



# Madrone LEAVES

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

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## Madrone Audubon Celebrates its 50th Year

by Asenath LaRue, *Leaves* editor

It all began when Evalyn and Les Bowen moved to Santa Rosa from the San Diego area in August, 1965. The Bowens had become passionately interested in birds during their years in Southern California, and sadly, they witnessed what the loss of habitat can do to bird populations. Determined to start an Audubon chapter for the Santa Rosa area, the Bowens set about meeting others with an abiding interest in the welfare of birds and other wildlife. By early 1967, the stage was set for moving forward. At an initial organizational meeting on January 17, 1967, birders joined forces to begin the process of forming a new Audubon chapter and appointed a Board of Directors. Application was soon made to the National Audubon Society.

Gaye LeBaron, writing for the *Press Democrat*, helped to publicize the formative phase. In March 7, 1967, she commented on the prospective new chapter's name: "Kind of refreshing to note that the new Audubon Society chapter here is called Madrone, not Redwood Empire... in the words of one birder: 'The madrone is so beautiful and it feeds so many birds.'"

On March 16, 1967, a provisional charter was received from the National Audubon Society, making Madrone the 23rd Audubon chapter in California and the first in the North Bay region. In May, 1967, the Articles of Incorporation were submitted to members, and MAS officially became a non-profit organization.

The fledgling MAS was a hands-on organization, with catch-as-catch-can funding. Founding members Deyea and Jack Harper, Tom and Venetia Olds, Al and Ruth Hunt, Les and Evalyn Bowen and others hosted Board meetings in their homes. Tom Olds sold his beautiful hand-carved bird pins to raise funds for conservation projects (pins sold for \$3.00 and bolo ties for \$4.50...those were the days!), and Les Bowen constructed a paper mache

bald eagle, with an old washer motor to make the wings flap, for educational presentations. Board members and other founders put in many hours on conservation projects and were

tireless in their attendance and testimony at county and regional meetings where the preservation of wild spaces and wild inhabitants was at stake.

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### GENERAL MEETING

Monday, April 17, 2017, 7:00 PM  
First United Methodist Church  
1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa

#### "True Nature of American Badger"

The American Badger (*Taxidea taxus*) is a native California mammal and designated California Species of Concern for 30 years since 1987. Its distinctive black and white head and face and brown/gray/black furred body with claw-paws designed for digging make a badger sighting memorable. Little is known about the reclusive badger's day to day life.



Young badger on the move  
Courtesy of Andy LaCasse

Madrone's Chapter President and Naturalist Susan Kirks will share her experience of badgers, based on 17 years to date of field study and observations. Badgers and birds together? We'll discuss. American Badger is integral to coastal and upland grassland habitat, and a keystone species for conservation. Even with a special status designation, the badger's habitat is not required to be protected because it is not designated as "Threatened." Habitat fragmentation, development, loss of habitat and vehicle strikes are ongoing negative impacts to the badger in its effort to sustain and survive. Join us for the April 2017 membership meeting and learn all about badgers and how we may be able to help the species sustain in California.

### ANNUAL MEETING AND POTLUCK

Monday, May 15, 2017, 6:00 PM  
First United Methodist Church  
1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa

Bring a dish to share (entree, salad or dessert), and if possible, also bring your own plate, cup, and utensils. We will provide drinks; sorry, no alcoholic beverages allowed at the church. Help with set-up before dinner (beginning about 5:15 PM), or with cleanup afterwards, is appreciated. If you can lend a hand, please contact Linda Hammer at 823-4389 or gardenladylee@aol.com.

Enjoy our special display for Madrone's 50th Anniversary.

Installation of officers, and speaker: 7:00 PM

#### "Sonoma County's Natural World"

Monday, May 15, 2017, 7:00 PM

Naturalist, Conservationist and Photographer Tom Reynolds will share photography and video of our incredible array of wildlife, including Bald Eagle, Beaver, River and Sea Otter, Coyote, Bobcat, and many local birds. We'll also be treated to experiences from the Modoc National Wildlife Refuge, Lodi Woodbridge Preserve and Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge. Tom will share portions of his video for the student assembly of the Lincoln Elementary School Bird Festival, an annual environmental education and nature day sponsored by Madrone Audubon Society.



Bobcat with kitten  
Courtesy of Tom Reynolds

## 50TH YEAR

Continued from page 1

Reading early issues of *Leaves* (many thanks to Deyea Harper for serving as the first editor), one can't help but be struck by the breadth of concern and commitment to environmental causes, and by the sincere and persistent activism of founding members. In the first five years, *Leaves* articles chronicled



Evalyn Bowen fielding phone calls for MAS

a host of environmental threats and successes, local, regional, and national. Dredging of the Russian River at Jenner, creation of the San Pablo Bay Wildlife Refuge, opposing indiscriminate cutting of trees in local towns and channelization of area streams, were just a few of the local concerns, while bird deaths due to DDT, sport hunting of mountain lions, and the Alaska pipeline were among the state and national concerns at that time. In the April, 1972 *Leaves*, readers were asked: "Have you written to President Nixon of your support for his courageous executive order signed Feb. 8, 1972? This order ends the use of all poisons on Federal lands and the use of all poisons in any 'Federal Program mammal or bird damage control.' Your support is especially important because their (sic) is great opposition to this order by predator control and poison advocates as well as poison manufacturers!"

The articles in this 50th Anniversary *Leaves* give a more complete picture of the early years of MAS and of the people who created the way for action and service in key areas of conservation, education, and citizen science. We only have room to reflect on the contributions of a few of the founders and other early members, but their stories will hopefully inspire us to carry on this important work. Today, wildlife and wild spaces are facing countless challenges, and if anything, the need for action is even greater than it was 50 years ago – will we respond as vigorously and effectively as the MAS founders?

## Built on a Solid Foundation: Conservation and Preservation

by Diane Hichwa

From the beginning Madrone stood up for wildlife and was able to leverage its impact by working with other organizations. According to Gaye LeBaron in her 3/7/67 column: "The new group's first act, incidentally, was to post the Rural Cemetery as a wildlife refuge."

A month after forming, Madrone was offered Rabbit Hill near Middletown from the Hamanns, given in memory of their daughter Joan Hamann Dole. Madrone shepherded this property with work parties and the Hamanns did extensive botanical surveys and introduced school children to nature there. The preserve was passed to a local organization, the Lake County Land Trust, as their first property after they formed. J. Tom Olds, our first Conservation Chair and the carver and whittler of many bird pins and tie bolos, supported Nature Preserves with those funds, beginning with Rabbit Hill.

A retrospective comment noted that (Madrone) "had become the first politically involved conservation organization in Sonoma County." Martha Bentley reflecting later, said: It was a time of monstrous development proposals – The Sea Ranch, the Jenner Dredge, Bodega Harbor. With no down time! The push for coastal access for all to state tidelands found the names of Bill Kortum and Ernestine Smith, Madrone's Conservation Chair, linked as supporters. Concerns about poor hunting ethics and enforcement of bird protections came up repeatedly over the years as shooting took down: several avocets at Doran Park and on several occasions a Golden Eagle, and a list of various raptors, shot. Again in 1974 ducks were shot in Bodega Bay with no effort to retrieve them. Madrone worked to ban lead shot.

Habitat has always been valued by Madrone as important to improve and protect. In 1969 Madrone hosted presentations on Habitat for Birds including plantings, housing, and food. In the field members rolled up their sleeves in a local planting effort along Brush Creek's new cement-lined flood control channels. Not restricted to inland efforts, we joined Save the Seashore, a movement to support Pt Reyes.

Important issues popped up fast and furiously! In January 1970 we participated with other Audubon Chapters in a Ban DDT Day! Broader questions asked then, since pollution begins at home: are you still using colored bathroom tissue? DDT?

Detergents high in phosphates? And a recycling drive was advertised. (We have come a long way... or have we?). Sonoma County held air pollution and smog discussions, and Madroners were there to comment. As dredging was proposed at Jenner, the Chapter called for a thorough ecological study and for the protection of Penny Island in the Jenner estuary as a unique refuge protecting more than 40 species. This is still a very important bird habitat for the county. Inland the roadside trees of Sonoma County were under assault and preservation of trees on road jobs was advocated, plus we joined a formidable array of conservation groups opposing and refining projects.

