



# Madrone LEAVES

Madrone Audubon Society, Inc., Post Office Box 1911, Santa Rosa, California 95401

VOLUME 47

Summer 2015

Number 6

## Madrone Audubon Honors Excellence with 2015 Awards

This year found our Chapter with multiple projects and activities, and our award recipients reflect this, along with longevity of selfless service to Audubon and conservation and education in Sonoma County. Truly, we are fortunate to be able to acknowledge and thank our members and dedicated volunteers on behalf of Sonoma County's birds and wildlife. Here are the 2015 award recipients:

### **The Evalyn and Les Bowen Award – Emily Heaton, Marcia Johnson, Monica Schwalbenberg-Peña**

This award recognizes the dedication and energy required to start the Madrone Audubon Chapter in 1967 and help it sustain. Our award recipients in 2015, 48 years later, reflect this consistent and sustained energy.

*Emily Heaton* as Recording Secretary set a high standard for this volunteer role. Emily's recorded minutes for the Chapter were detailed, thorough and excellent. She often contributed her expert birding knowledge and scientific background to our Board's discussions and recently provided information for the team surveying Taylor Mountain Regional Park to create a bird checklist for Sonoma County Regional Parks. Emily has also put in many hours each year participating in the Breeding

Bird Atlas project. We will miss you Emily, and so enjoyed the family experience with you, Jake and Abby. We wish the best for the coming family member.

Marcia Johnson has managed Audubon Adventures for several years, interfacing with Sonoma County School Districts and teachers to offer National Audubon's educational materials for students. She is often seen at membership meetings, suggesting donations to support Audubon Adventures. She took a leadership role managing the Bird-a-thon, our main annual fundraiser, for several months each year. She participates each year in the Lincoln School Bird Festival, bringing fun educational activities to the students. Marcia's care for our environment and Sonoma County's wildlife is also reflected in her active participation with the Cali-

fornia Native Plant Society and as a Docent for the Laguna Foundation.

Monica Schwalbenberg-Peña served on Madrone Audubon's Board of Directors for two years until 2014. She performed the detailed duties of correspondence receipt and processing, including donations and membership renewal monies. Monica gave with a full heart during her years on the Board, monitoring for the Cliff Swallow litigation, creating displays for the beautiful bird pins carved by J. Tom Olds, Nick Givens, and Marjorie McCulley, and managing fundraising activities at membership meetings. Monica has been an active volunteer with the Breeding Bird Atlas update and continues to involve herself in important conservation activities as well as create beautiful art reflecting

Continued on page 2

### **NO GENERAL MEETINGS DURING THE SUMMER.**

#### **GENERAL MEETING**

Monday September 21, 7:00 PM

First United Methodist Church • 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa

#### **“Japan-Red-crowned Cranes, Stellar Eagles, Snowy Owls, and Snow Monkeys”**

Lyle and Deanna Madeson will be giving a program on their recent trip to Japan featuring the Red-crowned Crane, Stellar Sea Eagle, the Snowy Owl and snow monkeys.

In order for the Japanese snow monkeys to survive the cold, snowy environment, they spend the majority of the day in a natural hot springs (about 108 degrees). Photos will include family units interacting, the Alpha males, and the antics of the babies.

Of the total of 2700 Red-Crowned Cranes thought to remain in the world, about 1000 of these endangered species reside on the island of Hokkaido, Japan.

Other birds the Madesons photographed include the Black-tailed Kite, White-tailed Sea Eagle, and the magnificent Stellar Sea Eagle, which is on average, the heaviest eagle in the world. Several owls will also be featured in their program, including the beautiful Snowy Owl. As recently as 4 years ago, Snowy Owls have been migrating to parts of Japan.

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### MADRONE HONORS

Continued from page 1

nature. Many eagerly anticipate her Open Studio during Art Trails each year.

#### **Bewick's Wren Award – Mary Edith Moore**

The Bewick's Wren Award, named for the bird that is Madrone's logo, was established in 1991 to acknowledge individuals who have given long-time, exceptional service to the chapter. Mary Edith Moore, our departing *Leaves* co-editor and a leader in Petaluma Wetlands Alliance, represents the essence of this award. In 2005, Mary Edith began editing the *Leaves* with Daphne Smith; when Daphne retired, Mary Edith welcomed and helped orient and support new co-editor Denise Kelly. Now, after 10 years of exceptional dedication, attention to excellence, and an uncanny (and needed!) ability to organize contributors to meet deadlines, Mary Edith is transitioning to devote even more time to responsibilities of leading and managing Petaluma Wetlands Alliance, a long-standing committee of Madrone Audubon. Together with her husband Gerald Moore, Mary Edith manages the ongoing habitat restoration program at Shollenberger Park and Alman Marsh in Petaluma, helps oversee the docent training and docent program established by the Moores in 2006, and also volunteers as the publicist for the Petaluma Library. Mary Edith's writing and editing will be missed as will her contributions to the Madrone Audubon Board of Directors. We wish her the very best and also pledge continued support for the Petaluma Wetlands committee!

#### **Bentley-Smith Award – Janeann Erickson and Ellen Rayner**

Madrone Audubon Society instituted the Bentley-Smith Award in 2002. The award is given to recognize a Madrone member for contributions to protection and enhancement of the environment through education and/or conservation activity in the community—to which Martha Bentley and Ernestine Smith dedicated their long lives.

