



Madrone LEAVES

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

VOLUME 51 December 2017/January 2018 Number 3

Last Month, This Month, and October 2017

by Susan Kirks

This *Leaves* issue comes to our members after our Chapter gathered last month on November 20 for our membership meeting, a presentation by former President Gordon Beebe enjoyed by all, with friends greeting friends in a familiar location and our Board members expressing support for our community. We enjoyed plates of homemade cookies and refreshments, served consistently and generously by our Hospitality Chair, Linda Hammer. We shared and continue to share experiences of the last month, tragedy, relief, and hope for recovery.

Our next membership meeting is January 2018. We can anticipate a time to again come together as our Chapter members have for 50 years. Please see Program information about Ruthie Rudesill's presentation.

In October 2017, the United Methodist Church community on Montgomery Drive, like many organizations, citizens and agencies, mobilized in emergency response, providing shelter, meals, clothing and other services for evacuees and those in need. The fellowship room of the church was a focal point for these important services.

Our October 16 membership meeting was cancelled. Dr. Quinton Martins who leads Audubon Canyon Ranch's (ACR) Mountain Lion project, headquartered at Bouverie Preserve in Glen Ellen, was our scheduled October presenter. We anticipated an update from Dr. Martins. Many will remember his first presentation, accompanied by biologist Jeanne Wirka, last October 2017, which we all so enjoyed.

This program will be scheduled for next October 2018. October 15. The date is on the calendar. We look forward with interest and cautious hope to that time.

The fire impacts to ACR's Bouverie Preserve were significant. The effort is underway to assess impacts and damage and to take next steps related to insurance, FEMA, and sustaining the Bouverie organization during this process. Our Board thanks

Bryant Hichwa, our ACR Board representative, for his interface with ACR and us. Madrone Audubon's relationship with ACR is a long one, going back to 1979. Our Board has often enjoyed holding our annual planning meetings at Cypress Grove Research Center in Tomales or at Gilman Hall at Bouverie Preserve. We were just at the Bouverie Preserve this past August, planning for our Chapter's coming year and activities. The atmosphere provided to us was immensely supportive and also inspirational, in a long-cared-for natural setting that simply spoke for itself by its very existence, all around us. Julia Clothier, the Education Director, was on site during our meeting day and was so hospitable, expressing a warm welcome to our Board, so characteristic of the Bouverie organization, its staff, docents and volunteers.

In the ACR report to the Board during our annual planning meeting, Bryant shared more with us about the Fire Ecology specialist, Dr. Sasha Berleman, who joined the research team for Audubon Canyon Ranch.

Our Madrone Audubon Board moved into action upon learning about significant losses sustained by ACR during the October fires. On behalf of our Chapter, we were unanimous in our decision to donate \$4,000 to support funding for equipment replacement, to support the Mountain Lion Project continuing, in a situation of equipment loss of many, many thousands of dollars, with other equipment hopefully being procured or replaced soon.

Continued on page 2

GENERAL MEETINGS

First United Methodist Church • 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa

Monday, January 15, 2018, 7:00 PM

“South African Dream Safari (or how I fell in love with Hyenas)”

There is nowhere on Earth with more large animal wildlife diversity than Africa, including many bird species that are easily observed. Ruthie Rudesill will be sharing pictures and videos from her July 2016 dream trip to north-eastern South Africa.

Ruthie explored Kruger National Park, one of the biggest in the world, with good luck and looks at many species. Fabulous owls. Nile Crocodiles and Hippos on a golf course? Bats in the rafters? Hyenas eating the truck? Will share these adventures and many more.

She also explored the Indian Ocean coastal estuaries at Pt Lucia. A close encounter of the elephant kind in Mkuze Park. Away from the tourists, she explored the Midlands and Wakkerstrom areas higher in elevation near the Drakensberg Mountains, plus the amazing Dlinza Forest. Ruthie will also discuss cultural, social and historical aspects of South Africa.

Ruthie Rudesill is the President of the Redwood Regional Ornithological Society. She has a Wildlife degree from Humboldt State University. She has led and participated in many Christmas Bird Counts, surveys and field trips for thirty years. Ruthie maintains the records for rare birds in Sonoma County and sends quarterly reports to North American Birds (part of the American Birding Association).



