



Madrone LEAVES

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

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September 2012

Number 1

This year in Sonoma County

by Susan Kirks

with contributors: Bob Speckels, Gordon Beebe, Janeann Erickson, Veronica Bowers, Diane Hichwa, Marcia Johnson, Scott Campbell, and Joannie Dranginis

As your Chapter President this year, along with Vice President Gordon Beebe and our stellar Board of Directors and *Leaves* Co-Editors, we hope to offer programs, information, and active conservation for birds and wildlife that you, our members, desire and expect.

Past Madrone (MAS) President Bob Speckels will continue to co-chair the *Breeding Bird Atlas* update, a monumental and exciting undertaking for all of us in Sonoma County. Bob also plans to continue leading Saturday Bird Walks, so check out the *Leaves'* calendar for these outings.

Gordon Beebe will continue to lead bird walks, volunteer at the Songbird Hospital, founded and managed by former MAS President Veronica Bowers, work on the 2nd year of the *Breeding Bird Atlas* survey, and help with the Lincoln Elementary School Bird Festival, among his many other tasks as Vice President. Gordon passes the role of Corresponding Secretary to long-time Madrone Audubon member and supporter Monica Schwalbenberg-Peña. We welcome Monica, with gratitude.

Former MAS President Janeann Erickson will again help organize and lead the Lincoln Elementary Bird Festival in the spring, honoring the egret and heron nesting site on West 9th Street in Santa Rosa.

She will also coordinate educational activities, along with Marcia Johnson who will administer the Audubon Adventures kits available to our local schools. Please let us know if you're aware of a school or classroom that would benefit from the Audubon Adventures kits.

Marcia Johnson will also once again organize our Bird-A-Thon for 2013. The 2012 Madrone Bird-A-Thon raised \$9,687. This money will be used to support our environmental and educational projects. Thanks go to the six teams who participated and their sponsors.

Former MAS President Veronica Bowers will again organize the annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC). Please join us this

year for another day of incredible county-wide bird count and reporting those results at the end-of-day (catered this year) dinner. The boat off Bodega Bay also returns to this year's CBC.

Diane Hichwa, our enduring and highly informed Conservation Chair, reports new partners, north and south, in our future. With a Toyota-Green grant, Madrone joins with PRBO Conservation Science in a baylands restoration effort: *San Pablo Bay Salt Marsh Habitat Enhancement*. We also have a new partner in the Spring Hike Series as Audubon Canyon Ranch takes ownership of Mayacamas Mountains Sanctuary up Pine Flat Road. Watch for work you can help with or bird walks into the areas.

SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING

"Why Birds are so Special"

Monday September 17, 7:30 PM

First United Methodist Church

1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa

Joe Mueller has been teaching biology at the College of Marin for 23 years. Of the 15 different courses he has taught at the college, his subjects of particular interest include ecology, marine biology, ornithology, and environmental science. Taking a holistic approach to science, Joe emphasizes the need to understand the reasons we have become so disconnected from the very planetary ecosystems on which we depend. An animal lover by nature, Joe tends an animal orphan farm where he loves spending time with an assortment of critters ranging from llamas to lizards.

Joe is the recipient of the 2008 Terwilliger Environmental Award, and he has developed and directs the Natural History Program at College of Marin. At the September meeting, Joe will share with us why birds are so special.

COMING OCTOBER 15: Brock Dolman of Occidental Arts and Ecology Center in Occidental and Heidi Perryman of the organization "Worth a Dam" in Martinez will give a joint presentation on beaver habitat restoration in California.



IN SONOMA COUNTY

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Scott Campbell, Junior Audubon & Outreach Chair, is planning outings for young people in Sonoma County to learn about birds, wildlife, and our environment. One of those will be a day of learning and action with PRBO Conservation Science at the new Sonoma Baylands project.

As for your new President, I look forward to leading a Paula Lane birding team in the Christmas Bird Count for Kids sponsored by Petaluma Wetlands Alliance in Petaluma. I anticipate Dan Nelson's continued Observations - a snapshot of birds and wildlife across Sonoma County, a gift in our issues of *Leaves*. Sadly, Daphne Smith retired from her long-time role as co-editor of the *Leaves*. Gladly, we welcome Denise Kelly in her new co-editing role with long-time excellent editor Mary Edith Moore. Sonoma County elected officials will review a Renewable Energy Policy in autumn 2012. Wind energy is part of that policy. Stay tuned for updates on Madrone's recommendations and active participation to protect our birds and wildlife in Sonoma County while supporting sound policies related to wind energy. The Dutra asphalt plant appeal is in process, and Madrone is a plaintiff in this litigation. We will follow this through to the successful conclusion of no asphalt plant 200 feet from the sensitive Petaluma wetlands.

