



# Madrone LEAVES

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

VOLUME 52 December 2018/January 2019 Number 3

## Our Environment in 2019

by Contributing Madrone Board Members

The coming year will bring challenges and opportunities for our organization and our community. Recovery from the 2017 wildfires will continue for a long time. As individuals and together as volunteers for Madrone, we hope to be sensitive to the fragile and unpredictable context of daily life from the 2017 tragedies for our members, friends, birds and wildlife.

November 2018 fires in northern and southern California are ongoing as we go to press. We appreciate and admire fire-fighting teams and neighbors helping neighbors to evacuate people, their animals and pets. Smoke from the Butte County fire wafted into Sonoma County. That traumatic memory-recall was instantaneous - Where is it? What's happening? Then, news of the location of the fire and its magnitude heightened concern and empathy.

This coming at a time of another mass shooting and tragedy in southern California, immediately following other mass shootings and killings in Pennsylvania and Kentucky, the extremely disturbing international incident in Turkey, and an open atmosphere of misogyny, bigotry and racism emanating from the highest office in our country. With November 2018 elections, some results remain outstanding as we go to press. What will be the outcome of these midterm elections for our country and our environment? And our humanity?

### Local Election

Good news is that Measure M, the 1/8th cent sales tax ballot initiative to help fund our Sonoma County Regional Parks and provide additional funds for City parks and open space passed with a 70% approval. Sonoma County Regional Parks has a close relationship with the Sonoma County Ag and Open Space District, accepting title to and management

of several fee lands from the District. This new source of revenue will support the ability to manage and maintain these lands, natural resources, and public access, while providing revenue for long-needed maintenance and natural resource enhancement in our Regional Parks. Measure M Campaign volunteers were dedicated and unwavering in providing public information, yard signs to support the Measure's passage, and messaging to ask voters to vote YES.

In this issue of *Leaves*, see the upcoming December 15th Family Bird Walk modeled after the Christmas Bird Count for Kids. This is a 1-1/2 hour walk at Spring Lake Regional Park. Beginners and experienced family birders and nature enthusiasts are welcome to join, with refreshments afterward at the Environmental Discovery Center.

See also our Phenology Project update, citizen science research to help take the "Pulse of the



Tropical Kingbird, Campbell Cove Courtesy of Dan Nelson

Planet" (the National Phenology Project's motto). This project at the Paula Lane Nature Preserve in Petaluma is accepting volunteers. The Paula Lane Nature Preserve, along with other natural areas like Shollenberger Park and Alman Marsh, will be eligible for City-received revenues from Measure M – even though the Press Democrat editorial only mentioned Measure M, if passed, would help fund ballfields in Petaluma.

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### GENERAL MEETING

First United Methodist Church • 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa

Monday, January 21, 2019, 7:00 PM

#### "Little Known Great Birding Locations in Northern California"

Most birders visit the famous spots: Pt. Reyes National Seashore, Bodega Bay, Golden Gate Park, Vic Fassio Yolo Wetlands, Klamath/Tulelake and Sacramento NWRs, Monterey Bay, Arcata Marsh, etc. But there is a growing number of lesser known spots, hidden gems for birding and scenery. Ruthie Rudesill will share birding stories and discuss a few special places for those who want to travel to new exciting areas of Northern California.



Swainson's Hawk Courtesy of Ruthie Rudesill

Ruthie Rudesill is Past President of 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 over 30 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).



## OUR ENVIRONMENT

Continued from page 1

### Renew in Our Parks, Our Coast, Our Wetlands, Our Grassland and Forests

*Bird Walks, Lessons in Nature* – early Winter walks are in our Calendar on page 5. On a recent Madrone bird walk to Bodega Bay, the group received a lesson in timing from the sandpipers. Exquisitely attuned to the ebb-and-flow of the tides, the birds appeared at the precise moment that the receding tide exposed the mudflat. Marbled Godwits, with their long legs and bills, worked the not-quite-exposed mud, and the Least Sandpipers and Dunlin hugged the water's edge as the mudflats grew. As the tide receded over the next 20 minutes or so, they continued to move farther out, taking full advantage of the new food opportunity. That mud had not been available to them for several hours, time that they had spent preening, napping, and waiting. Every day, the time of this food buffet moves forward another hour, and the sandpipers always arrive right on time, no Apple Watches required. Birders interested in viewing this daily feeding on their own can look up the tide tables, and find when the tide is receding. Plan to arrive when the tide is still a little over three feet. Check out Spud Point and/or Gaffney Point along Bay Flat Road in Bodega Bay. As always, members and the public are welcome on any Madrone bird walk either on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays with Gordon Beebe, or now once a month on a Thursday with Janet Bosshard.

