



Madrone LEAVES

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

VOLUME 47

December 2013/January 2014

Number 3

Repairs at Shollenberger Park 2013

by Gerald Moore

Shollenberger Park was built as a dredge spoils site in the 1970s to allow the City of Petaluma to remove the silt that is always building up in the river. The silt comes from both the upstream side and the downstream side of the river as a result of commercial boat traffic, recreational boating, and the action of tides pushing and pulling on the water in the river like a giant bathtub. In order for the river to remain navigable, the river must be drained of silt every few years. During a dredging operation one-or-two large dredge boats, specially designed to pump water and silt out of the river, spend about a month removing the mud from the river and depositing that mud in the big spoils pond at Shollenberger. The water/mud mix during dredging is about 80/10, so a lot of river water gets trapped in Shollenberger. Dredge water also contains lots of fish and plants which help feed the fauna and flora in Shollenberger Pond.

After the dredge spoils water sits in Shollenberger for a month or two, most of the sediment has settled at the bottom of the pond. Since dredging is always done in autumn to minimize interferences with migratory native fish and wildlife, there is danger of having the pond too full of water just as the rainy season is about

to start. Thus it is important to remove much of the river water and send it back to the river via a channel called the decant channel which is lower in elevation than the pond. To control this operation, the water must slowly be drained down via a decant channel (connected to a Watergate) and returned to the river.

By 2008 the pair of Watergates at Shollenberger were 30-odd years old and had eroded away like a pile of rust. To make matters worse, the City of Petaluma had allowed a construction company to dump all of the surface water of a subdivision, located up slope from Shollenberger Park, into Shollenberger and with it came "tons" of fertilizer which stimulated the cattails to grow at an exponential rate, choking out all other plant and

animal life that had lived for years in the channel providing wildlife sitings and joy for all visitors.

The Petaluma Wetlands Alliance (PWA) was concerned about this downturn in wildlife and contacted Ducks Unlimited (DU) to consult with us about our proposed cause of the problem and possible corrections for the issue. DU sent a biologist and an engineer to Shollenberger to look at our problem. They quickly confirmed that our analysis of the problem was correct. The cattails needed drastic thinning and better control while the Watergates needed replacing. They even agreed to help us make it happen, if PWA would contribute half of the required

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NO GENERAL MEETING IN DECEMBER, BUT COME JOIN US ON MADRONE'S CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, SUNDAY DECEMBER 29. Details on page 7. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

"What Do Birds Do for Us?"

Monday January 20, 7:00 PM

First United Methodist Church

1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa

Julie Jedlika, a post-doctoral Fellow at UC Berkeley, researches various aspects of Western Bluebird prey interaction in agricultural systems. She has set out to prove that avian conservation efforts in California vineyards strengthen ecosystems by controlling pests and scourges, such as Pierce's Disease. Julie's research, "What Do Birds Do for Us?", is described in the April 2013 issue of *Audubon Magazine*.

Julie will present us with a summary of her experience over the years, working with growers to achieve a beneficial outcome for agriculture and Western Bluebird populations.

COMING Monday February 17

John P. Kelly, Ph.D., Director of Conservation Science and Habitat Protection for Audubon Canyon Ranch, will give an update on the egret/heron rookeries.

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REPAIRS AT SHOLLENBERGER
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project funding in the form of in-kind grants. PWA looked through their records of volunteer restoration projects done by the PWA docents and community volunteers, documenting several thousand hours over the previous two years which could be converted to an in-kind grant to the project at the rate of \$ 19.15 per hour. PWA/DU had the repair project funded within nine months. The project needed the approval of the City of Petaluma since they “owned” the wetlands. The City of Petaluma, which was somewhat shocked by what we had accomplished in nine months, did not act to support us for 2-3 years. Finally the city saw the merit of getting \$83K of grant money from PWA/DU to get new Watergates and cattail/sediment removal for the city’s wetlands. Then they agreed to work with us on the Watergate/cattail project.

We knew that several governmental permits would be needed to do the project, and by late 2010 the city agreed to help us get the permits which finally happened in September 2013. Most of the cost of the permits was paid by PWA, Madrone Audubon, and DU. The new Watergates were installed in October 2013, just before the fiscal year ended. Unfortunately there was a 2 ½ month delay in getting one of the permits (for cattail removal), so this part of the project will have to wait until next August (when the birds are done nesting) for completion.

Are you a National Audubon member?

Please consider joining our local chapter, Madrone Audubon.

(see membership form, back page)

Madrone’s 2014 BIRD-A-THON... coming early next year

*by Marcia Johnson
Bird-A-Thon Coordinator*

Madrone’s Bird-A-Thon takes place in February or March each year, and teams have a fun day just counting birds to support our Chapter. I am hopeful that the six teams who participated in 2013 will continue in 2014. This is our major fundraiser. Last year, we collected almost \$9,400 - all of it was used for educational and conservation programs, such as the popular Junior Audubon, the Christmas Bird Count, Audubon Adventures (a FREE resource kit for teachers to use in their 3rd-5th grade classes), and Lincoln School’s half-day Bird Festival for all students.

