



Madrone LEAVES

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

VOLUME 48 February/March 2016 Number 4

Madrone Takes on West County 49th Christmas Bird Count Tentative Results

by Jeff Holtzman

IT WAS A CRISP TWENTY-NINE DEGREES when the first counters arrived at the appropriately named Freezeout Canyon territory for Madrone Audubon's 49th Annual Christmas Bird Count. This year the chilling cold was a factor in all the count areas reducing the tentative species total to 175 down from last year's 184, according to CBC co-chair Stacy Li. "The birds were really hunkered down," he said. It was the first time in the past 10 years the count number was less than 180. Also down this year was the tentative individual bird count at 36,928, a few thousand less than last year.

A quick review of the tentative tally showed the largest individual numbers for American Robin at 3,987 followed by Surf Scoters at 3,015 and Marbled Godwits at 2,265. Notable no shows for this year's count include Green Heron, Pygmy Owl, Loggerhead Shrike and Lark Sparrow.

Other observations of interest include two Bald Eagle, 7 Evening Grosbeak, 150 Black Oystercatcher, 961 Brandt and 818 Bufflehead. The trend of

increasing numbers for Eurasian Colored Doves continued with 248 counted versus Mourning Doves at 117 and Band-tailed Pigeon at 601. Warblers spotted include 266 Yellow-rumped Warbler (combined), 30 Townsend's Warbler, 3 Yellowthroat, 2 Hermit Warbler and a single Palm Warbler. Pygmy Nuthatch at 67 topped the Nuthatches

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Remarkable Documentary about Songbirds

The Messenger

One Night Only!

Madrone Audubon and friends will be hosting a screening of the critically acclaimed film *The Messenger: Imagine a World without Birdsong* on Thursday February 18th at the Summerfield Cinemas in Santa Rosa at 6:30 pm.

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GENERAL MEETING

First United Methodist Church • 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa

Monday, February 15, 2016 • 7:00 PM

"Owl Battlegrounds: Barred v. Spotted Owls"

Over the last 50 to 100 years, the eastern Barred Owl has made its way to the western United States. Presumably helped by human landscape alteration, the species now inhabits all of the range of the endangered Northern Spotted Owl. In recent years, evidence is mounting to suggest that Barred Owls have become a primary threat to Spotted Owls—they are fierce competitors, aggressive territory holders, and faster reproducers, and have even been anecdotally reported to kill Spotted Owls. And they are spreading faster than ever. Jack Dumbacher will discuss the natural history and conservation concerns for both species and the potential actions proposed by different management agencies.



Northern Spotted Owl

Monday, March 21, 2016 • 7:00 PM

"Birds of Cuba"

Alvaro Jaramillo will introduce us to the birds and other wildlife of Cuba. He co-led a trip in 2015 organized by the Caribbean Conservation Trust to this nearby, but previously difficult-to-access country. Some of the highlighted species from the trip were the Bee Hummingbird, Zapata Wren, Blue-headed Quail-Dove, Cuban Tody, Giant Kingbird, Zapata Sparrow, Fernandina's Flicker, Cuban Green Woodpecker, and Cuban Trogon, among many others. He hopes that "we are the vanguard of an eco-friendly tourism to Cuba that would not only help in increasing the amount of foreign funds to their country, but which is easier and less costly to develop, helps to support and maintain parks, local guides, local scientists and also helps to retain the current beauty and simplicity of this gorgeous country".



Cuban Tody

www.madroneaudubon.org/activities-guest-speakers.php

Dear Members – if you prefer to receive *Leaves* in PDF format, just email your request to: info@madroneaudubon.org



49TH CHRISTMAS COUNT

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followed by Red-breasted at 30 and White-breasted at 19.

Although many participants commented on the particularly cold weather this year, CBC co-chair and Freezeout Canyon count chief Peter Leveque said it was no big deal for his squad. "We're adaptive. With a name like our count territory, you've gotta be."

Look to future editions of the Leaves for more information on the 49th Annual West Sonoma County Christmas Bird Count. For statistics on past counts visit the Madrone Audubon webpage at MadroneAudubon.org and navigate to the National Audubon's CBC search feature. The code for our count is CAWS.

Congratulations to all on this year's count and for supporting the Audubon Society's most productive exercise in citizen science.