Your continued support and participation as members are deeply appreciated. Please join us for our General Membership Meetings the first Monday of each month at United Methodist Church. Joannie Dranginis, our Program Chair, is planning some great 2012-13 programs.



Memorial Gift

In memory of Nancy Wilson-Taylor
Adrienne Brockman

The Bird-A-Thon That Keeps On Giving!

Marcia Johnson,
Bird-A-Thon Coordinator

A very big congratulations to all the Bird-A-Thon teams this year. It is your hard work that gave Madrone \$9,687 to spend on environmental and educational projects. The Chapter thanks you and your sponsors. Additional sponsor thanks go to:

“FeatherQuesters”: Chris Chandler, Maxine Spellman and Neal Fishman, Jan and Rich Fong, Michael Freeman, MD, Val Hanelt and Hans Hickenlooper, Emile and Linda Houle, Chris and Wendy Iaconis, Dustin Kahn, Bob and Bobbi Kross, Jeff Kross, Dan Lebovics, Paula Lebovics, Jackie McGrath, Francie Petrocelli, David and Idie Weinsoff, and Prentiss Williams.

“Zonotripias”: Art Hofman and Susan Kirks.

The teams this year were: **“FeatherQuesters”** with Diane Hichwa and Linda Lebovics; **“Roadrunners”** with Betty Groce and Don McCarthy; **“Wandering Tattlers”** with Carol Zeidman, Barbara Arbunich, and Linne McAleer; **“A Team of One with Gene Hunn”;** **“The Zonotripias”** with Helen Kochenderfer, Bob Speckles, Don Kirker, and Bill Doyle; and **“The Grey-headed Seersuckers”** with Ken Wilson, Becky Olsen; and Ian Morrison. See you all next year.



The Wild Birds of Northern California Lecture Series

Hosted by Bird Rescue Center on Fridays, 7:00 PM, at the Church of the Roses, 2500 Patio Court, Santa Rosa. (Patio Court and Hahman Drive in Montgomery Village; parking available across from the Church in Lucky's parking lot.) The

lectures are free and open to the public (donation requested). Contact information: call 523-2473.

September 14. Raptor Migration and Conservation with Allen Fish, director of Golden Gate Raptor Observatory

September 21. Identifying Birds of Prey with Larry Broderick, West County Hawk Watch

September 28. Owls of Northern California with Alex Godbe, founder and director, and Trinkka Marris, co-founder of The Hungry Owl Project

October 5. Native Passerines (songbirds) of Sonoma County with Veronica Bowers, founder and director of Native Songbird Care & Conservation

October 12. Raptors Up-Close with the Raptor Ambassadors of The Bird Rescue Center



Birding with Sibley

by Daphne Smith

Yes, always... but this was with David Allen Sibley in person. Three Madrone Audubon members (Judi Barker, Sandy Martensen, and I) spent a week in early June at the Nature Conservancy's Pine Butte Guest Ranch in northwestern Montana. Sibley with local birder and artist Keith Hansen of Bolinas came to lead our group of 17 participants.

Pine Butte Ranch is located where the eastern edge of the Rockies and the Great Plains meet, with awe-inspiring scenery and fine lodging and food. It's a favorite birding spot for David Sibley, and we found him friendly and unassuming, ready to share his knowledge and demonstrate his drawing skills. With him and Keith we explored a lot of different terrain, found a wide variety of birds and mammals—elk, moose, a



BIRDING WITH SIBLEY

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few grizzly bears—and learned about the ongoing Nature Conservancy projects in the area.

We heard David say he would be coming back to the ranch for two workshops next year. Check out Pine Butte Ranch on the Nature Conservancy website.

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NOTES FROM THE FIELD...

New Nesting Species for Sonoma County — the Common Murre

by Diane Hichwa

In 2012 Common Murres were reported breeding in Sonoma County --- for the FIRST TIME— in two different research studies in which Madrone members participate: CCNM (California Coastal National Monument) Stewardship Task Force Seabird Monitoring and *Breeding Bird Atlas*.

