



Madrone LEAVES

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

VOLUME 55 September 2021 Number 1

A Busy Summer, Looking to 2021-22

September 2021 has arrived. Large wildfires continue to burn north of Sonoma County. Our memories become present experiences, with the not distant Sonoma County wildfires from 2017 onward. Fire season in Sonoma County began in August, rather than October. Last spring, we anticipated beginning in-person membership meetings in the United

was supported this year by a \$2,500 grant from Sonoma County Fish and Wildlife Commission. Expenses this year were higher than anticipated. When fencing and straw installation was complete in early April just prior to active nesting, unusually high winds during daytime in April and May revealed fencing was not strong enough to withstand the weather change. All fencing was regularly blown over. Adding weights and experimenting to finally support the fencing to remain upright, along with replacing two entire fence sections (twice) from vehicle runovers took us to early June. The balance to challenges was drivers passing by, rolling down windows, and calling out, "Thank you so much"

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Black-crowned Night Heron Adult

Courtesy of Tom Reynolds

Methodist Church fellowship room. That anticipation transformed to patience and understanding, given the COVID Delta variant. Meeting in October 2021 may be possible, but appears doubtful. When able to again meet in person, we'll have health and safety protocols to protect us all and will anticipate sharing time together again!

Please see September outdoor opportunities in the *General Meetings* block. Come by, say hello in Santa Rosa and Petaluma! As we're all often saying these days, we're making it work.

Summer 2021 was a very busy time for Madrone Audubon. Bird walks continued with Janet Bosshard (thank you, Janet), and we continued to be in touch with our members through walks, the *Leaves*, our website and personal emails and calls. In early summer, among many inquiries were several questions about the safety of providing filled bird feeders and birdbaths, this related to the Spring salmonellosis outbreak.

The West 9th Street heron and egret nesting support project, installed and maintained from early April to September,

GENERAL MEETING

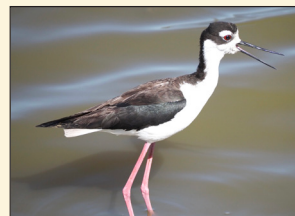
First United Methodist Church
1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa

NOTE: October-November 2021 *Leaves* will include an update on possible in-person membership meetings. This month, stop by our *Welcome to Autumn* outdoors, peruse donated books and guides, and select one or two for free.

Saturday, Sept. 18,
11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.,
Santa Rosa: Spring Lake
Regional Park - Shady
Oaks Picnic Area off
Violetti Road.



Spotted Sandpiper at Spring Lake
Courtesy of Tom Reynolds



Black-necked Stilt at Shollenberger
Courtesy of Tom Reynolds

Saturday, Sept. 25,
11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.,
Petaluma: Shollenberger
Park - Park entrance,
picnic tables,
near kiosk.



BUSY SUMMER

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and “Thank you for what you’re doing!” Maintaining the site with straw replacement and cleaning is labor intensive. Our project helps lessen community stress and provide a large nest under median street trees to cushion nestlings’ falls. The enclosed area helps bird rescuers approach and capture birds more easily. This year’s nests and species were documented by Audubon Canyon Ranch, and Bird Rescue volunteers rescued fallen birds and transported them to the Bird Rescue Center for stabilization. From there, birds able to be rehabilitated were driven by a volunteer to International Bird Rescue in Fairfield. The West 9th Street nesting season began later than usual in April and ended earlier than usual in August. In a future *Leaves* issue, we’ll share research by Audubon Canyon Ranch on rainfall effects and Andeid nesting, based on data collected from the West 9th Street project,

	NESTS	
	2021	2020
Great Egret	37	42
Black-crowned Night Heron	144	157
Snowy Egret	35	46
Cattle Egret	11	14
Totals	227	259

**Data provided by David Lumpkin, Audubon Canyon Ranch*

Bird Rescue Center ED Ashton Klutz reported as of the 3rd week in August, dedicated rescuers brought 85 birds from West 9th St. to the center and 76 birds had been successfully released. Madrone Audubon also wishes to thank Larsen’s Pet and Feed Supply in Cotati for supplying rice straw bales, Bay Area Barricades in Santa Rosa for discounts on supplies and materials, Recology Sonoma Marin for donating debris boxes for clean-up day, and Need A Hand Movers in Santa Rosa for their usual excellent site cleanup. Each year, we collaborate with the City of Santa Rosa via an encroachment permit.

Behind the scenes throughout the year, Madrone Audubon interacts with citizens, bird and wildlife rescue and rehabilitation centers, and the CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife biologists and wardens. We often receive inquiries and requests for assistance. This summer was no exception. We’re grateful to biologist Lisa Hug who responded to a request for a bird survey at Solstice Senior Living in north Santa Rosa. The property owner planned extensive tree pruning in late April. Residents expressed concern. We received information from Veronica Bowers of Native Songbird Care & Conservation (NSCC) and were able to coordinate communication. Lisa indeed discovered active nesting at the site and the property

**Fall Membership Renewals
Are Now Due**



Black-crowned Night Heron Juvenile *Courtesy of Tom Reynolds*

manager understood and agreed to wait to prune trees till September. We assisted Gualala residents who documented destruction of active Cliff Swallow nests at a residence where a roof was being replaced. Veronica Bowers of NSCC received Cliff Swallow nestlings from a Rohnert Park location; with Veronica, we were able to visit the Cambria Hotel and photo-document active nests, communicate with the hotel manager, and plan for the manager to receive guidance and expertise from Veronica for next year’s nesting season – for exclusion and potentially tolerance of the Cliff Swallows nesting in their established nesting area. In August, Larry Broderick received an inquiry via HawkWatch from a property owner in Cotati. At least a dozen White-tailed Kites formed a community roost every evening in a large oak tree in his backyard. A number of kites had used this tree as a community roost for the last several years from June until about September. A site visit to Cotati revealed this magnificent large oak tree, dominant in the Cotati residential neighborhood, very tall and understandably appealing to raptors. We postulated the kites are adults with fledglings likely being shown how to hunt and locate water. Ron, the property owner, has creative ideas for how to protect a new redwood deck he’s installing under the oak tree from excrement, and he may share information about this in a future *Leaves* issue.

Our Phenology Project at the Petaluma River Bridge was also quite active this year. This project began in 2016. From March to September each year, observers document and report nesting data to the National Phenology Project. Christine Cohen and Susan Kirks are primary volunteers at this time, awaiting arrival of the swallows each year from their thousands-of-miles journey from Argentina. A disturbing new reality appeared to correlate with the established and adjacent Lakeville Highway 116 overpass nesting site just north of the river bridge. The Lakeville site normally hosts a large number of swallow nests.

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BUSY SUMMER

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Volunteers this year observed many less nests at the overpass. An area change from last year to this was a new residential development named "Riverfront," along with a Marriott Hotel, constructed adjacent to the Lakeville Highway 101 Overpass, close to the river bridge. This development now covers what historically was vast open grassland near the Petaluma River. As Christine described, "The nests close to Lakeville dropped off in number, whereas the nests in the middle of the river remained about the same compared to 2020. On the Lakeville side, a large complex is being built close to the river. The construction coincides with a reduction of nests... practically all vegetation was wiped away."

Also coinciding with the observed change in nest locations was nest construction under the river bridge in a location never before observed. Volunteers observed almost 70 nests on the south side of Petaluma Boulevard South. Historically, swallow nests are observed at column tops closest to the river as well as at the Lakeville Highway 116 overpass. There was definite concern

In Memory of our Friend Darlene Donat Who Will Be Greatly Missed

American Pipit Courtesy of Dennis Luz



for safety, as adult swallows fly to and from nests multiple times a day, and leaving the nests, flying out toward the river over the boulevard, placed the swallows precariously close to passing traffic with just a few feet of clearance. The added number of nests south of Petaluma Boulevard correlated to the decrease in nests at the Lakeville Highway 116 overpass. The total number of nests observed for 2021 was just over 500.

