



LEAVES

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

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Congratulations to our 2019 Award Recipients

Madrone Audubon is pleased to recognize and acknowledge some of the special contributions to our Chapter. We appreciate all volunteer efforts and hours. We are especially pleased to announce the following 2019 awards:

Evalyn and Les Bowen Award – Asenath LaRue

Les and Evalyn Bowen started our Chapter 51 years ago by offering their energies and expertise to the young organization. The Bowen Award recognizes the dedication given by members to sustain the Madrone Audubon Chapter.

Our 2019 recipient, Asenath LaRue, moved to Santa Rosa in 2014. While on a Madrone bird walk led by Tom McCuller, Asenath asked about nature- and conservation-related organizations that might need another volunteer, and Marilynn Scott suggested both Madrone Audubon and Bouverie. Asenath said “I’ve always been thankful to her for sharing her experiences with these groups.” At Madrone, Asenath has been ably editing our *Leaves* newsletter since Fall 2015. She noted: “I really enjoyed doing background for the 50th anniversary issue and appreciated all who helped.” She also signed up for the Bouverie docent training and became part of their graduating class of 2016, active as a docent through spring 2018. She was part of the Junipers mentoring program to encourage older students’ continuing interest in nature and had been looking forward to doing that

again “until October 2017 changed things for Bouverie and me and many others” as fires swept through Sonoma County.

She will now be going through the training to become a Wisconsin Master Naturalist this June, has joined the Madison, WI Audubon chapter, and plans to be a contributing nature volunteer there, too.

Asenath has continued as editor for several months since moving back to Wisconsin...but now needs someone to step in as Editor! Will it be you?



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

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GENERAL MEETING

First United Methodist Church • 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa
Monday, September 16, 2019, 7:00 PM

“Liberating Form and Function: Rehabilitation of a Coastal Dune Ecosystem”

Can modest attempts to promote recovery of ecological form and function at a limited scale, miniscule amidst the pandemic global environmental crisis, be meaningful and helpful? Does the near-term renaissance of native plant populations and wildlife habitat provide a harbinger of a dune ecosystem’s long-term ecological resiliency and integrity? Join us for botanist Peter Warner’s presentation and his response: “Conscientious attempts to address past environmental mismanagement – at any scale – are essential to our humanity.” Peter will discuss a project designed to promote ecological recovery of a coastal dune ecosystem at the Ten Mile Dunes and Inglenook Fen Nature Preserve, part of MacKerricher State Park, north of Fort Bragg. We will learn about both project objectives and the approach to requisite mitigation measures, as well as long-term goals, which include resurrection of ecologically important physical, chemical and biological processes such as those expressed through dune formation, surface hydrology, and biotic diversity.



Erysimum menziesii (Menzies wallflower)
Ten Mile Dunes
Courtesy of Peter Warner

Peter Warner is an independent consulting botanist, plant ecologist and educator, and ecological interpreter. He has been involved in the study of plants and ecology for about 40 years, coinciding with his westward migration from East Coast roots. Peter holds B.A. and M.A. degrees in Biology (Ecology) from Sonoma State University. For the past 25 years, he’s taught botanically oriented classes and workshops and organized hundreds of trips throughout California to explore biodiversity. His experience also includes 10 years of working in environmental science with California State Parks and Golden Gate Parks Conservancy. Some of Peter’s current work includes post-fire floristic studies for Sonoma Land Trust and Pepperwood Preserve, leading interpretive walks in botany and fire ecology. Being out in nature is part of Peter’s daily life... “nature provides more than ample material from which to harvest enlightenment.”



2019 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Continued from page 1

Bewick's Wren Award – Dan Nelson

Established in 1991, the Bewick's Wren Award acknowledges individuals who have given exceptional service to the Society. These persons have been vital to the Chapter's activity and energy over a period of time.

Dan Nelson, our 2019 recipient, has documented records of unusual bird sightings for 30 years! An excellent birder himself, he has reported to the *Leaves* editor what birds have been seen in Sonoma County. He is one of the people, behind the scenes, quietly and methodically keeping track for the *Leaves* and for County records. We have greatly appreciated Dan's dedication, accuracy, and attention to detail. Dan also independently compiled an avian survey for the Paula Lane property in Petaluma, which became part of baseline documentation for the now-conserved open space land, with over 100 migratory and resident avian species and a 100-year-old American Badger habitat. Thank you, Dan, for many years of caring and documenting birds and wildlife in Sonoma County and for your service to Madrone Audubon! (Please read the accompanying article about young birders and the value of records.)

