



# Madrone LEAVES

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

VOLUME 58

April/May 2025

Number 5

## Santa Rosa & Sonoma Valley 2024 Christmas Bird Counts

by Gene Hunn

### Santa Rosa, Dec. 15, 2024

We dodged the atmospheric rivers. A bit of fog in the morning, but otherwise a fine day for birding. Temperatures from 36 to 49, cloudy to partly cloudy with no wind. Fifty-two in the field plus two monitoring feeders. 139 count-day species plus 5 count week species is respectable, if a shade off our recent average species count. Highlights in ***bold italics*** below. Thanks to our abundant rainfall since November, we found more shorebirds and gulls than have been usual of late. This year marks our 65th annual Santa Rosa CBC.

Greater White-fronted Goose (4), Cackling Goose (3), Canada Goose (586), Wood Duck (4), Cinnamon Teal (11), Northern Shoveler (39), Gadwall (8), Eurasian Wigeon (2), American Wigeon (498), Mallard (449), Northern Pintail (11), Green-winged Teal (42), Ring-necked Duck (43), Lesser Scaup (4), Bufflehead (96), Common Goldeneye (12), Hooded Merganser (7), Common Merganser (91), Ruddy Duck (2), ***Mountain Quail*** (2), California Quail (191), Wild Turkey (178), Pied-billed Grebe (92), Horned Grebe (1), Eared Grebe (4), Western Grebe (2), Rock Pigeon (328), Band-tailed Pigeon (46), Eurasian Collared-Dove (66), Mourning Dove (177), Anna's Hummingbird (222), Virginia Rail (5), Sora (2), Common Gallinule (15), American Coot (485), Black-necked Stilt (8), ***Black-bellied Plover*** (20), Killdeer (31), Long-billed Dowitcher (8), Wilson's Snipe (17), Spotted Sandpiper (5), ***Lesser Yellowlegs*** (8), Greater Yellowlegs (44), Dunlin (1), Least Sandpiper (58), Western Sandpiper (5), Short-billed Gull (151), Ring-billed Gull (220), Western Gull (1), American Herring Gull (5), California Gull (545), Glaucous-winged Gull (7), Iceland (Thayer's) Gull (cw), Double-crested Cormorant (88), American Bittern (cw), Black-crowned Night-Heron (19), Snowy Egret (14), Green Heron (10), Western Cattle Egret (cw), Great Egret (61), Great Blue Heron (14), Turkey Vulture (181), Osprey (2), White-tailed Kite (3), Sharp-shinned Hawk (3), Cooper's Hawk (9), Bald Eagle (5), Red-shouldered Hawk (52), Red-tailed Hawk (57), Ferruginous Hawk (1), Barn Owl (1), Western Screech-Owl (2), Great-horned Owl (19), Belted Kingfisher (17), ***Yellow-bellied Sapsucker*** (1), Red-breasted

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### GENERAL MEETING

Monday, April 21, 2025

6:30 - 8:00 PM

Fellowship Room, 1551 Montgomery Dr.  
Santa Rosa (Doors open 6:15 PM)

### Birds and Other Wildlife of Borneo

Presented by Jim and Linda Thomason

Borneo is a bird lover's paradise with over 670 species recorded on the island. Approximately 60 of these species are endemic. The island is also home to Orangutans and several other species of monkeys. Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei each own part of Borneo — the third largest island on Earth. Jim and Linda visited Sabah state in Malaysian Borneo in August and September 2024 on a tour with Keith Valentine of Rockjumper Birding tours and then visited for a few days with the Orangutans in Tanjung Puting National Park in Indonesian Borneo. In all, the group observed 284 bird species.



Whiteside's Trogon  
Courtesy of Jim Thomason

For more than 60 years, Jim Thomason has been involved in photography. He and his partner, Linda, were introduced to birding in 1999 on a trip to Venezuela and have made numerous wildlife and birding trips to observe new species ever since. This program will feature images of many birds they observed in Borneo, as well several Orangutan families and other primates.

Monday, May 19, 2025

5:30 - 7:00 PM

Shady Oaks Picnic Area  
Spring Lake Regional Park  
393 Violetti Road, Santa Rosa

### Annual Picnic & Chapter Awards

Our last gathering before September. Enjoy a light pizza meal. If you like, bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Plates, napkins, cups, beverages provided. ADA accessible, close to parking and restrooms. Parking pass required or pay 1-day fee. See you there! Questions or info: (707) 241-5548.

**CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**

Continued from page 1

Sapsucker (9), Acorn Woodpecker (361), Downy Woodpecker (25), Nuttall's Woodpecker (95), Hairy Woodpecker (33), Pileated Woodpecker (10), Northern Flicker (126), American Kestrel (41), Merlin (2), Peregrine Falcon (3), Black Phoebe (132), Say's Phoebe (46), Hutton's Vireo (11), Steller's Jay (53), California Scrub-Jay (209), American Crow (1542), Common Raven (109), Chestnut-backed Chickadee (165), Oak Titmouse (329), Tree Swallow (30), Violet-green Swallow (3), Bushtit (315), Wrentit (3), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (216), Golden-crowned Kinglet (19), White-breasted Nuthatch (120), Pygmy Nuthatch (4), Brown Creeper (39), **Rock Wren** (1), Pacific Wren (3), Bewick's Wren (64), European Starling (3875), Northern Mockingbird (52), Western Bluebird (340), Varied Thrush (12), Hermit Thrush (92), American Robin (1376), Cedar Waxwing (118), House Sparrow (9), American Pipit (62), House Finch (440), Purple Finch (53), Pine Siskin (57), Lesser Goldfinch (283), American Goldfinch (35), Chipping Sparrow (1), Lark Sparrow (3), Fox Sparrow (29), Dark-eyed Junco (867), White-crowned Sparrow (700), Golden-crowned Sparrow (3392), White-throated Sparrow (26), Savannah Sparrow (17), Song Sparrow (128), **Swamp Sparrow** (cw), Lincoln's Sparrow (16), California Towhee (343), Rufous-crowned Sparrow (9), Spotted Towhee (116), Western Meadowlark (418), Red-winged Blackbird (407), Brown-headed Cowbird (15), Brewer's Blackbird (390), Great-tailed Grackle (cw), Orange-crowned Warbler (5), Common Yellowthroat (1), Yellow-rumped Warbler (508), Townsend's Warbler (31), Western Tanager (1).

**Gene Hunn and Liz Lewis were co-compilers.**

**Sonoma Valley, Dec. 27, 2024**

This Friday CBC represented the 20th Annual Sonoma Valley Count, sponsored by Redwood Region Ornithological Society and Sonoma Ecology Center.

Once again, we dodged the rain, which eased off about 5:00 AM, allowing for some limited early AM owling. Dawn broke clear and calm! This year also marks the changing of the guard, as Suzie Silverman took the baton from Gene Hunn and ran with it. More than 100 intrepid observers in some 20 teams fanned out across the 13 sectors of the 15-mile diameter circle. Suzie is accepting the responsibility for compiling and reporting details to National Audubon.

We gathered after dark at the Sonoma Community Center to compile the results, share highlights, and to enjoy a fine dinner prepared by chef Eithne Bullick. Suzie and Richard Dale – our Sonoma Ecology Center partner – focused on collated incoming data from group leaders while trying to eat. After all the data was in, we had recorded 162 species and counted

60,448 individual birds, smack on for the long term average for species and close to the average of 61,510 individuals. Four additional species were noted during count-week (Horned Grebe, Semipalmated Plover, Glaucous Gull and Northern Pygmy-Owl).

As usual, the most diverse regions were Wingo (119 species) and Petaluma Wetlands/Tolay, a.k.a “Pet/Tolay” (117 species, plus three of our four count-week species). Exceptional high counts were recorded for several dabbling duck species, notably Northern Pintail (3772), American Wigeon (2537), and Green-winged Teal (1202), plus 479 Cackling Geese, likely in response to our wet late Fall and early Winter. The Viansa wetlands were flooded and crawling (paddling?) with ducks.

Unusual species included our first ever Whimbrel and Long-eared Owl, a Red-necked Grebe, Ferruginous Hawks, Burrowing Owls, California Thrashers, and Rock Wrens.

