



Madrone LEAVES

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

VOLUME 48

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Number 3

Come Join Us on a Bird Walk!

by Gordon Beebe

A falcon appeared, as they do, out of the blue. The bird walk group pulled their eyes away from the ducks and geese they had been watching at Ellis Creek Water Treatment Facility, and focused on the bird circling overhead. "It's a Peregrine", said one co-leader. "Are you sure? It looks too small, and more like a Merlin", said the other. A group discussion ensued: field guides were pulled out, the falcon returned and circled above long enough to be photographed, still unidentified. The participants enjoyed the debate, watching the leaders weigh various points of plumage, behavior, possible age, and now a photograph to compare to the guides after the living bird had taken its leave and disappeared behind a row of trees. On that walk, we marked it as a probable juvenile Peregrine Falcon, but later that week, emails coursed back and forth, and an inspection of the enlarged photo left no doubt, that it had been a Merlin instead.

This is what makes birding so enjoyable: even the leaders are constantly learning, and seeing new things. Each trip is a new test of our knowledge, further honing our skill of identification from observations made during previous

birding trips into a sharper, more discerning view of the avian world. Not as an excuse, but as a reminder that we can never know the identity of every single bird we see, I like to say after a brief or difficult sighting, "I don't know". It's okay to not know: there is no test at the end of our walks, you cannot fail this class.

What else is enjoyable about getting out, seeing the unique natural areas in Sonoma County, with other like-minded people? Aside from seeing all of these wonderful parks, and learning the best places to go to find different birds, it's the amazing views we've had, of the red eye ring to match the plier-like red bill on the Black Oystercatcher,



Photo courtesy of Gordon Beebe

the iridescent green and purple gloss on a Pelagic Cormorant's back feathers, or the incredible turquoise blue of the Lazuli Bunting's breast feathers as it sings in a tree overhead. Or it's hearing, and then seeing, California Thrashers, Bell's Sparrows, and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers all

Continued on page 2

GENERAL MEETING

Monday January 18, 7:00 PM

First United Methodist Church • 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa

NOTE: Program originally slated for November, 2015

"Birds and Climate Change: How Will Local Species Be Affected?"

Andrea Jones, Audubon California's Director of Bird Conservation, will highlight the recent National Audubon Society report on birds and climate change, discussing how local bird ranges might be changed and shrunk over the next 100 years. Of the many climate-endangered species listed in the study, Audubon California has prioritized six for conservation focus: Western Grebe, Clark's Grebe, Black Oystercatcher, Long-billed Curlew, Allen's Hummingbird, and Yellow-billed Magpie.



National Audubon Society

To receive *Leaves* via email in PDF format, just email your request to:
info@madroneaudubon.org



BIRD WALK

Continued from page 1

within 100 yards of one another on Pine Flat Road, rewarding us with cameo appearances as they briefly sing atop clumps of chamise.

The total number of species seen in Sonoma County recently reached 450. What makes that possible? The combination of ocean, bay, riparian, grassland, forest, and mountain habitats, with the ongoing observations of many dedicated bird watchers over many years. I haven't been much of a lister, but for my own training, I started keeping records from the Saturday bird walks when I started co-leading trips. What I've learned is that, on any given day at one location, we are likely to see and/or hear about 50 to 90 species. The areas with the most diversity and highest species counts tend to be along the coast. So if you want to see a lot of different birds in one day, head for Bodega Bay. If you just want to be outdoors, and see beautiful birds and marvel at their behaviors, whatever their names are, please join us on a bird walk; you will be welcomed as a fellow lover of birds.

Getting back to that Merlin, did it really matter which species it was? Well, yes, in that based on the evidence, it could only have been a Merlin, therefore we could list it for the record. But also no, because what really mattered was that we were open-minded about what we were seeing, and willing to discuss what we saw, letting go of preconceived ideas, whichever species it was. Somewhere between the names we give to creatures and the creatures themselves, we may glimpse the true wonder of the natural world, and from that, grow in a commitment to preserve and share the beauty that we are blessed with.

**Board of Directors
position: Recording
Secretary**

by Gordon Beebe

We currently have a few open board positions. Starting with this issue of Leaves, the duties and benefits of one position will be highlighted. As one would expect, the Recording Secretary attends each two-hour board meeting and takes minutes. After the meeting, the Secretary types up a draft copy, sending it out to the other board members for their comments. Once the draft is approved, a final copy is printed out, and the Secretary files it with the rest of the minutes. The board meetings are on the first Wednesday night of each month, except for our August Planning Meeting. The entire process takes about four hours each month, except for July, when we are on break.

