



LEAVES

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

VOLUME 53

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Number 3

Our Members Share – Kincade Fire & Impacts to Nature – October-November 2019

We've lived on 3/4 acre in Sonoma proper for just 6 years—lots of gardens, roses and fruit trees, etc. Never had a problem with deer until the summer following the 2017 fires. Now, tracks, droppings and lots of pruned branch ends. Oh well, they were here first.

Tom Ahlers, Sonoma

It may be too early to tell how it has or will affect the birds. They can fly, so can leave the area. Christmas counts and spring bird counts at Pepperwood and other preserves will tell more about where the birds are. I know the Pepperwood Spring dawn count after the last fire storm showed that Lazuli Buntings were seen more in burned areas. Woodpeckers may come into burned areas more, also. Time tells more than the immediate season. There may not be a lot of data to share right now.

A participant in one of my birdwalks emailed and shared that, on Oct. 28th, over her vineyard, up near Occidental, the smoke was very bad. She counted exactly 50 Turkey Vultures soaring around over her vineyard. Thought that was strange to be so many. It is migration season. However, they may have fled the smoke too...?

Janet Bosshard, Santa Rosa (southwest)

I live just outside of Healdsburg. The fire came within a mile of our home. I feed the birds every day and have fresh water for them, which they drink and bathe in. We were evacuated and I was unable to get back home for several days. All their food was gone and, of course, their water. But, they seemed soooooo happy to see me. The chickadees followed me around for the organic unsalted roasted peanuts. They seemed to let me know their regular bird seed was ok, and splashing in the water again was nice ... but those peanuts ... Wow. This is a 5-star restaurant for the birds (and some other wildlife where appropriate). Many different birds come to the multiple feeders here in our yard. But I'm in love with those chickadees.

Jami Kerr, Healdsburg

Like many, I spent the week of Oct 23-30th without power. Unlike many, I spent it in my own bed. I awoke on the 24th, horrified to hear KSRO reporting the outbreak of the Kincade

fire. Our eastern Santa Rosa neighborhood had Safeway and our local dining establishments open for business. My true grieving began as the reports of fire in upper Pine Flat Road and on down came in. Sure, I was concerned for property loss, but my biggest sorrow was for the birding area I knew was being consumed. I mourned the death or disruption of the Ash-throated and Olive-sided Flycatchers, the Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, California Thrashers, Western Tanagers and the Purple Martins I saw there this past May with Gordon Beebe. I mourned the loss of habitat for the Lazuli Bunting, which I hope to see on Pine Flat Road in the future. Hoping for a renewal.

Linda Fraley, MD, Santa Rosa (east)

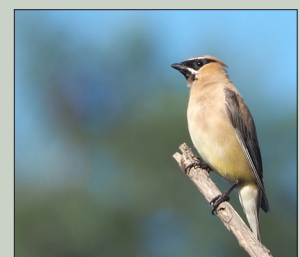
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GENERAL MEETING

First United Methodist Church • 1551 Montgomery Dr., Santa Rosa
Monday, January 20, 2020, 7:00 PM

“Changing Scenes of Sonoma County Wildlife”

Join Naturalist and Nature Photographer Tom Reynolds for a journey into the lives of our Sonoma County wild creatures. Tom began his collection of photographs and videography anew in 2017 after the wildfires, and has a view into our environment and the wild lives of Sonoma County since 2017, and our most recent fire event, the Kincade Fire. We invite members to come together in our first calendar meeting of 2020, share experiences and renew our support for the amazing habitat and birds and wildlife about whom we all care so much. (We will bring a space heater, in the event of a cool January evening.)



Cedar Waxwing Courtesy of Tom Reynolds

Tom Reynolds' photography is recognized and enjoyed for captured moments of natural connections, honoring the environment, without disturbing birds or wildlife in the process. Tom leads bird and nature walks and has a long history of supporting Sonoma County Regional Parks with nature photography and service.



KINCADE FIRE

Continued from page 1

Note from Gordon Beebe: Luckily, many of the birds Linda mentions are already safe in their winter homes at this time of year – the flycatchers, tanagers, martins, and buntings. The ones hardest hit were the resident birds - the thrashers, gnatcatchers, Bell’s Sparrow, and other resident species. But what happens when the migrants return next spring? Some might be able to move to an unburned area, but if it is already occupied, then there is no home for them. Others, such as the Lazuli Buntings, are frequently found in burned-over areas, so they may actually do okay when they return.