**Sonoma** sector counted 73 Anna's Hummingbirds, a Sora, a Green Heron, ten Great-horned Owls, and 14 Lark Sparrows. **Highlands** scored with the pre-dawn Long-eared Owl, 10 Mandarin Ducks, four Rufous-crowned and four White-throated Sparrows. **Schellville** added a pair of Golden Eagles. **Wingo** counted thousands of waterfowl, including seven Redheads, Eared and Western Grebes, 124 Black-crowned Night-Herons, a pair of Bald Eagles, a Ferruginous Hawk, a Burrowing Owl and two Rock Wrens. **Pet/Tolay** includes Shollenberger Park, Ellis Creek Polishing Ponds, and Tolay Regional Park, a lot of ground to cover. Pet/Tolay teams found Red-necked and Clark's Grebes, the elusive Black and Ridgway's Rails, eight White-throated Swifts, 28 White-tailed Kites and 33 Northern Harriers, three Barn and one Burrowing Owls, and our lone Great-tailed Grackle. **Adobe** in east Petaluma reported Sora and Virginia Rails, a Ferruginous Hawk, 35 American Kestrels, plus a Merlin and a Peregrine, a Northern House Wren, two Rufous-crowned Sparrows, plus two Orange-crowned Warblers. **Glen Ellen** had a Wood Duck, an Osprey, and four Golden-crowned Kinglets. **Trinity** found 21 Hooded Mergansers, our only Spotted Sandpiper, a Green Heron, a Merlin, and a California Thrasher. Finally, last but not least, **Napa Ridge** added another Merlin, another thrasher, many woodpeckers, three Pacific Wrens, and seven Brown-headed Cowbirds.

Special thanks to Suzie Silverman for organizing & compiling, Eithne Bullick for the dinner, and Richard Dale for SEC support. Next year's count day for Sonoma Valley CBC will be Tuesday, December 30, 2025.

*Editor's note: Limited space led to sharing Santa Rosa and Sonoma Valley CBC results in this Leaves issue. We deeply appreciate Gene Hunn's service and all counters for Santa Rosa and Sonoma Valley plus 2 Petaluma areas! Thanks for the fascinating reports.*



## REMEMBRANCES OF LARRY

*Edited by Susan Kirks*

*Larry Broderick, our dear friend and Madrone Audubon Board member, unexpectedly passed away on Dec. 31, 2024. On Feb. 23, 2025, Larry's family and friends hosted a lovely Celebration of Life at Hidden Valley Elementary School in Santa Rosa. Larry's life, his creativity, his individuality, cultivation of his expertise in raptors, and his deep love for his life partner, Sameth, and their 3 sons, Elljay, Preston and Tyler, were conveyed through stories and memories. We asked you, our members, to share your remembrances for this Leaves issue. We appreciate these submissions and hope your own experiences with Larry will be similarly remembered.*

Larry Broderick was a special person – to me and to many others. He came to Bird Rescue as I was finishing my time there. He was wanting encouragement and collaboration as a young bird rescue/hawk specialist. He learned everything he could, and then more – from everyone he could.

Larry was dedicated to raising his sons while at the same time investing a huge amount of his life to protecting the environment. In November 2009, we did early bird surveys as Jenner Headlands was being purchased. His connection with Sonoma Land Trust and its staff was firmly established. September 2010 started many Fall days at the Coast as he proposed regular watches at Jenner Headlands' "hawk hill." Larry wrote: "I can just feel the excitement of FEHAs... (Ferruginous Hawks, a species Jenner Headlands is known for overwintering in their prairies. ..the birds cruising through and I would love to see them as they go on." He sought advice from Allen Fish, then head of Golden Gate Raptor Observatory, as he built a robust HawkWatch program above Jenner.

In 2012, we searched for a Golden Eagle and its possible nest on Little Black Mountain, a recent property of Sonoma Land Trust. The adjacent landowner wrote "Thank you for bringing the eagle magic with you".

Larry's presence in Sonoma County is large and his passing leaves a big hole. West County HawkWatch and the Raptor Resource Page has some nice photos!

There was also a tribute to his attention to youth and how Larry carried books that he could give to kids!

He gave a great deal to the general public:.. lots of learning and exchange of info, leading public walks and collaborating with Jenner Headlands, Sonoma Land Trust, with Solano Land Trust... and with Madrone Audubon. As he planned raptor hikes, his focus was on the birds and the environment. Along with that, all people were accepted and their knowledge furthered by Larry's inclusive approach.

He was a master at sharing his enjoyment and knowledge of Nature through raptors.