Okay, that's the duties part. Now for the benefits: By joining the Board of Directors, the Recording Secretary gets to know the inner workings of Madrone Audubon, learning about all of the projects that we are involved in with the community. The Secretary is encouraged to participate, and voice his or her opinions on topics up for discussion. In addition, the Secretary will meet all of the other dedicated board members, who are all working to make Sonoma County a better place for birds and other wildlife.

If you have experience with taking notes, and are interested in joining our team, please contact Gordon Beebe. His contact information is on the back page of this issue.

**Volunteers Needed:
Climate Change Effects
on Birds – a New Project**

by Susan Kirks

We're very pleased to share with our members a new Madrone Audubon Project. Volunteers are needed to help with this project. If interested in climate change effects on birds, other wildlife and plants, we invite you to consider becoming a volunteer in the Phenology Project at the Paula Lane Nature Preserve in Petaluma.

Audubon California is managing a state-wide effort to gather data on phenology and participate in the wider National Phenology Project. Sea and Sage and Mt. Diablo Audubon Chapters have begun their Chapter projects, following training in the winter of 2015 by Audubon Starr Ranch Sanctuary staff.

The National Phenology Network (USA NPN – see <https://www.usanpn.org/>) defines phenology as “seasonal changes in plants and animals from year to year, for example flowering, emergence of insects, migration of birds.” Changes in phenological events such as flowering and bird migrations are among the most sensitive biological responses to climate change. Worldwide, many spring events are occurring earlier and fall events are happening later than they did in the past. Not all species and regions are changing at the same rate and ecological mismatches occur, e.g. pollinators not present at flowering, food resources not available for songbird nestlings.

Continued on page 3

Are you a National Audubon member?

Please consider joining our local chapter,
Madrone Audubon.

(see membership form, back page)



CLIMATE CHANGE

Continued from page 2

The USA National Phenology Network (USA NPN) brings together citizen scientists, government agencies, non-profit groups, educators and students of all ages to monitor the impacts of climate change on plants and animals in the United States. Over 4,000 observers across the country contribute to USA NPN's online database, Nature's Notebook, year round. USA NPN provides standardized protocols and online education and training tools to their observer network

For Madrone's Paula Lane Nature Preserve project location, volunteers will be trained and provided data sheets for check-offs on 4 bird species selected to observe. Native plants may be added to our project as well. Volunteers will monitor monthly and enter their own data online at the USA NPN website, where they can also access local or nationwide data. For the Nature Preserve location, volunteers will be provided days and time frames for availability to observe and will establish their own schedules. This is a long-term project. The time commitment is likely 2.5 hours per month.

The Paula Lane Nature Preserve is a Matching Grant-acquired property via the Sonoma County Open Space District by the City of Petaluma and Paula Lane Action Network in West Petaluma. The land hosts a longstanding, over 100-year-old American badger habitat (habitat survey in 2003 kindly provided by biologist Kim Fitts). In 2004, an avian survey was kindly provided by biologist Dan Nelson as documentation of additional abundance of wildlife, including over 100 avian species. We are very excited about this new research project and welcome your interest, questions and possible

volunteer time! Susan Kirks will manage the project for Madrone Audubon. Please contact Susan if this project resonates with you and you would like to help a statewide and nationwide effort to try and identify important patterns to help our birds and wildlife sustain. Contact: susankirks@sbcglobal.net, 707-241-5548.

(Thanks to Dr. Sandy DeSimone, Director-Research and Education, Starr Ranch Sanctuary, Audubon California, for her assistance with information for this article.)

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Junior Audubon Goes Walking...Pre-Christmas Count Practice

by Janet Bosshard

Winter arrives, holiday vacation, and nothing to do. Come on out and join other kids birding.



Practice makes for fun and helps develop your interest and skills for identifying birds. Walking Spring Lake's paths, we will search for winter birds. Pretending this is a real event, the group will count birds and species numbers. The more eyes and ears we have the better, to find as many birds as we can.

Beginners are welcomed and encouraged to get involved. Repetition is the key to remembering species and their habits. Bring your binoculars, a field guide if you have one, and enthusiasm.

