



Madrone LEAVES

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

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Number 5

Helping Wildlife Move, Live, and Survive

by Susan Kirks and Diane Hichwa

Wildlife corridors have emerged as an essential focus of conservation action. Loss of habitat, habitat fragmentation from development, and obstruction of habitat by a myriad of human-related causes diminish and can destroy the ability for wildlife to move in natural patterns across land.

Imagine being in a room and wanting to go to another room “down the hall” in your house. You begin to walk to what you know was once an open doorway, only to discover a complete blockage – with stacks of boxes, shelves, and multiple items solidly preventing you from taking your intended path. You simply can’t get to the hallway – or the corridor – you once accessed to walk from one room to another. Both rooms are parts of your house, important for your life in a variety of ways. Perhaps one room is the kitchen with your nutritional sources and the other is a living room where you rest and share time with others. Translation for wildlife: The challenges faced in trying to forage, hunt, and seek water in habitat, moving from one area to another, become insurmountable. The critical importance of sustaining species biodiversity becomes impossible, with an inability to access habitat and locate other members of your species.

A few years ago, California Assemblymember Marc Levine (D-Marin) successfully introduced and facilitated passage of forward-thinking legislation in California. AB 498 (Chapter 625, Statutes of 625) defined wildlife corridors in California law and created a means to protect and restore the function of wildlife corridors. Assemblymember Levine then authored AB 2087 (Chapter 455, Statutes of 2016) which created Regional Conservation Investment Strategies, a new conservation planning tool to support regional views of conservation actions and a mechanism to approach priorities and preservation and restoration of wildlife corridors.

In Summer 2016, Assemblymember Levine convened a meeting of many conservation organizations, including Madrone Audubon, to discuss wildlife corridors in Sonoma and Marin Counties as well as the broader San Francisco Bay

Area, and how we could collaborate and mutually support goals of preservation.

In December 2016, US Congressman Don Beyer (D-VA, 8th) introduced the Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act of 2016, H.R. 6448 which is:

“A bill to establish the National Wildlife Corridors System to provide for the protection and restoration of native fish, wildlife, and plant species and their habitats in the United States

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GENERAL MEETING

First United Methodist Church • 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa
Monday, April 16, 2018, 7:00 PM

“50 Years of Birds in Sonoma County”

As we approach the end of our 50th Anniversary year in Sonoma County, Tom Reynolds’ exquisite photography and videography will support a presentation by Peter Leveque. Peter’s presentation will also be supported by data compiled by Jeff



Madrone Audubon’s steadfast logo for 50 years

Holtzman from our over 50 years of participation in Christmas Bird Counts. Both Peter and Jeff are former Madrone Audubon Chapter Presidents Peter will also share some highlights of our Chapter’s

activities and conservation action during our 50 years, as we move forward and Sonoma County continues its recovery process. National Audubon is acknowledging 2018 as “The Year of the Bird.” Peter’s presentation will complement the national campaign underway to understand and appreciate the important legal protections for birds and wildlife as well as the wonders of the bird world, to appreciate and share.

Peter Leveque is a retired Santa Rosa Junior College Biology professor, past President of Madrone Audubon, and Co-Chair of the Christmas Bird Count for our Chapter.

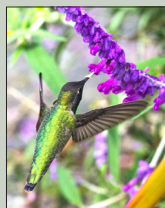
ANNUAL MEETING

First United Methodist Church • 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa
Monday, May 21, 2018, 6:00 PM

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. **Installation of officers, a special announcement, and speaker: 7:00 PM**

“Mutualism: A Lesson in Perspective”

Our world, in every aspect, is interconnected. Mutualism is everywhere - from the foundation of coral reefs to the very cells that compose us - but few would know it. Even biologists rarely discuss the underlying significance of this type of symbiosis. Join us for an intriguing discussion on evidence for why mutualism is so foundational for ecological systems, how it can be applied to human systems, and why following this type of natural philosophy would solve the human predicament.



Mutualism in action
Courtesy of Jocelyn Knight

Joe Mueller has been teaching biology at the College of Marin for 29 years. Of the 15 different courses he has taught at COM his subjects of particular interest include ecology, marine biology, ornithology and environmental science. Taking a holistic approach to science, Joe emphasizes the need to understand the reasons we have become so disconnected from the very planetary ecosystems we depend on. An animal lover by nature Joe tends an animal orphan farm where he loves spending time with an assortment of critters ranging from llamas to lizards. Joe is the recipient of the 2008 Terwilliger Environmental Award and has developed and directs the Natural History Program at College of Marin.



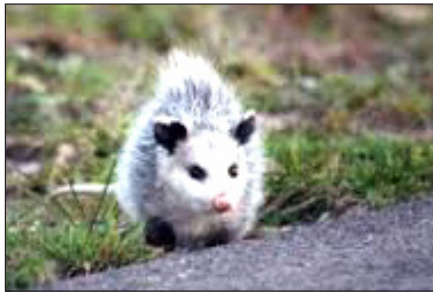
HELPING WILDLIFE

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that have been diminished by habitat loss, degradation, fragmentation, and obstructions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, Agriculture, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.” (Congressional Record, Volume 162, 2016).

