



Madrone LEAVES

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

VOLUME 58

February/March 2025

Number 4

Sad News

We share with our members the unexpected passing on December 31, 2024, of Larry Broderick. Larry was the loving life partner of Sameth and father of Tyler, Elljay and Preston, and our friend, Board member, and dedicated conservationist.

A GoFundMe site, available for support of Larry's family, can be viewed in our Facebook page post or via this link: <https://gofund.me/ac97f411>

Our April-May 2025 *Leaves* will feature remembrances and sharing about Larry whose life and dedication to birds of prey and conservation were very broad. Please share your memories and photos via email to susankirks333@gmail.com (by March 6, please). Our deep condolences to Larry's family; rest in peace.



January 2025 Southern CA Wildfires

Major fire events, especially the Eaton and Palisades fires, have left devastation and trauma, with losses of lives and displaced residents, wildlife, pets, animals, with destroyed habitat as well. Community groups are coming together to help in Altadena, Pasadena and the Los Angeles area. (Please see our Facebook page for posts and shares.) The Hughes Fire north of LA was fortunately contained within a few days. Members of Pasadena Audubon, Santa Monica Bay Audubon and Los Angeles Audubon were impacted. The Eaton Canyon Nature Center, where Pasadena Audubon hosted meetings and events, burned.

GENERAL MEETING

Monday, February 17, 2025
6:30 - 7:30 PM

A New Paradigm for July 4th

Zoom meeting link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83997437633>
Meeting ID: 839 9743 7633
Or call in via phone: 1-669-900-9128
Meeting ID: 83997437633#
or
1-669-444-9171
Meeting ID: 83997437633#

In 2024, Madrone Audubon is advocating for Sonoma County cities and communities to discontinue fireworks. Our advocacy is to replace fireworks with drone light shows, silent and creative, colorful drone light shows. We'll review our outreach in 2024 and discuss plans for 2025. Suggestions and ideas welcomed. Discussion will be moderated by Chapter President Susan Kirks. We look forward to your input and our collective advocacy.

Monday, March 17, 2025
6:30 - 7:45 PM

Protecting California's Burrowing Owls

Zoom Meeting Link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86090764312>
Meeting ID: 860 9076 4312
Or call in via phone: 1-669-444-9171
Meeting ID: 86090764312#
1-669-900-9128,
Meeting ID: 86090764312#

Presented by Jeff Miller with the Center for Biological Diversity. Jeff will discuss the status of the Western Burrowing Owl throughout California, the campaign to secure legal protections, the recent designation as a candidate species for California Endangered Species Act listing, and the pending decision on endangered or threatened status for regional Burrowing Owl populations in California.

Jeff Miller is a senior conservation advocate with the Center for Biological Diversity. Jeff wrote the 2003 and 2024 state listing petitions for the Burrowing Owl and organized the coalition of conservation groups and biologists advocating for state protections. Jeff's latest book is Bay Area Wildlife: An Irreverent Guide, published by Heyday Books and available at <https://irreverentnaturalist.com/>



Burrowing Owl
Courtesy of Tom Reynolds



WEST SONOMA COUNTY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 2024

Edited by Chris Grabill, John Lundblad & Susan Kirks

The 58th annual West Sonoma County Christmas Bird Count is complete.

Sunday, December 29, 2024, was a clear weather day from about 10:00 a.m. A total of 96 participants recorded 159 species and 28,811 individual birds. Compared to 2023 totals, 103 participants recorded 170 species and 27,227 individual birds. The West County Christmas Bird Count was part of the 125th National Audubon Christmas Bird Count. Our gratitude to all team leaders and participants for your observation skills and day of service. Here are many of our team stories.

Area 1

Jonive Road; Colin Talcroft, leader

Area 2

Freestone/Monte Rio; Ken Wilson, leader

Total miles 18.25, 7 hours total.

Miles by foot 3.25, hours by foot 4.

Miles by car 15, hours by car 3.

