



Madrone LEAVES

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

VOLUME 52 September 2018 Number 1

Let's Support Conservation in the County We Love

by Susan Kirks and Diane Hichwa

This time last year, we were about to experience a wildfire tragedy that would change our lives, wild lives and the Sonoma and Napa County landscapes for many years to come. As we go to press for our September 2018 *Leaves*, wildfires are burning north and south of Sonoma County.

We'd like to ask our members to consider supporting some conservation efforts in Sonoma County that will have positive long-lasting impacts. With these efforts, we see opportunities for people and peace, for environmental education and volunteering for adults and youth.

Urban Nature Preserves

Two areas in our County have an opportunity for wildland preserves near urban areas. One in northeast Santa Rosa is in the *Paulin Creek* area. The other in southwest Santa Rosa is in the *Roseland Creek* area.

Both the Paulin Creek Preserve (Sonoma County Water Agency land of 40+ acres, the Preserve, and Parcel J of a proposed sale and development) and the Roseland Creek Preserve (now 20 acres, owned by the City of Santa Rosa) have relationships

with the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District and our community. The 1/4th cent sales tax we all contribute to fund the Open Space District helped acquire and conserve significant portions of these lands.

Madrone Audubon Society celebrated our 50th anniversary in 2017. Our long-time members remember dedicated advocacy to save the Paulin Creek property in the early 2000s. Joanne Dranginis, past Chapter President, was a leader in this effort with

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Paulin Creek Preserve Courtesy of Friends of Paulin Creek

Voting - November 2018

In November, Sonoma County voters will be asked to consider the *Sonoma County Parks Improvement, Water Quality and Fire Safety Measure*. We will consider a 1/8th cent, countywide sales tax that, if approved, would support Sonoma County Regional Parks and also local parks. See our article on page 6 for more information. The Madrone Audubon Board has endorsed this ballot measure. We encourage our members to vote Yes.

GENERAL MEETING

First United Methodist Church • 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa
Monday, September 17, 2018, 7:00 PM

"Saving Songbirds One Bird at a Time"

Have you ever wondered what a wildlife rehabilitator does? Does wildlife rehabilitation really make a difference for wildlife? If you find an injured or ill bird, shouldn't you just "let nature take its course?" Veronica Bowers of Native Songbird Care & Conservation in Sebastopol will answer these questions and more as she discusses her work saving native passerines through rehabilitation, release back to the wild, and community outreach and education efforts.



Cliff Swallow logo Courtesy of Susan Kirks

Veronica will review some interesting cases and species received at her wildlife hospital in the summer of 2018 and share some helpful tips we can all use to support songbirds by reducing negative impacts and providing habitat in our own backyards and beyond.

Veronica Bowers has been a wildlife rehabilitator for 20 years and works exclusively with passerines. She is the founder and director of Native Songbird Care & Conservation, an all-volunteer non-profit wildlife rehabilitation organization, based in Sebastopol. She is passionate about passerines and is an avid birder. When she's not working hands-on with songbirds, she's out in the field learning as much as she can about these amazing and beautiful birds. NSCC, a state and federally licensed wildlife hospital, cares for approximately 1,000 songbirds annually.



CONSERVATION

Continued from page 1

many Santa Rosans. They knew and experienced how special the Paulin Creek property and its resources were, and they were ultimately successful. The 10-acre Paulin Creek Preserve, contiguous to over 40 acres of Sonoma County Water Agency land, was one of the first smaller acreage properties conserved in the Open Space District's Matching Grant program.

A little known fact we're pleased to share is the Friends of Paulin Creek's effort

In July 2018, the Press Democrat reported Superior Court Rene' Chouteau voided the sale of the Chanate County Complex, which includes Parcel J of the Paulin Creek Preserve. "Sonoma County Superior Court Judge Rene' Chouteau said court officials erred in determining their agreement to sell the 82-acre site of the old county hospital complex was exempt from state law that triggers environmental review. On Wednesday, Chouteau ordered the

