



Madrone LEAVES

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

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Luis Orozco Receives 2020 Madrone Audubon/Ernestine Smith Scholarship

The 3rd annual Madrone Audubon/Ernestine Smith scholarship is awarded to Luis Orozco. Mr. Orozco was selected from a group of 14 applicants to receive the \$2,000 scholarship. 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 sciences.

Mr. Orozco will transfer to UC-Berkeley in Fall 2020 and plans to major in Molecular Environmental Biology. He has enjoyed being a Teaching Fellow in Cell Biology at SRJC and shared he was particularly interested in learning how to be a teacher. He participated in explaining real world applications of cell biology – for example, the biosynthesis of the influenza virus. (In our current health pandemic, this area of study seems especially relevant.)



At Zion National Park

Courtesy of Luis Orozco

While he has not yet decided upon a specific career path, Mr. Orozco is intrigued with interdisciplinary approaches to both education and problem solving. He is gaining specific skill sets in group communication, caring about community, scientific understanding, and a passion for natural sciences, plants and our environment. He believes such skill sets may be applicable to address climate change impact-related issues such as renewable energy, moving away from fossil fuels, and elevating our support for conservation and appreciation of land, open space and natural features.

At Santa Rosa Junior College, Mr. Orozco has been Co-President of the Biology Club and participated in the Sunrise Movement to

address climate change impacts and take action. In addition, he has served as a Bilingual Education Field Specialist, on staff with LandPaths. Mr. Orozco organized several events for the SRJC

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GENERAL MEETING

First United Methodist Church • 1551 Montgomery Dr., Santa Rosa
Monday, September 21, 2020, 6:30 PM

“Audubon Canyon Ranch – Living With Lions Program Update”

6:30-7:00 p.m. – Welcome, Installation of Officers, Announcement of Chapter Awards

7:00-8:15 p.m. – Meeting and Presentation

Program note: As we go to press in June, the Methodist Church is not hosting gatherings. We anticipate that the church, a Phase 3 reopening participant, may be able to host gatherings consistent with state and county regulations beginning in September. Our ability to meet and enjoy our September program relies on this context. Please check our website, www.madroneaudubon.org, for updates on our meetings, bird walks and member information.



Mountain Lion
Courtesy of Quinton Martins-Audubon
Canyon Ranch

Dr. Martins last joined us to share about the Living With Lions program in 2016. We had planned an update meeting in October 2017 when the wildfires occurred and the meeting could not occur. We hope we can gather together in September 2020 to receive news of the program's latest information on mountain lions, our population and how it is surviving in Sonoma County and the expanded area. The Living With Lions principal investigator is Dr. Quinton Martins, a leading expert on large mountain cats. Together with a team of ACR staff and advisors, Dr. Martins studies the movement of mountain lions fitted with GPS collars within an expanded study area of over 1,000 square miles, including the Mayacamas Mountains (areas east of Highway 101 and west of 29) in Sonoma and Napa Counties. The project aims to enhance understanding of mountain lion ecology, connectivity in fragmented landscapes, and identification of priority areas for conservation. (ACR is one of only four organizations in California to hold a capture and collaring permit issued by CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife).

Dr. Martins has over 24 years of field experience in wilderness areas throughout much of Africa, Saudi Arabia and the USA. His work highlights the manner in which charismatic and iconic apex predators like leopards and mountain lions, act as umbrella species, and can lead to broad ecosystem conservation.



2020 SCHOLARSHIP

Continued from page 1

Biology Club and, in December 2019, the club enjoyed an outing at LandPaths' Riddell Preserve, with a long hike, identifying flora and fauna, and an overnight camping stay.

Mr. Orozco's family resides in Clear Lake, and he has lived in Santa Rosa during his studies at the Junior College. He is a first-generation immigrant and shared his family sacrificed immensely for him and his family members. He has a lot of will, to keep going and to keep working diligently and consistently for things he believes in. The experience as a counselor for immigrant students at Santa Rosa High School helped inform his continuing vision and motivation to encourage others in the Latinx community. Mr. Orozco learned a lot just talking with students, that his struggles were not his alone, young people had and have similar challenges, with giant things to leap over to reach the next step in their vision and dreams for life. Meeting challenges and moving through these to the next step is a shared experience, and knowing others have experienced similar paths give strength and motivation to continue to achieve our vision and our dreams.

To Mr. Orozco, we wish him the very best in continuing his education at UC-Berkeley and are so pleased he has accepted the 3rd annual Madrone Audubon/Ernestine Smith Scholarship.