Sponsors (you) are the backbone of a successful Bird-A-Thon. Teams will contact you and ask for your support. Please be generous by sponsoring a team with a pledge of 10 cents to whatever per bird species, or even a set amount. The team will contact you after their day of birding to accept your donation with thanks. If you would like to form your own team with friends, please see the box for information.

How to be part of Bird-A-Thon 2014

For Birding Teams:
Contact BAT coordinator Marcia Johnson at owlsnesttwo@att.net or 829-3808, and she will send you a sign-up sheet with instructions. Start signing up your sponsors.

After your “big day”, tell your sponsors how many species you saw and how much they owe.

Teams, send your checks to Marcia at 1460 Big Cedar Lane, Sebastopol 95472, or bring them to the next General Meeting.

For Sponsors:
Say “Yes” to anyone who asks you to pledge. If no one asks, you can sign up to support a team at the General Meeting or contact Marcia.

Enrich Your Life – Become a Petaluma Wetlands Docent

by Mary Edith Moore

If you live in Petaluma or Pengrove, consider joining the Petaluma Wetlands Alliance (PWA) as a docent. Our new-docent training begins Thursday January 9 and continues for eight consecutive Thursdays thru February plus the first two Wednesdays in March, 8:30 AM – Noon. The 10 training sessions are held at the Lucchesi Community Center and Shollenberger Park.

PWA has a very active wetlands program: teaching third grade hands-on activities in the classroom and in the field, nature discovery walks with the second graders, bilingual nature/bird walks for higher grades and adults, bird research, and stewardship & restoration at Shollenberger Park and Alman Marsh. Obviously, there is a niche for everyone.

You would be joining a great group of docents who enjoy each other’s company and are always ready to pitch in and help when the call comes. Teachers sign up quickly for a space in our program.

We ask that applicants pay \$40 toward the cost of materials and apply by Tuesday January 7. For more information, visit www.petalumawetlands.org, click on “Education”, followed by “Docent Program”; or call 763-3577.



Those Wonderful Winter Outings

**“Saving America’s Bald Eagle”
Thursday December 5, 7:00PM**

Glenn Stewart, founder of the California Bald Eagle Recovery Program, will speak on the history of the program. Bald eagles, unique to North America, disappeared from most of California by the time Glenn Stewart began efforts to restore the species to Central California in the mid-1980s. Today, we are seeing the results as Bald Eagles are once



WINTER OUTINGS

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again nesting locally. Hear a first-hand account of how Bald Eagle chicks were brought from Canada, carefully raised in Central California wilderness, and then released to seed a new population. Bald Eagles are now nesting in Northern California. This lecture is a partnership with Sonoma County Regional Parks and Sonoma Birding. Location: Veteran's Memorial Bldg, 126 1st Street West, Sonoma; \$5.00 at the door.

Visit www.sonomabirding.com for more information.

Art Exhibit at the Laguna Foundation

Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM, ongoing through January 3

Artist Marge Mount has spent much of the past 20 years painting the wildlife in the Laguna de Santa Rosa. "Great Blue and Beyond", her current exhibit, includes paintings of the birds she is so passionate about, which live and migrate through the Laguna. Location: Heron Hall at the Laguna Environmental Center, 900 Sanford Road (corner of Occidental Road), Santa Rosa.

15th Annual Snow Goose Festival of the Pacific Flyway

Thursday thru Sunday, January 23-26, Chico

The Pacific Flyway ranks as one of the greatest migratory pathways in the entire world, stretching from the Bering Strait off the coast of Alaska to the steeps of Patagonia in South America. Millions of birds representing hundreds of species use this great avian highway each year, and nowhere is this abundance of wildlife more accessible than right here in the Northern Sacramento Valley.

With an ideal combination of mild winter weather, abundant food, and rich quantities of water, the area attracts a huge wintering population of

waterfowl and raptors. A local favorite among these is the majestic Snow Goose. With the estimated overall population of Snow Geese exceeding 5 million, as many as one and a half million use the Pacific Flyway. Tens of thousands of these will winter right here in our own backyard.

Keynote Speaker at the "Gathering of Wings" banquet is Debi Shearwater, a pelagic birding pioneer. She will offer a different perspective of the Pacific Flyway than we are used to here in the valley—from the oceans. From field guides to national marine sanctuaries to seabirds saved and seabirds on the brink, Debi will take us on a journey covering her experiences and insights gained from nearly 40 years and thousands of days at sea off the central coast of California to the High Arctic and Antarctica. She will also demonstrate how changes in the way humans view seabirds have affected their lives and existence.

We have put together more than 60 field trips and workshops that cover six counties, reaching out into the rice fields, wildlife refuges, and river walks where mild winter weather, abundant food, and lots of water draw our avian visitors. Online registration begins in December at www.snowgoosefestival.org.

Tours of the Monarch Butterfly Grove Natural Bridges State Beach, Santa Cruz CA

Saturdays & Sundays, 11:00 AM & 2:00 PM

Weekdays through January 31, weekends approx through February 1

One of the amazing monarch butterflies' favorite winter homes is a magical beach, lagoon, and forest on the northern edge of Santa Cruz. Starting in early October, the black-and-orange beauties start trickling in from colder climates to enjoy our moderate coastal weather. Natural Bridges State Beach has a Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary, with a fine boardwalk trail into the grove. It is a special place that has become a great source of local pride. Join

a docent naturalist and see monarch butterflies wintering in Santa Cruz. Monarch migration is variable; please call for current update, 831-423-4609.