(Note the date of introduction. This proposed legislation appears to be in an extended committee process.)

Can we do more locally, regionally, and statewide in California to support wildlife corridor identification, awareness, and preservation? The answer is YES.



Opossum at road edge *Courtesy of humansociety.org*

In June 2018, we recommend our members cast a YES vote for California Proposition 68: *The Parks, Environment and Water Bond*. This legislatively referred bond act would authorize \$4 billion in general obligation bonds for state and local parks, environmental protection projects, water infrastructure and flood protection projects. Also included in the bond measure is funding to protect wildlife corridors.

If passed, Proposition 68 will provide to state agencies:

- \$18 million for wildlife conservation, including wildlife corridors and connectivity, with priority for projects that protect wildlife corridors, including wildlife corridors threatened by urban development
- \$5 million for protection of habitat associated with estuarine lagoons and coastal wildlife areas
- \$5 million for the development of regional conservation investment strategies that are not otherwise funded pursuant to Section 800 of the Streets and Highways Code or any other law
- \$50 million for capital improvements that address the Department of Fish and Wildlife’s backlog of deferred maintenance
- \$20 million for acquisition, development, rehabilitation, restoration, protection, and expansion of wildlife corridors and open space to improve connectivity and reduce barriers between habitat areas

- \$10 million for the California Waterfowl Habitat Program
- At least \$25 million for projects to restore rivers and streams in support of fisheries and wildlife, including, but not limited to, reconnection of rivers with their flood plains, riparian and side channel habitat restoration activities, and restoration and protection of upper watershed forests and meadow systems that are important for fish and wildlife resources



Young badger on the move *Courtesy of Andy LaCasse*

- \$300 million for multi-benefit flood protection projects that achieve public safety improvements and measurable fish and wildlife enhancement, including, but not limited to, land acquisition and easements necessary for these projects
- \$52 million for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, restoration, protection, and expansion of habitat that furthers the implementation of natural community conservation plans
- At least \$25 million for state parks, wildlife habitat and enhancement of natural resources, including acquisition, rehabilitation, restoration, protection, and expansion of wildlife corridors and projects that improve connectivity and reduce barriers between habitat areas
- \$60 million to improve wildlife and fish passage
- At least \$30 million dollars to improve conditions for fish and wildlife in streams, rivers, wildlife refuges, wetland habitat areas, and estuaries
- \$20 million for coastal forest watersheds, including projects that provide habitat for fish and wildlife

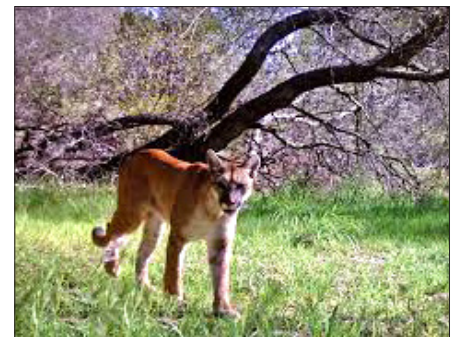


Doe and fawn *Courtesy of Fawn Rescue*

- \$35 million for projects that conserve, protect and restore marine wildlife and coastal ecosystems. (EEC, Sacramento, March 2018)

Many Bay Area organizations, including Sonoma Land Trust, Audubon Canyon Ranch, Bay Area

Open Space Council members, and Sonoma Ecology Center have focused energies and efforts to identify and work toward land acquisition and open space preservation, protecting areas described as regional critical linkages for wildlife movement. In South Sonoma County, following 10 years of direct observation and documentation of wildlife movement, focusing on American Badger (*Taxidea taxus*), a colleague and I in the nonprofit Paula Lane Action Network identified and documented a wildlife corridor in the West Petaluma Hills. The Paula Lane Nature Preserve where Madrone Audubon sponsors our Phenology Project is centrally located in this corridor. We observed and documented our wildlife sightings and patterns of movement on a daily basis (2000-2010). The Paula Lane property is the first property to be permanently conserved in the newly identified corridor. The corridor extends south from Paula Lane in West Petaluma to Helen Putnam Regional Park and the Kelly Creek property west of Windsor Drive, a property currently being advocated for preservation. The corridor extends north and northwest toward Cotati and Penngrove, as well as west to Marin Creek. An additional 4 years of monitoring habitat and wildlife movement (2010-2014),



Mountain lion *Courtesy of fus.org*

as well as verifying American Badger sightings and habitat areas, revealed the West Petaluma corridor connected to two additional wildlife corridors: One extending to the Marin County coast, to Pt. Reyes National Seashore, and one extending along Bodega Highway to the Sonoma County coast.

Combined efforts of large organizations with a broad vision to regional habitat and corridor connectivity and focused efforts of naturalists to identify critically important areas of wildlife movement may be an effective combination to create a whole understanding of where our wildlife is, what their needs are, and how they naturally move, and live.

Please join our Board of Directors in endorsing Proposition 68 and voting YES on this important bond measure in June 2018. Together, we can make a difference for wildlife to be able to move, live and survive.



2018 Year of the Bird

Join the National Audubon Society and our local Chapter, plus National Geographic, BirdLife International, and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in a year-long celebration of birds.

