

Summer 2023

# 6th Annual Madrone Audubon/Ernestine Smith Scholarship Awarded

The 2023 Madrone Audubon/Ernestine Smith scholarship recipient is Quinn Randall-Darter. 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 environmental studies, biological sciences, and/or life sciences.

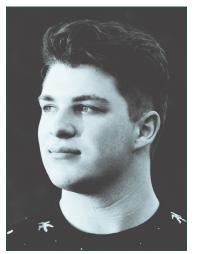
Mr. Randall-Darter grew up in St. Helena and has always had a passion for protecting animals and our environment. He cares for a pet albino corn snake, Sylvie, and helps care for two dogs and two cats. He grew up, watching many Nature documentaries, and observed the suffering of animals through no responsibility of their own. He recognizes that today's challenges for the animal world due to climate change impacts are very serious. Mr. Randall-Darter's family owns and manages McGee's Mead in St. Helena (www. mcgeesmead.com) and he has helped with multiple tasks at the meadery. He shared his mother founded this small batch, artisan meadery, the first one in Napa Valley, in 2018.



Sylvie Courtesy of Quinn Randall-Darter

His work experience also includes 2.5 vears at Chateau Montelena, where he helped implement some efficiency in waste management. Mr. Randall-Darter's major at SRJC has been Environmental Studies. He will achieve an Associate's Degree in 2023 and plans to transfer University of to

California-Santa Cruz, where he will work toward a Bachelor's degree, majoring in Environmental Studies. He is also interested in coursework in Business and combining fields to obtain employment after college, working to further environmental awareness and protection. Mr. Randall-Darter plans to continue to help with the family meadery and find time for photography, an avocation he very much enjoys. On behalf of our Madrone Audubon members and in support of the late Ernestine Smith's continuing legacy, congratulate we Mr. Randall-Darter and wish him the best!



Quinn Randall-Darter

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#### **GENERAL MEETING**

Monday, September 18, 2023 Sonoma County Nature – Presented by Tom Reynolds 6:30-8:00 p.m. Fellowship Room, United Methodist Church

1551 Montgomery Dr., Santa Rosa Our first Fall meeting will provide

a real-time overview of Sonoma County's environment. Join us as Naturalist and photographer Tom Reynolds shares his perspective and visual artistry – a glimpse into our North Bay Area natural world, birds and wildlife.

Tom Reynolds is recognized for his patience and photographic ethics, always first con-sidering birds, wildlife and



California Quail Courtesy of Tom Reynolds

natural settings he's capturing on film or video. Tom has presented for multiple Audubon Chapters and conservation organizations as well as photo-documented wildlife for Sonoma County Regional Parks.



#### SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

Continued from page I

### Madrone Audubon/Ernestine Smith Scholarship Recipients

2018 – Emily Hoeft 2019 – Yesenia Lopez 2020 – Luis Orozco 2021 – Riley Zajonc 2022 – Emma Watkins 2023 – Quinn Randall-Darter

### Coastal "Finds"

#### by Diane Hichwa

Up here in Northwest Sonoma County, we are watching the coast with interest. On Friday, May 12, we had our first report of a Black Oystercatcher nesting, with eggs laid on the rocks and a photo from Jamie Hall. He also spotted on the nearer island a Western Gull with an egg in a grassy nest. So, the seabird nesting season is officially underway for us.

A few weeks earlier, the shorebird migration was fully underway. Craig Tooley was at Walk On Beach April 25, taking photos. He saw a colorful shorebird probing the sand at the edge of the surf and snapped a few pics. On closer examination of the prints, he could see the bird wore three bands: one low and one high on its right leg and a green band on its left leg! We sent the photo to Nils Warnock, Director for Conservation Science at Audubon Canyon Ranch (ACR). He commented that this roselaari subspecies of Red Knot (Calidris canulis) breeds in Alaska and in far East Russia, and that most of them winter in Baja. The green "flag" usually symbolizes the bird was marked in the U.S. Nils knew of banding done in Baja where they winter, at Grays Harbor, WA on their migration path, and on the Seward Peninsula of Alaska. Luckily, Craig took a detailed look at his second photo and could read the entire green band: 1AY! Nils sent that info off to his colleagues. From Jim Johnson, USFWS Anchorage came the reply: "Thanks, Nils. This photo helped. I thought the code began with a 4, but 1AY is a bird we marked in Nome on 7/3/2015 as a CHICK! This is one of a handful of re-sighting records of birds banded as chicks. Please pass along this info and my thanks to the people who shared the observation. Cheers, Jim"

So this mid-sized shorebird will be 8 years old this summer as it continues onward to Alaska for nesting.





