



Madrone LEAVES

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

VOLUME 47 October 2014 Number 2

A Field Guide to the Future: Nearly Half of North America’s Birds at Risk from Global Warming

Nearly half of the bird species in the continental U.S. and Canada are threatened by climate change and global warming. Many of these species could go extinct without our taking decisive action to protect their habitats and reduce the severity of global warming. That’s the startling conclusion reached by Audubon scientists in a new study being released in mid-September

Here in California, birds that are threatened by global warming include Black Oystercatcher, Allen’s Hummingbird, Pygmy Nuthatch, and Yellow-headed Blackbird—as species of concern!



Pygmy Nuthatch Photo courtesy of Craig Tooley

Of 588 bird species examined in the study, 314 are at risk. Of those, 126 species are at risk of severe declines by as early as 2050, and a further 188 species face the same fate by 2080, with numerous extinctions possible if global

warming is allowed to erase the havens birds occupy today.

“The greatest threat our birds face today

is global warming,” said Audubon Chief Scientist Gary Langham, who led the investigation. “That’s our unequivocal

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OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING

Monday October 20, 7:00 PM
First United Methodist Church
1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa
(Please remember to bring your own cup or mug!)

Nationally known bird photographer, Marie Read, takes us on a journey exploring the bird-life of the Mono Lake Basin. Marie’s photography, now featured in her newly released book, *Sierra Wings: Birds of the Mono Lake Basin*, reveals the fascinating lives of the birds that breed or migrate through this spectacular birding hotspot.

Iconic Mono Lake, in California’s Eastern Sierra, is famous for bizarre tufa towers rising from its surface, and highly saline and alkaline water. Brine shrimp and alkali flies attract huge numbers of breeding and migratory birds, including California Gulls, Wilson’s and Red-necked phalaropes, and Eared Grebes. The surrounding sagebrush scrub, pinyon-juniper, Jeffrey pine and conifer-aspen forests support many other species.

Please come and enjoy Marie’s stories from the field and learn how she obtained some of the behavior and action shots in the book. Signed books will be available for purchase. You can see more of Marie’s nationally recognized work at www.marieread.com.

COMING NOVEMBER 17:

Hollis Bewley of the Seabird Monitoring Program will present an up close and personal look at seabirds courting and raising their families along the Sonoma Coast. Hollis will give us an overview of the important work and accomplishments of the Seabird Monitoring Program being administered by Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods in partnership with the Seabird Protection Network, the California Coastal National Monument, and State Parks.

Hollis serves on the Board of Directors of Stewards, a nonprofit organization supporting CA State Parks, and providing environmental education, interpretative, stewardship and citizen science programs in Armstrong Woods, Austin Creek and the Sonoma Coast. She also coordinates the Seabird Monitoring Program (in its second year!) as well as leads coastal bird walks and classroom field trips to tide pools for Stewards. She has participated in Black Oystercatcher surveys for Audubon, and has been observing and photographing coastal birds for 15 years. More information about her organization can be found at www.stewardscr.org/cms/pages/volunteer_sonoma_coast_seabird_monitoring.html



Black Oystercatchers in ocean shoreline habitat. Photo courtesy of Craig Tooley

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A FIELD GUIDE

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conclusion after seven years of painstakingly careful and thorough research. Global warming threatens the basic fabric of life on which birds—and the rest of us—depend, and we have to act quickly and decisively to avoid catastrophe for them and us.”



Cedar Waxwing on native white alder.
Photo courtesy of Tom Reynolds

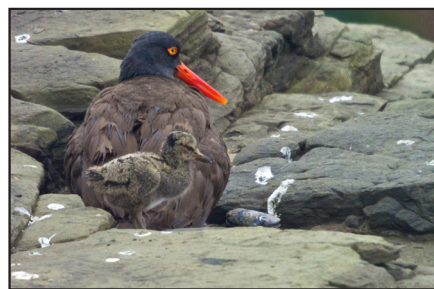
To understand the links between where birds live and the climatic conditions that support them, the researchers used 17 variables (for temperature, seasonality and precipitation) to look at changing climate scenarios. Langham and other Audubon ornithologists analyzed 30 years of historical North American climate data together with tens of thousands of historical bird records from both the 100+ years of winter Audubon Christmas Bird Counts and the spring/summer North American Breeding Bird Survey data of the U.S. Geological Survey. Understanding those links then allowed scientists to project where birds are likely to be able to survive—OR not survive—in the future. Range maps, such as those found in bird field guides, show where birds now winter and nest; the new maps from this study project with climate change where habitat will be and if/when there is a match to sustain each species.

Our locally common Black Oystercatcher is projected to lose more than 50% of its range by 2050. The iconic Common Loon, heard but unseen as it calls through the mist of a Midwestern lake, is projected to have no suitable place

summering place in Minnesota by 2080. The study also reveals those areas that are likely to remain stable for birds even as climate changes, enabling Audubon to identify “stronghold” areas that birds will need to survive in the future. Working with partners we can identify and rank those strongholds to protect for greatest impact.