In 2018, we mark the centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the most powerful and important bird-protection law ever passed. In honor of this milestone, nature lovers around the world are joining forces to celebrate the “Year of the Bird” and commit to protecting birds today and for the next hundred years.

We never need a reason to celebrate birds, but in 2018 Audubon, Cornell & National Geographic are making an *especially* big deal of them. That’s because not only is it the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)—a pivotal piece of legislation that continues to save countless birds’ lives—but birds are also facing many new and serious threats, including attacks on the MBTA itself. And so, it’s with great excitement that Audubon has teamed up with National Geographic, BirdLife International, and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology to officially make 2018 the Year of the Bird.



Migrating Waterbirds Courtesy of Cheryl Harris

So, what is Year of the Bird? Throughout the year, Audubon and its partners, along with more than 150 other participating organizations, is celebrating birds across all channels—magazines, television, social media, and more. To make Year of the Bird a true success, though, we need you. Each month we’ve asked people to take simple actions that will help birds, so make sure you get monthly action newsletters by going to Audubon.org and clicking the “count me in” link. You can find out more ways to #birdyourworld at the official Year of the Bird website: www.birdyourworld.org.

And, good news: Spring is here! Not only does that mean migrants are arriving, but it’s also time to get out in the garden. So, for March’s Year of the Bird action, everyone is asked to help birds by giving them the best backyard (or stoop, or balcony, or wherever) by improving habitat with native plants, providing fresh water, cover and safe places to raise their young. How do you know if a plant is native? That’s what Audubon’s handy native plants database is for. Just go to

Audubon.org plug in your zip code and you’ll find native plants for your area—and the birds that love them. For details and photos of our local Sonoma County native plants, check out the CNPS chapter website: milo.baker.cnps.org.

For additional information and to join the Year of the Bird: www.birdyourworld.org and select “count me in.”

If you take care of birds, you take care of most of the environmental problems in the world.
Dr. Thomas Lovejoy, Biologist
Environmental Science & Policy Professor
George Mason University, Virginia
“Godfather of Biodiversity”

BIRD-A-THON BAT-Update

by Carolyn Greene

2018 BAT is in full-swing but there are still opportunities to contribute - as a birder/counter to help on a “big day” and/or as a sponsor of one or more teams. BAT is THE major fundraiser for Madrone Audubon, and supports our Lincoln School program, Christmas Bird Count, Audubon for Youth, Audubon Adventures and our many conservation efforts, including the West 9th Street nesting support project and the Phenology Project.

You can sponsor any team by making a single donation, or pledge per species observed. Contributions of any size are welcome. Contact any of the team leaders or members, or Carolyn Greene at cgnpark@icloud.com to participate. We will also provide the opportunity for signups and sponsors at our April and May general meetings.

We thank the teams and their leaders: Feather Dusters(Diane Hichwa), Burrowing Owlers (Susan Kirks), Zonotripias (Bill Doyle), Grey-headed Seersuckers (Ken Wilson), March Madness (Gene Hunn) and Chickadiddies (Carolyn Greene/Asenath LaRue) and all the team members.

Donations and pledges are due by Monday, May 14. All donations are tax deductible.

Volunteers Needed for Lincoln School Bird Day

by Janet Bosshard

Every May, the Madrone Chapter of the Audubon Society gives a half-day program for all the classes at Lincoln Elementary School on West 9th Street in Santa Rosa. This was initiated in part because of the West 9th Street Rookery, where Great and Snowy Egrets and Black-crowned Night Herons roost in the trees in the middle of the street. Our friend, Kathie Noguchi, who was a teacher at Lincoln Elementary School, was instrumental in keeping this program going through the years, and we will continue her legacy.

We are looking for volunteers to help, hours approximately 8:00 AM to 12:30 PM, Friday, May 11, 2018. The activities range from art projects, garden talks; worms, butterflies, and bats, to slide shows, live birds from the Bird Rescue Center, visits to The Rookery near the school, etc. Please let me know if you are available to help on this day.

Contact Janet, one of the volunteer coordinators, bosshard@sonic.net or 707-526-5883 if you can help!



Veronica Invites Us to Her Gardens

by Susan Kirks

Many of our members carefully nurture yard spaces and land, to support plants, feeders and birdbaths for birds and wildlife. As our county land and habitat areas, and our community, recover from the October 2017 tragic wildfires, our yard habitats and natural areas have become even more needed and essential.

Our February 2018 membership meeting presentation, *Wildscaping for Songbirds*, provided great information and inspiration about how we can wildscape with native plants and manage land areas, tiny, small or larger, to support native birds and wildlife. Our presenter, Veronica Bowers, past Madrone Audubon President and Christmas Bird Count Chair, is also the founder and director of Native Songbird Care and Conservation in Sebastopol.



Native Plant Garden, NSCC Courtesy of Veronica Bowers

Following the February presentation, Veronica generously offered a field trip for our members. She opened her gardens for a tour on March 6th. Fourteen Madrone Audubon members joined together to learn about the care given in the songbird hospital and Veronica's gardening approach to support habitat for birds on her 1.5-acre property. As Veronica has shared, "Our Songbird Sanctuary Gardens at NSCC are a 1.5-acre paradise of songbird habitat comprised mostly of California native plants and trees. The plants in the garden were selected with songbirds in mind, providing food and shelter throughout the year and nesting sites during spring and summer. We celebrate a large diversity of songbirds year-round. Over 30 species have nested on the property and over 80 species have been recorded on the property

at various times of the year..." (Swallow Tales, Winter 2017/18 newsletter).