Our September *Leaves* features more stories of interest from the summer. We hope you enjoy this issue. Please see our article of gratitude to Gordon Beebe who will transition from his tasks and remain in touch with us, as most of our members and former Board members do, some for many, many years. We hope Gordon will be one of those! Stay safe, take care of your health, and we hope to see you in person soon!

Bird-A-Thon 2021 During COVID

by Carolyn Greene

BAT 2021 (our main Chapter fundraiser) is in the books; it could have again been a significant challenge for our Chapter due to virus concerns. However, realizing that our beloved birds were still out "doing their thing," four intrepid birding teams headed out between March and May to see what could be found, and to raise money for local education and conservation efforts - birding fun for fund-raising.

In true Madrone Audubon form, we are grateful to team leaders, birders and donors who came together for our primary fundraiser of the year. Our goal was \$6,000. We raised \$2,815.50. With donations received late last year, our total raised was \$4,840.50. Additionally, the beautiful American White Pelican art wall hanging goes to our high donor, Mary Bates Abbott. Mary asked us to donate the art to a deserving entity or cause for their enjoyment. We selected Sonoma County Regional Parks as the recipient of this beautiful piece of art. Madrone Audubon collaborated with SoCo Regional Parks on 3 bird checklists for 3 popular parks – Doran Beach, Taylor Mountain and Spring Lake. We co-sponsor with Regional Parks each year two youth and family outings at Spring Lake. Our bird walk leaders often guide interested birders to learn about and enjoy Nature, birds and wildlife in the exceptional Regional Parks. We hope Regional Parks staff can find just the right wall to receive daily inspiration in their offices, a conference room, or a ranger's location for the American White Pelican.



White-tailed Kite

Courtesy of Keith Sauer

We hope you enjoy reading the stories of our teams who adapted to current circumstances and "made it work."

Notably, with less human presence, birds and wildlife were often quite visible and audible.

Grey-headed Seersuckers

Team Leaders: Ken Wilson, Becky Olsen, Ian Morrison
Total Raised: \$534.50

Donors: Mary Bates Abbott, Rita Bevans, Bill Doyle, Helen Kochenderfer, Gordon Beebe, Jeffrey Holtzman, Anthony Hicks, Susan Porter Bass, David Leland, Dr. Earl and Kathy Rathbun, Dr. Stacy and Marguerite Li.

March 25, 2021, was our BAT day, with mixed weather conditions. Ian Morrison, Becky Olsen and I began the day at Howarth Park where the Great-tailed Grackles appear to be increasing in number and Common Mergansers and Black-crowned Night-Herons afford great close-up looks. The day

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BIRD-A-THON

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wasn't too cold, until we met gale-force winds at Bodega Bay. At Bodega Head, it was difficult to open the car doors because the wind was so strong, thus reducing our sightings to a few Pelagic Cormorants and a lone fly-by Pacific Loon. By the time we were ending the day at Ellis Creek Wetlands, the weather had reverted once again to very pleasant conditions. Our tally for the day amounted to 126 species, which is about what we have usually seen on previous BATs.

Our second stop was Spring Lake where we added Violet-green and Tree Swallows plus a Hairy Woodpecker checking out a nest hole and singing Purple Finches. Driving west, we stopped and walked the trail along Santa Rosa Creek from Willowside Road. A perched Cooper's Hawk was the highlight and it was the only spot in the day where we found Northern Harrier. This is always a reliable location for White-breasted Nuthatch, Hutton's Vireo and Chestnut-backed Chickadee. The Laguna de Santa Rosa was suffering from the drought with low water levels, but did produce the usual herons and egrets plus a small group of American Pelicans. At the Petaluma Community Center ponds (also very dry), we



Black Phoebe with Dragonfly

Courtesy of Keith Sauer

found the first of the FIVE Ospreys we encountered during the day plus Savannah, White-crowned, Gold-crowned and Song Sparrows. A nice sized group of California Quail helped boost the numbers.

Continuing west to Bodega Harbor, we added shorebirds such as Black-bellied Turnstone, Least and Western Sandpipers, Dunlin, Black Oystercatcher, Black Brant, Willet, Whimbrel and a large flock of Marbled Godwits. Leaving the coast, we drove southeast towards Petaluma, stopping along the way to check out the ponds on Carmody Road and hoping for a sighting of Loggerhead Shrike. We struck out; this bird has become difficult to find in the county. The ponds did have Greater Yellowlegs, Killdeer and Ring-necked Ducks.

We reached the mudflats at Shollenberger Park in Petaluma in time for low tide, but the area was strangely empty.

Donations

In Memory of

Mom, Ms. Millie S. Smith

By Eileen & Walter Anderson

William Bevans

By Rita Bevans

We found our only Long-billed Dowitcher of the day, sitting all alone in the mud. American Avocets were also present in good numbers around the main pond. Last stop - Ellis Creek Wetlands - did not let us down with sightings of Cinnamon and Green-winged Teals, American Pipit, a lone Common Gallinule, both Barn and Rough-winged Swallows, and a lone Cackling Goose amongst the Canada Geese grazing in the fields north of the ponds.

All in all, it was a good day to be out birding with friends for a worthy cause. We thank each of you for supporting our efforts to raise funds for the many environmental activities the Madrone Audubon Society so generously provides for our Sonoma County community.

Burrowing Owlers

Team: Susan Kirks (leader), Art Slater, and Friends of PLAN

Total Raised: \$575.00

Donors: Mary Bates Abbott, Friends of Paula Lane Action Network, Judy Johnson, David Oliver, Dr. Stacy and Marguerite Li.

This year, our team birded as individuals over 3 weeks and identified 84 species! Our observations included backyards, open spaces, public parks and established nesting sites in the County, ranging from Petaluma, Sonoma and Santa Rosa to Bodega Bay and the coast, and almost to Healdsburg. Lark Sparrows in Art's yard seen for the first time since 2002 were a highlight. An American Kestrel was reported to us as an observation, but we couldn't confirm it so did not include on our list - still an interesting possibility. Nesting Cliff Swallows at the Petaluma River Bridge and nesting egrets

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For planting and habitat support, see

Tree and Vegetation Planting Guide

<https://madroneaudubon.org/pdf/Tree and Plant List.pdf>



BIRD-A-THON

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and herons of W. 9th Street in Santa Rosa were repeated observations, only listed once, and, as always, a joy to see and hear. Thanks to our supporters for 2021!

Feather Questers

Donor: Kathleen Mugele

“March Madness”

Team: Gene & Nancy Hunn, Brook & Orion O’Connor.

Donors: Mary Bates Abbott, Eugene and Nancy Hunn, Dr. Stacy and Marguerite Li.

Total Raised: \$75.00

After getting vaccinated twice, Nancy and I decided it was time to get out of town, so we headed for southeastern Arizona for some early spring desert birding. We were joined by intrepid travelers, Brook and Orion O’Connor. Our “pick-up” birding team chose Friday, March 26, for our Madrone Audubon Bird-A-Thon Big Day effort. Our list was shy of our usual goal of 100 species at 72 total, but high in birds of special interest.