Bentley-Smith Award – Second Breeding Bird Atlas Participants

Martha Bentley and Ernie (Ernestine) Smith spent their lives working to protect and enhance the environment through conservation and education. This award, established in 2002, recognizes similar lifetime contributions by Madrone members.

This year, we honor the Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA, 2nd ed.) participants. Gordon Beebe, past President of Madrone Audubon and continuing with the BBA research, analysis and publication, will accept the award on

behalf of the many volunteers who conducted field observations each year during breeding seasons from 2011 to 2016. With the county divided into 195 squares, or blocks, 5 km on a side, volunteers gave 9,283 hours surveying 187 blocks, or about 96% of the county. These observations yielded a confirmation of breeding for 161 species, up from 148 species during the first Atlas. Madrone is fortunate to note that a few volunteers participated in BOTH the original BBA survey led by Betty Burridge 1986-1991 and the 2011-2016 survey. Some new species identified in the 2011-2016 survey include Mute Swan, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Barred Owl, and Great-tailed Grackle. In the not too distant future, Gordon will coordinate publication of the analysis and BBA via a new website link.



Purple Martin with nesting materials Courtesy of Gordon Beebe

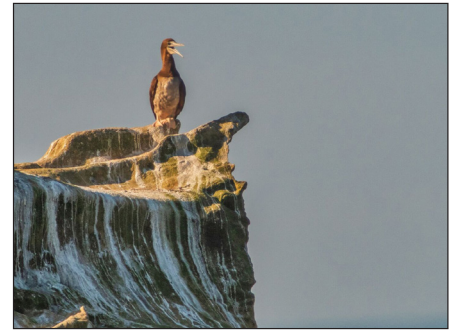
Similar to the first BBA, we anticipate the 2nd BBA will provide reference data for research, conservation and education.

Thank you, ALL PARTICIPANTS in the Second Breeding Bird Atlas survey process!

Burridge Award – Craig Tooley

This award was established in 1988 to honor Betty Burridge for her lifetime contributions to Citizen Science. The cash award is given to a Madrone or community member to promote the recipient's continued research and education or research projects in the area of conservation science.

Craig Tooley is this year's recipient. Never without his camera, Craig is an active nature photographer



Brown Booby

Courtesy of Craig Tooley

documenting harbor seal births, wildlife and wildflowers. He has been photographing the colony of Brandt's Cormorants on Gualala Point Island in far NW Sonoma County since 2007 when fireworks caused disturbance to nesting. His nighttime photos of the reaction of the cormorants, aerial photos of their nests from a small plane and recent aerial photos taken with a drone all assist in citizen science monitoring. Craig has also developed several DVDs to tell the story of the California Coastal National Monument islands off our coast and the wildlife that uses them and has produced some short educational videos on octopuses and tide pool organisms.

Special Recognition Award – Youth vs. the Apocalypse – Sonoma County High School Leaders

This award goes to a business, agency, group or contact who has assisted Madrone Audubon Society or the environment in a noticeable way.

In 2019, we wish to recognize Sonoma County High School Leaders for their foresight and willingness to organize and take action. On March 15, 2019, large numbers of students throughout Sonoma County and the Bay Area organized climate change impact and awareness marches. Locally, students marched and rallied to bring direct awareness to the climate emergency in the U.S. and support for local, regional, state, national and global action. From the Press Democrat's 03/15/19 news coverage: "High school students

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2019 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Continued from page 2

from across Sonoma County on Friday skipped classes and converged in Petaluma, Sebastopol and downtown Santa Rosa, where about 150 North Bay students and supporters held an afternoon rally in Old Courthouse Square before their march to City Hall. They joined youth-led climate strikes held in cities across more than 100 countries, coordinated to pressure political leaders to take strong action against climate change, which experts say is increasing the frequency and severity of floods, droughts, hurricanes and wildfires. The youth movement was

inspired by 16-year-old activist Greta Thunberg, who began demonstrating outside the Swedish parliament last year, and was recently nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. The local rallies also follow back-to-back years of Northern California wildfires that were the deadliest and most costly in the state's history, a situation experts say is exacerbated by heat-trapping gases that continue to pour into the Earth's atmosphere. Last year, California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment found wildfires larger than 25,000 acres could become 50 percent more frequent if greenhouse gas emissions are not curtailed..."

We encourage young people to *continue to speak up*. The future has become NOW and all of our decisions and actions collectively are needed to make a difference. To organize as Youth vs. the Apocalypse is doing and to make those waves takes courage and stamina. We acknowledge this effort and, again, offer our deep gratitude and support.