Madrone Audubon is also grateful to our Scholarship Committee (Linda Curry, Peter Leveque, Diane Hichwa, Suzanne Reta) for their comprehensive review and consideration, leading to their recommendation for the 2020 award.

Are you a National Audubon member?

Please consider joining our local chapter, Madrone Audubon.

(see membership form, back page)

Backyard Nature Revealed – Spring 2020

During the current health pandemic, with less traffic on roads and highways, people sheltering in place at home, and less human presence in our environment in general, Nature has moved into the forefront of life experiences. Noticeably less air pollution, clean and fresh air, and reports of wildlife and bird sightings across the Earth, with perhaps an opening of our awareness, we share a few sightings and experiences reported by our members.

From the Sonoma Coast, Diane Hichwa shared: "Springtime is always great to renew old acquaintances of wildflowers and of local birds. We have to clear the cobwebs for recognition. On April 21st at 7:40 a.m., I walked the dog and when home wrote [neighbor] Carolyn: 'I hear the Olive-sided flycatcher up your way!' The reply at 7:43 a.m. was: 'I was just writing you about it. So far, it's not in our tree, but...by 9:30 a.m., Carolyn had a photo!"



Wilson's Warbler

Courtesy of Craig Tooley

Also from Diane: "Just sitting outside in the morning, there is the Loud, LOUD, LOUDER call of Wilson's Warblers. And, mixed in, the descending call of an Orange-crowned Warbler (think of an orange rolling down a board and dropping off the end). Swallows are putt, putt, putt-ing around. And every afternoon the White-tailed Kite screeches and scratches to be sure we all know he claims this spot. In early morning, the Wrenit is now singing, described as: '3 to 5 pits followed by an accelerating trill; the ball bounces away!"

Craig Tooley also lives on the Sonoma Coast and shared, one morning, in the Redwood Forest of the Sea Ranch, "I [was] in my backyard to start out. I was just getting ready to go out for a walk and heard the owl close by. I found it up in a tree and started taking pictures. I moved around for a better angle and got within 20 feet of the second owl (which shocked the heck out of me)!!!! Unfortunately, I was not able to get a shot of the one that was very, very close. It happened so fast and then I followed them through the forest, thinking it would be really nice if they were together-- which they were not very together – and then they came together! This happened about 9:30 or 10 o'clock Friday morning" (April). (Our note: These are Barred Owls, known to be taking over territories of Spotted Owls.)



Barred Owl

Courtesy of Craig Tooley

Diane Hichwa has also been sharing observations with several friends and colleagues during these unusual times, and we share her thoughts from early April with you..."Now is a great time to welcome back 'old friends' in the bird world. The morning chorus happens early, as the birds first wake up and need to tell all where they are, who they are, and if this territory is claimed. If you are not quite so early as they, even at 8 a.m. when I took Bridget (Diane's dog) out, the birds were still singing away. First (and last) of the day is often the melodic American Robin - in the thrush family and a lovely song. The tiny Pacific Wren was belting out a long, loud, intricate song, saying, 'I am little, I am hiding, but you WILL KNOW ME.'

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BACKYARD NATURE

Continued from page 2

Wilson’s Warblers have just returned, singing out a ‘loud, loud, louder’ song; 3 birds from 3 different directions, marking each of their territories. The Dark-eyed junco produces the old-fashioned ringing telephone monotone. Swallows overhead were making putt-putt-putt sputters. A Spotted towhee gave the tow-WHEEEE, tow-WHEEEE from the ground. A tiny Brown Creeper walked up the trunk, saying ‘zeeet zeeet zeeet ZEEEEET.’ Jays are jays – scratchy calls to make their presence known. Red-tailed hawks with a looonnnngg descending high to low call. Red-shouldered hawks doing the descent, but over and over and over again. And the woodpeckers pound, and call, in the dead trees along Sea Ridge. The dead and dying pines are good birding spots! Whack-a, whack-a, whack-a of the Acorn woodpeckers versus the PIK of the Hairy or Downy, and the ringing call of the Pileated. So, I encourage you to tune in to what you are hearing! And you can visit: www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/search, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, to look AND LISTEN. Let us know what you are hearing!”