Hyena Courtesy of Ruthie Rudesill



LAST MONTH

Continued from page 1

On October 31st, ACR Executive Director John Petersen shared in an email update the following:

...Through everything, I am struck by the confluence of events that occurred at Bowverie. Just last spring, Dr. Sasha Berleman, director of ACR's Fire Ecology Project, conducted prescribed burns within the preserve to promote ecological benefits and reduce the ability for grassland to carry fire. Despite the widespread impact of the Nuns Fire, the efficacy of these controlled burns offered us powerful imagery in the days following...those sites showed significantly less fire intensity than the surrounding landscape and helped moderate the fire's progression as it crossed Bowverie Preserve...



Bowverie Preserve (post-fire) Courtesy of John Petersen

John also shared about the Mountain Lion project: *...News from our mountain lion project, another program greatly impacted by the Nuns Fire, includes exciting sightings of an uncollared mama and her three kittens on the move as well as increased concern for the near-term survival of these big cats. Dr. Quinton Martins noted blackened paws on the kittens as well as on P5, our resident male. Are they black from walking through hot embers or cool ash? Will P5's ability to hunt be impacted or will his vast territory be diminished? We are anxious to restore program electronics and other equipment in order to track this young family's recovery...*

I want to personally thank Redwood Region Ornithological Society President Ruthie Rudesill and Monica Schwalbenberg-Peña of both RROS and Madrone Audubon, for their caring conversation and expressed sense of shared responsibility when we were all coincidentally present at Monica's Art Trails open studio in Bennett Valley on October 29. In those two weekends of the rescheduled Art Trails, Monica welcomed many to her open studio, regular visitors of recurring years and a new group of visitors, including several who experienced losses during the recent fires, and took time for an afternoon visit to locations of art and renewal, sometimes sharing their personal experiences while visiting.

Please see *Coming Together in December* on page 4 – and join us for activities in this important time of

personal healing and recording important citizen science information on behalf of birds and wildlife in Sonoma County.

As we begin to receive updates from conservation organizations on land and habitat impacts in Sonoma County, I was moved by Sonoma Land Trust's (SLT) outreach, describing Sonoma Valley lands and the strong interest in assessing for impacts to wildlife and how to be supportive. Sheri Cardo, Communications Director, deserves acknowledgment for her longstanding history of caring for animals and wildlife in general, which she brings to her role at Sonoma Land Trust. The sensitively worded outreach to members, supporters and friends of SLT embodied that awareness – of habitat and wildlife in habitat who may have been significantly impacted. We posted on our Madrone Audubon web site and Sheri shared in a communication that we were acting in any way possible, to place trays of water in yards and on edges of properties for birds and wildlife, and filling birdfeeders.

In October, Madrone Audubon was able to communicate via email with a concerned citizen who asked if the West 9th Street heron and egret nesting site had burned down. We were able to respond that West 9th Street was outside the immediate areas of the fires.

Also in mid-October, while at the Paula Lane Nature Preserve, I happened to meet up with Suzanne Reta, long-time Audubon member and volunteer, and a member of our Phenology Project team. She had come for an hour of being at the Preserve and to record her project observations. As we briefly sat together on a wildlife viewing bench before both moving on to our tasks, Suzanne saw two California Towhees nearby. "See, there're 2 towhees, right there on the ground next to the oak tree."



Fawns Courtesy of Tom Reynolds

Her bird recognition skills are so natural. And her Spanish language skills helped in the evacuation and shelter effort in Santa Rosa. She shared she had volunteered at Finley Community Center and in other areas, and continued to volunteer. This is her community and these are our citizens.

Describing helping a gentleman by finding a cup of coffee for him as he sat in the Center reflected a simple act received with visible gratitude. Then, we both moved on to our tasks at the Preserve. I hoped the quiet atmosphere there that day would contribute to Suzanne's energy and help her renew.

Many ironies exist for reflection from the recent fires and our life experiences. Oct. 8 had been a great day for me out at Pt. Reyes National Seashore. This was a delayed visit for several months. I went to the Tomales Point Trail. This was for a "Badger Walk and Talk" with a wonderful couple from San Francisco who won an auction item in the annual fundraiser for Pt. Reyes National Seashore Association. I had wanted to verify badger activity reported a few months earlier by an astute citizen scientist, and we just happened to find October 8 was the best day for the three of us to meet and take our walk. While walking, under a gently sunlit day, a feeling of peace all around us, and early enough in the morning so there weren't so many people there, we observed the old burrows and the badger activity. Then, we were graced with the sighting of several Tule Elk in the distance. We agreed our day had just been made by this experience together. Returning to Petaluma where I live, Sunday evening dinner was nutritious and tasty, my pets and two rescue horses, all part of my little family, were fed and relaxing, and that evening, I believe I watched *60 Minutes* on TV. I recall feeling a sense of renewal, which those of us in conservation work know is helpful – balancing visits to Nature with our ongoing daily responsibilities along with, for many of us, professional commitments.