Western Bluebirds in downtown Santa Rosa

Courtesy of Anne Murphy

About 5 or 6 Western Bluebirds have been coming to the bird bath daily since the fires. We’re in downtown Santa Rosa. This is unusual for my backyard. I’m seeing them for the first time, but happy to have them!

Anne Murphy, Santa Rosa (downtown)

I have a small farm in Western Petaluma. For the last 4 years, I’ve raised Monarch Butterflies. I found the caterpillars and some eggs every year. I learned how to shepherd them from caterpillar or egg form to the day of flying away. This year, I raised 31 from caterpillar to chrysalis and only saw 29 butterflies (potential parents) in the garden. (Last year, I saw 74 butterflies (potential parents) in the garden. Their adult numbers are thus dwindling at an alarming rate. I was worried about smoke, cold and the fact it could well be raining when they hatch and are ready to fly away. I had a friend who delivered these “cocoon” to Pacific Grove ...there, they’ll hatch and be released. Pacific Grove is their wintering ground and hopefully they’ll return to Petaluma next year to complete the cycle.

Cathy Henning, Petaluma

We saw lots of Bufflehead at Bodega Harbor and some Brant coming in, too. Lots of brown pelicans about. We NEED RAIN so more birds will migrate to our areas. I personally think that we’re continuing in the drought and that last year was just a fluke that we got some rain.

Annette Roth, Bodega Bay observation

On Oct. 30th, my backyard was full of birds. At just after 9:00 a.m., looking out at my little bird pond, I saw: 1 Black Phoebe, 2 Hermit Thrush, too many Lesser Goldfinches to count, 1 Spotted Towhee, 2 California Towhees, 1 Flicker, 1 Red-naped Sapsucker, 1 White-throated Sparrow, 4 Golden-crowned Sparrows, 2 Fox Sparrows, 3 Anna’s Hummingbirds, 14 California Quail, many Juncos, 2 Chickadees, Western Bluebirds, Cedar Waxwings and Yellow-rumped Warblers have been showing up quite a bit too. On the 31st, for the first time ever, I had turkeys in my backyard, 9 of them.

Cathy Vancik, Santa Rosa (northeast)

A couple of days after the fire started, but before we had to evacuate with the rest of west county, I heard, then saw 12 Red Crossbills fly over our yard. We rarely see them here at all, and usually only one or a few at a time. That species does roam around a lot, so it could be they came from somewhere else unrelated to the fire.

Also noted was the number of burned leaves I found in our yard when we got back. I collected over a hundred burned and partially burned leaves, mostly oak and bay, but a few other species as well. Our house is roughly 12 miles away from where the south end of the fire was on Saturday night, when the high winds forced us to flee, and also when the leaves probably got blown over.

Gordon Beebe, Santa Rosa (northwest)



Backyard leaves

Courtesy of Gordon Beebe

We were evacuated and able to return on Oct. 29th. I’ve seen bird species in my backyard never there, with higher numbers of others I often see. First time for a female American Goldfinch, and both kinds of nuthatches. I have 5 feeders with seed, a birdbath and hummingbird feeder. The birds on Oct. 29th and that week were American Goldfinch, Purple Finch, Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Cedar Waxwing, Oak Titmouse, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, House Finch, House Sparrow, Western Scub Jay, Brown Creeper, Lincoln’s Sparrow, Mourning Dove (a few), Eurasian-collared Dove, Anna’s and Rufous Hummingbirds.

Gayle Kozlowski, Santa Rosa (southwest)



Birds Evacuated During Kincade Fire

Native Songbird Care & Conservation in Sebastopol (NSCC) evacuated at 4:00 a.m., Sunday, Oct. 27th, until Wednesday, Oct. 30th. Veronica Bowers said the center's power was restored Wednesday night. Preparing with Bird Rescue Center (BRC) of Sonoma County, NSCC had received some of BRC's aviary birds a couple of days before the Oct. 27th evacuation. Veronica acknowledged the early evacuation warning system on Saturday, alerting to the possibility of evacuation. As a precaution, they had brought in the BRC birds and birds from the NSCC aviaries, and when the Sunday mandatory evacuation order came, they quickly and safely evacuated humans, birds, and Veronica's horse to a safe location in South Sonoma County out of the fire zone. Katie from BRC came to this location late Sunday morning to the barn where Veronica's horse was evacuated and then took the BRC bird evacuees to another facility. Once NSCC could return to Sebastopol on Wednesday, Veronica said they took in several birds that were all cat-caught birds and none seemed to show symptoms of exposure to fire or smoke. Veronica reflected, "I continue to be impressed and heartened by how well all of the groups in our region and adjacent regions work so well together and support each other. We are so lucky to have each other, especially in times of crisis."