Madrone Audubon fields over 137 Volunteers for the 2016 CBC

Thanks go out to all the volunteer count leaders and participants as well as to the post-count dinner volunteers - Susan Kirks, Marguerite Li, Claudia Norby, Linda Hammer and Liz King and thanks to this year's dinner caterer, Barbara Hom of Night Owl Catering. Our special thanks, again, go to Lee and Elaine Tucker for use of their boat and to all the property owners whose cooperation in gaining access to their lands greatly enhances our ability to provide an accurate count.

THE MESSENGER

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The Messenger chronicles the struggle of songbirds worldwide to survive in turbulent conditions brought about by humans and argues that their demise is akin to the disappearance of honeybees and the melting of the glaciers. This beautiful movie aims at both the head and the heart, celebrating the amazing beauty and strength of our avian friends while also exploring the reasons behind their dramatic disappearance worldwide.



Tree swallow photo courtesy of the film

You won't want to miss it! Go to www.tugg.com/events/81902 and reserve your tickets now before they all sell out! We hope to see you there.

For more information about this amazing documentary please visit www.songbirdsos.com/.

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Third Year of Settlement Agreement/Cliff Swallows & Petaluma River Bridge 2016

by Susan Kirks

In December 2015, Plaintiff representatives met with Caltrans representatives in Petaluma. The pre-construction and nesting season meeting is required in the Cliff Swallows Settlement Agreement. 2016 is the final year of construction on the new Petaluma River Bridge. It is also the final year of our Settlement Agree-

ment. At last year's required pre-season meeting, Caltrans representatives advised the third and final construction season would involve primarily ground-based activity and the new bridge construction for the most part would be complete.

We learned in our December meeting, however, that Caltrans is now constructing a platform, using metal brackets and wood to be placed on those brackets for a walking length – along the entire length of the west side of the bridge – for additional construction activity related to the new southbound lane and a barrier rail on the bridge's west side. This construction will include an area over the Petaluma River that is a prime nesting area for the Cliff Swallows each year. Gordon Beebe of Madrone Audubon expressed concern about the brackets supporting this platform as appealing for swallow nest construction.

While Caltrans plans to scrape off nest starts and pressure wash to discourage nesting, we know, based on observations in 2015, that nest scraping practices of the Caltrans contractor were brought into question both for frequency as well as method, with an incongruence between biological reports and recommendations and observed practices at the bridge. Veronica Bowers of Native Songbird Care & Conservation recommended using flexible plastic sheeting or a green mesh flexible material to entirely cover this new platform, including the brackets, thereby excluding nesting activity from the new construction. Those concerns are being carried forward into the 2016 construction and nesting season.

Caltrans' reported plan for the now newly-constructed platform is to remove the platform and supporting brackets which will have served its purpose sometime in late April. Plaintiffs



CLIFF SWALLOWS

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provided input at the December meeting that the scheduled removal would likely coincide with the exact time large numbers of cliff swallows will have arrived and be constructing nests. Based on our past observations, there is a high likelihood nests will be completed and occupied before the Caltrans contractor can effectively scrape or pressure wash to remove nest starts. The ability to actually visualize nests in various stages underneath this platform by Caltrans-contracted biologists and the contractor was also met with serious doubt by Plaintiff representatives. Legal counsel for Plaintiffs has submitted correspondence to Caltrans which push forward several requests and expressions of concern. At this printing, we await Caltrans' response.



Cliff Swallow nests on Bridge
Christopher Chung, Press Democrat 5/18/15

We appreciate all members' support in this continuing challenging situation as Madrone Audubon and our Co-Plaintiffs, Native Songbird Care & Conservation, Golden Gate Audubon, Marin Audubon and Center for Biological Diversity, endeavor to ensure terms of the Settlement Agreement are met. Completion of construction of the new bridge is important. Equally important is ensuring the Migratory Bird Treaty Act is upheld and nesting Cliff Swallows at the Petaluma River Bridge are adequately protected with intelligent decisions implemented where needed.

NOTE: Mid-April through August is a good time to visit the Petaluma River Bridge to observe the amazing phenomenon of the migratory Cliff Swallow traveler, nesting after a 6000 mile journey from Argentina. We highly recommend a visit. Let us know about your viewing experience, including any concerns arising from your viewing experience. *Vehicle parking is available on the east side of the bridge on the shoulder-side of Petaluma Boulevard; and on the west side of the bridge in the residential area just across the boulevard. Cross crosswalk and walk short distance on sidewalk up to west side of bridge; or other discovered safe parking areas of your choice. Let us know what you see, including any concerns.* Contact: susankirks@sbcglobal.net

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BIRD-A-THON 2016 24 Hours for Fun and Profit February & March

Madrone's Bird-A-Thon, better known as **B A T**, is our biggest fundraiser of the year with all money going strictly towards our educational and conservation projects – projects like Junior Audubon, Audubon Adventures, Lincoln School Bird Festival and the Christmas Bird Count. Last year, almost \$10,000 was collected by YOU, the SPONSORS....the highest amount ever!!!! We'd like to beat that in 2016. Please join us!