*Bird Checklists* – We're preparing 3 bird checklists for some of our most visited Regional Parks. Spring Lake Regional Park's list was completed in 2018. The Doran Beach checklist will be completed in the near future. We will then turn our focus on Taylor Mountain's bird checklist. (See our request to input data into EBird on page 5).

### National Attack on Our Environment Continues

Networking is a vital component of our communication. Through our Conservation Chair, Diane Hichwa, we learned of a disturbing proposal by the Department of the Interior. Diane received this information via a Stewardship Task Force's research contact. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has proposed to destroy massive amounts of records in the National Archive pertaining to timber sales, marine conservation, fishing, endangered species, non-endangered species, critical habitats, mining, dams, wells, and land acquisition – records from

every Interior Department – the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service, US Geological Survey, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and others. Comments opposing this proposal were due on November 26th and many were submitted.

Approval of this proposal could severely impact research, both historical and scientific. These records normally go to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) for processing and preservation.

“Federal agencies don't keep most of their records forever. At some point, they're legally allowed to destroy the majority of them. But when? And which records? That's up to the agency and the National Archives (with some input from the public, at least in theory). In an overlooked process that's been going on for decades, agencies create a 'Request for Records



Broad-winged Hawk, Bay Hill Rd. Courtesy of Dan Nelson

Disposition Authority' that gives details about the documents, then proposes when they can be destroyed (e.g., three years after the end of the fiscal year, 50 years after they're no longer needed, etc.). Occasionally, agencies propose keeping some documents permanently, which means eventually transferring them to the National Archives... This is an extremely important process. It affects transparency, accountability, research, the historical record, and the Freedom of Information Act (you can't successfully request documents that have been destroyed). Yet it's been happening in the shadows for decades.” (Russ Kick, AltGov 2—a group that works to enforce transparency).

### Madrone's Research Efforts

In addition to the Stewardship Task Force's coastal research projects of tidal surveys and of seabirds nesting in NW Sonoma County, Gordon Beebe and others are exploring how to best present results of the 6-year Breeding Bird Atlas update. The first stage is nearing completion with two documents that have species maps for all birds found breeding

during the two surveys in Sonoma County. By downloading these files and viewing each species side-by-side, viewers will be able to compare results between the two surveys. A more ambitious, longer term project is also in the works to create a user-friendly website with all of the results, maps, and analyses.

Our 52nd West Sonoma County Christmas Bird Count will take place on December 30th. Our CBC data is compiled by Co-Chairs Stacy Li and Peter Leveque and provided to National Audubon for the national database.

Observations in *Leaves*. Dan Nelson has been providing this record for our Chapter for many years. The time and energy required to receive the many observations, organize and report them is significant. We appreciate Dan's ongoing expertise and care in documenting this information. This snapshot of unusual bird life in our County and region is preserved through our *Leaves* archives.

### Volunteer with Us

Madrone has some openings for our Board of Directors. The areas and tasks are defined. A volunteer commitment of 1 to 2 years is requested. Our Board of Directors meets monthly in Santa Rosa except for July and August. The meetings last 1.5-2 hours. Openings for volunteers include: taking notes at Board meetings and producing the minutes; exploring and scheduling speakers for our membership meetings; and editing our newsletter. Madrone is all-volunteer. Together, we do make a difference! If you feel moved to give a few hours a month to our Chapter, help us sustain and move forward to serve our members, contact Susan Kirks, at [susankirks@sbcglobal.net](mailto:susankirks@sbcglobal.net), 707-241-5548. Let's talk about how your skill sets could match one of our open positions for a year or two.

### Upcoming Programs

To lift our spirits, we have some great membership programs in 2019: Great Birding Spots in Northern California, Snow Leopard Conservancy, Bringing the Beaver Back, Raptor Identification and Update, and Sonoma County's Native Wildlife. That brings us to May 2019. And there'll be more beginning in Fall 2019. Our programs also provide a way to come together in unity to support our environment, birds and wildlife.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *Leaves*.

*Postscript:* Let's continue to support the real tweets in our society – our birds and the incredible sounds and “twitter” of our natural world.



## Dec. 15th Family & Youth Christmas Bird Count

### Spring Lake Regional Park

An anticipated 2nd annual walk on a crisp winter morning at one of our most favorite parks – In 2017, we gathered, led by Peter Leveque and Monica Schwalbenberg-Peña, with Meagan Horeczko of Regional Parks, to walk, look and listen for 1-1/2 hours, and “count.” A highlight of the day was seeing a Mink. Last year, we identified 19 bird species and 149 total birds, including American Robin and American Coot! Meagan also provided a lovely color photo sheet for each participant to use, with binoculars, to look, listen and “count.” After the walk, we gathered at the Environmental Discovery Center to enjoy pizza, fruit, cookies (home-baked by Linda Curry) and beverages.