In September 1970 Ernestine Smith prodded the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors to support the 11,000 acre San Pablo Bay Wildlife Refuge that today is still a valuable viable refuge along the entire North San Francisco Bay shore. In 1974 Madrone spearheaded efforts with National Audubon to raise \$50,000 to help match funds needed to grow Annadel Park by 270 acres. This land included Ledson Lake and Marsh, a unique wildlife area (with a lot of water in the photos!). This money came from the estate of Capt. George Whitsell. Cooperation and collaboration can accomplish a lot! March 1982 *Leaves* noted the "...interminable public hearings that Les Bowen had attended as 'a nodder and shaker' also included ... Warm Springs Dam, Bodega Harbor, Salt Point State Park, and Fountain Grove." Martha Bentley, when President, spoke against the big Port Sonoma Plan as a potential hazard to the salt marshes and wildlife. Possible development included a 400 berth marina, restaurant, sand depot, yacht sales and boat repair yard. She/we opposed all but the boat berths, concluding "the marina could be an asset to the County if it is built right."



Annadel Park

Courtesy of Gordon Beebe

Martha once told me that it helps to know the history. You work on a conservation issue and it is settled. Some years pass and it often pops up once again!

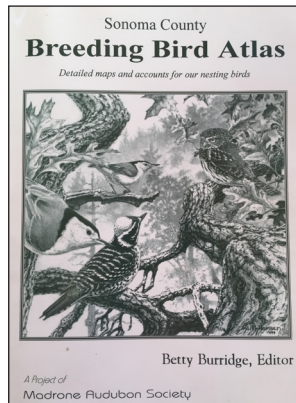
Time marches on, and the issues become the Local Coastal Plan, Spring Creek, the holding ponds for the Laguna wastewater treatment plant, and Bennett Valley Heights.

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## SOLID FOUNDATION

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Community separators and Open Space preservation were supported. Efforts were noted both with environmental successes and recognition: Madrone saw Martha Bentley and Ernestine Smith both honored with Audubon Activist awards at the Western Regional Conference of the National Audubon Society in 1994. Both had spent 25+ years – representing, inspiring, advising and continuing to act on conservation issues.



Breeding Bird Atlas  
Courtesy of Diane Hichwa

A most significant environmental contribution by Madrone came from the power of blending conservation efforts with citizen science. Within the first year of existence Madrone

began our citizen science efforts with the first Christmas Bird Count on December 30, 1967. Twenty members went into the field, tallying 132 species in the new count circle. December 20, 1969 sent our birders out in force. We topped the nation in six species of birds (more White-tailed Kites, California Quail, Nuttalls Woodpeckers, Violet-green Swallows, Scrub Jays and Brown Towhees here than anywhere else in the country!). Most importantly, a Breeding Bird Atlas Committee (BBA) organized, bringing together academics, technical data and computer people, and a cadre of birders. For six seasons these volunteers collected data on breeding birds all over Sonoma County. Surveys were conducted from 1986-1991; data was checked, entered, and mapped. Betty Burridge was the Atlas Coordinator and Editor and saw it published in 1995: Sonoma County Breeding Bird Atlas: Detailed Maps and Accounts for our Nesting Birds. This volume has been used by County and City Planners, administrators, developers, academic institutions and conservation organizations. It will continue to be important, as it states “one of the main values of an atlas is the possibility of comparing this baseline data with data from future studies.”

If we circle back to our beginnings, Evalyn Bowen, Madrone’s first President said: “You might say that our birdwatching is the fun part and that conservation is the back bending, heart breaking part. ....the next time you see a joke about “bird-watchers”... remember that if we fail to listen to their pleas for conservation, the joke just might be on us!”

## Charter Member Ernestine “Ernie” Smith

by Diane Hichwa

Ernie was 100 years “young” when she died in 2015. She was a founding member of our chapter and helped lay a strong foundation for a vibrant organization.

Linda Curry wrote: “When Martha (Bentley) moved to Santa Rosa, it was a stroke of luck that she moved across the street from Ernie’s cousin, Docia Patchett (and Ernie would buy the small house next door)..... It was the beginning of a long friendship that joined two friends in many endeavors to preserve local agricultural lands, maintain coastal access for all Californians, and provide stewardship to local creeks and Sonoma County before the general plan was adopted in 1980s. Ernie was a driving force to establish the Sinkyone Wilderness area. Any recent visitor to ‘Lost Coast’ can appreciate that some of the prime areas that originally served Native Americans for thousands of years have been protected permanently as a CA state park.” Ernie was Conservation Chair for many years; she wrote well-researched long-hand letters and spoke up forcefully on environmental issues. Chris Smith, in the August 25, 2015 Press Democrat, recalled efforts that she “successfully fought alongside other early environmentalists to halt PG&E’s plan to construct a nuclear power plant on Bodega Head, to

protect Jenner’s Penney Island from inundation by proposed dredging at the mouth of the Russian River, and to persuade the state Highway Commission it would be devastating and foolish to proceed with plans to build a four-lane Russian River bridge at Bridgehaven, just inland from Jenner.”

A love of nature since her childhood on a ranch accompanied her as an adult and led her into conservation and education. Ernie combined experienced birding skills with her study of insects (BA) and science education (MA) and plunged into helping organize the Bouverie Docent Training in 1981 with other Madrone members including Phyllis Ellman and Deyea Harper. Outdoor education included hiking, creek activities with children, campfires, and singing in the Quercus Quire—a group from Bouverie which brought nature songs to schools throughout Sonoma and Marin Counties. She was known for her frog “ribit” and her child-like shy smile along with twinkling eyes.

Madrone established a Bentley-Smith Award in 2002 to recognize their being lifelong environmental advocates and inspirations to us all. Ernie supported Madrone Audubon into the future with a significant donation from her estate.



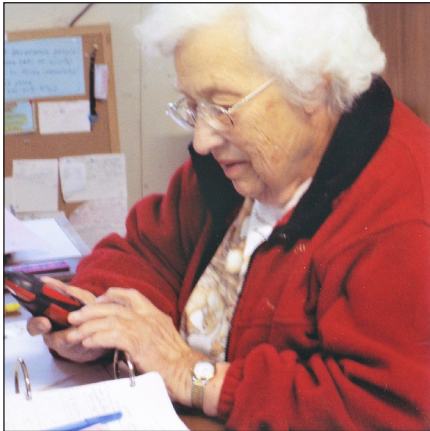
Ernie & Chrissy—1998

Courtesy of Janet Bosshard

## Charter Member Martha Bentley

Excerpts from “Remembering Martha Bentley, 1918–2008,” *Leaves*, September 2008, by Daphne Smith

Dedicated, inspirational, possessed of great charm and wit, a major force to be reckoned with in local conservation battles, she [Martha] was a retired children’s librarian who educated, encouraged, thanked, tirelessly advocated and cared for all who needed it most.



Martha at Bird Rescue Center Courtesy of Janet Bosshard

She was known for bringing a small basket or box with her to Madrone programs, or to any local government meeting where she wanted to

voice an opinion (and to her lasting credit and our good fortune, there were a lot of meetings like that). Reaching into the boxes occasionally she would explain that she was feeding baby hummingbirds. In conservation circles, if you didn’t know that these tiny birds needed to be fed every 20 minutes, you were staying home too much.

Martha was among the charter members who formed the “Madrone Branch” of the National Audubon Society in January 1967. She was the recording secretary for most of the first five years of the young organization and served as president from 1972 to 1974, by which time the membership had grown from 48 to over 600. She was vice-president for a few terms after that and took over the post of Christmas Count compiler from 1974 to 1978. That was pre-computers, which meant tabulating huge amounts of data on very large sheets of butcher paper spread out on the floor.