The result is a roadmap for bird conservation in coming decades under a warming climate. The study provides a key entry point for Audubon’s greater engagement on the urgent issue of global warming. Responding to the magnitude of the threat to our birds, National Audubon is greatly expanding its climate initiative, aiming to engage a larger and more diverse set of voices in support of protecting birds.

Solutions will include: 1) personal choices to conserve energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in our communities 2) creating backyard bird habitat 3) local action to create community climate action plans 4) local and state-based work to increase rooftop solar and energy efficiency, 5) Audubon’s work in Important Bird Areas and other efforts to protect and expand bird habitats. With the range maps we can identify places needing protection to provide a refuge for these birds. We can know better which species to focus on and where to take action most effectively.



Black Oystercatcher with chick.
Photo courtesy of Craig Tooley

For more information, visit Audubon.org/Climate. After September 9 there will be more than 300 maps on the website. National members can expect a double-

issue of Audubon Magazine focusing on climate change.

Gary Langham finished a webinar on this topic with “Give nature ½ a chance and it responds. We need to give it that chance.” It is time we speak for birds.

Written by Diane Hichwa, adapted from a basic article provided by Lynsy Smithson Stanley, NAS Deputy Director for Climate Change.

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AUDUBON ADVENTURES - Madrone’s Gift to 3rd-5th Grade Schools in Sonoma County – 2014-15

National Audubon’s “Audubon Adventures” is again being offered for free to all 3rd-5th grade teachers in Sonoma County. New this year is the digital plus option “Birds, Bees, and Neighborhood Biomes” Classroom Kit **OR**, as in the past, the printed version – choose from 1 of 8 kits.

With a Digital Plus subscription students receive: Three ready to print or project student editions with engaging science content, online, student quizzes and puzzles, kid-friendly games and infographics, Windows on the Wild videos and live webcam. **Teachers receive:** Six E-newsletters, “Birds on the Move” classroom wall poster, topic background information, discussion starters, lesson plans for classroom and field-based activities, bibliographies, glossary, **correlations to Common Core English Language Arts and Next Generation Science standards** and assessment questions and answers, opportunities to participate in community service learning and citizen science projects such as Great Backyard Bird Count and Pennies for the Planet. The Audubon magazine subscription is also sent to the school address.



AUDUBON ADVENTURES

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OR With a Printed Version subscription: Choose one from among eight kits - four separate magazine sets (32 of each).

With education budgets often cut, funds for environmental education programs are limited. We can help fill some of that need. Teachers of 3rd-5th grade students may contact Marcia Johnson at owlsnesttwo@att.net, 829-3808 before December 1, 2014, to receive an "Audubon Adventures" Resource Kit for your class.

Contributions to support this project would be greatly welcomed. The cost of a kit for use in a classroom is - Digital: \$16.00; Printed: \$42.00. Please contact Marcia for more information.

Thanksgiving Bird Count

Thursday November 27, dawn to dusk

Counters are needed for the annual Thanksgiving Bird Count, one hour on Thanksgiving Day. The counter chooses the time that best fits his or her schedule. The count is made in a circle, measuring only 15 feet in diameter. The counter determines the location, usually a favorite area frequented by the birds, such as feeders, baths, covers, and/or wetlands. Individual birds are counted only once during the hour, even if the birds continue to pay visits. Flocks should be estimated or counted, and only the highest number at any one time used.

Thanksgiving Bird Counts were begun in 1966 by Dr. Ernest Edwards and the Lynchburg Bird Club in Virginia. Counts slowly spread to the west, but there are still many areas in the west in need of more counters and better count distribution. This bird count can be done in comfort, indoors near a window and be a welcome respite from the Thanksgiving dinner. Count results (even if you see no birds at all) should be sent to Dr. John G. Hewston, Count Compiler, Natural Resources Build-

ing, Humboldt State University, Arcata California 95521. Instructions and bird count form available at www.utahbirds.org/cbc/ThanksgBirdCount.htm and your Thanksgiving Bird Count can be emailed to thanksgivingbirdcount@gmail.com, if you are in the western United States.

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9th Annual Wine Country Rowing Classic

North Bay Rowing Club and Sonoma State Crew have been hosting the Wine Country Rowing Classic since 2005, watching it grow from a casual, rather local event followed by a barbecue to a US Rowing-registered regatta attended by 500 to 600 junior, collegiate and masters athletes. In 2009, WCRC introduced a team trophy. The tidal slough known as the Petaluma River, with its gentle S-turns and great straightaways, is one of the most beautiful protected stretches of water for rowing on the West Coast. Racers launch and land at the Petaluma Marina (Sheraton, at 745 Baywood Drive), and spectators watch from Shollenberger Park. The Wine Country Rowing Classic is becoming known for not only its course but also its food and apparel vendors, and of course the friendly members of NBRC, who donate the day to the event.