Please join us on Saturday, Dec. 15th for a few hours of seasonal natural joy for our young people out in nature, learning to identify and enjoy the experience, then refreshing afterwards. To sign up and for directions, visit Sonoma County Regional Parks’ website (<https://parks.sonomacounty.ca.gov/>) and look for the activities guide and upcoming events. For questions, contact Susan Kirks at [susankirks@sbcglobal.net](mailto:susankirks@sbcglobal.net).



American Robin

Courtesy of National Audubon Society

## Western Sonoma County Christmas Bird Count

This year’s Christmas Bird Count for Western Sonoma County will be held on Sunday, December 30, 2018. This is our 52nd Christmas Bird Count. Twenty teams will census birds from early morning to late afternoon on that day and meet at 5:00 p.m. at the Sebastopol Community Center for a post-count dinner and to share birding experiences of the day.

Over the years, our bird count is among the highest in the nation in terms of number of species. The team of Peter Leveque and Stacy Li are coordinating the count for the fourth consecutive year. Please direct any questions to Peter (707-542-8946) or Stacy (707-527-2037).

If you are a new volunteer, we welcome you and will find a team for you to join for the day. Go to the Madrone Audubon website (<http://www.madroneaudubon.org>) and click on the Christmas Bird Counts link to see a map of the count areas, and check back at this site in early December for an updated listing of team leaders and their contact information. Give the team leader a call as the time gets closer to get details of where and when to meet. You can also call either Stacy or Peter, the count coordinators, at the numbers shown above.

Dinner volunteers, please contact Susan Kirks at [susankirks@sbcglobal.net](mailto:susankirks@sbcglobal.net) or 707-241-5548. Volunteers will set up our dinner and tables, beginning at 4:00 p.m., to be ready for the volunteers of the count. Everyone is requested to donate a dessert and donate \$5 for the dinner. This year, we’ll be enjoying delicious gourmet pizza and a big salad from Mombo’s in Sebastopol with a variety of beverages. Recycled paper plates, cutlery and cups for dinner will be provided – please bring your own plate, fork and cup if you like; many of our attendees do.

We look forward to seeing you and sharing the 52nd Christmas Bird Count experience together on December 30th.

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

### Santa Rosa CBC

Sunday, December 16, 2018  
Contact Bill Doyle at [shortbill@comcast.net](mailto:shortbill@comcast.net).

### Sonoma Valley CBC

Friday, December 28, 2018  
Contact Gene Hunn at [enhunn323@comcast.net](mailto:enhunn323@comcast.net)  
or call 981-7301.

### Point Reyes Peninsula CBC, Marin County

Saturday, December 15, 2018  
Email: [ptreyescbc@gmail.com](mailto:ptreyescbc@gmail.com)

### Petaluma CBC4Kids – 10th annual

Saturday, January 5th, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Meet at Shollenberger Park.  
Contact Al Hesla at [a.hesla@comcast.net](mailto:a.hesla@comcast.net) or 707-486-9030

### Sonoma Valley CBC4Kids

TBD - 8:30 am to 1:00 pm  
Contact Sonoma Nature at [sonomanature@gmail.com](mailto:sonomanature@gmail.com)  
or call 939-8007.

Visit <http://www.natureali.org/cbcs.htm> for a listing of all CBCs in California.



## Browse Don McCarthy’s Book Library at Membership Meetings

*...and take a book or two – field guides for birds and native plants, novels, and other interesting reads and references.*

We’re pleased to offer the library of the late Don McCarthy, an expert birder and naturalist, co-leader of the Roadrunners Bird-a-Thon Team, with Betty Groce, and a long-time supporter of Madrone Audubon Society. Don’s family donated his library of books to us and after some consideration, we decided to offer the books to our members.

There are some great finds in this collection, and we feel Don would be pleased to know his library will be passed on to like-minded and like-hearted people of all ages - who care about our natural world.

Beginning in January 2019, a display table with Don’s library will be available to peruse and select books.

Madrone Audubon is very grateful to Don McCarthy’s family for their generous donation of his library of books to our Chapter.

**Are you a National Audubon member?**

Please consider joining our local chapter, Madrone Audubon.

