



Madrone LEAVES

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

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A Recurring Environmental Threat to Our Coastal Waters

by Susan Kirks & Diane Hichwa

Who would have imagined two years after the *historic expansion and protection designation for Greater Farallones and Cordell Banks National Marine Sanctuaries*, that Summer 2017 would bring threats from the Trump administration apparently intent on removing those same designations? Executive Order 13795 (EO), "Implementing an America-First Offshore Energy Strategy," was signed in late April 2017. This EO requires review of National Marine Sanctuary and National Marine Monument designations, for possible removal from sanctuary and monument status, to implement offshore oil and mineral drilling.

Who would have imagined the anticipated couple of months Summer break our Madrone Audubon Board of Directors looks forward to each year for renewing, resting a bit, and preparing to reconvene with our members at our Fall membership meeting in September, would become a time of focused coordinating with other conservation organizations in order to comprehensively respond to this serious environmental affront?

As we go to press August 15th for our September Leaves, we will share what we know about this considerable threat to our Sonoma Coast, the Pacific Ocean and its marine life, and to our terrestrial National Monuments.

The California marine sanctuaries impacted by this Executive Order include: Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary, Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

Madrone Audubon's Coastal Stewardship Task Force has been actively working for ten years to monitor and steward the wildlife and rock islands along our Sonoma Coast. The islands are managed by BLM as the California Coastal

National Monument and they all sit within the expanded Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary.

In 2015, when the expansion of Cordell Bank and Greater Farallones was achieved, the entire Sonoma County Coast became a protected area, honoring boundaries that are "globally significant, extraordinarily diverse, and productive marine ecosystems." (NOAA, Press Democrat, 03/15/2015). Now retired Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey was credited by Congressman Jared Huffman as devoting many years to "bring

this long campaign to a successful conclusion – from the North Coast to the White House." "By expanding these two sanctuaries to more than double in size, we will protect a 350-mile band of ocean from drilling and other risky activities," Huffman said ... "Safeguarding this national treasure isn't just good for the environment, it will also boost the coastal economy...ecotourism... local fishing." (03/15/2017, Press Democrat). Richard Charter of the Ocean Foundation, having dedicated many years toward the National Marine Sanctuary designations, recently commented,

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GENERAL MEETING

Monday, September 18, 2017, 7:00 PM

First United Methodist Church • 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa

"A Look into the Daily Lives of Herons and Egrets and Conservation of Bay Area Wetlands"

Herons and egrets are recognized around the world as symbols of wetland health. Such symbolism is well-substantiated by the sensitivity of these birds to wetland quality and by their roles as powerful wetland predators. As a result, the habits and needs of herons and egrets provide key perspectives for protecting the wetland landscapes in our region. This program offers an inside look into the lives of these elegant birds, with insights from ongoing studies at Audubon Canyon Ranch (ACR) on the conservation of wetlands, the effects of climate change, and the protection of heronries. John P. Kelly, Ph.D., Director of Conservation Science at ACR, will also have early updates on ACR's new Heron and Egret Telemetry Project, which uses BPS transmitters and observations of known individuals to track the daily lives of Great Egrets. In addition, John will discuss recent work on shorebird responses to tidal marsh restoration and the dependence of wintering waterbirds on the seasonal spawning activities of Pacific herring.

John Kelly has been studying heron and egrets throughout the San Francisco Bay area for nearly 30 years. As ACR's Director of Conservation Science, John manages ACR's Cypress Grove Research Center on Tomales Bay, works on local and regional conservation issues, and serves as a scientific advisor for a variety of conservation agencies and organizations. His scientific work is focused on the habitat relationships, population ecology, behaviors, and energetics of coastal and estuarine birds.



Great Egret stretch display
Courtesy of Keith Carver



ENVIRONMENTAL THREAT

Continued from page 1

“For marine mammals and seabirds, this is one of the most lush and rich environments on the planet, especially the Greater Farallones. In setting these areas aside as National Marine Sanctuaries, we have protected them permanently from off shore drilling, marine mining and other polluting activities.” (Ocean Foundation, July 2017).



Berryessa Snow Mountain

Courtesy of the Bureau of Land Management

Executive Order 13795 directs the Secretary of Commerce to review three technical factors in relation to six national marine sanctuaries and five marine national monuments, designated or expanded since April 28, 2007. The three factors: (1) Analyzing acreage affected and analyzing budgetary impacts of costs of managing each National Marine Sanctuary expansion; (2) analyzing the adequacy of any required Federal, State and tribal consultations conducted before the expansions; and (3) opportunity costs associated with potential energy and mineral exploration and production from the Outer Continental Shelf, in addition to any impacts on production in the adjacent region.