Meet at the swimming lagoon parking lot at Spring Lake Park on Tuesday, December 22, from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM (or noon if it's a very birdy morning). Rain cancels. Light drizzle is OK, if you wear appropriate warm and

waterproof clothing and shoes. This activity is free. (Use your park pass or pay park entrance fee, \$7.00.)

Contact information: Janet Bosshard, 526-5883. If I'm out birding, please, leave a message.

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Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs)

Pull on your hat and gloves, meet your friends, and start counting the birds. The CBCs are here. Rain or cold does not deter you – gather at day break, count the birds, and enjoy the dinner celebration as the day's adventures are relived and shared with all. Please join us at one or more of these special days for birders.



Photo courtesy of Jann Eyrich

Pt. Reyes CBC

Saturday, December 19th

Now in its 46th year, the Point Reyes Christmas Bird County is a big count with 27 territories and 200 participants. Count organizers ask that you register by December 1 to insure good coverage of each territory. (You are welcome to sign up after December 1, just know that you may not get your desired area.) When you sign up, please do so with the willingness to count even if it rains. Rain DOES NOT cancel. The

Continued on page 4



BIRD COUNTS

Continued from page 3

post-count dinner is a popular and fun event! Online registration is at www.forest-data.com/cbc, and for further information please email: ptreyescbc@gmail.com.

Santa Rosa CBC – Redwood Region Ornithological Society

Sunday, December 20, 2015

Area Leaders should be confirming their groups, and anyone wishing to volunteer to join a team may contact Bill Doyle, Compiler, at shortbill@comcast.net. The site of this year’s dinner will be Adel’s Restaurant, on the corner of College and Mendocino, starting at 5:00 PM. Looking forward to a great count this year!

Madrone Audubon’s 49th CBC

Sunday, December 27, 2015, dawn to dusk

The Western Sonoma County Christmas Bird Count, hosted by Madrone Audubon, takes place on Sunday, December 27, 2015.

Nineteen 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. To find a count area and team that suits you, visit our website at madroneaudubon.org (scroll down to the Christmas Bird Count section on the Home page or click on the Birds drop-down menu). To sign up, contact the team leader for your preferred count area directly, or use our on-line contact form (on the drop-down menu for the “About” tab on the website). Birders of all levels are welcome and encouraged to participate!

A new, aptly-named caterer, Night Owl Food Company, will provide a delicious vegetarian meal for the post-count

dinner at the Sebastopol Community center. A \$5 donation per person is requested. We would greatly appreciate volunteers to help with dinner setup, serving, and cleanup. Please contact Susan Kirks at susankirks@sbcglobal.net if you are able to volunteer.

Immediately after the dinner, teams will announce the birds observed and highlight special sightings and unusual occurrences.

The Madrone count is co-chaired by Peter Leveque and Stacy Li. Please contact Stacy by email at stacyli@sonic.net, or Peter by telephone, 542-8946, if you want to participate in your first count or if you have any questions about this year’s count.

Sonoma Valley Audubon CBC

Wednesday, December 30, dawn to dusk

The Petaluma and Sonoma watersheds provide rich viewing opportunities for the 10th annual Sonoma Christmas Bird Count. Join one of the 35 plus teams on assigned routes led by helpful experienced birders to search for over 165 species typically recorded on the count. Call or email compiler Gene Hunn with your name, address, zip, and phone number: enhunn323@comcast.net or 981-7301. All area birders are welcome!

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CBCs for Kids... Celebrate Birding with your Children or Grandchildren

Petaluma CBC for Kids

Saturday, January 2, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

The Petaluma Wetlands Alliance, a committee of the Madrone Audubon Society, is starting the New Year right

with its 7th Annual CBC for Kids in Petaluma. Meet at Shollenberger Park in Petaluma for a half-day of birding designed for kids ages 8-15.

We’ll 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, and Alman Marsh. We’ll count every bird we see and meet back at the picnic tables at 11:30 AM for a pizza lunch and talk about what we observed. An informational letter for parents can be found at <http://www.madroneaudubon.org/activities-junior-audubon-cbc-for-kids.php>.

If you are interested in leading a group for this event or if you want to sign-up any kids, please contact Al Hesla at 486-9030 or a.hesla@comcast.net.



Photo courtesy of Petaluma Wetlands Alliance

Sonoma Valley CBC4Kids

Sunday, January 3, 2016

Meet at Sonoma Barracks, 20 Spain St., Sonoma, 95476. Please check www.sonomabirding.com for details. Email sonomanature@gmail.com to sign up.