Common Murres (pronounced “mur” after the sound they make) are seabirds that look similar to penguins in their upright stance with their black and white “tuxedos”, but murres fly and are not even in the same family as penguins. They are colonial nesters, as are the Brandt’s Cormorants amongst which they often nest.



Common Murres Photo courtesy of Ron LeValley

We know murres wintered at the north-western edge of Sonoma County on Gualala Point Island (GPI), since a

Peregrine Falcon, perching atop GPI through the winter, specialized in taking Common Murres for food.

In 2010 small numbers of murres were seen (aerial photos taken as part of a Brandt’s Cormorant nesting study).... possibly “prospecting” for nesting possibilities. In 2011 counts were higher and groups of Common Murres were standing next to the sides of rocks, remaining in the same places in several of the 2011 aerial photographs, indicating nesting bird behavior.

To follow-up on this, in 2012 on GPI we saw Common Murres on five separate aerial flights, starting with four birds on April 21 and building to 333 by July 6. From land there were four observations of pairs copulating in May; in the June 23 photo we saw two loose murre eggs. Then from land on July 12 we observed an adult murre carrying a fish as it landed; Caryl Carr and I saw two Common Murre chicks and during the next two days, Rich Kuehn saw four more. On July 18 we reported on *North Bay Birds* our finding of expanded nesting into Sonoma County. (For some time murres have been nesting at Point Reyes, the Farallon Islands, and in Mendocino County.)

Lisa Hug was asking the same questions in her *Breeding Bird Atlas* block at Gull Rock south of Jenner--when murres were seen atop the rock in May. After the sightings reported at GPI, Bill Grummer went to photograph on July 19 and spotted an egg. Lisa saw murres carry fish to the rock several times on July 21 and 24, but was unable to view the well-hidden chicks. The fog and the rock topography make viewing a challenge along our coast. Lisa stated: “It’s a pretty exciting colony. It’s like having our own little Farallones, right here at the mouth of the Russian River!” In summation, both *Breeding Bird Atlas* blocks will show nesting by Common Murres.

Tree Swallow Monitoring - continues...

by Len Nelson, Petaluma Wetlands Alliance (PWA) Docent

My sixth year of Tree Swallow monitoring of the 28 houses built by Andy LaCasse at Shollenberger-Ellis Creek came to an end August 1, 2012, when the last of the second nesting’s chicks fledged. I began this project on April 5, 2007 with 20 swallow boxes at Shollenberger and Alman Marsh, using the protocols laid out by the *Golondrinas de las Americas*, a joint study with naturalists ranging from Alaska to Argentina.

Initially, my goal was simply to see how many eggs were laid and the mortality rates that ensued. But, with each year now, I am trying new ideas to improve upon the previous years’ survival rates.



Tree Swallows Photo courtesy of Gerald Moore

Early on in the project, I was reluctant to remove the chicks from the nests out of concern of doing them harm. But with time and insights from two researchers from Tulane University that have been banding these Tree Swallows for three years to gather information for their own wide-ranging studies, I abandoned my hesitance. My priority became physically checking the swallows to determine if they were doing well or needed some level of help. Chicks can die for any number of reasons, and it is important to remove those dead bodies from the nest before they attract diseases or draw ants. Often the dead will be at the bottom of a pile of chicks and not evident unless healthy chicks are removed from above.

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**TREE SWALLOWS**

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I have found that some Tree Swallows do better than others at general housekeeping. Some nests are kept very clean and fecal sacs are regularly removed from the nest. However, once the chicks get larger and there is a good supply of insects, the task becomes impossible for the parents; they give on housekeeping and zero in on simply delivering insects to the chicks. The resulting fecal mess in the nest does not bode well for the chicks on the bottom of the totem pole. As a result, their wing tips, tail feathers, and feet can become literally glued together, preventing them from fledging. This year, I came upon two nests with chicks in this sad state. Recognizing their fate, I removed them, brought them to my house, cleaned and dried them, returning the chicks to their nests in less than one hour. In all cases, these chicks went on to fledge.

I have also decided, in a good number of cases, to remove healthy chicks from a

literally filthy nest. In this case, I cleaned the old nest and replaced it with a one-inch pile of dry grass. In all cases, these chicks survive to fledge. I have also removed houses, replaced them, and added a nest when conditions warrant. The new house and nest does not deter the parents from tending to their chicks.