At least 20, and possibly more, National Monuments are included in the EO mandated review. In California, the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, the Carrizo Plain, Giant Sequoia National Monument, Mojave Trails National Monument, Sand to Snow National Monument, and in the Bay Area, Berryessa Snow Mountain are included in the EO mandated review. Berryessa Snow Mountain, 350,000 acres north of the San Francisco Bay, connects 5 counties - Napa, Lake, Mendocino, Solano and Yolo. This national monument, designated by former President Obama in 2015, is a haven for wildlife and early Native American civilization artifacts, and “home to some of the rarest plants on Earth—particularly delicate serpentine plants clinging to otherwise barren and rocky mountainsides.” (US Forest Service/NPR 04/28/2017).

The comment period for EO 13795 was originally 60 days or less, July 10th for monuments and July 26th for sanctuaries. A concerted national effort by conservation and environmental organizations and elected officials helped obtain a two week extension for sanctuary comments to August 14th.

During the Department of Commerce public comment period for this Executive Order, numerous comments have been submitted.

Madrone Audubon joined many organizations to unify and submit comprehensive letters with the Natural Resources Defense Council and Oceana. As of August 9th, more than 200,000 people have registered their support for marine monuments and sanctuaries. Combined with comments sent to the Department of the Interior earlier this

interview with the Press Democrat, “But they are walking into a political buzz-saw with this issue,” Huffman said. “There is a broad national constituency for these protections.”

We are aware there is advocacy for a public informational meeting and/or hearing locally in Sonoma and Marin Counties on EO 13795 and its potential impacts, to provide a forum for additional public input. We encourage our Madrone Audubon members to remain informed about this issue and, if a hearing and/or meeting can be arranged, to attend and express your opinion of what you believe is important.

In essence, we are focused on a critically important environmental issue that also has significant economic concerns for Sonoma County. From one of the collaborative letters submitted: “... while the economic data on National Marine Sanctuaries are unequivocal in demonstrating the economic importance of the Sanctuaries, California’s offshore waters are invaluable—the California Current is a world-class marine ecosystem and an asset that is irreplaceable. California’s offshore waters are one of the most biodiverse areas in the world. California’s four National Marine Sanctuaries were created to provide refuge to endangered whales, dolphins, porpoises, seals, sea lions, fish, seabirds, coral reefs, kelp forests, and sharks, among other marine species. The National Marine Sanctuaries



Courtesy of the Ocean Foundation

summer, during the last two months more than 680,000 people have expressed support for our collective position. (National Ocean Protection Coalition)

Following the comment period ending on August 14th, the Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans will convene a hearing. Congressman Jared Huffman, the ranking minority member of this Subcommittee of 19 members (11 Republicans and 8 Democrats) notes Republicans have long been looking at the Antiquities Act of 1906, an Act that gives the President broad power to create national monuments on federal lands, signed in 1906 by President Theodore Roosevelt. Said Congressman Huffman in a March 14, 2017

also support fishermen and communities that rely on healthy marine ecosystems for their livelihood. As the impacts of ocean acidification, warming waters, overfishing, and industrial uses of the oceans mount, National Marine Sanctuaries have an essential role in preserving ocean health and by extension, supporting the communities that depend on them.” (NRDC et al, July 26, 2017).

Visit nautiluslive.org to view underwater dives in the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary and Monterey Canyon.

(Acknowledgments for information in this article: Ocean Foundation, NOAA, NPR, Natural Resources Defense Council, National Ocean Protection Coalition, Press Democrat.)



Oil Spills and the Birds We Don't See

In support of the national conservation effort to address EO 13795 (see A Recurring Environmental Threat to Our Coastal Waters, this issue), Audubon California's marine program director, Anna Weinstein, recently shared a personal perspective on birds who suffer and die from oil spills, the birds we will not see.

lot of birds, but still needing to do a count. Luckily, seabird experts Peter Pyle and Steve Howell ... did their best to make counts ... about 10,500 Ashy Storm-petrels."

As our members contemplate the simple, cherished experience in nature of seeing and hearing birds and wildlife, we may resonate with Anna's description and memory of being out, with others, on the open ocean.

Pelagic trips out of Bodega Bay are very popular and also necessary to help us



Ashy Storm-petrel

Courtesy of Glen Tepke

The Ashy Storm-petrel, a small seabird, lives almost exclusively off the California coast, sometimes moving to Mexico in small numbers, but primarily remaining in California (National Audubon). Only about 20,000 of these birds remain on the planet (approximately 2000 breeding pairs).

In the fall, Ashy Storm-Petrels can be observed, aggregating on California's continental shelf, "in food-rich areas such as Cordell Bank, Gulf of the Farallones, and Monterey Bay." (Weinstein, 08/08/17).

In her recent Audublog, Anna shared her memorable 2013 experience, while on a Shearwater Journeys pelagic trip out of Bodega Bay: "I spotted a distant shimmering haze that I knew was a large flock of storm-petrels rising and settling on the water. We motored over, knowing we'd be dealing with a

maintain our awareness and connection to seabirds and marine life far off our California coast. Anyone who has accompanied such a trip will likely feel deep concern to consider the prospect of oil rigs being viewed, rather than the pristine, exceptionally natural and protected areas of our national marine sanctuaries.