– Diane Hichwa



*Ferruginous Hawk*

*Courtesy of Tom Reynolds*

I met Larry about 10 years ago when I retired to my hometown of Santa Rosa. I first met him on birding trips with the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation at Delta Pond and with Madrone Audubon at Santa Rosa Creek Trail. My most formative trips though were with Larry at the Jenner Headlands, Skaggs Island and at Tolay Lake where his passion for raptors was full tilt. Larry was the consummate gentleman and met each birdwatcher at their level, then took them up a notch. I will not look in the hills for Golden Eagles or from the cliffs for migratory hawks and not have Larry's name on my lips.

– Linda Farley

I never actually saw Larry in person. I knew him from our virtual monthly Madrone Audubon Board meetings. In those meetings, I was immediately and deeply impacted by the joy that Larry sent out as he spoke about his sons.

Larry was a proud and happy father firstly, and that gave him the contentment and peace to enjoy his love for his wonderful raptors.

He impressed me in such a positive way, He will be missed.

– Claudia Rannikar

Larry's and my paths met at Jenner Headlands in the early 2000s just after the property was acquired and conserved. I enjoyed accompanying some of Larry's raptor outings and he generously asked for my input when we observed multiple badger digs. Larry was one of the early leaders of the many hikes by large groups of people at the headlands. I assessed the 1300-acre grassland portion of the Jenner Headlands for badgers, confirming their presence, not known at the time of acquisition and conservation. Larry knew I gave direct input to the stewards regarding protecting badgers in their habitat. My input was not very welcomed, as part of it regarded the fact of too much encroachment and too many people in large groups trampling into the grassland. Larry and I shared many conversations over the years about the imbalance of prioritizing people over wildlife and the focus on public access on public and private lands. I appreciated that Larry often "went against the grain" with his

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## REMEMBRANCES OF LARRY

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own authentic interest in environmental protection first and people in habitat after that. Larry had a way of blending in with the land where he led outings, attentive to his surroundings as the leader. His outings were very popular and very well attended as were his classroom teaching sessions on raptor history and identification. Larry wanted people who came on his outings to be able to understand how special our birds and wildlife in Sonoma County are. He studied multiple sources for many years, and he always acknowledged the late Monte Kirven as one of his main mentors. The stresses Larry and his family faced, losing their home in the 2017 wildfires, with Larry staying behind after evacuation of the neighborhood to try and save their and others' homes, was well known. Larry lived an exceptionally full life. I so enjoyed following him and the family on Facebook when they took trips during vacation time. Larry's priority in life was his family. He loved his life partner, Sameth, and their three sons. Larry always particularly enjoyed his relationship with and walks for Solano Land Trust. He was always engaged in each conservation action issue Madrone Audubon needed to address, and he always aligned with the highest level of environmental protection. Larry would sometimes call in to our virtual Board meetings from one of his son's baseball practices or games. He gave "make it work" an authentic meaning, to balance his many responsibilities and interests. I will miss Larry. I hope he often visits his loved ones in Spirit.

– Susan Kirks

I met Larry in 2015 when I took my family on one of his Birds of Prey hikes with Solano Land Trust. We had always been interested in raptors, but this was our first time with an expert. Larry's knowledge, willingness to share, and larger-than-life enthusiasm were infectious. His passion and excitement made the hike like going to a sporting event. We came home, buzzing from the day, and signed up for all the hikes that season. Since then, I attended and photographed almost all hikes each year. I observed Larry's art and science of identifying birds and his method of interaction, teaching people at all levels how to identify Birds of Prey through some basic and advanced observations. He will be greatly missed.

– Adrian Phillip Johnson

**For planting and habitat  
consideration, see our  
Tree & Vegetation Planting Guide**

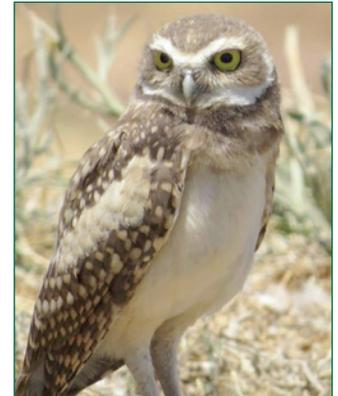
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Tree and Plant List.pdf](https://madroneaudubon.org/pdf/Tree%20and%20Plant%20List.pdf)

## The California Burrowing Owl in Crisis

by Christine Cohen

Jeff Miller, Senior Conservation Advocate of The Center for Biological Diversity, presented a fascinating overview of the Western Burrowing Owl in California on March 17th via Zoom. Jeff provided many pictures, graphs and maps that augmented his narrative. The thrust of his presentation was why Burrowing Owls should be designated as a candidate for the California Endangered Species Act listing.