To dissuade predation by rodents or snakes, Andy and I have also replaced a number of the cyclone fence posts on which many houses were situated with 1.75-inch-diameter galvanized posts that are not too easily climbed by ground predators.

I believe that the statistics below clearly indicate that careful and aggressive monitoring can have a positive impact on reducing chick mortality. In the last three years, when I began to take increasingly aggressive measures to save chicks, results have measurably improved for the first nesting. At the second nesting, the chicks are in houses that have been fouled by the first nesting, in spite of my having cleaned the housing. By then it is dryer, hotter, and the aerial food supply

is considerably diminished. Starvation and abandonment appear to take a heavy toll on the chicks.

With the season now ending, I will soon be removing and taking to my home those houses that need to be thoroughly cleaned and/or repaired to prepare them for next year's nesting adventures.

Prior to this year, I did all the monitoring. But this year, I had welcome support from PWA docent Cindy Granados and Blaine Eldred who is now a senior at Casa Grande High School in Petaluma.

Monitoring has its difficult moments (dealing with death, ticks, and mites) but the thrill of discovery, finding ways to help the survival odds, and seeing chicks fledge more than compensates.

Details on how these nests are monitored and any questions concerning the data below can be obtained by contacting me at lennelsn@comcast.net.

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2007	eggs	chicks	fledge	mortality	houses
1st nesting	99	73	49	24 (32.9%)	
2nd nesting	59	40	21	19 (47.5%)	
Totals	158	113	70	43 (38.1%)	20
2008					
1st nesting	89	74	41	33 (44.6%)	
2nd nesting	34	32	18	14 (43.8%)	
Totals	123	106	59	47 (44.3%)	20
2009					
1st nesting	105	96	50	46 (47.9%)	
2nd nesting	70	55	20	35 (63.6%)	
Totals	175	151	70	81 (53.6%)	20
2010					
1st nesting	136	123	109	14 (11.4%)	
2nd nesting	88	78	44	34 (43.6%)	
Totals	224	201	153	48 (23.9%)	26
2011					
1st nesting	138	91	80	11 (12.1%)	
2nd nesting	116	94	77	17 (18.1%)	
Totals	254	185	157	28 (23.9%)	28
2012					
1st nesting	164	149	131	18 (12.1%)	
2nd nesting	47	53	37	16 (30.2%)	
Totals	211	202	168	34 (16.8%)	28



September 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.

Saturday September 1, 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

BODEGA BAY. Come explore 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), turn right at the stop sign, and continue 0.3 mile to the unpaved parking lot on the right. Bring lunch. Rain cancels. Leaders: Bill Doyle, 483-8773 and Ken Wilson, 665-5127.

Saturday September 1, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

MAYACAMAS MOUNTAINS SANCTUARY FIELD TRIP. Nature walk with Peter Leveque. See page 7.

Wednesday September 5, 7:00 PM

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

Wednesday September 5, 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM

BODEGA BAY. Bird Walk. See directions to Bodega Bay listed above. Bring lunch. Information: Tom McCuller, sisyphus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

Sunday September 9, 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

MAYACAMAS MOUNTAINS SANCTUARY. Permit orientation to hike on the preserve. See page 7.

Thursday September 13, 8:30 AM – 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 the 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. Bring lunch. Information: Tom McCuller, sisyphus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

Saturday September 15, 8:00 AM – Noon

RAGLE RANCH REGIONAL PARK. Ragle Ranch Road, 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. Leader: Bill Doyle, 483-8773.

Saturday September 15, 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

JUNIOR AUDUBON. "A Night with the Swifts." We will be enjoying the fall migration of the Vaux's Swifts at the Rio Lindo Academy in

Healdsburg, and our observations will become part of a national event on the swifts. Please call Scott Campell at 530-828-6115 or email campbesk@gmail.com to make a reservation for this event. See page 7.

Sunday September 16, 7:00 AM – 11:00 AM

MAYACAMAS MOUNTAINS SANCTUARY FIELD TRIP. Nature walk with Gordon Beebe and Sherry Adams. See page 7.