(see membership form, back page)

## Developer Requests Roblar Road Quarry Permit Changes

by Donna Spilman

The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors held a public hearing October 16, 2018 on the Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) prepared for the Roblar Road Quarry west of Petaluma. The quarry developer has applied to change several of the Conditions of Approval mandated by the Board when they approved the quarry in 2010. Once operational, the quarry would generate between 300 and 480 truck trips per day over the haul route along Roblar Road, Valley Ford Highway and Pepper Road six days a week for at least 20 years. According to the County, Roblar Road is already sub-standard and is used by 1700 to 2000 cars per day and many bicyclists.

The developer has applied to lessen the permit requirements so he can make Roblar Road even more narrow near the quarry entrance and to relocate more than 900 feet of Americano Creek to enable the road work, saying without the changes, the required conditions make the project ‘infeasible’ for him. Citizens Advocating Roblar Rural Quality (CARRQ) believes the SEIR finds that significant and unavoidable public safety issues and environmental impacts will occur if the County allows the developer to escape the conditions of the existing permit. The Board of Supervisors will hold a second hearing on the SEIR/permit application at a future date still to be set. CARRQ asks your support to hold the County and the developer accountable to the original conditions mandated for the quarry. For more information, follow CARRQ on Facebook.



View from Roblar Road

Courtesy of Donna Spilman

The Board of Supervisors will hold a second hearing on the SEIR/permit application at a future date still to be set. CARRQ asks your support to hold the County and the developer accountable to the original conditions mandated for the quarry. For more information, follow CARRQ on Facebook.

**Editorial Note:** Recently, the conservation nonprofit CARRQ reached out to supporters, with a request to become involved – again – in this years-long saga that continues to produce extreme stress for this West Petaluma community. Here is CARRQ’s request, for our members’ consideration:

Now is the time to get involved if you are concerned about the road’s safety after the quarry begins operation. Please write to all the Supervisors letting them know you want Roblar Road to meet safety standards agreed in the initial EIR (certified by the County in 2010) to keep motorists and bicyclists safe. Do not agree to narrowed road widths or narrowed bicycle lanes.

### Supervisors:

**Second District** David Rabbitt – David.Rabbitt@sonoma-county.org

**Fourth District** James Gore – James.Gore@sonoma-county.org

**First District** Susan Gorin – Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org

**Fifth District** Lynda Hopkins – Lynda.Hopkins@sonoma-county.org

**Third District** Shirlee Zane – Shirlee.Zane@sonoma-county.org

Link to the Supplemental EIR: [www.sonomacounty.ca.gov/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=2147564933](http://www.sonomacounty.ca.gov/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=2147564933)



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 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, December 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, December 15, 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM*  
**FAMILY & YOUTH HOLIDAY BIRD WALK.** Christmas Bird Count for Kids. Spring Lake Regional Park, Santa Rosa. Hosted by Sonoma County Regional Parks and Madrone Audubon. For sign up and directions, visit <https://parks.sonomacounty.ca.gov/> and look for the activities guide and upcoming events. Questions: call 707-241-5548.

*Thursday, December 20, 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM*  
**RAGLE REGIONAL PARK,** Sebastopol. Located on Ragle Road, west of the town. Meet near the back of the far soccer field, near the rest rooms and dog park. Use your park pass or purchase a \$7 day pass. In the midst of many Christmas Counts, we will have an easy, relaxed walk just enjoying the birds that have settled in for the winter. Heavy rain cancels. Bring binoculars and wear appropriate winter clothing, with a hoodie, if its misty. Leader: Janet Bosshard 526-5883

*Sunday, December 30, 2018, sunrise to dusk*  
**WEST SONOMA COUNTY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT.** Post CBC dinner at Sebastopol Community Cultural Center, 5:00 PM. For information on how to participate in the count, contact stacyli@sonic.net or call 566-7937. To volunteer and help serve dinner, contact susankirks@sbcglobal.net or call 241-5548.



Great-horned Owl one-eye

Courtesy of Gordon Beebe

## January 2019 Calendar

*Thursday, January 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.

*Thursday, January 17th, 8:30 AM-10:30 AM*  
**ELLIS CREEK PONDS,** Petaluma. From Hwy 101, get off at Hwy 116 towards Sonoma (or Hwy 37). Turn right on S. McDowell Boulevard, bear right on Cypress Drive and follow to end. Park near the restrooms. We will sight out the ponds and open space round them. Bring your binoculars to view ducks and grassland birds. Heavy rain will cancel. Dress warmly for winter weather, with a head cover, if it is misty and breezy. Leader: Janet Bosshard 526-5883

*Saturday, January 19, 8:30 AM to Noon*  
**LAKE SONOMA.** Our first Saturday walk of the year. We frequently see a good variety of birds, including Wood Duck, Merganser, riparian species, and more on this trip. Meet at the Lake Sonoma Visitor Center below the dam. From Highway 101 north of Healdsburg, take Canyon Road to Dry Creek Road, then Rockpile Road to the Center. Lunch optional. Leader: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115 call or text msg.