White-breasted Nuthatch

Courtesy of Keith Sauer

Our casita bordered the famed de Anza Trail along the Santa Cruz River that in 1775 saw a large contingent of colonists led by Juan Bautista de Anza pass by, headed for San Francisco from Mexico. Brook and Orion joined us after breakfast (from their rough camper parking spot across the valley) and we all hiked the first mile and a half north from Santa Gertrudis Lane to the historic mission at Tumacácori. We first flushed a pair of Mexican Ducks (now split from their Mallard cousins) at the river and listened to the varied calls of Mourning, Collared, White-winged, and Inca doves, the incessant chatter of Gila and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers, the Curve-billed Thrasher’s wolf-whistles, and the Northern Cardinal’s constant whistling. Ravens croaked; could have been either Common or Chihuahuan - hard to tell without counting their nasal bristles. A brilliant male Vermilion Flycatcher beside the trail outshone the Black Phoebes and the wintering Gray Flycatcher we spotted at the mission. Obscure little gray birds teased us for an identification: we

were eventually able to sort out the Ruby-crowned Kinglets (getting ready to migrate north), Verdins, and Lucy’s Warblers. The desert Bewick’s Wrens were everywhere, but sounded a bit off key. Canyon, Abert’s, and Green-tailed Towhees together were an intriguing combination. Lots of sparrows in the bushes: Rufous-winged, Chipping, White-crowned, Song, and Lincoln’s. Add a Zone-tailed Hawk, a Phainopepla, and an early Bullock’s Oriole to the morning’s list.

Next stop was Patagonia Lake, a watery magnet in the desert – a close view of a Gray Hawk en route that posed for pictures. The birding trail at the lake has overlooks that, with a scope, reveal a surprising diversity of waterbirds: Cinnamon Teal, Northern Shovelers, Gadwalls, Mexican Ducks, Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, and Ruddy Ducks, plus Pied-billed Grebes, Eared Grebes, and Coots. Three Wilson’s Snipe hid on the muddy margins. Most of the cormorants appeared to be Neotropical with Double-crested in the minority. A Great Blue Heron or two were in the mix. Swallows foraged over the lake: Northern Rough-winged, Tree, Violet-green, and Barn. At one point, the sky was filled with dozens of White-throated Swift hurrying off to somewhere. Overhead with the ubiquitous Turkey Vultures were several snappy-winged Black Vultures. We added Hermit Thrush, White-breasted Nuthatch, Bridled Titmouse, Red-winged Blackbird, Yellow and Black-throated Gray Warblers, and the Cardinal’s cousin, the pink and gray Pyrrhuloxia, but could not pin down the Black-capped Gnatcatcher said to frequent the trail (though we found one nearby on a later visit).

Of course, this is just one day’s worth. Highlights of our 10 days in southeastern Arizona included, in addition, a stake-out NORTHERN JACANA just north of Tucson, Gambel’s Quail and Wild Turkeys, Greater Roadrunners, a total of eight hummingbird species (Black-chinned, Anna’s, Costa’s, Broad-tailed, Rufous, Violet-crowned, Rivoli’s, and the abundant Broad-billed), Harris’s and Common Black Hawks, a Western Screech-Owl at her nest hole, Ash-throated Flycatcher and Cassin’s Kingbird, Bell’s, Hutton’s, and Cassin’s Vireos, Mexican Jays, two stake-out RUFOUS-BACKED ROBINS right behind our casita, a male Black-capped Gnatcatcher, Cactus Wren, Black-throated Sparrow, Hooded Oriole, and Hepatic Tanager. It was still quite early spring so many characteristic breeding birds had yet to arrive.

COVID was not an issue, as we were outdoors and avoided crowds. Spotted four javalinas, various ground squirrels, deer, bats, and turtles. Pipevine swallowtails were everywhere and early flowers were in bloom. Nice to see some old familiar desert birds after our COVID confinement.

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BIRD-A-THON

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Oakmont Birding Buddies

Team Leader: Carolyn Greene

Team Members: Stephanie Bensimon, Carol King, Barbara Kendrick, Isabel Meisler, Lesli Lee Hartsough, Keith Sauer, Margaret Hein, Carolyn Greene, Barbara Kendrick and Cathy Vancik.

Total Raised: \$1,631.00

Donors: Mary Bates Abbott, Janet Bosshard, the late Darlene and Dick Donat, Dianne Zola, Mary Kennedy, Stanley Gold, Geri Brown, Marilyn Pahr, Marilyn Edmondson, Tish Brown, Cathy Vancik, Carolyn Greene, Joe Ferrari, Katherine Foster, Jackie Rienecker, Pat Marsh, Malcolm Blanchard, Terry and Judy McNeill, Dale Kuhn, Barbara Kendrick, Cassia Crall, Jennifer Uken, Isabel Meisler, Margaret Hein, Lesli Lee and Bruce Hartsough, Carolyn Rich, Karen Meredith, Dr. Stacy and Marguerite Li.

The Oakmont Birding Buddies (re-constituted from Betty Groce's and the late Don McCarthy's Roadrunner team of

yore), scheduled 2 days for our BAT, over Earth Day weekend in April. We first birded around Oakmont and Spring Lake - highlights were long looks at a Green Heron nest with at least two nestlings being fed by parents, and good looks (and sounds) from Wilson's Warblers along Oakmont Creek. On Day 2, we birded Willowside Road/Santa Rosa Creek. Highlights here were Cassin's and Hutton's Vireos, Hooded and Bullock's Orioles, Black-headed Grosbeaks, White-tailed Kite, Common Yellowthroat, Chipping and White-throated Sparrows, Red-breasted Sapsucker, and Western Wood Pewee.

This year, our team enjoyed receiving art-ful items from Petaluma-based nature artist Alice Frost (<https://alicefroststudio.com>).

Our grand total was 76 species over two days, but our greatest enjoyment was welcoming new birders from our community and making plans to bird again soon, which we've already done! We are so grateful to our 32 sponsors! We'll be back in 2022!

With Gratitude to Gordon Beebe

Gordon began co-leading bird walks the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month in 2012, consistently for 9 years. Gordon also coordinated Saturday walks, selecting locations, welcoming new and experienced birders, and sharing special times in Nature, touching many people. Gordon will transition from his many Madrone Audubon volunteer activities in September 2021. True to form, when we talked about continuing the 1st and 3rd Saturday walks, Gordon had already asked Linda Fraley who's often accompanied Gordon on walks to lead the September 18th walk at Spring Lake Regional Park, and then consider being a regular walk leader in the group of expert birders and naturalists we'll create to continue this Saturday enjoyment for our members.

Gordon served as Chapter President from 2014 to 2016. He served as Chapter Vice President from 2012 to 2014, and prior to these roles, served as Corresponding Secretary from 2011 to 2012. Gordon participated in the Breeding Bird Atlas surveys from 2011 to 2016, and was a Co-Coordinator in our BBA update process. He also created the page on Madrone's website that now contains the survey results mapped out by David Leland, a rich resource for BBA information from both surveys.

His contributions to birding appreciation and knowledge in Sonoma County do not stop there. When we updated our website in 2012, Gordon volunteered to manage the site, with programming knowledge and experience, and for 9 years, what our website visitors have seen, including often stunning photographs,



Hermit Warbler Fluff

Courtesy of Gordon Beebe

many of which are Gordon's, is well organized, up to date information as the Chapter's public interface on the internet.

In our monthly membership meetings, we have so enjoyed presentations of Gordon's travels and experiences. And he's also led a Christmas Bird Count block for 10 years, along with contributing to Bird-A-Thon and volunteering for 10 years at Native Songbird Care & Conservation.

Gordon is one of those individuals who gives from the heart, with humility and a deep knowledge base. He has shared his skills and creativity with our Chapter as a natural part of life, and that is quite remarkable. Gordon, with gratitude, we say a big THANKS. We'll miss you in our decision-making area for the Chapter and your contributions will be part of the fabric of Chapter history. Thank you! Please stay in touch!



Our Board and Conservation Committee meetings are currently held virtually. For Board meeting information, please contact President Susan Kirks, 707-241-5548, susankirks@sbcglobal.net. For Conservation Committee meeting and information, please contact Diane Hichwa, 785-1922, dhichwa@earthlink.net. Also, please visit our website, www.madroneaudubon.org for updates. Please see special instructions below for bird walks.