Pacific Wren

Courtesy of Craig Tooley

Susan Kirks in Petaluma has been surprised and so heartened to see so many bird and wildlife sightings and outreach for song ID’s on the NextDoor social media sight. “People are seeing deer where they’ve not been seen before, hearing cows in the distance when they don’t see cows and have never known cows were in their area, seeing a Long-tailed weasel in several locations,

hearing and identifying many birds and their songs – with beautiful songs being a comfort and an inspiration for many, along with nesting hummingbirds and many other sightings – California Quail, and of course the Cliff Swallows finally arriving and now in full nesting activity at the Petaluma River Bridge. There are many reports of observed nesting activity – Mourning Doves, Western Scrub Jays, the hummers as noted, and associated awe with the ability to quietly witness these natural wonders. “I’m also feeling greeted almost every morning when I open my front door by the screech of a Red-shouldered hawk perched high up in a nearby Redwood tree.”

Back out on the Sonoma coast, a Band-tailed pigeon unfortunately did not live a long life. In early April, Diane Hichwa heard a loud THUMP. She ran downstairs to see if she could help, not knowing what had occurred. There she saw a dust pattern on the upper window at her home, and a recently dead Band-tailed pigeon on her deck. She was amazed at how big, and heavy, it was when she picked it up. She decided to leave it in the grass below. She later thought she should have looked out that night with a flashlight, but did not. The next day, she observed a “snow scene” of feathers. The Hichwas are aware of a Grey fox family in the immediate area. She suspects the foxes dined well, on squab, that evening. (A Cooper’s hawk chasing the pigeon, Diane surmised, was likely the original cause of its demise.)

From half a country away, Asenath LaRue writes: “Many days of staying close to home have led to an excess of household cleaning, with time found for little jobs that would normally be put off. Having cleaned out our hairbrushes, I decided to put the hair outside to see if anyone would be interested in using it in a nest. Within minutes, a Tufted Titmouse swooped down and picked up a bunch of hair, flew to an adjacent limb, and proceed to disentangle it into separate strands. Satisfied with progress on that, she returned to the ground and persisted in gathering all the remaining hair before flying off with a hair ball nearly as big as herself. Sometimes it’s easy to make a bird happy.”

New Members

Petaluma

Jean & Jim Reed

Donations

In Honor of Elliott Yung

by Mary Jo Yung

In Honor of Betty Groce

and

In Memory of Don McCarthy

*by Richard Hurley
(Bird-a-thon donation)*

A note to all Madrone members...

Do you have bird observations or nature experiences to share? Something seen in your backyard, on a walk or hike in one of Sonoma County’s parks or open spaces, or on a recent vacation? Please send a brief description (and a photo if you have one), and *Leaves* will include as many of these contributions as we can in the **Members’ Column** in future issues.





2020 Bird-a-Thon (BAT) Winding Down But...

by Carolyn Greene

...we'd still like to hear from YOU! Our avian friends aren't feeling the least bit restricted by our shelter-in-place challenges, and, in fact, their colorful presence and cheerful songs have been a great comfort for us, as our "nature fixes" are now mostly limited to our backyards and neighborhoods.



Ash-throated Flycatcher

Courtesy of Gordon Beebe

We have five 2020 BAT teams (leaders shown) - "March Madness" (Gene Hunn), Zonotropias (Bill Doyle), Grey-headed Seersuckers (Ken Wilson), Burrowing Owlers (Susan Kirks), Feather Questers (Diane Hichwa) and Roadrunners (Carolyn Greene). These teams have planned special days (or multiple days) to observe and record as many bird species and individuals as possible. They would love your financial support!

Two teams (March Madness and Zonotropias) have even done low-carbon footprint days this year.

BAT is THE major fundraiser for Madrone Audubon and all BAT funds remain here with our chapter. We need your financial support for our Lincoln School bird and nature program, Christmas Bird Count, W. 9th St. heron and egret nesting support project, Paula Lane Nature Preserve and Petaluma River Bridge Phenology Projects, youth and family bird walks, bird checklist projects, Audubon Adventures, Breeding Bird Atlas, and our many bird and habitat conservation efforts.

Donations of ANY amount are welcome! Our revised (downward) 2020 goal is \$5,000, but we need your help to reach that objective. To support a team (or just to support the entire effort), send a tax-deductible check payable to "Madrone Audubon, BAT", to BAT Coordinator:

Carolyn Greene, 6546 Meadowridge Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95409, by Monday, June 22nd. Email questions to cgnpark@icloud.com.