We appreciate Anna Weinstein's personal story, which helps accentuate the threats described in our lead article in this *Leaves* issue.

Do you receive emails of Audubon California's Action Alerts? This is an effective way to express concern to elected officials. Please consider signing up today: Copy and paste this link in your internet browser to sign up today: https://act.audubon.org/SZUPaBqDU0SfCz52txXK_w2.

Appreciated Donations

In Memory of...

Betty Burridge
by Janet Bosshard
by Marilyn Edmondson

Barbara & Laurence Taylor
by Becky Richardson

September 6th is World Shorebirds Day



Piping Plover & Chick

Courtesy of Matt Filosa

Are you a National Audubon member?

Please consider
joining our
local chapter,
Madrone Audubon.

(see membership form, back page)



2017 Nesting Season on West 9th Street, Santa Rosa

The efforts of Audubon Canyon Ranch (ACR), Sonoma County Bird Rescue volunteers, the City of Santa Rosa and Madrone Audubon Society were once again present, beginning early March and continuing to the end of August. From Madrone's perspective, this was our 5th year of installing and managing the "creative" fencing enclosure with rice straw mats around the primary median street trees on West 9th. The installation is intended to provide an enclosed area, facilitating rescue, and a cushioned experience for falling nestlings, avoiding direct contact where possible with asphalt pavement. The installation also offers a community interface of providing a sense of boundary between residential activity and the nesting experience.

Bay Area Barricade Services (BABS) in Concord supplies materials for our installation, such as traffic delineators and bases to serve as fence posts and security fencing to enclose the median street tree area. 60-80 rice straw bales are purchased from Larsen's Feed & Pet Supply in Cotati, then carefully installed (and occasionally replaced) around the median street trees and covering closed asphalt traffic lanes.

Each year, we're fortunate that Need a Hand Movers in Santa Rosa provides the necessary service at season's end of removing the straw and cleaning the area, a requirement of our Encroachment Permit. Madrone Audubon's President Susan Kirks manages the Encroachment Permit obtained each year from the City of Santa Rosa. We often interact with responsive and supportive City of Petaluma personnel, including biologist Denise Cadman, environmental specialist Steve Brady, and Public Works Director Robert Oller.

The West 9th Street nesting site is a large one, attracting visitors and photographers. The nesting birds are in the midst of a southwest Santa Rosa residential neighborhood with frequent traffic, and about a block from Lincoln Elementary School, the site of Madrone Audubon's annual day-long Bird and Nature festival for Lincoln School students.

West 9th is included in the North Bay Heron and Egret Project of Audubon Canyon Ranch, headquartered at Cypress Grove on Tomales Bay. ACR staff and volunteers carefully observe and document annual nesting activity of the West 9th Street herons and egrets, and produce a census of nests and production. Volunteer rescuers from Sonoma County Bird Rescue monitor the site

24/7 to retrieve fallen nestlings and take the birds to Bird Rescue, where they are stabilized where possible and then transported to International Bird Rescue in Cordelia for rehabilitation. Rehabilitated young birds are released into the wild, following banding and readiness for release, and many are released back in the Santa Rosa area.

We look forward to sharing more information about the 2017 West 9th St. nesting season and observations of Audubon Canyon Ranch staff and volunteers, for the 2017 nesting season, in our October-November *Leaves*

New Bird Checklist for Spring Lake Regional Park

As Sonoma County Regional Parks celebrates 50 years in Sonoma County, along with Madrone Audubon also celebrating our 50th year, a bird checklist for Spring Lake Regional Park, representing a collaboration for Sonoma County's citizens and many park visitors, is hot off the presses!

Spring Lake Regional Park is one of the most frequently visited and enjoyed parks in our County's Regional Park system. The new checklist, *Birds of Spring Lake Regional Park*, contains an easy to use format and key for 132 birds.

About 1-1/2 years ago, Madrone Audubon began a volunteer effort to compile bird checklists for several Regional Parks. Working with Peter Leveque and Jeff Holtzman who were surveying Taylor Mountain Regional Park to compile avian data there, our Madrone Audubon volunteers began to coordinate the bird checklist effort with Steve Ehret, Park/Planning Manager of Regional Parks. We reviewed several possible formats and then selected the first park, Spring Lake Regional Park, for this cooperative effort. Steve was especially interested in bird checklists being available in our Regional Parks as a way for park visitors to connect to the abundant and varied natural resources here in Sonoma County, available to all members of the public.

Utilizing many years of compiled data of Ruth Rudesill, et al, along with available eBird data, Emiko Condeso of Audubon Canyon Ranch and Gordon Beebe, former President of Madrone Audubon and Breeding Bird Atlas Co-Chair, organized and reviewed voluminous data for Spring Lake Regional Park. Gordon and Susan Kirks, current Madrone Audubon President, then collaborated with Madrone Audubon founding member Linda Curry who created a format and key for the checklist.