6 participants

Area 3

Valley Ford; Kaitlin Magoon, leader

Our team of seven counted 53 species in the corner of the county between Freestone, Bodega, and Valley Ford. Thank you to Greg and Kathi Jacobs for doing a run-through the day before, to Scott Campbell and his son, Forrest, for getting to Freestone early



Harris's Sparrow Courtesy of Kaitlin Magoon

and in the rain to catch the dawn birds (which included a Fox Sparrow), and to Mike Hall and Kandice Strako, each of whom drove through the rainstorm from other counties. It was a joy to do the count with such a dedicated, experienced, and good-humored group. We also had the pleasure of spending the morning with Beth

Schlanker, a photographer with the Press Democrat, and talking by phone to reporter Madison Smalstig about this year's bird count. It was a quiet, but productive, morning. Despite us waiting to set off until after the downpour, the birds-on-the-wire weren't yet in position. The Bodega farm pond, at nearly twice its seasonal size, only gave us a few Ring-necked Ducks, some Bufflehead, and a single Canvasback. Surrounding fields, though, drew Ravens by the dozens. Although we found fewer species overall and in lower numbers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Black Phoebes met us at nearly every stop, along with strong showings of Say's Phoebes

and Northern Mockingbirds. Later in the morning, nearly any location with tree cover revealed a Townsend Warbler, some Pygmy Nuthatches, and at least one Nuttall's Woodpecker.

The first surprise of the day was in the town of Bodega, where Forrest, one of our new team members, spotted a Merlin. In the afternoon, we scoped distant fields for raptors while waiting for grassland birds to flush or to pop up on fences. Western Meadowlarks were plentiful, but surprisingly few Yellow-rumped Warblers and Western Bluebirds were seen. Although we carefully watched barnyard flocks for flashes of color, we saw only a handful of Red-winged Blackbirds. Brewer's Blackbirds, however, were abundant, with Mike counting over a thousand in one flock. Our annual game of 'hawk or a farm cat?' netted us mostly cats, more imposing and raptor-shaped than ever. Valley Ford-Freestone Road, where Red-tailed Hawks tend to congregate, was flooded and closed to traffic, so Scott and Forrest took to the blocked-off road by foot from one direction while Mike later counted from the other. At the Valley Ford wetlands, a lone pair of Pied-billed Grebes had the waters to themselves, while along the Estero, there were a good number of wading birds, including Snowy Egrets and a Great Blue Heron, both species we missed last year. Our one gull fly-over was expertly identified by Kandice. We also heard Marsh Wrens and more Meadowlarks, and saw White-crowns, Golden-crowns, and a Song Sparrow. Although there were no Savannah or Lincoln's Sparrows, we did have fleeting glimpses of a rare sparrow that baffled us, so we grabbed some photos and eventually identified it as an immature Harris's Sparrow. I also went back on New Year's Day for the final day of Count Week and found a nice little group of Killdeer, and right at dusk finally caught sight of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker that was heard, but unconfirmed the previous year.

Area 4

Joy Road; John Coddling, leader

Area 5

Salmon Creek Road; Sean Jeane, leader



June and Hazel

Courtesy of Chris Grabill



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Continued from page 2

We had a total of seven birders (including June, 11, and Hazel, 8) and managed 68 species on the day. It should be noted that it was June's 11th birthday! Our numbers were lower than some recent years, but about average overall. Owling in the early morning was mostly fruitless due to the rainy weather, but luckily resulted in one Great-horned Owl found sitting on the overhead wires and three Black-crowned Night Herons on the edge of a pond. Other highlights for the day included two Osprey, one Double-crested Cormorant (thought to be the first ever, but we did have one back in 2012!), one White-throated Sparrow and one Merlin. Also, we were lucky to have Virginia Rails present on the rail pond! Those aren't often present. Had difficulty locating Fox Sparrow, but had one finally to finish off the day.

There weren't any extraordinary species located, but we managed to find most of the regulars, with just one or two exceptions. Yellow Rumps were found in high numbers, with a total of 58. Most other species' counts were lower than usual.

An all-around good day for the CBC!

Area 6

Estero Americano; Peter Colasanti, intrepid canoeist – See 6A below.