Red Knot

Courtesy of Craig Tooley

Red Knots prefer dry tundra habitats for nesting and a small population nests in northern and northwestern Alaska. Alaska Department of Fish and Game provides some interesting breeding biology information: https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/ index.cfm?adfg=redknot.main

This bird is one of the longest-distance migrants, as some Red Knots fly more than 9,000 miles from south to north every Spring, and repeat the trip in reverse every Autumn!

Coincidentally, the ACR research crew was banding shorebirds at the Walker Creek Delta on Tomales Bay for several evenings and Nils wrote: "We caught our first Red Knot ever!" Congratulations to their team.

### Welcome to New Publicity Chair

We're so pleased Susan Webb has volunteered to serve as our Madrone Audubon Publicity Chair. Welcome, Susan! Susan grew up in Marin County and moved permanently to Sonoma County in 1993. She attended Sonoma State University and obtained her teaching credential in 1999. Susan taught in Petaluma for about 18 years. Her 29-year-old son is married and resides in Sebastopol.

Since about age 6, Susan shared she always had small pets like guinea pigs, turtles, parakeets, fish, and brought home lizards, salamanders and frogs from the creek near her home. She had always wanted a parrot and still might get one someday, but her true and consistent passion is being outdoors and wondering what creature she might find that day. Susan began birding with our Madrone Audubon Chapter in 2000 when she took a leave from work while her son was in kindergarten. Learning about birds became a new passion and she even helped out with the *Leaves* newsletter. About 18 years ago, Susan went on a Birding trip to Mexico with a Rotary group. She described the trip as "an amazing adventure and I saw some once in a life-time birds!"

In 2015, Susan left Sonoma County for six years and joined the Wintu Audubon group in Shasta County, as well as the California Native Plant Society. "It was a pure joy to explore all the beautiful hiking spots in Shasta and Trinity Countis for those six years." Susan moved back in 2021 to Santa Rosa and now enjoys birding in her neighborhood along Brush Creek, or from her deck, which faces the same creek! Susan plans to join upcoming Madrone Audubon Outings and looks forward to serving in her new role as Publicity Chair. We're so grateful she has volunteered! Susan is working part-time with young children, and does as much gardening, reading and exploring as possible, with one eye always on what birds she might see on any given day.



### More Board Openings

Do you enjoy writing and editing? Viewing and selecting photos that will inspire readers? We're seeking an **Editor** for our *Leaves* newsletter. The Editor works closely with our President and Production Editor to provide 6 issues each year of our newsletter for members. Computer skills with Microsoft Word and coordinating contributions are part of the Editor's role. The time commitment is about 8-10 hours every 2 months. If you enjoy creative endeavors, are well organized, and would like to volunteer for this important member-connector, please contact Susan Kirks to learn more. 707-241-5548, susankirks@sbcglobal.net

# Bird-A-Thon 2023 – For our Chapter and Conservation!

Our annual Spring fundraiser, Bird-A-Thon, is underway, and there's still time to donate to your favorite team or give a general donation to our Chapter. We're fundraising to support Chapter operations, habitat gardens in our public schools, and support for our many conservation activities.

A review of our teams:

Grey-headed Seersuckers - led by Ken Wilson and Ian Morrison

March Madness - led by Gene and Nancy Hunn.

**Oakmont Birding Buddies** – led by Carolyn Greene (formerly the Roadrunners of Betty Groce and the late Don McCarthy).

Burrowing Owlers - led by Susan Kirks and Art Slater.

**Featherquesters** – led by Diane Hichwa for many years, still on break; but if this is your favorite team, please make a donation and it will be divided among our active teams.



Black-headed Grosbeak

Courtesy of Tom Reynolds

*How to donate:* Mail your check with team name on the Memo Line, or send a general Chapter donation to Madrone Audubon, PO Box 1911, Santa Rosa, CA 95402. Or, make a donation to Bird-A-Thon via our PayPal button at www.madroneaudubon. org. Be sure to date your donation by June 30 or earlier! June 30 is the last day of our current fiscal year. For questions or more info, contact Coordinator Carolyn Greene: cgnpark@icloud. com - (805) 443-7289.