September 2021 Calendar

SEPTEMBER 2021 THURSDAY AND SATURDAY BIRD WALKS

COVID-19 Precautions will be followed.

We will follow the latest protocols. Come in good health with no exposure to someone with the COVID virus. Outdoors, if you have been double vaccinated, masks will be optional for Thursday walks and required for Saturday walks. Distancing will be maintained as you are comfortable for Thursday walks and 6' for Saturday walks.

We appreciate our walkers' understanding of our interest in your well-being and the health of others.

Thursday and Saturday Walks:

Attendance is limited to 10 birders. Reservations will be accepted on a first call basis. There will be a waiting list. If you must cancel, please, call asap to make space for someone waiting to join.



Killdeer Courtesy of Dennis Luz



Red-breasted Nuthatch
Courtesy of Gordon Beebe

Thursday, September 9th

Doran Beach, Sonoma County Park, Bodega Bay. Led by Janet Bosshard. Parking pass is required. **Meet in the second parking lot on the left, with the concrete restrooms. We will walk the Bird Trail and scope out Doran Beach. Wear warm clothing and expect variable weather conditions. ** To reserve a space, please, call Janet Bosshard (707) 526-5883. Starting time will be given when you sign up. Please arrive on time. We will wait 10 minutes to begin the walk. Use this number only on the day of the walk if you are lost or cannot attend: 707-480-3432

Saturday, September 18

Spring Lake Regional Park. Led by Linda Fraley. **Meet at the Southeast parking lot (Newanga entrance) near restrooms. We will walk along the south lake edge to Fisherman's Trail and go to the north dam. To reserve a space call (559) 779-5211 any time after Sept. 1. Starting time will be given when you sign up. Please arrive on time. If you find you're unable to come to the walk, please let Linda know (number listed herein), so a waiting lister can join. Thanks for your consideration! (Spring Lake has been Linda's "patch" for the last 18 months for a master birding class through Cal Academy of Sciences.)

Thursday, September 23rd

Maxwell Farms Regional Park, Sonoma. Led by Janet Bosshard. Parking pass is required. 100 Verano Ave, turn off Hwy #12. **Meet in parking, near the Girls and Boys Club Building. The paths are flat and easy walking, under old oaks and bay trees. To reserve a space, please, call Janet Bosshard (707) 526-5883. Starting time will be given, when you sign up. Please arrive on time. We will wait 10 min. to begin the walk. Use this number only on the day of the walk if you are lost or cannot attend: 707-480-3432.

OUT AND ABOUT

Sunday, October 3rd

Fall Pelagic Trip, Redwood Region Ornithological Society. Enjoy sightings on the open waters of Bodega Canyon/Cordell Banks. This trip is on the 65-foot New Sea Angler with Capt. Rick Powers out of Bodega Bay. Peak time for offshore migrants and whale encounters. COVID-19 protocols will apply, and the trip will meet Sonoma Co. Health Dept. requirements to assure a safe trip.

Among species expected to be seen -- "Black-footed [and maybe Laysan] Albatross, Northern Fulmar, Pink-footed, Buller's, and Sooty Shearwaters, Fork-tailed and Ashy [and maybe Black, Wilson's and/or Leach's] Storm-Petrels...Sabine's Gull, Common and Arctic Terns, South-Polar Skua, Long-tailed, Parasitic, and Pomarine Jaegers, Red-necked and Red Phalaropes, Common Murre [Pigeon Guillemot near shore], Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets, and Cetaceans...Humpback and often Blue Whales..."

Details about time, where to meet, cost, and how to sign up: Visit the RRROS website, rros.org; find Events calendar for October; click on October 3rd for full info. Or, contact Gene Hunn, trip coordinator, 206-450-0570, enhunn323@comcast.net.

Are you a National Audubon member?
Please consider joining our local chapter,
Madrone Audubon.
(see membership form, back page)



COASTAL COLUMN

New Challenges with an Eagle in the Mix

by Diane Hichwa

At the north end (out from Rock Cod and Buckeye), we can view Gualala Point Island (GPI), our largest island off of The Sea Ranch. It is part of the California Coastal National Monument and sits inside the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. Since 2007, we have been studying this island and its diversified population of birds using it for nesting and for resting. In the only spot they nest on Sea Ranch, the colony of Brandt's Cormorants has been stable at around 100 nests. Brandt's are the larger cormorants with blue eyes and, in breeding season, vivid blue throat skin surrounded by buff. They can be seen throwing their heads back in display. Most are out of view on the western/outer flats of the rock's top. Later in this season, we were puzzled when several spilled over the top to the near NE side to nest. Western Gulls prefer the top of the island nearer shore and protected niches for nesting. Although it has only a small amount of vegetation and provides little protection for the chicks to hide, there are specific favored nest spots the gulls return to and use year after year. The size of the rock allows for several nests of Black Oystercatchers and Pigeon Guillemots in the crevices. Slipping in after several years' absence are several Pelagic Cormorants! In 2010, the Common Murres arrived, beginning to colonize that year and to nest in 2012. Breeding was confirmed when we saw a small fish carried into the colony of 333 birds in a parent's beak. In recent photos from a June 24th drone flight, there were 2183 murres atop GPI, so the colony appears to be thriving.

Now, we watch a new arrival and a powerfully interactive one—Bald Eagles! For several seasons, Peregrine Falcons dined on the island. First came a winter visitor from Alaska, but recent successful nesting along the Mendonoma Coast brought

hungry juvenile mouths to feed. This year, one nest fledged three and the entire family has been heard and seen at the sandbar, calling over the Arts Center, and perched above town. The Bald Eagle nest upriver has been successful as well and two large immatures have been spotted recently with an adult.



Eagle with Murre Courtesy of Craig Tooley

First, there were two eagles perched near the golf course. In late June after taking updated drone photos of the nests, we saw the Brown Pelicans peeling off, followed by cormorants and gulls taking flight. Finally, into OUR view came an adult



Bald Eagle Below Peregrine Falcon

Courtesy of Craig Tooley

Bald Eagle! Spending a few extra seconds behind the island, it emerged with a murre in its talons! Now it is a regular sight! Then came some great nature show footage of the Bald Eagle turned upside down to put his talons up at the pursuing Western Gulls. Monday morning, July 12th, another intruder put on the show. The eagle flew from the East and before reaching GPI, a Peregrine Falcon dove on it repeatedly. The eagle turned upside down with talons poised and then the peregrine drove the eagle to land on the kelp below....and kept swooping at it. This time, all flew off, empty taloned.

Yet to be seen is what impact the eagles may have on the murres. In Oregon, eagles have recovered and moved in along their coast. These crowded, exposed rookeries make obvious targets for hunting eagles. The following information is excerpted from a report where Newport's Yaquina Head, one of the largest murre colonies in Oregon, has attracted the eagles and the biologists. A seven-year study found that, 2007-2010, murre reproductive success – their ability to raise chicks to fledging age – ranged between 55 and 80 percent, even with a few eagles present. But, by 2011, as both eagle populations and their predatory disturbance increased near the colony, that success dropped to 20 percent – meaning some 80 percent of murre pairs failed to rear young. Last summer, only 0.17 chicks per pair were raised there, the lowest rate recorded to date.

The researchers found that this sharp decrease wasn't simply a result of eagles killing parents and chicks. Eagles, however voracious, can only eat so much murre! More devastating was the disturbance wrought by their predatory swoops: Each time an eagle alit on the colony, terrified murres fled to the water, leaving their eggs and chicks exposed to "secondary predators" such as gulls, ravens and, increasingly, pelicans. Sometimes, in the mad dash to escape the eagles, not-yet-fledged chicks plummeted from the rocks and drowned, unable to swim.