Janeann Erickson has served as Vice President (2006-08) and President (2008-10) of the Chapter. She helped found the Lincoln Elementary School Bird Festival and continues to co-chair this community-building educational activity. Janeann has been active in supporting Junior Audubon by hosting an "Owl Prowl" at her ranch in Valley Ford each year, and has also been involved in Madrone's annual Christmas Bird Count, leading a CBC group and nurturing first-time participants in the Count, with patience and a welcoming and inclusive energy. Janeann has been an exceptional member of our Chapter and has continued to serve the Chapter through her sincere love for birds, wildlife, and helping others through education.

Ellen Rayner, recently retired as Executive Director of Bird Rescue of Sonoma County, headquartered in Santa Rosa, gave selflessly in her role as the ED and prior to that as their Educational Coordinator. She has spent many hours in classrooms helping children to understand about birds, habitats and how people interface with wild birds. She helped coordinate and grow Bird Rescue's popular lecture series, did extensive community outreach on all levels and helped to coordinate the complexities of the W 9th Street nesting site's rescue, rehabilitation and release effort. Madrone has partnered with Bird Rescue and others in that effort. Ellen's continued advocacy for birds and wildlife will be a valuable asset to Sonoma County.

#### **Burridge Award – Stewardship Task Force**

The Betty Burridge award was established in 2008 to honor Betty's lifetime contributions to citizen science. Now in its 7th year, Madrone Audubon is very pleased to present this year's Burridge Award to the coastal Stewardship Task Force (STF), a committee of Madrone Audubon. The group began its citizen science seabird nest monitoring in 2007 working with the BLM on local islands of the California Coastal National Monument. Studies were expanded to assist Audubon CA in monitoring nesting success of Black Oystercatchers. Coastal projects include nest-monitoring of Pelagic Cormorants; mapping a rare grass on the coastal bluff, and helping to maintain a long-term intertidal study. While they continue to collect data they have mentored others starting similar projects along the coast. Promoting community education they wrote a Reading Our Seascape trail guide. In 2014 they produced and continue to sell, an educational DVD *Eyes on the Coast* about birds of the coast and participation in Citizen Science.

#### **Madrone Audubon Special Recognition**

- This Recognition is given to individuals, businesses, agencies or groups who have made outstanding contributions to Madrone Audubon and our local environmental, bird and wildlife community. This year's awardees are **Wayne Till, Gayle Kozlowski, Birgitta Lewis, and Elwood Dominguez.**

Wayne Till has been an active Petaluma Wetlands Docent since 2004. When the Petaluma Wetlands Alliance (PWA) has a problem with the in-class, third grade PowerPoint presentation, a call is made immediately to Wayne Till. PWA can always count on Wayne to get the Petaluma school's information technology (IT) talking to PWA's IT. This was never a problem until each Petaluma school, seven public school districts, could choose its own method of presenting digital

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Please consider joining our local chapter, Madrone Audubon.  
(see membership form, back page)

**MADRONE HONORS**

Continued from page 1

information to the students! After completing the docent-training classes in 2004, 11 years ago, Wayne hit the ground, running quietly, and has not stopped. PWA's Education Chair said, "Wayne is a team player, has lots of knowledge, and is focused. He has a way about him that makes others want to work with him." Obviously, Wayne is a key member of PWA.

Gayle Kozlowski, Birgitta Lewis and Elwood Dominguez are volunteers for Bird Rescue of Sonoma County who dedicate hundreds of hours from late March through August to the W 9th Street rookery, where Black-crowned Night-Herons, Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets and Cattle Egrets return each year to nest and raise their young. Dividing 24-hour time periods every day into three shifts, Gayle, Birgitta and Elwood monitor the area, interact with community members, and very carefully approach and rescue young birds that have fallen from the nesting trees, then transport them to the Bird Rescue Center for stabilization before a Bird Rescue volunteer or staff member transports the birds to International Bird Rescue in Cordelia. The level of dedication of these three individuals, as well as their rescue skills, exemplify a connection to Nature we wish to honor. The volunteer service of Gayle, Birgitta and Elwood on behalf of the W 9th Street herons and egrets is exceptional. They have also been integral in helping with Madrone Audubon's organization and installation of the nesting support project on W 9th St., now in its third year.

*Madrone Audubon would like to thank the members of the Awards Committee, Gordon Beebe, Janeann Erikson, Diane Hichwa, and Susan Kirks –for making the final selections and contributing information for this article.*

**A Sincere Thank You to Our 2014 Donors****\$500 and above**

Diane & Bryant Hichwa, Gerald & Mary Edith Moore.

**\$200 to \$499**

Mary Bates Abbott, Kerry Burke, Betty Burrige, Andrew Jacobson, Susan Kirks, Don McCarthy, David & Vicki Stollmeyer, Joann Wilson.