Monday September 17, 7:30 PM

GENERAL MEETING. Joe Mueller, biology teacher at the College of Marin, will share with us "Why Birds are so Special." 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 19, 7:30 AM – 3:00 PM

LANDS END/SUTRO BATHS AREA IN SAN FRANCISCO. Bird Walk. Our first San Francisco trip to search for autumn coastal migrants. We will carpool and caravan from the Park & Ride, Lakeville Street & US 101 in Petaluma, 7:30 AM. Bring lunch. Information: Tom McCuller, sisyphus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

Sunday September 23, 9:00 AM – Noon

MAYACAMAS MOUNTAINS SANCTUARY FIELD TRIP. Foss Road history walk with Sherry Adams and Denny Fujita. See page 7.

Thursday September 27, 8:30 AM – Noon.

HUDEMAN SLOUGH WETLAND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT. Bird Walk. We usually 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 for 2.4 miles to the gravel project parking lot on the right. Information: Tom McCuller, sisyphus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

Wednesday October 3, 8:30 AM – 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, which is just west of Olema. Bring lunch. Information: Tom McCuller, sisyphus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

Saturday October 6, 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE. Our 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 the Whitehouse Pool parking lot, near intersection of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and Bear Valley Road, at 8:00 AM. Bring lunch. Rain cancels. Leaders: Gordon Beebe, 829-9017 and Ken Wilson, 665-5127.

**Observations**

Summer 2012 • Dan Nelson • 479-2918 • birdsurf64@sbcglobal.net

Common Goldeneye (1)	6/26	Lower Russian River near Jenner-by-the-Sea	RS
Brant (3-4)	June-July	Bodega Harbor	DN, et al.
Common Moorhen	June-July	Ellis Creek Pond "D" area; breeding	M.Ob.
Sooty Shearwater (10-15)	6/21	Observed from boat offshore Sonoma County	DN
Rhinoceros Auklet	6/21	Alternate-plumaged bird seen from boat, west of Salmon Creek	DN
Common Murre (400+)	July	New colony at Gull Rock, south of Goat Rock	LH
Marbled Murrelet (2)	7/27	Offshore from Bodega head	DH, BDP, et al.
Marbled Murrelet (2)	8/4	South of Cove Campground at Doran Park	GH
Pomarine Jaeger	8/3	Offshore from Bodega Head	SC
Bonaparte's Gull (adult)	July-Aug.	Shollenberger Park	RS, DN, et al.
Elegant Tern (40)	8/3	Bodega Harbor	SC
Common Tern (1)	8/2	Doran Park, west of kiosk	RS
Least Tern	July	Green Island marshes, Napa County	M.Ob.
Bald Eagle	6/9	Milk Barn Road, Healdsburg	VW
Common Black Hawk	6/21	West of Willowside Road, flying along flood-control channel	RR
Swainson's Hawk	6/9	Circling overhead at Point Reyes Fish Docks	RS, et al.
Cooper's Hawk	June-July	Active nest west of Willowside Road, fledged juvenile near nest on 7/10	DN
White-throated Swift	6/15	Shollenberger Park over Petaluma River	RR
Vaux's Swift	July	Returning birds nesting loudly in chimney, off Graton Road	L. Hallberg
Mountain Quail (10-12)	6/10	Pine Flat Road, conservative count of vocalizing birds	DN
Pacific Golden-Plover (1)	July-Aug	Shollenberger Park	RS, RR, DN
Baird's Sandpiper (1)	8/3	Salmon Creek beach	SC
Semipalmated Sandpiper	8/3	Doran Pond, seen from Bird Walk, an early juvenile	GH
Lesser Yellowlegs (2)	8/3	Doran Pond	SC
Surfbird (6)	8/3	Duncan's Landing	SC
Wandering Tattler	7/22	Bodega Head	BO, KW, DH
Wilson's Phalarope (2)	6/15	Shollenberger Park	RR
Wilson's Phalarope (50)	7/5	Shollenberger Park	RS, et al.
Wilson's Phalarope (24)	7/31	Shollenberger Park	DN
Wilson's Phalarope (2)	8/1	Doran Park, Bodega Bay	DF
Red Phalarope (600)	8/3	Off Bodega Head	SC
Red-necked Phalarope (1000+)	8/3	Off Bodega Head	SC
Western Kingbird (6-7)	7/10	North side of Delta Pond, on fence line; very scarce this year, absent in many normal areas	DN
Northern Parula Warbler	6/11	Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, just west of Devil's Gulch lot, Marin County	RS
Northern Parula Warbler	6/19	West of Willowside Road, along flood-control path	AW
MacGillivray's Warbler	June	Pine Flat Road at Little Sulfur Creek, singing male	DN & nbps
Great-tailed Grackle	6/16	Santa Rosa "A Place to Play" marsh, confirmed breeding	LH
Great-tailed Grackle (4-6)	June	Ellis Creek	M.Ob.
Lawrence's Goldfinch	June	Mix Canyon Road, Solano County	JS, et al.
Lawrence's Goldfinch	June	Angwin airport, Napa County	RR, et al.
Indigo Bunting (male)	6/19	Near top of Pine Flat Road	LS
Indigo Bunting (male)	6/19	Bird # 2 near dumpster, lower Pine Flat Road (and later seen by MANY)	LS
Sage Sparrow 3-4 pairs	June	Observed atop Pine Flat Road, one confirmed nesting near road	DN
Black-chinned Sparrow	June	Mix Canyon Road, Solano County	JS, et al.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	6/19	Singing male at south end of Campbell Cove, easily seen	DH