Avenue. A Barn Owl flew overhead, surprising us as we walked in this quiet setting, close to the nearby street and traffic, yet engulfed in peace and quiet, and wonder. The Roseland Creek Preserve is located directly across from Roseland Creek Elementary School. Several other public schools are nearby. This is an ideal location for outdoor environmental education and teaching stewardship of natural areas in our community. Appropriately placed trails,



Roseland Creek Preserve

Courtesy of Susan Kirks

in northeast Santa Rosa gave hope and encouragement to Paula Lane Action Network's advocacy to save 11 acres in south Sonoma County, an effort that began in 2000, with acquisition and conservation of the Paula Lane property in Petaluma in 2012. Susan Kirks remembers the day she obtained Joanne Dranginis' name and phoned her to ask – Could you give us guidance and suggestions? Today, the Paula Lane Nature Preserve in West Petaluma conserves an over 100-year-old American Badger habitat, natal territory, habitat for over 100 avian species, and a central portion of a wildlife corridor. In the early 2000s, this land had been proposed for annexation to the City of Petaluma and a high-density luxury home residential development. The Paula Lane Nature Preserve is also the location of Madrone Audubon's Phenology Project, studying long term 9 avian, 2 mammal and 4 plant species as part of the National Phenology Project.

county to vacate its July 2017 approval of the sale agreement." (more info: <https://www.pressdemocrat.com/news/8572169-181/judge-cancels-sonoma-countys-sale>).

Parcel J is a beautiful meadow supported for conservation by Friends of Paulin Creek (more info: <https://www.paulincreek.org>).

Of note, Bird Rescue of Sonoma County is headquartered in the Chante County building complex.

In southwest Santa Rosa, another beautiful property now comprised of 20 acres and owned by the City of Santa Rosa is the Roseland Creek Preserve. Advocacy to conserve this area and land is another longstanding one dating back almost 20 years, to the same time of the Paula Lane/Petaluma advocacy. A recent walk on this land revealed expansive grassland, oak woodland, the meandering creek, and an active Red-shouldered Hawk nest in a Eucalyptus tree, visible from Burbank

utilizing already existing trails and access, with cultural and educational activities, will be ideal for this property. In the process, wild lives who rely on what remains of their habitat in this area, will be able to remain and survive. We encourage the City of Santa Rosa, planning a community park, to actively engage with and listen to the community and other conservation organizations for careful planning and realization of the potential of this special Nature Preserve. The Sonoma County Water Agency also has an easement on a portion of the Roseland Creek Preserve. Conservationist Duane DeWitt describes the Preserve as a "Neighbor-Wood." For more information on the Roseland Creek Preserve advocacy and to support the community effort, contact Duane DeWitt, 707-575-5549, dewittplanner@yahoo.com.

We hope you agree these conservation efforts are surely deserving of our attention and support.



BIRD-A-THON 2018 –a success!

by Carolyn Greene

Many thanks to all who pledged in support of the 2018 Bird-a-Thon (BAT) and to members of this year's hard-working BAT teams - those who ventured out to count birds. BAT is the major fundraiser for Madrone and supports our Lincoln Elementary School activities, Christmas Bird Count, Junior Audubon, Audubon Adventures and various conservation efforts. Contributions are tax deductible. We appreciate all of our generous supporters! If we've omitted anyone, please let us know – contact BAT Coordinator Carolyn Green at (805) 443-7289 or cgnpark@icloud.com. Our total raised this year is \$7,098.50.

Following are the “Big Day” reports from each team.

1. The Grey-headed Seersuckers

Team members: Ian Morrison, Becky Olsen, Ted Eliot, Ken Wilson.

We began at 6:30 am on February 20, so it was still dark and cold with few birds at the start. A White-crowned Sparrow was calling, an American Crow flew over, but that was just the beginning of a great day of birding/fund raising. It's an interesting time as wintering birds are still here, but the migrants have not arrived back in the area yet. My fear, on this, the coldest day of the year so far, was that there wouldn't be many birds around. but by the time we had finished at Spring Lake/Howarth Park we had found over 50 species. Some we searched for, like the Varied Thrushes we knew were at the south end of Spring Lake and some just showed up like the Osprey, perched and eating a fish. Somehow the thought of eating very cold, raw fish didn't appeal to me, but the Osprey appeared content. At Howarth Park, the Great-tailed Grackles were very obvious, but the Purple Finches that Becky heard singing took a little more work to locate. We then drove west to Sebastopol and found a field of Cattle Egrets, Tree Swallows overhead and a distant perched Red-tailed Hawk. Bodega Bay/Harbor had its usual abundance of birds present and we soon

