



Madrone LEAVES

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

VOLUME 45

September 2011

Number 1

Looking ahead to a new year

by Mary Edith Moore

The summer is passing so quickly; some of us, I hope, took the opportunity to kick back and “smell the roses”, others engaged in adventures near and far, and Madrone’s Board of Directors met in August at the Cypress Grove Research Center for their annual planning meeting and brown-bag lunch.

At Cypress Grove, located on Tomales Bay, a little time was spent in socializing over lunch before getting down to business. The past year was an upheaval in board and committee member resignations, due to health or “past time to move on.” However, the nominating committee buckled down, recruited, and filled many of the positions. This was our opportunity to get to know these new members a little better: Emily Heaton, Recording Secretary; Gordon Beebe, Corresponding Secretary; Linda Lebovics, Treasurer; Lisa Shiffirin, Membership; and Hospitality, Linda Hammer.

These meetings are helpful in reviewing the past year’s activities, what was successful and what was not. Do we keep, tweak, or delete. The organization is examined at length for any potential problem(s) that may become unwieldy and how to recognize any future problem. Plans for upcoming events and new avenues to explore are discussed, as well as how to make the organization more effective.

We make the effort to keep our members informed via our newsletter, website, and Facebook (a continuing work in progress). The newsletter is published nine months a year. It and the website include a list of our upcoming events, environmental concerns, bird observations, volunteer opportunities, and citizen science

projects. We educate the public at our monthly programs, bird walks, family/nature walks, and interpret the wetlands for the third grade schoolchildren in the Petaluma River watershed. A couple of years ago, we started a bird festival at the Lincoln Elementary School in Santa Rosa, and it became an immediate success with the students, teachers, and all participants.

Long-term research is high on our list of activities and requires a great deal of work. Bird species are surveyed in Petaluma at Shollenberger Park, the Ellis Creek Water Recycling Facility, and Tolay Regional

Park. Monitoring the nesting activity of Tree Swallows takes place at Shollenberger Park and Ellis Creek; heron/egret nesting at Ellis Creek and McNear Peninsula; and seabirds in Gualala. All of the research is done in Petaluma, except the seabirds which is monitored on Gualala Point Island in northwest Sonoma County. And, as if that weren’t enough to keep our members involved, we are about to embark on an additional research project, monitoring the western pond turtles at Shollenberger Park. Many of our members are also

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SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING

“How to Garden for Birds”

Monday, September 19, 7:30 PM

First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa

Creating habitats for birds by creating habitats for insects is an area well researched by Frederique Lavoipierre. Today she is an instructor at Sonoma State University (SSU), where she coordinates the Entomology Outreach Program for the Field Stations & Nature Preserves and the Garden Classroom Program for the Environmental Studies & Planning Department. Her emphasis on watershed stewardship in both programs is inspired by Copeland Creek, which runs through

the campus. She was the founding director of the SSU Sustainable Landscape Program (School of Extended Education) where she continues to work.

Frederique holds a M.Sc. in Biology from SSU and is the author of “Garden Allies”, a series for Pacific Horticulture magazine. Her talk will encompass bird habitat in garden environments, food for insectivores, and the birds of the SSU campus.

COMING OCTOBER 17

Veronica Bowers, Director of The Songbird Hospital of Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue, will update us on the wildlife rehabilitation center, which specializes in the care of native songbirds.



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 e-mail as soon as possible when an issue surfaces. Please contact Diane Hichwa at 785-1922 or dhichwa@earthlink.net.

Thursday September 1, 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM

BODEGA BAY. Bird Walk. From the center of the town of Bodega Bay, drive north on Highway 1, turn left at East Shore Road (the Bodega Head turnoff), turn right at the stop sign, and continue 0.3 miles to the unpaved parking lot on the right. Bring lunch. For information contact Tom McCuller: sisyphus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

Saturday September 3, 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

BODEGA BAY. Come explore with us 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), turn right at the stop sign, and continue 0.3 mile to the large, dirt parking lot on the right. Informal carpools leave at 7:15 AM from the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District Office, 747 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa. To participate, please arrive by 7:05 AM to make arrangements. The parking lot is behind the office, accessed from Carillo Street. Bring lunch. Rain cancels. Leaders: Tom Cashman, 217-5103; Bill Doyle, 483-8773; Bob Speckels, 569-0563; and Ken Wilson, 775-2558.