*Monday, January 21, 7:00 PM*  
**GENERAL MEETING.** First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa. "Little Known Great Birding Locations in Northern California." This is a free event and all are welcome.

*Saturday, February 2, 8:30 AM to Noon*  
**BODEGA BAY:** Porto Bodega. We will explore one of Sonoma County's richest bird areas, looking for wintering shorebirds, waterfowl, and landbirds. Leader: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115 call or text msg.

**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.



Western Gull with crab

Courtesy of Gordon Beebe



## OUT & ABOUT

**Living with Lions: Co-existence with an Iconic American Carnivore**  
Occidental Arts and Ecology Center,  
15290 Coleman Valley Rd., Occidental  
Tuesday, December 4, 2018 – 6:30 to 8:30 PM

Convivial co-existence with our local big cats is up to all of us relative to how we manage our lands and domestic animals. Learn how to encourage a culture of understanding. Co-sponsored by Audubon Canyon Ranch and Occidental Arts and Ecology. \$5 suggested donation. No one turned away for lack of funds. RSVP requested - [www.oaec.org/events/performances/](http://www.oaec.org/events/performances/).

### Salamanders and Newts

Modini Mayacamas Preserves  
Pine Flat Road, Healdsburg, CA 95448  
Saturday, January 5, 2019 - 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Join biologist and salamander enthusiast Elliott Smeds and ACR Education Specialist Dave Self to explore around talus piles, a pond, creek and under logs in search of newts and salamanders. Learn about the life-cycles, ecology, and behavior of these interesting animals. Go to <https://www.egret.org/calendar-public/month> for information and registration. \$20 suggested donation.

### 20th Annual Snow Goose Festival of the Pacific Flyway

Chico, CA  
Wednesday through Sunday, January 23 – 27, 2019

Stretching from the Bering Strait off the coast of Alaska to Patagonia in South America, the Pacific Flyway ranks as one of the greatest migratory pathways in the world. Millions of birds representing hundreds of species use this great avian highway each year, and nowhere is this abundance of bird life more accessible than the northern Sacramento Valley. The area attracts a huge wintering population of waterfowl and raptors, including the majestic Snow Goose. As many as one and a half million Snow Geese use the Pacific Flyway, and tens of thousands winter in the Sacramento Valley. Join birders from far and wide for a wide range of workshops and numerous field trips covering rice fields, wildlife refuges, and river walks. Go to [www.snowgoosefestival.org](http://www.snowgoosefestival.org) in December for program details and online registration.

### 5th Annual Waterbird Festival

Richardson Bay Audubon Center and Sanctuary  
376 Greenwood Beach Road, Tiburon  
Saturday, February 2, 2019

Celebrate scaups, scoters, cormorants and more! Visit Richardson Bay Audubon Center & Sanctuary for naturalist-led bird walks, exclusive field trips, and fun bird-themed activities. Bring binoculars or use their spotting scopes to see waterbirds that call Richardson Bay home. Join us for this popular and educational annual festival, hosted by National Audubon with many Chapters participating along with Bay Area conservation groups. The full Waterbird Festival schedule will be posted soon at [www.richardsonbay.audubon.org/programs/waterbird-festival](http://www.richardsonbay.audubon.org/programs/waterbird-festival).

## APPRECIATED DONATIONS

*In Memory of...*

**Rocky Etienne**  
by Claire Etienne

**Helen Lathrop Petty**  
by Cornelia Young

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

*In Honor of...*

**Tom McCuller**  
by Betty Groce

**“All good work of Madrone Audubon”**  
by Carolyn Metz

**“Susan Kirks & all the amazing work she accomplishes”**  
by Claudia Norby

**Susan Kirks**  
by Deidre Harrison

## NEW MEMBERS

*Welcome, New Members*

**Occidental**  
Hollis Bewley

**Rohnert Park**  
Reed Comer

## A note to all Madrone members...

Do you have bird observations or nature experiences to share? 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.



## MEMBERS' COLUMN

by Nancy Hair

I'm not much of a birder. I love them, plant trees, cover, and good things for them to eat. But I don't have the gene or the patience or whatever for ID'ing them and frankly am happy to leave that to others. I moved to Sonoma County 10 years ago, happened on a copy of *Leaves*, loved it, joined Madrone and offered to help with whatever. So, I started doing publicity, chairing the Investment Advisory Committee, and helping organize the post-Christmas Bird Count dinner.