B A T is a team event where each team member contacts their friends, family, fellow workers, asking them to support a day of counting bird species for money. Pledges can be whatever you can give....from 5 cents per bird spe-

cies on up, or even a set amount. After your team's **Big Day**, your team leader will contact you to accept your donation with thanks, along with a note telling you about their day.

Participating teams last year included the **Feather Questers** (Diane Hichwa); **Roadrunners** (Betty Groce and Don McCarthy); **Zonotripias** (Bill Doyle, Helen Kochenderfer and Don Kirker); **Grey-headed Seersuckers** (Ken Wilson, Becky Olsen, Ian Morrison, Ted Eliot); **Burrowing Owls** (Susan Kirks, Nathaniel Roberts, Linda Hammer); **March Madness** (Gene Hunn and Ron Storey).

If you would like to form your own team with friends, it is not too late... please see the box below. This year the sky is the limit!

**How to be
part of
Bird-A-Thon
2016**

For New Birding Teams:

Contact BAT coordinator, Marcia Johnson at owlsnesttwo@att.net or 707-829-3808, and she will send you a sign-up sheet with instructions. Start signing up your Sponsors.

To be a Sponsor:

If no one asks, you can sign up to support or join a Team at the General Meeting on January 18th, or contact Marcia.



Owl Battlegrounds: Barred v. Spotted Owls

By Jack Dumbacher

The Barred Owl (*Strix varia*) is the eastern cousin to our western Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis*). Like the Spotted Owl, the Barred Owl lives in forests, hunts at night, and feeds largely on small mammals. They differ in that the Barred Owl is more of a generalist opportunistic predator (feeding also on crayfish, snakes, even small birds and insects), has a broader habitat tolerance, and is slightly larger and more aggressive than the Spotted Owl.

In the last 100 years, Barred Owls have gradually extended their range westward, and around 1959, they began to formally “invade” the Spotted Owl’s range in British Columbia. By the 1970s, Barred Owls were documented in Washington and Oregon, by 1976 they were documented in northern California, and the first Barred Owls were documented in Marin County in 2003.

On the one hand, this is now one more good bird that you can reliably “tick” on your Bay Area bird list. On the other hand, evidence is mounting that Barred Owls are having a significant detrimental effect on Spotted Owls – they compete for food and nesting sites, they are aggressive to Spotted Owls, they breed faster and disperse farther, they even interbreed with Spotted Owls and have an unknown effect on each other’s genomes.

In 2011, the Revised Recovery Plan for the Northern Spotted Owl identified competition with the invading Barred Owl as one of the most pressing threats to the Northern Spotted Owl. The easier it is to see a Barred Owl, the harder it is to see a Spotted Owl.

Again, on the one hand, this is a fascinating biological experiment. What will be

the final outcome? Will the owls interbreed to become a new hybrid species? Will Barred Owls outcompete Spotted Owls in the western states? Or will they achieve equilibrium and continue to co-exist side by side? No one knows the answer, but one goal of conservation biology is to create a natural environment where species can continue to evolve and do naturally what species will do.

On the other hand, it is not clear that this experiment is completely natural. There is some hint that human-caused habitat and climate change aided the Barred Owls in their westward dispersal. Human changes to western forests may have tipped the hand of evolution to favor Barred Owls in these now-disturbed forests. And another goal of conservation is to preserve “biodiversity” that is often measured in numbers of species present. We would hate to lose a species like the Spotted Owl to a common species that has become “weedy.” And federal law mandates that wildlife managers come up with a plan to preserve endangered species – and the Northern Spotted Owl is federally listed under the Endangered Species Act.

So biologists, wildlife managers, local conservation organizations, and others are putting their heads together to figure out what is to be done – and even what CAN be done at this point. The discussion is a fascinating one, and solutions range from doing nothing to launching an all-out campaign to eliminate Barred Owls from Spotted Owl habitat. And let me remind you that it is impossible not to pick sides – what humans have been doing for the last 100 years has already unwittingly made certain choices or favored certain outcomes. To “do nothing” is really to consciously endorse the unconscious decisions we have already made.