Gordon and Susan also collaborated with Melanie Parker, Natural Resource Manager/Deputy Director, and Hattie Brown, Natural Resources Program Coordinator, of Sonoma County Regional Parks in

Phenology Project Volunteers

Thank you to volunteers for the Madrone Audubon sponsored Phenology Project at the Paula Lane Nature Preserve in Petaluma.

We enter our 2nd year of this long-term, data gathering, climate change impact project.

Volunteer requirements: 1 hour monthly, observe for 9 avian, 2 mammal & 4 plant species. Enter observations in *Nature's Notebook* of the National Phenology Project.

For more info and to volunteer, contact: Susan Kirks, Madrone Audubon President. 707-241-5548, susankirks@sbcglobal.net

several meetings to consider the best format for park visitors and subsequent production of the first checklist by Regional Parks.



Courtesy of Sonoma County Regional Parks

Birds of Spring Lake Regional Park, available in September 2017 at the park, can be used with any standard field guide. The checklist can also be used as an educational tool for the many school students who visit and enjoy the park. This seemed a good way to celebrate our 50th anniversaries and continue to serve Sonoma County's citizens, birds and wildlife. We hope to begin work on a second bird checklist for Sonoma County Regional Parks soon.



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.

September 2017 Calendar

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.

Saturday, September 2, 8:30 AM to noon

ELLIS CREEK WATER RECYCLING FACILITY. Bird Walk. We are timing this trip to visit the ponds during their drawdown cycle, so at least one should be almost empty of water, with much bird activity out in the open. Meet at the Ellis Creek Water Treatment Facility in the parking lot, near the bathroom. From Highway 101 in Petaluma, go East on 116 (Lakeville Highway), turn right (south) on South McDowell, turn right on Cypress Drive. Go to the end of the road and through the gates. Parking is to the left. Leader: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115.

Thursday, 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.

Saturday, September 16, 8:00 AM to noon

RAGLE RANCH REGIONAL PARK, on Ragle Ranch Road, in Sebastopol. Bird Walk. Join us to look for fall migrants, as well as a wide variety of our familiar county birds. Meet in the parking area near the dog park and Peace Garden (from entry kiosk, the road slowly veers left – continue to the parking lot). Parking fee (\$7) for non-permit holders. We will be walking the Blackberry Trail, about 1.5 miles long. Leader: Gordon Beebe, 583-3315.

Monday, September 18, 7:00 PM

GENERAL MEETING. First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa. “A Look into the Daily Lives of Herons and Egrets and Conservation of Bay Area Wetlands” with Dr. John Kelly.

Wednesday, September 20, 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM

BODEGA BAY. Bird Walk at Bodega Bay Harbor and environs. To meet the group, take Doran Park Road from Hwy. 1 at the southern end of Bodega Bay harbor and follow signs to Doran County Park (a Sonoma County park permit or \$7 entrance fee is required). Continue 0.5 miles past the park entrance to the parking lot of the Cypress Day Use Area on the left side of the road. After birding Doran Park, the group will search the harbor and adjacent seas and woodlands for birds. Weather permitting, the group will eat a picnic lunch on the west side of the harbor. Leader: Tom McCuller, t.sisyphus@comcast.net, 707-546-1812.

Saturday, September 30, 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE. Our annual trip to the Point to search for fall migrants. A wind from the southwest, plus overcast skies the night before, are the best for rare migrants, but we'll go, wind or no. Meet at the Whitehouse Pool parking lot, just east of the intersection of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and Bear Valley Road, at 8:00 AM. Bring lunch, liquids and layers of clothing. We will drive out to the Lighthouse, Chimney Rock, and other locations. Leaders: Ken Wilson, 665-5127, and Gordon Beebe, 583-3115.

Saturday, October 7, 8:00 AM to noon

SPRING LAKE REGIONAL PARK. Bird Walk. Parking fee (\$7) for non-permit holders. From Summerfield Road in Santa Rosa, go east on Hoen Ave, turn left on Newanga Ave, turn right inside the park entrance gate, and meet in the parking lot near the restrooms at the top of the hill. Leader: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115.

OUT & ABOUT

Wine Country Nature & Optics Festival

Saturday, September 9, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
20 Spain Street East, Sonoma Plaza, Sonoma

Representatives from all of the major binocular and spotting scope companies will return once again to Sonoma for the annual Optics & Nature Festival. Artists and nature non-profits from across Northern California are also be invited to participate. For more information, go to www.sonomanature.org or call 707-939-8007. This year's sponsors include Sonoma Nature & Sonoma Birding and California State Parks.

This is a free event and all are welcome. Do stop by our Madrone Audubon booth!

