



# Madrone LEAVES

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

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Number 6

## Reality and Relationship – Learning about the Natural World

*How does one “teach” a beginning birder? The approach may vary for different ages and motivation. Madrone’s Junior Audubon Chair Scott Campbell gives one answer taken from his own experience.*

When I was in 4th grade and saw for the first time a Great Blue Heron in the salt marshes of the South Bay, I was introduced into a whole new reality.



Great Blue Heron Photo courtesy of Harlan Price

Here was this large—everything is bigger in the 4th grade—colorful creature that exploded into flight right before my eyes. This reality also brought me into a new awareness of the relationship I have with the natural environment. My teachers were wise enough to know that if I did not see this reality for myself I could never fully imagine it. It was this creature that was standing still one moment and then majestically flying away a safe distance to resume its daily activities.

Continued on page 2

To receive *Leaves* via email in pdf format just email your request to:  
[madroneaudubon@um.att.com](mailto:madroneaudubon@um.att.com)  
You will save paper and your copy will be in color.

### GENERAL MEETINGS

Madrone Audubon’s monthly meetings are held at the First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa.

#### April Meeting

##### “Raptors on the Wing”

Monday, April 16, 7:30 pm

Raptor natural history is the specialty of Larry Broderick, who runs the West County Hawk Watch.

He will share some recent sightings and photos of interest, and he’ll talk about some of the projects he’s involved in. To help people learn about birds of prey he covers aspects of identification, migration, and the past and present threats facing these birds. Larry has been cultivating relationships with west Sonoma and Marin County ranchers and farmers over the last two decades, forging a relationship that yields positive results for all. He puts a strong emphasis on importance of habitat conservation, land acquisition and restoration.

Larry describes himself as a “business guy in the transportation industry who is passionate about nature and hawks.” He has been studying raptors for 30 years, and he’s known for his real time narration of hawks as they appear in their natural settings during peak migration and seasonal over-wintering. Larry has given many raptor tours and he is experienced in field rescue, transport and care for local wildlife. You can contact him at [northcoastraptor@gmail.com](mailto:northcoastraptor@gmail.com).

#### May Meeting

##### “Extreme California: the White Mountains and Anza Borrego State Park”

Monday, May 21, 6:30 pm

Annual Meeting and Potluck Dinner

Madrone’s Ken Wilson—tour guide, photographer and birder extraordinaire—will show us the White Mountains, home to the Ancient Bristlecone Pines, the oldest trees in the world. The program will consist of photos taken by Ken and Becky Olsen during a short visit in 2011 to this remarkable destination in eastern California. Separated from the Sierra Nevada by the Owens Valley, the White Mountains are the westernmost range in the Great Basin.

In addition Ken will discuss and show photos of the peninsular subspecies of Desert Bighorn Sheep that he and Becky have helped census over the past 15 years at Anza Borrego State Park.

Ken has been a member of Madrone Audubon Society since the early 90s, participating in the Beginner Bird Walks, Christmas Bird Counts and other conservation-oriented activities. He is the owner of Talon Tours, a birding and nature tour company, leading groups to many different countries as well as to parts of the USA. In addition, Ken is the owner of a landscape company specializing in the design and installation of wildlife friendly habitats.

**NOTE:** Please turn to page 2 for details about the potluck dinner and the annual meeting elections.

**GO GREEN!**  
Please bring your own mug or cup for tea or coffee at the meetings.



## REALITY AND RELATIONSHIP

Continued from page 1

Next I learned the name of the bird, its size and weight, where it roosts and why it likes the salt marshes for food sources. Then my teachers explored the effects that human activity has on these salt marshes and the impact on all life in this ecosystem. How diverting water for household uses affected the salinity of the marshes and how the pollution from runoff threatened the heron's home even more. I was in relationship with this beautiful creature whether I knew it or not. What I did daily affected not only my next door neighbor but also the creatures I enjoyed looking at in my free time.

This is what Junior Audubon is all about—the wonder and mystery of the natural world. This reality is what will give the future generations something to balance the pull of “virtual reality.”

Letting students ask questions (which tells us more than answers, anyway) is the most important thing to do when exposing youth to the natural world. I don't even need to know the answers either. I must have enthusiasm and a willingness to dig into books to search for those answers; that in turn will lead to more questions.

This is where the real fun begins. Some of the students will become birdwatchers, listers, or they may even lose interest in birds but see insects in a new light for the first time. I want the next generation to see the reality of the natural world and the relationship that creates responsibility to be careful stewards of this amazing planet and our neighbors.

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## MAS Annual Dinner and Potluck, plus Election of Officers

The following slate of officers for 2012-2013 will be installed at the May 19th meeting:

- President:** Susan Kirks
- Vice-President:**
- Recording Secretary:** Emily Heaton
- Corresponding Secretary:** Gordon Beebe
- Treasurer:** Linda Lebovics

We gratefully acknowledge those officers and committee chairs that have agreed to serve for the coming year. We are talking to some who might be interested in that VP position, and we continue to need help with committee posts in Outreach and Publicity. Occasional assistance with big tasks such as Membership and Audubon Adventures are always welcomed. If you are interested in volunteering for the Lincoln School Bird Festival on May 2, contact Janeann Erickson at 795-2498.