Area 6A

Estero Lane; Jennifer Michaud, leader

Estero Lane is the land side portion of Area 6. Jennifer Michaud, Liz Lewis, and Whitney Mortimer birded the block this year and were joined by one landowner, Cindy Eggen, for a portion of the count. We ventured out to the end of Estero Lane to bird on the Sonoma Land Trust property and an adjacent private property, which we gained access to this year through Shanti Edwards of Sonoma Land Trust (SLT). SLT has been extremely supportive of the bird count and accessing Estero Lane. Madrone Audubon is fortunate to have such a great partnership with this local organization. Due to heavy rain, we delayed departure for the count and started mid-morning. The group hiked over grassland, coastal scrub, and along the estuary on the SLT property to start. We had our usual host of characters on the property – both Black and Say's Phoebe, sparrows (White-crowned, Golden-crowned, Savannah, and Song), Western Bluebirds, and lots of blackbirds foraging in the rangelands across the way. Anna's Hummingbird, California Scrub-jay, Bewick's Wren, California Towhee, and Yellow-rumped Warblers were found in the brush. The raptors did not disappoint – We had two adult Bald Eagles fly overhead, numerous American Kestrel, Northern Harrier, Ferruginous Hawk, and many Red-tailed Hawks, including several exhibiting breeding behavior. Peter Colasanti typically canoes the Estero Americano and picks up the waterbirds, but Peter couldn't access the waterway due to the storm. We picked up many birds over the Estero, including large flocks of pintails (300 birds) and other ducks (Buffleheads), Double-crested Cormorant and three species of gulls. During our walk, we also encountered numerous American badger holes. After birding

the SLT property, we headed to the adjacent property owned by Cindy. We hiked down the hill to a large eucalyptus grove and found a flicker and a large gang of non-native Wild Turkeys foraging in the adjacent wetlands. We headed back up the hill to bird a small pine/cypress grove on the property and picked up a Barn Owl, a Great-horned Owl, many hummingbirds in the gardens, a Black-tailed Jackrabbit, and curious deer. On the drive out along Estero Lane, we observed numerous sparrows, bluebirds, a beautiful immature Red-tailed Hawk, and a covey of 50 California Quail. During our count, we observed 43 species and 1,437 individual birds. A special thanks to Shanti Edwards of SLT and the private landowner, Cindy, who provided access and great company.

Area 7 Doran Beach; Dea Freid

Area 7 covers the south shore of Bodega Harbor running from Diekmann's Store through Bird Walk Park, Doran Park and Pinnacle and Shorttail Gulch trails in the South Harbour Development. We are blessed with a wide variety of habitats that often results in a high number of species. This year, we had 7 core team members and Rick LeBadour scouted for interesting birds while on a family vacation. Josh Snead joined our team for the first time, spotting numerous species with eagle-eyes, including an actual eagle. In the morning, we usually cover the harbor through Doran and in the afternoon, we spread out in the S. Harbour Development. Diekmann's often has overwintering rarities and this year, it was a Nashville Warbler, well seen by all who desired. Duck species were down this year and we missed Eurasian Wigeon for the first time in a while and no Northern Shovelers, teal, Gadwall or Northern Pintail. Josh spotted 2 Long-tailed Ducks that Rick had seen the previous day. There were 32 Snowy Plovers seen at Doran Beach, a nice high number. When I first started leading this area, House Wrens and Northern Mockingbirds were considered rare, but are now more commonplace. Notably absent in recent years were Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, which we often saw in the S. Harbour Development, but haven't seen in about 4 or 5 years. Terns can be hit or miss, but this year we saw as many as 7 Forster's Terns seen in most of the stops along the harbor. Ruth Rudesill spotted our only Pelagic Cormorant for the day. Noteworthy were 2 sickly Common Murres, one each in 2 different areas. We usually end at Shorttail Gulch, an excellent and underbirded spot for raptors. We saw 2 Bald Eagles (one adult, one immature), one previously seen by Leah Norwood's group, and Josh spotted a Rough-legged Hawk! We ended up with 102 species for count day and added another 4 species for count week (American Avocet, Savannah Sparrow, Red Knot and Canada Goose).

This was my last year as leader for the area due to mobility issues. Ruth Rudesill will be taking over. In parting, I must say that many of this area's team members have been doing this count even longer than I have. They come in good weather and bad, year after year, and it has been my privilege to have led them.