Sustaining Groundwater Resources

Thursday, September 14, 7:00-8:30pm

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

The groundwater system beneath the Santa Rosa Plain provides numerous benefits to the region, including rural residential and municipal water supplies, irrigation water for agriculture, and baseflow to streams and surface water bodies that support birds and other wildlife. Marcus Trotta, hydrogeologist with the Sonoma County Water Agency, will provide an overview of groundwater resources in the Santa Rosa Plain, the Laguna de Santa Rosa Watershed, and an update on recent and future plans to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for our area. Sponsored by the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation. Fee is \$12, and preregistration is required. http://www.lagunadesantarosa.org/laguna_walks_classes.shtml

The Sonoma County Regional Parks

system is celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2017. Go to <http://parks.sonomacounty.ca.gov/Activities/Calendar.aspx> for a listing of events and outings at various Regional Parks, including *Winging It Wednesdays* bird walks.

Attention eBirders!

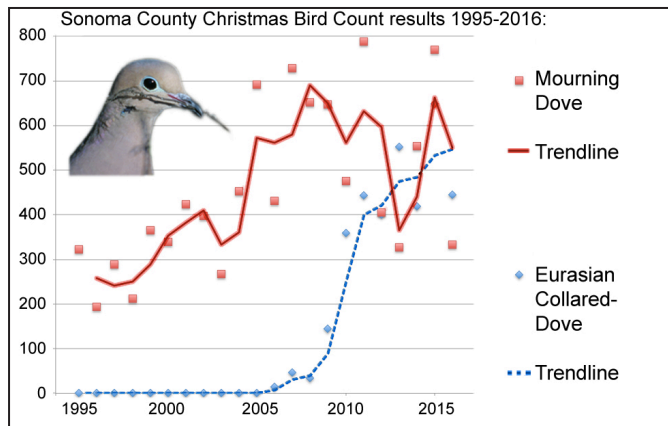
Madrone is working on a checklist of the birds at Taylor Mountain Regional Park, in conjunction with Sonoma County Regional Parks. Post your sightings to eBird and help us build our database.



Doves: Mourning vs Collared?

by Gordon Beebe

What do the results from Madrone's 2011-2016 Breeding Bird Atlas survey (BBA) tell us about the health and population of the Mourning Dove, compared to the new arrival, Eurasian Collared-Dove in Sonoma County? No Collared-Doves were recorded in the first BBA, published in 1995. Mourning Doves were found in 141 of 183 blocks surveyed, with breeding confirmed in 29 of those blocks. Keep in mind that the BBA does not count



Courtesy of National Audubon

species density, only that at least one pair of birds succeeded in raising young within that block.

For the 2nd BBA, completed in 2016, Collared-Doves had arrived, and were found in 120 of 191 blocks surveyed, with breeding confirmed in 38 blocks. There has been some concern that they have displaced Mourning Doves in the county, and in some urban areas, this is true. However, in the 2nd BBA, Mourning Doves were found in 172 of 191 blocks, with breeding confirmed in 50 blocks, so from this data, they appear to be doing well.

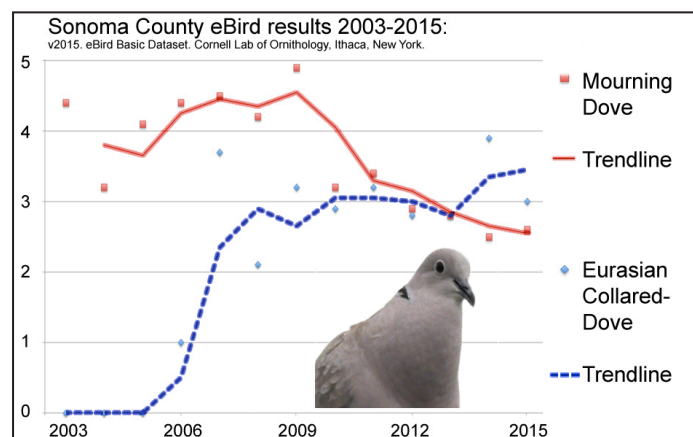
Again, this only tells us that at least one pair of Mourning Doves succeeded in raising young in 50 blocks, compared to 29 in the first atlas, and that the Collared-Doves' breeding success expanded from 0 to 38 blocks in the same time period. However, as mentioned in the June *Leaves* article, it is misleading to look only at these numbers, as atlasers spent over twice as many hours atlasing in the 2nd survey, and reached more blocks than previously.

In order to get an idea of the population density of both dove species, we can use Christmas Bird Count data from all three CBC's in Sonoma County (Sonoma Valley, Santa Rosa, and West

Sonoma County). This gives us a snapshot of their populations on one day in the winter, within the three 15 mile diameter circles in the county (or roughly 30% of the area in Sonoma County). Since these are only one day surveys, the effect of that day's weather, as well as number of participants from year to year, both exert a large influence on the results. As shown in the CBC graph, both species appear to be doing well, though time will tell if the numbers for Collared-Doves continue to climb at the expense of Mourning Doves.