As this drama unfolds over the next couple of decades, I encourage you to get out and bird our forests at night. We are witnessing an epic battle between these species, with a totally uncertain outcome. The very existence of the Spotted Owl may be hanging in the balance.

Jack Dumbacher is the Curator of Ornithology and Mammology at Cal Academy of Sciences will be our guest speaker at the February general meeting

<http://www.madroneaudubon.org/>

Are you a National Audubon member?

Please consider joining
our local chapter,
Madrone Audubon.

(see membership form,
back page)



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Board of Directors Position: Program Chair

We currently still have a few open board positions. One of them is the Program Chair

The Program Chair is in charge of finding new speakers on a variety of topics for our general meetings. The chair

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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.

February 2016 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.

Wednesday, February 3, 7:00 PM

BOARD MEETING.

Sonoma County Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway Avenue, Santa Rosa. For agenda information, contact Gordon Beebe at gdbeebe@earthlink.net.

Saturday, February 6 8:30 AM to Noon

HUDEMAN SLOUGH BIRD WALK

We will walk out on the levees surrounding the ponds to view waterbirds, hawks, and more. Meet at the Sonoma County Water Agency property on the northern edge of the Napa-Sonoma Marshes. From the town of Sonoma, drive south on Highway 12/121. Turn south on Ramal Road and drive approximately 2.4 miles until you reach the entrance to Hudeman Slough. There is a large hay barn on the right. Cross the train tracks and park in the lot in front of the barn. Leader: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115.

Monday, February 15, 7:00 PM

GENERAL MEETING.

First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa. Guest Speaker Jack Dumbacher, "Barred Owls vs. Spotted Owls."

Wednesday, February 17 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM

BODEGA BAY FIELD TRIP.

Bird Walk. Bodega Bay and Environs. To meet the group, drive north on Highway 1 in the town of Bodega Bay. On the edge of town, turn left at East Shore Road (the Bodega Head turnoff), then turn right at the stop sign, and continue 0.3 miles to the unpaved parking lot on the right. The group will search the harbor and adjacent seas and woodlands for birds, including Doran County Park. Weather permitting, the group will eat a picnic lunch at the Westside County Park on the west side of the harbor. A Sonoma County park permit or \$7 entrance fee is required for both Westside and Doran County Parks. Leader: Tom McCuller, t.sisyphus@comcast.net or 707-546-1812.

Saturday, February 20 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM

LAKE SOLANO/PUTAH CREEK, Solano County.

Bird Walk. On previous trips, we have seen Phainopepla, both Goldeneye, Lewis's Woodpecker, and many others here. Meet at Lake Solano Park, 8685 Pleasants Valley Road, Winters, CA at 9.30 AM. Take Calistoga Road (becomes Petrified Forest Road) to Highway 128. Turn right on Highway 128. Turn left on Deer Park Road. Turn right on Silverado Trail N. Turn left on Sage Canyon Road/128. Follow Highway 128 until you reach County Road 86/Pleasants Valley road. Turn right. The park is immediately over the bridge to your left. There is a \$5 day use fee at Lake Solano Park. Bring lunch. Leader: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115.

West Coast Road Trips This Winter

WATERBIRD FESTIVAL

Richardson Bay Audubon Center, Tiburon; February 6

Celebrate scaups, scoters, cormorants at the sanctuary. Naturalist-led bird walks, exclusive field trips and fun bird-themed activities.

www.richardsonbay.audubon.org/waterbird-festival-2016

WINTER WINGS FESTIVAL

Klamath, Oregon; February 11-14

When it comes to West Coast birding, the Klamath Basin is near legendary. Migrating waterfowl, raptors, a falconry display and casual hawk watch. A big emphasis on wildlife photography with keynote speakers including artist Stephen Johnson and South African native and conservationist, James Currie. winterwingsfest.org

SAN DIEGO BIRD FESTIVAL

San Diego, California; March 3-6

"Sea, sage, and sand" is the motto for this 20-year-old festival. Explore various landscapes with the help of well-seasoned guides—ranging from Hawk Alley, the Cuyamaca Mountains, and even the U.S.-Mexico border. The adventures start at sunrise with a parrot-watching brunch and continue till dusk with trips to the San Diego Zoo and natural history museum. sandiegoaudubon.org



All walks and membership meetings are open to the public. Bird walks are recreational and educational in purpose, and all levels of expertise are welcome. Bring field equipment and wear comfortable shoes and layered clothing for variable weather conditions. Please carpool whenever possible. Forecasted heavy rain cancels. There is no charge for activities unless otherwise specified, but some parks have day-use fees.