Veronica Bowers suggests 2 articles from Audubon in the last 2 years on the impact of wildfires on birds:

How Wildfires Affect Birds:

<https://www.audubon.org/news/how-wildfires-affect-birds>

Fire and Birds:

<https://ca.audubon.org/news/fire-and-birds-0>

Bird Rescue Center (BRC) of Sonoma County on Chanate Road received the order for mandatory evacuation, but had prepared and voluntarily evacuated their Ambassadors and patients on Oct. 26th to Native Songbird Care & Conservation, WildCare, Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue and Lindsay Museum on standby. When evacuation orders were lifted, BRC reported they hoped to be fully moved back into the Chanate location by Nov. 2-3 – but smoke had impacted the center. They were therefore diligently cleaning living areas of remaining particulates, with the need for high sensitivity to the birds' respiratory systems. Also, in the evacuation, equipment, files and electronics were removed from the Chanate location, so these necessary support items for operating the Center were also being returned and reinstalled.

More information and to support rescue and rehabilitation efforts:

Native Songbird Care & Conservation:

www.nativesongbirdcare.org

Bird Rescue Center of Sonoma County:

www.birdrescuecenter.org

(Resources: *Native Songbird Care & Conservation, Bird Rescue Center of Sonoma County*)

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 in the **Members' Column** in future issues.

Modini Preserve Burns in Kincade Fire

On Nov. 2nd, Audubon Canyon Ranch Executive Director John Peterson shared the sad news that the Modini property of the Mayacamas-Modini Preserves had almost completely burned in the Kincade fire. The Kincade fire started near the Modini Preserve in the Mayacamas Mountains and burned 95% of the 3,000 acres of the preserve. The Modini ranch house, outbuildings and barn survived the fire – John said thanks to the swift, steady action of Cal-Fire's Sonoma-Lake-Napa unit. In the 2017 Nuns fire, ACR's Bouverie Preserve in Glen Ellen burned. According to John, 65% of ACR lands have been affected by wildfire in the past two



Modini Preserve

years. Always forward looking for conservation, in 2016, ACR launched the Fire Forward program collaborative with the Bay Area Prescribed Fire Council, now with over 100 members. Fuel management is coordinated with regional partners in the Sonoma Valley and with UCCE in formation of the Good Fire Alliance in Sonoma County. This alliance supports residents in improving fire-hardiness of homes and properties. This year, prior to the Kincade fire, three controlled burns were initiated and managed in Marin and Sonoma Counties.

More information and to support rebuilding and conservation efforts:

Audubon Canyon Ranch: www.egret.org.

(Resource: *John Peterson, Audubon Canyon Ranch*)

Are you a National Audubon member?

Please consider joining our local chapter, Madrone Audubon.

(see membership form, back page)

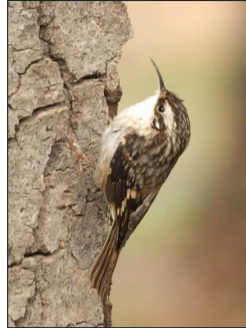


Family & Youth Holiday Bird Walk & Christmas Bird Count for Kids

Saturday, December 14, 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM

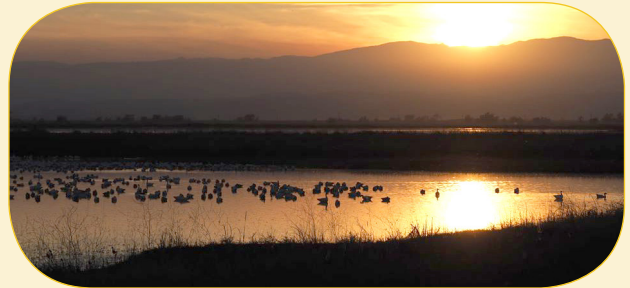
Spring Lake Regional Park

Please join us for 2 hours of seasonal natural joy for young people out in nature. 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. Meet at Shady Oaks Picnic Area near the Environmental Discovery Center, Violetti Road. Refreshments served after the walk. Questions: Call 707-241-5548.