CONTRIBUTORS: Scott Carey, Dea Freid, Louise Hallberg, David Hofmann, Lisa Hug, Gene Hunn, Dan Nelson, Becky Olsen, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Ruth Rudesill, Rich Stallcup, John Sterling, Linda Swanson, Alan Wight, Ken Wilson, and Valerie White.



Interested and willing to help?

As we begin our new season of activities we can use some help at Madrone Audubon. Here's how:

- On your own time schedule, help as a membership assistant to mail letters to new members, letting them know about our Chapter (seven hours a month, and we provide printer, toner cartridge, files to be printed, letterhead, and envelopes) or
- Schedule and host a hike series for spring 2013 at the Mayacamas Mountains Sanctuary, northeast of Healdsburg (time commitment varies).

Email or call for more information or to volunteer for these or other openings. Contact Diane Hichwa 785-1922, dhichwa@earthlink.net or Bob Speckels 569-0563, robertspeckels@yahoo.com.



Mayacamas Mountains Sanctuary Field Trips

Sponsored by the Audubon Canyon Ranch

GENERAL INFORMATION:

All outings meet at the intersection of Pine Flat Road and Red Winery Road, about 7 miles northeast of Healdsburg. From there we carpool into the sanctuary. Remember this can be a very hot time of year. Please bring at least one quart of drinking water, and you may wish to bring a hat, sunscreen, and a snack. For any hike that goes through mid-day, please bring a lunch with you. There are no toilets, no water fountains, no restaurants, no trash collection... this is a primitive and wild place! Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear for the outing. For hikes you will want hiking boots, sneakers, or other shoes that protect your toes and give you good traction on uneven ground. Any hikes on the Foss Road involve hiking off-trail, including areas with poison oak; we recommend long pants and long sleeves. Thanks to our friends

at the Madrone Audubon Society for teaming up with us to offer these hikes. These hikes are not appropriate for young children, but teens with supervision are welcome. Please leave your pets at home.

Saturday September 1, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Nature walk on Foss Road with Peter Leveque, a naturalist and retired biology professor. Moderately strenuous hike off-trail. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Peter has been leading this hike for years, and is a wonderful naturalist and storyteller.

Sunday September 9, 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

If you would like to have access to this private nature preserve, allowing you to come and explore on your own, come to an orientation session. At the end we will give you your permit. There is no hiking during the orientation, but you are welcome to stay afterwards to hike independently.

Sunday September 16, 7:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Nature walk with Gordon Beebe and Sherry Adams. Gordon is Vice President of Madrone Audubon Society and is an experienced naturalist and birder. Join us for an early morning walk on the preserve.

Sunday September 23, 9:00 AM – Noon

Foss Road history walk with Sherry Adams, preserve biologist, and Denny Fujita, Foss road history expert. Moderately strenuous hike off-trail. Follow the path that the stagecoach used to take and learn about the history from Denny who has done extensive archival research.

For questions on these hikes contact Sherry Adams, preserve biologist for Audubon Canyon Ranch at sherry@egret.org or 431-8184. No preregistration or RSVP is necessary, and all outings are free.



Out & About

Vaux's Swift Viewing

Most mid-summer September evenings at dusk

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.)