All of our senses were heightened as we passed by filled birdbaths, walked on a gently mulched and winding path, experiencing the fullness and diversity of plantings in the gardens, plants coalescing in groups, or standing singly, to support habitat – cover, food sources of seeds or berries, or nest building material. It was quite wonderful – and a healing experience!



Veronica Bowers explains garden life Courtesy of Susan Kirks

We admired Monkey flower, De la Mena (a native Verbena), Lizard's tail, California buckwheat and Coyote Brush bush. We saw how a few non-native bushes and plants may provide cover and berries and can co-exist with native plantings, but be secondary contributors to the garden space. I was most interested as she discussed Deer Grass she had planted (observed to be used by Hooded Orioles for nesting building material), as we recently planted Deer Grass at the Paula Lane Nature Preserve, hoping to compost and water and mulch so it survives and we can add more of these native grasses to the grassland habitat in West Petaluma.

Native Songbird Conservation and Care is a 501c3 nonprofit organization and volunteer orientations provide opportunities to be involved in helping our native songbirds. If you would like to consider volunteering and making a difference, please consider attending upcoming NSCC volunteer orientations: Thursday, April 26, 6-8pm. Saturday, April 28, 10am-12pm. Questions and information about volunteering: Email: volunteer@nativesongbirdcare.org, or phone 707-484-6502, or visit the NSCC web site at www.nativesongbirdcare.org.

On behalf of Madrone Audubon, thank you to Veronica Bowers for her dedication and sharing her experiences with us to help care for our native songbirds and support habitat and conservation.

Fawn Rescue Donation

In light of the losses resulting from the wildfires in Sonoma County in October 2017, the Madrone Audubon Board of Directors voted to donate funds normally allocated for annual Chapter awards to a local wildlife conservation organization whose operations were directly affected by the fires. Fawn Rescue of Kenwood was selected as the recipient of the \$300 donation. Homes of the Fawn Rescue founder, Marjorie Davis, and animal care coordinator, Matt Wolfe, were destroyed in the fire, along with fawn rehabilitation pens and a host of animal care equipment. Donations can be made to Fawn Rescue at PO Box 1622, Sonoma, CA 95476, or through their website www.fawnrescue.org, to support their mission of caring for injured, ill, or orphaned fawns.

APPRECIATED DONATIONS

In Honor of..

Evelyn Berman
by Robert Berman

In Memory of..

David Carlyle
by Jean Martin

Kathie Noguchi
by Claudia Norby

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome, New Members

Freestone
Robin Rossman

Guerneville
Teresa & Miles Tuffli

Santa Rosa
East West Café
Barbara & William Kendrick
Terry Teplitz

Sonoma
Claudia Rannikar



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 2018 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.

Thursday, April 5, 7:00 PM

BOARD MEETING. Sonoma County Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway Avenue, Santa Rosa. For agenda information, contact Susan Kirks at susankirks@sbcglobal.net.



Green views of spring

Courtesy of Tom Reynolds

Saturday, April 7, 8:30 AM to Noon

SANTA ROSA CREEK AT WILLOWSIDE ROAD. We will walk from Willowside Road to Delta Pond and back. Expect a variety of riparian residents and recently-arrived migrant species. 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 16, 7:00 PM

GENERAL MEETING. First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa. "50 Years of Birds in Sonoma County." This is a free event and all are welcome.

Saturday, April 21, 7:30 AM to Noon

RIVERFRONT REGIONAL PARK. A new Saturday walk, to a great birding location. Spring should be in full swing, with lots of singing birds and nesting activity. From Windsor, take Windsor River Rd west, then head south on Eastside Rd for about one mile. The park entrance will be on the right. Meet in the parking lot near the redwoods and picnic area. We will walk the loop trail around the lakes and check out the Russian River view as well. There is an entry fee of \$7 if you do not have a park pass. Leader: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115.

May 2018 Calendar

Thursday, May 3, 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, May 5, 7:30 AM to 3:00 PM

PINE FLAT ROAD. A bird-rich outing, exploring the length of this unique road. If you are interested in carpooling from Santa Rosa, contact the trip leader a few days in advance to make arrangements; otherwise, turn onto Pine Flat Rd., east of its intersection with Hwy 128, north of Healdsburg, then park on the right next to the vineyards just past Red Winery Rd., and before the bridge. At Pine Flat, we will combine into as few cars as possible, head to the top, and work our way back down. Bring Lunch. Leader: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115.

Friday, May 11, 8:00 AM to 12:30 PM

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY. Pitch in to help Madrone Audubon and partnering conservation organizations at the annual half-day nature celebration at Lincoln Elementary School on West 9th Street in Santa Rosa. Contact Janet Bosshard - bosshard@sonic.net or 707-526-5883 – to see how you can help.