*Brown Creeper at Spring Lake
Courtesy of Tom Reynolds*

*In Memory of
Evelyn Cheatham
Extraordinary
human being, chef and teacher*



Courtesy of Tom Reynolds

Western Sonoma County Christmas Bird Count – December 29th

This year's Christmas Bird Count for Western Sonoma County will be Sunday, December 29, 2019, our 53rd Christmas Bird Count. Twenty teams will census birds from early morning to late afternoon and then meet at 5:00 p.m. at the Sebastopol Community Center for a post-count dinner and to share birding experiences of the day. The team of Peter Leveque and Stacy Li are coordinating the count. Please direct any questions to Peter (707-542-8946) or Stacy (707-527-2037).

Are you a new volunteer? We welcome you and will find a team for you to join for the day. Visit the Madrone Audubon website (<http://www.madroneaudubon.org>) and click on the Christmas Bird Counts link to see a map of 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 date and time approach to obtain 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, this year, we're serving a delish vegetarian lasagna with soup, salad and crusty French bread from Oliver's Market. (Thanks to Nancy Hair for coordinating with Oliver's!) And, volunteers, we can use your help! Please contact Susan Kirks at susankirks@sbcglobal.net or 707-241-5548. We'll set up tables and the dinner, and serve. We also ask our participants to bring a dessert to share with everyone.

Our volunteers will meet at the community center at 4:15 p.m. The center hasn't fully recovered from last year's floods, so our access to the kitchen is minimal to nil, and we'll be creative in heating the dinner and serving. Beverages of mineral water, ginger ale and hot tea will be provided. The

requested donation per person for dinner is \$5-10 at the door. We also provide recycled plates and utensils, but please also consider bringing your own plate, fork and cup; many of our attendees do. We so look forward to seeing you and sharing our 53rd Christmas Bird Count experience together on December 29th.

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

Santa Rosa CBC

Sunday, December 15, 2019

Contact Bill Doyle at shortbill@comcast.net.

Sonoma Valley CBC

Friday, December 27, 2019

Contact Gene Hunn at enhunn323@comcast.net or call 981-7301.

Sonoma Valley CBC4Kids

Hosted by Sonoma Birding & Sonoma State University Center for Environmental Inquiry

Sunday, December 15, 2019, 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM

Fairfield Osborn Preserve, Penngrove 94951

Contact Sonoma Nature at sonomanature@gmail.com or call 939-8007

Point Reyes Peninsula CBC, Marin County

Saturday, December 14, 2019

Register at <https://www.pointreyescbc.com/>.

Marin Audubon CBC

Cheep Thrills, Thursday, December 19, 2019

Contact: cheepthrills@icloud.com

Southern Marin CBC, Saturday, December 28, 2019

Contact: smcbc.marinaudubon@gmail.com



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 2019 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 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.

Saturday, December 14, 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM.

FAMILY & YOUTH HOLIDAY BIRD WALK & CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT FOR KIDS. Spring Lake Regional Park. Meet at Shady Oaks Picnic Area near the Environmental Discovery Center, Violetti Road. Questions: Call 707-241-5548.

Thursday, December 19, 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM
(new winter start time)

LAGUNA DE SANTA ROSA COUNTY PARKS TRAIL. We will check out the Laguna for ducks and egrets, grass lands for sparrows, and possibly some raptors. Meet in the parking lot, off Highway 12, near the gas station. Be prepared for winter weather. Watch the forecast. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Janet Bosshard, 526-5883.

Sunday, December 29, dawn to dusk

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

January 2020 Calendar

Thursday, January 2, 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, January 4, 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. 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 call or text msg.

Thursday, January 16, 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

ELLIS CREEK ponds, Petaluma. We'll look for water birds and grassland birds, with maybe some raptors overhead. From Highway 101 in Petaluma, go East on 116 (Lakeville Highway), and right on Pine View Way, then left on Cypress Drive. Go to the end of the road and through the gate. We will meet in the parking lot, near the bathroom. Wear warm layers and have some water proof gear with you. Heavy rains cancel. Leader: Janet Bosshard, 526-5883

Saturday, January 18, 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, Bald Eagle, plus 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 20, 7:00 PM

GENERAL MEETING. First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa. "Changing Scenes of Sonoma County Wildlife." This is a free event and all are welcome.

Saturday, February 1, 8:30 AM to noon.