Editors' Note: Dear Friend, *thank you* for your dedication, leadership and support for so many years, in a very special area of Sonoma County.

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CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Continued from page 3

Area 8

Bodega Bay; Gene Hunn, leader

Gene Hunn for the team: Our team of seven (ultimately eight) met at Porto Bodega as the last drops of rain fell and we then enjoyed a fine day until stopping time. We split into two parties: Party #1: Gene Hunn, Brook O'Connor, Kitty and Pat Wade, joined shortly by Roger Marlowe. We surveyed the west shoreline of Bodega Harbor from the Porto to Gaffney Point, but as the tide was high we began with the upland habitats, checked the tide flats as the tide fell mid-day. We began with the Rail Ponds and adjacent suburbs, then the Spud Point neighborhood.

Party #2: Mike Carozza and Craig and Annette Roth headed north to the Salmon Creek village, then birded the trail south to the Bodega Dunes Campground. High tide in the AM made a beach survey basically impossible. Gene and Mike returned after lunch to hike the beach south from Bodega Dunes, but the high surf seemed to have washed away the Snowy Plover habitat, so we settled for a 2-mile sand hike as good exercise.

The weather was fine, but we found nothing notably rare. Team #1 enjoyed a Peregrine harassing 1000 Godwits and 700 gulls (mostly Short-billed, a.k.a. Mew) at Gaffney Point, though he (likely an adult male) flew off empty-taloned. The brushy slope along the back road north from Spud Point was lively in the sun, with a Lincoln's Sparrow, a Common Yellowthroat, and a Northern House Wren. We found Pygmy Nuthatches at two locations. Team #2 added Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Pine Siskin in the Dunes Campground, but let Lisa Hug's team deal with the mass of gulls at the Salmon Creek delta.

Grand total of 90 species for the day, a bit on the low side.

Area 9

Bodega Head; Dan Nelson

It was a mostly pleasant, sunny day, although it did not begin that way! Overnight rainfall had flooded the Bodega-Valley Ford Road such that detouring south, to Tomales was required to reach the coast, and later to reach home. I arrived at Bodega Head just as rain let up, and bits of sun were breaking through. Temps were 50°F at first, warming to 55°F past noon. Although the wind had let up sufficiently to allow scoping west from Bodega Head, 10-15 feet seas remained from the storm, making it easy for birds to disappear into deep troughs behind the swells. So, numbers of many expected species here were low, or even absent.

After hours of scoping, I covered Campbell Cove and Owl Canyon. The sun was mostly out, warming things up, and the area quite soaked, but many Passerine birds were active and present. There seemed to be a notable resurgence of activity, following preceding days of rain when most birds (especially smaller ones) were on foraging lockdown. So this was fun to see.

All in all, one of the nicer days for this West Sonoma Co. CBC.

Area 10

Bodega Marine Lab; Jackie Sones

Unfortunately, it wasn't a great birding day in Area 10. The conditions were better than expected, given the earlier weather forecast, i.e., not as much rain, but there was heavy rain early (before 8 a.m.), and it was fairly windy for most of the rest of the day. Ocean conditions were rough, making the sea watch portion challenging. And it felt like one of those days where I just missed quite a few species, even common ones, not because they aren't here, but it just wasn't the type of day when sightings were easy to come by. I missed some unusual species that I can sometimes find, e.g., some seabirds and owls, but not for lack of trying. I don't have the numbers in front of me, but the count of 4 Red-necked Grebes is good – we often just see one or two in this area.

Area 11

Cheney Gulch; Janeann Erickson, leader

We were all pleased to see the weather forecast was correct and that the rain ended before we started our counting. We counted at our usual sites - Bodega Bay School, The Inn of the Tides, Salmon Creek Ranch and the Bodega Bay Public Utility Ponds. Our species count was a little low this year, but we did get a fly-over by a Bald Eagle at the ponds.