To read more, Oregon Fish & Wildlife article: https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Oregon_Islands/wildlife_and_habitat/murres_and_eagles.html

It remains to be seen what sort of long-term effects will emerge from this interaction in Oregon, and here! We are seeing regular hazing of the island by the Bald Eagles, adults and immatures both.

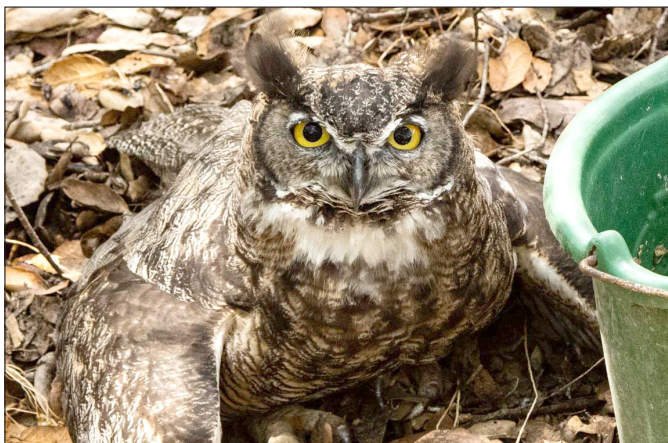


Concern for Great Horned Owl in Petaluma

by Susan Kirks

On July 28th, Len Nelson was called to a nearby friend's home in West Petaluma to observe unusual behavior in a Great Horned Owl. A pair of owls regularly visited Len's friend's backyard. One owl was on the ground next to a water bowl. The owl's mate was perched on a nearby branch. The owl on the ground was described as "listless." They thought it odd the owl would be on the ground in daytime and consistently next to water while on the ground. They observed its wings somewhat spread open. We know Great Horned Owls will spread wings on ground to cover captured prey, but this owl did not have prey. Was the owl perhaps trying to gain balance?

Len looked down from a balcony above the owl, using a 500 mm telephoto lens with a 1.4x converter to image its face as it looked upward. Len examined the image on his camera monitor, expecting to see indications of stress or fluids from its eyes, nose or mouth, but saw none. He asked his friend to go down and see how close she could get to the owl. If close enough, they



Great Horned Owl

Courtesy of Len Nelson

might be able to capture it. Len's friend, Connie, carefully approached. Within 15-20 feet, the owl reluctantly flew to a tree about 75' away, 20' feet up. The observers decided the owl was okay after all.

That evening, Connie, heard the hooting of the pair, the healthy owl, but a weaker response from the mate. The next morning, Connie observed the weak owl standing in the bowl of water, and a half-hour later, the owl rolled over and was dead. Len was able to examine the owl for outward signs of injury and did not see any. He then kept the body in a cool location in his garage for several days. When I learned of this unfortunate occurrence, Madrone Audubon contacted RATS (Raptors Are the Solution) for guidance. Lisa Owens Viani facilitated a connection to the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) Investigations

New Members

Bodega Bay

Nicole Bray

Kenwood

Marj Davis

Rohnert Park

*Eileen & Walter
Anderson*

Healdsburg

Garth Kimbrell

Napa

Nan Sabino

Santa Rosa

*Natalie Beletsis
Betty Doerksen
Gale McKee*

Lab. We shipped the owl's body (frozen for several days prior to shipping) to the lab for necropsy and tissue testing for possible ingestion of poison. If the owl was sufficiently preserved for testing, the lab will be able to share results with us.

I was additionally concerned the Great Horned Owl was certainly the mate of a pair of owls residing in the Paula Lane open space land in West Petaluma. The owls, raptors such as Red-shouldered Hawks, and American Badgers rely on access to gophers as prey at the Paula Lane open space land. No rodenticides would ever be utilized at this property.

On June 16th, the City of Petaluma caused severe direct damage to the open space habitat in one of the most accessed prey areas. The City initiated grading and then constructed a roadway (called an "ADA Access Trail") directly into habitat along the entire Paula Lane frontage. That exact area has for years provided abundant prey. With the City's action, the habitat was destroyed and prey base removed. The badgers have been displaced from the property since June 16th. It's highly probable raptors, owls and other wildlife were necessarily forced to hunt elsewhere – in yards or other areas. The open space aesthetic for this land, often enjoyed daily by many visitors who come to sit on the Sunset View redwood bench, looking over the land, has been destroyed. What is certain is birds and wildlife relying upon habitat with regularly available prey must seek other areas to hunt, to try and survive. Keep in mind this habitat has been undisturbed for over 100 years. In May 2021, Madrone Audubon submitted a letter to the Sonoma County Ag and Open Space District, responsible to ensure Conservation Easement terms protecting the Paula Lane land are upheld. The letter included a request for support in opening a discussion for property title transfer from the City of Petaluma to Madrone Audubon or another qualified entity. The land, its exceptional protected conservation values and all amenities, would be provided to the Petaluma community with conservation-related ownership and

Continued on page 10



GREAT HORNED OWL

Continued from page 4

management. Our intuition must have been spot-on, given intense damage caused in mid-June to the land.

How are animals and birds poisoned? Many rat poisons remain available for purchase. A rodent ingesting poison can be captured and consumed by birds of prey and animals. Thus, the poison enters the food web. In California, second generation anticoagulant poisons have been banned for most terrestrial uses. However, first generation anticoagulants are still legal and widely used, meaning a bird or animal ingesting poison can die from internal bleeding or hemorrhaging or suffer other impacts to its health. Whether or not the deceased Great Horned Owl submitted to the lab ingested poison and internally hemorrhaged is to be determined. This tragedy has heightened our awareness of *the fragility of ecosystems and needs of birds and wildlife to survive.*

Raptors Are The Solution (RATS) is an excellent nonprofit organization and resource for education about benefits of raptors, owls and other wildlife to manage rodent populations and avoid use of toxic substances to “get rid” of rats or rodents.

Once a rodenticide is used, its effects reach far beyond rats, mice, or other pests. The poison becomes an artificial, often lethal, part of the food chain and can irreversibly harm delicate ecosystems as well as domestic animals and even children. Whether it is an owl bringing a poisoned rat home to its nest, a fox swallowing a newly captured squirrel, or a neighborhood cat devouring the mouse it discovered in the basement, the use of poison simply doesn't make sense. Not for wildlife and not for us.

Raptors Are The Solution
(www.raptorsarethesolution.org)

If you discover a bird or any wildlife that appears to have been poisoned, how will you know?

Signs or symptoms: Weakness, lethargy, tremors, trouble with balance, observed repeated attempts to hydrate.

Please contact our local bird and wildlife rescue centers for assistance. (Bird Rescue 707-523-2473; Native Songbird Care & Conservation 707-484-5402, Sonoma Count Wildlife Rescue 707-992-0274).

If the bird or wild creature is deceased and you suspect possible poisoning, what to do?

Make connections and act expediently. Ideally, a body is shipped for necropsy and tissue testing within 1-3 days of death. If that is not possible, freezing the body until it can be shipped helps prevent decomposition. Contact us: Madrone Audubon Society. We can help with expedient connections to the CA DFW Investigations Lab and ship the body for testing – 707-241-5548, susankirks@sbcglobal.net.

To learn more about preventing poisoning and benefits of wild birds of prey to the ecology of a healthy, functioning food web for all, visit the website of RATS (Raptors Are The Solution), a project of Earth Island Institute – www.raptorsarethesolution.org.