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We Continue to Need a Membership Chair

Are you skilled with a computer and have a little time to dedicate? If so, then please consider becoming our new Membership Chair.

Our membership data is currently in an Access database; however, past Membership Chairs used Excel. In the distant past, pencil and paper management did the task (but no suggestions of that now). Due to the large number of National Audubon and local Madrone Audubon members we serve, some computer skills are necessary. The new Membership Chair can tailor the membership information management to her/his skills.

Duties include: recording and updating address and membership data, providing mailing labels/file for *Leaves* newsletter, and tracking new and renewing local membership.

It is time consuming, no question of that. For the right person, this is an important labor of love to serve our entire membership, responding to questions and researching membership information.

Are you the volunteer we seek? Or do you know of a friend or colleague who would be a good fit? If so, please call or email today: Susan Kirks, susankirks@sbcglobal.net, 241-5548; Diane Hichwa, dhichwa@earthlink.net; or Gordon Beebe, gdbeebe@earthlink.net.

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Volunteer Fun for All Ages and Abilities

It is the start of another busy season of restoration opportunities at the Petaluma Public Wetlands and the Laguna.

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VOLUNTEER FUN

Continued from page 3

Petaluma Wetlands Alliance: our regular workdays for habitat restoration in the Petaluma Public Wetlands are the 2nd Saturday and last Sunday of every month, January through December. In addition, we also arrange special planting/weeding days for specific groups, such as boy scouts, schoolchildren, local businesses, and the community. Our goals are to replace the most invasive species, like thistles and pepperweed, with native plants to improve the habitats for wildlife. We usually meet at Kiosk #1, located at the gate to Shollenberger Park. In the winter months, we plant and/or weed 9:00 to Noon; in the summer months, we water and/or weed 8:00 to 11:00 AM. Rain cancels. These restoration days are open to all, and we encourage you to join us. Water and snacks are provided. For more information or to add your name to our list of restoration volunteers, contact Mary Edith at maryedithmoore@comcast.net or 763-3577.

Laguna de Santa Rosa: Help care for the Laguna and restore critical wildlife habitat. As one of our habitat restoration volunteers you can help us give a little love and attention to the Laguna. Each month there will be a different opportunity to be a part of ensuring a brighter future for the Laguna. Tasks vary depending on the season and include removing old irrigation hardware from successful restoration projects, sewing seeds, planting native plants and trees, and weeding. Snacks are provided.

Joining the Laguna Keepers is a fun and meaningful way to participate while enjoying the outdoors and sharing the company of like-minded people. Little or no experience or knowledge is needed. Keepers meet at locations throughout the Laguna, but workdays are always on a Saturday, 9:00 AM – Noon and are scheduled once a month from September through May. You can come once or multiple times. No RSVP is required. Only heavy rain cancels. Dress for dirt. Snacks are pro-

vided, but please bring water, gloves, and friends.

Saturday December 14 - Irwin Creek

Help us kick off this brand new section of an ongoing restoration project by planting native riparian vegetation along Irwin Creek. Meet at the Laguna Environmental Center, 900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa.

Saturday January 11 - Laguna Environmental Center

Join us for an exciting day of installing various native plants and checking in on all the other plants that are flourishing in the landscape. Meet at the Laguna Environmental Center, 900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa.

Saturday February 1 - Laguna Uplands

It's time for our annual trip to the Laguna Uplands Preserve. Check out the spectacular views of the Laguna and help us with some continued restoration of this beautiful and rare habitat area. Meet at the end of Palm Ave in Sebastopol just south of the Palm Drive Hospital.

For more information, contact Brent Reed, Restoration Assistant, Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation, 527-9277 x 101, brent@lagunafoundation.org.



Here's the Story Behind the Story

Sunday 10 November, Steve Stump photographed a "banded" Snowy Egret at the Ukiah Wastewater Treatment Plant. The egret had one large red band with the words "AOO" on the right leg and a smaller silver band with no words on the left leg.



Snowy Egret leg band Courtesy of Steve Stump

After Steve checked around to learn where the bird came from, International Bird Rescue filled in the missing link. "This is a hatch year bird that had fallen from its nest in Santa Rosa and was brought into the Santa Rosa Bird Rescue Center for stabilization on June 13, 2013. The following day, it was transferred to our Fairfield rehabilitation center for more specialized care. For reference, its case number at our center was SF-2013-1648. When egrets nest in heavily populated areas where there is little to no undergrowth beneath the trees they have no way of climbing back up and often develop fractures from the fall straight down to the ground. However, this one had no major medical issues aside from having fallen from its nest. When it had reached full adult weight and was capable of flying, it was released at the Laguna de Santa Rosa on July 18, 2013. Its left leg has a federal band (1076-68400). The red bands are much easier to see and can help us identify the birds and match them up to their federal band numbers. While the information you have provided us is helpful, it is important that you also report the band and sighting via the Bird Banding Lab reporting website: <https://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBL/bblretrv/>."