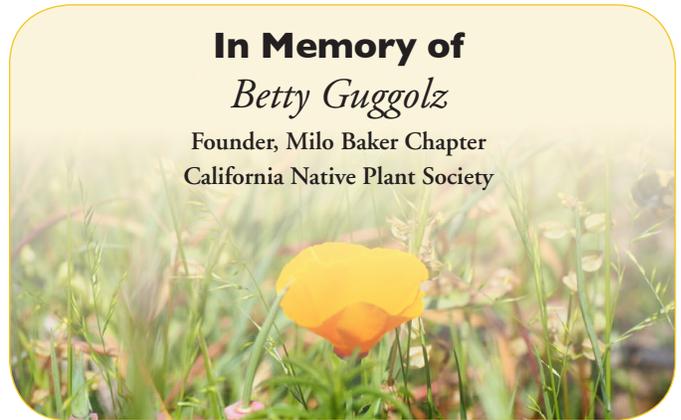
Watch upcoming issues of *Leaves* for the always informative and entertaining results of Madrone BAT 2020.

Thank you for your contributions to our important bird conservation efforts! The birds heartily thank you, too.

In Memory of

Betty Guggolz

Founder, Milo Baker Chapter
California Native Plant Society



California Poppy

Courtesy of Tom Reynolds

New Housing Project Approved

by Gordon Beebe

With some financial help from Madrone Audubon, five new houses are going to be installed at Burbank Heights and Orchards (BHO), a senior apartment complex in Sebastopol, adjacent to the Luther Burbank Experimental Farm. No, these won't be for people, though those are sorely needed, too. These houses are tiny, just the right size for Western Bluebirds to nest in, and though the nesting season has already begun, bluebirds will willingly accept any potential new nest sites. Longtime Madrone member and birdwalk participant Charlyn Stetson, who lives at BHO, approached Gordon Beebe, Madrone's Saturday birdwalk leader with a request for help with funding the nestboxes. Coordinating with Madrone's Board of Directors, the project was unanimously approved, and



Blue Bird nestbox

Courtesy of Burbank Heights and Orchards

a grant provided to purchase five poles with nestboxes. These will be installed at locations around the 16-acre BHO property. As Ms. Stetson states, "We have already installed an Owl Box along with educating our residents about its benefits and are intent on planting our meadow that will draw butterflies too, We want to sustain our environment. We want to support our bird population."



West 9th Street, Santa Rosa - Heron and Egret Nesting Season 2020

by Susan Kirks



W. 9th Street Setup Courtesy of Susan Kirks

The West 9th Street neighborhood has less activity, less movement, and the nearby Lincoln Elementary School was closed, when Black-crowned Night Herons, Snowy and Great Egrets arrived to begin to build their nests. Our nesting support project was installed in stages, with traffic delineators, orange security fencing and the 40 rice straw bales, and then Migratory Bird Treaty Act signage. I was concerned I wouldn't complete the installation before nestlings had hatched and were falling from or pushed from

the nests. But, fortunately, just in time, the big nest under the trees and fencing were installed, and a couple of days later, Gayle Kozlowski, Senior Rescuer for Bird Rescue Center for this site, texted, the first nestling had fallen, and she had rescued it, brought it to her residence where she has a private overnight "home" set up, to take the bird to the Bird Rescue Center the next day.



Black-crowned Night Heron juvenile, being rescued, defends Courtesy of Gayle Kozkowski

Since that day in mid-April, the nestlings have continued to fall or be pushed, several are loudly "asking" for food and are surviving, and the contained chaos of the nesting season is evolving. I wonder if less traffic and human noises this season may relate to a higher success of nesting and a change in the number of falling nestlings. We will surely observe for this and may know more at the end of the season. When some of the shelter in place restrictions were lifted by the Governor, outdoor photography was an approved outside activity and, the next day, a photographer with tripod and camera equipment was set up on the residential lawn near the nesting site. This year's Lincoln Elementary School Bird and Nature Festival was not held, but with the help of nature educators from Audubon Canyon Ranch and funding from Madrone, an excellent at-home alternative has been offered to Lincoln School students and others (see article below).



Black-crowned Night Heron juvenile, calm after shrimp Courtesy of Gayle Kozkowski

Madrone Audubon Partners Keep the Spirit of Bird Day Alive

by Emiko Condeso and Jacqueline Levy

For over 10 years, the Madrone Audubon Chapter has partnered with Lincoln Elementary School staff, local non-profit organizations, and bird-loving volunteers to host an annual event called Bird Day. Besides providing science enrichment, this festival has been a wonderful opportunity to foster the relationship between the students of Lincoln Elementary School and the natural wonder right next door: a vibrant heronry that is host to four species of *Ardeids* (Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Black-crowned Night-Heron, and Cattle Egret) each spring.