Madrone Audubon is privileged to be able to consider so many fine individuals and group efforts, volunteering for conservation, research, appreciation of birds and wildlife, and our natural world, and acknowledge this year's 2019 Chapter Award recipients.

2nd Annual Madrone Audubon/Ernestine Smith Scholarship Awarded

The 2019 Madrone Audubon/Ernestine Smith scholarship recipient is Yesenia Lopez Perez. Ms. Perez was selected from a group of 22 applicants to receive the \$2,000 scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to a student who attends or has attended Santa Rosa Junior College, transferring to a 4-year university for further education in the fields/majors of biological sciences, life sciences and/or environmental sciences.

A 2015 graduate of Windsor High School, Ms. Perez attended Santa Rosa Junior College and was very active in the college environmental community. While completing her coursework, she participated as a youth member of the Sonoma County Environmental Education Collaborative and was Vice President of the EcoLeaders Club.

In Fall 2018, Ms. Perez transferred to the University of Berkeley to pursue her Bachelor's degree, majoring in Environmental Science and Policy. She also plans to minor in Business or Economics. From her application essay, the combined areas of study..."will allow me to address environmental issues through both a socioeconomic and scientific lens. While maintaining a duality of educational interests, my ultimate educational goal remains rooted in my active passion for the environment."



Yesenia Lopez Perez

The Madrone Audubon Scholarship Committee, comprised of Linda Curry, Peter Leveque and Diane Hichwa, reviewed this year's applications and considered GPA, hours of coursework completed, activities and financial need. The essay submitted by each student to provide more in-depth personal information, educational plans and goals was also considered. With the breadth of majors possible, Committee members also looked to Ernie (Ernestine) Smith and her interests in aspects of the environment. The Ernestine Smith Trust bequest given to Madrone Audubon funds this scholarship, and those who knew Ernie Smith were well aware of her energy, dedication and action toward care for our environment and all creatures within it.

Ms. Perez, the 2019 scholarship recipient, plans to complete her undergraduate degree and then work in the environmental sector, perhaps for Greenpeace or Earthjustice, before pursuing an advanced degree. She is interested in studying environmental law. In considering her future, Ms. Perez shared, "I believe the greatest catalysts for change come first in the form of social movements, but are best implemented through public policy."

Madrone Audubon thanks our Scholarship Selection Committee for their recommendation for 2019 and congratulates Yesenia Lopez Perez, with our hope the \$2,000 scholarship award will help support her day-to-day educational needs and her path toward her future.



News Alert: Cliff Swallow Colony Destroyed in Sebastopol

On May 2, 2019, a Sebastopol City employee removed over 200+ active nests from the youth annex portion of the Sebastopol Community Center. The nests were reportedly scraped off the building, destroying the longstanding, annual, established Cliff Swallow colony. Ten days earlier, Veronica Bowers of Native Songbird Care & Conservation had documented the colony with a video of Cliff Swallows sitting in completed nests. Veronica has monitored this colony for many years and then became involved as soon as she learned of the tragedy of destruction. She is working with the City of Sebastopol on preventive measures for the future and ensuring the City begins to adhere to established policies to recognize and protect the colony during nesting season. We acknowledge Veronica for her care, attention, quick action and diplomacy. This tragedy was reported to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and is under investigation. It appears the nests with contents were cleared from the area. Several questions remain as to the “contents,” in terms of the stage of nesting with mature eggs ready to hatch or hatchlings. The normal incubation period for cliff swallow eggs can range from 10 to 19 days, and the video documentation from 10 days earlier as well as observed completed nests strongly suggests to us mature eggs and/or hatchlings by May 2. Everything was destroyed and removed. It is challenging to believe only a few broken eggs with eggshells and some chunks of nests were the outcome, which was what was observed at the site 2 days following the destruction. A news article appeared in the *Sonoma West Times* on May 15. As we go to press, the Press Democrat is preparing an article. **During nesting season, Feb. 15-August 15, active nests must be avoided and not disturbed, per the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. These 200+ nests were active.**

Coastal Column

by Diane Hichwa

In May, the Black Oystercatchers (aka BLOY) began tossing pebbles and collecting them in tiny cup depressions in the taller rock islands of our coast. A Golden Gate Auduboner who was monitoring a nest put together a blog about the season of an oystercatcher. I hope you enjoy watching it, and learning: *Watching Black Oystercatchers in breeding season* from Golden Gate Audubon Society on Jan 10, 2016 by Jane Turner Hart, at www.goldengateaudubon.org/blog-posts/watching-black-oystercatchers-in-breeding-season-4/.