Snowy Egret Courtesy of Steve Stump

It is hopeful that all of us will watch for banded egrets and herons. There were 132 of these rehabilitated birds released in 2013 at the Laguna. Observe, find, and report any sightings.



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

December 2013 calendar

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

Wednesday December 4, 7:00 PM

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

Wednesday & Thursday, December 4 & 5

SACRAMENTO VALLEY WILDLIFE REFUGES. Meet at the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) headquarters at 9:30 AM on Wednesday. Bring lunch and liquids. Exit from I-5 at Princeton (approximately 17 miles north of Williams), turn north on the county service road and proceed to the NWR headquarters on the right. Driving time from Santa Rosa is about 2.5 hours; motels are nearby in Willows. Wednesday we will bird the Sacramento NWR, the Sacramento River NWR (Llano Seco Unit), and many points between them. Some of us will stay in Oroville (Holiday Inn Express, 550 Oro Dam Boulevard, 530-534-5566) on Wednesday night and bird Gray Lodge State Wildlife Management Area and Colusa National Wildlife Refuge on Thursday. Information: Tom McCuller, sisyphus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

Saturday December 7, 9:30 AM – dusk

CENTRAL VALLEY - GRAY LODGE and SACRAMENTO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. This is our annual winter trip to the Central Valley to enjoy the enormous concentrations of waterfowl, raptors, cranes, geese, and other interesting birds seldom seen in Sonoma County. Directions to Gray Lodge: from the junction of Interstate 5 and Highway 99, take Highway 99 north to Live Oak. Turn west onto Pennington (North Butte) Road. Turn right onto Almond Orchard Avenue and continue to the entrance. The distance from Live Oak is about eight miles. After birding Gray Lodge, we will go to the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge for the afternoon, hoping to enjoy good views of the fly-out at dusk. Some of our group will stay overnight in Willows or Yuba City Friday and/or Saturday to visit parts of the nearby Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge. For more information, call Bill Doyle, 483-8773.

Wednesday December 11, 8:30 AM – Noon

ELLIS CREEK WATER RECYCLING WETLANDS. Bird Walk. We will bird the wetlands and adjacent areas of this facility in Petaluma. From Santa Rosa on Highway 101, take the Highway 116 exit (Lakeville Highway), go left under Highway 101, turn right (south) at the South McDowell traffic light, and then turn right onto Cypress Drive, which ends at the facility gate. Information: Tom McCuller, sisyphus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

Saturday December 14, 9:00 AM

SHOLLENBERGER PARK. Petaluma Wetlands Alliance/Madrone leads a nature walk. Meet at the first kiosk. Rain cancels. Contact Gerald Moore at 763-3577.

Thursday December 19, 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM

RUSH CREEK AND LAS GALLINAS PONDS IN MARIN COUNTY. Bird Walk. Meet at Rush Creek Preserve at Novato. From Highway 101, drive east on Atherton Avenue; and then turn left onto Bugelia Lane, which becomes Bahia Drive. Continue to the Rush Creek trailhead at the end of Bahia Drive. Bring lunch and liquids. Information: Tom McCuller, sisyphus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

Saturday December 21, 10:00 AM

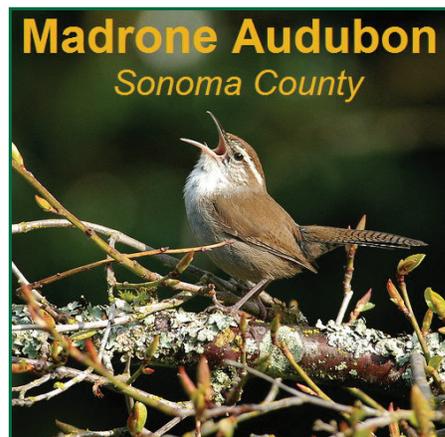
SHOLLENBERGER PARK. Petaluma Wetlands Alliance leads two children/family nature walks. One-to-two hours, dependent on age of children. Meet at the first kiosk. Rain cancels. For the children/family walk in English, contact Gerald Moore at 763-3577; for the walk in Spanish, contact Connie Peabody at 338-2237.

Saturday December 28, 9:00 AM

ELLIS CREEK WATER RECYCLING FACILITY, PETALUMA. Petaluma Wetlands Alliance leads a walk at the Ellis Creek ponds. Go to the end of Cypress Drive and through the gates. Parking lot is on the left. Rain cancels. Contact Bob Dyer at 763-2934.

Sunday December 29, dawn to dusk

MADRONE AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. See page 7 for details. We are in dire need of volunteers to help with setup and cleanup of the dinner. Please contact Veronica Bowers at vlbowers@gmail.com or 484-6502 for more information or to volunteer.



Find us on Facebook for conservation alerts, birdwalk reminders, special announcements and more.



January 2014 calendar

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

MADRONE BOARD will not meet 1 January, but wishes all a safe and peaceful New Year.

Thursday January 2, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Rain Cancels.

PETALUMA CBC FOR KIDS. Kids, ages 9 to 15, will count birds at Shollenberger Park and end the count with a Tailgate Party. See page 8.

Thursday January 2, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Rain Cancels

JUNIOR AUDUBON. Junior Audubon will participate in the Petaluma CBC for Kids. See article under “Junior Audubon”, page 8.