Saturday, May 19, 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 to carpool at the Park and Ride lot adjacent to the PGE substation on River Rd., just west of Hwy 101. We will need to combine into as few cars as possible, as parking is very limited along the road. Bring lunch. Leader: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115.

Monday, May 21, 7:00 PM

ANNUAL MEETING and POTLUCK. First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa. "Mutualism: A Lesson in Perspective." This is a free event and all are welcome.

Saturday, June 2, 7:30 AM to 3:00 PM

WILLOW CREEK and DUNCANS MILLS. If you are interested in carpooling from Santa Rosa, contact the trip leader a few days in advance to make arrangements; otherwise, meet at the Duncans Mills parking lot east of Moscow Rd. Turn right as you enter the lot, to the right of the Gold Coast Bakery. We will carpool to Willow Creek Rd, then walk sections of the road, covering riparian and chaparral/grassland habitats. Bring lunch for Duncans Mills, with a final stop at Cassini Ranch for Wood Ducks. Leader: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115.



Western Bluebird

Courtesy of Gordon Beebe



OUT & ABOUT

Olympic Birdfest

Sponsored by the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society
April 13-15, 2018

Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tours, live auction & raffle, gala banquet, and more. Our featured speaker: nature guide/photographer Claudio Vidal. Join our festival pre-trip: a three-day, two-night birding/sightseeing cruise of the San Juan Islands, April 10-12, 2018. Register separately at www.pugetsoundexpress.com/audubon. Extend your festival with our Neah Bay post-trip on April 16-17, 2018: two days exploring northwest coastal Washington. Birdfest registration at www.olympicbirdfest.org.

Welcome Back Herons in Lake County

Almond Marsh Forest Preserve
Saturday, April 21, 2018, 8:00 AM to Noon

Join Auduboners in Lake County for their annual Welcome Back Herons event. Volunteers will be available with scopes and binoculars to answer questions and provide you with updates on the nesting of the Great Blue Herons and other water birds. Almond Marsh is located on Almond Road one-half mile south of Rte. 120. For information, go to <http://www.lakecountyaudubon.org/program-schedule/>

Eco-Friendly Garden Tour/Open House and Native Plant Sale, CA Native Plant Society, Milo Baker Chapter **Saturday, May 5, 10:00am-4:00pm**

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

Free. No RSVP required for the Open House. Stop by the Laguna Environmental Center for this special Saturday Open House celebrating spring and the native plant garden. This is an educational event focused on native plants of the Laguna Watershed, as well as the collaborative restoration, conservation science, and environmental education work being done within the watershed.

Wildlife Camera Walk, Mayacamas Preserves

Pine Flat Road, Healdsburg, CA 95448
Sunday, May 6, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Spend the morning learning about some of the wildlife that inhabit the Preserves with Ginny Fifield, Wildlife Camera Specialist, Audubon Canyon Ranch's (ACR's) Living with Lions team member, and Modini Mayacamas Preserves volunteer. We'll learn about identifying field signs of mountain lions, bobcat, coyotes and more. Based on what we find, we'll guess what we might see on two wildlife cameras, then we'll check to see if the field signs match the pictures! Total hike is about 3 miles. Pre-registration is required. More information about this and other ACR-sponsored nature events can be found at <https://www.egret.org/nature-hikes>.



Ring-necked Duck pair

Courtesy of Gordon Beebe

Are you a National Audubon member?
Please consider joining our local chapter, Madrone Audubon.
(see membership form, back page)

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.

Phenology Project Volunteers


Madrone Audubon sponsored citizen science research at the *Paula Lane Nature Preserve*.

Accepting new volunteers for long-term, climate change impact project.

Visit 1 hour monthly, observe for 9 avian, 2 mammal & 4 plant species. Enter observations in Nature's Notebook/ National Phenology Project.

To volunteer, contact: Susan Kirks, Madrone Audubon President. 707-241-5548, susankirks@sbcglobal.net

(Beginning birders/naturalists welcomed)



NEWS UPDATE

Petaluma Wetlands Ramsar Designation Approved

In the December 2017-January 2018 *Leaves*, we shared the good news that the Petaluma Wetlands application was at last moving forward. Now, as of March 2018, we received wonderful news from the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture: The designation is official. What does this mean? The Petaluma Wetlands, the northernmost area of the San Francisco Bay Estuary, has received the honor of inclusion, designated as a Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance.

On February 1, 2013, the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture issued the following informative press release:

San Francisco Bay Confirmed a Global Treasure

[San Francisco, CA] In concert with World Wetlands Day (February 2, 2013) – Confirming its vital role in the natural health of the hemisphere, San Francisco Bay/ Estuary has been designated a “Wetland of International Importance” under the Convention on Wetlands, also known as the Ramsar Convention. San Francisco Bay is home to more than 1,000 species of mammals, birds, invertebrates and more than 130 species of fish – all of which enhance the lives and livelihoods of Bay Area residents.

While this designation will not result in new legally-binding protections for wildlife and habitat in the Bay, it does focus international pressure on agencies to step up conservation efforts and may lead to additional funding for wetland restoration.