In the ensuing days and weeks, I admit, I reflected back upon that experience with gratitude, as the timing was such, being able to draw upon the energy from that Oct. 8 day was helpful in the weeks that followed. I wish to personally thank the members of our Madrone Audubon Board who remained in contact almost continuously via text, phone and email from October 9 onward, as we tried to determine locations of and impacts to our friends, colleagues and members, and help as possible. We are grateful to Golden Gate Audubon and Marin Audubon, as well as Maggie Rufo of Marin County, who reached out and also responded in support, with assistance to help locate temporary living spaces and any other support we might have identified as needed.

Our Madrone Audubon Board also thanks Asenath LaRue for editing this issue of *Leaves* and continuing with her responsibilities. We are here for our members and our Sonoma County community. We will necessarily add recent events to our 50th year in Sonoma County.



Breeding Bird Atlas Results

Bird Species Possibly Impacted by October 2017 Wildfires in Sonoma County

by Gordon Beebe

The terrible wildfires of October not only affected people and their properties, but wildlife as well.

By looking back at the BBA results from our recent survey, information about species which may have been impacted, and will be impacted in the future by loss of habitat, can be gleaned from the database.



Golden-crowned Sparrow Courtesy of Gordon Beebe

Out of the 191 blocks surveyed countywide, 40 blocks were within the burn perimeters. Some of them had less than one quarter of their area within the fire, one in particular was entirely within the Tubbs Fire burn area. Any species that had been confirmed to breed in these blocks can be considered to have been affected by the fire, or will be next spring when they return to attempt to nest in their former habitat. It is difficult to tell at this point in time exactly how much of the area of each burned block was actually destroyed, as there are pockets of habitat that escaped the flames in each.

By looking at species that were found breeding mainly in these blocks, we can begin to see which ones are most at risk in the months and years ahead. The following list shows eleven species that had at least 40% of the breeding results coming from burned blocks.

Golden Eagle	60%
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	54%
Spotted Owl	50%
Swainson's Hawk	50%
Tricolored Blackbird	50%
Western Screech-Owl	50%
White-throated Swift	50%
House Wren	49%
Northern Pygmy-Owl	43%
Loggerhead Shrike	40%
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	40%

MEMBERS' COLUMN

Fire Comes Knocking

by Asenath LaRue

Awakened by the strong smell of smoke... outside, a crimson sky, falling ash, and the sound of explosions on the ridge just behind our home. Then it was all running...finding pet carriers, convincing the cats and chickens to cooperate...and where are the keys to Art's truck?? Where is the cell phone charger?? And hardest of all, driving away as the flames approached, leaving behind our two donkeys, whose trailer I couldn't hitch on my own... friends for many years... I came close to not leaving at all.

The next day, a harrowing ride through back roads to get close to our place, only to hit a road block manned by police from San Francisco. Amazing!...Officers came along to see if our place was safe to enter. The house was a smoking ruin, and nearly all other buildings. But from behind the one wall of the barn still standing, out came a shaggy head, then another...the donkeys have survived against all odds!

And now, a month later: we've found a place to rent where we can bring all our animals... time to rest, contend with bureaucracy, and think through options for a next home.

So much kindness and help from friends and friends-of-friends. At the top of the list are those who've cared for our animals as

we moved from guest rooms to motels. Others offered places to stay or to rent ...gave clothes, dishes, other necessities...just listened when that was most needed. Madrone friends were very helpful, generously fostering pets, providing computer access, and offering options for temporary housing.

I've wondered on sleepless nights how the wildlife who shared our acres have fared. Did the two tom turkeys who were more or less permanent



Terra cotta survivors Courtesy of Asenath LaRue

residents survive? How about this year's fawns or the family of skunks? What are the birds eating? What about clean water for all?

One of the most healing things I do these days is to return to our place to set out bird seed and water every couple of days, and friends have helped with that, too, when I've been away. It's a small gesture toward helping those who can't look to insurance or government to make things better, and perhaps, an act of penance for human-caused events that put other lives at peril.