A second way to look at population density is to review eBird data, collected by all of the avid birders in Sonoma County who have faithfully filled out their eBird checklists. This is not a rigorous scientific survey, though the sheer number of tallies may give a more or less realistic representation of actual density for each species. Since the number of eBird lists varies every year, the average number of birds seen per list was calculated for each year.

As the eBird graph shows, the number of Mourning Doves seen per birding trip is on a slow decline, whereas Collared-Doves are rising



Courtesy of eBird data

in number of sightings. Note that on both graphs, the Mourning Dove numbers climbed during the initial years after Collared-Doves first arrived, then adjusted downward. Does this mean Mourning Doves are declining in numbers overall? Not necessarily, as the BBA

New Members

Welcome, New Members

Bodega Bay

John Hershey

Forestville

Kate Furtner

Madera

Becky Richardson

San Francisco

Mary Anne Kimble

Santa Rosa

R.P. Clarke

Michael Franchetti

Christina Holmes

Johanna Knight

Patrick Schafer

Sonoma

Richard Hacker

Tiburon

Carla Parkinson

Windsor

Eric Leuschner

Rachel Platt

results show that they have been found in more blocks than previously, so it is possible that they are moving out of some of the urban areas, and shifting to more rural areas for which there is no eBird data.

At this point, it is too early to say whether Mourning Doves are being permanently, negatively affected by the influx of the Eurasian Collared-Dove countywide. We'll have to keep submitting checklists, checking out some new areas, and doing our CBC's each

year, then take another

look at the cumulative data to see if this trend continues.

Next month, we will look at some of the BBA results: which new species have breeding records, which species were missed on this survey, which species made the top 10, and more.



MEMBERS' COLUMN

Life with Jays

by Asenath LaRue

In May 2016, a pair of Steller's Jays decided to build their nest directly outside our bedroom window, where a downspout joined the house. Over a period of a couple



Steller's Jay, Newly hatched

of weeks they constructed a large, messy pile of sticks lined with grass, and soon, one of the parents was sitting on the nest. We waited for what seemed like too long for eggs to hatch and were concerned about possible nest failure, but a quick check via stepladder on June 2nd showed a newly hatched chick and another egg soon to hatch. By late June, the two young birds were jostling for position in the nest and testing their wings, and sometime early June 26th, they left the nest. For about 5 days, they spent quite a bit of time on the ground below the nest and near the adjacent deck. Even if we didn't see them, we could tell where they were from the anxious scolding of their parents. In the following week, we'd see them flying somewhat clumsily in the lower branches of trees further from the house, and we could be pretty confident that these two young jays would survive to join the group that inhabits the oaks around our house.

Fast forward a year....on June 20th, 2017, outside our window the most protective of the wild turkey mothers in our backyard was running as fast as she could up the hill, clearly on the pursuit of something she perceived as a threat to her six young poults. Soon, she made a 90-degree turn and ran directly toward our house. I caught a flash of brown legs and an outspread handed tail about 6 feet off the ground, and a hawk (most likely a Cooper's) dropped a still-living Steller's Jay about 4 feet from the window. The mother turkey inspected the struggling jay closely, and once assured that it wasn't one of her young, she wandered away. The jay was alert and breathing steadily, but couldn't stand or fly. After a half hour in a quiet, safe place, its condition was much the same, and we drove it to Bird Rescue in Santa Rosa. When I called to check the next day, I was surprised to learn that the jay was still alive, and subsequent checks over the next three weeks provided more good news....this jay



Steller's Jays, Ready to launch

was going to make it, despite several puncture wounds near its spine. After nearly 6 weeks of rehab, on July 30th, this lucky jay was released back to the wild. He owes this new lease on life to a vigilant turkey hen...and the kind care at Bird Rescue. Was this one of last year's fledglings that we followed so closely? We'll never know.

BOOK REVIEW

Feathers Between Pages

by J.J. Jent

For a delightful, uplifting read, I highly recommend "The Penguin Lessons: What I Learned from a Remarkable Bird," by Tom Michell (Ballantine Books, Random House, a division of Penguin Random House, LLC, New York, NY, 2015).

The author was visiting Punta del Este in Montevideo, Uruguay, for a relaxing vacation before taking up his post as under-professor at a private school in Buenos Aires, Argentina. While having a stroll along the beach, he noted Magellanic Penguins feeding on the sprats in the harbor and watched in fascination the hunting prowess of these adept, graceful birds. Walking farther along the beach he was shocked by the thousands of dead penguins drenched in thick, gummy oil, a most dreadful sight caused by the practice of clearing the bilges of tankers after offloading at the refineries. This was a common practice at that time, until a worldwide law was passed to stop this deadly threat to all oceanic life.

As destiny would have it, a small lump in all the death and destruction moved ever so slightly. Tom sprang into action, rushing to pick up the bird with a spare shirt, then transporting it to a friend's apartment across from the beach. After depositing the penguin in the bathtub, he searched for cleaning materials and towels. Bird and man were not well acquainted. The 10-pound bird had great strength, which Tom found out quickly with a whopping bite to his hand. Back to the drawing board. It was with ties to beak and feet before the process could continue. An all-day effort was made to clean feathers to help the bird survive. By the time most of the damage was removed, the bathroom definitely was worse for the event.