“This designation should be a point of pride for anyone living in the larger San Francisco Bay Area,” said Beth Huning, Coordinator of the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture. “Despite intense urban pressures, San Francisco Bay nonetheless endures as one of our country’s great natural treasures.”

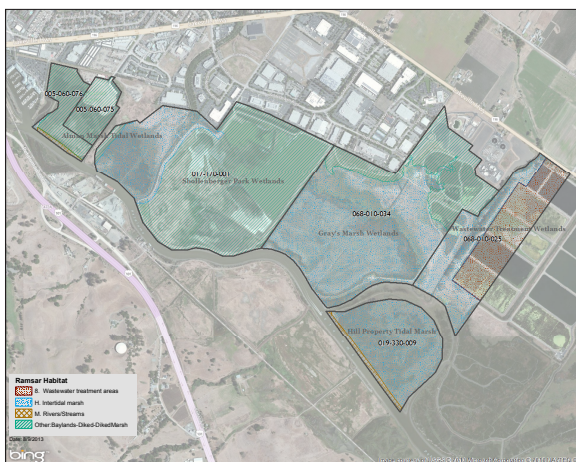
The designation is the result of nearly four years of work on the part of member organizations of the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture, which coordinates a number of public and non-profit agencies, landowners, and the business community to protect and restore wetlands for migratory birds and other wildlife.

The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance is an intergovernmental treaty adopted in 1971 that provides a voluntary framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. The Ramsar Convention is the only global environmental treaty that deals with a particular ecosystem and promotes the “wise use of all wetlands.” The United States signed the treaty in 1987.

This special designation is awarded based on science. Decades of research from conservation organizations such as PRBO Conservation Science, Audubon California, San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, and the US Geological Service, among others, summarized results on common and endangered wildlife to make a compelling case for this award.

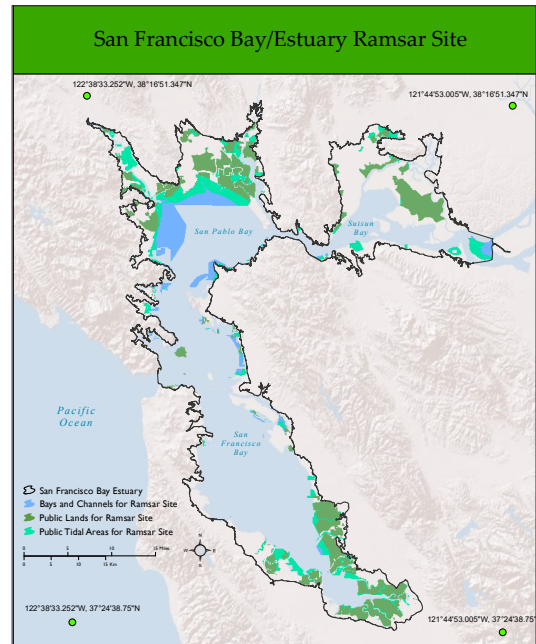
The designated site includes wetlands and waters of the nearly 400,000 acres in and around the Bay, and encompasses a variety of landowners – both public and private – dedicated to protecting habitat for birds and other wildlife.

This designation is a testimony of the power of people and what can happen when they join forces to protect what they love. “It is a great day for the Bay and a gesture of promise for its’ future protection. We have entered an era of restoration, a renaissance of the Bay”, said Beth Huning. “This international designation validates not only the natural and aesthetic values of the Bay, but also the investments we have made and will need to collaboratively restore it.”



Petaluma Wetlands Mapping

Courtesy of GreenInfo Network 2013



Ramsar site map; the Petaluma Wetlands Mapping
Courtesy of GreenInfo Network 2013

Madrone Audubon expresses our gratitude to Beth Huning, Coordinator of the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture, for her steadfast follow-ups, patience with our inquiries, and support of the Petaluma Wetlands application. The application, submitted by the City of Petaluma in 2014, was researched and prepared by Madrone Audubon and our then Petaluma Wetlands Committee, led by the late Dr. Gerald Moore and *Leaves* Co-Editor Mary Edith Moore. We were pleased to be able to share this good news with Mary Edith. Madrone is proposing the City of Petaluma accept the Ramsar designation in Dr. Gerald Moore’s memory, as an example of his longstanding advocacy for wetlands conservation, and include this memorial expression in public information about Ramsar posted in interpretive kiosks at Shollenberger Park, Alman Marsh and Ellis Creek.

The maps accompanying this update can be viewed in color online in the April-May *Leaves* issue at www.madroneaudubon.org, in our Newsletter section.



Continuing Advocacy Against Offshore Drilling

In the February-March 2018 issue of *Leaves*, we expressed the strong opposition of Madrone Audubon to the January 4th plan released by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke (pursuant to the Trump Executive Order of April 2017) that would allow new drilling off the Northern, Central and Southern California coasts and most of the East Coast. We are continuing to communicate on this issue in all appropriate ways, including the following comment prepared and submitted to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management by Madrone Conservation Committee Chair Diane Hichwa on March 9, 2018:

Kelly Hammerle
National Program Manager
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
U.S. Department of Interior

RE: Opposition to the Draft Proposed OCS Oil & Gas Leasing Program for 2019-2024

Dear Ms. Hammerle,

I am writing on behalf of the nearly 3000 members of Madrone Audubon Society of Santa Rosa and Sonoma County California to express our strong opposition to the Draft Proposed OCS Oil & Gas Leasing Program for 2019-2024.

