off Bodega Head	SC
Brown Booby	2/6	Tomales Bay; yellow buoy S. of Hog Island	RH
Brown Booby	3/16-4/18	Rodeo Beach vicinity, Marin Co.	WL
Black Vulture	3/29	Fort Cronkhite	LY
Black Vulture	4/2	Kirby Cove	SH
Bald Eagle (ad.)	April	Benicia/Crockett/ Carquinez area	DB
Common Black-Hawk	2/12	Santa Rosa Creek trail	PC
Long-eared Owl	2/8	S. end of Tomales Bay, on post at dusk	DS
Sandhill Crane (continuing)	3/31	Delta Pond vicinity	JM
White-faced Ibis (continuing)	April	Ellis Creek/Shollenberger Park, up to 9 birds	M.Ob
Marsh Sandpiper	4/16-23	Yolo Bypass W.A. (apparent returning 2014 bird)	M.Ob
Little Stint	4/22-5/2	Alviso Marina, Santa Clara Co.	M.Ob
Purple Sandpiper(prob.)	4/26	Kehoe Beach, Marin Co.	Matt Lau
*This appears to be same bird as seen at Salton Sea in mid-April. Would be 1st California record.			
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3/18	Franklin Ave. cemetery, Santa Rosa	DD
White-throated Swift	4/21	Petaluma River bridge at #101.	DN, SC
Barn Swallow	2/27	Las Gallinas treatment ponds, Marin Co.	WA, R.R.O.S.
N. Rough-winged Swallow	3/1	Lucchesi Park, over pond	DN, DDeS, RRh, et. al
Cliff Swallow	3/15	Petaluma River bridge at #101.	DN
Olive-sided Flycatcher	4/25	Occidental area	MH
Sage Thrasher	2/4	Shollenberger Park	fide LH; AW, DN, JL, RS et.al
Sage Thrasher	2/13	Las Gallinas treatment ponds, Marin Co.	D Barry
Rock Wren	4/7	San Pablo Bay N.W.R.	K Willcox
Wilson's Warbler	3/19	Platform Bridge Rd., Marin Co.	DN
Hooded Warbler (male)	5/2	Pt. Reyes Lighthouse "oven"	M Forney
Hermit Warbler	4/29	Ida Clayton Rd.	DF
Hermit Warbler (2)	5/4	Salt Point S.P. (two locations)	GH
Bullock's Oriole	3/19	Pine Flat Rd.	DF
Bullock's Oriole	3/29	Diekmann's Store, Bodega Bay	DF
Hooded Oriole (male)	3/17	Paula Lane residence, Petaluma	DN
Hooded Oriole (pair)	3/18	Paula Lane residence, Petaluma	DN
Western Tanager	4/30	Occidental area	MH
Grt.-tailed Grackle (13)	3/10	Martin Luther King Park, Santa Rosa	BO'C, OO'C
Swainson's Thrush	4/28	Occidental vicinity	MH
Black-headed Grosbeak	4/11	Spring Lake vicinity	RW
Vesper Sparrow (2)	3/28	Tolay Creek Regional Park	DN
White-thr. Sparrow	1/29-3/20	Paula Lane, Petaluma	DN
Fox Sparrow	Jan.-3/6	Kenwood feeder; "red" Eastern race	RuR
Lawrence's Goldfinch	4/27	Mix Canyon Rd.; mp 6.8, Solano Co.	RuR
Lazuli Bunting	4/18	Wilson Hill Rd.	DN
Red Crossbill	4/11	Willow Creek Rd.	LH
Red Crossbill (10)	5/4	Salt Point S.P.	GH
Evening Grosbeak (10+)	2/8	Delta Pond trail, feeding in Boxelder	DH,SS et al
Evening Grosbeak (flock)	2/10	Delta Pond trail	DF

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Madrone Audubon Society

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**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY
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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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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 \$15 Basic Member \$20 Family \$30
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