Our Coastal Stewardship Task Force and additional volunteers have been watching and monitoring BLOY nests since 2011. At a recent working group meeting, with representatives from Washington, Oregon, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and California representatives from San Luis Obispo, Monterey, San Francisco Bay, Sea



Black Oystercatcher on nest

Courtesy of Craig Tooley

Ranch, and several areas of Mendocino County, we agreed that a 10-year data set would be most valuable, and we all “signed up” for 3 more years. At that time, a West Coast population count will be taken again, as we did in 2011, to see if the population is stable/declining/increasing. Watching a nest gives you an excuse for one hour a week to sit on the bluff tracking adults, behaviors, eggs and chicks. (A tough job!)

We also begin Year 3 of a permit from Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary to help develop “No Disturbance Protocols” to use when flying a drone to track activity in a



Coastal Stewardship Taskforce volunteers with drone

Courtesy of Diane Hichwa

seabird colony. In the Low Overflight Zone around Gualala Point Island—put in place to protect the nesting of Brandt’s Cormorants, Common Murres, Western Gulls, Pigeon Guillemots and Black Oystercatchers---a plane cannot fly lower than 1000 ft, and a drone is not allowed to fly higher than 300 ft! While a researcher may approach cautiously with a drone, and at high elevation, recreational users often buzz low and loud without realizing they are disturbing nests and wildlife! We are working to fine-tune how to approach, and photograph, the nesting seabirds without creating any issue for the birds.



Black Oystercatcher with injured foot

Courtesy of Dennis Luz



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.

Summer 2019 Calendar

Saturday, June 1, 7:30 AM to 3:00 PM

WILLOW CREEK and DUNCAN'S MILLS. Meet at the Duncans Mills parking lot off of Moscow Rd. Turn right as you enter the lot, to the right of the Gold Coast Bakery. We will carpool to Willow Creek Rd, then walk sections of the road, covering riparian and chaparral/grassland habitats. Bring lunch for Duncans Mills, with a final stop at Cassini Ranch for Wood Ducks. Leader: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115 call or text msg.

Saturday, June 15, 7:30 AM to Noon

SALMON CREEK ROAD. Another beautiful rural road in Sonoma County, with riparian, grassland, and mixed forest habitats. If possible, please carpool before arriving in the town of Bodega, as there is limited space on Salmon Creek Rd (Contact leader to arrange carpool from Sebastopol). Meet on Salmon Creek Road at the corner of Bodega Highway, in the town of Bodega (not Bodega Bay). We will then combine into as few cars as possible. Leader: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115 call or text msg.

Thursday, June 20, 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM

RAGLE RANCH REGIONAL PARK. From Santa Rosa, take Highway 12 through Sebastopol. Right on Ragle Road to the park entrance. Use your park pass or buy a \$7 day pass. Meet back by the restrooms and dog play area. We will walk both the dirt and asphalt paths. Most of the paths are under oak and shade trees. Leader: Janet Bosshard, 526-5883.

Saturday, July 13, 7:30 AM to 1:00 PM

DORAN BEACH to GOAT ROCK STATE PARK. Meet at the Doran Beach Regional Park parking lot across from the

Rich Stallcup Memorial Platform. Parking fee (\$7) for non-permit holders. We will check locations at Doran, then head north along the coast, stopping at Duncan's Landing, ending at Goat Rock State Park. Bring lunch. Leader: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115 call or text msg.

Thursday, July 18, 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM

SONOMA VALLEY REGIONAL PARK. Off of Highway 12, Glen Ellen. Use your park pass or buy a \$7 day pass. Meet across from the dog park. We will walk the paved path through the oak woodlands. There are benches halfway down the path to sit a while to listen and identify the birds. It is a cool park, on a warm morning, for a bird walk. Leader: Janet Bosshard, 526-5883

Saturday, August 10, 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

DORAN BEACH and PINNACLE ROCK. Meet at the Doran Beach Regional Park parking lot across from the Rich Stallcup Memorial Platform. Parking fee (\$7) for non-permit holders. We will check locations at Doran, then head over to nearby Pinnacle Gulch. Leader: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115 call or text msg.

Thursday, August 15, 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM

WEST COUNTY TRAIL, near Forestville. Take Guerneville Road and turn right on to Highway 116, then left on Ross Station Road (right before Kozlowski Farms store). Go down to the parking area on the left. Parking lot is small, so please carpool, if possible. We will walk to the sewer ponds and back. It is a mostly shady path where birds can be very active in the morning. Leader: Janet Bosshard, 526-5883.