Wednesday September 7, 7:00 PM

BOARD MEETING. Sonoma County Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway Avenue, Santa Rosa. For agenda information, contact Bob Speckels at robertspeckels@yahoo.com.

Wednesday September 7, 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM

SHOLLENBERGER PARK/ELLIS CREEK. Bird Walk. Search for migrating birds at the Shollenberger Park ponds and wetlands in Petaluma. After lunch, we will bird the wetlands of the adjacent Ellis Creek Water Recycling Facility. Meet at Shollenberger Park parking lot. From Santa Rosa, take Highway 116 exit (Lakeville Highway), go left under Highway 101, turn right at the South McDowell traffic light, proceed to the City Park sign, and turn right into the park lot. For information contact Tom McCuller: sisyphus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

Thursday September 15, 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM

POINT REYES. Bird Walk. We will search for fall migrants, vagrants, and early wintering birds. Meet in the parking lot across from the Bear Valley Visitor Center, located just west of Olema. Bring lunch. For information contact Tom McCuller at sisyphus@sonic.net or 546-1812.

Saturday September 17, 8:00 AM to Noon

RAGLE RANCH REGIONAL PARK, on Ragle Ranch Rd, 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. There

is a parking fee of \$6.00, or use your Regional Park Pass. Leaders: Bob Speckels, 569-0563; Tom Cashman, 217-5103; and Bill Doyle, 483-8773.

Saturday September 17, 10:00 AM

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

Monday September 19, 7:30 PM

GENERAL MEETING. "Creating Habitat for Insects = Creating Habitat for Birds." Frederique Lavoipierre will present a habitat for birds in garden environments. First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa. Please see the front page announcement. The public is always invited to attend these programs.

Wednesday September 21, 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM

RUSH CREEK AND LAS GALLINAS PONDS IN MARIN COUNTY. Bird Walk. Meet at Rush Creek Preserve in Novato. From Highway 101, drive east on Atherton Avenue, and then turn left onto Bugelia Lane, which becomes Bahia Drive. Continue to the Rush Creek trailhead at end of Bahia Drive. Bring lunch. For information contact Tom McCuller at sisyphus@sonic.net or 546-1812.

Thursday September 29, 8:30 AM to Noon

SPRING LAKE REGIONAL PARK. Bird Walk. Parking fee (\$6) 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. For information contact Tom McCuller at sisyphus@sonic.net or 546-1812.

Saturday October 1, 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE. Our always-exciting annual trip to the Point to search for fall migrants. Meet at 7:30 AM at the Petaluma Park-and-Ride (located at Highway 101 and Lakeville Highway, just west of Highway 101) for carpooling or at 8:00 AM at the Whitehouse Pool parking lot, near the intersection of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and Bear Valley Road. Bring lunch. Rain cancels. Leaders: Tom Cashman, 217-5103; Bill Doyle, 483-8773; Bob Speckels, 569-0563; and Ken Wilson, 775-2558.

Wednesday October 5, 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM

BODEGA BAY. Bird Walk. From the center of the town of Bodega Bay, drive north on Highway 1, turn left at East Shore Road (the Bodega Head turnoff), turn right at the stop sign, and continue 0.3 miles to the unpaved parking lot on the right. Bring lunch. For information contact Tom McCuller at sisyphus@sonic.net or 546-1812.



LOOKING AHEAD

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involved in updating the Sonoma County Breeding Bird Atlas which attempts to record all of the bird species breeding in the county and where they choose to nest.

All of these activities take volunteers and money. Our Bird-A-Thons and fundraising appeals have been very successful. We thank all of you who organize, follow through on the planning, and participate in these activities. We also thank all of our members who give generously of their money.