Now I've been asked to write this issue's members' column. To the shame of my daughter, the entomologist, I am a sucker for charismatic mammals. I'm the owner/servant of 5 untrained rescue dogs and 4 cats plus more fosters than is probably legal. I do a lot of work with

dog rescue, but that's not what I'm going to talk about. Nor about birds.

I used to do some work with the Performing Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) in the Gold Country, near San Andreas. They rescue elephants and other misused wild animals. On one visit, I was amused to see that staff used Pearson's Peppermint Patties (and Lucky Charms!) to reward the elephants for putting their gigantic feet up on the fence for nail filing and treatment with medication needed (captive elephants' feet are prone to abscesses and are notoriously arthritic from inadequate walking). So, I went home and wrote to Pearson's with pictures of the elephants devouring their patties. The next week a truck showed up at PAWS, full of candy for the girls. So, I wrote to Ocean Spray about cranberry sauce, which all girls need, and elephants love, for their urinary tracts. Another score.



*Mara, 25-yr-old African Elephant, at PAWS  
Courtesy of PAWSweb.org*

Sometimes everything seems too complicated and overwhelming to make any difference in the world. But then again, sometimes, especially in the animal world, it doesn't take much to make a connection that makes a difference. So...keep asking, volunteering, doing your little part, like so many of us. Here's an idea: **Give a friend or loved one a Madrone membership for a holiday or birthday gift.** It could be the start of something big.

## Coastal Column

by Diane Hichwa

Volunteers survey nesting seabirds weekly from May to late August, but through fall/winter, counts are still done monthly to keep track of what birds continue to use the rock islands of the California Coastal National Monument.

Friday, October 19, our team at north Gualala Point Island counted 107 Brown Pelicans resting, mostly adults. They were joined by 104 Brandt's Cormorants and 45 Double-crested Cormorants, 36 Western Gulls and 2 Black Oystercatchers.



*Underwing of Brown Booby  
Courtesy of Craig Tooley*

One bird stood out in the crowd. Carolyn Carnell, a local volunteer, described it on the form as "1 unidentified: black body, white belly, long neck, grey bill with pinkish or yellowish feet (depending on the

light)", AND she snapped a picture (way to go!). In a flurry of emails it was known as the GPI N Mystery bird. (is this GPI N?)

Luckily, it was not a "one day wonder", which many vagrants are, and it has stayed around for 3 weeks now. Craig Tooley was able to get more photos, including an upraised under-wing shot. They were sent to our Beach Watch consultant Peter Pyle, who wrote: "I first thought this would be an SY based on the mottled white lower under parts but it has not replaced any flight feathers yet (all juvenile) and they are all still fresh. This and the very dull bill and eye and pinkish legs indicates an HY. Some juveniles have almost no white to the belly but this must be one that shows more due to individual variation. Or maybe it might indicate sex or subspecies but with soft-part colors so undeveloped, I don't think we can make a call for either of these." (Note: SY=second calendar year, after Jan 1; HY=hatch year, June-December). This one is a Hatch Year bird.

The next day as local birders wandered out to find the bird, one emailed "Brown Booby holding court right now." This bird prefers the northern downslope of the island, standing a bit apart from the cormorants. A surprise in the photo also showed a California Sea Lion that had



*Brown Booby at Gualala Point Island  
Courtesy of Craig Tooley*

climbed the 80 feet to rest in the sun on the flat top of the island.

Records and archives are interesting to look through. Brown Boobys have been seen here at The Sea Ranch in October: 10/19/2014 and now 10/19/2018. One of our earliest unusual records is of a Wandering Albatross from 11 July 1967. That stayed from one afternoon until the next, and was gone—a one day wonder. But the photo evidence remained, and confirmed that bird as the first record in the Pacific Ocean north of Panama, and the first record for North America (from the ornithological journal *Auk*, Vol 85, July 1968).



## Welcome New Phenology Project Volunteers

by Susan Kirks

The Phenology Project at the Paula Lane Nature Preserve in Petaluma welcomes Lucy Kenyon, Margaret Field and Matthew McClure to our team of observers and recorders. The Project entered our 4th year in late Spring 2018. Observers quietly watch, listen for and record information for 9 avian, 2 mammal and 4 plant species at the Preserve. We observe from 4 different areas around the 11.22 acre conserved open space property. Our Project is also part of a pilot program managed by Audubon California and part of the National Phenology Project.