We invite the community at large to come out to enjoy this spectacular event. This year, as last, the docents of the Petaluma Wetlands Alliance will volunteer for the day, answering questions, keeping spectators on the path, and informing locals and visitors alike about the stunning environment we call home.

Are you a National Audubon member?

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

One More for Your Life List

by Steve Glover

Reprinted with permission from the author and Mount Diablo Audubon Society.

The annual American Ornithologists' Union Checklist Supplement, published online on July 30th, includes a revision of the taxonomic status of the "large rails," which we have traditionally called the Clapper and King Rails. The King Rail has been split into two species: The familiar King Rail of the eastern U.S. retains its English and scientific names (*Rallus elegans*), while populations in Mexico's interior and western coast are now known as "Aztec Rail" (*Rallus tenuirostris*).

Of greater interest to California birders is a three-way split of the Clapper Rails. The Clapper Rails on the east coast (including Texas) have retained the name Clapper Rail but the scientific name is now *Rallus crepitans*. Our local Clapper Rails are now known as Ridgway's Rail and have been given the scientific name *Rallus obsoletus*. So if you have seen a Clapper Rail back east and a Clapper Rail in California, pat yourself on the back (or clap!)—your life list grew by one without leaving the house! The third species, the Mangrove Rail (*Rallus longirostris*), is confined to coastal South America.



Ridgway's Rail taken at Palo Alto Baylands. Photo courtesy of Ellis Meyers, Mount Diablo Audubon Society.

Ridgway's Rail includes three known subspecies, each of which occurs in California: The "Light-footed Rail," of the

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The Faces of Rat Poison

This summer and fall, the Faces of Rat Poison campaign can be seen in BART stations in the East Bay and San Francisco—Lafayette, Orinda, and Pleasant Hill, 12th Street, Oakland, and 24th Street and Civic Center stations in San Francisco. The posters can also be seen on the “tails” of 26 MUNI buses and three large billboards on Highway 101 in Mendocino County (areas of high poison use by some marijuana grow operations). The idea behind the campaign is to show the faces of some of the many non-target animals that are being harmed by rat poison.

Although the state removed some of the worst “second generation” anticoagulant compounds from consumer shelves as of July 1, and the US EPA plans to do the same starting in April 2015, the battle is not over. Plenty of other dangerous products, including several under the d-CON brand, remain for sale to consumers. They include the poisons chlorophacinone and diphacinone, “first generation” anticoagulants that have killed many birds of prey and other wildlife, as well as bromethalin,

a nerve toxin for which there is no antidote.

Our great challenge moving ahead is that the state and the EPA continue to allow the pest control industry to use the terrible second generation anticoagulants, and agricultural supply stores to sell them in bulk. The EPA argues that pest control operators “apply the poisons more carefully,” making them safer to use. However, they have admitted that they have no scientific evidence to show that most poisonings are caused by homeowners. A bait box with a poisoned rodent staggering out of it creates a toxic bomb, whether placed by a pest control company, a homeowner, restaurant, or business.

RATS has posted a table of all of the poisons—and their brand names—that will still be allowed for over-the-counter sale at www.raptorsarethesolution.org/dangerous-rat-poison-products-still-being-sold-over-the-counter/ along with their known impacts. Raptors Are The Solution (“RATS”) was



Courtesy of Lisa Owens Viani RATS (Raptors Are The Solution)

founded in 2011 after its co-founders discovered Cooper’s hawks dying on the streets of Berkeley, having eaten poisoned rodents. RATS educates people about the ecological role of raptors and the enormous danger to raptors and all wildlife, as well as pets and children, from the wide use and availability of rat poisons. RATS partners with other NGOs, agencies, scientists, municipalities, and others to work toward eliminating toxic rodenticides from the food web.

Lisa Owens Viani is Co-founder and Director of RATS

LIFE LIST

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form levipes, is found along the Pacific Coast from Santa Barbara County south to extreme northern Mexico. The “Yuma Rail,” of the form yumanensis, is found in freshwater marshes in southeastern California, including at the Salton Sea and along the Colorado River. The “California Rail,” of the form obsoletus, now occurs only around the shores of San Francisco, San Pablo and Suisun Bays, though it formerly ranged at least as far south as Morro Bay and as far north as Humboldt Bay.

This is the subspecies one would see (with patience or a very high tide) at the Palo Alto Baylands or at Meeker Slough in Richmond. For many, the new name Ridgway’s Rail will take some getting

used to. However, we might all take comfort in the fact that Robert Ridgway, one of America’s greatest ornithologists, finally has an English bird name to his credit!

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Fall is off to a great start...