Area 12

Chanslor Ranch Scott Carey, leader

The storm did as predicted and passed through around 8 a.m., leaving us with a bright day with a bit of a breeze in early afternoon. Waterfowl numbers were slim, but expected with standing water everywhere from a wet December and a flooded Salmon Creek. Several Common Gallinules were a good omen, as they can be missed in our area. Land birds seemed on average, with good numbers of crowned sparrows and scattered Townsend's and Yellow-rumped Warblers. One lone Common Yellowthroat showed itself briefly before moving back into the undergrowth. Scoping the horse pastures paid off with one male Tricolored Blackbird (some years we have bigger numbers) and several Brown-headed Blackbirds. Raptor diversity and numbers seemed on average with a bonus flyover Osprey, but we missed Ferruginous Hawk. The most unexpected bird of the day was a Green Heron we flushed in the canyon along a very flooded Salmon Creek. All in all, a great day and way to send off the coming new year!

Area 13

Boat

Area 14

Highway 1; Lisa Hug, leader

Lisa Hug and Don Kirker comprised the team. We met at the Jenner Overlook at 7:30 a.m. to check on the gulls (south side of the river) in the rain. We faced a daunting task as we estimated over 800 gulls present and at least 750 of them were identified as California Gulls. We did our best. We then focused most of our efforts for the day in watching the sea and trying to locate the

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CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

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Rock Sandpiper that Josh Snead found at Marshall Gulch the week before the count. We were unsuccessful in that endeavor, but we did manage to find another 1000 or so California Gulls on Salmon Creek Beach and another couple hundred at various stops along the coast. Our final guesstimate was around 2200 California Gulls. Landbirding was overall slow, but a Pygmy Nuthatch and Golden-crowned Kinglet added a little extra interest to the day. Fortunately, it did not rain all day.

Area 15

Willow Creek Road; David Berman, leader

Area 16

Duncan's Mills; Mike Heffernon, leader

Area 17

Freezeout Canyon; Peter Leveque, leader

Our team of 10 folks had a great time but, as with most teams, we had a lower than average tally with only 56 species recorded. The Russian River was running full and swift, resulting in few waterbirds, especially ducks. Mallards were the exception with a count of 97. We were surprised to see the Turkey Vultures off their roosts rather early. Many of them were in the air by 8:30. Many of the smaller species, chickadees, bushtits, kinglets, creepers, and wrens, were well represented. The rain had diminished substantially by 10:30, so we took our obligatory Irish Coffee/Eggnog break at Casini's barn. Giel Witt and Erv Patterson continued their tradition of serving the very best of spirits. Post coffee break, the group departed Casini's and traveled and birded Moscow Road to Monte Rio. Fair birding was had in Monte Rio where a few highlights were a flock of 85 Band-tailed Pigeons, eight Anna's Hummingbirds, 5 species of woodpeckers, Peregrine Falcon, and 2 Ospreys. American Robins at 137 were our most abundant species, followed by Brewer's Blackbirds at 107. At a feeder in Monte Rio, we had a brilliant display of a male Downy Woodpecker, a very bright male Townsend's Warbler, a male Lesser Goldfinch, and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Our final bird of the day was a Western Gull on the Monte Rio Bridge.

Area 18

Coleman Valley Road; David Leland, leader

We were five this year. Tiffany and Matt Erickson covered Occidental Arts and Ecology in the morning. Ann Howald, Paula Fleischer, and I (David Leland) counted from Joy Road to Star Mountain, in lingering rain and drizzle. We all gathered at Star Mountain where Phyllis Hughes invited us in to her studio (warm! dry!) for lunch. The afternoon brightened and the wind came up as we birded down toward Hwy 1 before returning to Occidental. We tallied 44 species. This is quite low for this area. In previous years, we have often tallied in the 50s and had 64 species in 2016.

We saw no ducks, missed several raptor species, saw no blackbirds, no finches, and fewer species of woodpeckers

and nuthatches than in other years, among other misses. Our most abundant species were bluebirds, robins and juncos. We saw 8 kestrels. They seemed to be everywhere in the ridgetop grasslands.