March 2016 calendar

Wednesday, March 2, 7:00 PM

BOARD MEETING. Sonoma County Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway Avenue, Santa Rosa. For agenda information, contact Gordon Beebe at gdbeebe@earthlink.net.

Saturday, March 5 8:30 AM to Noon

ELLIS CREEK WATER RECYCLING FACILITY. Bird Walk. 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.

Wednesday, March 16 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM

BODEGA BAY FIELD TRIP. Bird Walk. Bodega Bay and Environs. To meet the group, drive north on Highway 1 in the town of Bodega Bay. On the edge of town, turn left at East Shore Road (the Bodega Head turnoff), then turn right at the stop sign, and continue 0.3 miles to the unpaved parking lot on the right. The group will search the harbor and adjacent seas and woodlands for birds, including Doran County Park. Weather permitting, the group will eat a picnic lunch at the Westside County Park on the west side of the harbor. A Sonoma County park permit or \$7 entrance fee is required for both Westside and Doran County Parks. Leader: Tom McCuller, t.sisyphus@comcast.net or 707-546-1812.

Saturday, March 19 8:30 AM to Noon

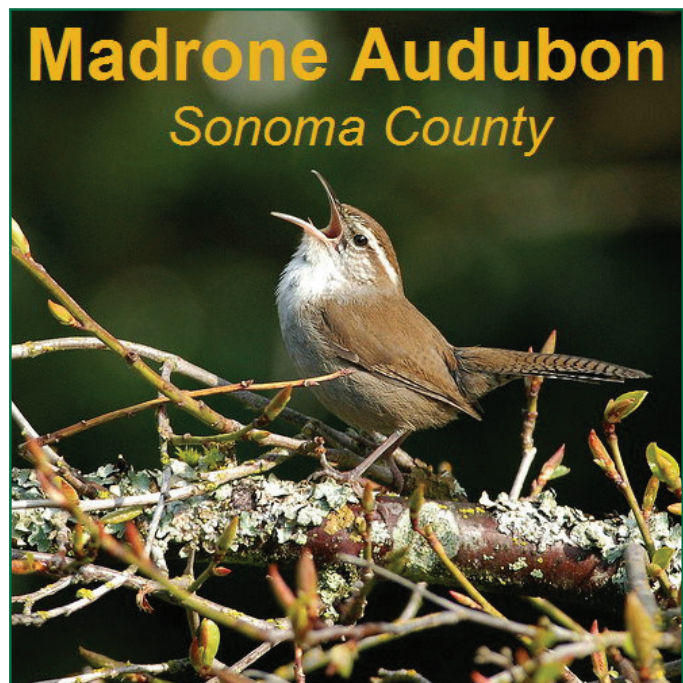
LAS GALLINAS PONDS, Marin County. Bird Walk. The ponds and surrounding wetlands contain a great variety of birds, from ducks to hawks to rails, and even grackles. Meet at the Las Gallinas Storage Ponds parking lot. From Hwy 101 in northern San Rafael, take the Smith Ranch Road exit, go east to the McInnis Park entrance, turn left immediately after crossing the railroad tracks, and go to the lot at the end of the road. Leader: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115.

Monday, March 21, 7:00 PM

GENERAL MEETING. First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa. Guest Speaker Alvaro Jaramillo “Birds of Cuba.”

Saturday, April 2 8:00 AM to Noon

CRANE CREEK REGIONAL PARK. Sonoma County. Bird Walk. Take Rohnert Park Expy east from 101, then turn south onto Petaluma Hill Rd. Turn left (east) onto Roberts Rd. At Lichau Rd, Roberts Rd turns into Pressley Rd. Continue on Pressley Rd to the park entrance. We will meet in the parking lot. There is a \$7 entry fee if you do not have a park pass. More information about the park can be found via the parks link on our website. Leader: Bill Doyle, 483-8773.



Find us on Facebook for conservation alerts, birdwalk reminders, special announcements and more.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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arranges for each speaker on our calendar, notifies the Leaves editors in advance for publication in the newsletter, and introduces the speaker at our monthly meetings. The entire process takes from two to three hours each month.

Though not required, the Program Chair is welcome to attend each monthly board meeting. The board meetings are on the first Wednesday night, from Sep-Jun. By attending board meetings, the Program Chair will meet the other dedicated board members, and will get a chance to share ideas about future programs.