Pelican Dreams: Ready to Fly!! Filmmaker Judy Irving (“The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill”) is coming to Sonoma Wednesday, October 8, 2014 7-8:30PM Veterans Memorial Building, 126 First Street West, Sonoma. “Pelican Dreams” opens at the Sebastiani Theater in Sonoma on October 31 and starts Friday, October 24 at the Rialto in Sebastopol.

Our Local Migration Phenomenon of Vaux Swifts

We received notification that up to 20 Vaux’s Swifts will be captured and fitted with unbelievably small radio transmitters. The planned capture site is in Yakima, WA. The transmitters will have a battery life of 45 days, are unbelievably small at <3% of the bird’s body weight, and will be lost with the next molt. It will likely take the birds 4 to 5 days to get here. They are diurnal migrants.

The goal is to refine the present estimate of the species’ world population. Larry Schwitters, the lead researcher on this project, feels that official estimates of Vaux’s Swift population are far too high



October 2014 calendar

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.

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 October 1, 8:30AM – Noon

SPRING LAKE REGIONAL PARK. Bird Walk. Parking fee (\$7) for non-permit holders. From Summerfield Road in Santa Rosa, go east on Hoen Avenue, turn left onto Newanga Avenue, turn right inside the park entrance gate, and meet in the parking lot near the restrooms at the top of the hill. Information: Tom McCuller, sisypus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

Wednesday October 1, 7PM

BOARD MEETING

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

Saturday October 4, 9AM to Noon

MODINI MAYACAMAS PRESERVES, 8 miles northeast of Healdsburg. Walking Orientation (required for independent hiking). Visit <http://www.meetup.com/Friends-of-the-Modini-Mayacamas>.

Saturday, October 4, 8AM to 3PM

POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE. Our annual trip to the Point to search for fall migrants. Meet at the Whitehouse Pool parking lot, just east of the intersection of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and Bear Valley Road, at 8AM. Bring lunch, liquids and layers of clothing. Rain cancels. Leaders: Ken Wilson, 665-5127, and Gordon Beebe, 583-3115.

Monday October 6, 9AM

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 Andy LaCasse at 763-5167.

Thursday, October 9, 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM

BODEGA BAY. Bird Walk. From the center of the town of Bodega Bay, drive north on Highway 1, turn left at Eastshore Road (the Bodega Head turnoff), then turn right at the stop sign, and continue 0.3 mile to the unpaved parking lot on the right. Bring lunch, liquids, and layered clothing. Information: Tom McCuller, sisypus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

Saturday October 11, 8AM to 1PM

MODINI MAYACAMAS PRESERVES, 8 miles northeast of Healdsburg. Nature Photography. Reservations required. Special guest hike led by Tom Reynolds, nature photographer. Visit <http://www.meetup.com/Friends-of-the-Modini-Mayacamas>.

Wednesday, October 15, 8:30 AM till Noon

HUICHICA CREEK UNIT OF NAPA-SONOMA MARSHES.

Bird Walk. Meet at the Huichica Creek Unit parking lot. From Sonoma, take Highway 12 (Carneros Highway) toward Napa; turn right (south) on Duhig Road; turn left on Las Amigas Road; turn right on Buchli Station Road, which leads to the wildlife area. Bring liquids and layered clothing. Information: Tom McCuller, sisypus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

Saturday October 18, 8AM to 3PM

BODEGA BAY. Come explore the fall migration with us 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 East Shore 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. Rain cancels. Leaders: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115 and Bill Doyle, 483-8773.

Monday October 20, 7PM

GENERAL MEETING

First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa. Nationally known bird photographer, Marie Read, takes us on a journey exploring the birdlife of the Mono Lake Basin. Marie's photography is featured in her newly released book, *Sierra Wings: Birds of the Mono Lake Basin*.

Thursday, October 23, 8:30 AM till Noon

ELLIS CREEK WATER RECYCLING WETLANDS. Bird Walk. We will bird the wetlands and adjacent areas of this facility in Petaluma. From Santa Rosa on Highway 101, take the Highway 116 exit (Lakeville Highway), go left under Highway 101, turn right (south) at the South McDowell traffic light, turn right on Cypress Drive, which ends at the facility gate. Information: Tom McCuller, sisypus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

Saturday October 25, 9AM to 1PM

MODINI MAYACAMAS PRESERVES, 8 miles northeast of Healdsburg. Documenting Wildlife on the Mayacamas. Reservations required. Special guest hike led by Ginny Fifield, wildlife camera specialist. Visit <http://www.meetup.com/Friends-of-the-Modini-Mayacamas>

Wednesday, October 29, 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM

HAMILTON WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT, NOVATO. Bird Walk. Meet at the project trailhead parking lot. From the north, take the Ignacio Blvd. exit from U.S. 101, go east on Ignacio Blvd. over U.S. 101, go south on the frontage road (Nave Dr.), then turn left on Main Gate Road. Follow Main Gate Road (which becomes Palm Drive) and turn left (east) on South Palm Drive, turn right on Hanger Avenue, then turn left immediately into the Library parking area. The trailhead is at the back of the parking area. From the south, take the Alameda del Prado exit from U.S. 101 to Nave Drive. Bring lunch, liquids, and layered clothing. Information: Tom McCuller, sisypus@sonic.net, 546-1812.