Finally, after a few stints as Program Chair, she became Co-Conservation Chair with Ernestine Smith, whose carefully crafted articles had filled a good part of the Madrone *Leaves* issues since 1968 and could therefore constitute an excellent historical record of conservation efforts in Sonoma County through the 1970s. In 1979 she and Ernie were made Honorary Board Members. Perhaps Madrone could be reasonably certain by then that the two

of them were there to stay, actively involved in making the case for the protection of birds and the environment.

The official record of Martha’s involvement with Madrone for 41 years, and also with the Bird Rescue Center, which she and Alida Morzenti successfully made an independent entity of in 1980, is surely impressive, but it doesn’t really tell the whole story of the impact of this truly unusual woman.

Betty Burrigge testifies to the force of her personality to inspire others. She remembers helping Martha do the CBC count (on hands and knees with those sheets of butcher paper) and a few years later finding herself and Deyea Harper with the job for the next 17 years, “while Martha looked on approvingly.”

Martha was wonderful with words; she was a natural storyteller, but also a focused listener, something that made her comments at those government meetings go right to the heart of the matter. Madrone’s Conservation Chair Diane Hichwa wrote, “She had been in the midst of them with a quick wit, piercing assessment and pointed comments. She fought for coastal protection, against the nuclear power plant proposed on the San Andreas Fault, and for protecting habitat for birds, wildlife... and us.”

## Charter Members Deyea and Jack Harper

by Daphne Smith

Jack and Deyea Harper were charter members of Madrone Audubon Society and played major roles in the chapter’s very early formation. It was a pleasure for me to discuss Madrone’s beginnings with Jack and Deyea, looking back at 50 years of birding with birding companions!

Deyea and Evalyn Bowen met at a Sacramento convention and struck up a conversation about Evalyn’s wish to have a Sonoma County chapter. Back in Santa Rosa, Evalyn proposed to visit Deyea, who was at home with her 1-year-old. Evalyn dressed for the occasion—white gloves, pearls, proper shoes. From there on, it was serious business. Evalyn had a list of names and Deyea typed out letters to see if there was enough interest—an organizational meeting was held on January 17, 1967 and the first official meeting was held February 16, a month later. Charter members were those who attended the organizational meeting, and who joined the first official meeting on February 16. It was necessary to be a member

of National Audubon and submit chapter dues of \$8.50 for individuals and \$12.50 for a family.

Deyea took the job of Corresponding Secretary, which soon became also the job of Newsletter



Betty Burrigge & Deyea Harper – CBC Compilers for 17 years. Courtesy of Diane Hichwa

Editor. Later on Jack started to lead some field trips for Madrone. After a three-year hiatus in Eureka,

the Harpers returned to Santa Rosa and quickly acquired new titles with the Madrone board: Deyea took Education and did projects in the local schools, and Jack did Finance & Auditing, but soon became field trip chairman. Later on Jack became president for two years.

Truly the Harpers have made a difference in guiding our chapter in many ways; they were always available to help out with support for Audubon Canyon Ranch, the “new” Bouverie preserve and our local Bird Rescue Center. Many changes have come to Madrone Audubon but the dedication of a strong beginning enriches our chapter today. We treasure our charter members!

Mention should be made of some other charter members, Joel and Linda Hornstein, though Joel passed away not long ago. He was an enthusiastic Madrone field trip chairman early on, before he and Linda relocated to the Sierra foothills for his work. Linda remembers how he was especially fond of Bodega Bay, whenever they took the opportunity to visit Madrone friends.

## Louise Hallberg: Butterflies and Charter Member

by Susan Kirks & Gay Bishop

The Hallberg Butterfly Gardens began in 1920 when Louise's mother planted the Dutchman's pipevine, a native riparian plant, collected from the wild because of its unique flower. These are perhaps the oldest butterfly gardens in the country. As a child, Louise saw large pipevine swallowtail butterflies flying all around. At Oak Grove School, students studied flowers and birds, but not butterflies.

Louise, a graduate of UC Berkeley, worked for



Louise and Ernie at Butterfly Garden—1998

was held, the Gardens' once-a-year fundraiser. It was also the year groups of adults and students began to visit the Gardens and learn about the life cycles of butterflies and their habitat. Visitors came away with memorable experiences of Louise's relationship to the habitat and wildlife there. In addition to butterflies, she adored the native quail and ensured the gardens provided habitat for quail coveys; and she kept track of the Great Horned Owls and Vaux Swifts nesting in her chimney. She was observed in the gardens, and from time to time, a bird would land on her outstretched hand.

In addition to her own mission in conservation and education, Louise contributed to countless other nature organizations. She was an avid wildflower observer and an excellent photographer of

both flowers and butterflies. She was a member of Mendocino's Dorothy King Young Chapter of California Native Plant Society before the local Milo Baker CNP chapter existed and her wildflower photos appear in the DKY's 1967 book, *Wildflower Jewels*. Louise was taught botany by Milo Baker at the JC.

Many of our Chapter's Charter Members were friends, all sharing a

reverence for nature and a strength and personal feeling of responsibility to conserve, educate and appreciate. Louise Hallberg passed away on February 25, 2017. A month earlier, she celebrated her 100th birthday with 100 friends who braved flooded roads and falling trees to pay her tribute. We invite you to visit and support Hallberg Butterfly Gardens. To date, 30,000 visitors have visited the Gardens and 47 species of butterflies have been sighted over the years.

*This year's 20th Annual Open Gardens Day* will be held on Sunday, June 25th, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 8687 Oak Grove Road in Sebastopol. The Gardens are open for tours April-October, Wednesday-Sunday. Call 823-3420 to make a reservation for a docent led tour or self-guided tour. Visitors are welcomed to bring lunch and use the shaded picnic table. A \$5.00 donation is suggested. (Become a Friend of the Gardens with a larger donation and get a receipt, tax deductible.) For additional information: [www.hallbergbutterflygardens.org](http://www.hallbergbutterflygardens.org).

## Betty Burrige: Citizen Science & Conservation Advocate

by Diane Hichwa

Betty Burrige brought a love of birds, along with detail and precise record-keeping, to Madrone's activities. And she was willing to involve and encourage



Betty bird watching in the desert Courtesy of Diane Hichwa

others in what we now refer to as "citizen science." Betty was Christmas Bird Count (CBC) Compiler for 17 years, ably assisted by Deyea Harper, and for a time, she juggled both compiler and atlassing roles. From 1986-1991 Betty was censusing blocks around Sonoma County and coordinating the first of Madrone's Breeding Bird Atlas efforts. The data was given the ACID test, that is, Adequacy of Coverage Identification InDex, to determine if a block was covered and completed. She offered four more years of her life to learn all of the skills needed to complete the mapping, writing, editing and publishing in 1995. Betty understood its importance to protecting Sonoma County's environment for the birds. Her final sentence in the Afterward said: "But it is my earnest desire that this volume be useful and appreciated and that no one asks me to repeat this study in the year 2011." When the second round of atlassing began in 2010, Betty sat in, but now as a consultant and advisor.

And the volume was put to use immediately at all levels of local government. Her own knowledge from years of participation in these research activities was invaluable to conservation efforts. As cities and vineyards spread over Sonoma County, Betty saw the importance of habitat connectivity and worked to secure large protected and connected landscapes for wild birds and wildlife.

The CBC and the BBA were citizen science in action. Betty's encouragement of others in citizen science will continue on through Madrone's annual Burrige Award established in 2008.

Chris Smith aptly described Betty in the Press Democrat, March 31, 2016, as a "bird conservation champion...who advocated for wildlife in general and for birds in particular."

## Education: The Early Years

by Asenath LaRue, with contributions by  
Diane Hichwa, Marilynn Scott, and Janet Bosshard

### Starting young

In Sonoma County today, inspiring young people to enjoy and learn about nature is a top priority of several environmental groups. For Madrone Audubon, educating children has ALWAYS been important.