### Spring at Shollenberger

by Jill Koenigsdorf

First, the Swans, regal sitting on their eggs. & every bird either coupled or trying to be. Cattails & high perches claimed by male Red-winged Blackbirds best to show off their scarlet epaulets, their liquid music creating the mood. Male hummingbirds study the sun, keeping their crimson gorgets a secret, until they dive & hover, finding the best angle for optimal dazzle.

Three tiny goslings appear in the water - Nat. surprised, as if pushed from the shoreline reeds. They swim, perhaps for the first time, zig-zagging in what looks like a mix of uncertainty & thrill. I only see the mother's neck, not so far away, the rest of her hidden, camouflaged in the high grasses.

On a naked snag I watch a wren open his beak to the sky & sing, the notes spilling out & filling the air.

I am humbled by such beauty, so much effort to attract, to continue.

And everywhere: the swallows.



Red-winged Blackbird Courtesy of National Audubon

New Members

Rohnert Park Kenneth Roberts

Santa Rosa Kathleen Daulton James Rosso



Magnolia Warbler

Courtesy of Scott Carey

### Spring and Summer Resources

**Bird Rescue Center of Sonoma County** 707-523-2473 3430 Chanate Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Native Songbird Care & Conservation 707-484-6502 8050 Elphick Road, Sebastopol, CA 95472

**Fawn Rescue** 707-931-4550 627 Broadway #1622, Sonoma, CA 95476

Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue 707-992-0274 403 Meacham Road, Petaluma, CA 94952

**WildCare** (415) 456-7283 76 Albert Park Lane, San Rafael, CA 94901

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### **News Briefs**

#### April-May 2023:

**Becky Olsen** advocated for shooting range garbage cleanup on Pine Flat Road north of Healdsburg. Her caring, direct communication and persistence were reported in two articles in the Press Democrat by journalist Austin Murphy. A group of gun advocates not associated with the distribution of garbage and discarded shell casings organized and went to Pine Flat Road to clean up and remove all of the garbage. Thank you to Becky Olsen, long-time birder and conservationist, for caring and taking action!

#### May 2023:

Nesting Bird Surveys, Petaluma Wetlands. Biologist Lisa Hug was retained by Madrone Audubon, collaborating with Petaluma Wetlands Alliance, to perform nesting bird surveys at Alman Marsh, Shollenberger Park and Ellis Creek. Biologist Hug documented several nests and marked legally required buffer zones with colored flags and ribbons. The buffer zones prevent disturbance to birds with active nests. A generous anonymous donor paid for the biological services. Monitoring of nesting areas and demarcated buffer zones will continue through nesting season to the end of August. Our intent is to focus on long-term established protocols for annual active nest surveys and demarcated buffer zones. 2023 is year 1. Our members may recall that Madrone Audubon initiated and supported to official designation the honor of Ramsar Wetland of International Importance for the Petaluma Wetlands, the northernmost area of the San Francisco Bay Estuary Ramsar location. We appreciate biologist Lisa Hug's assistance?



#### Bonaparte's Gull

Courtesy of Tom Reynolds

#### May 4th and 12th:

**Bird Festival Day, Lincoln Elementary School, Santa Rosa**: Gratitude to Audubon Canyon Ranch for coordinating the two half-days for this year's Bird Day Festival. Both days were successful. Students came to the lawn across from the West 9th Street rookery to view nesting egrets and herons through scopes, with volunteer assistance. We're particularly grateful to *Judy Withee and Terry Teplitz* who volunteered to help from our Chapter! The event is in May each year – looking for an opportunity to hep our Chapter? Plan to volunteer for one or both half-days next year!



Wood Duck family

Courtesy of Tom Reynolds

#### Early May 2023:

National Geographic/Disney filming at West 9th Street Rookery: A film crew from Farmlore Films LLC in southern California was in Santa Rosa for about 5 days, filming nesting activity of Great Egrets. Madrone's President, Susan Kirks, who each year manages the encroachment permit for the site via the City of Santa Rosa, along with our nesting support project, coordinated with the film crew to ensure legal compliance with regulatory protections and appropriate distances while filming. The group was very satisfied with footage they obtained. They are producing a biodiversity TV series to follow up the 2019 documentary *Biggest Little Farm*, about Apricot Lane Farms in Moorpark, CA. We were pleased to be able to assist in this film project.

#### Saturday, June 3, 2023:

Madrone Audubon shared a display with Paula Lane Action Network for **World Ocean Day at Safari West** in north Santa Rosa. We enjoyed being neighbors with *Tree Frog Treks* from San Francisco and *International Bird Rescue* from Fairfield. Seventeen organizations participated, providing ocean, marine life, seabird and climate change information to Safari West visitors.