**NOTE:** For the potluck dinner, please bring a dish to share (entree, salad or dessert), and remember to bring your own plate, cup and utensils. We will provide drinks—sorry, no alcoholic beverages allowed at the church. Help is much appreciated to set up before the dinner starting at about 5:00 PM (or to clean up afterwards). If you can lend a hand, please contact Linda Hammer at 823-4389 or linda@devinedelights.com.

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*David Jensen is president of the Mendocino Coast Audubon Society. This article is reprinted with his permission from their June 2011 newsletter, “The Whistling Swan.”*

## A BIRDER'S LAMENT

By David Jensen

I have a couple of confessions to make.

True Confession Number 1: I've never really cared for the National Audubon Society. I'm sorry, but it is true. You see, I have always had a love for birds, even as a boy. When I began to get serious about studying birds over 30 years ago, I joined the National Audubon Society to learn all I could. I faithfully read each copy of their magazine but soon realized they wanted to talk about habitat and conservation, not feather patterns and field notes. I didn't care about grasslands in the Dakotas or swamps in the Carolinas, so I threw their renewal notices in the trash and instead joined what might be called a birding club. I enjoyed birds and wanted to be the best birder I could be.

True Confession Number 2: I didn't miss being part of Audubon for over 30 years. I was happy watching the birds in my back yard. I studied bird songs. I visited the birding hotspots. I joined lots of Christmas Bird Counts. I slowly developed a set of skills and a modest life list. Birding was a personal pleasure for me, devoid of politics and conflict. Meanwhile, grasslands were converted to housing tracts, marshes turned to shopping malls, and the birds became scarcer and scarcer. Still, I enjoyed birds and simply wanted to be the best birder I could be.

True Confession Number 3: I may have learned how to identify many birds with only the slightest glimpse of feather, beat of wing or phrase of song, but I have not been a very good birder. Good birders truly care about the future of the species they enjoy and act to ensure that all birds are protected. Good birders speak out and support efforts to preserve habitats that are necessary for avian survival. Good birders not only enjoy the beauty of wild birds, but also repay them with time, talent and treasure. A selfish birder will never be the best birder possible.

So please join with me and all the best birders around. Help save what we have left so that there is something to leave for future generations. You don't need to write a big check. You don't need to quit your day job. You don't even need to put a bumper sticker on your car. Simply show your support and concern in any way possible. If you have Internet access, check the Issues and Actions page of the California Audubon website at audubon-ca.org. Write or call your elected officials—city, county, state, federal—any and all of them. Let them know that you care about birds and that you vote. Write letters to the local newspaper. Conservation doesn't just happen in the Arctic Refuge, it happens at home as well.

Each of us has different talents and interests, but we are all bound by a common interest in birds... I ask you to learn from the youthful mistakes of the person I was some thirty years ago. Support us in our efforts to preserve and protect the wild things we love. You will become the best birder possible.



## BIRD-A-THON 2012: Birding for Fun and Profit or, “Been There, Done That!”

By Marcia Johnson,  
Bird-A-Thon Coordinator

This year, Madrone Audubon had six teams ready to count birds and collect your money. It is especially critical this year to raise as many funds as possible; the money is needed to support and promote Madrone’s educational and conservation programs. The money earned from your donations gives all 3rd, 4th and 5th grade public school teachers in Sonoma County an opportunity to use National Audubon’s “Audubon Adventures” resource kit in their classrooms. The funds are also used to support and expand the popular Junior Audubon program. Lincoln School benefits from your generosity, due to our support of the half-day, K-6th Bird Festival each May.

Each team of birders, be they novice or expert, young or more mature, sets aside one 24-hour period, usually in February, during which bird species are counted. This is the fun part. The work comes from getting sponsors...YOU. Some supporters offer a flat sum of money, others support by pledging a set amount per species. Although this year’s Bird-A-Thon is over, it is still not too late to support a team. Remember, we are depending upon your support. Don’t feel guilty; give to one of the teams below. You may win... your team may find the most species and/or earn the most money!

The six teams in this year’s Bird-A-Thon are: The Feather Questers with Diane Hichwa, Lisa Shiffrin and Linda Lebovics; The Roadrunners with Betty Groce and Don McCarthy; Wandering Tattlers with Carol Zeidman and Barbara Arbunich; the newly formed team Zonotripta with Bob Speckels, Bill Doyle, Helen Kochenderfer, Gayle Pena, and Don Kirker; the re-organized Grey-headed Seersuckers with Ken Wilson, Becky Olsen, and friends; and a recent addition is A Team of One with Gene Hunn. All of these teams need your help.