Point Reyes CBC for Kids

Saturday, January 9, 2016

Point Reyes National Seashore, in collaboration with the Point Reyes National Seashore Association and Sonoma



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

December 2015 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 2, 7:00 PM

BOARD MEETING. Sonoma County Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway Avenue, Santa Rosa. For agenda information, contact Gordon Beebe at gdbeebe@earthlink.net.

Saturday, December 5, 9:30 AM to dusk

CENTRAL VALLEY - GRAY LODGE and SACRAMENTO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. 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 5 & 99: From the junction of Interstate 5 and Highway 99, take Highway 99 north to Live Oak. Turn west on Pennington (North Butte) Road. Turn right on Almond Orchard Avenue and continue to entrance. The distance from Live Oak is about eight miles. After birding Gray Lodge, we will go to Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge for the afternoon, hopefully enjoying 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. Call Bill Doyle at 483-8773 for more information.

Saturday December 12, 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.

Wednesday, December 16, 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM

BODEGA BAY. Bird Walk. This is the first of our third Wednesday field trips to Bodega Bay. Instead of conducting weekly mid-week bird walks, we will now conduct a monthly field trip to Bodega Bay on the third Wednesday of each month. To meet the group, drive north on Highway 1 in the town of Bodega Bay. On the edge of town, turn left at East Shore Road (the Bodega Head turnoff), then turn right at the stop sign, and continue 0.3 miles to the unpaved parking lot on the right. The group will search the harbor and adjacent seas and woodlands for birds, including Doran County Park. Weather permitting, the group will eat a picnic lunch

at the Westside County Park on the west side of the harbor. A Sonoma County park permit or \$7 entrance fee is required for both Westside and Doran County Parks. Leader: Tom McCuller, t.sisyphus@comcast.net, 707-546-1812.

Saturday December 19, 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 Mary Edith Moore at 763-3577; for the walk in Spanish, contact Connie Peabody at 338-2237.

Tuesday, December 22, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

PRE-COUNT PRACTICE for the Christmas Bird Counts. Junior Audubon Event. Spring Lake County Park (meet at the Spring Lake swimming lagoon parking lot). Contact information: Janet Bosshard, 526-5883. See page 3 for more information.

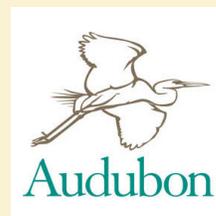
Saturday December 26, 9:00 AM

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 Gerald Moore at 763-3577.

Sunday, December 27, dawn to dusk

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. Join us for the 49th Annual Western Sonoma County Christmas Bird Count, hosted by Madrone Audubon. See page 4 for more information about the count and the post-count dinner.

**The Bird-A-Thon is coming in February!
Watch for details in the
next issue of Leaves.**





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

January 2016 calendar

Saturday, January 2, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

PETALUMA CBC FOR KIDS. Meet at Shollenberger Park for a half-day bird count for children aged 8 to 15. For more information, please see page 4.

Wednesday, January 6, 7:00 PM

BOARD MEETING. Sonoma County Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway Avenue, Santa Rosa. For agenda information, contact Gordon Beebe at gdbeebe@earthlink.net.

Saturday January 9, 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.

Saturday, January 16, 2016, 8:30 AM to noon

LAKE SONOMA. Bird Walk. A great place to see Wood Duck and Common Merganser, among others. Meet at the Lake Sonoma Visitor Center. From Highway 101, take Canyon Road to Dry Creek Road, then Rockpile Road to the Center. Leader: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115.

Saturday January 16, 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 Mary Edith Moore at 763-3577; for the walk in Spanish, contact Connie Peabody at 338-2237.

Monday, January 18th, 7:00 PM

GENERAL MEETING. First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa. "Birds and Climate Change: How Will Local Species Be Affected?" This is a free event and all are welcome.

Wednesday, January 20, 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM

BODEGA BAY. Bird Walk. To meet the group, drive north on Highway 1 in the town of Bodega Bay. On the edge of town, turn left at East Shore Road (the Bodega Head turnoff), then turn right at the stop sign, and continue 0.3 miles to the unpaved parking lot on the right. The group will search the harbor and adjacent seas and woodlands for birds, including Doran County Park. Weather

permitting, the group will eat a picnic lunch at the Westside County Park on the west side of the harbor. A Sonoma County park permit or \$7 entrance fee is required for both Westside and Doran County Parks. Leader: Tom McCuller, t.sisyphus@comcast.net, 707-546-1812.