found a group of both Black and Ruddy Turnstones near The Tides along with loons and grebes. We found all three loons that we considered possible along with five species of grebes - Red-necked Grebe being the most interesting at this time of the year. Our search for the over-wintering Rock Sandpiper that hangs out with the Surfbirds became a disappointment as neither species was present, but we did add Black Oystercatcher, Northern Harrier and a group of Brant. At Bodega Harbor we were happy to find a large group of Forster's Terns in flight, a first for me this year. Sandpipers were difficult to find in the harbor with only Marbled Godwits and Willets being added to our list, so we drove to the mouth of Salmon Creek where Ian's diligence located a distant flock of Sanderling and Western Sandpipers. We also found groups of both Mew Gulls (Bodega Harbor) and California Gulls (Salmon Creek Beach). A stop in Bodega Harbor on the way back yielded an Orange-crowned Warbler and an Anna's Hummingbird.

We then headed towards Petaluma, stopping at the ponds on Carmody Road where we added a female Ring-necked Duck along with a Wilson's Snipe. Shollenberger Ponds were fruitful, yielding an abundance of American Avocets, Long-billed Curlews, a distant, perched juvenile Peregrine Falcon, hovering White-tailed Kites and a male Eurasian Widgeon hiding among the American Widgeons. Our last stop was the Ellis Creek ponds where Ted found us a Merlin that perched for scope views just before his rendition of a Great Horned Owl call evoked a response from the distant Eucalyptus trees. With the addition of a Sharp-shinned Hawk flying over that Becky spotted, we counted 10 species of raptors for the day.

With not much else to find and darkness coming on, we set off in search of the Northern Mockingbird that had eluded us so far - Ian spotted the bird flying through the neighborhood and we called it a day with a count of 125 species - not a record

day, but it was a lot of fun. We thank you all for supporting our effort to raise funds for the many programs that Madrone Audubon has in the works.

Sponsors: Keith Marshall, Gordon Beebe, William Bevans, Rebecca Olsen, Anthony Hicks, Jeffrey Holtzman, William Doyle, Deyea Harper, David Leland, Daphne Smith, J. Earl Rathbun, Veronica Bowers, Ann Stone.

Amount raised: \$757.75

2. Feather Questers

Team member: Diane Hichwa.

Highlights of the day included:

- A Bald Eagle which has been perching above the Gualala River.
- Merlin flying very fast in order to catch some tiny but highly maneuverable Vaux Swifts as they flutter at dark down into a chimney at Stewarts Point.
- May is still time for the sleek silver/black/white of Pacific Loons in long low lines of 50 or more, followed by another line and another! And finally passing by are some Gray Whale moms and calves.
- Early in the morning sun, Brandt Cormorants threw back their heads to display brilliant blue throat patches and Common Murres stood shoulder to shoulder in black-and-white tuxedos in the narrow view-window of Gualala Point Island.
- About 3 blocks from us a Red-tailed Hawk has a nest with 2 chicks to feed.
- Along Bodega Bay where the wind was fierce and the tide height too high to find much, the tall Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets are still nesting in the Eucalyptus trees! White-wash seen and loud clicking of chicks heard. A success story that they persist.

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BIRD-A-THON 2018

Continued from page 3

- And I most enjoy the SOUNDS! One of the best aspects of springtime birding is that all are claiming territories and singing. “Quick, 3 beers!” calls the Olive-sided Flycatcher at the top of a tall tree; loud, loud and LOUDER sings the bright yellow Wilson’s Warbler with clean black cap. Both are our neighborhood birds.

I did break 100 with 106 species seen - again, it was fun and an interesting challenge to search only coastally! PLUS the spring-time joy of seeing Gray Whale moms and calves, Harbor Seal moms and pups, and sheep and lambs munching the tall grass.