> For planting and habitat consideration, see our Tree & Vegetation Planting Guide

https://madroneaudubon.org/pdf/ Tree and Plant List.pdf



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

### Summer 2023 Outings

Bring binoculars and wear outdoor clothing suitable for the weather forecast. Our outings are free for members and the public.

#### Thursday, June 8

Riverfront Regional Park, Windsor *8:30-10:30 AM* **Leader:** Janet Bosshard

Take Hwy 101 North, take Windsor River Road exit, turn left and proceed to Eastside Road, turn left, go about 2 miles. Park permit is required. We'll meet back by the Redwood grove/restrooms. For info: 707-526-5883.



Adult and Juvenile Bald Eagles Courtesy of Tom Reynolds

#### Saturday, June 10

Pine Flat Road, north of Healdsburg *8:00-11:00 AM* **Leader:** Linda Fraley

We'll bird up Pine Flat Road in Sonoma County and will need to carpool. The road is a one-lane, rough and winding road and turn-outs may be used. We'll stop at Ferguson Spring and Little Sulphur Creek with perhaps birding to Upper Pine Flat Road if time allows.

Meet at Jimtown Store (6706 CA-128, Healdsburg). We'll move to a safe shoulder from there, arrange carpools and proceed up the grade. For info: 559-779-5211.



Western Bluebird Courtesy of Kenneth Wright

Saturday, June 17 Paula Lane area, West Petaluma 7:30-8:15 AM Leader: Susan Kirks

Family friendly, early morning experience, a flat surface walk near the Paula Lane Nature Preserve, open space land. We'll learn about the history of badgers and the effort to bring

badgers back to their longstanding habitat. We'll also listen for the Acorn Woodpecker, pecking, observe for Western Fence Lizards, and quietly look around to see if a Doe and her fawns may be in the area. We'll take a brief walk uphill to stand in and observe the wildlife corridor. Reserve a soace: Call or text 707-241-5548. We'll meet at the corner of Paula Lane, Sunset Drive and West Street.

#### Thursday, June 22

Laguna de Santa Rosa, Sebastopol *8:30 -10:30 AM* Leader: Janet Bosshard

Meet in the parking lot, off Hwy #12, before the gas station. We'll walk the dirt path down to the waterway to look for the kites, hawks, and night herons. For info: 707-526-5883.

#### Thursday, July 13, 2023

West County Trail, between Graton and Forestville *8:30-10:30 AM* Leader: Janet Bosshard

Take Hwy 116 north to Ross Station Road, turn left and proceed down to the parking lot on the left. We'll walk to the sewer ponds to look for Wood Ducks and the Barn Owl. It is a mostly shady paved trail, where



Black-crowned Night Heron Courtesy of Kenneth Wright

birds can be active in the morning. For info: 707- 526-5883.

#### Thursday, July 27, 2023

Foothill Regional County Park, Windsor 8:30-10:30 AM **Leader:** Janet Bosshard

Take Hwy 101 North, take Arata Lane exit, turn right, go 1.3 miles. The park will be on the left. Park permit is required, or park along the street. We'll meet near the restrooms. It has a gentle hill to walk up and ponds to explore. For info: 707-526-5883.

### Out & About

Winging It Wednesdays Thursday, July 26 8:30-10:30 AM Helen Putnam Regional Park, Petaluma

Sponsored by Sonoma County Regional Parks. Meet at Chileno valley Road entrance to the park. A leisurely outing for all levels of experience. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair from the outing leader(s). For info: communityengagementprograms@sonoma-county.org