Based on studies dating back to over 30 years, the California Burrowing Owl's population has dropped precipitously to the point of very few existing viable nesting locations. There are no viable nesting owls in the Bay Area. Burrowing Owls live underground, where they may raise four to five young. They live on land with low vegetation so that, when they pop out of their burrows, they can get a quick look for approaching predators. Breeding season is between February and August. A single family of owls might live on 6.5 acres, heavily dependent upon many factors such as landscape and forage capabilities. Ground Squirrels provide burrows that these owls will use as well as both species sharing in an alarm system against danger. Burrowing Owls greatly benefit from living with these squirrels. Burrowing Owls have a strong site fidelity and do not disperse easily. Once the permanent California Burrowing Owls are extirpated (complete loss of burrow), they no longer nest and reproduce. Another set of Burrowing Owls are the ones that migrate from the north during the winter into parts of California and then return to their homes by the end of winter. They do not remain to nest in California.



*Burrowing Owls  
Courtesy of Tom Reynolds*

Although Burrowing Owls once flourished in California and are highly adaptable, many factors have converged to wipe out the native populations. The Central Valley, Imperial Valley, Coachella Valley, Palo Verde Valley and northern desert regions retain a small fraction of nesting owls that once existed. The Imperial Valley may offer the best environment for the owl's continued existence. For many of us, the factors that conspire against the Burrowing Owl come as no surprise. Jeff described in detail the following causes of the Burrowing Owl's disappearance: habitat loss, diminishing regions, development, ground squirrel drop-off, failure to maintain nest boxes, climate change, trapping, vehicle strikes, solar farm infrastructure, wind turbines (most particularly Altamont Pass with 23,000 known owl deaths), shooting, vandalizing, electrified fences, aircraft strikes, pesticides, feral cats, dogs, ravens and mesocarnivores, whose diet is 30%-70% meat, the rest of the diet being vegetation, fruits, and insects.

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## BURROWING OWLS

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Jeff continued with what can be done to help save the Burrowing Owl along with designation of California Endangered Species status. These are as follows: no more evictions from nests and homeland, captive breeding, releasing in groups, prioritizing, managing pro-owl public lands, identification of the bigger colonies, statewide ownership, and breeding surveys to keep on top of loss. The California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife has to play an important role in the Burrowing Owl's preservation. The Burrowing Owl needs support from as many environmental, wildlife and bird organizations as possible. Jeff's documentation is stunning. There are other biologists, such as Shawn Smallwood, who are also working hard to save this amazing bird. The alarm bells have sounded decades ago. Jeff Miller is hopeful that California will hear those bells this time around.

*Editor's note: Additional information about Burrowing Owls will appear in a subsequent issue.*

## Chapter Awards 2025 - Nominations Open

Almost six years have passed since our last Chapter Awards in 2019. Please review Award descriptions and send your nominations for a deserving member and/or leader to us (susankirks333@gmail.com) by April 20, 2025. Award recipients will be announced at the May 19 picnic and featured in Summer Leaves.

**Bowen Award:** Evalyn and Les Bowen were two of the co-founders of Madrone Audubon in 1967. Evalyn was our first Chapter President. The Bewick's Wren was selected for our symbol and the original insignia was designed by Les. Les also served as Sanctuary Chair.

The Bowen Award was established in 1988 in memory of two very active people who made this Chapter happen. This award acknowledges individuals for outstanding contributions to the Chapter.

**Bewick's Wren Award:** The Bewick's Wren was selected as our Chapter's symbol when Madrone Audubon was founded in 1967, and Les Bowen designed the insignia. The Bewick's Wren, as observed, is very active in its movements and its sound is very energetic. The Bewick's Wren Award acknowledges individuals who have given exceptional service to the organization.