Bird Day has helped teach Lincoln Elementary students about the importance of urban habitat for nesting birds, and children have learned how to be excellent "neighbors" to the 300+ pairs that build their nests in the trees around the school. Madrone Chapter members Janet Bosshard and Janeann Erickson, and Lincoln School teachers Tina Boaz and Cynthia McDaniel, work to organize many activities for the day, including bird and nature-related crafts, presentations, and games. Students in grades K-4 take a short "field trip" down the street to view the heronry, where they see close-up views of the nesting adults and chicks through spotting scopes.

This year's COVID-19 pandemic has brought many serious challenges to our lives, and the cancellation of Bird Day was one more disappointment to add to the list. However, no one wanted the kids to miss out! Non-profit partner Audubon Canyon Ranch (ACR), with the support of Lincoln School staff and Janet Bosshard, "hatched" a plan to provide home learning materials to the children in lieu of the festival. ACR Education Program Manager Jacqueline Levy, with Ecologist/GIS Specialist Emiko

Condeso, created an activity book called *Meet Ephran the Great Egret* (available in English and Spanish) for K-2 students and a mapping activity called A Safe Place to Nest for grades 3-5. International Bird Rescue (IBR), the non-profit organization that rehabilitates many chicks originating from the Lincoln School/W. 9th St. nesting site, provided a craft project inspired by their work: a parent bird puppet modeled after those used to feed baby birds at the rescue center. Children of all grade levels can enjoy making this puppet at home.



Great Egret family Courtesy of Tom Reynolds

All three activities will be provided to the students of Lincoln Elementary, and will also be available for other community members to download from Audubon Canyon Ranch's website (www.egret.org). Although we are sad that Bird Day will not happen this year, we are happy to share some activities with children that highlight the special nature of the birds that nest in their neighborhood. We offer many thanks to Madrone Audubon for supporting this project by providing funds for color copies of *Ephran the Great Egret* for Lincoln's K-2 students, as well as for their continued efforts to protect this nesting site. Thank you, also, to Bird Rescue of Sonoma County and its volunteers, who care for the rescued heron and egret chicks before they are sent to IBR's San Francisco Bay Center in Fairfield.



CALENDAR/OUT & ABOUT

A note on Madrone's bird walks

Due to the extended shelter in place order for Sonoma County, group bird walks have been suspended until further notice. Please check our website at madroneaudubon.org for any updates this summer. If the restrictions are relaxed more in the next month or two regarding group activities at Sonoma County Regional Parks, a trip or two may be added to the field trip calendar before the Fall newsletter is published, at the discretion of the bird walk leaders.

The same goes for Board meetings and General Meetings scheduled to resume in the Fall – please check madroneaudubon.org for updates.

In the meantime, here are a few bird activities to consider:

1. Watch a nesting peregrine's webcam: A live webcam watching the peregrine falcons nesting at Berkeley. There were two chicks and now there are THREE! www.calfalcons.berkeley.edu/webcams/

or

Watch Cal's peregrine falcons live: www.berkeleyside.com/2020/04/15/watch-cals-peregrine-falcons-live.

Annie and Grinnell are back nesting on top of UC Berkeley's Campanile. Follow the action by webcam.

2. Each day, North Bay naturalist Lisa Hug has been posting three notable bird photos submitted by local residents. Contact Lisa at lishug@sonic.net to submit a photo or get on the photo-a-day email list.
3. California Audubon reminds us that this is an excellent time for "bird sits" – mindfully listen to what the birds are saying and silently appreciate the natural life surrounding us. <https://ca.audubon.org/>

How to do a bird sit?

- 1) Find a spot. 2) Have a seat. 3) Wake up your senses. 4) Tune into the birds.

- 5) Repeat. *"The best benefits come from repetition. Each day, look for the same birds you may have seen the day before. Getting to know a few feathered neighbors well is much more important than listing all the birds you're seeing or hearing. You may begin to discover which birds sing first at sunrise, which birds are mated pairs, where the nearest nest is located, and when the hawks are hunting. Over time, you'll discover what the birds are saying to each other and how their behaviors are driven by predation, feeding, mating, and nesting in the landscape. You'll begin to understand how your behaviors affects nearby birds as well."* (Molly Tsongas)

4. For suggestions about birding in natural spaces in the time of coronavirus, check out this blog post by Nils Warnock and Diana Humple of Audubon Canyon Ranch: www.egret.org/so-you-want-get-outdoors-while-sheltering-place-advice-west-marin-birding-experts-nils-warnock-and



Hooded Oriole

Courtesy of Gordon Beebe

Death Spiral – Needless Losses due to Carbofuran

by Nancy Hair

Many of you may have read the disturbing 'Death Spiral' article by Rene Ebersole in Audubon Magazine, Spring 2020, about the extensive use of carbofuran, the neurotoxic chemical that is one of the most deadly 'pesticides' in history.