A note to all Madrone members...

Do you have bird observations or experiences to share? A recent memory of observation or resonance? Something seen in your backyard, on a walk or hike in one of Sonoma County's parks or open spaces, or on a recent vacation? Please send a brief description (and a photo if you have one), and *Leaves* will include as many of these contributions as we can.



Coming Together in December

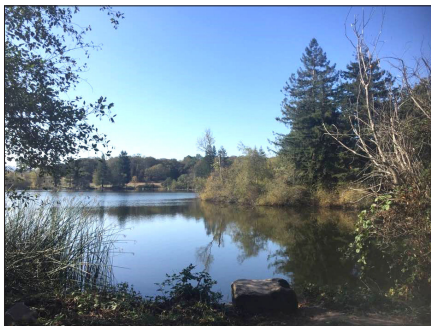
from your Madrone Audubon Chapter

As we, along with everyone, adopt a practice of personally sustaining and managing stress, making decisions on a day to day basis, and planning as possible, we have upcoming, limited, scheduled activities for our members and we invite you to join us, as Madrone Audubon members and also members of our Sonoma County community.

Activities in December – for our members and the community

December 16, Saturday, 10 a.m., Spring Lake Regional Park: Christmas Bird Count for Kids:

We will co-sponsor our first CBC4K with Sonoma County Regional Parks on December 16. Families and children are welcomed. Refreshments will be served after the walk and count. Please sign up for this event via Sonoma Co. Regional Parks: <https://sonomacountyparks.ticketleap.com/christmas-d-count-4-kids/>. Or contact us and we'll advise Regional Parks that you, our friends and young loved ones are joining us for the morning to enjoy the Park's birds and wildlife, learn about identifying and recording, and then enjoying refreshments with us. Monica Schwalbenberg-Peña and Peter Leveque will be the Madrone Audubon Co-Leaders. Questions: Contact Susan Kirks 707-241-5548.



Spring Lake Courtesy of Tom Reynolds

Christmas Bird Count, Saturday, Dec. 30, West Sonoma County. Post CBC dinner, Sebastopol Community Cultural Center, 5:15 p.m.

The important longstanding citizen science project of National Audubon, the Christmas Bird Count, occurs nationwide this time of year. We will host the West County count on December 30th. CBC Co-Chairs Peter Leveque and Stacy Li are in the process of reaching out to team leaders, with teams being contacted, and new members are welcomed to join us. Contact stacyli@sonic.net, or call 566-7937.

Please see dates and information for the Santa Rosa CBC and Sonoma Valley CBC in this *Leaves*. We invite all counters for those two days to join us at our West County Post CBC dinner at the Sebastopol center on December 30th. We'll appreciate hearing about the Santa Rosa and Sonoma Valley CBC experiences and observations able to be recorded. We also thank Bill Doyle, Gene Hunn and Redwood Region Ornithological Society for moving forward this year with these CBCs.

As we observe and gather data, we encourage our members to record new observations in your backyards or in areas you visit for a respite in Nature on eBird, perhaps post to North Bay Birds, and share with us as well. This may support our evolving awareness of how changed landscapes during a migratory nesting season, a mating season for many wildlife species, and changed and lost habitat areas interspersed with patches of habitat that remain will relate to species' ability to sustain and adapt, or be further negatively impacted.



Black-crowned Night Heron Courtesy of Tom Reynolds

There are several other Christmas Bird Counts in Sonoma County that you may want to attend. Please note the following dates and contact information.

Santa Rosa CBC
Sunday, December 17, 2017
Contact Bill Doyle at shortbill@comcast.net.

Sonoma Valley CBC
Friday, December 29, 2017
Contact Gene Hunn at enhunn323@comcast.net or call 981-7301.

Petaluma CBC4Kids
TBD - 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Contact Al Hesla at hesla@comcast.net.

Sonoma Valley CBC4Kids
TBD - 8:30 am to 1:00 pm
Contact Sonoma Nature at sonomanature@gmail.com or call 939-8007.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome, New Members

Cotati
John Strait

Glen Ellen
Malcolm Blanchard

Santa Rosa
Kenny Chubak
(gift from Lillian Rhinehart)
Eve Lance

Sebastopol
Lora Pritchard

APPRECIATED DONATIONS

In Memory of...