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Observations	Spring 2023 •	Dan Nelson • 479-2918 • birdsurf64@s	bcglobal.net
Eurasian Wigeon (male)	4/25	Carmody Rd. South pond	EP
Long-tailed Duck	5/5	Fish Docks/ Chimney Rock area	LH
Blue-winged Teal (2)	4/1	Ellis Creek ponds	DN
Tufted Duck	3/23	Petaluma River W. of Shollenberger Park	PC, et al
Red-necked Grebe	4/20	Campbell Cove	DN
Cattle Egret (4)	5/8	9th St. rookery, Santa Rosa	LH
Green Heron	5/9	Santa Rosa Creek Trail W. of Willowside Rd.	BW
Least Bittern (1)	4/20	Ellis Creek ponds	DN
Sandhill Crane (1)	5/8	Limantour flyover	RDeG
Solitary Sandpiper (1)	4/20	Stony Pt. Rd. near R.P. Expressway	AW
Lesser Black-backed Gull (ad.)	3/24-25	Jenner	JS, et al
Murphy's Petrel (45+)	5/7	Offshore Marin County	LC, et al
Hawaiian Petrel (1)	5/7	Offshore Marin County	LC, et al
Cooper's Hawk (2)	5/9	Santa Rosa Creek Trail; known breeding pair	BW
Swainson's Hawk (lt.)	4/10	Pressley Rd./ Sonoma Mtn. near summit	ZM
Swainson's Hawk (2)	4/20	Santa Rosa Creek Trail W. of Willowside Rd.	BW
Swainson's Hawk (1)	5/8	Santa Rosa Creek Trail W. of Willowside Rd.	LF
Short-eared Owl (1)	4/6	Napa/Sonoma Marshes-Ringstrom Unit	MB
Barred Owl	5/6	Fitzpatrick Ln.	DS
Lewis' Woodpecker (1 con't)	4/18	Nagasawa Park, Santa Rosa	AW
White-throated Swift	4/20	Ellis Creek	DN
Least Flycatcher	3/2-19	Ellis Creek	JV, M.Ob
Ash-throated Flycatcher	4/27	Marin Rod & Gun Club, at Bay shoreline	RC
Western Wood-Pewee	5/9	Laguna de Santa Rosa Trail	MF
Townsend's Solitaire (1)	4/16	Sonoma Botanical Garden (photos)	M Simmel
Northern Mockingbird (leuc.)	4/10-20	N. end of Echo Drive, E. Corte Madera	B Keener
Phainopepla (male)	4/20	Pine Flat Rd. just beyond MM 3.0	D & DH
Great-tailed Grackle (2)	5/9	Laguna de Santa Rosa Trail	MF
Hooded Oriole (male)	4/6	5th St. West, Sonoma	СВ
Hooded Oriole (fem.)	4/8	5th St. West, Sonoma	СВ
Bullock's Oriole (2)	5/9	Laguna de Santa Rosa Trail	MF
Northern Parula Warbler (fem)	5/5	Nunes Ranch, Pt. Reyes	LC
Northern Waterthrush (con't)	4/20	Santa Rosa Creek Trail, W. of Willowside Rd.	BW
Hermit Warbler	5/9	Petrified Forest	MB
Hermit Warbler (2)	4/20	Pine Flat Rd.	D & DH
Black-throated Gray Warbler (3)	4/20	Pine Flat Rd.	D & DH
Townsend's Warbler (5)	4/20	Pine Flat Rd.	D & DH
Yellow Warbler (12)	5/9	Santa Rosa Creek Trail, W. of Willowside Rd.	BW
MacGillivray's Warbler (3-4)	4/27-29	Muddy Hollow, Marin Co.	DN, et al
MacGillivray's Warbler	5/4	Lucas Valley Rd. canyon near Big Rock summit	DE
Yellow-breasted Chat	5/3	Adobe Creek, Petaluma	LH
Yellow-breasted Chat	5/5	Ellis Creek, Petaluma	LH
Lawrence's Goldfinch (2)	4/10	Santa Rosa Creek Trail, W. of Willowside Rd.	BW
Vesper Sparrow (1)	4/13-14	Pine Flat Rd. at Ferguson Spring	JS, et al
Chipping Sparrow (5)	5/9	Santa Rosa Creek Trail, W. of Willowside Rd.	BW
Black-throated Sparrow	4/30	Nunes Ranch, Pt. Reyes	LC
Golden-crowned Sparrow (2)	5/7	Pine Flat Rd.	JC

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

#### Summer 2023

Madrone *Leaves* is published bimonthly from October through May, plus one issue each in June and September.





#### 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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Vice President: Position open				
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Corresponding Secretary: Position open				
Treasurer: Position open				
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Junior Audubon: Position open				
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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.		Name			
		Address			
Membership and donations are tax deductible.		CityStateZip			
New member	lew member Renewal	Phone Email			
Senior \$15	Basic Member \$25 Family \$30	Please send my <i>Leaves</i> via email			
Sustaining \$50	□ Supporting \$100 □ Patron \$500	Please make your check payable to "Madrone Audubon Society." Detach this panel and mail to: Madrone Audubon Society, P.O. Box 1911, Santa Rosa, CA 95402			
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