November 2014 calendar

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.

Wednesday November 5, 7PM

BOARD MEETING

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

Saturday November 1, 8AM to Noon

DELTA POND AND ADJACENT WETLAND PRESERVE. A very “birdy” walk, in a wonderful place, not normally open to the public. We are grateful to Denise Cadman, Natural Resources Specialist for the City of Santa Rosa, who arranges entry to this property in the Laguna de Santa Rosa. Meet on Willowside Road at the bridge over Santa Rosa Creek, midway between Hall Road and Guerneville Road. Park off the pavement. Rain cancels. Leaders: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115 and Bill Doyle, 483-8773.

Monday November 3, 9AM

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.

Thursday, November 6, 8:30 AM till Noon.

HUDEMAN SLOUGH WETLAND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT. Bird Walk. We sometimes find a variety of raptors, shorebirds, and water birds at these ponds and wetlands in southeast Sonoma County. There are no restrooms at this facility. Meet in the project parking lot: From Petaluma and Sonoma, turn right from Highway 12/121 onto Ramal Road. Continue on Ramal Road 2.4 miles to the gravel project parking lot on the right. Bring liquids and layered clothing. Information: Tom McCuller, sisyphus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

Saturday November 8, 9AM to Noon

MODINI MAYACAMAS PRESERVES. 8 miles northeast of Healdsburg. Walking Orientation (required for independent hiking). Visit <http://www.meetup.com/Friends-of-the-Modini-Mayacamass>.

Wednesday, November 12, 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM

SONOMA COAST: DUNCAN’S LANDING TO GOAT ROCK. Bird Walk. Meet at Duncan’s Landing (within Sonoma Coast State Beach), approximately three miles south of the Russian River on Highway 1. Bring lunch, liquids, and layered clothing. Information: Tom McCuller, sisyphus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

Saturday November 15, 9AM

ALMAN MARSH, PETALUMA. Petaluma Wetlands Alliance leads a walk at Alman Marsh. The walk starts at the new kiosk on the southern edge of the Petaluma Marina/Sheraton Hotel. Rain cancels. Contact Gerald Moore at 763-3577.

Saturday November 15, 8:30AM to Noon

ELLIS CREEK WATER RECYCLING FACILITY and SHOLLENBERGER PONDS. Meet at Ellis Creek in the parking lot,

near the bathroom. 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 gates. Bring liquids and layers of clothing, and a scope if you have one. Rain cancels. Leaders: Bill Doyle, 483-8773; and Gordon Beebe, 583-3115.

Monday November 17, 7PM

GENERAL MEETING

First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa. Hollis Bewley of the Seabird Monitoring Program will present an upclose and personal look at seabirds courting and raising their families along the Sonoma Coast. Hollis will give us an overview of the important work and accomplishments of the Seabird Monitoring Program being administered by Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods in partnership with the Seabird Protection Network, the California Coastal National Monument, and State Parks.

Thursday, November 20, 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM

LAKE HENNESSEY IN NAPA COUNTY. Bird Walk. From the intersection of Silverado Trail and Highway 128 (which is east of Rutherford), go east on Highway 128 to a parking area at the bottom of the Conn Dam spillway on the left of the road. Bring lunch, liquids, and layered clothing. Information: Tom McCuller, sisyphus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

Saturday November 22, 9AM to 1PM

MODINI MAYACAMAS PRESERVES. 8 miles northeast of Healdsburg. Science and Stewardship Hike. Visit <http://www.meetup.com/Friends-of-the-Modini-Mayacamass>.

MODINI MAYACAMAS STEWARDS –Workdays - 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 8AM to Noon

October 2, October 16, November 6, November 20. For more details, Visit <http://www.meetup.com/Friends-of-the-Modini-Mayacamass>.

Saturday December 6, 9:30AM to Dusk

CENTRAL VALLEY - GRAY LODGE and SACRAMENTO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. Please join us on our annual winter trip to the Central Valley to enjoy the enormous concentrations of waterfowl, raptors, cranes, geese, and other interesting birds seldom seen in Sonoma County. Directions to Gray Lodge from Interstate 5 & Highway 99: from the junction of Interstate 5 and Highway 99, take Highway 99 north to Live Oak. Turn west on Pennington (North Butte) Road. Turn right on Almond Orchard Avenue and continue to entrance. The distance from Live Oak is about eight miles. After birding Gray Lodge, we will go to Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge for the afternoon, hopefully enjoying good views of the fly-out at dusk. Some of our group will stay overnight in Willows or Yuba City Friday and/or Saturday to visit parts of the nearby Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge. Call the leader for more information. Leader: Bill Doyle, 483-8773.