Saturday January 23, 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 Gerald Moore at 763-3577.

Saturday, February 6, 2016, 8:30 AM to noon

HUDEMAN SLOUGH. Bird Walk. 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 on 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. We will park at the edge of the parking lot bordering on Ramal Road. Rain cancels. Leader: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115.

Welcome New Members of Madrone Audubon Society

Rohnert Park

JJ Jent

Santa Rosa

Valerie Degier
The Iverson Family
Carol Parisek

Sebastopol

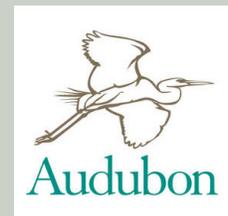
Lucy Aron
Geri Brown
Charlyn Stetson

Sonoma

Cynthia Thomssen &
Joe Hyde
Judith Wagner

Windsor

Ellen Mack



**CBC'S FOR KIDS**

Continued from page 4

Birding, invites families with children ages 3–18 to the 6th annual Point Reyes Christmas Bird Count for Kids on Saturday, January 9, 2016, at Point Reyes National Seashore's Clem Miller Environmental Education Center.

Gather your fledglings for this half-day event celebrating nature, parks, education and outdoor family fun. The event brings together all the basic elements of birding to introduce the next generation of stewards to the importance of birds in the ecosystem and the annual tradition of bird counts. The park is an ideal location for birding with 490 bird species or 54% of all North American birds recorded here, which also makes it a perfect outdoor classroom for you and your brood to learn more about the fascinating world of birds.

Naturalists will lead groups in the field to identify and count birds. Youth ages 3–6 are invited to join our Budding Birders* group with a range of activities and a bird discovery walk around the education center. Young Birders, ages 7–18, will participate in the official count and venture out to various locations within the park to identify and count birds. *Budding Birders ages 3–6 can register and participate with an older sibling age 7–18 in any group, but please note these hikes are longer and more remote. All teams will record and share their findings in a short report during the

Tabulation Celebration followed by a special presentation by The Bird Rescue Center of Sonoma. All children must be accompanied by at least one parent or guardian. Event occurs rain or shine.

Pre-registration is required and will become available in November or December 2015. Space is limited. A suggested donation of \$10.00 per family is welcomed. For additional information and online registration, go to http://www.nps.gov/pore/planyourvisit/events_cbc4k.htm.

Mayacamas CBC for Kids

*Saturday, January 16, 2016,
8:30 AM - 1:30 PM*

Dwight Center at the Pepperwood Preserve, 3450 Franz Valley Rd, Santa Rosa 95404

FREE, with donations appreciated
Children ages 7 and up welcome!

Discover local habitats as you search for as many birds as you can find! This annual event begins with a “binocular boot camp” where participants will learn the basics of binocular use. Then you will work in teams with local bird experts and be assigned to explore one of three local ecosystems in search of birds. Teams will return to the Dwight Center to share their findings and celebrate their efforts helping to protect local birds! All findings will be posted on eBird.org. The count will include an easy hike of 1-3 miles at a slow pace. All Madrone Junior Audubon members are specifically invited. Se habla Español!

OUT & ABOUT**Waterfowl of the Laguna de Santa Rosa and the Pacific Flyway**

Presentation by Dave Barry

Saturday, January 9, 2016, 3:00-4:30 PM
(following Open House)

Heron Hall, Laguna Environmental Center, 900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

\$10 at the door. No RSVP necessary.

The January Open House at Laguna de Santa Rosa will be all about ducks and other waterfowl. There will be special educational displays and fun, hands-on activities for all ages. The Open House is 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM and is free.

At 3:00 PM, Dave Barry will give a presentation on “Waterfowl of the Laguna de Santa Rosa and the Pacific Flyway,” (\$10 at the door for the talk). Listeners will learn basics of identification and characteristics of waterfowl found in Sonoma County at different times of year, and about the great Pacific Flyway, of which the Laguna is an important stopover for migrating waterfowl. Dave Barry is a certified California Naturalist, who brings a breath of experience and knowledge of birding and nature to his natural history talks.