In December, 1967, Evalyn Bowen wrote (“Education is Urgent,” *Leaves*): “I find that many people consider the Audubon Society a bunch of kooky bird watchers, but it is much more than that. The most urgent aim is education, and it becomes increasingly more urgent... I try to believe much of the apathy is due to people being unaware of what is happening; therefore, the only hope is education....The best approach is through the schools and youth groups...Until we have a full time program, if you could go on a nature walk, speak to a campfire or scout troop, or an adult group, it would be a start...if we don’t get started immediately, it will be too late.”

Madrone members answered this call. By March, 1968, Girl Scouts had gone on four nature walks sponsored by MAS. On October 8, 1970, an organizational meeting of a Madrone Junior Audubon group was scheduled, and by January, 1971, the Madrone Audubon Youth Society (MAYS) was going on field trips and soon became involved in caring for birds affected by oil spills. In 1972, MAS sent four local teachers to Audubon Camp on scholarships to enhance their nature teaching skills. “All have reported they gained immensely from it. And, of course, now all of their students are benefiting from the enrichment of their knowledge and teaching techniques.”

Around 1980, when Kathy and Dave Biggs had young children, they first brought them on bird walks and then organized their own Pee Wee Audubon activities. This program brought a child and an adult together in nature, in hopes they would continue doing that together!

Marilynn Scott recalls: “Excitement in nature continued as Pee Wee Audubon offered programs for families in the mid 90’s. Local resources of Sonoma County naturalists gave wide-ranging outings: tide pooling at Shell

Beach and exploring Bodega Bay’s mud flats in our barefeet, with pails and shovels and Peter Leveque’s deep knowledge of creatures living there; down on our hands and knees in Sonoma’s wildflower preserve with Peter Warner’s fascinating explanations of plants, and in fall watching the spectacular hawk migration high above the Golden Gate Bridge. We made and put up bird boxes with John Klobas’ direction at Spring Lake, noticing the resulting increase in Bluebirds over the years; Ane Rovetta regaled an enthusiastic group at our summer celebration with drawing, stories and everyone doing the “Jelly Fish,” finishing with a Bouverie Quercus Quire sing-along. Jim Kirk brought an array of skulls, skeletons, and pelts to Westminster Woods. Dragonflies were the focus with Kathy Biggs at local

By October, 2008, Pee Wee Audubon was renamed Junior Audubon, and new learning adventures continued for children and parents through the guidance of Veronica Bowers, Scott Campbell, Janeann Erickson, Janet Bosshard, and others.

### Lifelong learning

Bird walks and field trips for the general public and MAS members of all ages began even as the chapter was forming. In the March, 1967 issue of *Leaves*, Field Trips chairman Joel Hornstein reported on birding outings to Howarth Park and Bodega Bay. Other trips that spring and summer included Pt. Reyes National Seashore, Jack London State Park, the Rabbit Hill Sanctuary in Middletown, the Bolinas Lagoon



Junior Auduboners with Peter Leveque

Courtesy of Diane Hichwa

ponds. We had bat programs, went to Bird Rescue, and of course, learned to use binoculars to watch birds and animals. Home Schoolers found these outings a rich resource for their science studies. The wonders of nature, the joys of families being outside with enthusiastic, knowledgeable environmental leaders brought a spellbinding, wonderful many years – AND all the while fostering curiosity along with an understanding and love of being outside. These years and the times with the families and educators are a great source of joyful memories – for me and for all of us.”

property of Audubon Canyon Ranch, Goat Rock Beach State Park, and Armstrong Redwoods. Are bird walks educational or just enjoyable? How about both (we hope!)? Current birdwalk leaders Gordon Beebe and Tom McCuller share perspectives on what can be learned from these walks in their article in this issue (see page 10).

Madrone has always hosted educational speakers at monthly meetings. The first to speak for the newly formed organization, in April, 1967, was Mr. Vinson Brown of Healdsburg who shared highlights from his

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## EDUCATION

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soon-to-be-published book, “Reading the American Forest.” MAS also partnered with Redwood Region Ornithological Society and the Santa Rosa Junior College in showing films from National Audubon’s Wildlife series from 1967 until many years after.

How many people have been inspired by attending these bird walks, field trips, presentations, and films? There is no way of calculating the benefits, but the cumulative effect across the decades is surely substantial.

All of this, for 50 years running, has been offered for FREE to MAS members and to the general public! *Today, MAS is one of the few area organizations that continues to provide expert environmental education at no charge.*

And always, there has been *Madrone Leaves*. The first issue of *Leaves* appeared in February, 1967, with Deyea Harper as editor. Les Bowen designed the Bewick’s Wren logo for *Leaves*, which first graced the October 1967 issue. In the early years, *Leaves* required not

only skill in writing and editing, but also manual labor. In a 1982 article in memory of Les Bowen, he was thanked for many and diverse contributions, including “eight years of mimeographing, stapling, and folding *Leaves* nine times a year.”

Exploring nature with young people, field trips, walks and talks....all are part of the foundations of MAS and continue as vital parts of our programs today.

### Pee Wee Audubon “graduates” remember....

Youth experiences, in Pee Wee/Junior Audubon, form lasting life memories and values. As boys, Eric and Luke Rafla-Yuan attended many Pee Wee Audubon activities when Marilynn Scott was Coordinator, and their mother Elham Rafla-Yuan was our parent liaison with the local home school network. Now in their 20s, they recently shared their memories with Marilynn.

From Eric (now a resident physician): “When I was younger, Pee Wee Audubon was a formative part of my childhood. While I loved birds, and still do, it was more than just birds and engaged me in constant observation and appreciation of the natural world around me. Providing children and families with the opportunity to participate in the community was something that me and all my siblings were able to take advantage of and that I am appreciative of. We all had binoculars, looked under rocks, waded through streams for newts, went on the Christmas bird count, and made friends along the way. And although I am no longer an active Pee Wee Audubon participant, I find myself keeping an observant eye out for birds, wildlife, and plants wherever I go. Recently it’s been the peregrine falcon family on top of the hospital.”

And Luke: “As a software engineer I tend to look at things rationally and logically. However, this perspective doesn’t apply when I have been lucky enough to experience untainted and unbridled nature. Doing things such as bird watches, learning about salmon hatching, and a plethora of other outdoor activities through the Audubon Society instilled [in] me a rapt

fascination of nature, and what it offers us. I am grateful for these experiences in my nascent years, as it has helped me both understand and appreciate the complexity and beauty of the world around me.”



Peregrine falcon at hospital

Courtesy of Eric Rafla-Yuan

## Bouverie Preserve & Madrone Audubon

Audubon Canyon Ranch (ACR) began in 1961, and over the years, relationships between MAS and ACR have been strong and mutually beneficial. In early years, Madrone regularly supplied weekend hosts at the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve (the first of the properties acquired by ACR), and when the opportunity arose for preservation of land in the



Bouverie Preserve entrance today

Mayacamas (eventually to become ACR's Modini-Mayacamas Preserves), MAS members stepped up and helped with field trips and stewardship activities (see "Come Explore ACR's Wildlands in the North County," February-March, 2017 *Leaves*). It's fair to say, however, that ACR's Bouverie Preserve in Glen Ellen holds a special place in the hearts of many Madrone members.

MAS members met early on with David Bouverie to explore possibilities of establishing his property as a nature preserve. Recognizing that management of such a large and complex property could be beyond the reach of an all-volunteer group, MAS encouraged and supported the donation of the property to ACR in 1979. MAS members Ernestine Smith, Phyllis Ellman, Deyea Harper, and Donna DeBates, among others, helped to organize the first Bouverie docent training class in 1981, and our members have continued to serve as docents at Bouverie to this day, trekking the hills with generations of children from area grade

schools. Sales of Tom Olds' bird pins helped to fund a properly equipped lab at the Bouverie Preserve, and MAS also donated the cabinet used to store the Preserve's collection of bird skins. Over time, a camera to watch the bell-tower nest of Canada Geese and a bird blind along the nature trail were provided by Madrone. If you haven't visited the Bouverie Preserve in a while, sign up for one of their Guided Nature Walks, and you'll see why this place is so special! Go to <http://egret.org/visit/bouverie> for a schedule.