I feel fortunate to work with so many talented, dedicated, and interesting people who care what happens in our community and whose company is a joy. Our membership continues to grow, over 2500, with a core of about 500 who have taken their commitment to a higher level as "Friends of Madrone." The time has come for us to reach out to you to fill some job vacancies. The current vacancies include a Junior Audubon Coordinator to organize several youth activities throughout the year; Publicity Chair to inform the public about our programs and activities; and Outreach to publicize our mission and activities by way of tabling at events etc. Consider one of these jobs; none take a great deal of time. Contact Diane Hichwa at dhichwa@earthlink.com.

Summer is slipping away, and I am anxious to meet with our members in anticipation of the upcoming year.

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Update on our "Coastal Canary in the Mine", the Black Oystercatcher

by Diane Hichwa

The first population survey of Black Oystercatchers was completed along the California coast in early June. The Sonoma Coast came up with a lot of sightings and some nests were located as well. Most of the "nests", a collection of pebbles in a rock depression, were on rock islands off the coast, although a few were

on narrow points of the mainland. This shorebird is an indicator species for global climate change, and in 2007 the US Fish and Wildlife Service chose it as a Focal Species for priority conservation action.

Madrone thanks Anna Weinstein, the Seabird Program Director for Audubon California and Linda Trocki, PhD, 2011 Survey Coordinator, for their support and interest in protecting the species and organizing the study. The data will be used to establish how the population is doing at this time, so it can be better understood in the future.

A BIG thank you to the many volunteers who went in teams of 1-3 to walk and search the rocks for these noisy birds that blend into the black background of our rocky coast. Volunteers, drawn from Breeding Bird Atlas monitors and other interested individuals, included Hollis and Jerry Bewley of Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods, Pris Johnstone, Bill Sydeman, Jackie Sones of Bodega Marine Lab, Janet Bosshard, Jennifer Chadwick, Phil Persons, Lisa Hug, Glo & Al Wellman, Anna Weinstein, Susan Bechtel of Sonoma County Parks, Gene Hunn, Peter Colasanti, and a Sea Ranch crew of Julie Gibson, Rozanne Rapozo, Dorothy Gregor, Barbara Rice, Doug Patterson, Peter Sidell, Rich Kuehn, Craig Tooley, Carla Basom, and George & Michele Marshall. In the ten miles of Sea Ranch, 12 nests were located. Several of the Sea Ranch group joined Jamie Edwards and Tarran McDaid to continue in a "pilot study" for weekly checks of a nest site to determine reproductive success. They were able to follow some nests to their demise and others to fledging a fat chick with dark eyes, two-tone bill, and a light peach speckling on the wing. One nest was predated around June 11, but the pair successfully re-nested and a chick was seen on July 16.

A leucistic oystercatcher is still being seen off Sea Ranch and another in San Mateo, but neither was found to be nesting. Information on where Black Oystercatchers occur and in what numbers is vital to conserving the species. Details and the report will be available this fall.

Hiking in the Mayacamas

by Patrick Woodworth

The series of seven Mayacamas Mountain Audubon Sanctuary Field Trips concluded Sunday June 12 with a foray, led by Lynn Houser, to look at the flowers blooming after the unseasonable storms of early June. Those storms forced the cancellation of Dave & Kathy Biggs' dragonfly hike, but all the other trips went as scheduled and were very well attended with over 20 participants at three of the events. Patrick Woodworth and Suzanne Reta, who coordinated the program, want to thank all the participants, the leaders, and Madrone Audubon for the enthusiasm everyone brought to the experience. In addition to Lynn and Kathy & Dave, Terry Wright helped the visitors become more familiar with the geology; Peter Leveque led a nature expedition; Bryant Hichwa held an in-field digital workshop; Peter Warner gave a plant ecology walk; and Tom McCuller took the public on a birdwatching walkabout. As the stewardship of the sanctuary passes to Audubon Canyon Ranch, we can celebrate the flourishing of this vital habitat, which Madrone Audubon has done so much to preserve. Hope to see you on the trails next year.