ELLIS CREEK WATER RECYCLING FACILITY. Ellis Creek always has an assortment of waterbirds and marshland species, with frequent flyovers over hawks and falcons. From Highway 101 in Petaluma, go East on 116 (Lakeville Highway), and right on Pine View Way, then left on Cypress Drive. Go to the end of the road and through the gate. We will meet in the parking lot, near the bathroom. Leader: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115 call or text msg.

Look for Doran Beach Bird Checklist soon at Doran Beach

Membership renewals, Fall 2019, are due now.

Please renew your membership today.

Thank you!



OUT & ABOUT

The Paradox of Preservation: Wilderness and Working Landscapes at Point Reyes National Seashore

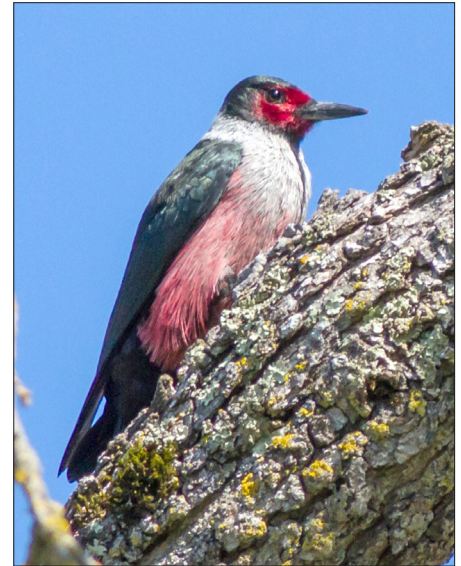
Laguna Environmental Center, 900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95401
Thursday, December 5, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Presentation by Laura Alice Watt, from the Department of Geography, Environment, and Planning at Sonoma State University, whose research addresses how environmental history can help us to understand the management dilemma of combining wild space and agriculture at the Point Reyes National Seashore. \$14 (non-refundable). Pre-registration required – see http://lagunadesantarosa.org/laguna_walks_classes.html.

21st Annual Snow Goose Festival of the Pacific Flyway

Chico, CA
Wednesday through Sunday, January 22 – 26, 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. Registration begins in early December at www.snowgoosefestival.org.



*Lewis's Woodpecker – Taylor Mountain Regional Park
Courtesy of Dennis Lutz*

Bay Area Audubon Field Trips

The North Bay region is home to several Audubon chapters, and all...like Madrone...offer amazing field trip opportunities. Check out what's offered in December and January at <https://www.marinaudubon.org/events-field-trips.php>, <https://goldengateaudubon.org/upcoming-field-trips/>, or <https://mtdiabloudubon.org/birding/birding-trips/>.



Lincoln Sparrow

Courtesy of Gordon Beebe

Don Lane Donates His Library

Don Lane, in honor of his late partner, Arlene, and his family have kindly donated their collection of multiple field guides, history and bird and wildlife books to our Chapter. The books will be available at our membership meetings for perusal and selection. Check out our back table at upcoming membership meetings to peruse and select. Small donations accepted for the books, a suggestion of \$5 or more. We're very grateful to Don and his family for this generous gift.

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.



Bay Area Audubon Council (BAAC) Update

by Susan Kirks

It's been a while since our Madrone Audubon members have received a report about BAAC activities and updates. The BAAC has been in transition for the last several months to a year. We're pleased to report BAAC is alive and well, and our Council recently met Saturday, October 26th, in Napa.

Napa-Solano Audubon kindly hosted our meeting, coordinated by Conservation Chair Dr. Nancy Piotrowski (thank you, Nancy!) who also serves as our Bay Area Audubon Council representative to Audubon California's Board of Directors. Audubon California is the statewide Audubon organization, affiliated with National Audubon Society, and HQ'd in San Francisco.

October 26th was a day of alert and action regarding the Kincade Fire in Sonoma County. "We'd planned this meeting date, time and location for some time, so I drove over to Napa," shared Madrone's President Susan Kirks, "and began receiving Civil Emergency nixle and other cell text alerts during the meeting. I was fortunate to stay for the meeting and leave immediately afterward, without much traffic on Highway 37, to make my way back to Sonoma County."

BAAC is comprised of our Bay Area Chapters, including: Madrone (Sonoma Co.), Marin (Marin Co.), Golden Gate (San Francisco & Oakland), Ohlone (southern & eastern Alameda Co.), Sequoia (San Mateo Co.), Napa-Solano, Mt. Diablo (Contra Costa Co.), and Santa Clara (Santa Clara Co.).