(Acknowledgments: Len Nelson, Lisa Owens Viani of RATS)

Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher

by Ron Storey

Brian Webb first observed (heard only) the Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher on Tuesday, August 10th. On Wednesday, August 11th, Brian posted on his Facebook page a short video with sound of the bird calling (the bird is not in the video, and personally I cannot hear the bird calling), and a still photo of the bird that is silhouetted (and very hard to identify), asking for help to identify the bird. Early Saturday afternoon, August 14th, the species of Brian's mystery bird was identified by Don Kirker with Ruth Rudesill and Brian as they walked on the south trail along Santa Rosa Creek. Don and Ruth posted Saturday's sighting online, and that afternoon and near sundown, several people got to see the Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher. It was seen and photographed on the following days.



Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher

Courtesy of Ron Storey



Living Pathways: Wildlife Corridors

by Christine Cohen

When we first moved to Petaluma, our house bordered a dairy ranch. There was an abandoned farm house and barn. Old farm equipment had been left behind and barbed wire circled acreage that enclosed cows in one pasture and ponies in another. Many years later, homes were built, the old orchard was chopped down along with an ancient Eucalyptus and Cypress tree (home to Great Horned Owls). Deer remained along with raccoons, skunks and opossums. Turkeys were to come along later.



Fawn Courtesy of Tom Reynolds

Does brought their fawns in the Spring, and in the Fall, the bucks arrived. As I watched the movement of wildlife, I noticed that the deer were often badly injured. They were lame from broken ankles and even broken legs. They had wounds over their bodies and particularly around their faces. The hair had been shaved off on their bodies, sometimes leaving wounds. The deer crawled under fences that scraped their hair away. Fawns were caught on the other side of the fences, unable to follow their mothers. One fawn raced up and down a hill, crying for its mother throughout the day.

I contacted the neighbor who had property with a long dilapidated barbed wire fence and we agreed to get rid of the barbed wire. For a month, I cut away the barbed wire and arranged for waste management to haul away the barbed wire and debris. I found pieces of metal farm equipment buried under the oak leaves throughout the pasture. All kinds of metal, nails, and barbed wire lay in wait for an unsuspecting animal to step on the buried junk. The reckless abandonment of the farm equipment has caused untold suffering and death for many animals. Months and years later, I continued to find dangerous debris.

This land had until recently been the corridor of many wild animals, living out their lives, giving birth, nurturing their young and dying. One Mule Deer was well known for her huge ears. She brought with her fawns every year and was famous for her success in raising her young. She gradually became thinner and had trouble chewing the tough grasses. She remained dignified and strong up until she disappeared and I never saw her again.

As each year went by, the open space and opportunity for wildlife narrowed and was chipped away by housing, roads, and traffic. Wild animals are uncanny in finding ways to cross through land, backyards and roads. I saw an opossum climb “hand over hand” up a vine to the top of the fence where it continued on its way. Skunks and raccoons still arrive, crawling under a fence or over it in the case of raccoons. Deer quietly reside in a small portion of a riparian or upland pathway or hide in someone’s backyard. Creatures of the wild will try to stay in their habitat, areas that often no longer exist. Competition for space, nutrition and water inevitably becomes very challenging.

Marj Davis, Founder of Fawn Rescue, who helped me with the does and fawns, particularly those who were separated from each other mainly because of fences, has written a beautiful story of a fawn who found its way home. Sometime, in the last five years or so, Matt,



Bobcat and Kitten Courtesy of Tom Reynolds

who currently rescues fawns, called Marj about a fawn picked up by a man on the side of the road. Marj drove over to see the fawn and established that she was indeed healthy and nourished. Jumping over many parts of the story, I will just say that Marj and Matt took the fawn through a cemetery and private property in search of a likely area in which the fawn lived. The following is in Marj’s words: “A path containing fresh deer droppings and browse appeared at a curve leading to the back of the yard. Suddenly the fawn began to twist out of Matt’s arms. He set her gently down. It was evident this was familiar territory for this excited fawn. She put her nose to the ground and went directly up the path, increasing her pace as she went. She seemed calm and sure. We gave her the freedom and space between us she needed. Behind the yard stood an old relic of a truck surrounded by brush and weeds. The sun was hot. The fawn hurried toward it, stooped



Bucks on the Move Courtesy of Tom Reynolds

to push under the front end and lay down in the shade. Matt walked slowly on past the truck to check out the area ahead. Suddenly the fawn got up and moved quickly across the path into a spot under a magnificent oak. Matt

could then see her from a slight distance. She curled under the shady oak branches and closed her eyes as though this was home. This was where she waited for the doe. As Matt moved quietly past her, she never opened her eyes, nor moved. She made no attempt to follow.” Because a kind person allowed the deer to live and travel through her property and because of Marj and Matt, the fawn was able to return to her home. The owner of the property had confirmed the presence of the deer on her property and promised to let Marj and Matt know if the doe did not come back to her fawn.

Open Space is fragmented and fragile. Certainly, many of us, especially as Audubon members, can thoughtfully provide passage and some safety for our wildlife. Helping to change people’s mindset on land ownership and our place on Earth is certainly what the Audubon Society is all about.



Mapping Corridors and Crossings in Sonoma County

by Susan Kirks

I have been gathering reports for 21 years – reports from hikers, nature lovers, bicyclists, birders and traveling citizens who observe living and deceased wildlife. Birders in particular, as our members may understand, develop very sharp observation skills. Information provided to me relates to American Badger – when and where it was seen, living or deceased. These reports over time, added to my own visits to open spaces, state and regional parks, and private properties, contributed to emergence of wildlife movement patterns. With the assistance of Greeninfo Network, I recently completed part 1 of a 3-part series entitled *We Are All Connected*. To be completed are part 2, the Sonoma County coast – West County – Southwest County – into Marin, and part 3, Marin County inland and coastal areas. The 3-part series when completed will offer a broad view of wildlife movement patterns in our area of the North Bay.

Part 1 focuses on Petaluma and South Sonoma County, mapping wildlife corridors as well as crossings over Highway 101 (to consider for modification). In addition to American Badger, species moving through the corridors or attempting highway crossing (usually being struck and killed on 101) include mountain lion, bobcat, deer, coyote, gray fox, skunk, raccoon and opossum.

We Are All Connected is intended for use as a planning tool, to identify and preserve connecting habitat areas and support wildlife survival and biodiversity. Now established and part of most conservation organizations’ climate actions is the importance of preserving and/or creating corridors and crossings. These pathways support natural movement to adapt to climate change impacts. Identifying what lands and highway crossing areas represent these movement patterns supports conserving land and modifying highway crossings. Effective boundaries for human-wild coexistence are also important in this process.

Part 1 of the series documents only two known natal territories for adult female badgers, one the longest occupied habitat for over 100 years, Paula Lane open space, and a recently identified territory in 2021, West I Street grassland.

This summer, our Sonoma County Regional Parks removed old and obstructive fencing from several park properties, facilitating wildlife movement in our parks. If fencing is needed on your property, a few suggestions follow for how to install wildlife friendly fencing or adapt existing fencing:

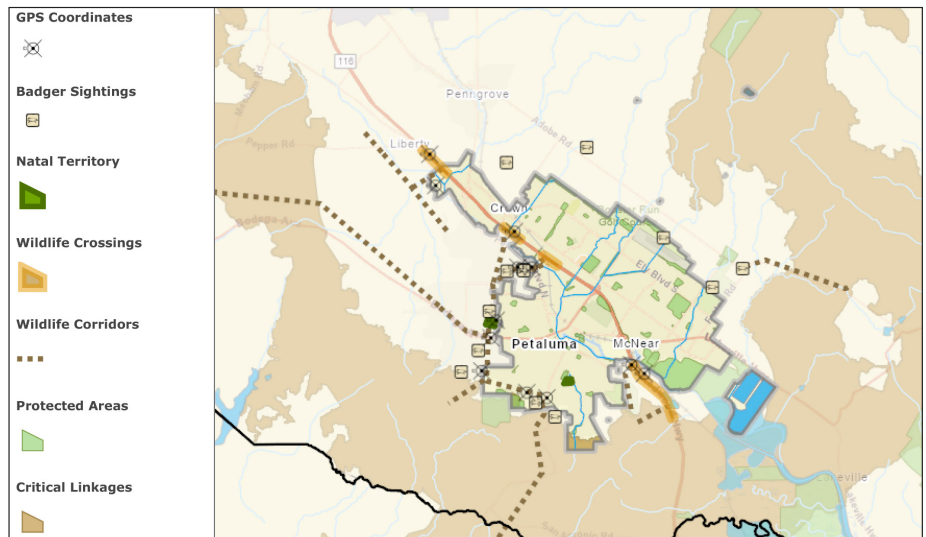


Wildlife Friendly Fence

Courtesy of Susan Kirks

- Use double-stranded steel tensile wire, 2 strands between wood or T-posts. The bottom strand is 22-24” from ground, creating an opening for small mammal passage, including fawns. Posts should be 4.5 to 5 feet high maximum. Adult mammals can jump this height.
- For existing fencing that’s not wildlife friendly, cut a “door” into the bottom of portions of the fence, 20” wide and 24-30” high, creating an opening at ground level to allow small animals to move. Most large mammals can jump fences up to 8’ in height.
- Intersperse hedge rows where possible to augment fencing – native plants such as Coffee Berry and Toyon provide excellent screening and dense vegetation as well as food sources.

If you notice regular wildlife movement through an area, please contact me. Photos are helpful. Also, if traveling on one of our roadways or hiking, birding or cycling, and you observe a deceased wildlife, please share information (with photos if possible). Community, or citizen, science is more important than ever before. Together, we can affirm important wildlife movement areas in Sonoma and Marin Counties. This research method reflects animals providing information to us. Is there any greater truth? I’m grateful for the support of the nonprofit Paula Lane Action Network in beginning and continuing this research. (Contact info: susankirks@sbcglobal.net, 707-241-5548).



Petaluma Wildlife Corridors/Crossings

Courtesy of Susan Kirks



News Update

Scholarship Recipient Makes Choice

Riley Zajonc, 2021 recipient of the Madrone Audubon/Ernestine Smith scholarship, will attend University of California at Santa Cruz. This summer, Riley completed an internship with Native Songbird Care & Conservation. We wish Riley the best in health, energy and focus as she begins this new chapter in her education.

EARTHseed open for visits and apples - 14-acre organic farm, 3175 Sullivan Road in Sebastopol, now offering U-Pick apple experiences (\$25/visit). Visits are by appointment only. Call (707) 829-0617. "EARTHseed is operated and rooted in Afro-Indigenous permaculture principles and built on the long legacy of earth wisdom traditions of people of African descent. Permaculture is a relationship-based ecological design system embedded in indigenous wisdom that elevates ecosystem health while meeting human needs." (earthseedfarm.org). Bring binocs to see the many birds at the farm!

New Climate Report

The recently published Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report conveys urgency in global action to reduce global warming. In California, our drought, water crisis and wildfires are events we must address with expedient and consistent conservation and management. The IPCC professional summary describes the need for reduction in CO2 and other greenhouse gas emissions in coming decades, reducing emissions so the global temperature increase does not exceed 1.5 degrees C. This report particularly also emphasizes negative impacts of methane gas emissions on global warming. "Many changes in the climate system become larger in direct relation to increasing global warming. They include increases in the frequency and intensity of hot extremes, marine heatwaves, and heavy precipitation, agricultural and ecological droughts in some regions, and proportion of intense tropical cyclones, as well as reductions in Arctic sea ice, snow cover and permafrost." (Exec Summary, p. 20). We recommend reviewing this report. Link to full IPCC report: <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/#SPM>

Federal Migratory Protection Act

Several bipartisan Congressional sponsors, led by Rep. Alan Lowenthal (D-CA) and Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), introduced this Act, which reinforces "longstanding bird protections that have been under attack while creating more certainty for business and creating incentives for innovation to protect birds." (National Audubon July 28, 2021). Originally introduced in 2020, the bill passed out of Committee and gained more than 90 Democratic and Republican cosponsors. If this legislation passes in Congress, the Act would strengthen the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) would

be required to develop a permitting process for "incidental take through which relevant businesses would implement best management practices and document compliance." (National Audubon July 28, 2021).

Regional

As we go to press, the Farallon Islands issue is not on the agenda for the September 2021 meeting of the California Coastal Commission. The Commission has planned to review the proposed 2nd generation anticoagulation poison drop as a method to eradicate mice. We appreciate our many members who have submitted emails to the Commission.

A multifaceted alternative approach has been recommended, to address the mouse population with low risk and no use of anticoagulant poison.



California Quail Dustbathing

Courtesy of Gordon Beebe

Madrone Audubon continues to engage in research projects with *Audubon California*. We also participate in the *Baylands Work Group*, part of the State Route 37 environmental review and long-term plan for replacement. We are active in a statewide *Wildlife Corridor Work Group* facilitated by a Sacramento-based environmental consulting firm. This group, comprised of nonprofits, agencies and districts, collaborates on legislation for policy and funding for wildlife corridors and crossings. This summer, gathering input for the State's 30 x 30 plan to conserve 30% of California's lands and waters by 2030, the California National Resources Agency (CNRA) sponsored several webinars in which we participated, with topics ranging from biodiversity and equity to conservation and coastal waters.

(*Conserve 30% of California land by 2030.)

The Bay Area Audubon Council, now an independent group (previously managed by Audubon California), meets quarterly. Our Zoom meeting in August was very productive. We hope to meet in person in October at Richardson Bay Sanctuary in Tiburon. The Council is beneficial for the 9 Bay Area Chapters, as we share activities and issues of mutual interest and concern and support each other for the best service possible to our members, counties and regions.