Use your skills at finding speakers who will enlighten our Audubon chapter on current issues regarding birds, travel destinations, and the science behind what we see when we watch birds. Maybe you have some new ideas for topics that we haven't covered yet!

If you are interested in helping out, let me know. I'm happy to share the duties until you are ready to take it on full time. Gordon Beebe, gdbeebe@earthlink.net

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JUNIOR AUDUBON

**Junior Audubon Bird Walk
Sebastopol Community Center
Saturday, March 12, 2016
9 AM to 11 AM**

Where there are trees, grassy fields, a waterway, and a trail system, there are birds. Junior Audubon kids plan to walk the trails around the Sebastopol Community Center and along the Laguna de Santa Rosa. We are hoping to see ducks, egrets and herons. Passerines

will be seen in the oaks, as well as out in the nearby fields. Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks live along the lagoon also. All levels of birding experiences are welcome. The paths are easy and level for walking.

We will meet at the Sebastopol Community Center, 390 Morris Street, at 9 AM, in the parking lot. We will bird until 11 AM. Heavy rain cancels. Wear appropriate warm, water proof clothes, sturdy water proof shoes, and sun protection. Bring binoculars, if you have them. Be prepared to have some fun and see some great birds.

If you have any questions, please, call walk coordinator, Janet Bosshard, (707) 526-5883.

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OUT AND ABOUT

**February 12 – 15
19th Annual Great Backyard
Bird Count.**

Everyone interested in birds is encouraged to take part in the national birding event. Count birds from the comfort of your home and share results online. Participants from more than 100 countries submitted a record 147,265 bird checklists for GBBC in 2015 helping researchers track the health of bird populations world wide.

For information, go to www.audubon.org/content/about-great-backyard-bird-count

**Saturday, February 20
10:00 am to Noon
"Southeast Greenway 2016 –
The Time is Now!"**

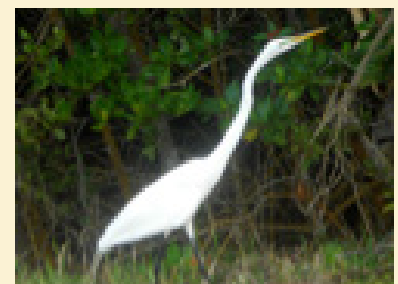
*Montgomery High School Cafeteria
1250 Habman Drive, Santa Rosa*

In October, the Santa Rosa City Council took a big step forward to realize the vision of a Greenway to Spring Lake by unanimously voting to begin a General Plan amendment process for the Caltrans right-of-way property. At this free and open event, Keynote Speaker, Dave Koehler, Sonoma Land Trust's new Executive Director, will be joined by others to map out the process and discuss public concerns. www.southeastgreenway.org/

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Dear Friends and Members

A heartfelt thanks to all of you who made end-of-year 2015 donations to Madrone Audubon. We look forward to publishing our annual Donors List soon in the Leaves. As we are aligning our recordkeeping to coincide with our July-June fiscal year, please begin to look for the Donors List in the September Leaves issue going forward. And, again, thank you for your generous support!



Great Egret photo courtesy of J. Eyrich



OUT AND ABOUT

Continued from page 7

Thursday, March 3 7:00-8:30pm

“The True Nature of American Badger” Presentation with Susan Kirks

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

Badgers are a little understood species, often described as “elusive,” yet are native mammals to California and other parts of the U.S. and Canada. Did you know that American badger (*Taxidea taxus*) is making its home in Sonoma County and has recently been documented moving through the Laguna de Santa Rosa corridor? Join the Laguna Foundation for a fascinating talk about the “true nature” of the American badger. Badger ecologist and naturalist Susan Kirks will share her 16 years of field study experience, observing and developing an understanding of the badger in its native habitat, its needs and behaviors, and her work to conserve habitat and the species. Learn to recognize signs of badger activity, learn about seasonal behaviors from autumn to summer, and discover the many ecosystem benefits of American badger. \$10 at the door. www.lagunafoundation.org/

2016 is starting off with a great range of bird walks and events around the North Bay.

Please visit our events page for a complete listing.

www.madroneaudubon.org/activities-field-trips.php

The end of a chapter in our relationship with PWA

Madrone Audubon began a formal relationship with Petaluma Wetlands Alliance in 2003, providing our non-profit status in order for them to receive grants and to further conservation and environmental education in South Sonoma County. Through the years since then, PWA has received grants from various organizations for their successful wetlands education school program in Petaluma.