Welcome New Friends of Madrone Audubon Society

Healdsburg

Emily Heaton & Jacob Newell

Petaluma

David Cerini and Scott Cooper

Santa Rosa

Angela Kay Bowles

Meg Ellingson

Mark Randol



Wetlands Science at Shollenberger Park

by Gerald Moore

The Petaluma Educational Foundation gave a Major Impact Grant for 2011-2012, funded by the Petaluma Chapter of Realtors, to the Petaluma Wetlands



Photo courtesy of Gerald Moore

Alliance. The goal of this grant is to offer every third grade class in the Petaluma area schools the opportunity to participate in the science program. Students potentially affected: 1,500 students from 50 third grade classes in all Petaluma area schools are eligible to participate. Currently over half of these students attend our program, which runs over two half-days and meets the California science teaching (curriculum) standards for third grade.

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Congratulations to Tom Rusert

by Mary Edith Moore

The American Birding Association (ABA) has recognized Madrone Audubon member Tom Rusert with the most prestigious ornithology award in the country, the Ludlow Griscom Award. This award is named for the famed American ornithologist (1890 to 1959) and is not an annual award, but is given periodically to individuals who have dramatically advanced the state of ornithological knowledge for a particular region.

Jeffrey Gordon, president, and Michael Brown, chair of the awards committee, of the ABA said the committee and board "were most impressed with the many and

varied contributions you have made, and continue to make, to the vitalization of birding and birders in California's Sonoma Valley, and particularly for the programs you have initiated to interest and engage young people all across North America in the appreciation of birdlife." All of Tom's birding activities are as a volunteer, which is remarkable in itself, since many of the recipients of the Ludlow Griscom Award make their living with birding.

Tom tells us that when he was growing up, the family did not have much money so they told their eight kids that they could do anything that cost \$5 or less, which basically meant birding, baseball, or boy scouts. The parents navigated toward the outdoors, pointing out various birds and this was the beginning of Tom's lifelong sport of birding.



Photo courtesy of Anka Snow

Along with Madrone Audubon member Darren Peterie, Tom co-founded sonomabirding.com, the Christmas Bird Count for Kids (CBC4Kids), the Valley of the Moon Nature Lecture Series, and the Plaza Tree Map. Rusert also established the Highlands Plateau Audubon Chapter and Christmas Bird Count in Highlands, NC.

Tom regards the CBC4Kids, which was started about five years ago in Sonoma, as his biggest accomplishment. "A long-time organizer for the Audubon Society's century-old Christmas Bird Count in Sonoma, Rusert was always disappointed when he had to turn away young participants who did not meet the skill level required for the adult count. So he made them a count of their own." The CBC4Kids has come a long way in a short length of time. There are now eight events offered in the Bay Area. It is hosted by many Audubon Chapters, including Madrone; the National Wildlife Refuge System; the national parks; Bird Studies Canada; and other community collaborations.

The Ludlow Griscom award will be presented to Tom at the ABA sponsored event in Half Moon Bay, 29 September-4 October 2011. Previous recipients of the award include Roger Tory Peterson, first person to ever create a birding field guide in America; Stuart Keith, who holds the record for the most birds spotted, recording more than 4,000 species in his lifetime; and Richard Pough, who founded the Nature Conservancy.

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BIRD NOTES

by Veronica Bowers

Backyard Bird Bio: Black Phoebe

The Black Phoebe is a year-round resident flycatcher in Sonoma County and throughout most of its range. It is commonly found near water in semi-open habitats. The Black Phoebe is all black, except for sparkling white on its belly, undertail coverts, and edging on the tail. Enjoyable to watch and easily observed, phoebes are often seen hunting insects on exposed low perches, such as fences, posts, boulders, building eaves, and bare branches. They catch their prey by sallying out from their perch to snap up insects flying by and will often collect insects directly from the ground like bluebirds. Close relatives of the Black Phoebe are the Say's Phoebe, which can be found in Sonoma County during the winter, and the Eastern Phoebe, which inhabits eastern North America.