Although banned in the U.S. in 2009, carbofuran (known under many trade names, including Furadan, Carbodan, Carbosip,, Yaltox, Niagara. . .) is still available via domestic 'stockpiles' through Mexico where it's still legal, and possibly from Asia, where FMC Corp. shipped the chemical until just this year. It is deadly in the smallest quantities and is now used specifically to eradicate wildlife and birds that farmers believe interfere with their operations and profitability. The chemical causes a relatively quick, but excruciating, death and kills other 'scavengers' down the food chain.

Despite stiff potential penalties, including prison, carbofuran is described as the 'go-to poison for an active underground' that uses the chemical all over the U.S. Right in our backyard. . . California's 'Emerald Triangle' (Mendocino, Trinity, Humboldt Counties), in addition to the estimated 50,000 legal cannabis farms, thousands of illegal or 'trespass' grows (many known to be working with drug cartels) operate on public lands and reservations. Police and the Integral Ecology Research Center (the only environmental group that the article mentions being actively involved) have had some success locating and closing these well-concealed operations. In 80% of the 1000 raided sites, authorities have found both rodenticides and carbofuran, often laced into meat and canned tuna, and numerous dead fishers, owls, and other wildlife in the vicinity.

'Cleanup' of the toxic sites, however, has been extremely slow due to limited resources and the extent of damages. It appears from the article that there is far too little assistance from the state of California (or other states) or federal government to locate, prosecute, shut down and clean up these sites.

Madrone is currently reaching out to National and California Audubon and to other environmental groups to find out how we might work together to bring more resources to bear and obtain more public attention focused on the devastation to trees, water, and wildlife in California. The Center for Biological Diversity advised us of an Oct. 2019 SF Federal Court order for EPA to do a complete assessment of eight pesticides/rodenticides, noting that the EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs has a history of failure to protect people and the environment from chemicals. Carbofuran is NOT one of the eight substances, no doubt because it is illegal. This highlights the very troubling issue of lack of enforcement, even after a substance becomes illegal. With the COVID-19 pandemic and the current administration attempting to eviscerate EPA and environmental protections, this could hardly be a worse time to be looking for state or federal or non-profit enforcement efforts. But, the consequences to forest, water, and threatened animals are far too dire to ignore.

If you have questions, contacts, or ideas, please let us know - email Nancy at doghairnancy@yahoo.com.



2019 Donors List

A Sincere Thank You to Our 2019 Donors

\$500 and above

Mary Abbott, Diane & Bryant Hichwa, Donald Howard, Jr., Asenath LaRue & Art Montana.

\$200 to \$499

Community Foundation of Sonoma County, the late Ted Eliot, Fred Euphrat, Linda Fraley & John Nichols, Linda Fraley & John Nichols, Jessica & Kevin Gilleran, Nancy Hair, Deyea & Jack Harper, Carol Harrison, Laura Holms & Michael Martin, Ellen Krebs, Cynthia Langendorf, Suzanne Reta, Kathleen Rosskopf & Roland Pesch, Margaret Rust, James & Judith Seeser, Richard Shipp, Arthur Slater, Wendy & Steve Smit, Daphne Smith, Marilyn Strand, Wild Birds Unlimited.