September 2019 Calendar

Wednesday, September 4, 7:00 PM

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

Saturday, September 7, 8:30 AM to Noon

ELLIS CREEK WATER RECYCLING FACILITY. Meet at the Ellis Creek Water Treatment Facility in the parking lot, near the bathroom. From Highway 101 in Petaluma, go East on 116 (Lakeville Highway), turn right (south) on South

McDowell, turn right on Cypress Drive. Go to the end of the road and through the gates. Parking is to the left. Leader: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115 call or text msg.

Monday, September 16, 7:00 PM

GENERAL MEETING. First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa. "Liberating Form and Function: Rehabilitation of a Coastal Dune Ecosystem." This is a free event and all are welcome.



OUT & ABOUT

Bird Rescue Center's Open House

3430 Chanate Road, Santa Rosa CA 95404 (physical location - County Farm Drive).

First Saturday of every month, 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Go to www.birdrescuecenter.org/now-the-real-work-begins/ to learn about **Bird Rescue's fundraising efforts** to relocate to a new home near Cotati (after 26 years at the Chanate Road location). **Please join us in supporting this important effort!**

Bird Courtship and Breeding Strategies Bird Walk

Laguna de Santa Rosa, 900 Sanford Rd, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Sunday, June 16, 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM

June is the month when fledglings appear throughout the wetlands of the Laguna. Join preserve naturalist Lisa Hug to look and listen for birds and to spend extra time observing the cormorants' nesting behavior. \$55. Pre-registration required. www.lagunadesantarosa.org/laguna_walks_classes.html.

Plants for the Garden and Habitat

Occidental Arts & Ecology Center Nursery, 15290 Coleman Valley Rd, Occidental 95465

April-November, Saturday & Sunday, 10am-5pm and weekdays by appointment only.

Visit the nursery where 100% Certified Organic, open-pollinated, heirloom vegetables, flowers and culinary and medicinal herbs, habitat plants for pollinators, and ornamentals for drought tolerant landscapes are available. 707-874-9591. (Note: On the OAEC Wildlands Preserve, baby Spotted Owls have recently been observed.)

Martin Griffin Preserve, Audubon Canyon Ranch

4900 Shoreline Highway 1, Stinson Beach, CA 94970

Open-to-the-public Saturdays, through July 27, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Explore more than 8 miles of trails, learn about abundant plant and animal life from nature guides, or picnic under the redwoods. Go to www.egret.org and click on the events link to see a listing of educational themes for each Saturday.



Western Bluebird

Courtesy of Tom Reynolds

Phenology Project Volunteers

Citizen science at the *Paula Lane Nature Preserve* sponsored by Madrone Audubon.

Accepting new volunteers for long-term, climate change impact project.

Visit 1 hour monthly, observe for 9 avian, 2 mammal & 4 plant species.

Enter observations in Nature's Notebook/National Phenology Project.

To volunteer, contact:

Susan Kirks, Madrone Audubon President.
707-241-5548, susankirks@sbcglobal.net

(Beginning birders/naturalists welcomed)

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.

A note to all Madrone members...

If you're vacationing this summer, or just enjoying the birds of Sonoma County, please consider sharing your observations with fellow Madrone members. 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 the upcoming fall issues.



A Sincere Thank You to Our 2018 Donors

\$500 and above

Mary Abbott.

\$200 to \$499

Richard Clarke, Christyne Davidian, Darlene & Dick Donat, John & Sara Donnelly, Linda Fraley, Donna & Don Friedrich, Mary & Richard Hafner, Deidre Harrison & Tom Crane, Caryl Hart, Linda Fraley, Diane & Bryant Hichwa, Donald Howard, Jr., Carolyn Johnson & Rick Theis, Edmund MacDonald, Michael Nelligan, Claudia Rannikar, Kathleen Rosskopf & Roland Pesch, Jean Schulz, James & Judith Seeser, Wendy & Steve Smit, Daphne Smith, Ann Stone, Wild Birds Unlimited.