Recently, during discussion of adopting a new fiscal sponsorship agreement between Madrone and PWA, which would clarify our duties and responsibilities, and ensure compliance with the IRS, the advisory board members of PWA voted instead to end their relationship with Madrone.

The board of Madrone Audubon wishes PWA the best in their new venture, continuing the impressive work they have become known for in their education program, Petaluma CBC4Kids, and restoration work at Alman Marsh and Shollenberger Park.

Memorial & Honor Gifts

In Memory of Sharon Audiss
Don McCarthy

In Memory of Ernestine Smith
Diane & Bryant Hichwa

In Memory of Gary Haag
Pam Conley & Dennis Beall

In Memory of Jean Tonaschia
June England

In Memory of Gary Haag
Larisa & George Batchelder

In Honor of Gail Johnson
Jackie Parker

In Memory of Gary Haag
Sandra Martensen

In Honor of Madrone Board
Members
Mary Abbott

In Memory of Matilda E. Peterson
Ervand Peterson

In Honor of Lisa Peters
Carolyn Metz

In Memory of Catherine Seversen
Margaret Beale

In Memory of Ernestine Smith
Michael Nelligan



**Observations**

Winter 2015-2016 • Dan Nelson • 479-2918 • birdsurf64@sbcglobal.net

Snow Goose (2)	11/9	Stony Point Rd.	AW
Snow Goose (1)	12/22	E. of Carmody Rd.	GH
Eurasian Wigeon (1)	12/9	Doran Park	DF
Redhead (male)	12/26	Hudemann Slough marsh	JP
White-winged Scoter (2)	12/27	Flying S. off Bodega Head	DN
Barrow's Goldeneye (3-4)	Dec.	Lower Petaluma R., N. of Hwy 37 near equestrian park	GH, DN
Hooded Merganser (4)	Dec.	Russian River near Duncan's Mills	DN
Common Loon	12/21-22	Fountaingrove Lake, Nagasawa Park	DN
Clark's Grebe (2)	Dec.	Sonoma Creek, S. of Hwy 37 bridge	DN
Black-v. Shearwater (many)	12/27	W. of Bodega Head	LH, DN, BDP
Elegant Tern (few remaining)	11/5	S. of Doran Park	SC, DN
Parasitic Jaeger	11/5	S. of Doran Park	SC
White-faced Ibis (17)	12/24	Ellis Creek fly-overs	AW
Ferruginous Hawk (3 ad., 2 j)	11/10	Jenner Headlands	LB, BG
Northern Goshawk (juv.)	11/4	Jenner Headlands	LB
Northern Goshawk (juv.)	11/25	Marin Headlands	M.Ob
Prairie Falcon (2)	Dec.	Tolay Creek Regional Park	RR, et al
Prairie Falcon (1)	12/26	Lakeville Hwy at Ellis Creek ponds	DN
Prairie Falcon (1)	12/27	Salmon Creek/ Chanslor Ranch	SC
Pacific Golden-Plover (4)	11/13	Reclamation Rd. area	SC
American Golden-Plover (1)	11/2	Reclamation Rd. area	LH
Spotted Sandpiper (2)	12/20	Asti ponds	DN
Black-legged Kittiwake	12/22	Bodega jetties	TE
Forster's Tern (11)	12/22	Bodega jetties	TE, DN
Barred Owl	12/29	Stewart's Pt./ Skaggs' Sprs. Rd.	DN
Short-eared Owl	12/7	W.of Lakeville Hwy near Cannon Rd.	DN
Burrowing Owl	12/4	E. of Reclamation Rd. lot	DN
Burrowing Owl	12/29	Coleman Valley Rd.	DN
Common Poorwill	12/29	Coleman Valley Rd., 0.7 mi. E. of Hwy 1	DN
White-winged Dove	11/14	Salmon Creek residence, visiting feeder	PC, et al
Red-naped Sapsucker (male)	12/26	Spring Lake; S. end of swimming lagoon	RW, DN, M.Ob
Clark's Nutcracker	12/15	Shady Acres Rd. near Pythian Rd	RS
Phainopepla (male)	12/20	Oak Trail Circle, off Pythian	MK, DK
Palm Warbler	12/27	Doran Park	RuR, et al
Vesper Sparrow (4)	12/26	Tolay Creek Regional Park, 2-3 present all month	DN
Grasshopper Sparrow	11/2	Crane Creek Regional Park	LH, et al
Grasshopper Sparrow	12/28	Crane Creek Regional Park	DN
Fox Sparrow (Red E. race)	Dec.	Kenwood residence, at feeder	RuR
Swamp Sparrow	Nov.	Salmon Creek, Bean Ave.	BO'C
Chipping Sparrow	11/28	Cypress Hill Cemetary, Petaluma	DN
Snow Bunting	12/2-3	Virgin Creek, Mendocino Co.	RuR, GH, et al
Summer Tanager (fem.)	12/16	Lucchesi Park, Lynch Creek (nice photo)	MB
Bullock's Oriole (ad. male)	Dec.	Diekmann's Store, Bodega Bay (same bird as last yr.?)	DN
Great-tailed Grackle (4-5)	Dec.	Lake Ralphine	M.Ob
Evening Grosbeak (several)	11/28	Austin Way/ St. Helena Rd. area Santa Ros	R Reigh
Evening Grosbeak (8-9)	12/12	Austin Way/ St. Helena Rd.	DN, SC
Red Crossbill (30)	11/4	Scotland/ Caber Dr. off Los Alamos Rd.	KW
Red Crossbill (15-20)	11/14-16	Spring Lake	KW, LH
Red Crossbill (3-4)	11/13	Occidental Rd., Sebastopol	JS
Red Crossbill (20)	11/15	Timber Ridge Rd., The Sea Ranch	D Hichwa
Red Crossbill (2-3)	12/11	Paula Ln. residence, Petaluma	DN