The overreaching Draft Proposed OCS Program fails to balance resource potential with the environmental sensitivity and economic productivity of the various regions—including ours! -- and virtually ignores inevitable damage to sensitive marine life and important fisheries

We encourage you to stay with the 2017-2022 Program that was finalized in 2016. The new draft proposal contradicts the findings of the BOEM's prior drilling program for 2017-2022! Expanding oil and gas drilling in our oceans will increase risks to populations of marine wildlife off our coast. Sonoma County IS a coastal county and places high value on the marine mammals and the supporting web of life that feeds all the animals.

We also value our fishing industry and tourism industry, both of which are significant economic drivers in Sonoma County. All would be at increased risk from oil spill events like that of the Deepwater Horizon, animals would be at increased risk from ship strikes from expanded tanker transport operations, as well as increased risk from seismic surveys and the building of pipelines and platforms.

Additionally, tourism and recreation industries generate billions of dollars for us as a coastal county and coastal state, and for the nation as a whole. These industries depend on a healthy marine ecosystem.

Expanded oil drilling can negatively impact these industries. We object strongly to this proposed Five-Year Offshore Drilling Plan.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,
Diane Hichwa, Conservation Chair
Madrone Audubon Society of Sonoma County, CA
PO Box 1911, Santa Rosa CA 95402



Christmas Bird Count

Species	Number	Species	Number	Species	Number
Greater White-fronted Goose	4	Prairie Falcon	2	Pacific-slope Flycatcher	1
Brant	740	Virginia Rail	6	Hutton's Vireo	23
Canada Goose	116	Sora	1	Steller's Jay	170
Wood Duck	35	Common Gallinule	1	California Scrub-Jay	262
American Wigeon	42	American Coot	757	American Crow	296
Mallard	387	Black-bellied Plover	129	Common Raven	242
Northern Shoveler	2	Snowy Plover	44	Tree Swallow	29
Northern Pintail	6	Semipalmated Plover	8	Violet-green Swallow	2
Green-winged Teal	26	Killdeer	120	Barn Swallow	7
Cinnamon Teal	1	Black Oystercatcher	57	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	317
duck sp.	7	Spotted Sandpiper	2	Oak Titmouse	24
Canvasback	7	Willet	211	Bushtit	156
Ring-necked Duck	175	Whimbrel	12	Red-breasted Nuthatch	27
Redhead	2	Marbled Godwit	2482	White-breasted Nuthatch	20
Greater Scaup	18	Ruddy Turnstone	4	Pygmy Nuthatch	118
Lesser Scaup	350	Black Turnstone	55	Brown Creeper	32
Surf Scoter	958	Surfbird	35	House Wren	4
White-winged Scoter	3	Sanderling	200	Bewick's Wren	27
Black Scoter	2	Western Sandpiper	84	Pacific Wren (Winter)	17
Bufflehead	1070	Least Sandpiper	356	Marsh Wren	19
Common Goldeneye	152	Rock Sandpiper	1	Golden-crowned Kinglet	50
goldeneye sp.	1	Dunlin	422	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	230
Hooded Merganser	22	Wilson's Snipe	12	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	4
Common Merganser	36	Mew Gull	541	Wrentit	38
Red-breasted Merganser	24	Ring-billed Gull	134	Western Bluebird	326
Ruddy Duck	232	California Gull	573	Hermit Thrush	76
Wild Turkey	105	Herring Gull	320	American Robin	1088
California Quail	572	Thayer's Gull	4	Varied Thrush	38
Red-throated Loon	41	Western Gull	978	Northern Mockingbird	21
Pacific Loon	60	Glaucous-winged Gull	239	California Thrasher	1
Common Loon	70	gull hybrid	1	European Starling	945
Pied-billed Grebe	72	gull sp.	299	American Pipit	4
Horned Grebe	57	Pomeraine Jaeger	1	Cedar Waxwing	4
Red-necked Grebe	21	Common Murre	2847	Orange-crowned Warbler	4
Eared Grebe	151	Marbled Murrelet	29	Yellow-rumped Warbler	763
Western Grebe	435	Ancient Murrelet	10	Townsend's Warbler	33
Clark's Grebe	2	Cassin's Auklet	2	Common Yellowthroat	4
Aechmophorus sp.	5	Rhinoceros Auklet	5	Spotted Towhee	128
Northern Fulmar	32	murrelet sp.	4	California Towhee	180
Black-vented Shearwater	3	Rock Pigeon	30	Savannah Sparrow	24
Brandt's Cormorant	175	Band-tailed Pigeon	79	Fox Sparrow	157
Double-crested Cormorant	37	Eurasian Collared-Dove	246	Song Sparrow	218
Pelagic Cormorant	145	Mourning Dove	43	Lincoln's Sparrow	12
Brown Pelican	10	Barn Owl	7	White-throated Sparrow	6
Great Blue Heron	38	Western Screech-Owl	5	White-crowned Sparrow	851
Great Egret	63	Great Horned Owl	18	Golden-crowned Sparrow	762
Snowy Egret	58	Northern Pygmy Owl	1	sparrow sp.	16
Black-crowned Night-Heron	20	Burrowing Owl	5	Dark-eyed Junco	796
Turkey Vulture	326	Spotted Owl	1	Red-winged Blackbird	248
Osprey	3	Short-eared Owl	5	Tricolored Blackbird	14
White-tailed Kite	36	Anna's Hummingbird	232	Western Meadowlark	133
Bald Eagle	2	Allen's Hummingbird	1	Brewer's Blackbird	1079
Northern Harrier	51	Belted Kingfisher	22	blackbird sp.	60
Sharp-shinned Hawk	10	Acorn Woodpecker	164	Purple Finch	16
Cooper's Hawk	18	Red-breasted Sapsucker	15	House Finch	137
accipiter sp.	3	Nuttall's Woodpecker	29	Pine Siskin	356
Red-shouldered Hawk	64	Downy Woodpecker	25	House Sparrow	39
Red-tailed Hawk	275	Hairy Woodpecker	31	Lesser Goldfinch	10
Ferruginous Hawk	13	Yellow-shafted Flicker	1	American Goldfinch	6
Golden Eagle	1	Northern Flicker	82	goldfinch sp	2
American Kestrel	83	Pileated Woodpecker	4	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1
Merlin	5	Black Phoebe	172		
Peregrine Falcon	12	Say's Phoebe	28	Total of Individuals	30403