\$100 to \$199

Dorcas Allison, Mark & Kathy Angell, Jeff & Susan Baptista, Veronica Bowers, JoAnn Bray, Center Electric/Petaluma, Judith Christensen, Terri Clark, Mary & Michael Cuoio, Nancy Craig, Susan & John Dean, Nancy & Jim Dempsey, Design in Wood/Petaluma, Gwendolyn Dhesi, Darlene & Dick Donat, William Doyle, Ron & Kris Dick, Theodore Eliot, Clara Else, Jefferson Finney & Jonathan Staub, Steven Gelber, JustGive, Dorothy Gregor, Nancy Hair, Deyea & Jack Harper, Melinda Harris, Carol Harrison & Don Tanner, Marcia Jye, Ruth Karlen, Barbara & William Kendrick, Coco & Chester Kirks, John & Jo Kleis, Helen Kochenderfer, Ellen Krebs, Deborah & Lloyd Kreuzer, Peter & Olivia Leveque, Louisa Leavitt, David Leland, Brooke Loomis, Sandra Martensen, Michael Martin & Laura Holms, Thomas McCuller, Barbara Moulton, Luci Mendoza, Daniel O'Neill, Thomas Novoryta & Elizabeth Dabrowa, Jeffrey Orth, Carol Parisek, Ervand Peterson, David & Chris Powell, Anna Ransome, J. Earl Rathbun, Cynthia Rathkey, Steve Rabinowitsch, Christopher Reiger, Suzanne Reta, David Rice, Teresita Salter-Haag, Jon Sarrett, Richard Shippis, Lorie Silver, Lorie Silver, Margaret Spaulding, Marilyn Strand, Lorraine Sugg & Stephen Vallarino, James & Florence Vaughn, Steve Sweaney & Judy Withee, James Taylor, Barbara Toschi, Warren Watkins, Anne Wurr, Laurie & Thomas Yarish.

\$50 to \$99

Ralph Baierlein, Anne Baxter, Lorraine Bazan, Judith & Lance Barlas, George Batchelder, Robert Berman, Malcolm Blanchard, Cynthia Boyer, Janet Bosshard, Dennis Buss, Phillip Carlsen, Dr. Lynn Cominsky, Ann Conger, Yvonne Corbel, Gerald & Buffy Corsi, Wallace & Janice Curtis, David & Karen Daine, Teresa Doyle, Peggy Elliott, Christine Engel, Janeann Erickson, Claire Etienne, Glenda Gentile, William German, Stanley Gold, Hallberg Butterfly Gardens, Betty Groce, Jeffrey Hanson, Jim Harris, Joe Hasler, Catherine Heater, Moss Henry, Denise Herzberg, Jeffrey Holtzman & Kimberly Wasson, Larry Houghton, Lisa Ireland, Jeanne Jackson, Marlene Kaulum, Barbara & Calvin Kendrick, Barbara & Bill Kobabe, Julie Lander & Dan Zastrow, Asenath LaRue & Art Montana, David Leland, William & Paget Lenarz, Marguerite & Stacy Li, Ann Luft, Ellen Mack, Anne Marston, Jean Martin, Cheryl Maynard, Cynthia & Kevin McCullough, Carolyn Metz, T.C. Moore, Ian Morrison, J. Anthony Mountain, Barbara Moulton, Kathleen Mugele, Elaine Nickison, Diane Noel, Claudia Norby, David Oliver, Rebecca Olsen & Ken Wilson, Benjamin D. "Mike" & Sally Parmeter, Julia Pollock, Gaines Post, Jr., Bill Remick, Nancy & Brantley Richardson, Janet Ross & Patrick Whitfield, Matthew Sakaguchi, Stanley Salomon, Monica Schwalbenberg-Peña, Eleanor Schubert, Gloria Shay, Eleanor Silberman, Anne Sobol, Charlyn Stetson, Irene Stewart, Judith Tembrock, Jan Tolmasoff, Marilyn & Don Toms, Ernestine Trujillo, Marianne Warwick, Warren Watkins, Cornelia Young, Larry Zech.

**Welcome,
New Members**

Cloverdale
Patty Sweeney

Petaluma
Evelyn Nitzberg

Santa Rosa
Julie Lietsch
Martha Lynne
Carolyn Traweek
Mary Jo Yung

**Donating via
PayPal?**

Madrone Audubon accepts PayPal donations via our website, www.madroneaudubon.org.

If you access PayPal, please include in the note:
Mailing address & how you're donating:
For a new membership, membership renewal or a donation to the Chapter.

Thank you!

**Are you a
National Audubon
member?**

Please consider joining our local chapter, Madrone Audubon.

(see membership form, back page)



A Young Birder gets into Record-keeping...and, Why keep records?

by Diane Hichwa

We all want to encourage youth to be involved with nature. I knew Dan Nelson, our bird-records-guru, had started birding at a young age. So I asked what was significant to him early on. He responded: “At around age 7, I would climb up and into my Grandparents’ bottlebrush ‘tree’ next door to obtain incredible ‘within hands reach’ views of hummingbirds. At age 12, I visited the Natural History Museum in Victoria, B.C., Canada. After viewing the lifelike dioramas and mounted specimens of birds, I begged my parents to buy me a copy of Robbins and Singers’ Birds of North America for \$4.95...which they did... and I began to ‘memorize’ the text and colored plates thereafter. Those were two significant points.