**Bentley-Smith Award:** Madrone Audubon instituted the Bentley-Smith Award in 2002 to honor Martha Bentley and Ernestine Smith. This award acknowledges a Madrone member for contributions to the protection and enhancement of the environment through education and/or conservation action in the community.

Martha Bentley and Ernestine Smith joined the fledgling Madrone Audubon Society as charter members in 1967. They were lifelong environmental advocates and inspirations to us all. As educators, Martha (through the Bird Rescue Center), and "Ernie" (through the Bouverie Preserve of Audubon Canyon Ranch) reached untold numbers of children and adults. As environmental advocates they worked tirelessly to protect wildlife and habitats, and to improve our Earth community.

**Special Recognition Award:** Presented to a community group or member, a business, agency or contact who has assisted Madrone Audubon or the environment in a noticeable way.

## New Members

### Petaluma

Janis Lynne  
Mary Redwine

### Santa Rosa

Kristine & John Murphey  
Sandra Settle

## Donations

*In memory of*  
**Martha Bentley**  
*by Alida Morzenti*

*In memory of*  
**Larry Broderick**  
*by Caroline Sloan*

*In memory of*  
**Jane & Jim Cochrane**  
*by Elinor Taylor*

## HABITAT GARDENING

Welcome to our new Habitat Gardening program volunteer:

A.J. Lemaire

## Spring Membership Renewals are due now

## Thank You, White Cap

As the 2025 nesting season has begun, we wish to express our gratitude to White Cap, located at 300 E. Todd Road in Santa Rosa, for a deep discount (almost 70%) of our purchase of several traffic delineators and bases. We use delineators and bases as "fence posts" for the West 9th Street nesting support project. White Cap is a construction equipments and accessories company where we've made purchases in the past. The West 9th Street support project, including rice straw from Western Farm Supply in Santa Rosa, will be installed before April 10. We hope our members enjoy seeing the nesting herons and egrets this year, and we hope our nesting support project, in our 13th year, will support Bird Rescue Center volunteers in their daily efforts. The City of Santa Rosa is very cooperative in issuing an encroachment permit for us, which Madrone Audubon manages throughout the season.



Our Board and Conservation Committee meetings are held virtually. For Board meeting information, contact President Susan Kirks, 707-241-5548, susankirks333@gmail.com. For Conservation Committee meetings and information, please contact Diane Hichwa, 707-785-1922, dhichwa@earthlink.net. Also, please visit our website, www.madroneaudubon.org for updates.

## April/May 2025 Outings

Bring binoculars and wear outdoor clothing suitable for the weather forecast. Our outings are free for members and the public. (We may have binoculars to loan for your outing.)

Thursday, April 10, 2025  
8:30-10:30 AM

### Cloverdale River Walk

Cloverdale

**Leader:** Janet Bosshard

Take Hwy 101N to exit #522, turn right around to McCray Rd. Follow to near the end. Parking lot is on your left. Parking pass is required. We will walk the 1.1 mile flat asphalt path and return the same way. Info: (707) 480-3432

Thursday, April 24, 2025  
8:30-10:30 AM

### Rural Cemetery in Santa Rosa

**Leader:** Jenet Bosshard

Meet on the corner of Franklin Ave. and Terrace Way, the original entrance. Parking is open at the Presbyterian Church, corner of Pacific Ave. and McDonald Ave. We will stroll the dirt paths looking for woodpeckers, sparrows and other Spring birds. Info: (707) 480-3432.



Merlin Courtesy of Tom Reynolds

Saturday, April 26, 2025  
10:00 AM-3:00 PM

### Earth Day at Safari West

3115 Porter Creek Rd, Santa Rosa

Annual Earth Day celebration, open to the public. Stop by and say hi at our display. Madrone Audubon shares a display with Paula Lane Action Network, badger conservation nonprofit. We'll be on the lawn with multiple local, regional and international conservation organizations. A great individual and/or family activity.

Thursday, May 8, 2025  
8:30-10:30 AM

### Sonoma Valley Regional Park

13630 Sonoma Hwy 12, Glen Ellen

**Leader:** Janet Bosshard

Parking permit is required. We will walk the level asphalt path through the park, listening for Spring bird songs and looking for nesting activity. Rain will cancel the walk. Info: (707) 480-3432.