For more information, contact Marcia at owlstest@hughes.net or 829-3808. Remember, we are depending upon your support.

## Springtime in the Mayacamas

2012 Field Trips Sponsored by  
Madrone Audubon

Here are some outings you won’t want to miss. These field trips to the Mayacamas Mountains Audubon Sanctuary were well-attended last spring, and they are an excellent way to become familiar with the Sanctuary and deepen your knowledge and appreciation of a local treasure. Our sincere thanks to organizers Patrick Woodworth and Suzanna Reta.

**GENERAL INFORMATION FOR ALL EVENTS:** *The field trips are free, open to the public and suitable for all levels of interest. Bring your lunch and refreshments for the day; wear layered clothing, hats, and sun protection. Sturdy walking shoes or hiking boots recommended. Be prepared for rain showers, but heavy rain cancels the hikes unless otherwise indicated. No dogs, no smoking, preserve is not wheelchair accessible. Be aware that spring is the season for the emergence of poison oak, ticks and rattlesnakes.*

*Meet on Pine Flat Road between Red Winery Road and the Sausal Creek Bridge. Pine Flat Road begins 1/4 mile past the Jimtown Store on Highway 128 East at the first sharp right hand turn. Some may wish to form informal carpools, about a half-hour before the field trip at the parking area along Russian River Road just west of Highway 101. For more information contact Suzanne at 829-7234. Reservations for the field trips are NOT required this year.*

**Saturday, April 14, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM**  
Join naturalist and retired biology professor Peter Leveque in a general nature hike. We might find the Fawn Lily. A moderately strenuous hike on Clark Foss Road; you’ll need to get out your hiking sticks and boots. Limited to adults.

**Sunday, May 6, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM**  
Digital Nature Photography for the Eco-Tourist with Bryant Hichwa. Come to the Mayacamas at the height of the wildflower season. Experience the beauty and ruggedness of this preserve. Our in-the-field photo workshop will include tips for the semi-professional nature photographer as

well as fundamentals for the beginner. We’ll compare various types of digital cameras, work on close-up shooting techniques and use the instantaneous feedback of digital to constructively critique participants’ photos. Please no dogs. Children OK under careful supervision.

**Thursday, May 10, 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM**  
Birdwatchers’ Walkabout led by Tom McCuller. We’ll explore the varied habitats of the preserve for the many species that can be seen in the Mayacamas in the spring. We will travel by car and make stops along the road. Carpool at the meeting spot on Pine Flat Road. Bring binoculars and field guides.

**Saturday, May 12, 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM**  
A walk to appreciate the ecology of plants, trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and grasses; led by Peter Warner, botanist and ecologist, land management consultant, and teacher. Peter leads field trips throughout California for the California Native Plant Society and other groups, discussing environmental issues and their implications for sustaining the plants that make our lives possible, if not downright pleasant. Walk will be slow to moderate; please bring field guides, hand lenses, cameras. Children OK with supervision. A plant list will be provided.

**Sunday, June 10, 9:30 AM to 2:00**  
Sherry Adams, biologist with Audubon Canyon Ranch, will lead a hike focusing on serpentine outcrops. We’ll see late season plants, and topics for discussion include post-fire regeneration, serpentine ecology and grasslands. A plant list will be available; this is a moderate hike. Bring field guides, hand lens, cameras and notebooks. Older children OK with supervision.

**Sunday, June 24, 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM**  
Kathy and Dave Biggs will help us find and identify the dragonflies found along Pine Flat Road and through the sanctuary. Behavior and biology will be explained. We’ll visit seeps, springs, ponds, creeks and end at the Russian River. Each habitat should present us with different Odonata (Dragonflies and Damselflies) fauna. Close focus binoculars are best. A ten-power or higher hand lens would be helpful. Please wear shoes and clothes that can get wet. Children 12 and over OK. **NOTE:** Any rain cancels this easy hike.



## How That Sack of Potatoes Can Help Madrone Audubon

By Linda Lebovics,  
Madrone Audubon Treasurer

Madrone Audubon has signed up with escrip to increase our fundraising potential. By shopping at local grocery stores that support the escrip program, you can contribute to Madrone – at no cost to you! All it takes is 5-10 minutes of your time to sign up.

The following local stores are a few of the merchants donating up to 3% of your regular grocery purchases to our chapter:

- Olivers Market
- Petaluma Market
- Fircrest Market
- Mollie Stones

Here's how it works:

- 1) The next time you are shopping, ask for a Community Card.
- 2) Register your Community Card (at the market, or online).
- 3) Go to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) and sign up using our chapter name.
- 4) During sign-up, enter your registered Community Card number.
- 5) Add the credit/debit cards you use regularly as some stores do not require a Community Card (Fircrest, for example)—your registered credit card will automatically add your purchase to the tally.
- 6) Be sure to look at the list of participating merchants –there may be more in your area.