Long-time Madrone member Linda Curry was among a small group of MAS members who were there at the very beginning, as the idea of the Bouverie Preserve began to take shape. Linda shared these memories:

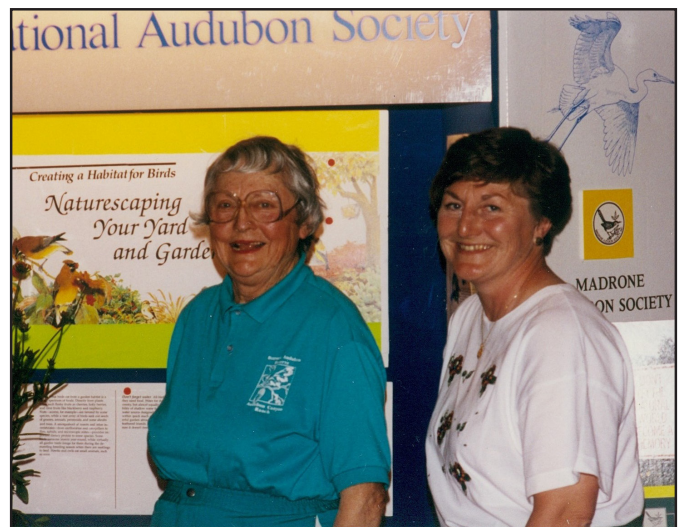
"It doesn't seem like it was that long ago, but in looking back at photos, all the babies are grown up and pushing 40, so it must have been about 1980 when I had my first taste of Bouverie. It was a small party, as David [Bouverie] had specified no more than 6. I know that at least 5 of us were myself, Ernestine Smith, Iva Warner, Jack Harper, & Clark Nattkemper. The 6th might have been Les Perry.

We had carpooled in two cars and turned into the then unpaved ranch road that we know as the Bouverie Preserve entrance now.

As we reached the first cattle guard, Colestar Darling, Mr. Bouverie's housekeeper came racing across the fields with a load of sheets in her arms. After we assured her that we were part of the Audubon party that Mr. Bouverie expected, we were allowed to pull in here where Rocky Road path starts. As we all stepped out of the car, David Bouverie sent the foreman over to question our arrival. When he got the nod from his foreman, he sauntered over gracefully and extended his hand as introductions were made all around. The perfect English gentleman, he was cordial and crisp as he moved us along to take our hike.

I am by nature a dawdler when it comes to taking a walk in the woods, so I became the last in a long single file that started along the Rocky Road. I think it was late spring, but there were still plenty of flowers and signs of wildlife. A pileated woodpecker showed up to look us over as we passed the phot tree and squawked as we went along 'til we got to the gate just as you enter the canyon along Stuart Creek. David had been chatting with Clark and Jack as they walked along, and as we got to the gate, he told us to go on up to the waterfall, past the "champagne tree" and other tidbits, and then let him know what we thought.

To say we were thrilled is putting it mildly. Clark must have said it a dozen times on the way down: "We've got to make a way to make this happen." Jack's keen mind was working on the logistics and support team that would be



Ernie Smith and Diane Hichwa, MAS members and Bouverie docents Courtesy of Diane Hichwa

needed. Ernie was tickled pick and excited about the outdoor education possibilities as David made it very clear from the start that Bouverie was for the next generation. Iva was the most relaxed I ever saw her as she rarely allowed herself the luxury of a nice hike. I was delighted to have a quiet moment in good company in outstanding surrounds.

Madrone has continued a special relationship with Bouverie Preserve as the old barn was converted to the headquarters, more trails developed, the parking lots made to accommodate buses, and class after class of docents teach class after class of students about the marvels of nature."



## Madrone Audubon Society Milestones – 50 Years

- 2017** MAS welcomes first estate bequest, from Ernestine I. Smith.
- 2017** MAS embarks on Bird-Friendly Communities and Habitat Gardening Program.
- 2017** Bodega Harbor, first nominated as IBA by MAS, designated one of 50 Climate Refugias in California.
- 2016** MAS completed 50th Christmas Bird Count January 2, 2017.
- 2016-Present** MAS sponsors climate-change related citizen science projects: Phenology Project at Paula Lane Nature Preserve in Petaluma and Petaluma River Bridge.
- 2014** National Audubon Society releases *Audubon Birds and Climate Change* Report. Chapters throughout US, including MAS, take action.
- 2013-2016** Cliff Swallows nesting on Petaluma Bridge protected via legal action.
- 2012-Present** Began annual nesting support project for West 9th Street Heronry.
- 2011-2016** Data collection for Madrone's second Breeding Bird Atlas.
- 2010** Cooperative agreement formed between MAS and Coastal Stewardship Task Force for seabird monitoring and coastal concerns.
- 2009-Present** Lincoln School Bird Festival evolves to protect the heronry and educate local school children.
- 2003** Began working with Petaluma Wetlands Alliance as a committee of MAS.
- 2001** Bodega Bay designated Globally Important Bird Area by American Bird Conservancy, based on data submitted by MAS.
- 2000** Environmental monitoring during pipeline for Geysers renewable energy expansion.
- 1995** First MAS Breeding Bird Atlas is published---and a 2nd printing is needed!
- 1994** Initial parcel donated to National Audubon for what would become Audubon Canyon Ranch's (ACR) Modini-Mayacamas Preserves. MAS led field trips and stewardship tasks.
- 1988** Annual Evalyn and Les Bowen Award established. Faye Beeman is the first recipient.
- 1986-1987** Nature Center Fund of \$12,000 given to Bouverie Preserve to equip the lab.
- 1986-1991** Data collection for first MAS Breeding Bird Atlas (Betty Burrige coordinating).
- ~1980** Pee Wee Audubon begins. Became Junior Audubon in 2008.
- 1979** Donation of Bouverie property to ACR began, with MAS sharing oversight. MAS becomes 4th Audubon chapter in the ACR family.
- 1974** Donation drive to purchase Ledson Marsh acres for new Annadel State Park
- 1973** Members attend first Coastal Commission meeting.
- 1968** Began efforts on behalf of San Pablo Bay Wildlife Refuge with a census in the Petaluma Marshlands.
- 1968** Joan Hamann Dole Memorial Sanctuary ("Rabbit Hill") in Middletown donated to MAS.
- 1967** **Chapter founded – our roots**

# Walking with Birds

by Gordon Beebe

Though many birders like to go on bird walks to see how many species they can see, which is fine in itself, there is a deeper value to getting out and watching the birds. Going on a bird walk for the first time, and looking through a scope at a beautiful bird, a new world is brought into our lives, one we may not have realized existed before. The details, colors, and antics of any bird delight all who are given this opportunity. There is no going back; now another world is recognized, beyond the TV and smartphones, shopping malls and eateries. Over time, with nurturing, this awareness may grow; a larger picture that includes the bird within its habitat can be grasped. Learning about the habitats birds live in teaches us about the value of open spaces and undeveloped lands of all types.

From these outdoor experiences, the learned values may develop into stewardship, a caring for the natural areas that the birds call home, and sharing them with the next generation. Without this opportunity, awareness of the greater world may never develop. If a society ignores the wild things around it, these areas may cease to be protected or valued, and their future becomes uncertain. Since many birds migrate, this can affect not only one area, but all areas where the birds spend their lives. Just going on a bird walk, sharing your binoculars

or scope with a new birder, can open up new worlds, and new appreciation for birds and the habitats that they live in, enriching all of our lives in the process.

Madrone has offered walks to understand and appreciate birds for all of our 50 years!



MAS members head to Gray Lodge -1990 - Karen Nagel, Diane Hichwa, LaRee Holmes, Janet Bosshard & John Kelly  
Courtesy of Janet Bosshard

by Tom McCuller

Gordon has artfully noted that bird walks promote enjoyment and conservation of our natural world. For 50 years, Madrone Audubon members have shown that we can culturally reinforce good environmental citizenship by conducting organized bird walks. The walks achieve these effects, in part, by satisfying some of our most innate needs.