In our Oct. 26th meeting, the Council made decisions about meeting frequency and location for our future. With recent changes in the Audubon California relationship with Chapters in the state, Councils will now schedule and manage our own meetings and topics for local, regional and state interest and action. We will continue our strong relationship with Audubon California, receiving updates from state staff, including a collaborative approach to state legislative policy and action. The BAAC will meet twice yearly, Fall and Spring, at Richardson Bay Sanctuary in Tiburon, and also schedule conference calls or special meetings as needed. We'll look forward to sharing with our Madrone Audubon members reports of BAAC meetings and how we can all cooperate and support each other.

Conservation Highlight – For Your Information:

In our Oct. 26th meeting, Pam Young, Executive Director of Golden Gate Audubon shared updated research about bird fatalities from wind turbines in the Altamont Pass, known as the Altamont Power Wind Resource Area (APWRA).

Settlement of litigation over the Altamont Pass wind farm several years ago included mitigation funds for research on bird and bat impacts and funds to acquire mitigation land and programmatic environmental impact review (PEIR). In 2014, the lead agency, Alameda County, completed a PEIR through which wind farm conditional use permits (CUPs) are regulated. Focal species monitored for impacts from wind

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New Members

Petaluma <i>Adam Petersen</i> <i>Sandra Shannonhouse</i> <i>& Art Schade</i>	Santa Rosa <i>Cynthia Lee</i> <i>Art Valencia</i>	Sonoma <i>Kristy Godfrey</i>
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Donations

In Honor of
Paula Lane
Phenology Project
by Richard Hurley

In Memory of
Judie Peterson
by Ervand Peterson
Patsy Wright
by Daniel Wright

Tolay Fall Festival in Petaluma – A Special Time

by Susan Kirks

Before the Kincade fire, the annual Fall Festival at Tolay Lake Regional Park in southeast Petaluma was enjoyed by hundreds and hundreds of adults, young people and families. The timing of being able to enjoy this great festival in 2019, especially for families, was fortuitous. Early October 2019 helped make positive memories. Education visits occur on weekdays during the festival. The two main weekends for fun and connection to this vast open space and festival activities were Oct. 12-13 and Oct. 19-20. The annual festival is organized and hosted by Sonoma County Regional Parks. John Ryan who leads volunteers is always well organized. The free treats, beverages and meal voucher given to volunteers are just the height of generosity, in my personal experience. I used my meal voucher for a super burrito meal from a food truck serving up delicious fare.

This year, I volunteered in the Night Creatures Barn and had a wonderful time. Bird Rescue Center of Sonoma County also hosted a display in the barn, and two of BRC's Ambassadors (owl and hawk) thrilled visitors. For many festival-



Tolay night creatures - BRC demo

goers, riding on the hay wagon out to the big pumpkin patch and selecting a nice pumpkin was a festival highlight. We encourage our Madrone Audubon members to sign up and volunteer for this festival. Regional Parks appreciates even one weekend day of several hours, and lots of opportunities await in a variety of venues. To add your name to the list now, so you'll be contacted for next year's 2020 Fall festival, please contact John Ryan, john.ryan@sonoma-county.org, 707-565-3356. Let's come together, especially our Petaluma Audubon members, support Regional Parks and donate our time to help make the Tolay Fall Festival an ongoing special event each year. See you there!



Two Recent Studies – Danger to Survival of Birds, Call to Action

Journal of Science, September 2019

The Journal reported, since 1970, 2.9 billion birds have been lost, 29% of the total U.S. and Canada breeding bird populations. The research for this report was led by Scientist Ken Rosenberg of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology with a team of scientists from seven institutions who analyzed and synthesized long-term monitoring population surveys and radar imagery.



California Quail Courtesy of National Audubon Society

From forests, 1 billion lost. From grassland, bird populations collectively have declined more than 50%, or 700 million birds. Habitat loss is likely to be the driving factor in these declines. The greatest losses are common birds, birds we are accustomed to seeing every day as part of our landscapes – Over 90% of the losses are from 12 avian families, including sparrows, blackbirds, warblers and finches. “It’s a strong signal ... our human altered landscapes are losing their ability to support birdlife ... an indicator of a coming collapse of the overall environment,” said Rosenberg.