**\$100 to \$199**

Rick Abbott, Jeff Baptista, Kathleen Barker & Steven Schuler, Lillian Bellagio, Birkenstock/Novato, Jeanne Marie & David Black, Chester Bowles, Jr., Jaclyn Coffin, Rick Clarke, Nancy Craig, Gay Deady, Nancy & Jim Dempsey, Ron & Kris Dick, Dick & Darlene Donat, John Donnely, Clara Else, Barbara & Joe Ferrari, L.A. Felix, Donna Friedrich, Christian Gericke & Suzanne Stewart, Mac & Helle Griffis, Robin Guilfoyle, Nancy Hair, Karlene Hall, Louise Hallberg, Hanford ARC, Deyea & Jack Harper, James Harris, Lisa Harris & Timothy Beutel, Deidre Harrison & Tom Crane, Joe Hasler, Al & Amy Hesla, Gisela Hewitt, Dawn Hollerith, Donald K. Howard, Jr., Paul Hull, Robert & Linda Judd, JustGive, Marcia Jyne, John & Jo Kleis, Helen Kochenderfer, Ellen Krebs, Louisa Levitt, Sandra Martensen, Jackson Mayes, Tom McCuller, Michael Nelligan, Thomas Novoryta, David Oliver, Jeffrey Orth, Paula Lane Action Network, Petaluma Garden Club, Cynthia & John Rathkey, Suzanne Reta, Elizabeth Rice, Alice Romain, Richard Sands, Jean Schulz, Lorie Silver, Daphne Smith, Raini Sugg, Steve Sweaney & Judy Withee, Jim & Elinor Taylor, Barbara & Gene Toschi, Warren Watkins, Wild Birds Unlimited, Carol Jean Zeidman, Paula Zerzan.

**\$50 to \$99**

Patricia Anderson, Carolyn Ayag, Judith & Lance Barlas, Maya Barrett, George Batchelder, Lorraine Bazan, Mike & Susan Bobbitt, Chester Bowles, Louise Brewer, Jean Bramer, Dennis Buss, Scott & Florence Campbell, Allan Crivello, John & Marsha Dupre, Linda Catlin & Emile Houle, Jr., Janice & Wallace Curtis, Gary Dertien, Sylvan Eidelman, Theodore Eliot, Andrea English, Tiffany Erickson, Theo Evans, Mary Ewing, Bernier Farms, Mourna & Michell Fitterer, Linda Fraley & John Nichols, Jim & Glenda Gentile, Will & Karen German, Dorothy Gregor, Valerie Hanelt, Lisa Harris & Timothy Beutel, Linda Hanes, Billie Harrison, Bob & Carol Hasenick, Janet B. Hayssen, Catherine Heater, Ellie Held, Denise Herzberg, Jeremy Joan Hewes, Larry Houghton, Kathleen & Gregory Jacobs, Brett & Norma Lane, Peter Leveque, Dr. & Mrs. Stacy Li, Mary MacLeod, William Mannone, Kathleen Marsh, Lynn Mattison, David McFadden, Ruth Misevic, Elaine Nickison, Diane Noel, Kathie Noguchi, Anne & Robert O'Donnell, Daniel O'Neill, Benjamin D. "Mike" & Sally Parmeter, Hal & Renee Peters, Point Arena Lighthouse Keepers, Julia Pollock, Prunuske Chatham, Inc., Elizabeth Rice, Nancy & Brantley Richardson, Alice Romain Kathi Silverman and Katherine Thompson, Nancy Russell-Stone, Stanley Salmon, Marilyn Sanders, Mary Savage, Virginia Schrock, Monica Schwalbenberg-Peña, Greig Shepard, Richard Shipp, Eleanor Silberman, Lori Silver, Anne Sobol, Irene Stewart, Anita Theriault, Arlene Ulmer, James Vaughn, Jerome & Karen Wagner, Alice Webb, Merita Whatley, Valerie & Bruce White, Patsy & Daniel Wright, Anne Wurr, Linda Zala.

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# Madrone's Bird-A-Thon 2015, know as BAT has finished. What a great year and what good teams.

## GREY-HEADED SEERSUCKERS:

Ken Wilson, Becky Olsen, Ian Morrison, Ted Eliot.

February 1, 2015, began at Howarth Park in Santa Rosa with expected Common Mergansers and Northern Flickers. The end of Spring Lake produced Brown Creepers, Hermit and Varied Thrushes, however, the highlight was a group of four River Otters, who entertained themselves and the team by eating fish and watching the birders. On to the Flamingo Hotel for the famous female Williamson's Sapsucker, then to the Community Center in Sebastopol for Say's Phoebe, Green Heron, Hooded Mergansers, Sora, and Virginia Rail.

Bodega Farm Pond produced Canvasbacks, the "Quarry" Lesser and Greater Scaup, then on to Bodega Bay. No Lucy's Warbler at Diekmann's Store, but Orange-crowned and Nashville Warblers, plus a Common Yellowthroat popped up. High tide brought in a Whimbrel and Black Turnstones at Porto Bodega. The Head saw Grey

Whales "blowing" and displaying tail flukes, plus the usual gulls, cormorants and Black Oystercatchers. Alcids seen were Common Murres and Ancient and Marbled Murrelets. Bodega Harbor had expected ducks, gulls and shorebirds, however two male Eurasian Widgeons and a Peregrine Falcon on its usual post, were delights! A Black Rail called from the reeds at a pull-out on way out to Doran.