Wednesday January 8, 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM

BODEGA BAY. Bird Walk. From the center of the town of Bodega Bay, drive north on Highway 1, turn left at East Shore Road (the Bodega Head turnoff), turn right at the stop sign, and continue 0.3 miles to the unpaved parking lot on the right. Bring lunch and liquids. Information: Tom McCuller, sisyphus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

Saturday January 11, 9:00 AM

SHOLLENBERGER PARK. Petaluma Wetlands Alliance/Madrone leads a nature walk. Meet at the first kiosk. Rain cancels. Contact Gerald Moore at 763-3577.

Thursday January 16, 8:30 AM – Noon

SPRING LAKE REGIONAL PARK. Bird Walk. Parking fee (\$7) for non-permit holders. From Summerfield Road in Santa Rosa, go east on Hoen Avenue, turn left onto Newanga Avenue, turn right inside the park entrance gate, and meet in the parking lot near the restrooms at the top of the hill. Information: Tom McCuller, sisyphus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

Saturday January 18, 10:00 AM

SHOLLENBERGER PARK. Petaluma Wetlands Alliance leads two children/family nature walks. One-to-two hours, dependent on age of children. Meet at the first kiosk. Rain cancels. For the children/family walk in English, contact Gerald Moore at 763-3577; for the walk in Spanish, contact Connie Peabody at 338-2237.

Saturday January 18, 8:30 AM – Noon

LAKE SONOMA. Walk. Meet at the Lake Sonoma Visitor Center. From Highway 101, take Canyon Road to Dry Creek Road, then Rockpile Road to the Center. Leader: Bill Doyle 483-8773.

Monday January 20, 7:00 PM

GENERAL MEETING. “What Do Birds Do for Us?” presented by Julie Jedlika, a post-doctoral Fellow at UC Berkeley, researching aspects

of Western Bluebird prey interaction in agricultural systems. First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa. Please see the front page announcement. The public is always invited to attend these programs.

Wednesday January 22, 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM

ISENBERG CRANE PRESERVE AND COSUMNES RIVER PRESERVE NEAR LODI. BIRD WALK. Meet at McDonalds in the Sunset Shopping Center in Suisun City at the intersection of Highway 12 and Sunset Avenue/Grizzly Island Road. Driving time to meeting point from Santa Rosa is approximately 1.25 hours. Bring lunch and liquids. Information: Tom McCuller, sisyphus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

Saturday January 25, 9:00 AM

ELLIS CREEK WATER RECYCLING FACILITY, PETALUMA. Petaluma Wetlands Alliance leads a walk at the Ellis Creek ponds. Go to the end of Cypress Drive and through the gates. Parking lot is on the left. Rain cancels. Contact Bob Dyer at 763-2934.

Thursday January 30, 8:30 AM – Noon

SEBASTOPOL AREA. Bird Walk. We will search for wintering birds in the northeast Laguna, Ragle Park, or other interesting local spots. Meet at the Sebastopol Community Center, 390 Morris Street. Bring lunch and liquids. Information: Tom McCuller, sisyphus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

Saturday February 1, 8:30 AM – Noon

HUDEMAN SLOUGH. Meet at the Sonoma County Water Agency property on the northern edge of the Napa-Sonoma Marshes. From the town of Sonoma, drive south on Highway 12/121. Turn south onto Ramal Road and drive approximately 2.4 miles until you reach the entrance to Hudeman Slough. There is a large hay barn on the right and a parking lot in front of the barn. To carpool, please arrive by 7.30 AM at our Santa Rosa meeting place, the Safeway parking lot at the northeast corner of Highway 12 and Calistoga Road. We will park at the edge of the parking lot bordering on Calistoga Road. Rain cancels. Leader: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115.

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

HUICHICA CREEK UNIT OF NAPA-SONOMA MARSHES/HUDEMAN SLOUGH. Bird Walk. Meet at the Huichica Creek Unit parking lot. From Sonoma, take Highway 12 (Carneros Highway) toward Napa; turn right (south) onto Duhig Road; turn left onto Las Amigas Road; and then turn right onto Buchli Station Road, which leads to the wildlife area. We will bird the Hudeman area in the afternoon. Bring lunch and liquids. Information: Tom McCuller, sisyphus@sonic.net, 546-1812.



Thanksgiving Bird Count

Thursday November 28, dawn to dusk

Counters are needed for the annual Thanksgiving Bird Count, one hour on Thanksgiving Day. The counter chooses the time that best fits his or her schedule. The count is made in a circle, measuring only 15 feet in diameter. The counter determines the location, usually a favorite area frequented by the birds, such as feeders, baths, covers, and/or wetlands. Individual birds are counted only once during the hour, even if the birds continue to pay visits. Flocks should be estimated or counted, and only the highest number at any one time used.

Thanksgiving Bird Counts were begun in 1966 by Dr. Ernest Edwards and the Lynchburg Bird Club in Virginia. Counts slowly spread to the west, but there are still many areas in the west in need of more counters and better count distribution. This bird count can be done in comfort, indoors near a window and be a welcome respite from the Thanksgiving dinner. Count results (even if you see no birds at all) should be sent to Dr. John G. Hewston, Count Compiler, Natural Resources Building, Humboldt State University, Arcata California 95521. Instructions and bird count form available at www.utahbirds.org/cbc/ThanksgBirdCount.htm and your Thanksgiving Bird Count can be sent to thanksgivingbirdcount@gmail.com, if you are in the western United States.