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**BIRD NOTES**

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The Black Phoebe is a solitary bird. Except during the breeding season when it takes a mate and selects a nesting site, phoebes are not often seen in close proximity to each other. Common nesting sites are under the eaves of buildings, bridges, cliffs, and culverts. The half-cup shaped nest adheres to a vertical surface and is constructed of mud pellets, plant fibers, and animal hair. Seasonally a pair of phoebes will typically have two broods of three-to-four young. After the last brood of youngsters has fledged the nest and is self-sufficient, the adult birds will retreat to their original territories for the winter.

Flycatchers are one of my favorite families of birds. When the Ash Throated and Pacific Slope Flycatchers have left our neighborhood for their wintering grounds, I'm always thankful that our resident Black Phoebe is still here to enjoy. The Black Phoebe who lives at our house is queen of her domain. She rules a large pond, open field, and a variety of favorite perches where she hunts insects. At any given time of day, I can count on seeing her at one of the selected locations. Sitting alert and patiently flipping her long black tail, she will quickly sally out to snap up a meal with her wide flat bill. During the summer, a thin willow branch in the middle of the pond is a favorite spot for hunting dragonflies. When phoebe catches a dragonfly, she always looks a little surprised as she sits and contemplates what to do with this very large insect. She then begins to beat her prey on a rock or branch until the wings fall off, and the body is sufficiently tenderized. I have actually seen her hold the body down with a foot and pull her catch apart into more manageable pieces. The swallow nest box in the middle of the field and the top of the barn next door is where she surveys her land and watches for interlopers and predators. If she's alarmed or agitated, she calls out "fee BEE! fee BLEE!"

Our resident phoebe spends most of her day between our field and the neighbor's. I'm not sure what the typical territorial size of the Black Phoebe is, but I estimate that between our field and the neighbor's, our Black Phoebe defends and maintains about

three acres. At night, she roosts under the eave of our house above the bedroom window. Just before she is ready to settle in for the night and in the morning as the sun begins to rise, she exclaims "fee bee! fee beer!"

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BIRD-A-THON 2011...A Huge Success and money continues to come

More money comes, and the total to-date for the 2011 Bird-A-Thon is **\$8,069.94**. This is Madrone Audubon's major annual fundraiser to benefit our conservation and educational programs, which are at the very core of Audubon's mission.

The latest report from the teams on species seen and money received:

The Feather Questers, Diane Hichwa and a new birder, Lisa Shiffrin: **116 species, \$2,319.80**.

(Also thanks to these additional sponsors who were not listed in the Summer 2011 *Leaves*: Dorcas Allison, Glenda and Jim Gentile, Elham and Howard Rafla-Yuan, Gloria Shay, Judy and Phil Temko, and Ann Young.)

The mighty **Gray-headed Seersuckers** with Betty Burrige, Ken Wilson, Becky Olsen, and Ted Eliot: **118 species, \$1,023.50**.

The Roadrunners, Betty Groce and Don McCarthy: **108 species, \$3,019.84**.

The Wandering Tattlers, co-led by Barbara Arbunich and Carol Zeidman: **58 species, \$1,540.80**.

In memory of the Dabbler, Phyllis Schmitt: **\$166.00**.

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Out & About

Vaux's Swift Viewing

Most mid-summer September evenings

Swifts are tiny birds, but they fill the sky in huge numbers when they come to roost in the chimney on the Rio Lindo Academy campus during their fall migration in September.

DIRECTIONS: From Highway 101, exit at Old Redwood Highway/Healdsburg Avenue, south of the central Healdsburg exit. Go north to Bailache Avenue, turn right onto Bailache which becomes Rio Lindo Avenue, and follow it about three miles into the Academy's main entrance. Take a left at the first stop sign and another left just before the dormitory. After about a half block, turn right toward the rear of the campus. The chimney is on a side street west of the athletic field. (If you go, dress in layers as the weather may become cool later in the evening.)