**VAUX SWIFTS**

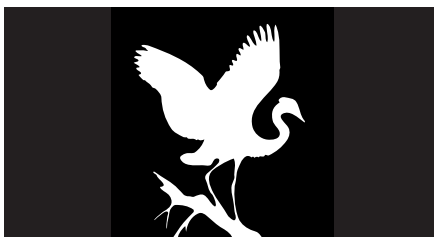
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and this is an issue if the species and their Fall staging sites are to receive any official protective status. He now has many counts at staging sites in WA, OR and CA but needs a better estimate of 'residence time' at each site and the general pace of migration to refine his population estimate.

As the *Leaves* goes to press: ahead of schedule, on Sept 6: Six Vaux's Swifts were radio tagged in Yakima, WA this morning at sunrise. Four days ahead of schedule. 'Counts' were conducted yesterday evening and this evening (9/6, 9/7) at McNear Brickyard, San Rafael; the numbers were 620 and 1690 respectively. Both evenings the first birds did not enter till a few minutes after sunset. On September 8 just over 1000 swifts were counted at McNear Brickyard, and a staggering 20,000 at Rio Lindo Academy in Healdsburg. I wonder if the birds are moving south faster, earlier due to the drought (and/or food supply).

AND locally in Healdsburg a video clip on youtube: Vaux Swifts Healdsburg, CA - For 2014 local counts see <http://riolindo.org/vauxs-swifts-migration-sonoma-valley/> . Along the flyway you can find the documentation of six million swift roosting "events" during the last fourteen migrations at vauxshappening.org[http://vauxshappening.org/Larry Schwitters](http://vauxshappening.org/Larry_Schwitters), Project Coordinator, Audubon Vaux's Happening

Email david.self@egret.org for details on the Grand Opening of The Modini Legacy Exhibit, 226A Center St, Healdsburg. Tentatively scheduled for November 15 &/or 16, exact date and time t.b.d.

**Central Valley Bird Symposium**

The Central Valley Bird Club will be hosting the 18th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium November 20-23, 2014 at the Stockton Hilton Hotel in Stockton, CA. Please come and help us kick off this year's CVBS! Come meet the CVBS board & staff members, reconnect with old friends, and meet new ones. Take advantage of the scrumptious hors d'oeuvres buffet & no-host Bar on Thursday night. Thursday night's keynote speaker is Ed Harper, presenting a program on "Appreciating the Birds of the Central Valley." The CVBS gets off to a supercharged start with this lively and informative presentation. Ed is a widely known, popular and highly sought after speaker.

Friday night's keynote program is presented by Nat Seavey on "From Flood to Drought: A Bird's-Eye View of Water Management in the Central Valley." Nat is the Research Director of the Pacific Coast and Central Valley Group at Point Blue Conservation Science (formerly PRBO). His research is focused on the ecology and conservation of riparian ecosystems, bird migration, the ecological effects of climate change, and applying science to conservation decision-making and public policy.

Saturday night's keynote program is presented by Joel Greenberg on "The Echoes of Their Wings: The Life and Legacy of the Passenger Pigeon." For the past four years Joel has been a leader in Project Passenger Pigeon, which aims to mark the anniversary of the species' extinction. He is co-producing with director David Mrazek the documentary, "From Billions to None: The Passenger Pigeon's Flight to Extinction." It will be available in spring of 2014.

Workshops include: "Subspecies for Birders" by Joe Morlan, "What Bird-

ers Should Know about Taxonomy in Flux" by Jon Dunn & Kimball Garrett, a photo workshop by Bob Steele, and informative talks by Monica Iglecia, Sara Kross, and Bob Meese. Andy Engilis and his UCD Museum crew will present the very popular Specimen Workshop. Our field trips always turn up exciting birds. Add in the always entertaining and educational Bird ID Panel, the wonderful display of art and gifts for yourself or others at the Birder's Market, and the camaraderie of hundreds of like-minded folks, and you know you'll have a good time! There's something for everyone interested in birds. Come and join us to bird, learn, and just have fun. To look over the lineup of speakers, workshops, and field trips, or register, check out our website at: <http://www.2013cvbs.org/> Registration: <http://www.regonline.com/centralvalleybirdingsymposium2014>.

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Cliff Swallows Legal Update*by Susan Kirks*

Terms of the Settlement Agreement of the Coalition's litigation continue. During the 2014 nesting season, beginning in April and continuing to early August, daily monitoring occurred at the Petaluma River Bridge and the Lakeville Highway Overpass in Petaluma. We appreciate the assistance of monitor George Eade and also Steve Jette's boating observations for the 2014 nesting season. Scheduled construction in both locations continued.