Madrone Audubon Society

Post Office Box 1911
Santa Rosa, California 95402

April/May 2018

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



**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY
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MADRONE LEAVES



Madrone Audubon Society meets on the third Monday of each month, except in June, July, August, and December. Meetings start at 7:00 PM at First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Dr., Santa Rosa. All membership meetings and walks are open to the public. Information: e-mail - info@madroneaudubon.org.

- President:** Susan Kirks - susankirks@sbcglobal.net 241-5548
- Vice President:** Position open
- Recording Secretary:** Position open
- Corresponding Secretary:** Susan Dean - susanepdean@gmail.com 360-481-2646
- Treasurer:** Christy Holmes - christyeholmes@gmail.com 805-895-6482
- Membership:** Questions to Susan Kirks (Position open) - susankirks@sbcglobal.net
- Conservation:** Diane Hichwa - dhichwa@earthlink.net 785-1922
- Education Kits:** Barbara Novak - b.novak34@gmail.com 795-3996
- Programs:** Position open
- Circulation:** Joannie Dranginis - joanhd@att.net 523-4373
- Junior Audubon:** Position open
- Outreach:** Position open
- Publicity Chair & Investment Advisory Committee Chair:**
Nancy Hair - doghaimancy@yahoo.com 823-1073
- Website Editor:** Gordon Beebe - gdbeebe@earthlink.net 583-3115
- Saturday Bird Walks:** Gordon Beebe - gdbeebe@earthlink.net 583-3115
- Bird-A-Thon Coordinator:** Carolyn Greene - cgnpark@yahoo.com 805-443-7289

- Audubon Adventures:** Carolyn Greene - cgnpark@yahoo.com 805-443-7289
- Leaves Editor:** Asenath LaRue - asenathlarue@gmail.com 608-293-1719
- Leaves Production:** Kris Hutchins - kris@hutchins1.net 477-8156
- Hospitality:** Linda Hammer - gardenladylee@aol.com 823-4389
- Observations:** Dan Nelson - birdsurf64@sbcglobal.net 479-2918
- ACR Rep:** Bryant Hichwa 785-1922
- Ex Officio Board Member:** Cheryl Harris - cheryleh70@gmail.com 294-6423
- Sonoma County Water Coalition Rep:** Paula Zerzan - pzerzan@comcast.net 935-1523
- BBA:** Gordon Beebe, gdbeebe@earthlink.net; Tiffany Erickson, tiffymm66@gmail.com
- IMBD:** Veronica Bowers - vlbowers@gmail.com 829-2955
- Christmas Bird Count:** Peter Leveque and Stacy Li - stacyli@sonic.net 566-7937
- Bird Rescue Center** 523-BIRD
- Native Songbird Care & Conservation** 484-6502
- Northern California Rare Bird Alert** 415-681-7422
- Audubon-California:** Gaylon Parsons - gparsons@audubon.org 415-644-4605
- National Audubon Society:** 225 Varick Street, NY, NY 10014 212-979-3000

Join Madrone Audubon – Support Your Local Chapter

Please complete this form if you wish to join Madrone Audubon or renew your Madrone membership

Please note: We are a chapter of National Audubon, but membership in and donations to Madrone Audubon are separate and support our local chapter. Membership and donations are tax deductible.

- New member Renewal
- Senior \$15 Basic Member \$20 Family \$30
- Sustaining \$50 Supporting \$100 Patron \$500

Madrone Audubon is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our tax identification number is 94-6172986

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please send my *Leaves* via email

Please make your check payable to “Madrone Audubon Society.”

Detach this panel and mail to: **Madrone Audubon Society,**

P.O. Box 1911, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Visit us on the Web at: <http://www.madroneaudubon.org>