Another event was November 19, 1979 at age 15 when I found a Sonoma County Blackburnian Warbler while doing the PRBO Birdathon with Betty Burrige and Roger Marlowe. In those days, THAT was considered a mega-rarity and its ‘find’ introduced my name to the ‘hard-core’ birding population around the State, as it was a First County Record.

In those days, there were no ...[young birders organizations]... in Sonoma County. I got to know John Sterling and John Parmeter from Napa County--the only other teen-aged birders I was aware of in northern California; and later Curtis Marantz from L.A. at age 16, while looking for California Condors at Mt. Pinos.

There were lots of other fine people who helped educate and guide me through the ‘pitfalls’ of birding during the ‘70’s. The skills of identification were very, very primitive for Empidonax Flycatchers, Fall Warblers, juvenile Shorebirds, and others. Field guides and general field knowledge have evolved and improved dramatically since those days.”

When I wrote to Dan to inform him of our awarding him the Bewick’s Wren Award, I also posed a question: What IS the value of bird records? How did you get into that? And, how long ago? He responded: “I replaced Doug Ellis as Observations editor in May 1983.” (Note: that is 36 years ago! And you can calculate Dan’s age at the time.)

“After ‘learning the ropes’ so to speak - at Point Reyes in the late ‘70s with birders such as Rich Stallcup, Jon Winter, Laurie Binford, John and Mike Parmeter and others, I dedicated myself to Bodega Bay in Sonoma County because few people – (almost no one!) – birded there then! And I determined there were many holes in the Bodega Bay bird list at that time. It was drastically under-birded then compared to Pt. Reyes. Being a Sonoma County resident, I set out to change that fact, and soon a friendly ‘rivalry’ with my Marin friends developed as we compared daily lists, and together we learned how the migrant ‘traps’ of Marin and Sonoma County play out together.

In the decades before eBird and computer list-serves, Joe Morlan’s weekly Northern California R.B.A. (i.e. rare bird alert) was the sole method to report or to find out about up-to-date rare bird sightings. Other than that, there was a monthly Observations column, but this process was never meant to be a ‘Rare Bird Alert’ due to its slow timeliness; rather, it was a historical record database for ‘unusual’ sightings of Sonoma County. Earlier times revealed a more colorful, reader-friendly style of complete sentences to describe each sighting;



Acorn Woodpecker

Courtesy of Tom Reynolds

however, I later switched to a more standardized listing process. This seemed necessary to include more entries from a growing list of local birders, and include more systematic records into the growing database -- to be published someday.

There are presumed biases, due to my (or anyone’s) writing interest or style, but I have always tried to maintain a consistent protocol for what ‘is’ and ‘isn’t’ included in the column. I always knew that keeping the methodology consistent, sticking with it (as opposed to quitting, or bringing on a ‘new’ observations editor) would be inherently more valuable...if I could stick with it for a ‘longer period’ of time. (Hopefully the future observation editor(s) will feel the same, and continue forward in a similar manner.)

That being said, I wonder... Sometimes it seems that no one (or certainly fewer!?) people rely on the Observations than they once did, historically. There are so many ‘new age’ methods to report and to find out about rare birds, but yet I’ve always continued writing and publishing these notes. It’s a good thing to have a lengthy, historical perspective. And the Observations should continue on, always and forever!!”

We are delighted to hear Dan say: “I’m inclined to continue into 2023, (the 40-year mark), so it’s probably a good time to start thinking about the next step. Who will be willing to take over?? Any ideas for candidates?” Dan commented: “Up until now, I’ve never even spoken about this.

For one thing, eBird, CalBird, NorthBayBirds and other sources allow for a much easier monthly compilation of notes, which I greatly appreciate. In the ‘old days,’ I’d get on the phone and call a handful of ‘locals’ to solicit any interesting sightings. And the column was HANDWRITTEN, delivered via automobile to the editor’s house!! Many trips driven to Kathy Mugele’s in Sonoma, Linda Curry’s in Santa Rosa, Malcolm Blanchard’s in Glen Ellen, then eventually to Daphne Smith, Asenath LaRue... and others I’ve perhaps forgotten! So it’s actually an easier job nowadays... (relatively speaking).”

As climate changes, and development of the County changes, we should know how bird populations change as well. Dan has given us a solid base of records to build on.