**Observations**

Summer 2021 • Dan Nelson • 479-2918 • birdsurf64@sbcglobal.net

Blue-winged Teal (2)	7/21	Ellis Creek ponds	GH
Tufted Puffin (2)	7/27	Offshore Sonoma County	DN, M.Ob
Rhinoceros Auklet (18)	7/27	Offshore Sonoma County	DN, M.Ob
Cassin's Auklet (5)	7/27	Offshore Sonoma County	DN, M.Ob
Laughing Gull (ad.)	7/3	Bodega Harbor	DK
Franklin's Gull (ad.)	7/5	Doran Pond (photo)	NA
Sabine's Gull (150+)	5/23	Offshore Sonoma County	LC, M.Ob
Sabine's Gull (38)	7/27	Offshore Sonoma County	DN, M.Ob
Least Tern (1 juv.)	7/9	Doran Park	GH
Long-tailed Jaeger (1)	7/27	Offshore Sonoma County	DN, M.Ob
Pomarine Jaeger (1)	7/27	Offshore Sonoma County	DN, M.Ob
South Polar Skua (1)	7/27	Offshore Sonoma County	DN, M.Ob
Laysan Albatross (2)	7/27	Offshore Sonoma County	MBa, et al
Black-footed Albatross (60)	7/27	Offshore Sonoma County	DN, M.Ob
Sooty Shearwater (2250+)	7/27	Offshore Sonoma County	DN, M.Ob
Buller's Shearwater (1)	7/27	Offshore Sonoma County	DN, M.Ob
Pink-footed Shearwater (119)	7/27	Offshore Sonoma County	DN, M.Ob
Northern Fulmar (155)	7/27	Offshore Sonoma County	DN, M.Ob
Hawaiian Petrel (1)	5/23	Offshore Sonoma County (photos)	LC, DN et al
Murphy's Petrel (1)	5/23	Offshore Sonoma County (Life-bird; photos+)	LC, DN, et al
Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel (725+)	7/27	Offshore Sonoma County (2 lg. rafts +)	DN, M.Ob
Wilson's Storm-Petrel (1)	7/27	Offshore Sonoma County	MBa, DN, et al
Ashy Storm-Petrel (25)	7/27	Offshore Sonoma County	DN, MBa et al
Swainson's Hawk	7/31	Santa Rosa Creek- Delta Pond trail	BW
Cooper's Hawk	July	Santa Rosa Creek-Delta Pond trail	M.Ob
American Bittern (1)	8/1	Ellis Creek	SS
Least Bittern (3)	7/25	Ellis Creek	RS, et al
White-faced Ibis (5)	6/17	Ellis Creek Ponds	EC
Red-necked Phalarope (80)	7/27	Offshore Sonoma County	DN, M.Ob
American Golden-Plover (1 alt.)	6/14	Salmon Creek Beach (photo)	C. Beck
Baird's Sandpiper (1)	7/31	Ellis Creek ponds	LS
Semipalmated Sandpiper (ad.)	7/3	Bodega Harbor (photos)	NA
Solitary Sandpiper	7/31	Ellis Creek ponds	J Holmes
Spotted Sandpiper	8/2	Bodega Harbor	C Cobbs
Wilson's Phalarope (1)	7/30	Ellis Creek ponds	LH
Costa's Hummingbird (ad. male)	5/13	Westminister Woods, Bohemian Hwy	R Shirley
Black Swift (1)	5/12	Pine Flat Rd. overlook to S.	DN
Bank Swallow (2)	7/1	Campbell Cove, Bodega Bay	G Falxa
Hermit Warbler (2)	7/31	Santa Rosa Creek-Delta Pond trail	SS
Townsend's Warbler (2)	5/31	580 San Antonio Rd. (late)	GH
Blackpoll Warbler (1 singing)	6/27	Nunes Ranch, Pt Reyes	D Singer
This Blackpoll is thought to be the only "vagrant" found on the outer coast this spring. Campbell Cove, Owl Canyon and other sites at Bodega Bay are so dry and parched it nearly looks as if fire has swept through. Hopefully the Fall season will bring precipitation or these favored sites may be void of birds.			
Black-chinned Sparrow	5/1	Pine Flat Rd. near top	AW, DK
Black-chinned Sparrow	5/29	Adobe Canyon Rd. (heard and seen)	IM
White-throated Sparrow (1)	5/10	Kenwood residence (tan-striped)	RR

CONTRIBUTORS: Noah Arthur, Mario Balitbit, C. Beck, Malcolm Blanchard, Cheryl Cobbs, Elizabeth Crouthamel, Lucas Corneliusen, Gary Falxa, Jim Holmes, Lisa Hug, Gene Hunn, Don Kirker, Many Observers, Ian Morrison, Dan Nelson, Ruth Rudesill, Ruth Shirley, Dan Singer, Scott Sorby, Ron Storey, Lucas Stephenson, Brian Webb and Alan Wight.



**MADRONE AUDUBON SOCIETY
FUNDS STATEMENT
July 2020 through June 2021**

Balance as of June 30, 2020

	Operating	Conservation & Education	Subtotal	Stewardship Task Force	TOTAL
	140,436.76	-5,372.86	135,063.90	3,929.18	138,993.08
Income					
Friends' Dues	11,630.00	0.00	11,630.00	0.00	11,630.00
Donations	12,170.00	0.00	12,170.00	0.00	12,170.00
Donations-CBC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Donations-E Smith Trust	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
In Kind Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bird-A-Thon	4,540.50	0.00	4,540.50	0.00	4,540.50
NAS Sharing	5,460.75	0.00	5,460.75	0.00	5,460.75
Investment Income	175.23	0.00	175.23	5.73	180.96
Miscellaneous Income	154.19	0.00	154.19	0.00	154.19
Other Grants	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00
Investing Income	970.31	0.00	970.31	0.00	970.31
Total Income	35,100.98	2,500.00	37,600.98	5.73	37,606.71

Expense					
ADMINISTRATIVE	7,657.39	243.81	7,901.20	0.00	7,901.20
CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CONSERVATION	0.00	13,638.81	13,638.81	0.00	13,638.81
EDUCATION	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
LEAVES	15,816.41	0.00	15,816.41	0.00	15,816.41
MEMBERSHIP EXPENSES	2,140.04	43.00	2,183.04	0.00	2,183.04
OUTREACH	0.00	29.42	29.42	0.00	29.42
JUNIOR AUDUBON	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
GENERAL MEETINGS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PUBLICITY	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
FUNDRAISING	1,879.19	0.00	1,879.19	0.00	1,879.19
STEWARDSHIP TASK FORCE	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,024.00	2,024.00
BREEDING BIRD ATLAS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Expense	27,493.03	15,955.04	43,448.07	2,024.00	45,472.07
Net Income	7,607.95	-13,455.04	-5,847.09	-2,018.27	-7,865.36
Balance at end of period (June 30, 2021)	148,044.71 *	-18,827.90	129,216.81	1,910.91	131,127.72

*E.I. Smith Bequest: \$101,421.20 Schwab balance, June 2021/Operations Fund Balance = \$46,623.51



Madrone Audubon Society

Post Office Box 1911
Santa Rosa, California 95402

September 2021

Madrone *Leaves* is published bimonthly from October through May, plus one issue each in June and September.



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

MADRONE LEAVES



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

- President:** Susan Kirks - susankirks@sbcglobal.net 241-5548
- Vice President:** Position open
- Recording Secretary:** Claudia Rannikar - pinchipelon@comcast.net
- Corresponding Secretary:** Position open
- Treasurer:** Position open
- Membership:** Questions to Susan Kirks (Position open) - susankirks@sbcglobal.net .. 241-5548
- Conservation:** Diane Hichwa - dhichwa@earthlink.net 785-1922
- Renewable Energy Subcommittee:** Susan Kirks & Larry Broderick, Co-Chairs.... 241-5548
- Education Kits:** Barbara Novak - b.novak34@gmail.com 795-3996
- Programs:** Position open
- Junior Audubon:** Position open
- Website Editor:** Charles Fox - cfox@aviandesign.net 707-241-5548
- Bird Walks – Thursday:** Janet Bosshard 707-526-5883
- Bird Walks – Saturday:** Varied, check monthly calendar 707-241-5548
- Bird-A-Thon Coordinator:** Carolyn Greene – cgnpark@yahoo.com 805-443-7289
- Audubon Adventures:** Carolyn Greene – cgnpark@yahoo.com 805-443-7289

- Ex Officio Board Member:** Larry Broderick - northcoastraptor@gmail.com
- Leaves Editor:** Christine Cohen - forearhandsea@gmail.com 707-762-9642
- Leaves Asst. Editor:** Larry Broderick - northcoastraptor@gmail.com
- Leaves Production:** Kris Hutchins - kris@hutchins1.net 477-8156
- Observations:** Dan Nelson - birdsurf64@sbcglobal.net 479-2918
- Stewardship Task Force:** Diane & Bryant Hichwa – dhichwa@earthlink.net 785-1922
- Habitat Gardening:** Christine Cohen - forearhandsea@gmail.com 707-762-9642
- Sonoma County Water Coalition Rep:** Paula Zerzan - pzerzan@comcast.net 935-1523
- BBA:** Madrone Board, info@madroneaudubon.org
- IMBD:** Veronica Bowers - vlbowers@gmail.com 829-2955
- Christmas Bird Count:** Peter Leveque and Stacy Li - stacyli@sonic.net 566-7937
- Bird Rescue Center** 523-BIRD
- Native Songbird Care & Conservation** 484-6502
- Northern California Rare Bird Alert** 415-681-7422
- Audubon-California:** Gaylon Parsons - gparsons@audubon.org 415-644-4605
- National Audubon Society:** 225 Varick Street, NY, NY 10014 212-979-3000

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

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