Driving to the mouth of Salmon Creek, the team saw three Common Gallinules, and not much else. The group looked for and found Harris's Sparrow, mentioned by Lisa Hug. Petaluma was next, briefly stopping at Carmody Road, where the group found a perching Merlin, a distant Loggerhead Shrike and a group of Greater White-fronted Geese. White-tailed Kites, American and Lesser Goldfinches, Tricolored and Red-winged Blackbirds, and Western Meadowlarks were found at Ellis Creek. The last stop was Shollenberger Ponds and the mudflats to the southeast for American Avocets, Least Sandpipers, Long-billed Curlews, Green-winged Teal, and a lone American Pipit.

**Species Seen: 138**  
**AMOUNT RAISED: \$1,316.85**

**Thanks Sponsors:** Dirck and Susan Bass, Gordon Beebe, Rita and William Bevens, Betty Burrige, Karen Collins, William Doyle, Mary and Richard Hafner, Caryl Hart, Margaret J. Salenger Haywood, Anthony Hicks, Kim and Jeff Holtzman, Ann Howald and David Leland, Keith Marshall, Gerald and Lilly Mugele, Lisa Peters, Earl and Kathy Rathburn, Ruth Rudesill, Jesse R. and Carolyn J. Stone, Anne P. Teller.

**FEATHER QUESTERS:** Diane Hichwa Diane started her 20th year supporting Madrone's BAT!, again, she did it solo. The day began very windy with very high/low tides. A large number of Canada Geese were seen at seemingly every turn, or stop. One was atop the rock just out from Bodega Head! Some are now nesting on coastal islands. A BEAUTIFUL and unexpected sighting of a Long-tailed Duck in Bodega Bay was special. Also, Eared Grebes sported breeding plumage colors and fancy feathers, and long-legged Avocets also in breeding plumage with a wash of rust along their necks and heads; Red-throated Loons and Surf Scoters were in long lines migrating north. A Bewick's Wren was carrying food...nesting. Some birds leaving and some breeding.

Answering Diane's bird app on her cell phone was a Virginia Rail at Hwy 116/Hwy 1 pond. As she now birds for BAT later in the spring, she was able to hear the familiar "bubbly chirp" of the recently arrived Purple Martins back at Sea Ranch. The descending song of the Orange-crowned Warblers, the increasingly loud song of Wilson's Warblers, and Hutton's Vireos singing their "repeat performance" over and over were certainly highlights.

It was heartening to see the large colony of egrets/herons in their nests on

## Memorial and Honor Gifts

### In Honor of Charles Massen

Hal and Renee Peters

### In Honor of Mildred S. Vyverberg

Mary & Michael Cuoio

### In Memory of Bill Kortum

Peter Leveque

### In Memory of Don Schmoltd

Janet Strobel

### In Memory of Bill Raaka

Betsy Niles

### In Memory of Rich Stallcup

Mary Edith and Gerald Moore

### In Memory of Sharon Audiss

Don McCarthy

### In Memory/Honor of Marianne Shepard

Greig Shepard



All walks and 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.

## Summer 2015 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 September 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, June 6, 7:30 AM to Noon**

**SALMON CREEK ROAD.** Another annual favorite! Meet on Salmon Creek Road at the corner of Bodega Highway, in the town of Bodega (not Bodega Bay), where we will combine into as few cars as possible. Please do not join us in an additional vehicle after the trip has started, as a large number of cars negatively impacts the birding and the residents of the area. Leaders: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115 and Bill Doyle, 483-8773.

**Saturday June 13, 9:00 AM**

**SHOLLENBERGER PARK.** Petaluma Wetlands Alliance/Madrone leads a nature walk. Meet at the first kiosk. Rain cancels. Contact Gerald Moore at 763-3577.

**Saturday June 20, 10:00 AM**

**SHOLLENBERGER PARK.** Petaluma Wetlands Alliance leads two children/family nature walks. One-to-two hours, depending on age of children. Meet at the first kiosk. Rain cancels. For the children/family walk in English, contact Mary Edith Moore at 763-3577; for the walk in Spanish, contact Connie Peabody at 338-2237.

**Saturday, June 20, 7:30 AM to Noon**

**ANNADEL STATE PARK, CHANNEL DRIVE.** Meet in the large dirt parking lot on Channel Drive at the trailhead to the Cobblestone Trail. We will carpool from there to the Park parking lot at the very end of Channel Drive. The park has an entry fee of \$8. Rain cancels. Leader: Bill Doyle, 483-8773.

**Saturday June 27, 9:00 AM**

**ELLIS CREEK WATER RECYCLING FACILITY, PETALUMA.** Petaluma Wetlands Alliance leads a walk at the Ellis Creek ponds. Go to the end of Cypress Drive and through the gates. Parking lot is on the left. Rain cancels. Contact Gerald Moore at 763-3577.

**Saturday, July 18, 7:30 AM to 1:00 PM**

**BODEGA BAY.** Join us for summer birding at one of Sonoma County's richest bird areas. From the center of the town of Bodega Bay, drive north on Highway 1. Turn left at Eastshore Road (the Bodega Head turnoff), then right at the stop sign, and continue 0.3 mile to the large dirt parking lot on the right. Bring lunch, liquids and layers of clothing. Leader: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115.