Lecture Series at Pepperwood Preserve

Pepperwood Preserve is located at 2130 Pepperwood Preserve Road off Franz Valley Road, adjacent to Safari West. Directions are available at www.pepperwoodpreserve.org.

History of Eastern Sonoma County

Friday 9 September, 6:30 to 8:00 PM

Gaye Le Baron will share the stories of the ranchers, the homesteaders, and even the rascals who shaped the history of Pepperwood and Eastern Sonoma County. This free talk, part of Pepperwood's Discover Nature Lecture Series, will be at Dwight Center for Conservation Science located at the Preserve. Advanced registration is not required.

WILDCARE'S Family Adventures, Marin County

Saturday 10 September

"Giants, Dragons, and Slugs"

WildCare invites you and your family to join experienced naturalists on Saturday visits to nearby parks to enjoy a day in nature – one Saturday morning each month from August through December, 2011. WildCare's naturalists will lead fun, free, family programs to discover butterflies, flowers, birds and much, much more.

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**OUT & ABOUT**

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Free to the public, these programs will be conducted in both English and Spanish. Programs begin at 10:00 AM at the trailhead and end around 12:30 PM. If you would like to carpool, meet at 9:15 AM at the Canal Alliance headquarters at 91 Larkspur Street in San Rafael. For more information/questions, contact Juan-Carlos Solis at 415-453-1000 x 17, or e-mail juancarlos@wildcarebayarea.org. For directions to program sites, visit www.wildcarebayarea.org/adventures.

WildCare leads the way in showing Bay Area residents how to live comfortably with wildlife through a complete cycle of respectful, practical, and humane programs in wildlife rehabilitation and environmental education.

Each year WildCare treats as many as 4,000 ill, injured, or orphaned wild animals in their wildlife rehabilitation hospital, teaches more than 40,000 Bay Area children and adults in their environmental educational programs, assists residents and businesses for whom wildlife has moved in a little too close with the Wildlife Solutions service, and answers thousands of telephone calls concerning human/wildlife interaction on their Living with Wildlife Hotline, 415-456-SAVE.

Seventh Annual Monterey Bay Birding Festival, Watsonville CA*September 22-25*

Festival headquarters and registration for all activities will take place at the City of Watsonville Civic Plaza. This year's festival theme, "Evolution of Birding- from Field Guides to Hi-tech", will celebrate the days of John James Audubon to the modern days of hi-tech innovations in birding.

Where else in the country could you look for Wrentits, Lawrence's Goldfinches, Clark's Grebes, White-tailed Kites, Nuttall's Woodpeckers, Yellow-billed Magpies, Snowy Plovers, California Thrashers, California Towhees, and

Black-footed Albatrosses, just to name a few? Designed for birders of all levels, as well as outdoor lovers, the festival offers a unique opportunity to explore, learn, and appreciate world-class habitats such as the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, and Pinnacles National Monument. You'll be able to go to outings at the mountains, shoreline, chaparral, sloughs, and grasslands. For more information, call Dave Brockmann, the festival coordinator, at 831-600-8893 or visit www.monterey-baybirding.org.

Oroville Annual Salmon Festival*Saturday 24 September, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM*

Every September, the streets of Oroville between Historic Downtown and the Feather River Fish Hatchery burst with fish-flavored activities during the Annual Salmon Festival, a day of fun, food, music, and information.

On this special day Oroville celebrates the thousands of spawning salmon that annually make their way from the ocean back up the Feather River. Environmental education, music, salmon tasting, tours of the hatchery, and fun for kids and adults highlight this free event. The Historical Downtown Oroville comes alive with a pancake breakfast, certified farmer's market, live music, craft fair, and Family Fun Day.

At the Feather River Nature Center, guests can experience the Maidu Salmon Ceremony with live dancing by local Native Americans. This year you can nosh at the Salmon Court where salmon will be featured, take a spin in a kayak on the beautiful Feather River, or join the fun at the Family Circus near the Municipal Auditorium. A free shuttle to transport people between events is available. For more information, please call the Oroville Chamber of Commerce at 530-538-2542 or e-mail info@orovillechamber.net.