Sponsors: Janice Vough, Danna Vough, Cathy & Larry Zbikowski, Beverly Penn, Katherine Hichwa, Anne Ysunza, Loretta & Richard Zweig, Karen & Ted Nagel, Mike & Ruthmary Parmeter, Rebecca Olsen, Philip Carlsen, Peter & Olivia Leveque, Glenda & Jim Gentile, Ann Luft, Kit & David Daine, Buff & Gerry Corsi, Lynn Cominsky & Garret Jernigan, Bill & Paget Lenarz, Debby & Lloyd Kreuzer, Gwen Dhesi, Carol Harrison & Don Tanner, Joanne & John Kleis, Michael Nelligan, Richard Shipp, Dave & Chris Powell, Dorcas Allison, Dorothy Gregor, Kathy Roskopf & Roland Pesch, Jim & Judy Seeser, Don & Donna Friedrich, Marilyn Scott, Kathy & David Biggs, Janeann Erickson, Kathy Mugele, David Rachor & Sharon Hansen, John & Linda Reichel, Gloria Shay, Cynthia & Kevin McCullough.

Amount raised: \$2,788

3. Burrowing Owls

Team Members: Susan Kirks, Nathaniel Roberts, Linda Hammer.

Our team was out and observing for 2 months as time allowed. This year’s observation sites: Paula Lane Nature Preserve and area, Helen Putnam Regional Park, Shollenberger Park and Alman Marsh, Sonoma Coast, Spring Lake Regional Park,

West Santa Rosa, Occidental and Marin County/Deer Island Preserve. Our species total was 84. The highlight really was the natural color and magnificence of Violet green Swallows and Cedar Waxwings. We gained 2 new sponsors this year and are very grateful!

Sponsors: Coco & Chester Kirks, Susan Kirks, Nancy Hair, Center Electric in Petaluma, Susan & John Dean.

Amount raised: \$280

4. Zonotripias

Team members: Bill Doyle, Helen Kochenderfer, Don Kirker.

We started with a bang at Alman Marsh in Petaluma at 4:00 am, with all four Sonoma County rails. Through the day, we covered most of central Sonoma County, from Bodega Bay to Jenner and Duncans Mills, to the eastern hills, and down to the Ellis Creek Marshes. We finished our day, as it was getting dark, at Sonoma State U., ending with a total of 149 species.

Sponsors: Rob O’Donnell, Bill Bevans, Fred Marti, Anita Doyle, Helen Lemley, Monica Schwalbenberg-Peña, Carl Hendel, Charles Doyle, Denise Herzberg, Ian Morrison, Yvonne Corbeil, Ken Wilson, Anne Marston, Teresa Doyle, Jeffrey Hanson, Brooke Loomis, Jon Sarrett, Sarita Eastman, Donald Howard, Eileen Bill.

Amount raised: \$1,152.75

5. Chickadiddies

(previously the Roadrunners w/Betty Groce and the late Don McCarthy)

Team members: Carolyn Greene, Melinda Harris, Asenath LaRue, Jim Rosso.

Our team’s big day was April 11. We started in our neighborhoods and in east Santa Rosa, then headed to Shollenberger Park on a clear, cool, day. One striking

feature was a beautiful group of Western Sandpipers flying in formation - at least 35 or 40 of them over the water, all banking at once, back and forth, creating triangular flight patterns closely over the water. Lots of water birds - especially Northern Shovelers and Song Sparrows singing mightily from the creek weeds. Our species count was 75, and we had a wonderful time.

Sponsors: Dale Kuhn, Richard Hurley, Dennis Luz, Shirley Maxson, Pat Marsh, Frances Waska, Manuela Silman, Marilyn Edmondson, Catherine Hickey, Thomas Wysham, Daphne Smith, Janet Bosshard, James Batchelder, Lisa Ball, Andy LaCasse, Patricia Brown, Jacqueline Rienecker, Susan Dean, Ernestine Trujillo, Gaines Post Jr., Sandra Martensen, Malcolm Blanchard, Stanley Gold, Darlene Donat, Teresita Halter-Haag, Donald Howard, Melinda Harris, Asenath LaRue

Amount raised: \$1,110

BAT General Sponsors: John and Marsha Vas Dupre, George Batchelder, Ann Conger, Marguerite Li, Tom Reynolds, William German, Additional Donors.