**Saturday, August 15, 7:30 AM to 1:00 PM**

**BODEGA BAY.** Join us for another summer birding trip, with possible early migrants. From the center of the town of Bodega Bay, drive north on Highway 1. Turn left at Eastshore Road (the Bodega Head turnoff), then right at the stop sign, and continue 0.3 mile to the large dirt parking lot on the right. Bring lunch, liquids and layers of clothing. Leader: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115.

## September 2015 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, September 2, 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM**

**BODEGA BAY.** Bird Walk. From the center of the town of Bodega Bay, drive north on Hwy. 1, turn left at Eastshore 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. Bring lunch, liquids, and layered clothing. Information: Tom McCuller, sisyphus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

**Wednesday September 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, September 5, 8:00 AM to Noon**

**RAGLE RANCH REGIONAL PARK,** on Ragle Ranch Road in Sebastopol. Join us to look for early fall migrants, as well as a wide variety of our familiar county birds. Meet in the parking area near the dog park. Parking fee (\$7) for non-permit holders. Leaders: Bill Doyle, 483-8773, and Gordon Beebe, 583-3115.

**Monday, September 21, 7:00 PM**

**GENERAL MEETING.** First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa. "Japan—Red-crowned Cranes, Stellar Eagles, Snowy Owls, and Snow Monkeys."

**New Members of Madrone Audubon Society**

<b>Santa Rosa</b> David Dietz, Jr. Jeanette Doyel Katherine Schram Jeffrey Smith	<b>Sebastopol</b> Beth Haylock	<b>Windsor</b> Jean McMullen
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## Observations

March-April/Early May 2015 • Dan Nelson • 479-2918 • birdsurf64@sbcglobal.net

Blue-winged Teal	4/6-22	South Carmody Rd. pond	GH, DN
Long-tailed Duck	3/20	Bodega Harbor near Tides Restaurant	BO'C, DS et al
Harlequin Duck (fem.)	3/22	off Bodega Head	SS, DS
Ross' Goose (2)	April	Continuing at Ellis Creek	M.O.B.
Caspian Tern (4)	3/30	Spud Point, Bodega Harbor	DN
Elegant Tern (2)	3/20	Bolinas Lagoon	PP
Murphy's Petrel (1)	3/20	Offshore Sonoma County; 40 miles out	PL, JS, CM et al
Hawaiian Petrel (1)	3/20	Offshore Sonoma County; 40 miles out	PL, JS, CM, et al
Cook's Petrel (2)	3/20	Offshore Sonoma County; 40 miles out	PL, JS, CM, et al
Northern Goshawk (ad.)	4/26	Ida Clayton Rd.	DN, SM
Sharp-shinned Hawk (ad.)	4/30	Ida Clayton Rd.	DN
Cooper's Hawk (ad.)	5/3	Ida Clayton Rd.	DN, SM
Swainson's Hawk	4/10	Sebastopol; over Laguna Park	SC
Sooty Grouse(2-3)	3/30	W. of King Ridge Rd.	DN
Cattle Egret (4-5)	4/15	W. 9th. St., Santa Rosa	DN
Green Heron	4/15	Hwy. 101 near Asti	DN
Green Heron	5/3	Franz Valley Rd.	DN, SM
Solitary Sandpiper	4/18-19	Pond near Old Redwood Hwy, Petaluma	RW, AW et al
Wandering Tattler	4/20-30	Bodega Head	M.Ob
Lewis' Woodpecker	3/25-26	Oak Hill Park, Petaluma	DN, CN
Lewis' Woodpecker	4/29	remaining at "D" St., near San Antonio Rd.	DN
Black-chinned Hummingbird (fem)	4/16	Fair Ave., Petaluma	GH
Black-chinned Hummingbird (male)	4/20-21	Matanzas Creek residence	MSP, et al
Black-chinned Hummingbird (male)	4/30-5/1	W. Sebastopol residence	SC
Calliope Hummingbird (male)	4/4-5	Rincon Valley residence (photo)	RO'D, et al
Calliope Hummingbird (male)	4/11	Paula Lane, Petaluma	DN, SM
Calliope Hummingbird (male)	4/19	Briarwood Park, Santa Rosa	GN
White-throated Swift (2)	5/5	Ida Clayton Rd.	DN
Cliff Swallow (10-15)	4/2	Jenner	DN
Purple Martin(s)	4/23	Gualala	D Hichwa
Western Wood-Pewee	4/27	Marshall Ave., Petaluma	EP, DN
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	3/26	Sunnyslope Ave., Petaluma	DN
Dusky Flycatcher	5/1	Pine Flat Rd.	SC, DS
Western Kingbird (2)	4/2	Ellis Creek treatment ponds	DN
Cassin's Kingbird	4/30	Pt. Reyes Lighthouse	D. Singer
Ash-throated Flycatcher (2)	4/20	Matanzas Creek	MSP, DN, et al
North American Dipper	3/21	Geysers Rd.	NO
Sage Thrasher	3/29-4/3	Salt Point S.P., N. of Fisk Mill Cove	PB, DS, DN, TB
Brown/ Red-backed Shrike	Mar.-Apr.	Manchester, Mendocino Co.	M.Ob
Warbling Vireo	3/30	King Ridge Rd.	DN
Cassin's Vireo	3/24	Willowside Rd trail	DF
Cassin's Vireo (6)	3/31	Geysers Rd.	DN
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (7)	3/31	Geysers Rd.	DN
Hermit Warbler (2)	4/23	Ida Clayton Rd.	GH
Great-tailed Grackle (male)	3/30	Spring Lake	GH
Western Tanager (2-3)	4/26	Ida Clayton Rd.	DN, SM
Hooded Oriole (male)	3/25	Paula Lane residence, Petaluma	DN
Harris' Sparrow (alt. pl.)	4/29	Continuing at Salmon Creek (singing)	DN
Clay-colored Sparrow (ad.)	4/21-28	Marshall Ave., Petaluma (singing)	EP, DN
Lazuli Bunting (2)	4/15	Geysers Rd.	DN
Black-headed Grosbeak	3/30	King Ridge Rd.	DN