**Observations**

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

"Eurasian" Green-winged Teal	3/22	Las Gallinas treatment ponds, Marin Co.	DM
Long-tailed Duck	3/17	Bodega Harbor entrance , jetty area	JC
White-winged Scoter	3/17	Bodega Harbor, jetty area	JC
Hooded Merganser (pr.)	3/23	Sea Ranch, sag pond	D Hichwa
Common Gallinule (2)	4/30	Chanslor Ranch ponds	DH, BDP
Red-necked Grebe (4)	3/17	Bodega Head and Jetty area	JC
Elegant Tern (4)	5/3	Bolinas Lagoon mudflats	DE
Swainson's Hawk	4/4	Skaggs Island	DE
Swainson's Hawk	4/18	Coleman Valley Rd	J Snead
Common Black-Hawk (photos)	4/28	W. of Laguna de Santa Rosa	RR
Bald Eagle (n.b.)	Mar.	Marin Co., 1 mi. S. of Sonoma county line	DN
Cattle Egret (4)	3/22	McInnis Park, Marin Co.	JC
Little Blue Heron (continuing)	3/31	Loch Lomond Marina, Marin Co.	M.Ob
Least Bittern	3/21	Ellis Creek	LC
Wandering Tattler	3/17	Seal Rock, Bodega Head	JC
Red Knot (2 alt. pl.)	4/30	Doran Ponds	DH, BDP
Solitary Sandpiper	4/26	Hudeman Slough	MB
Rufous Hummingbird	3/10	Paula Ln., Petaluma	DN
Rufous Hummingbird	3/25	Windsor residence	R Bevans
Costa's Hummingbird (male)	3/12	Bahia area of Novato , Marin Co.	M Luff
Purple Martin (3)	4/19	Limantour Beach, Marin Co.	DN
Purple Martin (4)	5/3	Seaview Rd., Cazadero	LH
Western Kingbird	4/13	Paula Ln., Petaluma	DN
Western Kingbird (4)	4/23	Ellis Creek treatment ponds	M Grishaver
Olive-sided Flycatcher	3/24	Occidental area, heard	MH
Olive-sided Flycatcher	4/22	The Sea Ranch	D Hichwa
Hammond's Flycatcher	4/18	Nicasio Valley Rd. near mp # 6.88, Marin Co.	DM
Say's Phoebe	4/26	Queens Lane, Petaluma	AW
Ash-throated Flycatcher	4/10	Pt. Reyes/ Petaluma Rd.	DN
Townsend's Solitaire (photo)	3/22	Sugarloaf S.P.; along Vista trail	BO, KW
Swainson's Thrush	4/17	Palomarin, 1st of Spring; banded	M Dettling, et al
Rock Wren	3/30	Summit of Lucas Valley Rd., Marin Co.	C Meusel
California Thrasher	3/17	Penngrove residence area	LS
Northern Shrike (photos)	3/31	Tolay Park	PC, et al
Black-billed Magpie	4/17	Westport, Mendocino Co.	B Keiffer, et al
" "	4/21	Irish Beach, Mendocino Co.	
" "	4/23	Gualala feeding station, Mendocino Co.	
Warbling Vireo	3/22	Fairfax Open Space, Marin Co.	L Helfman
Cassin's Vireo	4/4	Limantour Rd., Marin Co.	DN
Yellow Warbler	4/18	Olema Marsh, Marin Co.	DN
Wilson's Warbler	3/23	Limantour Rd., Marin Co.	DN
MacGillivray's Warbler	4/18	Muddy Hollow trailhead	M Dettling, et al
Palm Warbler	4/16	Pine Gulch Cr., Marin Co. (singing)	MD, et al
Palm Warbler	4/22	Kortum Trail S. of Furlong Gulch (singing)	PP
Palm Warbler	4/23	Ellis Creek treatment ponds	M Grishaver
Bullock's Oriole	4/7	Paula Ln., Petaluma	DN
Hooded Oriole	3/19	Felder Rd., Sonoma	J Hubbell
Hooded Oriole	3/28	Windsor residence	R Bevans
Hooded Oriole (pr.)	3/30	Penngrove	LS
White-throated Sparrow	5/1	Ragle Park	C
Black-headed Grosbeak	4/18	Muddy Hollow trailhead	M Dettling, et al
Grasshopper Sparrow	3/23	Burdell Mtn. Marin	DE
Lawrence's Goldfinch (pr.)	5/2	King Ridge Rd. at burned house	DF
Lazuli Bunting	4/19	Chileno Valley Rd.	DN

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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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