Back to School with Audubon Adventures

Again this year, Madrone Audubon is funding the Audubon Adventures Classroom Resource Kits for grades 3-5 in Sonoma County. New for 2011-2012 is "Feathers, Fur, Fins and You."

This new classroom kit can be used across the curriculum and offers correlations to national language arts and science standards PLUS student assessment material. Student Magazine—class sets (32 of each) of four separate magazines will thrill and inspire students with vibrant photos and lively illustrations that bring the natural world to life right in your classroom. A Classroom Resource Manual—48-page spiral bound book helps you easily navigate your way through each unit and present the material to students in an appealing and engaging way. This includes:

- Step-by-step overview of each section
- Instructions for hands-on activities with easy to remove reproducible pages
- Background facts and information
- Student assessment pages
- Plus - each manual contains glossary words, recommended resources, and correlations to national language arts and science standards. Many different Audubon Adventures Classroom Resource Kits can be ordered. And each year a new kit becomes available!

With education budgets cut drastically, funds for environmental educational programs are extremely limited. We can help fill some of that need. Teachers should contact Janeann Erickson at erickson@ap.net or Marcia Johnson at owlsnest@hughes.net before October 1 to receive one of these subscriptions for their classroom. Parents, grandparents, or friends who wish to sponsor a subscription for a particular class or teacher should also contact Janeann or Marcia.

Contributions to support this project would be greatly welcomed. The cost of a kit for use in a classroom is \$50.



MADRONE AUDUBON SOCIETY FUNDS STATEMENT Twelve months ended June 30, 2011											
	BOARD DESIGNATED FUNDS								RESTRICTED FUNDS		
	Operating	Sanctuary	Les & Evelyn Bowen	Conservation and Education	Land Acquisition	Bently Smith	Memorial	Total	PWA	Stewardship Task Force	Total
Balances - June 30, 2010	\$ 877.21	\$ 7,243.32	\$ 1,308.16	\$ 67,574.69	\$ 2,162.23	\$ 2,161.18	\$ 4,596.86	\$ 85,923.65	\$ 25,616.53	\$ 7,008.70	\$ 118,548.88
Revenues:											
Friends dues	11,655.00							11,655.00	1,060.00		12,715.00
Donations	4,737.00			500.00			1,285.00	6,522.00	1,683.25	1,173.75	9,379.00
Burridge award gift								-			-
Bird-A-Thon				8,169.94				8,169.94			8,169.94
Grants								-	6,573.87	10,000.00	16,573.87
NAS Sharing	5,520.75							5,520.75			5,520.75
Breeding Bird Atlas								-			-
Docent manuals								-	300.00		300.00
Miscellaneous income								-			-
Merchandise sales								-			-
Investment income	13.62	112.47	20.31	1,049.23	33.57	33.56	71.38	1,334.14	397.75	0.05	1,731.94
	<u>21,926.37</u>	<u>112.47</u>	<u>20.31</u>	<u>9,719.17</u>	<u>33.57</u>	<u>33.56</u>	<u>1,356.38</u>	<u>33,201.83</u>	<u>10,014.87</u>	<u>11,173.80</u>	<u>54,390.50</u>
Disbursements:											
Christmas Bird Count	3,981.24							3,981.24			3,981.24
Conservation				2,550.00				2,550.00			2,550.00
Education	500.00			3,928.25			715.00	5,143.25			5,143.25
Leaves	16,456.04							16,456.04			16,456.04
Migratory Bird Day	-							-			-
MMAS	-	866.72						866.72			866.72
Outreach	760.10							760.10			760.10
Junior Audubon	490.00							490.00			490.00
General Meetings	2,427.65							2,427.65			2,427.65
Publicity	-							-			-
Walkabouts/Field Trips	107.00							107.00			107.00
Website	-							-			-
Breeding Bird Atlas	177.94							177.94			177.94
PWA	-							-	5,234.90		5,234.90
Stewardship Task Force	-							-		9,625.36	9,625.36
Administrative	3,655.27		50.00			100.00		3,805.27			3,805.27
Membership	2,566.85							2,566.85			2,566.85
Fund Raising	657.00							657.00			657.00
	<u>31,779.09</u>	<u>866.72</u>	<u>50.00</u>	<u>6,478.25</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>715.00</u>	<u>39,989.06</u>	<u>5,234.90</u>	<u>9,625.36</u>	<u>54,849.32</u>
Excess (Deficit) Revenue Over Disbursements	(9,852.72)	(754.25)	(29.69)	3,240.92	33.57	(66.44)	641.38	(6,787.23)	4,779.97	1,548.44	(458.82)
Interfund Transfers	10,000.00	-	-	(10,000.00)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance at end of period	\$ 1,024.49	\$ 6,489.07	\$ 1,278.47	\$ 60,815.61	\$ 2,195.80	\$ 2,094.74	\$ 5,238.24	\$ 79,136.42	\$ 30,396.50	\$ 8,557.14	\$ 118,090.06