CONTRIBUTORS: Phillip Barlow, Tony Briggs, Scott Carey, Dea Freid, Diane Hichwa, Gene Hunn, Paul Lehman, Curtis Marantz, Suzanne Medina, Dan Nelson, Clyde Nelson, Gary Nicholson, Brook O'Connor, Rob O'Donnell, Norm Ortman, Erv Peterson, Peter Pyle, Monica Schwallenberg-Pena, Doug Shaw, Dave Shuford, Dan Singer, Scott Sorby, John Sterling, Alan Wight, and Robin Winning.

**BIRD-A-THON**

Continued from page 4

W 9th Street in Santa Rosa. Madrone has put straw cushioning below to soften the fall of chicks to the street. At "A Place to Play" on West 3rd, he pond was really maturing, again, thanks to Madrone's work to keep the areas more natural. At the Sebastopol Preserve near the Laguna de Santa Rosa, California Quail were seen. (Diane surmises that the feral cat colony may have been disbanded. Great for the quail!) And Cliff Swallow nests were active, allowed to cover the whole back of the Sebastopol building.

Sonoma State still has a Barn Owl who had left a fresh pellet below the nest box. On the way up north going home, Diane saw a pair of Red-breasted Sapsuckers calling and drumming near the Gualala River. Missing from this day though, were those beautiful Kites! They seem to be in small numbers this winter.

**Species Seen: 125****AMOUNT RAISED: \$3391.00 +++**

**Thanks Sponsors: All Tails Wagging Veterinary Clinic,** Karen and Jay Abbe, Dorcas Allison, David and Jeanne-Marie Black, Donna Bley, Betty Burridge, Lynn Comminsky and Garrett Jernigan, Buff and Gerry Corsi, Kit and David Daine, Gay Deady, Gwen Dhesi, Don and Donna Friedrich, Dorothy Gregor, Karlene Hall, Val Hanelt and Hans Hickenlooper, Jack and Deyea Harper, Carol Harrison and Don Tanner, Steve Hemenway, Katherine Hichwa, John and Jo Kleis, Susan Kirks, Lloyd and Debby Kreuzer, Rich Kuehn and Dean Schuler, Bill and Paget Lenarz, Peter and Olivia Leveque, Ann Luft, Kathy Mugele, Karen and Ted Nagel, Mike Nelligan, Rebecca Olsen, Mike and RuthMary Parmeter, Bev Penn, Sally Pola, Dave and Chris Powell, David Racher and Sharon Hansen, John and Linda Reichel, Jim and Judy Seeser, Gloria

Shay, Richard Shipp, Daphne Smith, Judy and Phil Temko, Liz and Mike Thach, Deborah and Joe Votek, Danna and Janice Vough, Dr. Linnea Westberg, DDS, Anne Ysunza, Cathy and Larry Zbikowski

**MARCH MADNESS - Big Foot Day:** Gene Hunn, Ian Morrison.

The original goal for this team of 100 species proved wildly optimistic. The plan was to hike up Adobe Canyon Road, pre-dawn, to Sugarloaf Ridge State Park campground and observatory, then climb Bald Mountain and transect the high ridges of Hood Mountain. From the Hood trail, Ian returned via a loop trail to his house on Adobe Canyon Road, while Gene descended to Pythian Road trailhead to Highway 12, then through Oakmont to Channel Drive along Annadel State Park to Spring Lake. He limped around Spring Lake to Lake Ralphine to the finish line. Ian then met Gene with a vehicle to return to the starting point: 13.5 hours on foot!! This proved considerably farther than Gene's original estimate of 15 miles....more like 20! The "forever" hike through Oakmont was rewarded with a beer at the golf course bar. Due to the early spring, there were fewer water birds on the lakes, but what was lacking in quantity, they made up in quality.

Pre-dawn highlights included Western Screech, Great Horned, Northern Pygmy and Spotted Owls and Poorwills, all vocalizing. The chaparral brought in Wrentits, California Thrashers, Orange-crowned Warblers, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers (at least 10), and a singing Rufous-crowned Sparrow. Several flocks of Band-tailed Pigeons cruised past. Also seen were a number of Black-throated Gray Warblers, several Mountain Quail and a cackling Pile-

ated Woodpecker. On the descent from Hood Mountain, Gene encountered Chestnut-backed Chickadees, a Varied Thrush, a Brown Creeper, a Hairy Woodpecker, Townsend's, Wilson's, and Orange-crowned Warblers, and Warbling, Hutton's and Cassin's Vireos. At Oakmont, Gene spotted Golden-crowned and a single White-crowned Sparrow, but nary a Mockingbird. Spring Lake had a male Great-tailed Grackle. The hike closed with Black-crowned Night-herons, a Great Blue Heron, Double-crested Cormorants, a few Buffleheads, a Pied-billed Grebe and a calling Sora. The team saw NO Rock Pigeons nor House Sparrows and only the European Starling at Gene's last stop. A beautiful ring-necked snake and a number of migrating pipevine swallowtail butterflies added to a beautiful, but tiring day.

