



Madrone LEAVES

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

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Congratulations to 2011 Award Recipients

The year has passed quickly and once again it's time to honor some of those members who have contributed so much in making our chapter a success. We've had a good year, enjoying birding opportunities, interesting programs, citizen science activities, social get-togethers, and victories in the conservation area. There will be hurdles to overcome in the future (and we've met some this year when so many board openings needed to be filled), but I'm confident that we'll continue rallying around when the occasion for action arises. But now, let's take a look at those who are so deserving of our accolades.

The Bentley-Smith Award – Tom Furrer and Kathie Noguchi

Madrone Audubon Society instituted the Bentley-Smith Award in 2002. The award is given to recognize a Madrone member for contributions to the protection and enhancement of the environment through education and/or conservation activity in the community.

This award was created in honor of Martha Bentley and Ernestine Smith, who joined the fledgling Madrone Audubon Society as charter members in 1967. As educators, Martha (through the Bird Rescue Center) and Ernie (through the Bouverie Preserve of Audubon Canyon Ranch) have reached untold numbers of children and adults. As environmental advocates they have worked tirelessly to protect wildlife and habitats, and to improve our earth community. There are two awardees this year.

One of the recipients is Tom Furrer who is a wildlife biology teacher at Casa Grande

High School in Petaluma. In 1984 with Tom's guidance, the students officially adopted Petaluma's Adobe Creek in an effort to see if they really could make a difference in the creek's environmental condition. Hard work, fundraisers, and perseverance led to the fish hatchery and the creek's ideal habitat for the returning salmon population. We want to recognize the focus on the environment that Tom has provided for so many students over so many years.

The second recipient is Kathie Noguchi who has been a teacher for 15 years in which 11 of those years were spent teaching at the Lincoln Elementary School in Santa Rosa, encouraging environmental consciousness in youngsters. Kathie has always incorporated nature and environmental education into her classroom activities, so it was not surprising when she became a major mover in organizing the annual Lincoln School Bird Festival. In spite of retiring at the end of the school year, she has agreed to co-chair the Bird Festival with members of Madrone Audubon.

Bewick's Wren Award – Cynthia Miller

This is the oldest of the four Madrone awards and recognizes a member for a long-term, exceptional contribution. The Bewick's Wren, Madrone's logo, was selected in 1967, and Les Bowen designed the original insignia. This year's award recognizes Cynthia Miller, who was the "behind the scenes" face of Madrone Audubon for everyone who mailed in memberships, donations or letters to the chapter. We had full confidence that all would be handled promptly and properly with Cynthia at the helm.

The Evalyn and Les Bowen Award – Mary Wheeler

The Bowen award was established in 1988 and is named after two people who were very influential in the founding of our chapter. In August 1965, the Bowens moved to Santa Rosa from San Diego and began joining groups to meet people so that they could begin an Audubon chapter here. The story goes that Evalyn "cornered people buying seed in stores and anyone who might even be remotely interested in birds." Gradually 42 birders were corralled, and Madrone Audubon came into existence. The first organizational meeting was held in January 1967. In March 1967, Madrone became the 23rd chapter of Audubon California, and the Bowens hosted the meetings in their home for the next few years. Evalyn became the first president, and she and Les led many of the field trips.

The Bowens would be pleased that this award be given to Mary Wheeler this year for her outstanding work in the volunteer position of Treasurer. For five years she gave us a very professional approach to our finances and budgeting. Mary taught us how to use the budget as a tool to work

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**NO GENERAL MEETING
IN THE MONTHS OF
JUNE, JULY, AND AUGUST**

Coming September 19

Frederique Lavoipierre will show and tell us how to garden for the birds.



calendar

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.

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

Wednesday June 1, 7:00 PM

BOARD MEETING. Sonoma County Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway Avenue, Santa Rosa. For agenda information, contact Bob Speckels at robertspeckels@yahoo.com.

Saturday June 4, 7:30 AM to 3:00 PM

PINE FLAT ROAD. A bird-rich outing that we look forward to every year. We will meet at the first bridge on Pine Flat Road, just east of its intersection with Highway 128, north of Healdsburg. We will combine into as few cars as possible. Please do not join us in an additional vehicle after the trip has started, as a large number of cars negatively affect the birding and the residents of the area. Bring lunch. Rain cancels. Leaders: Tom Cashman, 217-5103; Bill Doyle, 483-8773; Bob Speckels, 569-0563; and Ken Wilson, 775-2558.