\$100 to \$199

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\$50 to \$99

Antique Society, Ralph Baierlein, Judith & Lance Barlas, Malcolm Blanchard, Janet Bosshard, Alyson Butler, Phillip Carlsen, Jeffrey Chan, Judith Christensen, Dr. Lynn Cominsky, Erna Coker, Gerald & Buffy Corsi, Richard Cuneo, Wallace & Janice Curtis, David & Karen Daine, Dawn-Dyanna Dhyanna, Barbara Dornan, Teresa Doyle, William Doyle, Heather Dubin-Brians, Bob Dwyer, Jeri Echeverria, Sylvan Eidelman & Julie Miller, Peggy Elliott, Claire Etienne, Glenda Gentile, William German, Pat Gilmore, Stan & Hedda Gold, Anne Goldman, Robert & Julie Hahn, Jim Hakel, Jill Hale, Valerie Hanelt, Linda & David Hanes, Jeffrey Hanson, Lisa Harris, Catherine Heater, Mike Heffernon, Eileen Heinrich, Stephen Hemenway, Julianne Hemming, Denise Herzberg, Donna Hoberg, Jeffrey Holtzman & Kimberly Wasson, Javid Horvitz & Heidi Van Dyke, Larry Houghton, Autumn Iverson, Jeanne & Rick Jackson, Norma Jellison Trust, Jeffrey Johnson, Ruth Karlen, Marlene Kaulum, Barbara Kendrick, Michael Knappman, Barbara Kobabe, Cynthia Lee, David Leland, William & Paget Lenarz, Ann Luft, Garnet McClure, Cynthia & Kevin McCullough, Ian Morrison, Diane Noel, Claudia Norby, David Oliver, Benjamin D. "Mike" & Sally Parmeter, Julia Pollock, Cathie Priest, Christopher Reiger, Tom Reynolds, Nancy & Brantley Richardson, Janet Ross & Patrick Whitfield, Katie Sandeen, Monica Schwalbenberg-Peña, Marilyn Scott, Gloria Shay, James Sickles, Lorie Silver, Susan Snodgrass, Ann Smith, Jan Tolmasoff, Cynthia Thomssen, Marilyn & Don Toms, Cheryl Traendly, Kathy Turbott, Art Valencia, Marianne Warwick, Warren Watkins, Barbara Wendt, JoAnn Wilson, Ken Wilson, Barbara Wylie.



Chapter Awards for September 2020 – Please nominate

We really missed seeing everyone for our April meeting and our annual May membership meeting! Necessarily, we were all sheltering in place and taking care of ourselves and our loved ones and pets. We hope, if able to meet in September in the Fellowship Room of the United Methodist Church, we will be able to present our annual Chapter awards. We tentatively plan to see everyone in September, with an adaptive, safe process for being in the Fellowship Room. Understandably, this plan is tentative. We appreciate your understanding, and we likely will receive information in early September as to whether or not meeting in person will be possible and advisable. (Please continue to visit our website, www.madroneaudubon.org, for updates of meeting information and bird walks and outings.)

In the interim, we encourage you to review our Chapter Award descriptions and consider submitting a nomination to our 2020 Awards Committee. Please send nominations to Susan Kirks, our President, at susankirks@sbcglobal.net. Nominations are open now until July 15, 2020.

A reminder about our 5 Chapter Awards and the recognition associated with each award...

Evalyn and Les Bowen Award

This award was established in 1988 in memory of two very active people who made this Chapter happen. This award acknowledges individuals for outstanding contributions to the Chapter.

About Evalyn and Les and our Chapter: The Madrone Audubon Society was founded in 1967 due to the efforts of Evalyn Bowen. After moving from an active Audubon chapter in San Diego, Evalyn found no local chapter in Santa Rosa. With Evalyn’s suggestion that a local chapter of the Audubon Society was needed, the Press Democrat of October 1966 described “this national group is not birdwatchers only but conducts valuable public education programs in conservation and the preservation of all wildlife and its natural habitat”. Evalyn Bowen became the founding president. The Bewick’s Wren was selected for the Society’s symbol and the original insignia was designed by Les Bowen. Les also served as Sanctuary Chairperson.



Bewick's Wren

Courtesy of Dennis Luz

Bewick’s Wren Award

This award was established in 1991 to acknowledge individuals who have given exceptional service to the Society. These persons have been vital to the Chapter’s activity and energy over a period of time.

About the Bewick’s Wren: As described above, when the Madrone Audubon Society was founded in 1967, the Bewick’s Wren was selected for our symbol. As observed, this bird is very active in its movements and its sound is very energetic. The original insignia was designed by Les Bowen for the Society.

Bentley Smith Award

Madrone Audubon Society instituted this award in 2002. The award is given to recognize a Madrone member for contributions to the protection and enhancement of the environment through education and/or conservation activity in the community.

About “Bentley-Smith”: This award was created in honor of Martha Bentley and Ernestine Smith who joined the fledgling Madrone Audubon Society as Charter members in 1967. Their lifelong environmental advocacy continues to be an inspiration to us all. As educators, Martha (through the Bird Rescue Center), and “Ernie” (through the Bouverie Preserve of Audubon Canyon Ranch) reached untold numbers of children and adults. As environmental advocates, they worked tirelessly to protect wildlife and habitats, and to improve our earth community. The recipient of this award is a salute to Martha and Ernie and their lifetime accomplishments, continuing through such a similarly dedicate individual or group.

Burridge Award

This award is given to a community member, with preference to a Madrone member, to promote the recipient’s continued research, education or research projects in the area of conservation science.