The need for friendly companionship tops the list for highly social creatures. What could be more socially fulfilling than being surrounded

by excited peers viewing Red Phalaropes as they feed in a crashing surf off Doran Beach? Sharing such stirring experiences in a congenial group helps fulfill this primal human need. Our evolution has also given us a need for order. One way we reduce chaos is by discerning and generating perceptual patterns, promoting order and prediction while embracing beauty. These perceptual skills dominate birding behavior on our walks--as when we instantly discern the different bright colors and geometries of a group of Cedar Waxwings as they soar and flycatch from the top of a redwood, or when they repeatedly strip shiny, red berries from a Toyon thicket. We learn to see better.

We need reliable memories for social competence. We constantly update and refine our memories, counting and measuring sensory events and activities as we experience them. When we birdwatch, some of us rush to satisfy this need first--our friends then call us listers, sometimes disparagingly, when we do it to excess. For avid listers, bird walks sometimes approach nirvana. We humans also crave novelty. Hundreds of bird species flying, feeding, breeding and nesting in various Northern California habitats allow the most jaded of us to find new stimulations on almost any Madrone bird walk, marvelous novelties that only nature can provide.

Such powerful remedies for basic human needs can become lifelong habits and positive contributors to our well-being.

## Charter Members

CHARTER MEMBERS

MRS. MERREL ACKLEY  
COL. AND MRS. E. J. BARNETTE  
MRS. DOROTHY BECKER  
MISS MARTHA C. BENTLEY  
MRS. ANNE BLUM  
MR. AND MRS. CARSON W. BOAG  
  
MR. AND MRS. CALVIN L. BOWEN  
MISS ANN BROCKMAN  
MR. VINSON BROWN  
MR. BEN H. CUMMINGS  
MR. AND MRS. VINCENT H. DAVIDSON  
MISS MARGARET A. DIXON  
  
MISS SARA M. FAHEY  
MRS. ERNEST L. FINLEY  
MR. AND MRS. R. S. FOGELSANGER  
MRS. LAWRENCE C. FREER  
MRS. A. B. FURBER  
MRS. PHIL H. GREEN  
  
MRS. ELEANOR GUILFORD  
MR. AND MRS. CHARLES HALL  
MISS LOUISE HALLBERG  
MR. AND MRS. HUGO HAMANN  
MR. AND MRS. JOHN F. HARPER  
MRS. EDWIN W. HARTZELL  
  
MRS. ALBERT C. HEPPE  
MRS. P. L. HOLT  
MR. AND MRS. JOEL H. HORNSTEIN  
MR. AND MRS. ALBERT N. HUNT  
MISS BLANCHE E. HURD  
MISS VI JONES  
  
MISS JUNE KELLER  
MR. AND MRS. CARL KOEBLE  
MR. AND MRS. CLARENCE KOHLER  
MRS. MAYNE LINKENHEIMER  
MR. AND MRS. GORDON O. LEONARD  
MR. AND MRS. MASON B. LEWIS  
MR. AND MRS. M. C. MARKSON

**NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY**  
*Branch Charter to  
Madrone  
Audubon Society*

*Whereas the Madrone Audubon Society  
has met the standards set forth by  
The National Audubon Society  
We hereby grant this Charter of Branch Participation  
this 16th day of March 1958  
which will expire on the 15th of March 1970*

*A Statement of Audubon Philosophy*

We believe in the wisdom of nature's design.  
We believe that each living thing tends to secure itself in the chain of nature.  
We believe that genuine research into the habits and instincts of nature will help to secure the use of nature's abundance.  
We maintain no wild reserves and seek to assure that no living species shall be lost.  
We believe that every generation should be able to experience spiritual and physical refreshment in places where scientific interest is maintained.  
We will be willing to promote wilderness areas, refuges, and parks, and to encourage good use of nature's wilderness of remnants.  
We dedicate ourselves to the physical task of opening the eyes of young and old that all may come to enjoy the beauty of the natural world, and to those in restoring the natural system.

PRESIDENT, NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY      DIRECTOR, BRANCH SERVICE

CHARTER MEMBERS

MRS. JACKIE MARTINEAU  
MISS MARCIA MC FARLAND  
MR. AND MRS. BARON A. MC LEAN  
MRS. EVELYN MC MULLEN  
MISS NATALIE MESTACHIN  
MRS. W. F. MULLEN  
  
MRS. FRANCES F. NIELSEN  
MRS. GLADYS B. O'CONNELL  
MR. WILLIAM P. OLSEN  
MR. AND MRS. J. T. OLDS  
DR. RUDOLPH OPPENHEIMER  
MR. AND MRS. CHESTER B. PALMER  
  
MISS DOGMA PATCHETT  
MR. AND MRS. E. B. PERSONETT  
MR. AND MRS. HOMER PETERSON  
MRS. ALICE B. PINKERTON  
DR. AND MRS. WILLARD R. REW  
MISS CHARL RHODE  
  
MRS. MARVYN S. RICE  
MRS. MARGARET D. RICHARDSON  
MRS. SHARLEY RUSH  
MRS. KONSTANTINE SAKOVICH  
MR. AND MRS. W. C. SCHAFFER  
MRS. EDNA SCHNEIDER  
  
MRS. ELEANORE SCHOFIELD  
MR. AND MRS. PERRY SHEAN  
MISS HELEN SHERRARD  
MRS. H. E. SHINABARGER  
MISS ERNESTINE SMITH  
MR. AND MRS. ERNEST SPIESS  
  
MRS. LEONARD TALBOT  
MISS MILDRED THOMPSON  
MRS. JOSEPHINE E. TITUS  
MRS. AILEEN TRINE  
MRS. BARBARA VIDGOLF  
MR. AND MRS. WAYNE G. WATERS  
MR. AND MRS. A. L. WILLIAMS

## Friends of Madrone Who Will Be Missed

### Don McCarthy

Our dear Friend, Don, passed away December 7, 2016. Don resided in Marin County and was a dedicated member of Madrone Audubon for many years. Betty Groce and Don formed the famous Roadrunners team for our annual Bird-a-thon. Over the years, this team accrued 80+ sponsors for their Bird-a-thon adventures! Don was a knowledgeable birder and naturalist. He felt a particular affinity for Yosemite National Park, its majestic habitat areas and wildflower meadows. Don travelled widely throughout his life –most of which included a focus on nature and appreciation of birds, wildlife and flowers. Don never hesitated to support Madrone both with his membership and Bird-a-thon dedication, but also with memorial donations for beloved friends who passed on. His strength of character and love of nature will be missed, as will his friendship. We extend our condolences to Don's family and loved ones.

### Laurence Taylor

Laurence, fondly known as Uncle Larry in our Sonoma County community, passed away January 14, 2017. Laurence was a dedicated Friend of Madrone for over 20 years. He enjoyed accompanying bird walks and was a regular birdwatcher at Bodega Bay. He was a strong advocate for improving access and walkways for disabled individuals and devoted almost 20 years to this endeavor to help our Sonoma County community. His strong spirit and conviction for social and environmental justice were admirable, and coupled with his love of birds and wildlife, Uncle Larry's life was very full, with few dull moments or real moments of rest. We know he found reverence and renewal in birdwalk outings and we will surely miss his presence and camaraderie. We extend our condolences to Laurence's family and loved ones.