Survival by Degrees, 389 Bird Species on the Brink of Extinction, October 2019

National Audubon Society released an update to the 2014 Climate Change Report. By globally working together to act and limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above preindustrial levels, 290 bird species would have a chance to survive. Emission of greenhouse gases into our atmosphere must be stopped and managed, while at the same time transitioning to carbon-free energy sources. National Audubon recommends we begin by urging our elected officials to:

- Back economy-wide federal legislation to drive large-scale emission reductions, such as pricing or capping carbon emissions.

AUDUBON COUNCIL

Continued from page 7

turbines included: Golden eagle, Red-tailed hawk, American kestrel and Western burrowing owl. These CUPs require the “wind farms” to consult with biologists in all phases of operations, such as pre-construction surveys, avoiding and minimizing wildlife impacts, and applying mitigation measures. Part of the settlement was also to remove old wind turbines and replace those with newer models, less in quantity.

New monitoring reports from a “repowered wind farm” have revealed an alarming increase in mortality – 25 Golden eagles killed in 2 years of monitoring. Golden Gate Audubon reported to us the conclusion that this level of mortality equates

- Support policies, such as energy efficiency standards, that reduce electricity demand.
- Expand and incentivize clean energy sources like wind and solar while reducing our dependence on fossil fuels.
- Reduce tailpipe emissions from vehicles by improving fuel economy, boosting electric vehicles, and expanding public transit.
- Preserve and restore landscapes, like wetlands and forest, that sequester carbon.
- Invest in developing and deploying technologies to accelerate the clean-energy transition, including battery storage and carbon capture. “Just like us, birds need food, water and a safe place to raise their young...” Climate change not only shifts a bird’s range, it “intensifies weather events that can have catastrophic local impacts, and it eats away at habitat through sea-level rise...humans continue to irrevocably alter land where birds find refuge.” (*National Audubon, Call to Action, October 2019*)

As our planet warms, birds will relocate to escape heat --- hundreds of North American species may drastically shift their ranges in decades ahead, responding to rising temperature and other threats from climate change.



Long-billed Curlew
Courtesy of National Audubon Society

Bird species could struggle to cope as warming forces them into unfamiliar territory or shrinks existing habitats. In Sonoma County, we in Madrone Audubon are frequently moved by the attention and care of our members to backyard habitat areas, to supporting preservation of open space and habitat areas for birds, wildlife and peaceful human enjoyment, and for the willingness to act on a daily basis toward what National Audubon describes as our necessary common goals and ongoing education. For more information on the National Audubon climate action effort, visit climate.audubon.org.

to exceeding the predicted mortality for the entire APWRA as specified in the PEIR.

Diverse renewable energy sources are critically important to address climate change impacts and to generate needed energy. Inadequate planning and siting of wind turbines, along with older monitored horizontal axis, bladed turbines, result in dramatic and unnecessary deaths of birds and wildlife. This issue deserves our close attention, with support for new technologies of turbines without the big bladed windmill appearance and installation of turbines to minimize and eliminate impacts of injury and death to birds and wildlife.