Cliff Swallows nested as had been anticipated at the Petaluma River Bridge on siderails, exposed to weather elements. Fortunately, this year, no heavy rains occurred in 2014 as had occurred in 2013 when several nests were washed away because of the exposed location of nesting

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CLIFF SWALLOWS

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and inability for Cliff Swallows to nest underneath the bridge structures. Representatives from our Coalition met with Caltrans representatives pre-nesting season, during the season and post-nesting season, the latter on Sept. 11th. California Assemblymember Marc Levine’s legislation of connecting the Caltrans budget approval process to a requirement to meet with conservation organizations to collaborate on the bridge project strongly supported our process. In addition, as part of the terms of Settlement, almost 7000 residents and businesses in the vicinity of the bridge structures received informative brochures about nesting Swallows with contact information for Native Songbird Care & Conservation.

The hard surface exclusion material (HSEM) applied to bridge surfaces appears to have been successful in excluding nesting attempts and also preventing injury to the Swallows. We believe this method of exclusion may be beneficial for other Caltrans’ bridge projects statewide. Although a lesser number of Cliff Swallows nested on structures compared to historically, nests in 2014 were not disturbed and young swallows began to fledge in July. By early August, the 2014 nesting season was complete in Petaluma. We thank all of the members and supporters who financially helped our Coalition to pursue this important legal process to assure accountability on the part of the Defendants and protect migratory Cliff Swallows. Coalition members will meet with Caltrans again, as a term in our Settlement Agreement, pre-nesting season 2015. The Coalition of plaintiffs includes Veronica Bowers, Native Songbird Care & Conservation, Madrone Audubon, Marin Audubon, Golden Gate Audubon, and Center for Biological Diversity, represented by legal counsel of Animal Legal Defense Fund and Meyer, Glitzenstein & Crystal.

Ten Ways to Make a Difference for Migrating Birds

—from *National Audubon*

Birds of every kind—songbirds, raptors, and shorebirds—fly from their winter homes in the south to their summer breeding grounds in places as far north as the Arctic in the spring, and then back south in the fall. Along the way they encounter many perils including bright lights and tall buildings, cats, and toxic lawns.

Fortunately, people can help ensure a safer journey for migrating birds. Backyards and parks, often key stopover points for many species, can become bird-friendly rest stops with a few simple steps. Audubon urges people to take the following actions:

- 1) **Reduce or eliminate pesticide and herbicide use.** Using fewer chemicals in your yard and home helps keep wildlife, pets and people healthy.
- 2) **Plant native plants.** Natives provide birds with food in the form of fruit and seeds, and are also home to tasty invertebrates like bugs and spiders.
- 3) **Keep cats inside.** Keeping cats indoors ensures that birds outdoors stay safe and cats benefit too; indoor cats live much longer than cats that go outside.
- 4) **Prevent window collisions.** Make sure birds can see (and avoid) your windows by putting up screens, closing drapes and blinds when you leave the house, or stick multiple decals on the glass (decals need to be spaced closely together to be effective—no more than two to four inches apart).
- 5) **Provide cover in your backyard.** Leave snags for nesting places and stack downed tree limbs to create a

brush pile, which is a great source of cover for birds during bad weather.

- 6) **Help birds stay on course.** Close your blinds at night and turn off lights you aren’t using. Some birds use constellations to guide them on their annual migrations, and bright lights can disrupt them.
- 7) **Create or protect water sources in your yard.** Birds need water to drink and bathe in, just like we do. Be sure to change the water two to three times per week when mosquitoes are breeding.
- 8) **Landscape for birds.** Use lots of layers, including understory, ground cover, shrubs, and trees. Multiple levels of plants let birds use different layers for different purposes, such as nesting, feeding, and singing.
- 9) **Extend a bird safety net beyond your backyard.** Contact your local Audubon Chapter to learn about opportunities to create healthy habitat in parks, beaches and other places in your community.
- 10) **Take the Audubon At Home Healthy Yard Pledge!** When you take the Pledge, you commit to conserving water, planting native species, removing invasive plants, reducing pesticide use, protecting water quality, and keeping birds safe in your yard.

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Working Lands: Transforming the Central Valley

—from *California Audubon*

California’s Central Valley, one of this country’s most important food-producing areas, offers a good example of the power of Audubon’s partnerships. Audubon California, with its Migratory Bird



WORKING LANDS

Continued from page 8

Conservation Partnership, is collaborating with The Nature Conservancy and PRBO Conservation Science* to enlist California farmers who grow rice, alfalfa, and other crops to manage their farms in bird-friendly ways that benefit such priority species as the Long-billed Curlew and the Western Sandpiper. Audubon and PRBO Conservation Science have guided major investments in public funds to make agricultural lands more bird-friendly. The Natural Resources Conservation Service, a unit of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, has committed \$2.68 million to a three-year pilot program for rice farmers interested in increasing their farms' value to migratory birds. To date, 74 farms and more than 28,000 acres have been enrolled in the program. In 2012 the NRCS is committing similar funding to grow the program. In another example of how Audubon California

is engaging the agricultural community, 20 alfalfa and other forage-crop farmers recently participated in a pair of Audubon workshops to identify bird-friendly practices on their farms. These methods will be tested over the next several years.