White-faced Ibis Courtesy of National Audubon Society

### Welcome New Members

**Petaluma:** Carol Harper

**Santa Rosa:** Gloria Smith

#### Sebastopol

Janet Bair

Lisa Bright

Dori & Jim Johnson

Mary Lou Schmidt

**Sonoma:** Lisa Geary

### Appreciated Donations

#### In Memory of...

**Betty Burrige**  
by Diane & Bryant Hichwa

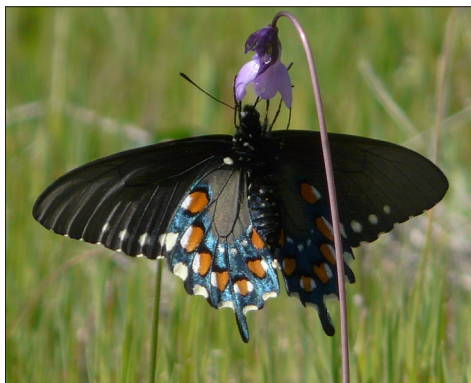
**Alex Hughes & Gail Hughes**  
by Charles Hughes

**Laurence Taylor**  
by Janet Bosshard  
by Teresita Salter-Haag

**Mildred S. Vyverberg**  
by Mary & Michael Cuoio

### Louise Hallberg

Louise, a Charter Member of Madrone Audubon, passed away February 25, 2017. She had just turned 100 years of age in January 2017. (Please see our tribute to Louise in this issue.) Louise was a woman of Nature connecting with wild lives, butterflies and birds



Pipevine swallowtail

Courtesy of Gordon Beebe

from a very early age. The 9 acres surrounding her home, which she lived in all her life, became Hallberg Butterfly Gardens in 1988. This nature garden, offering educational opportunities and public enjoyment, represented Louise in the best of ways. She avidly protected and supported the natural world, finding ways to share natural beauty with all of us. A favorite photo in the Press Democrat article about her passing featured Louise, carefully carrying an Anise Swallowtail butterfly on its way to a Verbena bonariensis in the gardens, its favored plant. The butterfly had just emerged from its chrysalis stage, and Louise was moving it into its natural habitat. The beautiful butterfly with its vibrant colors was in the photo's foreground, and Louise was in the background – calm, smiling, caring. The Hallberg Butterfly Gardens will sustain Louise's legacy as a woman who revered nature, butterflies, birds, and native plants. She knew the importance of providing and caring for habitat long before many realized its significance in helping wild creatures. We extend our condolences to Louise's family and loved ones.

## Looking Forward

by Madrone Audubon Board Members

As we reflect on the 50th anniversary of Madrone Audubon Society, we're grateful for the continuing relationship with National Audubon. Affiliation with a strong national



Bewick's wren

Courtesy of National Audubon Society

conservation organization with a history of achievements to protect birds and wildlife, to educate, and to promote appreciation of Nature, will help all of us. Madrone Audubon in Sonoma County was also established as a 501c3, public benefit, charitable, nonprofit organization. We represent our local members, the Friends of Madrone. Our Friends numbers have almost quadrupled in the past 8 years, to over 800 now. We encourage National Audubon members to also join our local Chapter, which helps fund our efforts to represent our members in local bird and wildlife appreciation, education and conservation.

In 2016, our Chapter retained the professional services of Kochenderfer Business Services of Santa Rosa to provide bookkeeping and financial management. This has been vitally important to support our all-volunteer Board of Directors, with the increase in administrative tasks, and help streamline Board officer positions like Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer to be part-time positions, rather than full-time jobs!

We remain an all-volunteer organization. Serving on our Board of Directors is an opportunity to apply your particular set of skills or learn new skills to help contribute to Madrone and our members. We welcome volunteers for open Board positions. Our Board meetings occur monthly at 7 pm on the 1st Thursday of each month, except for July and August. Our annual planning meeting is held in late August for 4 hours on a weekend day to create plans and goals for the coming year. Please take a look at our openings for Board

and Committee Chair positions in the "Contacts List" in *Leaves*. Consider serving with us, for the benefit of our members, for 1 or 2 years.

When National Audubon released the "Audubon Birds and Climate Change" report in 2014, we in Madrone Audubon took this to heart along with Chapters across the United States. A primary resource for this report was Christmas Bird Count data from many years of annual counts, all across the United States. Madrone Audubon completed our 50th Annual West Sonoma County Christmas Bird Count on January 1, 2017. We shall continue the important citizen science Christmas Bird Count going forward. Our Stewardship Task Force Committee continues to gather data and conduct research on seabirds of the Sonoma Coast, focusing on the California Coastal National Monument rocks, islands and pinnacles exposed above mean high tide. Our Chapter joined with Audubon California and a few other local California Chapters to begin a Phenology Project in two locations in South Sonoma County – Paula Lane Nature Preserve in Petaluma and the Petaluma River Bridge, observing and gathering data related to phenophases for 10 avian species, 2 mammals and 3 plants, and entering data into the National Phenology Project Database, "Nature's Notebook."

We're excited about a new project related to the potential of climate change impacts. We're connecting with the call from National's leadership for Bird-Friendly Communities in "Plants for Birds," a nationwide effort to support local programs of habitat gardening – so birds and wildlife can find habitat, nest, sustain and survive over time. Cheryl Harris, former Napa-Solano Audubon President and now a member of our Board, has 30 years of habitat gardening experience. She is leading Madrone's effort to support habitat gardens for birds in Sonoma County. In addition, former Chapter President Veronica Bowers, who founded Native Songbird Care & Conservation based in Sebastopol, and whose Sebastopol property is exemplary of habitat for songbirds, will once again support Madrone Audubon's activities. With her dedication and creativity, Veronica will help us offer "Habitat Heroes and Wildscaping," based on the Colorado Rockies Audubon habitat gardening program. This program is well organized and adaptable for our region, and is expanding to other areas in the U.S. Veronica will lead the way in bringing this program to Sonoma County.

We will continue to respond to conservation issues and offer many other activities, including the W. 9th St. heron and egret nesting support project, the annual Lincoln Elementary Bird Festival, our birdwalks in natural and open spaces, and the analysis and compilation of our update to the Breeding Bird Atlas, in the next few years providing an extraordinarily important and relevant conservation tool.

Madrone Audubon Society has always been an active Audubon Chapter. We share about activities, birds and wildlife in our *Leaves* newsletter. We enjoy gathering together for our membership meetings at the United Methodist Church on Montgomery Drive to listen to and learn from our speakers and presenters. Our Audubon Chapter is all about appreciation of birds and wildlife-- and equally about action – to protect and support birds and wildlife and their habitat areas. We hope we continue to sustain the Chapter as our founders and Charter members envisioned 50 years ago, as we move forward into our next 50 years. We appreciate all of our members being on this journey with us.

### Are you a National Audubon member?

Please consider joining our local chapter, Madrone Audubon.

(see membership form, back page)

### Madrone Audubon Society Chapter Officers for 2017

**President:** Susan Kirks

**Vice President:** Vacant

**Corresponding Secretary:**  
Susan Dean

**Recording Secretary:**  
Richard Stradford

**Treasurer:** Christy Holmes

Respectfully submitted to our membership by the Nominating Committee and Board of Directors. To be considered and voted upon at the April 2017 general membership meeting. Officers are installed at our annual general membership meeting in May.

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.

## April 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, April 1, 8:00 AM to noon*

**CRANE CREEK REGIONAL PARK.** Take Rohnert Park Expressway east from 101, then turn south onto Petaluma Hill Rd. Turn left (east) onto Roberts Rd. At Lichau Rd, Roberts Rd turns into Pressley Rd. Continue on Pressley Rd to the park entrance. We will meet in the parking lot. There is a \$7 entry fee if you do not have a park pass. More information about the park can be found via the parks link on our website. Leader: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115.

*Thursday, April 6, 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, April 15, 8:00 AM to noon*

**SANTA ROSA CREEK AT WILLOWSIDE ROAD.** A short walk, but an intense birding experience. Meet on the southwest side of the bridge over Santa Rosa Creek, on Willowside Rd., mid-way between Hall Rd., and Guerneville Rd. Leader: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115.

*Monday, April 17, 7:00 PM*

**GENERAL MEETING.** First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa. "True Nature of American Badger." This is a free event and all are welcome.

*Wednesday, April 19, 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM*

**BODEGA BAY.** Bird Walk at Bodega Bay Harbor and environs. To meet the group, take Doran Park Road from Highway 1 at the southern end of Bodega Bay harbor, then enter 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, April 29, 7:30 AM to noon*

**ANNADEL STATE PARK, CHANNEL DRIVE.** Meet in the large dirt parking lot on Channel Dr. at the trailhead to the Cobblestone Trail. We will walk along Channel Drive and back; later, we may drive in to the parking lot at the very end of Channel Drive. The park has an entry fee of \$8. Leader: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115.