**Species seen: 81****AMOUNT RAISED: \$265.75**

**Thanks Sponsors:** John and Susan Dean, Darlene Donat, David Leland and Ann Howald, Amy Hunn, Nancy Hunn, Sandy Martensen, Serena Stark.

**ROADRUNNERS:** Betty Groce and Don McCarthy.

This long-time duo completed their Bird-A-Thon on February 24th, a beautiful spring-like day. As usual, they started in Betty's yard, (disappointing), then Oakmont, Annadel, Spring Lake, Lake Ralphine, down Petaluma Road to Shollenberger Park and Ellis Creek. At Lucchesi Park, they found the nearly ever-present Ross's Goose (missed last year). The team used to eat lunch there, but the over-abundance of goose droppings caused a change of plans. Then on to the coast for shore and sea birds. They are embarrassed to say that the

Continued on page 8

**BIRD-A-THON**

Continued from page 4

American Oystercatcher was missed. It was a little windy at Bodega Bay with a scarcity of ducks, perhaps already on their way north. They also went north to Duncan's Mills for the beautiful, sure to be there, Wood Duck. Betty and Don are not called the Roadrunners for nothing. Although their route has remained basically the same for many years, their bird list gets smaller and smaller, ending up with only 93 species. Each BAT is like a treasure hunt. Sometimes you win and sometimes you don't, but you always have fun. Thanks to one and all of our sponsors.

**Species seen: 93****AMOUNT RAISED: \$2,269.65 +++**

**Thanks Sponsors:** Brett Lane, Judy Barker, George Batchelder, James Batchelder, Dennis Beall, Gordon Beebe, Malcolm Blanchard, Janet Bosshard, Tish Brown, James Clegg, M.D., Beth Combs, Ann Conger, Neal Conner, Rachel Corso, Steve and Diane DeSalvo, D.D.S, Nancy Dill, Kathi Dowdakin, Joannie Dranginis, Harriet Draper, Marilyn Edmondson, June England, Janeanne Erickson, Jeanette Evans, Joe and Barbara Ferrari, Bob Frescura, Stan Gold, Gary and Terry Haag, Gordon Harlander, Susan Harris, Catherine Hickey, Donald K. Howard, Jr., Richard Hurley, Gus Kearney, Susan Kirks, Karen Kubrick, Andy Lacasse, Joan Langfeld, Dennis Luz, Pat Marsh, Sandy Martensen, Shirl and Tom Maxson, Tom McCuller, Alexandra McDonald, Lynn McGarvey, Mary Edith Moore, Judy Morrison, Rob O'Donnell, Carol Orme, Norm Ortman, Benjamin Parmer M.D., Liz Parsons, Gaines Post, Jr., John and Polly Post, Elaine Pruett, Cynthia and John Rathky, Frank and

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**THE ZONOTRIPIAS:** Bill Doyle, Helen Kochenderfer, Don Kirker.

Saturday, March 28th was the Big Day for this team. They began their day by listening for Rails at Ellis Creek, at 4:00 a.m.! Fifteen hours later, after covering much of Sonoma County, they ended their day at Sonoma State University, at 7:30 p.m., with a very unexpected, but very nice Hermit Warbler high in a redwood. They were down a bit in number of species from last year, possibly due to the drought and reduced food availability. The Zonos had a great day in any case, and were happy to make their contribution to Madrone Audubon. They will see you next year!

**Species seen: 144****AMOUNT RAISED: \$ 1,002.00**

**Thanks Sponsors:** Teresa Doyle and Ray Appel, Mary Ellen and Jeff Baker, Rita and Bill Bevans, Ira Byock and Yvonne Corbeil, Anita Doyle, Charles and Dian Doyle, Sarita Doyle and Brent Eastman, Will and Karen German, Jeff Hanson and Peggy Kearns, Don and Beth Kirker, Kochenderfer Business Services, Carol Kochenderfer, Bret Lane, Brooke Loomis, Rick and Jan Marsi, Ann Marston, Claudia Norby, Ken Wilson and Becky Olsen.