Sunday June 5, 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM

MAYACAMAS FIELD TRIP. A walk with Kathy and Dave Biggs to find and identify dragonflies. Meet on Pine Flat Road between Red Winery and the Sausal Creek Bridge. For more information, contact Suzanne at 829-7234.

Saturday June 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.

Sunday June 12, 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM

MAYACAMAS FIELD TRIP. Plant walk with Lynn Houser, botanist and past president of the California Native Plant Society Milo Baker Chapter. See June 5 field trip on where to meet and contact information.

Saturday June 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 June 18, 7:30 AM to Noon

SANTA ROSA CREEK AT WILLOWSIDE ROAD. A short walk, but an intense birding experience. Meet at Santa Rosa Creek Bridge on Willowside Road, between Hall and Guerneville Roads. Rain cancels. Leaders: Tom Cashman, 217-5103, Bill Doyle, 483-8773; Bob Speckels, 569-0563, and Ken Wilson, 775-2558.

Saturday June 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.

Saturday July 2, 7:30 AM to Noon

SALMON CREEK ROAD. Another annual favorite. Meet at the corner of Bodega Highway and Salmon Creek Road, in the town of Bodega (not Bodega Bay), where we will combine into as few cars as possible. Please do not join us in an additional vehicle after the trip has started, as a large number of cars negatively affect the birding and the residents of the area. Informal carpools meet at Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District Office, 747 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa at 7:15 AM. Leaders: Tom Cashman, 217-5103; Bill Doyle, 483-8773; and Bob Speckels, 569-0563.

Thursday September 1, 8:30 AM to 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), then turn right at the stop sign, and continue 0.3 miles to the unpaved parking lot on the right. Bring lunch. For information, contact Tom McCuller, sisypus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

Saturday September 3, 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

BODEGA BAY. Come explore with us one of Sonoma County's richest bird areas. From the center of the town of Bodega Bay, drive north on Highway 1. Turn left at East Shore Road (the Bodega Head turnoff), then right at the stop sign, and continue 0.3 mile to the large, dirt parking lot on the right. Informal carpools leave Santa Rosa at 7:15 AM, from the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District Office, 747 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa. To participate, please arrive by 7:05 to make arrangements. The parking lot is behind the office, accessed from Carillo Street. Bring lunch. Rain cancels. Leaders: Tom Cashman, 217-5103; Bill Doyle, 483-8773; Bob Speckels, 569-0563; and Ken Wilson, 775-2558.



2011 AWARDS

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through what we needed to accomplish our goals.

Burridge Award – Emiko Condeso

The Burridge award was established in 2008 by Diane and Bryant Hichwa to recognize those who contribute to research and education.

Emiko has fostered many volunteers in the Heron Egret Project organized by Audubon Canyon Ranch. She has also assisted Madrone at the West 9th Street heron colony during the Lincoln School Bird Festival, encouraging a new generation committed to the environment.

Special Recognition – Bridget McCoy

Bridget McCoy is the comptroller at Econscious, a Petaluma company bordering Shollenberger Park and serving a growing demand for organic and sustainable apparel and accessories that are durable, comfortable, and great looking. Bridget is very involved in nature and the environment, contributing to local causes and an avid supporter of the Petaluma Wetlands Alliance (PWA). The story goes that one year she looked out her office window, saw the PWA docents working with the schoolchildren, contacted PWA, and said she wanted to help support the educational program. Since that first year, Bridget has contributed annually to PWA's educational program and, just last year, came with her employees and worked alongside PWA in habitat restoration. Now, that is a friend indeed!

Welcome New Friends of Madrone Audubon Society

Healdsburg

Laura E. Rodriguez & Ann Bullard

Santa Rosa

Mary Lou Reid

Sebastopol

Linda Lebovics

Spring and Summer Volunteer Opportunities

Bouverie Preserve in Glen Ellen

Audubon Canyon Ranch (ACR) is seeking volunteers for its Elementary School Environmental Education Program at its 535-acre Bouverie Preserve in Glen Ellen. Two informational meetings are scheduled for May 25 and June 15 to introduce prospective volunteers to the 23-week docent training program.

Each year, trained Bouverie docents guide thousands of third and fourth grade elementary school students in small groups and share their knowledge about the natural world including birds, trees, wildflowers, amphibians, and reptiles. Bouverie Preserve Docent Training starts 7 September 2011 and is held every Wednesday (holidays excluded) through 22 February 2012. The cost of the docent training course is \$135 to cover training materials. Scholarships are available.