Here's an example of how the everyday act of grocery shopping can help:

Let's say your average monthly grocery bill is \$250 x .01\* x 12 = \$30. (\*Most merchants pay 1-2% up to \$500/month and 3% for \$500 and greater.) If 100 people register and shop at participating stores, that could bring in an additional \$3,000 to our chapter. All you have to do is sign up and remember to present your Community Card when you shop. It's that simple! For more information about escrip, go to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com).

## BOOK REVIEW

*Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere with Migratory Birds,*  
by Scott Weidensaul  
(North Point Press, 1999)

Madrone Bird-a-Thon chair Marcia Johnson highly recommends this book. She says that if you are interested in bird migration, you will find this 400-page book wonderfully written. Personal stories from Weidensaul's own research and observations, interwoven with discoveries by other researchers, make this book well worth the read. Peter Matthiessen writes, "A fascinating book, unusually well written, about a truly astonishing phenomenon."

**Editor's note:** The March-April, 2012 issue of *Audubon Magazine* features an article on migration by Scott Weidensaul called "The New Frontier." Tracing the long migratory flights of "Hope," a female whimbrel, Weidensaul explains some of the latest advances in tracking migratory birds as well as the dangers they face in their journeys and on their stopping places.

*From the American Bird Conservancy:*

## New Window Tape Can Significantly Reduce Bird Collisions at Homes

A new, translucent adhesive tape, which tests show can significantly reduce bird collisions with glass windows and doors, is now available to the public. Birds can't see glass and don't understand the architectural cues, such as window frames, mullions, and handles, that alert people to the hazard. Experts estimate that up to one billion birds may die each year from resulting collisions.

Unlike some sources of bird mortality that predominantly kill weaker individuals, there is no distinction among victims of glass. Because glass is equally dangerous for strong, healthy, breeding adults, it can have a particularly serious impact on populations. Studies have shown that even small windows can be dangerous to birds

that are accustomed to flying through gaps between trees and shrubs.

To learn more about ABC Bird Tape, go to: [www.abcbirdtape.org](http://www.abcbirdtape.org). ABC has produced a video that demonstrates how to install the bird tape.

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## Celebrating Arnold's 30th Year at BRC

*Sunday, April 22, from 11:00-4:00 PM*

No, it's not THAT Arnold, but we are talking about a local celebrity.

The Bird Rescue Center would like to invite the members of Madrone Audubon to attend the gala celebration of Arnold's 30th year as a raptor ambassador in our community education program. Arnold is a most handsome turkey vulture and always popular particularly with children.



Turkey Vulture Photo courtesy of Len Blumin

This "birthday" party will be held at the Center on Earth Day, April 22. Earth Day seems so appropriate since turkey vultures are the caretakers of our planet! Madrone members are invited to stop by anytime and tour our new Ambassador Compound, enjoy a glass of wine toasting Arnold's long life and participate in a silent auction of a few pieces of original art donated by the family of a Sonoma County artist.

### Memorial Gifts

**In memory of Tom Hanks**  
Jean Hanks

**In memory of Phyllis Schmitt**  
Debby & Lloyd Kreuzer

**In memory of Phyllis Schmitt**  
Sharon Savage



# April calendar

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

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

*Wednesday, April 4, 7:00 PM*

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

*Wednesday, April 4, 8:30 AM till Noon*

**HUDEMAM SLOUGH WETLAND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT.** Bird walk. There are no restrooms at this facility. Meet in the project parking lot: from Petaluma and Sonoma, turn right from Highway 12/121 onto Ramal Road. Continue on Ramal Road 2.4 miles to the gravel parking lot on the right. For information contact Tom McCuller, sisyphus@sonic.net, or 546-1812.

*Saturday, April 7, 7:30 AM till Noon*

**JENNER HEADLANDS.** A rare opportunity to bird in some special coastal habitat. Meet at the corner of River Road (Highway 116) and Highway 1. If coming from Guerneville, pull off on the west side of Highway 1 before crossing over the bridge above the Russian River. We will be taking full cars only onto the property, so be prepared to car-pool as a driver or as a passenger. All participants must stay for the duration of the field trip. Thanks to our hosts at Jenner Headlands for this opportunity to be their guest. Bring a scope if you have one. Rain cancels. Bill Doyle, 483-8773, and Bob Speckels, 569-0563.

*Thursday, April 12, 8:30 AM till Noon*

**RIVERFRONT REGIONAL PARK.** Bird walk. Meet at the innermost parking lot of the Sonoma County Riverfront Regional Park, 7821 East-side Road, which is west of Windsor. The parking lot is 0.4 mile from the park entrance. For those without a Sonoma County Regional Park Permit, parking is \$7. For information contact Tom McCuller, sisyphus@sonic.net, or 546-1812.

*Saturday, April 14, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM*

**MAYACAMAS FIELD TRIP.** Hike with naturalist and retired biology professor Peter Leveque on old Clark Foss Road. A moderately strenuous hike; limited to adults. See page 3 for details.