Waterfowl of the Laguna de Santa Rosa and the Pacific Flyway

Natural History **WALK** with Dave Barry
Sunday, January 10, 2016, 7:30-11:00 AM

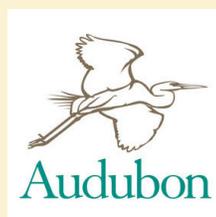
Laguna Environmental Center, 900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Fee: \$30, Pre-registration required.
Suitable for 10 years and up.

This field day will include visits to several sites along the Laguna, not normally open to the public, where waterfowl

Continued on page 8

**Visit our website at
www.madroneaudubon.org**





OUT AND ABOUT

Continued from page 7

love to hang out (location details sent upon registration). Participants will learn to identify ducks by their behavior and vocalization, both in flight and while feeding. This natural history walk is suitable for novice to advanced birders.

17th Annual Snow Goose Festival of the Pacific Flyway

Wednesday through Sunday, January 27–31
Chico, CA

Stretching from the Bering Strait off the coast of Alaska to Patagonia in South America, the Pacific Flyway ranks as one of the greatest migratory pathways in the world. Millions of birds representing hundreds of species use this great avian highway each year, and nowhere is this abundance of bird life more accessible than the northern Sacramento Valley.

The area attracts a huge wintering population of waterfowl and raptors, including the majestic Snow Goose. As many as one and a half million Snow Geese use the Pacific Flyway, and tens of thousands winter in the Sacramento Valley.

The keynote speaker at the upcoming Snow Goose Festival is celebrated nature photographer George Lepp who will share some of his greatest bird photography success stories and some notable and funny failures. Join birders from far and wide for a wide range of workshops and numerous field trips covering rice fields, wildlife refuges, and river walks.

Go to www.snowgoosefestival.org in December for program details and online registration.

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

Guided tours Saturdays & Sundays
11:00 AM & 2:00 PM until the monarchs migrate, usually late January

The Monarch Grove at Natural Bridges State Beach provides a winter home for up to 100,000 Monarchs. From their spring and summer habitats in the Rocky Mountains, Monarchs migrate to the “city in the trees” at the Natural Bridges beach, where the mild climate and eucalyptus grove provide a safe place to roost until spring. On warm days, visitors can see butterflies float-

ing from tree to tree, and on cool days, clustering in the eucalyptus for warmth and protection. The park maintains a milkweed demonstration patch where Monarch eggs, caterpillars, and chrysalides can be observed.

The highest numbers of butterflies are usually seen in November and December. However, Monarch migration is variable, so it’s important to call the park for up-to-date information. No reservations are needed for the public tours on weekends unless you are bringing a group of 10 or more. For more information, visit http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=541.