Amount raised: \$1,010

TOTAL for 2018 BAT: \$7,098.50



California Towhee with grass for nesting Courtesy of Gordon Beebe



All walks and membership meetings are open to the public. Bird walks are recreational and educational in purpose, and all levels of expertise are welcome. Bring field equipment and wear comfortable shoes and layered clothing for variable weather conditions. Please carpool whenever possible. Forecasted heavy rain cancels. There is no charge for activities unless otherwise specified, but some parks have day-use fees.

September 2018 Calendar

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE exchanges information by phone and email as soon as possible when an issue surfaces. Please contact Diane Hichwa at 785-1922 or dhichwa@earthlink.net.

Thursday, September 6, 7:00 PM

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

Saturday, September 15, 8:00 AM to Noon

RAGLE RANCH REGIONAL PARK, on Ragle Ranch Rd, in Sebastopol. Join us to look for fall migrants, as well as a wide variety of our familiar county birds. Meet in the parking area near the dog park and Peace Garden (from entry kiosk, the road slowly veers left - continue to the parking lot). Parking fee (\$7) for non-permit holders. We will be walking the Blackberry Trail, about 1.5 miles long. Leader: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115.

Monday, September 17, 7:00 PM

GENERAL MEETING. First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa. "Saving Songbirds One Bird at a Time." This is a free event and all are welcome.

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

SPRING LAKE REGIONAL PARK. We'll meet at the Jack Rabbit picnic area, near the restrooms. Take Newanga Dr. to the south entrance of Spring Lake park. Once past the park entrance, turn left up and pass the campgrounds, on down to the picnic area, before the fishing pier. You will need to use your parking pass or buy a day pass of \$7. Leader: Janet Bosshard, 526-5883.

Saturday, September 29, 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE. Our annual trip to the Point to search for fall migrants. A wind from the southwest, plus overcast skies the night before are the best for rare migrants, but we'll go, wind or no. Meet at the Whitehouse Pool parking lot just east of the intersection of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and Bear Valley Road, at 8:00 AM (for a map, go to the Madrone website Field Trips page, and click on link). Bring lunch, liquids and layers of clothing. We will drive out to Chimney Rock, and other favorite locations (the lighthouse may still be closed for repairs). Leader: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115.

Saturday, October 6, 8:00 AM to Noon

SPRING LAKE REGIONAL PARK. We will walk around the lake and check all of the birdy locations, 2.3 miles round-trip. Parking fee (\$7) for non-permit holders. From Summerfield Road in Santa Rosa, go east on Hoen Ave, turn left on Newanga Ave, turn right inside the park entrance gate, and meet in the parking lot near the restrooms at the top of the hill. Leaders: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115.

Are you a National Audubon member?

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

Attention eBirders!

Madrone is working on a checklist of the birds at Taylor Mountain Regional Park, in conjunction with Sonoma County Regional Parks. Post your sightings to eBird and help us build our database.



OUT & ABOUT

Family Bird Walks – Back to the Basics

Sunday, September 2, 10 AM to Noon

Foothill Regional Park, 1351 Arata Ln, Windsor, CA 95492

This series of walks designed for individuals and families who are ready to learn about birds continues in early September. Participants are guided on a leisurely stroll through the park as Regional Park staff introduces the basic techniques of birding. All levels of experience are welcome! Bring your own binoculars or borrow a set from us! Family Bird Walks will continue into the fall on the first Sunday of each month. Check the Regional Parks website for information or call (707) 565-2041.

Nature & Optics Festival

Saturday, September 8, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Sonoma Plaza, Sonoma, CA

The 7th Annual Wine Country Nature Optics and Nature Festival returns to the Sonoma Plaza! There will be an expanded selection of binocular and telescope companies from across the United States on hand to demonstrate and sell the latest optics technology on the market. This is the only event where all the major vendors convene together in Northern California. The birding and nature community from Northern California will be well represented at the day-long event. Madrone Audubon, Redwood Regional Ornithological Society and Paula Lane Action Network are sharing a booth at the festival. A range of new nature artists, live education raptors, and family activities will be offered at this free public event located at the Sonoma Barracks,, 20 East Spain Street, Sonoma,

CA 95476. Invite your friends and family! The event is sponsored by Sonoma Nature - www.sonomanature.org, in partnership with California State Parks. More info: Contact Tom Rusert for additional information at 415-302-5601. Stop by and say hello!