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Christmas Bird Counts (CBC)

14 December through 5 January

You know the CBCs are here when you don the hat and gloves, meet your friends, and start counting the birds. Rain or cold does not deter you—friends must get together again, count the birds, and enjoy the dinner celebration as the day's adventures are relived and shared with all.

RROS (Redwood Region Ornithological Society) Santa Rosa CBC *Sunday 15 December*

All wishing to participate please contact your previous area leader or compiler Bill Doyle, shortbill@comcast.net. Compilation dinner will be held again this year at Coco's Restaurant, Farmer's Lane, 5:00 PM.

Point Reyes 44th CBC *Saturday December 21*

Our CBC is a big count with 27 territories and 200 participants, so we request your help with attention to dates and timely responses. With everybody's cooperation, lots of birds, a bit of luck with the weather, and Pam Ferrari's wonderful food, we will all have a great count. Thanks to Marin Audubon Society for its generous sponsorship.

This count is one of the biggest counts in North America. Every year the compilers and the area leaders try to ensure consistent coverage of each of the count's territories with a good mix of skill level, gender, personality, stamina, and knowledge of the habitat. We need time to do this -- so sign up with us, the compilers, by December 1 by completing the form online at www.forestdata.com/cbc. When you sign up, please do so with the willingness to count even if it rains.

The post-count compilation dinner will be at the Dance Palace, 503 B Street, Point Reyes Station. The Dance Palace will open at 4:00 PM and dinner will be served by Pam Ferrari Catering around 5:15 PM. The dinner is for counters and their families only, but you must register and pay \$16 for the dinner by 1 December, but no later than 10 December. Send registration forms and check to John Longstreth, PO Box 657, Inverness, California 94937. For more information contact the compilers: John Longstreth 415-669-7514, Tom Gaman 415-237-0075 or email ptreyesCBC@gmail.com and put "CBC RESPONSE" on the subject line.

114th Audubon CBC in Sonoma Valley *Friday December 27, dawn - dusk*

Sonoma Birding is pleased to announce that Mr. Gene Hunn will be the new official Sonoma Valley-CBC Compiler and responsible for all aspects of the ninth annual count in beautiful Sonoma Valley. Gene is a talented birder and experienced with the many responsibilities of a CBC.

All area birders are welcome. The wild and bird-rich Petaluma and Sonoma watersheds are always filled with holiday surprises. Over 165 species are typically recorded during this highly ranked "inland" CBC by 35 plus teams on assigned routes led by helpful experienced birders. Last year birders from many greater Bay Area birding organizations celebrated citizen science, great fun, music, and an unforgettable old-fashioned, hearty, potluck tabulation dinner.

Sonoma Birding will assist Gene through their website. Visit www.sonomabirding.com and pick a birding area where you can be most helpful. Email or call Gene with your name, address, zip, and phone number: enhunn323@comcast.net or 981-7301.

Madrone Audubon's 47th CBC *Sunday December 29, dawn - dusk*

There is still time to sign up for our Western Sonoma County Christmas Bird Count—Audubon's 114th. Twenty-one teams will set out to census the diverse and rich habitats of Western Sonoma County. From the ocean to the forests, approximately 190 species can occur in our count circle. Visit our website to find an area and team that suits you at audubon.sonoma.net. To sign up, contact the team leader directly, or contact Veronica Bowers, CBC compiler/coordinator at vlbowers@gmail.com.

Continued on page 8



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Continued from page 7

There will be a delicious catered dinner following the count at the Sebastopol Community Center. A \$5 donation per person to help offset the cost of the catered dinner is requested. Madrone is asking counters and others who come to the dinner to please bring a dessert. Also please bring your own glasses, cups, plates, utensils, and beverages (wine and beer are OK). We are in dire need of volunteers to help with setup and cleanup of the dinner. Please contact Veronica Bowers at vlbowers@gmail.com or 484-6502 for more information or to volunteer.

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Celebrate the holiday season with kids birding (CBC for Kids)

Petaluma CBC for Kids
Thursday January 2, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Rain Cancels

Come join us for the 5th Annual Petaluma Christmas Bird Count for Kids; a half-day of bird-watching designed for kids ages 9-15. This event is co-sponsored by the Petaluma Wetlands Alliance—a committee of the Madrone Audubon Society—and the City of Petaluma Parks and Recreation Department.



Petaluma CBC for Kids
Courtesy of Gerald Moore

After the check-in at the picnic tables near Shollenberger Park’s main entrance, we will go birding in teams of six kids with each team accompanied

by experienced adult birders. We’ll walk the trails in areas such as Shollenberger Park, Ellis Creek Water Recycling Facility, Alman Marsh, etc. We’ll count every bird we see and meet back at the picnic tables for a Tailgate Lunch at noon and talk about what we saw.

Bring binoculars (if you have them), a hat and layered clothing, comfortable shoes or boots, and \$2.50 per person for lunch to be collected at check-in.

To register contact Al Hesla: 765-9411 or a.hesla@comcast.net.