Wine Country Optics Fair

Sunday September 9,
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

The Fall Optics Fair will take place at CornerStone Gardens, www.cornerstonegardens.com, 23570 Arnold Drive, Sonoma. The fair, sponsored by CornerStone and Sonomabirding, is the first time for this combination of optic companies to be present in Northern California. Exhibitors will include the finest names in binoculars, scopes, and photography equipment. Check

**OUT & ABOUT**

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out the latest designs and hands-on demonstrations with the latest optics. Visit with some of California's leading nature organizations, photographers, and artists.

Free admission. For more information, visit www.sonomabirding.com or call 939-8007.

**Eighth Annual Monterey Bay
Birding Festival, Watsonville CA**
September 13-16

Festival headquarters and registration for all activities will take place at the City of Watsonville Civic Plaza.

September marks the peak of fall migration, with wintering shorebirds arriving en masse. Warblers and other passerines are doing the same, and we even start seeing the first appearances of wintering ducks and other waterfowl. Meanwhile at sea, jaegers, shearwaters, and alcids are all present in great numbers. There is no better time to visit the Monterey Bay area to see the greatest number of species or find a rarity.

Designed for both seasoned and beginning birders, 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 Marine Estuary, and Pinnacles National Monument. Specially designed field trips will take participants to Big Sur and the Ventana Wildlife Society to witness the return of the California Condors. Join a pelagic trip by Shearwater Journeys to one of the world's most productive regions for albatrosses, shearwaters, storm-petrels, and more. Jump into a kayak and get closer to nature or take a scenic ride at Elkhorn Slough Safari.

All field trips are led by top quality, friendly leaders.

"The Big Year" birder Greg Miller will

be the keynote speaker on Saturday, September 15.

For more information, call 831-726-8052, email montereybaybirding@hotmail.com, or visit www.montereybaybirding.org.

**Lend a Hand on California Coastal
Cleanup Day**

*Saturday September 15,
9:00 AM - Noon*

Volunteers from across the state will mobilize to cleanup our waterways. As part of this state-wide effort, Sonoma Ecology Center will be sponsoring three different work sites in the Sonoma Valley: Nathanson Creek, Maxwell Farms Regional Park, and Larson Regional Park.

California Coastal Cleanup Day has become one of our largest events of the year. California's coast and waterways have historically been areas where trash accumulates each year. That trash can be harmful and even fatal to marine animals, damage our state's economy, and often be a public health hazard.

Coastal Cleanup Day is a great way for families, students, service groups, and neighbors to join together, take care of our fragile aquatic environment, show community support for our shared natural resources, and to have fun!

To learn more about this event, or to sign up groups of 10 or more, please contact Jim Chayka, Watershed Stewardship Coordinator at 996-0712x115.

Stingers, Fangs & Venom

*Wednesday September 19,
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM*

Michael Marchiano, Bay Area Naturalist, will be the guest speaker at the Sonoma Veterans Memorial Building, 126 First Street West, Sonoma.

Michael will tell you the truth and the myths about often maligned creatures that share our planet! Do you fear those little eight-legged creatures? How dan-

gerous or deadly are tarantulas, scorpions, the black widow, and slithering rattlesnakes? Learn the facts and actually see these amazing creatures live. Admission is \$5. For more information, visit www.sonomabirding.com or call 939-8007.

Oroville Annual Salmon Festival

*Saturday September 22,
10:00 AM - 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.

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.

For more information, call Oroville Chamber of Commerce at 530-538-2542 or email info@orovillechamber.net.

**WILDCARE Family Adventure,
Marin County Beach Family Day**

Saturday September 29, 10:00 AM

Enjoy a day out in nature with the family. A WildCare naturalist leads a fun day at the beach, looking for shells, beach hoppers, and egrets. We'll also explore the area around Rodeo Lagoon and look for Killdeer, Brown Pelicans, and elusive river otters. Meet at the Rodeo Beach parking lot at the end of Bunker Road.

All programs are led in both English and Spanish, are free to the general public, and start at the trailhead. If you prefer to caravan to park locations, we'll meet at 9:15 AM at the Canal Alliance at 91 Larkspur Street in San Rafael. For more information/questions call 415-453-1000 x17 or email juancarlos@wildcarebayarea.org. Please note: Rain cancels all Family Adventures trips!