Lesser Goldfinch  
Courtesy of Tom Reynolds

Monday, May 19, 2025  
5:30-7:00 PM

### Annual Picnic & Chapter Awards

Spring Lake Reg. Park, Shady Oaks Picnic Area  
393 Violetti Rd, Santa Rosa

Light pizza meal with time to commune. Plates, napkins, beverages, cups provided. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Close to parking (parking permit required or pay daily fee), ADA accessible, restrooms nearby and Environmental Discovery Center nearby. Our last gathering before September! See you there! Questions and info: (707) 241-5548.

Thursday, May 22, 2025  
8:30-10:30 AM

### Spring Lake Regional Park

Santa Rosa

**Leader:** Janet Bosshard

Parking permit is required. We will meet at the restrooms, near the swimming lagoon. Spring birds will be around the lake. Hoping for a nice Spring day. Info: (707) 480-3432.

Sunday, April 27, 2025  
9:30 AM-2:00 PM

### Earth Day in Windsor

#### Earth Day event at Farmers Market

Windsor Town Green,  
701 Windsor Town Green  
McClelland Circle, Windsor

We'll host a display with many other groups for Windsor's Earth Day celebration. Stop by our display to say hi, select some fruits and vegetables for your weekly meals.

Saturday, May 3, 2025  
8:30-10:30 AM

### Santa Rosa Creek Trail (West of Willowside Road) Santa Rosa

**Leader:** Linda Fraley

Drive on Willowside Road to the junction with Santa Rosa Creek Trail (just north of the Waldorf School). Info on parking and any questions, (559) 779-5211.

## OUT & ABOUT

### Winged Wonders, April 11 - October 2025

Sonoma Botanical Garden, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM daily, closed Tuesdays  
12841 Sonoma Hwy 12, Glen Ellen

Visit the fantastical exhibition of larger-than-life bird sculptures, created from all natural materials by artists Donna Dodson & Andy Moerlein. See [sonomabg.org](http://sonomabg.org) to learn more or call (707) 494-7585 for info and questions. (Carolyn Greene, long-time volunteer and Naturalist, is arranging several activities.)

### Wednesday, April 23, 2025, 9:30 AM-12:30 PM

Community Lion Ambassador Training  
Bouverie Preserve (Audubon Canyon Ranch)  
13815 Sonoma Hwy 12, Glen Ellen

A 3-hour training for community members to learn about mountain lions and research findings of the Living with Lions Project. Community Lion Ambassadors will be empowered to speak with community members about mountain lions, receiving a background and learning about trends in the training session. Questions and to sign up, [liz.martins@egret.org](mailto:liz.martins@egret.org), (707)695-1190.



# Observations

Winter 2024 - 2025 • Dan Nelson • 479-2918 • [birdsurf64@sbcglobal.net](mailto:birdsurf64@sbcglobal.net)