For more information, visit www.egret.org, call 938-4554, or e-mail bouverie@egret.org.

Monitoring Seabirds in Gualala

by Diane Hichwa

This summer is the fifth year of monitoring nesting seabirds in northwest Sonoma County on Gualala Point Island and will complete a phase of a study undertaken cooperatively by Bureau of Land Management, Madrone Audubon, and the Stewardship Task Force for the California Coastal National Monument at Sea Ranch. All of the partners are encouraged to participate and we are asking for your help. Daily counting occurs from Friday June 24 through Wednesday July 13 at Gualala Point Island off of Sea Ranch. Those shifts are at 6:30 AM and 10:30 AM (there are also some 8:00 AM shifts) and last approximately two hours. As in the past, we may be able to offer overnight stays. Counts are also done every week (Thursday, Friday, and Saturday mornings for 1-2 hours, April through August) and these counts are a great introduction to the bird species, proce-

dures, and forms. Most help is needed during the June 24-July 13 period. You can do a mini-training session before your shift(s) or come to one of the weekly counts for a more-thorough training. Help us keep Madrone an active participant. Brandt's Cormorants are already bringing in nesting materials and both Western Gulls and Black Oystercatchers have been seen mating. Don't hesitate, volunteer now. For more information, contact Diane at dhichwa@earthlink.net or 785-1922.

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Madrone Looks at Wind Energy

by Susan Kirks and Diane Hichwa

At Madrone's annual Planning Meeting last August, we formed a committee on wind energy. With a global focus on diversifying energy resources and the benefits of renewable energy, it is important to look at wildlife protection when establishing these policies and regulations.

When a wind energy system is installed to help supplement energy resources for a property owner and/or community, are technologies emerging that may be safer for wildlife than turbine blades, while still being cost effective and efficient? Do regulations exist to guide siting on a property while preventing harm to wildlife? While our committee found some answers, we continue to ask more questions.

For a perspective on industry's opinion about wind farms and wind turbines, as well as conservationists' perspectives on wind energy, a good read is the January 2011 issue of the Journal of the American Birding Association's *Birding Magazine*, and *Point/Counterpoint* (aba.org/birding/v43n1p5w1.pdf).

In our conversations and process, we've received valuable input from Garry George of Audubon California, Tom Rusert of Sonoma Birding who helped begin our conversation, Geoff Geupel of PRBO Conservation Science, Marin Audubon,

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WIND ENERGY

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Golden Gate Audubon, Marin County regulators and other governmental agencies, biologists, and industry designers. The Madrone Audubon Board recently approved our committee's request to move forward with contacting the county government. We will request a review and update of our county's wind energy conversion system ordinance. Our goals will be to explore incentivizing new technologies that are less noisy, a design for visibility and prevention of impact, and cost effectiveness.

To help us in our process, please send any information on wind energy, technological advances, and affects on wildlife you feel may be helpful to susankirks@sbcglobal.net. We appreciate our members' assistance in helping us become up-to-date in this emerging renewable energy market and its effect on our environment.

(MAS Wind Energy Committee: Susan Kirks, Diane Hichwa, Bob Speckels, Ken Wilson, Veronica Bowers, and Tom Rusert. Additional input from the Madrone Audubon Board will be appreciated.)

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Stornetta Public Lands

The perfect place for a leisurely hike and a conversation with nature

The 1,132-acre Stornetta Public Lands is located along the Mendocino County coastline just north of the town of Point Arena. It includes over 2 miles of coastline, the estuary of the Garcia River, the adjacent beach, and a small island accessible during low tide. Stornetta borders the Pacific Ocean and the historic Point Arena Lighthouse on the west. To the north it is bordered by Manchester State Park. To the east it is bordered by State Highway 1 and Windy Hollow County Road. Land ownership to the south includes a property formerly owned by the U.S. Coast Guard, which now belongs to Mendocino Community College, and another private parcel. The college site, known as the Loran

Station, is used for college classes and as a marine research facility. The small island, Sea Lion Rocks, will become a portion of the California Coastal National Monument system.

The property is recognized by several state and federal agencies as containing significant natural resources, including important wildlife habitat, several riparian corridors, extensive wetlands, ponds and other water sources, cypress groves, meadows, and sand dunes. Migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, and several special status species may be found on the property. The Garcia River is prime Coho and Chinook salmon habitat, and is a key recovery area in recent Endangered Species Act listings.

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GENERATION WILD

Wild animals don't need an announcement of spring; their internal calendars are remarkably accurate. At this time of year they are dedicated to nesting, denning, finding mates, constructing homes, mating, and producing offspring.