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

**Observations**Fall 2015 • Dan Nelson • 479-2918 • birdsurf64@sbcglobal.net

Snow Goose	10/11	Salmon Creek, along Bean Ave.	BO'C
Black Scoter (male)	10/5	Bodega Head fly-by	DN
Blk-bellied Whistling Duck	10/15	Robert's Lake, Rohnert Park	DN
Blk-bellied Whistling Duck	10/27	Lucchesi Park, Petaluma	GH
Black-footed Albatross (7)	10/24	Offshore Sonoma County	DN, et al
Laysan Albatross (2)	9/6	Bodega Canyon	RROS, et al
Black-vented Shearwater	10/24	Offshore Sonoma County, (975 + birds)	DN, et al
Black-vented Shearwater	10/25	Off Bodega Head (1 leucistic morph)	RROS, et al
Brown Booby	10/25	Bodega Canyon	RROS, et al
Northern Gannet	8/30-9/1	Drake's Bay, E. of Fish Docks	BL, et al
White-faced Ibis (12)	9/19	Doran Park, Bodega Harbor	WA, RROS
Sandhill Crane (1 ad.)	9/24-Oct.	Delta Pond, W. of Willowside Rd.	DK, M.Ob.
Broad-winged Hawk	9/26	Bay Hill Rd., close-up, fly-over (imm.)	DN
Prairie Falcon	9/4	Bodega Hwy. @ Tomales Rd.	SeS
Pacific Golden-Plover	11/4	S. Salmon Creek Beach	BO'C
Pacific Golden Plover	10/30	Reclamation Rd.	GH, RROS
American Golden-Plover	10/30	Reclamation Rd.	GH, RROS
Solitary Sandpiper	8/30-9/1	Kelly Marsh, Laguna de Santa Rosa	LH, NO, et al
Baird's Sandpiper	9/13	Campbell Cove; calling fly-over	DN
Pectoral Sandpiper	Sept.	Doran Park, Bodega Harbor	M.Ob
Ruff (juv.)	9/4-7	Bodega Hwy. pond, just W. of Tomales Rd.	TB, RB, M.Ob
Common Tern (2-3)	Sept-Oct.	Bodega Harbor	M.Ob.
South Polar Skua (1)	10/24	Offshore Sonoma County	DN
Pomarine Jaeger (5)	10/24	Offshore Sonoma County	DN
Rhinoceros Auklet (12)	10/24	Offshore Sonoma County	DN
White-winged Dove	10/9	Campbell Cove	BO'C, RH
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	10/24-11/1	Owl Canyon	M.Ob.
Common Poorwill	10/11	Coleman Valley Rd.	BO'C
Short-eared Owl	9/28	Red Hill (near top) above Shell Beach	B'OC
Lewis' Woodpecker (3)	11/2	Crane Creek Regional Park	LH, et al
Black-Ch. Hummingbird	8/28	W. Petaluma residence (fem.)	AW
Tropical Kingbird (1)	9/20	Campbell Cove	MB
Tropical Kingbird (1)	9/29	Campbell Cove	DA, TE, DN
Tropical Kingbird (2)	10/15-16	Hwy. 1 near Bird Walk	DF, GH, et al
Bell's Vireo (eastern)	10/2-5	Campbell Cove (1st County Record)-many photo	GH, M.Ob.
Yellow-green Vireo	10/31	Diekmann's Store	GB
Bank Swallow (ad.)	9/17	Laguna de Santa Rosa, Sebastopol (photos)	SC
Gray Catbird	Sept.	Sebastopol residence	VB
Red-throated Pipit	9/14	Ellis Creek ponds	RM
Red-throated Pipit	9/22	Nicasio Reservoir (dried lake margin)	BBa
White Wagtail	10/20-21	Rodeo Lagoon, Marin Co.	WL
Dusky Warbler	10/15-20	Redwood Creek, Muir Beach	P.R.B.O. banders
Yellow-rumped Warbler	9/13	Bodega Bay Marine Lab entrance	DN, SM, SC
Magnolia Warbler	10/5-6	Owl Canyon	LVC, DN, et al
Magnolia Warbler	10/17-19	Diekmann's Store	SoS, M.Ob
Blackburnian Warbler	9/22-23	Bodega Dunes C.G., behind Bay Flat Rd. res.	DN, M.Ob.
Chestnut-sided Warbler	9/9	Doran Park	DF
Chestnut-sided Warbler	10/7	Owl Canyon	M.Ob
Black-throated Blue Warbler	10/7	Campbell Cove (male)	DF
Cerulean Warbler	10/10-12	Samoa, Humboldt Co.	TMcK, M.Ob
Pine Warbler	10/7	Sunnyvale Baylands, Santa Clara Co.	P. Kenny, M.Ob.
Pine Warbler	10/17	Pt. Reyes Fish Docks	T. Easterla
Prairie Warbler	9/12	Owl canyon, Bodega Bay	LH, et al
Prairie Warbler	9/24	Owl Canyon, Bodega Bay	DF
Palm Warbler	10/5	Owl Canyon, Bodega Bay	DN
Chipping Sparrow	9/22	Campbell Cove, Bodega Bay	DN
Clay-colored Sparrow	10/2	Campbell Cove, Bodega Bay	DH
Cassin's Sparrow	9/19	Kent Island, Bolinas Lagoon	PP
Grasshopper Sparrow	11/2	Crane Creek Park	LH, et al
Dickcissel (2)	9/15	Ft. Mason, San Francisco	J. Sterling et al
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	9/26	Owl Canyon (fall male plumage)	DN, DH
Yellow-headed Blackbird	10/9	Pumpkin Farm just E. of Lytton Spts. Rd. Healdsburg	R. Reigh, et al
Western Tanager (4)	9/17	Spud Pt. wax-myrtles, together in flock	DN
Orchard Oriole	10/7	Campbell Cove; seen 30 min later at Owl Canyon	DN
Orchard Oriole	10/27-29	Diekmann's Store	PC, DF
Red Crossbill (30)	11/3-4	Santa Rosa, off Los Alamos Rd.	KW

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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: e-mail - info@madroneaudubon.org.

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