*Saturday, April 14, 9:00 AM*

**SHOLLENBERGER PARK.** Petaluma Wetlands Alliance/Madrone Audubon leads a bird walk. Meet at the first kiosk. Rain cancels. For information contact Bob Dyer, 763-2934.

*Monday, April 16, 7:30 PM*

**GENERAL MEETING.** "West County Hawk Watch." Local raptor enthusiast Larry Broderick will share his knowledge and appreciation of our birds of prey, and show us how to help maintain their habitat. First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa. Please see the front-page announcement. The public is always invited to attend these programs.



**Ferruginous Hawk**  
Photo courtesy of Larry Broderick

*Wednesday, April 18, 8:30 AM till Noon*

**SPRING LAKE REGIONAL PARK.** Bird walk. Parking fee (\$7) for non-permit holders. From Summerfield Road in Santa Rosa, go east on Hoen Avenue, turn left on Newanga Avenue, turn right inside the park entrance gate, and meet in the parking lot near the restrooms at the top of the hill. For information contact Tom McCuller, sisyphus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

*Saturday, April 21, 10:00 AM*

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

*Saturday, April 21, 8:00 AM till Noon*

**CRANE CREEK REGIONAL PARK.** A beautiful trail through a thriving example of Sonoma County oak savannah and riparian woodland. Meet at Crane Creek Regional Park parking lot. From Petaluma Hill Road just south of Sonoma State University, take Roberts Road east, and turn left on Pressley Road to the Park. There is a \$6 per car entrance fee. Rain cancels. Leader: Bob Speckels, 569-0563.

*Thursday, April 26, 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM*

**SUGARLOAF RIDGE STATE PARK.** Bird walk. From Kenwood on Highway 12, go east on Adobe Canyon Road to the park entrance and parking lot (\$6 parking fee). Bring portable lunch and liquids (We will lunch away from cars). For information contact Tom McCuller, sisyphus@sonic.net, or 546-1812.

*Saturday, April 28, 9:00 AM*

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



**Madrone Audubon**  
Sonoma County

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



## May calendar

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

*Wednesday, May 2, 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM*

**ANNADEL STATE PARK.** Bird walk. We will search for returning passerines, mainly along Channel Drive. Meeting place: from Montgomery Drive in Santa Rosa, go 0.6 miles on Channel Drive to an unpaved parking lot on the left side. There is a \$7 entrance fee for the park. For information contact Tom McCuller: sisypus@sonic.net, or 546-1812.

*Wednesday, May 2, 7:00 PM*

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

*Saturday, May 5, 8:00 AM to Noon*

**SPRING LAKE REGIONAL PARK.** Bird walk. Parking fee is \$6 for non-permit holders. From Summerfield Road in Santa Rosa, go east on Hoen Avenue, turn left on Newanga Avenue, turn right inside the park entrance gate, and meet in the parking lot near the restrooms at the top of the hill. Rain cancels. Leaders: Helen Kochenderfer, 484-2479, and Bob Speckels, 569-0563.

*Sunday, May 6, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM*

**MAYACAMAS FIELD TRIP.** Sharpen your skills or learn the basics of digital nature photography with Bryant Hichwa. It's the height of the wildflower season in the Mayacamas. Children okay under careful supervision. See page 3 for details.

*Thursday, May 10, 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM*

**MAYACAMAS FIELD TRIP.** Explore the varied habitats along Pine Flat Road with Madrone bird walk leader Tom McCuller. Travel by car with stops along the road. See page 3 for details.

*Saturday, May 12, 9:00 AM*

**SHOLLENBERGER PARK.** Petaluma Wetlands Alliance/Madrone Audubon leads a bird walk. Meet at the first kiosk. Rain cancels. For information contact Bob Dyer, 763-2934.

*Saturday, May 12, 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM*

**MAYACAMAS FIELD TRIP.** Take a walk with botanist and ecologist Peter Warner to appreciate the plant life of the Mayacamas Mountains in the spring. Slow to moderate pace; children okay with supervision. See page 3 for details.

*Wednesday, May 16, 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM*

**DUNCANS MILLS, JENNER, AND WILLOW CREEK ROAD.** Bird walk. Meet at Duncans Mills General Store on Highway 116. Bring lunch and liquids. For information contact Dennis Beall and Pamela Conley, 632-5124.

*Saturday, May 19, 10:00 AM*

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

*Saturday, May 19, 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM*

**WILLOW CREEK, DUNCAN'S LANDING, JENNER.** One of our most productive bird walks. Meet at the parking lot of Sizzling Tandoor Indian Restaurant in Bridgehaven at the south end of the Russian River Bridge on Highway 1 (Coast Highway). Informal carpools meet at 7:00 AM at the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District Office, 747 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa. The parking lot is behind the office (access from Carrillo Street). Bring lunch and liquids. Rain cancels. Leader: Bob Speckels, 569-0563.