National Estuaries Week

September 15 – 22, 2018

National Estuaries Week is a nationwide celebration of our bays and estuaries and the many benefits they provide to local communities. We encourage everyone to participate – join a community event or organize one, share your projects on social media, and talk with your local representatives about the importance of healthy estuaries. Below are two events where you can lend a hand.

California Coastal Clean-up Day

Saturday, September 15

Help is needed at many sites in the Bay Area. For a location map and sign up information, go to <https://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/ccd/ccd.html>

Calling all Bay Heroes

Saturday, September 22, 9:00 AM to Noon

Bair Island Bently (Redwood City)

In anticipation of Bay Day on October 6, Save The Bay and the USFWS invite you pitch in to help remove invasive plants and use your healing powers to restore the Bay. Preregister at <https://www.savesfbay.org/secure/volunteer-registration?eventid=a0q0a000005E5rZ> or visit the Save the Bay website for additional information.

Can You Spare 4 Hours a Week?

If so, Bird Rescue could really use your help!

Currently, there are times when members of the Bird Rescue medical team have to fill in on phones because they're short-handed. This means vital medical care is delayed. As a new phone volunteer, you'd receive training and be paired with a veteran volunteer until you're ready to go solo. Call (707) 523-2473 and ask for MJ or email mj@thebirdrescuecenter.org. You can make a difference!



Visit the Bird Rescue Center

The Bird Rescue Center of Sonoma County (3430 Chanate Road, Santa Rosa) is open to the public on the first Saturday of every month from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM, except for major holidays (if in doubt, call 707 523-2473). Come on by and meet a few of the resident Raptor Ambassadors. Bird Rescue's intrepid volunteer raptor handlers will be more than happy to introduce you! It's a wonderful opportunity to see these beautiful wild birds up close — and an unforgettable experience! You may even find yourself wondering how you could learn to handle these amazing birds. Visits to the center are free, but donations are always welcome (and needed).



Coastal Column

by Diane Hichwa

Summer draws to a close as does seabird nesting. Some Brandt's Cormorant chicks have not yet fledged and the Common Murres will jump any night now as August begins! Yes, the flightless chicks jump from tall nesting rocks at Jenner and at Gualala Point Island (GPI). All together one night the chicks take a leap of faith to be joined by their fathers on the water surface. The deep "mu-u-r-re, mu-u-r-re" calls carry a long way across the water, especially in the quiet of night. Gualala Point Island had more than 1240 murres atop it in mid-June. Now for the winter months there will be none! The only way to confirm nesting is to see a fish carried in to the colony. (This is the same means of confirming a Pigeon Guillemot chick being fed; they nest inside crevices of the rocks and no nests or chicks are visible. Food carry is the clue!). Murres began nesting in Sonoma County in 2012 at both locations. At Jenner, the murres have pushed the Brandt's Cormorants off to another rock for nesting; at GPI, the Brandt's colony is smaller, but they are still holding their own against the murres.



Brandt's Cormorant nests and Common Murres

Courtesy of Craig Tooley

Our locally nesting Black Oystercatchers have fledged some chicks, now flying around with two-tone bills. The variety of early shorebirds heading south from Canada and Alaska are already arriving. The rocky north coast is seeing Whimbrel and Black Turnstones again in our tidal areas. And Brown Pelicans followed the run of small fish and arrived in numbers: 112 were atop GPI and three days later there were none. We should see them and their spectacular tuck-and-plunge dives through Fall; then they will head to Southern Cal and Mexico for nesting.

This has been a successful year locally for Peregrine nesting. One nest fledged four, two different nests fledged two, and one nest failed. A photographer snapped a picture of the Peregrine passing by GPI and looking carefully at the photo noticed a gull chick in its feet! The cycle continues. And these are most welcomed sights after the tremendous efforts to bring Peregrine numbers and nesting back.