Junior Audubon Christmas Bird Count
Thursday January 2, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Rain Cancels.

We will join the Petaluma Wetlands Alliance—a committee of the Madrone Audubon Society—for its 5th Annual Petaluma Christmas Bird Count for Kids, designed for kids ages 9-15. I will take a van load, a minimum of six people, to Petaluma from Santa Rosa. To register for this great opportunity to see what is happening to wintering birds in our area and a Tailgate Lunch at noon; contact Scott at 530-828-6115 or campbesk@gmail.com by 29 December. Bring binoculars (if you have them), a hat and layered clothing; and wear comfortable shoes or boots.

Point Reyes 4th Annual CBC for Kids
Saturday January 11

Join local naturalists and Bay Area families for a half-day event to learn some of the important basic elements of the National Audubon Society’s annual Christmas Bird Count.

Budding Birders (ages 3 to 6) will have a range of activities and a bird discovery walk, while Young Birders (ages 7 to 18) will participate in the official count and pre-choose their birding location. The objective of this event is to have fun, connect families with nature, and potentially create a “home team” of birders for future bird counts. Kids will be guided and encouraged to look

for, identify, and record the kinds and numbers of birds they encounter with help from their local “bird brain.” All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Participants should wear comfortable hiking shoes, dress in layers, bring rain gear and a picnic lunch. Bring binoculars if you have them. Loaner binoculars will also be made available. For more information, contact Jessica Taylor, 415-663-1200x304.

Sonoma Valley CBC4Kids
Sunday January 12, 8:30AM – 1:30PM

Celebrate winter birding at the 7th annual CBC4 Kids in Sonoma Valley. Experienced birders will lead small teams on 90-minute birding routes following registration, orientation, and “Binocular Boot Camp.” One adult per youngster ages 8-16. Team presentations will be in Andrews Hall followed by pizza and drink in the Rotary Kitchen. A “Budding Birder Camp” for kids ages 4-7 will be offered for the younger family members by the Crescent Montessori School while their older brothers and sisters are out birding.



Sonoma Valley CBC for Kids
Courtesy of Duy Nguyen

CBC4Kids is co-sponsored with the Sonoma Community Center, 276 East Napa, Sonoma. Cost is \$5 per person for lunch. To sign up, go to sonomature@gmail.com or call 939-8007. CBC4Kids is co-sponsored with the Sonoma Community Center. All are welcome.