Golden-crowned Sparrow

Courtesy of Gordon Beebe

The National Phenology Network (USA NPN – see <https://www.usanpn.org/>) defines phenology as “seasonal changes in plants and animals from year to year, for example flowering, emergence of insects, migration of birds.” Changes in phenological events such as flowering and bird migrations are among the most sensitive biological responses to climate change. Each observer records our data in the National Phenology Project’s Nature’s Notebook database.

Just recently, team member Judy Wagner reported from her October observations, not seeing any of our target avian species, but hearing and seeing many Golden-crowned Sparrows. This was confirmed by another observer. Also, a doe with growing twin, former fawns (Mule Deer is a mammal we are observing;

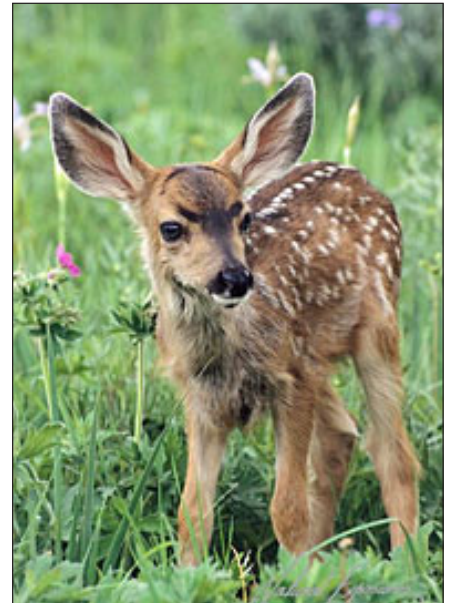
American Badger is the other). Another confirmation – I was habitat monitoring at 5 a.m. on Saturday, November 10th, in early morning darkness, and encountered 3 deer in the middle of a close to Paula Lane residential street, size-wise appearing to also match Judy’s recent observations.

For the Petaluma-based Phenology Project, sponsored by Madrone, some members of our team observe annually March through August migratory Cliff Swallows nesting at the Petaluma River Bridge.

On quiet days at the Preserve, a feeling of healing and appreciation for this special property can be enjoyed. Each of us in the Phenology Project has often considered how we clear our minds and begin to focus, settling into the experience for the hour at the Preserve and then seeing and hearing what we see.

The long-term plan for this property is evolving, to include two viewing areas with benches for quiet wildlife and sunset enjoyment, trail segments to provide public access (but do not encroach into sensitive habitat), and volunteering to help maintain the Preserve and help with the education program. More habitat restoration planting for the all-wildlife-friendly features Preserve, along with sustainable agriculture will be implemented soon.

The Paula Lane open space property in West Petaluma was advocated for during a period of 12 years, by Paula Lane Action Network (PLAN), 501c3 nonprofit organization, and finally acquired and conserved in 2012, with the City of Petaluma and PLAN Co-Grantees for an over \$1,000,000 grant from the Sonoma County Ag and Open Space’s Matching Grant program. The property, located in an underserved area for parks and open space, is also centrally located in a heavily traversed wildlife corridor, also identified and documented by PLAN, and the variety and abundance of wildlife in this rural transition area, with longstanding habitat for American Badger and over 100 avian species and many other wild creatures, is an area of solace and natural enjoyment with residences nearby. The Friends of Paulin Creek inspired PLAN to begin



Fawn

Courtesy of Fawn Rescue

the quest for open space conservation back in 2000. The Paula Lane Nature Preserve Project has been identified as a potential model now for the advocacy for the Roseland Creek Preserve in southwest Santa Rosa.

Madrone Audubon appreciates the ongoing dedication and astute observation skills of our team members, including Deidre Harrison, Suzanne Reta, Carol Harrison, Rae Lynn Thomas, Judith Wagner and Susan Kirks.

Interested in joining our Phenology Project volunteer team? The long-term commitment is 1 hour monthly at the property, not including travel to and from the site, then recording your observations in Nature’s Notebook (another 45 minutes). We’ll also learn more about the Phenology Project in a Fall 2019 membership meeting program. For more info, contact Susan Kirks: [susankirks@sbcglobal.net](mailto:susankirks@sbcglobal.net), 707-241-5548.