Welcome, New Members

Petaluma
Clark Bridgman
Tim Sanborn

Santa Rosa
Barbara Moulton

Phenology Project Volunteers

Madrone Audubon sponsored citizen science research at the *Paula Lane Nature Preserve*.

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

Visit 1 hour monthly, observe for 9 avian, 2 mammal & 4 plant species. Enter observations in Nature's Notebook/ National Phenology Project.

To volunteer, contact: Susan Kirks, Madrone Audubon President. 707-241-5548, susankirks@sbcglobal.net

(Beginning birders/naturalists welcomed)

Proposition 68 Passes

In June 2018, *California Proposition 68: The Parks, Environment and Water Bond* passed statewide. This is good news for wildlife! The Proposition authorized \$4 billion in general obligation bonds for state and local parks, environmental protection projects, water infrastructure and flood protection projects. Madrone Audubon continues to participate in a statewide conservation coalition, identifying critically important wildlife passage and corridor areas for project funding. The statewide coalition of organizations is now considering priority recommendations for wildlife corridor related funding; we recently provided 2 recommendations in Sonoma County for funding allocations. Thanks to all Madrone Audubon members who voted YES for Prop 68!

WEEKDAY BIRD WALKS RESUME

Thanks to walk leader Janet Bosshard, Madrone will offer a weekday bird walk the third Thursday of each month, beginning on September 20th, 8:30 to 10:30 AM, at Spring Lake Regional Park.

Walks will be at a different location each time. All are welcomed, beginners to experienced birders. We will walk, watch, and talk about birds, share our experiences, and learn from each other. It will be fun to see what is happening out in nature that day! Check the Calendar section for locations each month. If you have any questions, call Janet at 526-5883.

Janet has been a Madrone Audubon member since 1982; led youth birding outings for years, together with Janeann Erickson; and currently coordinates Madrone's involvement in the annual Lincoln School Bird Day. She is a docent at Bouverie Preserve and serves on the Board of Bird Rescue of Sonoma County in Santa Rosa.



Parks Ballot Measure in November 2018

Sonoma County Regional Parks, through the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, will be asking voters this November to approve a 1/8th cent sales tax ballot measure. The sales tax would help fund Regional and Municipal parks for the coming 10 years. The measure requires a two-thirds approval and, if approved, would become effective in April 2019.

The expenditure plan estimates \$115,000,000 generated over 10 years, approximately \$11.5 million annually: \$7.6 million dedicated to Regional Parks and \$3.8 million to the 9 cities in Sonoma County. A citizen oversight committee would be established to oversee expenditures for congruence with the intended use of funds.

Over the life of the sales tax measure, if approved, expenditures would be allotted to:

Support for local City parks and recreation needs	
33.3%	\$38,300,000
Maintenance, Safety & Recreation Services in Sonoma Co. Regional Parks, Trails & Open Space Preserves	
25%	\$28,750,000
Improving Access to Sonoma Co. Regional Parks, Trails & Open Space Preserves	
23.4%	\$26,840,000
Protect Natural Resources in Sonoma Co. Regional Parks, Trails & Open Space Preserves	
18.3%	\$21,110,000

Sonoma County Regional Parks has accepted title to and responsibility for some Open Space District lands. Natural resources on these properties are exceptional. Approval of the ballot measure would also support Regional Parks' ability to appropriately protect and manage natural resources and amenities on these lands. Of course, we all have our favorite Regional parks in the County, and visitors to Sonoma County enjoy these special areas with us. The Sonoma County Regional Parks system currently includes 56 parks, beaches and trails throughout the County. Please consider voting YES. Our Madrone Audubon Board has endorsed this ballot measure.

(Resources for this article: Ballot measure literature, Sonoma County Board of Supervisors Meeting Record.)



Snowy Plover at Donan Beach

Courtesy of Gordon Beebe



Spring Lake Regional Park

Courtesy of Tom Reynolds

Volunteer Openings - Madrone Audubon Board

Recording Secretary: Takes notes at our once monthly Board meetings, prepares minutes. Skills: Note taking, laptop computer use helpful, computer access and printer, Microsoft Word or comparable.