*Monday, May 21, 6:00 PM*

**ANNUAL MEETING AND POTLUCK DINNER.** "Extreme California: the White Mountains and Anza Borrego State Park" with Madrone's own Ken Wilson. Come discover a remarkable mountain range in southeastern California and learn the status of the bighorn sheep in Anza Borrego State Park. First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa. Please see the front-page announcement. The public is always invited to attend these programs.

**NOTE:** At this meeting we will present awards and install officers for the 2012-13 year. For details of the potluck, please see page 2.

*Thursday, May 24, 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM*

**POINT REYES.** Bird walk. Meet in the parking lot across from the Bear Valley Visitor Center, which is just west of Olema. Bring lunch and liquids. For information contact Don McCarthy, (415) 883-0763.

*Saturday, May 26, 9:00 AM*

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

*Wednesday, May 30, 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM*

**SALMON CREEK ROAD.** Bird walk. Meet in Bodega at the junction of Bodega Highway and Salmon Creek Road (on the north side of Bodega Highway, opposite the Bodega Post Office). Bring lunch and liquids. For information contact Betty Groce, 539-8664.

*Saturday, June 2, 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM*

**PINE FLAT ROAD.** A bird-rich outing. We will meet at the first bridge on Pine Flat Road, just east of its intersection with Highway 128, north of Healdsburg. We will combine into as few cars as possible; please do not join us in an additional vehicle after the trip has started, as a large number of cars negatively impacts the birding and the residents of the area. Bring lunch and liquids. Rain cancels. Leaders: Bill Doyle, 483-8773, and Bob Speckels, 569-0563.

*Sunday, June 10, 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM*

**MAYACAMAS FIELD TRIP.** A hike with Audubon Canyon Ranch biologist Sherry Adams will feature the ecology of serpentine outcrops around Pine Flat Road. Children okay with supervision. See page 3 for details.



Sonoma Birding presents:

### “The Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex - A Globally Important Bird Area”

Wednesday, April 18, 7:00 PM at the Sonoma Veterans Memorial Building

For thousands of years the Sacramento Valley refuges, established in 1937, have provided a winter haven for ducks, geese and swans. Waterfowl migrate here by the millions from as far away as the Arctic regions of Alaska, Canada and Siberia. This 35-thousand acre complex is the single most important wintering area along the ancient western flyway. Join us to discover the most spectacular concentration of waterfowl on the continent.

Speakers are Dan Frisk, Sacramento NWR Complex Manager, and Mike Peters, Colusa & Sutter NWR Manager. The Sonoma Veterans Building is at 126 First Street West in Sonoma. Admission is \$5. For information go to [www.sonomabirding.com](http://www.sonomabirding.com) or call 939-8007.

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### SOME GOOD IDEAS FOR SPRING AND BEYOND...

#### Point Reyes Birding & Nature Festival

April 27 - 30

Sponsored by Environmental Action Committee of West Marin

Registration is in full swing for this outstanding event; it's a spring festival in our back yard for bird and nature enthusiasts of all levels.

Don't delay—many outings sell out early! Register at [www.pointreyesbirdingfestival.org](http://www.pointreyesbirdingfestival.org).

Interested in volunteering for the Festival? Many jobs available and a number of “perks.” Contact Ed Nute at [e.nute@nute-engr.com](mailto:e.nute@nute-engr.com) for information.

#### Sound Recording Workshop

June 16 through 23 at SFSU Field Campus

The annual Sound Recording Workshop offered by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology immerses students in field recording and shows them techniques used by the pros to capture bird sounds. The next workshop is taking place June 16 through 23 at San Fran-

cisco State University's Sierra Nevada Field Campus in the Tahoe National Forest.

Through daily field recording sessions, lectures, and demonstrations, participants learn how to get the most out of their field recording equipment and take advantage of every recording opportunity. Alumni of the program have gone on to record natural sounds around the world and contribute recordings to the Cornell Lab's Macaulay Library archive—the largest archive of bird and animal sounds in the world.

For more information, go to [macaulaylibrary@cornell.edu](mailto:macaulaylibrary@cornell.edu).

**NOTE:** San Francisco State University's Sierra Field Campus also offers a full schedule of summer classes and workshops in the beautiful northern Sierra at Yuba Pass. Go to <http://www.sfsu.edu/~sierra/> to see the 2012 class schedule.

#### Western Field Ornithologists Conference September 26-30 in Petaluma

WFO's 2012 Conference will be in Petaluma with onsite registration on September 26 and events scheduled from September 27-30. Online registration will open in April. Check the WFO web site at [www.westernfieldornithologists.org/conference.php](http://www.westernfieldornithologists.org/conference.php). Early registration is a must as events fill up very fast.

The Conference will offer wide variety of activities including science sessions, workshops, field trips, and social events; keynote speaker will be Russ Bradley of PRBO Conservation Science talking on research being conducted on the Farallon Islands.