### Madrone Board Openings for Volunteers

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More Info: [susankirks@sbcglobal.net](mailto:susankirks@sbcglobal.net)  
707-241-5548



**Observations**

September/October 2018 • Dan Nelson • 479-2918 • birdsurf64@sbcglobal.net

Tufted Puffin (4)	10/26	Bodega Head fly-bys	AO'D, RO'D
Brown Booby (imm.)	10/27	Gualala Point Island	C. Carnell, et al
Blue-footed Booby	10/3	Pt. Reyes Chimney Rock, Fish Docks	M.Ob
Ferruginous Hawk (3)	10/5	Bay Hill Rd.	DN
Broad-winged Hawk(s)	9/28	Marin Headlands, one kettle had 9 BWHAs	GGRO, DN, et al
Broad-winged Hawk (imm.)	10/5	Bay Hill Rd.	DN (photos)
Broad-winged Hawk (imm.)	10/5	Jenner Headlands	DB, et al (photos)
Common Ringed Plover	10/14-15	Abbotts Lagoon, Pt. Reyes	M Sawyer, M.Ob
White-rumped Sandpiper	10/7	Centerville, aka Russ Ranch, Humboldt Co.	M Balitbit
Wilson's Phalarope (4)	9/13	Shollenberger Park	LK
Broad-billed Hummingbird	9/2-3	Keith's Gallery, Bolinas	KH, et al
Tropical Kingbird	9/30-10-1	Campbell Cove, Bodega Bay	DN, et al
Tropical Kingbird	10/24	Bodega Dunes c.g., near Horse trailer lot	D Herzberg
Vermilion Flycatcher (fem.)	9/30	Dipsea Rd., Seadrift/ Stinson Beach area	CO
Gray Flycatcher	9/9	Campbell Cove (3rd Sonoma Co. record)	PC
Gray Flycatcher	9/23	Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes	JM
Hammond's Flycatcher	10/10	Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes	SC, et al
Olive-sided Flycatcher	9/5-6	Campbell Cove	DN, et al
Townsend's Solitaire	10/27	Mt Tamalpais, Rock Spring area	B Mast
Brown Thrasher	10/6-7	Shorttail Gulch	RE, PRH
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	9/17-20	Rodeo Lagoon, Marin Co.	WL, M. Ob
Red-throated Pipit	10/16	Abbotts Lagoon	E Gross
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (2)	9/5-8	Campbell Cove	DN, et al
Canyon Wren	10/24	Mt. St. Helena	GH
White-eyed Vireo	9/15	Green Gulch Farms, Marin Co.	AM
Red-eyed Vireo	10/6-7	Inverness Tennis Club	BT
Yellow-green Vireo	9/26	Simmons/Field Rd., S. of Rodeo Lagoon	W Legge
Nashville Warbler (2)	9/5	Campbell Cove	DN, et al
Virginia's Warbler	10/9-11	Valley Ford-Freestone Rd. , 4th Co. record	J Snead
Palm Warbler (2)	10/22	Santa Rosa Creek trail	J Snead
Canada Warbler	9/5	Pt. Reyes Fish Docks	BA
Golden-winged Warbler	9/5-8	Campbell Cove, Bodega Bay	DN, BOC, TB, SC, M.Ob
Note: This very retiring first Sonoma County record stayed 4 days, but still eluded many local birders.			
Blackpoll Warbler	9/23	Owl Canyon	DF
Bay-breasted Warbler	9/8	Kent Island, within Bolinas Lagoon	PP, et al
Prairie Warbler	9/28	Owl Canyon, then flying N. (photos)	M. Balitbit
Black-and-White Warbler	9/28	Redwood Creek, Muir Beach	DN
Hermit Warbler (2)	10/13	Salmon Creek Rd.	LH et al
Chestnut-sided Warbler (2)	9/5	Campbell Cove	DN, et al
Blackburnian Warbler	9/30-10/5	Green Gulch Farms, Muir Beach	DK, MF
Ovenbird	9/22-23	Campbell Cove	WD (photos), DN
Northern Waterthrush	9/22	Campbell Cove	WG
American Redstart	9/5	Campbell Cove	DN, SC, TB et al
Painted Redstart	10/4	Drakes Beach	S. Tracey, DF, et al
Yellow-headed Blackbird (imm.)	10/3	Bridgehaven cattle pens	DS, SC, LH
Orchard Oriole (imm. or fem.)	9/28	Bodega Head Cypress Grove	GH
Clay-colored Sparrow	9/3-22	Campbell Cove/ Bodega Head area	DN, et al
Lapland Longspur	10/20	Hudeman Slough wetlands, S-bound	M Berner
Lawrence's Goldfinch	10/5	Bay Hill Rd., calling fly-by	DN
Painted Bunting (fem.)	10/8	Bolinas feeder (at private residence)	D Humple, et al
Lazuli Bunting	9/5-6	Campbell Cove	DN, et al

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## Madrone Audubon Society

Post Office Box 1911  
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### December 2018/January 2019

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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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