CONTRIBUTORS: Mario Ballitbit, Larry Broderick, Scott Carey, Peter Connors, Todd Easterla, Dea Freid, Bill Grummer, Golden Gate Raptor Observatory, Diane Hichwa, Lisa Hug, Gene Hunn, Dale Kuhn, Marjorie Kuhn, Dan Nelson, Brook O'Connor, Benjamin D. Parmeter, John Parmeter, Rhio Reigh, Ruth Rudesill, Roger Sanborn, Jackie Sones, Alan Wight, Robin Winning, and Ken Wilson.



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.

President: Gordon Beebe - gdbeebe@earthlink.net	829-9017
Vice President: Tiffany Erickson - tiffymm66@gmail.com	479-0108
Recording Secretary: Position open	
Corresponding Secretary: Stacy Li - stacyli@sonic.net	566-7937
Treasurer: Kathleen Barker - kbarker@comcast.net	762-0715
Membership: Elizabeth Gould - egaudubon@sbcglobal.net	539-2875
Conservation: Diane Hichwa - dhichwa@earthlink.net	785-1922
Education Kits: Barbara Novak - enovak3697@aol.com	795-3996
Program: Position open	
Circulation: Joannie Dranginis - joanhd@att.net	523-4373
Junior Audubon: Janeann Erickson - erickson@ap.net ; Janet Bosshard - bosshard@sonic.net	
Outreach: Position open	
Publicity: Nancy Hair - doghairmancy@yahoo.com	823-1073
Website Editor: Gordon Beebe - phot8grd@earthlink.net	583-3115
Bird Walks and Field Trips: Tom McCuller - t.sisyphus@comcast.net	546-1812
Saturday Bird Walks: Gordon Beebe - gdbeebe@earthlink.net	583-3115
Bird-A-Thon Coordinator & Audubon Adventures: Marcia Johnson - owlsnesttwo@att.net	829-3808

Leaves Co-editors: Asenath LaRue - asenathlarue@gmail.com	528-3648
Jann Eyrieh - wrightcon@gmail.com	235-4160
Leaves Production: Kris Hutchins - kris@hutchins1.net	477-8156
Hospitality: Linda Hammer - gardenladylee@aol.com	823-4389
Observations: Dan Nelson - birdsurf64@sbcglobal.net	479-2918
Past President: Susan Kirks - susankirks@sbcglobal.net	241-5548
ACR Rep: Bryant Hichwa	579-1182
Sonoma County Water Coalition Rep: Paula Zerzan - pzerzan@comcast.net	935-1523
BBA: Gordon Beebe, gdbeebe@earthlink.net ; Tiffany Erickson, tiffymm66@gmail.com	
IMBD: Veronica Bowers - vlbowers@gmail.com	829-2955
Christmas Bird Count: Peter Leveque and Stacy Li - stacyli@sonic.net	566-7937
Bird Rescue Center	523-BIRD
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