PLEASE look out for them in your habitat. No pesticides, please.

Each day spring migrants arrive from their wintering grounds. Species already here chase each other, oblivious to traffic. Nests and dens are being constructed; please check before you prune or clear, and postpone tree trimming. Most wild babies are born between March and May.

When wild mothers forage for food, they often leave their young protected in safe surroundings.

Songbirds will often feed their fledglings on the ground for several days until the young birds learn how to take flight from the ground.

If new wild families or individual babies appear without warning or in the wrong place at the wrong time or you see an apparently healthy baby that needs assistance, call WildCare's Living with Wildlife Hotline at 415-456-SAVE (7283) for assistance.

NEVER give an orphaned or injured animal food, liquids, or medications unless you have been given instructions to do so by a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. For more information, visit www.wildcare-bayarea.org or call 415-453-1000.

Sonoma County wildlife rehabilitation centers include: Songbird Hospital Wildlife Rescue, 484-6502; The Bird Rescue Center, 523-2473; Wildlife Rescue, 526-9453; and Wildlife Center of Kenwood, 575-1000.

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FINAL 2011 BIRD-A-THON RESULTS ARE IN

by Marcia Johnson, Bird-A-Thon Coordinator

Many thanks go to the teams who participated in Madrone's 2011 Bird-A-Thon. The **\$7,749.94** collected this year will support our conservation and educational programs. Please thank the members of the following teams for their effort and commitment. We thank you for supporting this year's teams.

From the mighty **Gray-headed Seersuckers** with Betty Burrridge, Ken Wilson, Becky Olsen, and Ted Eliot, an impressive 118 birds were counted. A Black Rail was heard calling from Shollenberger Park. Betty bemoaned that after 40 years of birding, she has still not seen this elusive bird. A late March 12th Varied Thrush was calling from the top of Los Alamos Road, while an early March 12th Caspian Tern was spotted at Bodega Harbor. A great day was had by a team who has supported Madrone for years.

Appreciation goes to the sponsors: Walt and Sondra Bodley, Cynthia Boyer, Richard Cuneo, Jeanette Doyel, Ted Eliot, Gary Frerien, Deyea and Jack Harper, Gene Hunn, Katie and Leo Nelligan, Mike Nelligan, Mike Parmeter, Earl and Kathy Rathbun, Ruth Rudesill, Jeanne Schapp, Daphne Smith, Liz Tomlinson, Don and Marilyn Toms, and Mary and Larry Yabroff.

Amount raised: \$1,023.50.

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**BIRD-A-THON**

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Our newest team, **The Wandering Tattlers**, co-led by Barbara Arbunich and Carol Zeidman had 58 species on their late February Bird-A-Thon day. They were joined by bird recorder and sponsor, Terrie Mironicki. The group traveled down Bodega Highway to Bodega Bay, stopping along the way. Next, they went to Shollenberger Park, where they met Ruth Rudesill, who kindly pointed out several species which their tired eyes did not see. For Carol, the Eurasian Wigeon, Surf Scoter, and Marsh Wren were first sightings.

Many thanks go to sponsors: Mark Arbunich, Renee Aufort, Jane Blonien, Marcia Bohlen, Susan Briggs, Scott Campbell, Sue Derana, Joy Devins, Ivy Edelstein, Dan Esperon, Gloria Fahy, Erica Fuchs, Kathy and Jim Harvey, Mary Howells, Tom Koren, Linne McAleer, Rebecca Maloney, Terrie Mironicki, Penny Nader, Barbara Nevins, Kathie O'Shea, Dick Pearlman, John Pearlman, Nancy Redding, Ann Seronello, Robert Sheardy, Maggie and Hank Skewis, Lee Soskin, Skip Soskin, Debra Spencer, Virginia Stone, Jessica Vaughan, Diana Vernon, Karen Yanagisako and Marty Lycin, Ari and Myra Zeidman, Art Zeidman, Henry and Colleen Zeidman, Michelle Zeidman, and Phil Zeidman.

Amount raised: \$1,540.80

Betty Groce and Don McCarthy, the hard-working **Roadrunners**, had an impressive 108 species. They decided to reverse part of their route this year after doing so poorly last year. Before heading to the coast, the duo stopped at the Third Street ponds and took a quick look from the street. Lo and behold there was a Lesser Yellowlegs with a Greater Yellowlegs which was an unexpected find. The easiest bird of the day was the Hooded Merganser on a pond at the golf course in Oakmont. They searched diligently for a Bald Eagle to no avail. They were happy to see the Eurasian Wigeon, but missed the Harlequin Duck. At day's end they had tallied 108 species but were flabbergasted that in spite of having been in five suitable habitats, they missed seeing a Great Blue Heron. Go figure!