Theory of Victory: Audubon will support, guide, and replicate efforts by farmers and ranchers to modify land management practices on farmland to increase their value for birds and other wildlife.

The Bottom Line: Conservation impact on 210,000 U.S. acres; improved outcomes for six priority bird species.

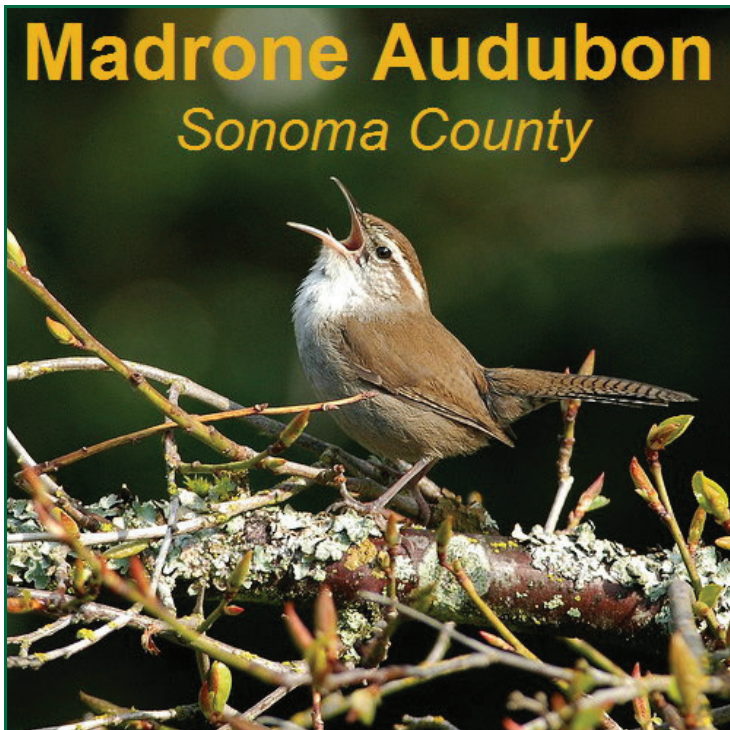
***Editor's note:** PRBO Conservation Science has changed its name to Point Blue.

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**Madrone Audubon's
48th Christmas Bird
Count Sunday Decem-
ber 28, dawn to dusk**

It is time to mark Madrone's Western Sonoma County CBC on your calendars! Twenty-one teams will set out to census the diverse and rich habitats of Western Sonoma County. From the ocean to the forests, approximately 190 species can occur in our count circle. Visit our website to find an area and team that suits you at madrone-audubon.org/birds-christmas-bird-count.php. For more information, please phone Peter Leveque at 707 542-8946, or email Tiffany Erickson at tiffymm66@gmail.com.

There will be a catered dinner following the count at the Sebastopol Community Center. A \$5 donation per person is requested. Volunteers will again set up and serve the dinner to our CBC teams. We would appreciate volunteers to help with setup, service and cleanup. If you'd like to volunteer to help with our post count dinner, contact Susan Kirks at susankirks@sbcglobal.net.



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



Madrone Audubon Society

Post Office Box 1911
Santa Rosa, California 95402

October 2014



**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY
CALENDAR ENCLOSED**

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 meetings and walks are open to the public. Information: telephone answering service - 546-7492, e-mail - info@madroneaudubon.org.

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Join Madrone Audubon – Support Your Local Chapter

Please complete this form if you wish to join Madrone Audubon, renew your Madrone membership or make a contribution to Madrone.

Please note: We are a chapter of National Audubon, but membership in and donations to Madrone Audubon are separate and support our local chapter. Membership and donations are tax deductible.

- New member Renewal Petaluma Wetlands Alliance
- Senior \$15 Basic Member \$20 Family \$30
- Sustaining \$50 Supporting \$100 Donor \$500 Other \$ _____
- I am a National Audubon member who wishes to make a **tax deductible contribution** to Madrone in the amount of \$ _____

Madrone's nonprofit 501(c)3 tax number is 94-6172986.

Name _____
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 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Email _____
 Please send my *Leaves* via email

Please make your check payable to "Madrone Audubon Society."

Detach this panel and mail to: **Madrone Audubon Society,**

P.O. Box 1911, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Visit us on the Web at: www.madroneaudubon.org