Program Chair: Explores topics, speakers, presenters for bird, nature and environmentally related topics for our monthly membership meetings. Most of our 2018-19 programs are scheduled, so there will be plenty of time to explore and begin scheduling for 2019-20. Program Chair is requested to attend once monthly Board meetings and the general membership meetings.

Editor, Leaves: Coordinates and compiles information for our very popular newsletter, published every 2 months, with 2 months off in July and August (6 issues annually). Collaborates with Production Editor for layout, format and final version of each newsletter. Provides newsletter to Printer and coordinates with Printer for production. Works closely with Board members, including the President, for topics, conservation and education information, observations, and proofreading. Skills desired include organization, timely communication, writing and editing, creative thinking and new ideas. Time commitment for this volunteer role is about 10 hours per month (except for the summer break). The Editor is requested to attend Board meetings.

NOTE: Our newsletter Editor, Asenath LaRue, has recently relocated to Wisconsin and is willing to edit the *Leaves* from a distance in the "Badger State" for a time, until a new Editor volunteers for this important Chapter role. (Thank you, Asenath!)

Interesting in helping and serving our Chapter for 1 or 2 years? Please contact Susan Kirks, susankirks@sbcglobal.net, 707-241-5548, or for the Leaves Editor role, contact Asenath LaRue, asenatharue@gmail.com.



**MADRONE AUDUBON SOCIETY
FUNDS STATEMENT
July 2017 through June 2018**

	Operating	Conservation & Education	Subtotal	Stewardship Task Force	TOTAL
Balance as of June 30, 2017	122,666.82	50,010.16	172,676.98	9,044.05	181,721.03
Income					
Friends' Dues	12,251.00	0.00	12,251.00	0.00	12,251.00
Donations	7,680.60	0.00	7,680.60	0.00	7,680.60
Donations-CBC	0.00	280.00	280.00	0.00	280.00
Donations-E Smith Trust	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Donations-E Smith Scholarship	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bird-A-Thon	7,098.50	0.00	7,098.50	0.00	7,098.50
NAS Sharing	5,460.75	0.00	5,460.75	0.00	5,460.75
Investment Income	400.36	0.00	400.36	10.47	410.83
Merchandise Sales	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Income	209.86	0.00	209.86	0.00	209.86
Total Income	33,101.07	280.00	33,381.07	10.47	33,391.54

Expense					
ADMINISTRATIVE	8,641.95	677.71	9,319.66	0.00	9,319.66
CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT	0.00	2,450.98	2,450.98	0.00	2,450.98
CONSERVATION	0.00	13,255.74	13,255.74	0.00	13,255.74
EDUCATION	0.00	2,562.35	2,562.35	0.00	2,562.35
LEAVES	12,823.44	0.00	12,823.44	0.00	12,823.44
MEMBERSHIP EXPENSES	1,297.08	50.00	1,347.08	0.00	1,347.08
OUTREACH	0.00	35.80	35.80	0.00	35.80
GENERAL MEETINGS	2,960.00	175.00	3,135.00	0.00	3,135.00
PUBLICITY	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
FUNDRAISING	0.00	1,424.95	1,424.95	0.00	1,424.95
STEWARDSHIP TASK FORCE	0.00	300.00	300.00	0.00	300.00
BREEDING BIRD ATLAS	0.00	10.45	10.45	0.00	10.45
INVESTING	1,557.53	0.00	1,557.53	0.00	1,557.53
Total Expense	27,280.00	20,942.98	48,222.98	0.00	48,222.98
Net Income	5,821.07	-20,662.98	-14,841.91	10.47	-14,831.44
Balance at end of period	128,487.89 *	29,347.18	157,835.07	9,054.52	166,889.59

*E.I. Smith Bequest of \$102,008.62 invested March 2018/Operations Fund Balance = \$26,479.27



Madrone Audubon Society

Post Office Box 1911
Santa Rosa, California 95402

September 2018

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MADRONE LEAVES



Madrone Audubon Society meets on the third Monday of each month, except in June, July, August, and December. Meetings start at 7:00 PM at First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Dr., Santa Rosa. All membership meetings and walks are open to the public. Information: e-mail - info@madroneaudubon.org.

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