About Betty Burridge and the Award: The award was established in 2008 by Diane and Bryant Hichwa to honor Betty’s lifetime contributions to citizen science and to recognize those who contribute to research and education. Of special significance is Betty’s recognized leadership and perseverance in authoring and editing the Sonoma County Breeding Bird Atlas (1995), a model for many other Audubon chapters in the Bay area. In addition, Betty provided resource information for many conservation efforts and environmental groups in the Bay area. She promoted understanding and knowledge of avian behavior and we recognize her contributions to excellence in conservation science with special emphasis in avian research.

Madrone Audubon Special Recognition Award

This award is given to a business, agency, group or contact who has assisted Madrone Audubon Society or the environment in a noticeable way.

About Special Recognition: The award was first established in 2007 as a Friend of Madrone award and renamed in 2010 for Special Recognition.



Observations

March - April - May • Dan Nelson • 479-2918 • birdsurf64@sbcglobal.net

NOTE: Due to the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic and shelter-in-place mandate from March through May (at this point), this summary reflects observations in yards and nearby neighborhoods.

Emperor Goose	3/18	Bodega Head	SC
Eurasian Wigeon	Feb- Mar	Doran Park	LH, et al
Blue-winged Teal (2)	5/4	Denman Flat pond, E of # 101	DN
White-winged Scoter	3/17	Goat Rock	LH
Caspian Tern	4/15	Petaluma River	DN
Black-legged Kittiwake	2/22	Doran Beach	M.Ob
Black-legged Kittiwake (2-3)	March	Goat Rock beach	M.Ob
White-faced Ibis	Feb-Mar	Shollenberger Park	PC, et al
Sharp-shinned Hawk	5/2-3	Bodega Bay, just N. of Diekmann's – carrying food	RL, DN
Osprey	4/26	Petaluma, Paula Lane fly-over	DN, SM
Swainson's Hawk	4/25	Santa Rosa Creek trail	AO'D, RO'D
Swainson's Hawk	5/3	Reclamation Rd	KM
Barred Owl	3/11	Johnson's Beach, Guerneville	SC
Northern Saw-whet Owl	Apr.	Salmon Creek Rd.	JS, GH
Red-naped Sapsucker	Feb-Mar	Salmon Creek Rd.	JPM, JS
Allen's Hummingbird	3/1	Petaluma, Paula Ln. residence	DN
Rufous Hummingbird (2)	3/18	Petaluma, Paula Ln. residence	DN
Rufous Hummingbird (1 cont.)	5/1	Petaluma, Paula Ln. residence	DN
Calliope Hummingbird	4/9	Post Ranch Rd., Santa Rosa	WD
Calliope Hummingbird	4/13	Champlain House, Cloverdale	GN
Black-chinned Hummingbird	4/22	Fountaingrove area	DS
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	3/25	Petaluma, Paula Ln. residence	DN
Western Kingbird	4/15	Petaluma; Paula Lane	DN
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	5/2-5	Bodega Harbor Lodge, just N of Diekmann's	RL, et al
Ash-throated Flycatcher	4/6	Paula Lane, Petaluma	DN
Warbling Vireo	4/11	Cypress Hill cemetery, Petaluma	DN
Black-and-White Warbler	2/21-3/8	Stony Point Rd.	WD
Hooded Warbler	4/29	Queens Lane, Petaluma; singing male	AW
Hermit Warbler	5/5	Pocket Canyon Hwy, Forestville	JS
Wilson's Warbler	4/20	Paula Lane, Petaluma	DN
Hooded Oriole	3/25	Paula Lane, Petaluma	DN
Hooded Oriole (3)	5/5	Bodega Harbor Lodge, singing male w/ 2 other HOORs	DN
Bullock's Oriole	4/28	Paula Lane, Petaluma	DN
Bullock's Oriole	5/3	Bodega Harbor Lodge	RL, DN
Western Tanager	5/4	Bodega Harbor Lodge	DN
Clay-colored Sparrow	3/19-20	Eucalyptus Ave. Petaluma	KJ
Clay-colored Sparrow	4/21	Laguna Farms, Cooper Rd. Sebastopol	JS
Grasshopper Sparrow	4/2	Sonoma Mountain Rd.	DN
Lapland Longspur (heard)	3/1	Walker Rd.	LS
Lazuli Bunting	4/18	Chileno Valley	DN
Black-headed Grosbeak	4/8	Cypress Hill, Petaluma	DN
Evening Grosbeak (cont)	3/18	Salmon Creek Rd.	AO'D, RO'D

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Madrone Audubon Society

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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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