Area 19

Austin Creek; Stacy Li

For the first time in ten years, I have no responsibilities for the West Sonoma County Christmas Bird Count. The New CBC coordinators and compilers, John Lundblad and Chris Grabill, have taken up the job with enthusiasm. Oh oh – Brock Dolman, last year's leader, is out of the country and none of the Austin Creek observers want to lead. So here I am, leading an unfamiliar area with only tentative commitments from seasoned observers. Peter Colasanti heard that I might be going solo, so he asked a good friend, Corinne Williams, to keep me company. It was raining with some gusts. I anticipated a hard day. Corinne and I carpooled up to Mays Canyon Road. It was dark, with limited visibility from thick vegetation. Luckily, Corinne is an audible birder. We got three species here in 45 minutes of birding. Next, we hit Neeley Road with 30 minutes of nothing. Not much at Northwood Golf Course. Then, we checked out Monte Rio River access. Russian River was very high and we found 12 Mallards curled up together on the north bank. A Subaru Outback drove up with two individuals, and I assumed they were birders because they were wearing binocs. Suddenly, out came two shopping bags and the Mallard population became 21; they charged up the bank like Roosevelt's Rough Riders going up San Juan Hill toward these individuals. The shopping bags were filled with bread crumbs. Now, I had two problems: Do I count these ducks as wild or are they disqualified as domestic because they have succumbed to bread crumbs? In addition, if I count them as wild, do I clock in feeder time? I chose wild and clocked in ¼ hour feeder time. Corinne and I birded both Austin Creek Road and Cazadero Road. For 5 hours, we got 14 species. Pam Conley and Mary Anne Sobieraj went out in the afternoon after the rains had ceased and added 10 species to our list. Linda Petrulias also made the afternoon and added another four species to the Austin Creek list. Summary: Tough weather kept the birds sheltered, so we collectively recorded 28 species but good fellowship kept the day fun.

Area 21

Harrison Grade Territory; Carolyn Johnson, leader

Like many of the others have reported, the morning was remarkably quiet, eerily so, like a Rachel Carson quiet. There was no-one on or around farm ponds. Brush piles and blackberry brambles were empty. There were no flocks flying overhead. We normally see robins in the hundreds, sometimes thousands. It was concerning, especially because the temperature was in the 50s. But after lunch, everyone started coming out and we began to recognize our territory again. Even so, we worked hard for every species and every individual we counted. And there were many noticeable misses.



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.

February/March 2025

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, February 13, 2025

8:30-10:30 AM

Foothill Regional Park

1351 Arata Lane, Windsor 95492

Leader: Janet Bosshard

Parking pass is required. Dress appropriately for the winter type conditions. Moderate rain will cancel the walk.

Info: (707) 480-3432.

Thursday, February 27, 2025

8:30-10:30 AM

West County Trail, between Graton & Forestville

Leader: Janet Bosshard

Turn left off Hwy 116 onto Ross Station Road. Come down to the parking lot on the left. We will try the north side of the trail, heading toward Forestville.

Info: (707) 480-3432.

Thursday, March 13, 2025

8:30-10:30 AM

Helen Putnam Regional Park

411 Chileno Valley Road, Petaluma 94952

Leader: Janet Bosshard

Parking pass is required. Watch the weather, could be breezy and foggy; dress accordingly. We will walk the path up to the pond. If group would like to continue, we can walk through the north woods and back down to the parking area.

Info: (707) 480-3432.



Female Common Merganser

Courtesy of Tom Reynolds

Saturday, March 22, 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.

Thursday, March 27, 2025

8:30-10:30 AM

Crane Creek Regional Park (Rohnert Park)

5000 Pressley Road, Santa Rosa 95404

Leader: Janet Bosshard

Take Petaluma Hill Road to Pressley Road. Parking pass is required. We will move on mostly level dirt paths. Hoping some wildflowers may be blooming, while we watch for birds.

Info: (707) 480-3432.



Male Common Merganser

Courtesy of Tom Reynolds

HABITAT GARDENING

Welcome to our new Habitat Gardening program volunteers:

Jana Mariposa

Marilyn Kecso



Help Our Chapter – Board Openings

We're currently reaching out to ask for volunteers to serve as Corresponding Secretary, *Leaves* Editor, and new in this issue, Vice President.