Exhausted, Tom left the apartment to buy replenishing supplies. On the way back, he stopped at a local restaurant to rest and read his book, "Jonathan Livingston Seagull." That was how he hit upon a name for the rescued penguin - Juan Salvador.

Before Tom was to return to Buenos Aires, he made several attempts to return the bird to the sea, but Juan wasn't having any of it, following him back every time. Since Juan wouldn't leave his side, Tom devised a plan to take him with him by bus across the border. All of this was fraught with fear of discovery and not without funny adventures.

Author and bird grew together in friendship over the years, adding many more friends who loved talking to Juan - who always listened. Juan Salvador became a beloved mascot at Tom's school.

As an aside: The happenings in this book occurred at a time of great political unrest in Argentina - the time of the Peronistas and eventual military coup to right the country. The author included some interesting information about this period.

A note to all Madrone members...

Do you have bird observations or experiences to share? Something that caught your eye in your backyard, on a 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.



BIRD-A-THON – a success!

Many thanks to all who pledged in support of the 2017 Bird-a-Thon (BAT) and to members of this year's six hard-working BAT teams, those who ventured out to count birds. This year, we raised \$6,182.80 for our Chapter. BAT is the major fundraiser for Madrone and supports our Lincoln Elementary School activities, Christmas Bird Count, Junior Audubon, Audubon Adventures and conservation efforts.

We have received all donations for pledges and thank our supporters! All contributions are tax-deductible.

BAT Coordinator Carolyn Green will provide a full report of our 2017 Bird-a-Thon in the October-November *Leaves*. Carolyn will also begin outreach for 2018 in approximately February. We'd like to ask our members to consider volunteering for a team and/or making a pledge to support our 2018 Bird-a-Thon. Keep in mind that we have teams located throughout the County. Some of our

teams do a one-day marathon of birding, and other teams divide time individually among team members to identify and count birds over a month, then compile all observations. We may have a team to suit your schedule! Please contact BAT Coordinator Carolyn Greene if you are moved to help our Chapter with this important annual fundraiser. Carolyn will find the right team for you and can be reached at cgnpark@icloud.com or 805-443-7289.



Bewick's Wren

Courtesy of National Audubon Society

Lincoln School Bird Festival

A quick note of thanks to Madrone members and Audubon Canyon Ranch staff and volunteers who helped to make the May 19th Bird Festival day at Abraham Lincoln Elementary School in Santa Rosa successful (as always) and fun! This annual event is a nature extravaganza for students and volunteers alike. From guided viewing of the young herons and egrets at the W. 9th Street rookery to learning about bird wings, owl pellets, bees, worms, and Tom Reynolds' popular wildlife video, there was something for all ages and interests. The worm activity (organized by MAS member Janet Bosshard) culminated in each child getting to hold a "red wiggler," which put fears of creepy-crawlies to the test and generated a lot of giggles...and an appreciation for what these small creatures do to promote healthy soil. Each year, we rely on and appreciate the excellent coordinating efforts of Kathie Noguchi, Janeann Erickson, Marcia Johnson, and Janet Bosshard. There'll be more about the Bird Festival...and photos...in the October-November *Leaves*.