MADRONE AUDUBON SOCIETY											
FUNDS STATEMENT											
Twelve months ended June 30, 2012											
	BOARD DESIGNATED FUNDS							RESTRICTED FUNDS			
	Operating	Sanctuary	Les & Evelyn Bowen	Conservation and Education	Land Acquisition	Bentley Smith	Memorial	Total	PWA	Stewardship Task Force	Total
Balances - June 30, 2011	\$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
Revenues:											
Friends dues	14,887.00							14,887.00	1,230.00		16,117.00
Donations	4,655.59			45.00				4,700.59	2,384.00	519.75	7,604.34
Burridge award gift				500.00				500.00			500.00
Bird-A-Thon				9,687.03				9,687.03			9,687.03
Grants								-	4,275.00	14,000.00	18,275.00
NAS Sharing	5,500.75							5,500.75			5,500.75
Breeding Bird Atlas	15.00							15.00			15.00
Docent manuals								-	200.00		200.00
Miscellaneous income	281.14							281.14			281.14
Merchandise sales	232.41							232.41			232.41
Investment income	15.16	96.03	18.92	899.97	32.49	31.00	77.52	1,171.09	449.82	24.50	1,645.41
	25,587.05	96.03	18.92	11,132.00	32.49	31.00	77.52	36,975.01	8,538.82	14,544.25	60,058.08
Disbursements:											
Christmas Bird Count	1,241.43										1,241.43
Conservation				4,228.00							4,228.00
Education				3,572.70							3,572.70
Leaves	14,241.39										14,241.39
Migratory Bird Day											-
MMAS		300.00									300.00
Outreach											-
Junior Audubon				200.00							200.00
General Meetings	2,207.93										2,207.93
Publicity											-
Walkabouts/Field Trips											-
Website											-
Breeding Bird Atlas	2,094.48										2,094.48
PWA									4,903.61		4,903.61
Stewardship Task Force										150.00	150.00
Administrative	2,428.26										2,428.26
Membership	1,465.67										1,465.67
Fund Raising	1,005.82										1,005.82
Total Disbursements	24,684.98	300.00	-	8,000.70	-	-	-	-	4,903.61	150.00	38,039.29
Excess (Deficit) Revenue											
Over Disbursements	902.07	(203.97)	18.92	3,131.30	32.49	31.00	77.52	3,989.33	3,635.21	14,394.25	22,018.79
Interfund Transfers	1.24	-	-	500.00	-	(500.00)	-	1.24	-	-	1.24
Balance at end of period	\$1,927.80	\$6,285.10	\$1,297.39	\$64,446.91	\$2,228.29	\$1,625.74	\$5,315.76	\$83,126.99	\$34,031.71	\$22,951.39	\$140,110.09

Welcome New Friends of Madrone Audubon Society

Calistoga

Retha Snyder & Teri Fredrickson

Duncans Mills

Elizabeth Burko

Healdsburg

Steve McDonnell

Newport Beach

Donna Flower

Petaluma

Cynthia Eggers

Santa Rosa

Mike Felciano, Elaine Nickison, and Virginia Norman

Sebastopol

Melody Cary, Janice Delmar, and Chandra Farnsworth

Sonoma

Sherry N. Michael

Lake Oswego, OR

Adrienne Brockman

Dallas, TX

Elizzbeth Covington



Madrone Audubon
Sonoma County



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 2012

**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 7:30 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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Corresponding Secretary: Monica Schwalbenberg-Peña - milvan@sbcglobal.net.....542-8107
Treasurer: Linda Lebovics - linda@quick-skills.com.....827-3765
Membership: Lisa Shiffrin - lshiffri@yahoo.com.....775-3752
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Outreach & Junior Audubon: Scott Campbell - campbesk@gmail.com.....530-828-6115
Publicity:
Webmaster: Jeff Holtzman - Madrone707@hotmail.com.....823-8290
Bird Walks and Field Trips: Tom McCuller - sisypus@sonic.net.....546-1812
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Bird-A-Thon Coordinator: Marcia Johnson - owlsnesttwo@att.net.....829-3808

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Sonoma County Water Coalition Rep: Paula Zerzan - pzerzan@comcast.net.....935-1523
BBA: Bob Speckels, robertspeckels@yahoo.com; Veronica Bowers, vlbowers@gmail.com
Christmas Count and IMBD: Veronica Bowers - vlbowers@gmail.com.....829-2955
Honorary Board Member: Ernestine Smith.....545-4255
Bird Rescue Center.....523-BIRD
The Songbird Hospital.....484-6502
Northern California Rare Bird Alert.....415-681-7422
Audubon-California: Dan Taylor - dtaylor@audubon.org.....916-649-7600
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>