Betty Burridge
by Marilyn &
Frank Rathman

Norris "Bob" Dyer
by Dennis Buss

Don McCarthy
by James Fritzhand

Mila Martin
by Linda Fraley &
John Nichols

In Honor of...

Louis Fraley
by Linda Fraley &
John Nichols



News Updates

National Marine Sanctuaries and Monuments – Environmental Threat

Following up our September 2017 *Leaves* article, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke submitted a report to the Administration, recommending reduction in two National Monuments in Utah - Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante - both located in southern Utah. Combined, the two National Monuments protect more than 3,000,000 acres. Reports indicate Utah Republican leaders, including the Governor, expressed a position to rescind or shrink the monuments, which were designated by Presidents Obama and Clinton. The Utah Governor proposed a 90% reduction of Bears Ears to 125,000 acres. It is relevant to follow the course of the Administration's Department of Interior recommendations, combined with elected officials in states and regions of the National Monuments and National Marine Sanctuaries.

Sign up for Madrone Audubon's Conservation Alerts

Send your email address to Diane Hichwa, Conservation Chair, at dhichwa@earthlink.net



Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross reportedly submitted an analysis to the Administration on the potential for oil and gas development in the nation's protected publicly owned waters. The report was not released to the public. Numerous editorials and news articles have been published, and elected officials are speaking out, strongly opposing shrinkage or loss of designation for National Marine Sanctuaries, with equal advocacy for protection of the designations. Among the 11 areas that could be affected and opened to oil and gas drilling, deep sea mining or other commercial activities are parts of Monterey Bay, and the Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank national marine sanctuaries off the Marin, Sonoma and Mendocino coasts.

(Resources: Ocean Foundation, Seattle Times 11/2017, Natural Resources Defense Council 10/2017, San Jose Mercury News 10/2017)

Senate Bill-5 – Parks Bond – Passes, To Appear on June 2018 Ballot

The *Drought, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection & Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018*, an approximately \$4 million general obligation bond measure, will appear on our June 2018 ballot. The bond measure supports funding for California's parks, water and flood control infrastructure. A concerted effort among conservation groups statewide, including Madrone Audubon, resulted in inclusion of urgently needed funding in support of wildlife corridors and wildlife crossings. We appreciate the dedicated efforts of so many conservationists in California, united to ensure that wildlife and their movement needs – which will help sustain biodiversity – are included in this ballot measure.

Petaluma Wetlands Ramsar Application Moves Forward

The 2014 application for Petaluma's Wetlands to become part of the San Francisco Bay Estuary designation as a Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance, at long last, is moving forward. Madrone's President, Susan Kirks, and Mary Edith Moore, whose *Leaves* newsletter editing was appreciated for many years, as well as her leadership of Petaluma Wetlands Alliance during its affiliation with our Chapter, were recently contacted by Beth Huning of San Francisco Bay Joint Venture with the *great* news. The processing of Petaluma and other applications on hold may take additional time, even up to a year, as the US Fish and Wildlife Service coordinates submissions. Movement forward and inclusion in the San Francisco Bay Estuary's designation is confirmed and will become official! Madrone Audubon will recommend to the City of Petaluma to accept the designation for the areas of Shollenberger Park, Alman Marsh and Ellis Creek in memory of the late Dr. Gerald Moore, Mary Edith's long-time partner and a strong leader in advocating for and educating about the Petaluma Wetlands. The Petaluma Wetlands are the northernmost section of the San Francisco Bay Estuary.

Assembly Bill-1617 – Funding for Conservation Priorities - CA Department of Fish and Wildlife

This legislation, co-authored by CA Assembly members Bloom of southern California and Chiu of San Francisco, is in process. We are

closely monitoring this proposed legislation's progress. AB-1617 is an act to amend Section 710.7 of the Fish and Game Code and to amend Section 12805.3 of the Government Code, relating to fish and wildlife. The legislation focuses on conservation funding for the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife to address the enormous conservation needs for wildlife and habitat needs in California.

We will let you know if we need your help and support on these issues!

Audubon Canyon Ranch's Recovery

How to Help

The Sonoma fires destroyed critical infrastructure at the Bouverie Preserve, including for vital research and nature education programs. ACR's community is strong, and we thank you for being part of it. Please help in any way you can.

Online donation form:
www.egret.org/fire

Checks may be mailed to:
ACR
4900 Shoreline Highway 1,
Stinson Beach, CA 94970
Note 'fire recovery fund'
in the memo.