Membership Matters

September is renewal month! Membership Chair, Lisa Shiffrin, would like to remind all the Friends of Madrone that renewal letters will be sent out in late August, so look for them. We hope you will send your membership renewal soon so that our chapter can continue to provide programs and outreach activities. You can use the information slip on the back of this newsletter. **NOTE:** if you joined Madrone Audubon via the Petaluma Wetlands Alliance and would like to see your money used in the Petaluma public wetlands, please write "Petaluma Wetlands Alliance" on the form.

Please be assured that Madrone Audubon does not sell or give its mailing (snail mail or e-mail) lists to anyone.

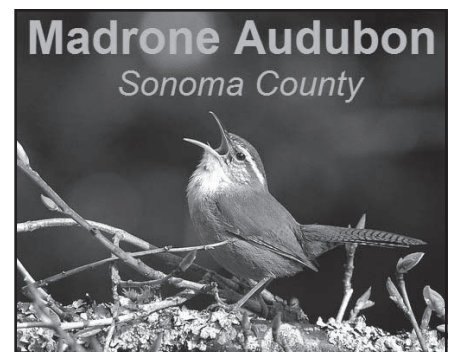
Dept. of Corrections...

In the Summer 2011 issue of the *Leaves*, we erred in the description of the O.W.L. Foundation which is the fiscal arm of the Petaluma River Council, not the Petaluma River Coalition.

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A Word to the Wise for Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for input in the *Madrone Leaves* is the 5th of the month for publication the following month. Maximum length of articles is 600 words, unless you have received an exception from the editor.



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



Madrone Audubon Society

Post Office Box 1911
Santa Rosa, California 95402

September 2011

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



To receive *Leaves* via email in pdf format just email your request to:

madroneaudubon@um.att.com

You will get your copy faster and save paper as a bonus.

MADRONE LEAVES



Madrone Audubon Society meets on the third Monday of each month, except in June, July, August, and December. Meetings start at 7:30 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 - madroneaudubon@um.att.com.

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- National Audubon Society:** 225 Varick Street, NY, NY 10014 212-979-3000

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.

Joining or renewing with Madrone only. Basic Madrone Audubon membership dues cover the cost of your subscription to the Madrone Leaves newsletter. Please consider joining or renewing at a higher level to support the important work of Madrone Audubon in environmental education and conservation critical to the protection of wildlife and the environment. **Note: By joining Madrone you will not become a member of National Audubon.**

I am a new member _____ I am renewing my Madrone membership
Basic Member \$20 _____ Senior \$15 _____ Student \$15 _____ 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 _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Please make your check payable to "Madrone Audubon Society."
Detach this panel and mail to: **Madrone Audubon Society, Membership**
P.O. Box 1911, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Visit us on the World Wide Web at: <http://audubon.sonoma.net>