Observations

Fall 2013 • Dan Nelson • 479-2918 • birdsurf64@sbcglobal.net

Redhead	10/28	North end of Bodega Harbor	GH
Redhead	11/3	East of Hudemann Slough ponds	BD
White-winged Scoter	10/6	Fly-by off Bodega Head	PP
Long-tailed Duck	10/6	Fly-by off Bodega Head	PP
Black Scoter (female)	10/3	Bodega Harbor at Campbell Cove	BD
Great White-fronted Goose (1)	9/18	Fly-by off Bodega Head	DN, et al.
Snow Goose	10/23	Salmon Creek	BG
Common Moorhen	9/12-20	Campbell Cove pond	DN, M.Ob
Red-necked Grebe (1)	9/28	Bodega Harbor between Spud Point and The Tides Restaurant	DN, RROS
Cassin's Auklet (1)	9/18	Off Bodega Head	LH, DN
Northern Gannet (1)	10/25, 11/3	Gull Rock, south of Stinson Beach	RC, CT (1st Marin County record)
Blue-footed Booby (2-3)	9/16	Seen diving and circling from Bodega Head (identified as "probable")	DN
Blue-footed Booby (1)	9/17	Off Bodega Head, photographed for confirmation	AW
Blue-footed Booby (2)	9/17	Off Bodega Head, two juveniles photographed together, circling, diving as on 9/16	DN
Blue-footed Booby - single birds	9/18, 9/19, 9/20, 9/22, 9/25	Seen from Bodega Head (First for Sonoma County)	M.Ob
Brown Booby (1)	10/18	Seen from Bodega Bay pelagic trip (Marin County)	SJ
Ashy Storm-Petrel (10,500)	9/20	Estimate from near Cordell Bank, number exceeds world population estimate	PP, SH, et al.
Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel (4,500)	9/20	Estimate from near Cordell Bank	PP, SH, et al.
Black Storm-Petrel (1)	9/9	Bodega Harbor, pursued by Peregrine Falcon	LK, JS
Pacific Golden-Plover (1 adult)	9/9	Shollenberger Park	JS, LK
American Golden-Plover (1)	9/16	Spud Point, Bodega Harbor	DF, GH
Baird's Sandpiper	9/9	Salmon Creek mouth	JS, LK
Pectoral Sandpiper (5)	10/15	Bodega Farm Pond	RO'D
Hudsonian Godwit	9/11-21	Huichica Creek Wetlands, Napa County	MB, M.Ob
Ruff	10/31	Hudemann Slough Wetlands	GH
Heermann's Gull	10/24	Lucchesi Park, Petaluma	GH
Elegant Tern (late)	10/26	Bodega Harbor	DH, BDP
White-faced Ibis (1)	10/7	Nicasio Reservoir, Marin County	B.Battagin
Bald Eagle (2 adults)	11/5	Inverness Park, Marin County	D Wimpfheimer
Broad-winged Hawk	10/6	Diekmann's Store, Bodega Bay	D Williams, SC
Broad-winged Hawk (dark morph)	10/10	Jenner Headlands Preserve Hawk-watch	D Barry, et al.
Ferruginous Hawk (dark morph)	10/29	East Railroad Avenue, Cotati (last years' returnee)	KW
Ferruginous Hawk (light morph)	10/29	East Railroad Avenue, Cotati	KW
Short-eared Owl (1)	11/3	South of Hudemann Slough Wetlands	BD, HK
Lewis' Woodpecker (1)	10/25	Crane Creek Park	CR, GH
Willow Flycatcher (1 late)	10/14	Owl Canyon	DN
Least Flycatcher	9/28	King Ridge Road	AW, BDP, RL, LH
Tropical Kingbird (2)	9/28	Campbell Cove	EL, JR, JG
Bank Swallow (1)	9/?	Kelly Pond, "1st week of September"	VB
Purple Martin (1)	9/13	Campbell Cove	DN, BO'C
Black-chinned Hummingbird	9/10	Campbell Cove, (first year male)	RR
Chimney Swift (1)	10/6	Over Bolinas Lagoon, with Vaux' Swifts and swallows	PP
North American Dipper	9/28	King Ridge Road	AW, BDP, RL, LH
Black and White Warbler	10/6	Bodega Bay Rail Ponds	DK
Black and White Warbler (2)	9/30	Mount Vision Road, Point Reyes	RR
Chestnut-sided Warbler	9/30	Mount Vision Road, Point Reyes	RR
Chestnut-sided Warbler	10/6-7	Pine Gulch Creek, Marin County	EC, SH
Canada Warbler	9/7-13	Campbell Cove, Bodega Bay	BDP, DH, RL, DN, et al.
Black-throated Blue Warbler	10/11-18	Owl Canyon, Bodega Bay	BDP, DH, M.Ob
Tennessee Warbler	9/13-14	Campbell Cove	DN
Nashville Warbler	9/16	Diekmann's Store	DN
Nashville Warbler	10/12	Ellis Creek, Petaluma	B Dyer
Nashville Warbler	10/14	Owl Canyon	DN
Northern Parula Warbler	9/30	Mount Vision Road, Point Reyes	RR
Blackpoll Warbler	9/21	Spring Lake Kayak Beach	BD
Palm Warbler	10/13	Whaleship Road, north end of Bodega Harbor	SC
Yellow-rumped Warbler (1st fall)	9/11	Bodega Marine Lab entrance trees	DN
Northern Waterthrush	9/12-16	Campbell Cove	DN
Northern Waterthrush	9/16	Bodega Dunes Campground, site #76 (this bird later moved toDiekmann's?)	DN
Northern Waterthrush	9/28-10/7	Rail Ponds	DN, M.Ob
Orchard Oriole	9/12-13	Campbell Cove	DN, BDP, DH, et al.
Orchard Oriole	September	Diekmann's Store; seen off and on here all month	M.Ob
Orchard Oriole	10/12	Doran Park entrance	DF
Baltimore Oriole (immature male)	9/12-13	Campbell Cove, northwest of pond	DN
Tricolored Blackbird (75-80)	10/15-16	Chanslor Ranch, south of Salmon Creek	DN
Townsend's Solitaire (1)	10/20	Helen Putnam Regional Park, Petaluma	JR,CR
American Pipit (1st of fall)	9/13	Campbell Cove	DN
Red-throated Pipit	11/3	Abbott's Lagoon	LM, MD, et al.
Clay-colored Sparrow	10/10	Bodega Marine Lab entrance	DN
Clay-colored Sparrow	10/15	Campbell Cove	RO'D
White-crowned Sparrow	9/17	Paula Lane, Petaluma- first fall arrival	DN
Black-chinned Sparrow	9/26	Palomarin Banding Station, Point Reyes Bird Observatory	PRBO
Lapland Longspur (2)	9/17	Hicks Valley Road, near Point Reyes Petaluma Road	JE
Lapland Longspur (1)	9/22	Bodega Head, trail south of outer parking lot	SC
Evening Grosbeak (immature)	10/19	South of Five Brooks, Marin County	DN

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Madrone Audubon Society

Post Office Box 1911
Santa Rosa, California 95402

December 2013/January 2014

**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY
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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 meetings and walks are open to the public. Information: telephone answering service - 546-7492, e-mail - madroneaudubon@um.att.com.

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Join Madrone Audubon – Support Your Local Chapter

Please complete this form if you wish to join Madrone Audubon, renew your Madrone membership or make a contribution to Madrone.

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 Petaluma Wetlands Alliance
- Senior \$15 Basic Member \$20 Family \$30
- Sustaining \$50 Supporting \$100 Donor \$500 Other \$_____
- I am a National Audubon member who wishes to make a **tax deductible contribution** to Madrone in the amount of \$_____

Madrone's nonprofit 501(c)3 tax number is 94-6172986.

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Please send my *Leaves* via email

Please make your check payable to "Madrone Audubon Society."

Detach this panel and mail to: **Madrone Audubon Society,**

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Visit us on the Web at: <http://audubon.sonoma.net>