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## 45th Western Sonoma Christmas Bird Count 2011

Greater White-fronted Goose	143	Snowy Egret	95	Western Gull	960	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	3
Snow Goose	22	Cattle Egret	7	Glaucous-winged Gull	874	Wrentit	44
Brant	815	Green Heron	1	Glaucous-winged Gull X		Western Bluebird	324
Canada Goose	368	Black-crowned Night-Heron	8	Western Gull (hybrid)	176	Hermit Thrush	103
Cackling Goose	7	Turkey Vulture	344	gull sp.	1472	American Robin	1797
goose sp.	2	Osprey	2	Forster's Tern	71	Varied Thrush	70
Tundra Swan	5	White-tailed Kite	65	Common Murre	159	Northern Mockingbird	8
Wood Duck	28	Bald Eagle	8	Pigeon Guillemot	1	European Starling	1507
Gadwall	24	Northern Harrier	66	Ancient Murrelet	14	American Pipit	155
Eurasian Wigeon	1	Sharp-shinned Hawk	7	murrelet sp.	1	Cedar Waxwing	29
American Wigeon	524	Cooper's Hawk	9	Rhinoceros Auklet	3	Tennessee Warbler	1
Mallard	297	accipiter sp.	4	Rock Pigeon	54	Orange-crowned Warbler	7
Northern Shoveler	127	Red-shouldered Hawk	51	Band-tailed Pigeon	61	Nashville Warbler	2
Northern Pintail	65	Red-tailed Hawk	276	Eurasian Collared-Dove	141	Yellow Warbler	2
Green-winged Teal	271	Ferruginous Hawk	10	Mourning Dove	83	Yellow-rumped Warbler	1314
duck sp.	22	buteo sp.	1	Barn Owl	1	Yellow-rumped	
Canvasback	6	hawk sp.	1	Western Screech-Owl	1	(Audubon's) Warbler	157
Redhead	3	Golden Eagle	2	Great Horned Owl	8	Yellow-rumped (Myrtle)	
Ring-necked Duck	25	American Kestrel	112	Northern Pygmy Owl	2	Warbler	9
Greater Scaup	153	Merlin	8	Spotted Owl	2	Townsend's Warbler	93
Lesser Scaup	90	Peregrine Falcon	11	Short-eared Owl	17	Hermit Warbler	3
Surf Scoter	407	Prairie Falcon	3	Northern Saw-whet Owl	6	Common Yellowthroat	1
Black Scoter	1	Virginia Rail	8	Anna's Hummingbird	165	Spotted Towhee	98
Bufflehead	740	Sora	5	Belted Kingfisher	14	California Towhee	202
Common Goldeneye	116	Common Gallinule	4	Acorn Woodpecker	89	Savannah Sparrow	132
Barrow's Goldeneye	2	American Coot	1841	Red-breasted Sapsucker	13	Fox Sparrow	104
Hooded Merganser	5	Black-bellied Plover	163	Nuttall's Woodpecker	26	Song Sparrow	212
Common Merganser	86	Snowy Plover	52	Downy Woodpecker	13	Lincoln's Sparrow	10
Red-breasted Merganser	51	Semipalmated Plover	140	Hairy Woodpecker	13	White-throated Sparrow	8
Ruddy Duck	432	Killdeer	444	Northern Flicker	99	White-crowned Sparrow	715
Wild Turkey	98	Black Oystercatcher	49	Pileated Woodpecker	9	Golden-crowned Sparrow	523
California Quail	474	Spotted Sandpiper	2	Black Phoebe	168	zonotrichia sp.	8
Red-throated Loon	58	Willet	238	Say's Phoebe	14	sparrow sp.	31
Pacific Loon	61	Greater Yellowlegs	37	Hutton's Vireo	17	Dark-eyed Junco	825
Common Loon	139	Whimbrel	6	Steller's Jay	220	Red-winged Blackbird	443
loon sp.	3	Long-billed Curlew	5	Western Scrub-Jay	297	Tricolored Blackbird	25
Pied-billed Grebe	40	Marbled Godwit	1227	American Crow	369	Western Meadowlark	512
Horned Grebe	381	Ruddy Turnstone	23	Common Raven	378	Brewer's Blackbird	1054
Red-necked Grebe	11	Black Turnstone	177	Horned Lark	15	Brown-headed Cowbird	11
Eared Grebe	552	Surfbird	56	Tree Swallow	1	blackbird sp.	29
Western Grebe	182	Sanderling	552	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	382	Purple Finch	31
Clark's Grebe	11	Western Sandpiper	455	Oak Titmouse	15	House Finch	329
Aechmophorus sp.	45	Least Sandpiper	1287	Bushtit	242	Pine Siskin	504
Northern Fulmar	2	Dunlin	866	Red-breasted Nuthatch	21	Lesser Goldfinch	96
Brandt's Cormorant	73	Short-billed Dowitcher	7	White-breasted Nuthatch	5	American Goldfinch	45
Double-crested Cormorant	44	Long-billed Dowitcher	33	Pygmy Nuthatch	133	Goldfinch sp.	34
Pelagic Cormorant	100	Wilson's Snipe	3	Brown Creeper	26	Evening Grosbeak	2
Cormorant sp.	12	Mew Gull	225	Bewick's Wren	25	House Sparrow	30
American White Pelican	10	Ring-billed Gull	438	Pacific Wren (Winter)	19		
Brown Pelican	70	California Gull	1780	Marsh Wren	17	<b>Total Individuals</b>	
Great Blue Heron	34	Herring Gull	608	Golden-crowned Kinglet	39	<b>counted</b>	<b>38114</b>
Great Egret	73	Thayer's Gull	178	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	210	<b>Total species reported</b>	<b>185</b>