**BURROWING OWLERS:** Susan Kirks, Nathaniel Roberts.

Susan started this new BAT team this

year. Her naturalist work for the American Badger actually led to the selection of the team's name. Burrowing Owls will re-use abandoned badger burrows as will the endangered California tiger salamander and threatened California red-legged frog, along with skunk and fox. The team began in February and continued through April—in 8 3-hour time periods. They birded this way to blend with full professional and volunteer schedules. Much of the birding took place in Petaluma, including Paula Lane, Chileno Valley Road and Shollenberger Park. Nathaniel recorded the return of the California Quail to West Street, and saw many birds in his backyard, including Allen's Hummingbird. He also saw species while bike riding at Shollenberger Park for exercise. Susan saw a Great Blue Heron flying over the Petaluma River near Alman Marsh, two adult Turkey Vultures with an immature TV soaring overhead in West Petaluma, flying Black-necked Stilt at Shollenberger and a Bewick's Wren. The wren was seen with the assistance of Audubon California's Renewable Energy Director, Garry George, during a meeting at Richardson Bay Sanctuary in Tiburon. Garry, sitting next to Susan called out, "There's a Bewick's Wren" which was perched on a branch seen through a small window (Garry is a remarkable birder). Susan thought it was okay to add to the Burrowing Owls list and thanked him. If only Red-winged Blackbirds could be counted beyond identifying just the species, we would have raised a lot more money for the Chapter. But, the first year was challenging and fun, and the Burrowing Owls so much appreciate this year's sponsors!

**Species Seen: 57****AMOUNT RAISED: \$595.00**

Continued on page 9



**BIRD-A-THON**

Continued from page 4

**Thanks Sponsors:** Elizabeth Covington, Joanne Dranginis, Elizabeth Gould, Sue Hoey, Marianne Sackman, Anne Sobol.

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**Cliff Swallows Return to Petaluma**

*By Susan Kirks*

They arrived en masse at the Petaluma River Bridge around April 28th. Before then, only a few, 10-20, were observed potentially building or refurbishing nests at the Lakeville Highway Overpass and nearby at the Marina Sheraton. Co-Plaintiffs of litigation to protect migratory birds at the Petaluma River Bridge began our monitoring in mid-March for the 2015 construction and nesting season. Caltrans planned a “full exclusion” of the Petaluma River Bridge to prevent any swallows from nesting there. Following an exchange of information between Co-Plaintiffs and Caltrans, Caltrans agreed to leave a small area open for nesting under the bridge, the undersurface of the newly constructed median. Co-Plaintiffs’ legal counsel, Jeff Pierce of Animal Legal Defense Fund, continued to express concern on our behalf regarding areas where arriving swallows might be able to nest, given the uncertainty of the numbers of swallows arriving and available nesting surfaces, along with their known strong attachment to their historic nesting site. (We had, in discussions, suggested an alternative nesting structure be constructed near the Petaluma River Bridge if a full bridge exclusion was going to be attempted; Caltrans declined.)

In year 2 of a 3-year Settlement Agreement, thus, nesting conditions in 2015 for the Cliff swallows remained uncertain. Caltrans had also asked Co-Plain-

tiffs to consider changing the official end date of the nesting season from August 15th to a date in July, as Caltrans stated in past years all nesting activity seemed to end before August 15th. This would have helped Caltrans move ahead before the 2016 construction season, the last year of construction for the Petaluma River Bridge. Co-Plaintiffs considered Caltrans’ request and declined to agree to the date change for the end of nesting season. Caltrans then moved forward with its intention for full exclusion and application of hard surface exclusionary material at the Petaluma River Bridge. The primary construction for 2015 is the new northbound lane for Highway 101. Caltrans expressed an intention to demolish the old southbound lane of the bridge on August 16th, the day immediately after August 15th, the last officially designated 2015 nesting season day. However, any remaining active nests at the bridge will delay that theoretical plan.

Within a few days after the swallows arrived, they constructed a large number of nests on the tops of new support structure columns under the bridge, along with difficult to view areas under the bridge. A count of completed nests with swallows in them on May 2nd was approximately 100. Nest building activity continued. Six nests had been under construction on the west side of the bridge and the old southbound lane’s undersurface, where hard surface exclusion material had been applied to prevent nesting. Four of those nests were completed, with swallows in them. Thus, at this point, as we go to press, it is clear the swallows will nest in 2015 at the Petaluma River Bridge. The question now is whether Caltrans can keep up the pace with daily scraping off of new nest starts to prevent more completed nests.

We recommend a visit to the Petaluma

River Bridge, where with binoculars and/or a scope, one can see the swallows productively moving between the bridge, the wetlands and their nests. Especially in morning and just before sunset, the activity is amazing to see. Madrone Audubon appreciates the continued cooperation and participation of Co-Plaintiffs Native Songbird Care & Conservation (especially expert Veronica Bowers), Marin Audubon, Golden Gate Audubon, and the Center for Biological Diversity, as well as our continued legal assistance from Animal Legal Defense Fund. To all who supported litigation, which is now in Settlement, in our 2nd of 3 years, thank you for the generous donations and support in the collaborative legal action to ensure protection of migratory birds.

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This issue of the *Leaves* is the last to be edited by Denise Kelly, our Co-Editor of the newsletter. We are grateful for her stepping in when Daphne Smith stepped down three years ago, helping as the Co-Editor while also working at her regular job. In addition, Denise used her horticultural skills to write the in-depth text for our webpage Attracting Birds, and a list of bird-friendly plants for our area. We thank Denise for her years of service, and wish her well in her future endeavors.

**Opportunity knocks—will you answer?** Help is needed in these Madrone positions: Junior Audubon coordinator, Leaves editor, and Program Chair. To volunteer, please contact Gordon aBeebe, [gdbeebe@earthlink.net](mailto:gdbeebe@earthlink.net) or Tiffany Erickson, [tiffmm66@gmail.com](mailto:tiffmm66@gmail.com).



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**MADRONE LEAVES**



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