		MADRONE AUDUBON SOCIETY				
		FUNDS STATEMENT				
		July 2016 through June 2017				



Observations

Summer 2017 • Dan Nelson • 479-2918 • birdsurf64@sbcglobal.net

Parakeet Auklet	7/24-8/5	Cliff House rocks & vicinity, San Francisco	M.Ob.
Scripps' Murrelet	8/3	Specimen recovered from S. Stinson Beach, Marin Co.	DN
Marbled Murrelet (6)	8/1	Off Coleman Beach, Sonoma Co.	SC
Short-tailed Albatross	5/11	7 miles S. of Farallon Islands (imm. bird)	DW, et al
Fork-tailed Storm Petrel (2)	5/9	Doran Park, jetty area	LH
Least Tern (1)	6/5	Limantour Beach & Estuary - Marin Co.	DN
Least Bittern (5)	7/11	Las Gallinas treatment ponds, Marin Co.	CL, et al
Wilson's Phalarope (4)	7/4	Shollenberger Park	PC
Wilson's Phalarope (5)	7/26	Shollenberger Park	LH
Ridgway's Rail (2 fledglings)	7/13	Port Sonoma, Sonoma County	LH
Pacific Golden-Plover	7/8-9	Huichica Creek Marsh, Napa Co.	MS
Red Knot (3)	7/26	Bodega Harbor	RR
Wandering Tattler (2)	7/26	Bodega Head rocks	LH
Bald Eagle (2)	6/7	Nesting, Contra Costa Co., E. of Crockett	SR, EP
Purple Martin (3)	5/27	Foraging over Owl Canyon, Bodega Bay	DN
Purple Martin (12)	8/3	Foraging over/on Limantour Beach, Marin Co.	DN
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	5/20	Drakes Estero	SB
Dusky Flycatcher (1)	6/26	Mt. St. Helena, saddle near summit	GH
Red-eyed Vireo	5/25	Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes	NA
MacGillivray's Warbler	7/9	Annapolis Rd./Twin Bridges	BO'C, et al
Northern Parula Warbler	5/26	Owl Canyon, Bodega Bay (photos)	DN
Tennessee Warbler	5/28	Campbell Cove, singing male recorded, non-visual	DN
Yellow Warbler	5/28	Owl Canyon, 1st yr. singing male	DN
Blackpoll Warbler	6/7-9	Owl Canyon, singing male photographed, recorded	DN
Chestnut-sided Warbler	6/13	Owl Canyon, singing male seen, recorded.	DN
Yellow Warbler	5/28	Owl Canyon, singing male	DN
Ovenbird	6/9	Singing male, non-vis. Hwy 1 just E. of Bird Walk	DN
Summer Tanager	5/26-27	Owl Canyon, 1st yr. singing male, photos, recordings	DN
Indigo Bunting (male)	7/9	Fort Ross Rd., old Russian orchard area, 1 mile E. of 1	BO'C, et al
Indigo Bunting (male)	7/16-30	Santa Rosa Creek Ewok trail, NW of Willowside Rd.	DF
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5/25	Campbell Cove; female calling, later photographed	DN
Black-chinned Sparrow	5/1-15	Pine Mountain Fire Rd., Marin Co.	M.Ob
White-throated Sparrow	5/25	Nunes Ranch, Pt. Reyes - very late migrant	NA
Snow Bunting (fem.)	6/22-23	North Beach, Pt. Reyes (photos)	ML, et al

CONTRIBUTORS: Noah Arthur, Sharon Barnett, Scott Carey, Peter Colasanti, Dea Freid, Mookie Fudenberg, Lisa Hug, Gene Hunn, Matt Lau, Calvin Lou, Many Observers, Dan Nelson, Brooke O'Connor, Orion O'Connor, Eric Pilotte, Scott Restivo, Ruth Rudesill, Mark Stephensen, and David Wimpfheimer.

*Summer Tanager**Courtesy of Dan Nelson**Blackpoll Warbler,**Courtesy of Dan Nelson*



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.

President: Susan Kirks - susankirks@sbcglobal.net 241-5548
Vice President: Position open
Recording Secretary: Richard Stradford - regresa03@yahoo.co.uk 889-0800
Corresponding Secretary: Susan Dean - susanepdean@gmail.com 360-481-2646
Treasurer: Christy Holmes - christyeholmes@gmail.com 805-895-6482
Membership: Questions to Susan Kirks (Position open) - susankirks@sbcglobal.net
Conservation: Diane Hichwa - dhichwa@earthlink.net 785-1922
Education Kits: Barbara Novak - b.novak34@gmail.com 795-3996
Programs: Position open
Circulation: Joannie Dranginis - joanhhd@att.net 523-4373
Junior Audubon: Position open
Outreach: Position open
Publicity: Nancy Hair - doghairnancy@yahoo.com 823-1073
Website Editor: Gordon Beebe - gdbeebe@earthlink.net 583-3115
Wednesday Bird Walks: Tom McCuller - tsisypus@comcast.net 546-1812
Saturday Bird Walks: Gordon Beebe - gdbeebe@earthlink.net 583-3115
Bird-A-Thon Coordinator: Carolyn Greene - cgnpark@yahoo.com 805-443-7289

Audubon Adventures: Carolyn Greene - cgnpark@yahoo.com 805-443-7289
Leaves Editor: Asenath LaRue - asenathlarue@gmail.com 528-3648
Leaves Production: Kris Hutchins - kris@hutchins1.net 477-8156
Hospitality: Linda Hammer - gardenladylee@aol.com 823-4389
Observations: Dan Nelson - birdsurf64@sbcglobal.net 479-2918
ACR Rep: Bryant Hichwa 785-1922
Ex Officio Board Member: Cheryl Harris - cheryleh70@gmail.com 294-6423
Sonoma County Water Coalition Rep: Paula Zerzan - pzerzan@comcast.net 935-1523
BBA: Gordon Beebe, gdbeebe@earthlink.net; Tiffany Erickson, tiffymm66@gmail.com
IMBD: Veronica Bowers - vlbowers@gmail.com 829-2955
Christmas Bird Count: Peter Leveque and Stacy Li - stacyli@sonic.net 566-7937
Bird Rescue Center: 523-BIRD
Native Songbird Care & Conservation: 484-6502
Northern California Rare Bird Alert 415-681-7422
Audubon-California: Gaylon Parsons - gparsons@audubon.org 415-644-4605
National Audubon Society: 225 Varick Street, NY, NY 10014 212-979-3000

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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.

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