Fall 2017 Membership Renewals

We mailed the last 200 of our 600+ Fall membership renewal requests the week of October 1.

If you usually renew your Madrone Audubon membership in the Fall, and did not receive your request via mail, could you kindly clip the coupon from our newsletter and mail your membership renewal to us?

Thanks very much.



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.

December 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 and Sunday, December 2-3, 9:00 AM to dusk

CENTRAL VALLEY - GRAY LODGE and SACRAMENTO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. Reinstating our annual late fall trip to the Central Valley to enjoy the enormous concentrations of waterfowl, raptors, cranes, geese, and other interesting birds seldom seen in Sonoma County. Directions to Gray Lodge from 5 & 99: From the junction of Interstate 5 and Highway 99, take Highway 99 north to Live Oak. Turn west on Pennington (North Butte) Road. Turn right on Almond Orchard Avenue and continue to entrance. The distance from Live Oak is about eight miles. After birding Gray Lodge, we will go to Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge for the afternoon, hopefully enjoying good views of the fly-out at dusk (fee \$6). Some of our group will stay overnight in Willows or Yuba City Friday and/or Saturday to visit parts of the nearby Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge. Call the leader for more information. Leader: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115.

Thursday, December 7, 7:00 PM

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

Saturday, December 16, 10:00 AM

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT FOR KIDS. Spring Lake Regional Park. Sign up at <https://sonomacountyparks.ticketleap.com/christmas-d-count-4-kids/> or contact Susan Kirks at 707-241-5548.

Wednesday, December 20, 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 Hwy. 1 at the southern end of Bodega Bay harbor and follow signs to Doran County Park (a Sonoma County park permit or \$7 entrance fee is required). Continue 0.5 miles past the park entrance to the parking lot of the Cypress Day Use Area on the left side of the road. After birding Doran Park, the group will search the harbor and adjacent seas and woodlands for birds. Weather permitting, the group will eat a picnic lunch on the west side of the harbor. Leader: Tom McCuller, t.sisyphus@comcast.net, 707-546-1812.



*Red-shouldered Hawk
Courtesy of Tom Reynolds*

Saturday, December 30,

dawn to dusk

WEST SONOMA COUNTY CBC.

For information on how to participate, contact stacyli@sonic.net or call 566-7937. Post CBC dinner, Sebastopol Community Cultural Center, 5:15 PM. To volunteer and help serve dinner, contact susankirks@sbcglobal.net or call 241-5548.

January 2018 Calendar

Thursday, January 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

Monday, January 15, 7:00 PM

GENERAL MEETING. First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa. "South African Dream Safari (or how I fell in love with Hyenas)." This is a free event and all are welcome.

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

Saturday, January 20, 8:30 AM to Noon

LAKE SONOMA. Our first Saturday walk of the year. We frequently have a good variety of birds, including Wood Ducks, Mergansers, riparian species, and more on this trip. Meet at the Lake Sonoma Visitor Center below the dam. From Highway 101, take Canyon Road to Dry Creek Road, then Rockpile Road to the Center. Lunch optional. Leader: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115.

Saturday, February 3, 8:30 AM to Noon

BODEGA BAY. We will explore one of Sonoma County's richest bird areas, looking for wintering shorebirds, waterfowl, and landbirds. From the center of the town of Bodega Bay, drive north on Highway 1. Turn left at East Shore Road (the Bodega Head turnoff), then go straight at the stop sign at the bottom of the hill to Porto Bodega. We will carpool from the large dirt parking lot. Leader: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115.