Eurasian Wigeon	1/9	Estero Trail, Pt. Reyes (2nd pond)	LN, et al
Eurasian Wigeon	1/24	Novato; pond behind Target off Hwy 101	JH
Long-tailed Duck	3/8	Salmon Creek mouth	E.Cameron
Common Merganser (4)	3/18	Bodega Harbor, North end	JP, BDP, DN
Redhead (male)	3/3	Marsh Drive, Novato	DE
Snow Goose (25)	1/20	Ahmann/Buchli Station Rd. Napa Co.	LK, et al
Ross' Goose (12)	1/20	Ahmann/Buchli Station Rd. Napa Co.	LK, et al
Gr. White-fronted Goose (125)	1/20	Ahmann/Buchli Station Rd. Napa Co.	LK, et al
Tundra Swan (1)	2/2	Sebastopol Community Center	MK, CH, EC
Red-necked Grebe (1 alt.)	3/18	Bodega Harbor at Campbell Cove	DN, JP, BDP
Yellow-billed Loon (cont.)	Jan-Feb	Bodega Harbor	M.Ob
Yellow-billed Loon (cont.)	3/11	Bodega Harbor	D & DH
Red-throated Loon (1)	3/18	Bodega Harbor, North end	JP, BDP, DN
Lesser Black-backed Gull	3/5-6	Reclamation Rd	GH, CM
Iceland "Kumlien's" Gull	3/11	Doran Park	D & DH
Black Skimmer (3)	1/9	Estero Trail, Pt. Reyes (2nd pond)	LN, et al
Black Skimmer (1)	2/28	Corte Madera ponds, Marin Co.	BB, RC
Bald Eagle (2) nesting	2/23	Mare Island, Solano Co.	R. Leong
Bald Eagle (2) nesting	3/18	Bodega Harbor near Spud Pt.	DN, JP, BDP
Bald Eagle	2/17	Santa Rosa Creek Trail/ Delta Pond	DN
Prairie Falcon (circling fly-by)	2/14	Paula Lane, Petaluma (first for yard)	DN
Short-eared Owl (9)	1/23	Hudemann Slough, S. of ponds	SC, DN, et al
Burrowing Owl (1)	3/9	Tolay Regional Park	ME, et al
Barred Owl (heard)	2/25	Salmon Creek Rd.	PC
Western Cattle Egret (2)	3/15	"A Place to Play" Park, Santa Rosa	SS
American Bittern	2/26	Shollenberger Park	DN
Pacific Golden Plover (2)	1/20	Reclamation Rd.	DN
Lewis's Woodpecker (many)	Feb.	East Side Rd. Lake Berryessa	M.Ob
Rufous Hummingbird (male)	3/18	Glen Ellen residence	MB
Allen's Hummingbird (male)	3/4	Bodega Dunes C.G.	DN
White-throated Swift (4)	3/6	Shollenberger Park	DN
Mountain Bluebird (4)	2/17	East Side Rd. Lake Berryessa	D & DH
Horned Lark (4)	3/8	Reclamation Rd.	SS
Horned Lark (2)	3/17	Shollenberger Park	DN
Phainopepla	11/24	Helen Putnam Park	TB, RM
Warbling Vireo (FOS)	3/16	Arroyo Way, Sonoma	MGS
Nashville Warbler	2/4	Diekmann's Store, Bodega Bay	BD, et al
Tricolored Blackbird (1)	3/15	Chanslor Ranch, Salmon Creek	MF
Hooded Oriole (male- FOS)	3/15	Arroyo Way, Sonoma	MGS
Vesper Sparrow	1/17-2/17	Eticuera day-use area, Lake Berryessa	D & DH
Swamp Sparrow	Dec-Jan	Sebastopol Community Center	JS, et al
Swamp Sparrow (2)	2/16	Willow Creek Rd.	DN

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## 2025 Bird-A-Thon is Underway

The Spring fundraiser is underway! Last year, we raised a little over \$4,300 to support our operations, programs and activities, including habitat gardening. Our 2025 goal is \$4,000. Please choose your preferred team for a donation or consider a general donation (which will be divided among teams) mailed to Madrone Audubon, PO Box 1911, Santa Rosa, CA 95402. We appreciate our dedicated BAT teams who will share their stories in the September Leaves, along with total funds raised. Please help us meet our goal! If you would like to begin a new team, be sure to contact us for info on how to get started. It's a great way to serve our Chapter! (707-241-5548)

### Grey-headed Seersuckers

*Team Leaders:* Ken Wilson & Ian Morrison ([kenwilson@talontours.com](mailto:kenwilson@talontours.com))

### Oakmont Birding Buddies

*Team Leader:* Carolyn Greene ([cgnpark@icloud.com](mailto:cgnpark@icloud.com))

### March Madness

*Team Leader:* Gene Hunn ([enhunn323@comcast.net](mailto:enhunn323@comcast.net))

### Burrowing Owls

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Bird-A-Thon 2025 will be active to June 25, 2025. Please contact your preferred team leader or make a general donation.



*Male Western Bluebird  
Courtesy of Tom Reynolds*



**Madrone Audubon Society**

Post Office Box 1911  
Santa Rosa, California 95402

**April/May 2025**

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



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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.

- President:** Susan Kirks - susankirks333@gmail.com ..... 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) - susankirks333@gmail.com ... 241-5548
- Conservation:** Diane Hichwa - dhichwa@earthlink.net ..... 785-1922
- Renewable Energy Subcommittee:** Susan Kirks ..... 241-5548
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- Native Songbird Care & Conservation** ..... 484-6502
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- National Audubon Society:** 225 Varick Street, NY, NY 10014 ..... 212-979-3000

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Please complete this form if you wish to join Madrone Audubon or renew your Madrone membership

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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