**Observations**

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

Greater White-fronted Goose	(7)	1/24	North Main Street, Sebastopol, north of Dei Ranch	DN, LH
Wood Duck	(3)	2/11	Austin Creek	DN
Blue-winged Teal	(2)	2/12	Hudemann Slough wetlands	RL, DN
“Eurasian” Green-winged Teal	(1)	3/1	Hudemann Slough Wetlands	MB
White-winged Scoter	(1)	2/20	North of Duncan’s Landing, off Wright’s Beach	DN
Long-tailed Duck	(1)	cont.	Bodega Harbor, Westside Park, Coast Guard Station	M.Ob
Eurasian Wigeon (male)	(1)	cont.	Doran Park, especially pond at entrance kiosk	M.Ob
Eurasian Wigeon (male)	(1)	1/31	Ellis Creek pond	DN
Hooded Merganser	(9)	1/24	Sanford Road at Occidental Road	DN
Clark’s Grebe	(1)	2/14	Porto Sonoma	DN
American White Pelican	(4)	2/17	Tubbs’ Island	DN
Cattle Egret	(40+)	1/24	Sanford Road at Occidental Road	DN
White-faced Ibis	(1)	1/24	Sanford Road at Occidental Road	DN
Merlin	(1)	2/12	Hudemann Slough wetlands	RL
Prairie Falcon	(1)	2/12	North Skaggs Island Road	DN
Crested Caracara		3/1	Petaluma Hill Road near SSU campus	SB
Snowy Plover	(24+)	2/16	Doran Beach	DN
Pacific Golden-Plover	(4)	2/10	Shollenberger Park	DN
Ruff	(fem.)	cont.	Hudemann Slough wetlands	M.Ob
Lesser Yellowlegs	(4)	2/10	Hudemann Slough wetlands	DN, RL
Glaucous Gull	(2-3)	Jan.- Mar.	Russian River mouth, north of Jenner	M.Ob
Slaty-backed Gull (probable adult)		2/6	Russian River mouth, north of Jenner	DN
Slaty-backed Gull (confirmed adult)		2/20	Russian River mouth, north of Jenner (good photos)	TE
Slaty-backed Gull (adult, diff. indiv.)		3/4	Russian River mouth, north of Jenner	TE, JS, et al
Barred Owl	(1)	2/15	Stewart’s Point-Skaggs Springs Road	DN
Lewis’ Woodpecker	(1)	1/12-Feb.	Ragle Park	JD, MJ
“Yellow-Shafted” Flicker (male)	(1)	Feb.	Petaluma, Cypress Hill Memorial Park	DN
Rufous Hummingbird		2/25-26	Oakmont	BG
North American Dipper	(1)	3/2	Hauser Creek	LH
Phainopepla	(2-3)	Feb.	Emerson Street residence, Napa	BDP
Least Flycatcher (5th County record)		1/31	Ragle Park ( see video on YouTube)	DN, et al
Nashville Warbler		cont.	Diekmann’s Store, Bodega Bay	M.Ob
Yellow Warbler		cont.	Diekmann’s Store, Bodega Bay	M.Ob
Palm Warbler	(1)	2/5-3/2	Petaluma, Cypress Hill Memorial Park	DN, et al
Swamp Sparrow		2/14	Willow Creek Road	DN
Chipping Sparrow		2/6	Willow Creek Road	DN
Chipping Sparrow		Jan-Feb.	Petaluma, Cypress Hill Memorial Park	DN et al
Lapland Longspur		2/12	Skaggs’ Island	MB
Black-headed Grosbeak		cont.	Diekmann’s Bodega Bay	MOB

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### Welcome New Friends of Madrone Audubon

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## Madrone Audubon Society

Post Office Box 1911  
Santa Rosa, California 95402

April/May 2012

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## MADRONE LEAVES



Madrone Audubon Society meets on the third Monday of each month, except in June, July, August, and December. Meetings start at 7:30 PM at First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Dr., Santa Rosa. All meetings and walks are open to the public. Information: telephone answering service - 546-7492, e-mail - madroneaudubon@um.att.com.

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