## Call for Volunteers

The **Cypress Grove Research Center** of Audubon Canyon Ranch (ACR) invites Madrone Audubon members to put their love of nature and observation skills to work for conservation science. We are seeking talented volunteer birders to assist on several ongoing long-term monitoring projects. To find out more, or to sign up, email Emiko Condeso at emiko.condeso@egret.org or call (415) 663-8203 ext. 401. Of special note is the Heron and Egret Project. Now heading into its 28th year, this is a great opportunity for new and experienced naturalists. Patience, love of nature, and the ability to identify the focal species (Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Black-crowned Night-Heron, and Cattle Egret) are all that are required. See <https://sites.google.com/site/northbayhep/> for more information.

**Ocean Song Farm & Wilderness Center** seeks volunteers with some experience identifying birds for checking bluebird nest boxes as part of The California Bluebird Recovery Program (CBRP) approximately two times a month late March-July. A small stipend is available to help offset transportation costs to Ocean Song, approximately a 40-minute drive from Santa Rosa. A monitoring schedule will be coordinated so boxes are checked weekly. This program was coordinated for many years by devoted volunteer (and MAS member) Phil Persons who passed away in July 2016. A total of 25 nest boxes will be monitored. Ocean Song is a 360-acre property, home to a 240-acre wilderness preserve, education programs, a large wild-life habitat garden and small organic farm. It is five miles west of Occidental at 19100 Coleman Valley. If interested in volunteering, please contact Lisa Baiter (707) 570-6873 or designsoflisa@gmail.com. Ocean Song: [www.oceansong.org](http://www.oceansong.org).

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.

## May 2017 calendar

### *Thursday, May 4, 7:00 PM*

**BOARD MEETING.** Sonoma County Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway Avenue, Santa Rosa. For agenda information, contact Susan Kirks at [susankirks@sbcglobal.net](mailto:susankirks@sbcglobal.net)

### *Saturday, May 6, 7:30 AM to 3:00 PM*

**PINE FLAT ROAD.** A bird-rich outing, exploring the length of Pine Flat Rd. We will meet before (west of) the first bridge on Pine Flat Rd., east of its intersection with Hwy 128, north of Healdsburg, then combine into as few cars as possible. Bring Lunch. Leader: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115.

### *Monday, May 15, 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM*

**ANNUAL MEETING AND POTLUCK.** First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa. 6:00 PM - Potluck dinner; 7:00 PM - installation of officers and speaker, "Sonoma County's Natural World."

### *Wednesday, May 17, 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM*

**BODEGA BAY.** Bird Walk at Bodega Bay Harbor and environs. To meet the group, take Doran Park Road from Highway 1 at the southern end of Bodega Bay harbor, then enter 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](mailto:t.sisyphus@comcast.net), 707-546-1812.

### *Friday, May 19*

**BIRD FESTIVAL AT LINCOLN SCHOOL.** Bird appreciation and nature activities at Lincoln Elementary School, 850 W. 9th Street, Santa Rosa. For information or to volunteer, contact Janeann Erickson at [erickson@ap.net](mailto:erickson@ap.net).

### *Saturday, May 20, 7:15 AM to 3:00 PM*

**NORTH GEYSERS ROAD.** This trip visits a very rich and underappreciated area of Sonoma County. We expect birds not seen on other trips, with lots of breeding activity. Meet at the Park and Ride lot adjacent to the PGE substation on River Rd., just west off Hwy 101. We will need to combine into as few cars as possible, as parking is very limited along the road. Bring lunch. Leader: Bill Doyle, 483-8773.

## Your Habitat Garden

by Cheryl Harris

Madrone Audubon is currently developing a new program to promote planting of local California native plants in our Sonoma gardens, schools & businesses to provide much needed healthy and diverse habitats for our birds, butterflies and pollinators.

If you have already established a native habitat garden, please share your story with us! If you are new to this concept and interested in including more natives in your landscape to support our birds and wildlife, stay tuned. We are developing handouts and other resources which will be available soon. In the meantime, take a look at the websites listed in our Feb-March *Leaves* newsletter – especially our Madrone and National Audubon websites: [www.MadroneAudubon.org/birds-attracting-birds.php](http://www.MadroneAudubon.org/birds-attracting-birds.php) and [Audubon.org/plantsforbirds](http://Audubon.org/plantsforbirds). AND – watch for upcoming local events. UC Master Gardeners will be offering several presentations on gardening with natives in April, and the California Native Plant Society will be offering garden tours in May. Watch for activities and events like these in your newspaper and postings on our website and our Madrone Facebook pages. However, for the most up to date information, join our Habitat gardening email notification list. Send a note or call Cheryl Harris [cheryleh70@gmail.com](mailto:cheryleh70@gmail.com), 707-294-6423.

## 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.

## Observations

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

Hooded Merganser (15+)	2/12	Laguna de Santa Rosa, via paddling	JC
Hooded Merganser (fem.)	1/31	Shollenberger Park	G & AW
Eurasian Wigeon (2)	2/3	Doran Pond, Bodega Bay	DF
Tufted Duck (2)	1/26	Huichica Creek, Napa Co. (female, imm. male)	MB
Blue-winged Teal (4)	2/3	Flooded fields near Stony Point Rd. / Todd Rd.	WD
Snow Goose (ad.)	Jan.	Shollenberger Park	M.Ob
Snow Goose (imm.)	1/30	Bodega Farm Pond	SC
Greater White-fronted Goose (2)	1/30	Carmody Rd. (North) pond	SC
Tundra Swan (2)	1/29	Estero Americano area, seen while paddling	BT
Red-necked Grebe (1)	1/30-2/5	Las Gallinas treatment ponds, Marin Co.	BB, et al
Black-legged Kittiwake (1)	1/15	Porto Bodega	SC
Caspian Tern (2)	1/16	Tomaes Bay	DM
Franklin's Gull (winter adult)	1/14	S. of Bel Marin Keyes/ lagoons	MF
Ross' Gull (2nd Ca. record)	1/12-14	Pillar Point Harbor, San Mateo Co.	DB, M.Ob
Sadly this bird succumbed to attack by two Peregrine Falcons on 1/14, while many gasped in despair.			
Black-tailed Gull	1/13	Point Pinos, John Denver Beach	M.Ob
Northern Gannet	1/11	Pillar Point Harbor jetty	DP
Black Vulture	Jan.	Bohemian Creamery area	M.Ob
Bald Eagle (ad.)	1/30	Bodega Harbor	SC
Bald Eagle (ad.)	2/10	Lake Sonoma area; below dam/spillway	JCo
Bald Eagle (2nd yr.)	2/10	Shollenberger Park	ES
Prairie Falcon	1/5	Ellis Creek ponds	RB
Common Gallinule (2)	1/30	Salmon Creek ponds	SC
Red-naped Sapsucker	2/14	Spring Lake Park, near Jackrabbit picnic area	BO
Gray Jay (4)	1/27	Gualala Point Regional Park Campground	SC
Costa's Hummingbird (male)	12/31-1/1	Boyes Hot Springs, E. of #12.	GC
Allen's Hummingbird (male)	1/26	Sebastopol	SC
Allen's Hummingbird (male)	2/5	Alman Marsh (displaying)	ES
Rufous Hummingbird (male)	3/1	Sebastopol	SC
Cliff Swallow (1)	3/3	Shollenberger Park, near bridge/fmr. nestsite	GH
Great-tailed Grackle (1)	3/3	Shollenberger Park, singing	GH
Mountain Bluebird (2)	2/1	Drake's Corner, N. of Drakes Beach (since Nov.)	JW
Lucy's Warbler	1/24	Birch Rd.; Bolinas Mesa neighborhood	RDIG
Nelson's Sparrow	1/24	Corte Madera Marshes, off Harbor Dr.	ME, et al
Harris' Sparrow	Jan-Feb	Las Gallinas treatment ponds	M.Ob
Red Crossbill (1)	3/2	Green Valley Rd. tall conifers	JC

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## Madrone Audubon Society

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April/May 2017

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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](mailto:info@madroneaudubon.org).

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