**Observations**

Summer – Fall 2019 • Dan Nelson • 479-2918 • birdsurf64@sbcglobal.net

Harlequin Duck (imm.)	11/2	Gualala Pt. Regional Park	D Leland
Snow Goose (10)	10/30	Chanslor Ranch, S. field	T Erickson
Ross' Goose (1)	11/5	Bodega Farm pond	J Snead
G. White-fronted Goose (180+)	10/20	Paula Lane, Petaluma - flyovers	D Nelson
G. White-fronted Goose (170)	10/22	Jenner Headlands	TT, MT
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	10/30	Richardson Bay Marina, Marin Co. (adult)	M.Ob
Brown Booby	10/6	Offshore Bodega Bay	SH, AJ
Tufted Puffin	9/22	Offshore Bodega Bay	M Balitbit, et al
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	8/25	Offshore Bodega Bay	AJ, et al
Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel	8/25	Offshore Bodega Bay	AJ, et al
Black Storm-Petrel	8/25	Offshore Bodega Bay	AJ, et al
Ashy Storm-Petrel (2)	10/6	Offshore Bodega Bay	AJ, SH et al
Long-tailed Jaeger (1)	10/13	N. of Cordell Bank, Marin Co.	PP, et al
South Polar Skua (3)	9/22	Offshore Bodega Bay	G Hunn, et al
South Polar Skua (5)	10/13	N. of Cordell Bank, Marin Co.	PP, et al
Short-tailed Shearwater (8)	10/13	N. of Cordell Bank, Marin Co.	PP, et al
Buller's Shearwater (100)	10/13	N. of Cordell Bank, Marin Co.	PP, et al
Northern Fulmar (60)	10/13	N. of Cordell Bank, Marin Co.	PP, et al
Laysan Albatross (1)	9/22	Offshore Bodega Bay	G Hunn, et al
Laysan Albatross (3)	10/13	N. of Cordell Bank, Marin Co.	PP, et al
White-faced Ibis (1)	10/22	Shollenberger Park	E Crouthamel
Baird's Sandpiper (1)	9/28	Porto Bodega	LH
Pectoral Sandpiper (2)	10/5	Shollenberger Park	LH
Ruff	10/21	Buchli Station Rd, Napa Co.	R Lebadour
Wilson's Phalarope (2)	10/11	Tomales Rd. farm pond @ Bodega Hwy.	TB
Pacific Golden-Plover (1)	10/24	Westshore Park, Bodega Bay	J Snead
American Golden-Plover	10/21-21	Salmon Creek Beach	GH, TB, et al
Sabine's Gull (1)	10/13	N. of Cordell Bank	PP, et al
Black Vulture	9/24	Campbell Cove	GH, NH
Black Vulture	10/9	Doran Park entrance area, Sonoma County	J Valfer
Broad-winged Hawk (photos)	10/9	Jenner Ridge / overlook	D Barry
Red-shouldered Hawk	11/3	Near BBML residences, with BUOW in talons	M Davis
Burrowing Owl	11/3	One fewer than previous on Bodega Head	(M Davis)
Barred Owl	10/19	Forestville area, Pocket Canyon Hwy.	J Snead
Lewis' Woodpecker	10/2	Off Coleman Valley Rd.	S Carey
Costa's Hummingbird	Sept.	Piner Rd area (1st yr. male- photos)	fide D Hofmann, M Ob
Black Swift (2)	9/17	Bay Hill Rd. Raptor lookout	S Carey
Gray Flycatcher	9/7-8	Freezeout Rd. Duncan Mills	TT, MT, M Ob
Vermilion Flycatcher (male)	10/19	Maxwell Cemetery, Colusa Co. - 5th yr. returnee	M.Ob
Tropical Kingbird	9/29	Shollenberger Park	D Shuford
Tropical Kingbird	10/8	Campbell Cove	LH
Tropical Kingbird	11/3	Ellis Creek treatment ponds	M Blanchard
Brown Thrasher	10/12	Sebastopol; 3rd winter returnee	V Bowers
Wood Thrush	9/15-17	Putah Creek/ Mace Rd; Solano Co.	R Muscat, et al
Phainopepla (2)	11/1	18588 Lomita Dr. Sonoma	T Erickson
Yellow-green Vireo	9/29-30	Mendoza Ranch, Pt. Reyes	J Luther, et al
Yellow-browed Warbler	10/25	Markleeville, Alpine Co. - 1st State Record!	T Easterla, et al
Hermit Warbler	9/17	Sugarloaf Ridge S.P.	M Blanchard
Nashville Warbler	9/19	Rail Ponds	DF
Tennessee Warbler	10/8	Cotati	D Kirker
Chestnut-sided Warbler	9/20	Russian Gulch	LH
Chestnut-sided Warbler	9/21	Los Guillicos Ave. Kenwood	R Rudesill
Canada Warbler	9/18	Rail Ponds	LH
Magnolia Warbler	9/17	Rail Ponds	SC, DM
Mourning Warbler	9/13-14	Nunes Ranch, Pt. Reyes	M Forney, D Singer
Palm Warbler	10/18	Doran Park jetty area	M Blanchard
Black-and-White Warbler	10/15-16	Owl Canyon (male)	D Edelstein, et al
American Redstart	9/20	Ellis Creek treatment ponds	G Hunn
Northern Waterthrush	9/9	Russian Gulch	TT, MT
Yellow-breasted Chat	8/28	Kenwood residence	RR
Summer Tanager	9/15-17	Rail Ponds (1st yr. male)	GH, et al
Clay-colored Sparrow	9/25	Campbell Cove	DN
Clay-colored Sparrow	10/3	Valley Ford-Freestone Rd. residence	J Snead
Black-throated Sparrow	9/7	Campbell Cove (photos)	GH, M Ob.
Swamp Sparrow	11/3	Maxwell Farms Regional Park	J Valfer
Lark Bunting	9/17	Hall Ranch, Pt. Reyes	D Mosur



Madrone Audubon Society

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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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