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**

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

Marbled Murrelet (6)	8/1	Off Coleman Beach	SC
Marbled Murrelet (35)	11/6	2.5 km SE of Bolinas entrance channel	PP
Ancient Murrelet (8)	11/6	2.5 km SE of Bolinas entrance channel	PP
Booby sp. (imm.)	10/7	The Sea Ranch, near Del Mar Pt. (dark imm. bird)	DH, et al
Common Tern	9/7	Porto Bodega, N. end of Bodega Harbor	GH, et al
Mew Gull (leucistic)	11/6-8	Doran Beach	DHa
Broad-winged Hawk (2)	9/29	Bay Hill Rd., 2 lt. imm. birds together (photos)	DN, TB, ReM
Broad-winged Hawk	10/18	Ramal Rd. at Napa/Sonoma county line	AW
Swainson's Hawk	10/7	Bay Hill Rd.	RR, DK
Rough-legged Hawk	10/7	Bay Hill Rd.	RR, DK
Black Vulture	10/22	Abbott's Lagoon, Marin Co.	MS
Prairie Falcon	9/4	Bay Hill Rd.	SC, LH
Long-eared Owl (3)	8/31	Ft. Ross area; along trail <1 mi. E. of Hwy 1	BO'C, OO'C
Baird's Sandpiper (1)	8/15-16	Bodega Farm pond	LH, GH
Spotted Sandpiper	8/29	Spring Lake	MS-P
Rock Sandpiper	11/5	Bodega Head	RM, et al
Wilson's Phalarope (8)	9/4	Bodega Farm Pond	LH
Common Poorwill	thru Oct.	Limantour Rd., W. of ridge above beach	DN
Vaux's Swift (800+)	8/29-31	Hwy 1 at Stewart's Point; roosting in brick chimney	DHi, et al
Black Swift (60+)	9/1	Palomarin to Mesa Rd./ Bolinas area-w/VASWs	SH, DHu
Tropical Kingbird	11/6	Owl Canyon	TB, et al
Fork-Tailed Flycatcher	9/12	Sea Ranch, Green Cove area (2nd CA record) Pat Friedman,	DHi
Sage Thrasher (2)	10/19	Drakes Corner, Pt. Reyes	JE, et al
Common Raven (50+)	9/8	Staging/circling over Owl Canyon/ Campbell Cove	DN
Yellow Warbler (60+)	9/7	Bodega Dunes campground, seasonal high count	DN, LH
Prothonotary Warbler	10/10	Rodeo Lagoon, Marin Co.	WL
Yellow-rumped Warbler	9/23	Bodega Harbor, first of Fall - 1 wk. later than average	DN
Cape May Warbler (photo)	9/9	Bodega Dunes campground	ME, BO'C
Cape May Warbler (imm.)	9/15	Bodega Marine Lab. residence trees	PC
Black-and-White Warbler	9/7-10	Campbell Cove	LH, M.Ob
Black-throated Green Warbler	9/13-15	Pt. Reyes Fish Docks	ML, MS
Hermit Warbler	8/17	Owl Canyon	DN
Chestnut-sided Warbler	9/14	Owl Canyon	DN, RO'D
Blackburnian Warbler	9/16	Owl Canyon	DK, RR
Palm Warbler	9/27	Galvin Park, Santa Rosa	WA
Prairie Warbler	9/16	Bay Flat Rd. across from Westside Park	WA
Yellow-breasted Chat	9/18	Kenwood residence (yard bird)	RR
Ovenbird	9/13	Owl Canyon	DN
<i>*Note: the loud Ovenbird song was heard in this general area the following day.</i>			(David Hofmann)
Mourning Warbler	9/11-21	Pt. Reyes Fish Docks	M. Ob
Mourning Warbler	9/16	2nd bird at Drake's Monument, 1st bird still at Fish Docks	KK, et al
American Redstart	9/4	Campbell Cove, (adult male)	SC
American Redstart	9/7	Bodega Dunes campground (imm.)	LH
American Redstart	9/13-15	Owl Canyon (imm.)	DN, et al
Bobolink	9/14	Campbell Cove. Heard only, distinctive call note	DN
Clay-colored Sparrow	10/3	Campbell Cove	DF
Brewer's Sparrow	9/14	Owl Canyon	DN
Lapland Longspur	10/8	Laguna de Santa Rosa Preserve	LS, LH, et al
Lapland Longspur	10/25-26	Sonoma Mtn. Elementary school field, Petaluma	GH, NH, TB
Chestnut-collared Longspur	10/30	Tomales Bay trail, Marin Co.	D. Mosur
Lawrence's Goldfinch	10/5	Bay Hill Rd. (calling in flight)	DN
Lawrence's Goldfinch	10/6	Paula Lane residence, Petaluma (calling in flight)	DN
Lawrence's Goldfinch	10/22	Queen's Lane residence, Petaluma (calling in flight)	AW
Evening Grosbeak (11)	11/4	Hwy 12 @ Calistoga Rd.	RR
Indigo Bunting (imm.)	9/4	Campbell Cove	SC
Lazuli Bunting (imm.)	9/16	Owl Canyon	DN, et al
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	9/16	Owl Canyon, (imm. male)	DN, WA
Green-tailed Towhee	Sept-Oct.	Corte Madera Marsh, Marin Co.	BL, et al

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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.

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