Corresponding Secretary collaborates with the Chapter President on communication and correspondence. Skills include Microsoft Word, with computer and printer. Time commitment each month is about 4 hours. The Corresponding Secretary is a Board Officer and participates in monthly Board meeting via Zoom for 1.5 hours.

Leaves Editor is a role where writing and editing skills are primary. Organization and communication experience will support necessary skills. The Editor works with our Production Editor, providing the draft newsletter with photos to Production and then proofreading and finalizing the *Leaves* issue. Time commitment is approximately 8-10 hours every two months. We publish 6 *Leaves* issue per year. The Editor is also requested to participate in monthly Board meetings for 1.5 hours each month via Zoom.



White-crowned Sparrow Courtesy of Aaron N.K. Haiman (A Birding Naturalist)

Vice President is a two-year role, in support of Chapter activities and collaborating with the Chapter President. The Vice President will learn about all programs, activities and projects of our nonprofit organization, along with how to interface with volunteer roles. The Vice President will also learn about the breadth of our organizational relationships with regulatory agencies, nonprofit organizations, conservation coalitions, government entities, and National Audubon. Following two years, the Vice President will move into the role of President, and our current President will transition to Past President and remain on the Board of Directors for an additional year.

If any of these roles appeals to your interests and dedication, please contact our Chapter President, Susan Kirks, at 707-241-5548, susankirks333@gmail.com. We welcome questions and interests!

New Members

Petaluma

Jane Turrel

Santa Rosa

Larry Zech

Donations

*In honor of
Carolyn Greene*

by Melinda Harris

*In memory of
Louise Brewer*

by Alyson Butler

*In memory of
Tom McCuller*

by L.M. Dahl

*In memory of
Bill Payne*

by Peter Leveque

*In memory of
Bonnie Suddarth*

by Nancy Malon

*In memory of
Mildred S. Vyvenberg*

by Mary Cuoio

Dec. 29 Post CBC Dinner

Weather was clear mid-morning to the end of the day on December 29, and counting teams gathered at the Sebastopol Community Cultural Center at 5:00 p.m. for a light nutritious dinner, beverages, and sharing of the day's highlights. We're most grateful to dinner coordinators and volunteers, Sandy Martensen, Judi Barker and Susan Kirks, with the SCCC staff, for providing the space and service. Our main meal was provided by **Cozy Plum** in Sebastopol and sourdough bread from **Sarmentine Bakery** was a tasty addition. We appreciate participants who also donated an appetizer and desserts. The center has been reserved for next year's gathering on Dec. 28, 2025.



Red-tailed Hawk
Courtesy of Tom Reynolds



Madrone Audubon Society

Post Office Box 1911
Santa Rosa, California 95402

February/March 2025

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 - 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
- Education Kits:** Barbara Novak - b.novak34@gmail.com 795-3996
- Programs:** Position open
- Junior Audubon:** Position open
- Website Editor:** Charles Fox - cfox@aviadesign.net 707-241-5548
- Bird Walks – Thursday:** Janet Bosshard 707-526-5883
- Bird Walks – Saturday:** Linda Farley (and various) 707-241-5548
- Leaves Editor:** Questions/Info - Susan Kirks - susankirks333@gmail.com 707-241-5548

- Leaves Guest Editor:** Riley Zajonc - rileyzajonc@gmail.com
- Leaves Production:** Kris Hutchins - kris@hutchins1.net 707-477-8156
- Observations:** Dan Nelson - birdsurf64@sbcglobal.net 479-2918
- Stewardship Task Force:** Diane Hichwa – dhichwa@earthlink.net 785-1922
- BBA:** Madrone Board, info@madroneaudubon.org
- IMBD:** Veronica Bowers - vlbowers@gmail.com 829-2955
- Christmas Bird Count:**
- Chris Grabill - cgrabill@gmail.com 707-495-7340
- John Lundblad - jlundblad@srcs.k12.ca.us 707-484-8638
- Publicity Chair:** Position open
- Program Chair:** Position open
- Bird Rescue Center** 523-BIRD
- Native Songbird Care & Conservation** 484-6502
- Northern California Rare Bird Alert** 415-681-7422
- 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.

- New member Renewal
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- Sustaining \$50 Supporting \$100 Patron \$500

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