Kudos go to sponsors: Rick Abbott, Ann Anderson, Judi Barker, George Batchel-

der, Jim Batchelder, Dennis Beall, Peter Bellman, Ellen Bingel, B.J. and Malcolm Blanchard, Janet Bosshard, Sam and Viola Brown, Jane Buscho, Linda Cadwell, Tom Cashman, Jim and Jane Clegg, Beth Combs, Neal Conner, Rachel Corso, Beverly Cowden, Bill Doyle, Harriet Draper, Louise Eddy, Marilyn Edmondson, June England, Janeann Erickson, Janette Evans, Bob Frescura, Barbara Glaser, Stan and Hedda Gold, Leslie Goodrich, Gary and Terry Haag, Gordon Harlander, Susan Harris, Catherine Hickey, Claramae Hoffmann, Donald K. Howard, Jr., Richard Hurley, Helen Kerkendorfer, John Klint, Karen Kubrin, Andy LaCasse, Joan Langfeld, Dianne Leger, Dennis Luz, Lorraine MacKenzie, Pat Marsh, Sandy Martensen, Shirl and Tom Maxson, Don McCarthy, Tom McCuller, Alexandra McDonald, Ellie Miller, Gerald and Mary Edith Moore, Judy Morrison, Doug and Barbara Murray, Rob O'Donnell, Charlotte Oldaker, Carol Orme, Norm Ortman, Mike Parmeter, Gaines Post, John and Polly Post, Elaine Pruett, Gail Purrell, John and Cynthia Rathky, Frank and Marilyn Rathman, Rhio Reigh, Tom Reynolds, Jaci Rienecker, Ruth Rudesill, Maureen Rumford, Jack and Joy Ryan, Bonnie Saito, Steve de Salvo, DDS and Dianne, Marilyn and Don Sanders, Bunny Schmitt, Robin Schudel, Jack Schuyler, Minnie and Tom Silman, Bobbie Sparrow, Bob Speckels, Lise Stevens, Cy Stewart, Marilyn Strand, Barbara Taylor, Jean Tonascia, Barbara and Gene Toschi, Ernestine Trujillo, Frances Waska, Betty Witchey, Tom Wysham.

Amount raised: \$3,019.84

The **Feather Questers**, Diane Hichwa, went with a new birder, Lisa Shiffrin (also Madrone's new Membership Chair) for her 16th year, finding an outstanding 116 species. The evening began with looks at a Barn Owl still standing on a nest box at Sonoma State, followed by a pair of Great Horned Owls duetting in the woods of their yard.

Because the **Feather Questers** count was done later than usual (in the spring), the Red-tails were easy to find on a nest on the Pressley property. The familiar descending song was heard from the Orange-crowned Warbler, the Plain Titmice noisily vocalized, Hutton's Vireos sang their "repeat

performance" over and over, and the swallows were back.

Leaving Sonoma Mountain and just above the fog, a Cooper's Hawk perched in an oak by Crane Park and clouds of Red-winged Blackbirds showed off their epaulets. On the flats, Eurasian Collared Doves had moved into Rohnert Park and Penngrove. Shollenberger Park had delicate long-legged Avocets in breeding plumage with a wash of rust along the neck and head, while the calling of Black-necked Stilts and Long-billed Curlews in the mudflats could be heard.

At Bodega Bay, it was a time of "white spots on the wings" as a Pigeon Guillemot had returned for breeding season and a black duck flew past with white rectangular wing patches, indicating a White-winged Scoter. Also at Bodega Bay, a male Red-breasted Merganser bobbed his head repeatedly trying to convince several females that "he was their man." Finally, a single Eurasian Wigeon hid among the Americans. It truly was a great day to be out.

Many thanks go to sponsors: Gay Bishop, David and Jeanne-Marie Black, Donna Bley, Buff and Gerry Corsi, Kit and David Daine, Gwen Dhesi, Joannie and Mike Dranginis, Don and Donna Friedrich, Dorothy Gregor, Karlene Hall, Val Hanelt and Hans Hickenlooper, Steve Hemenway, Katherine Hichwa, Emile and Linda Houle, Wendy and Chris Iaconis, Lynn Cominsky and Garret Jernigan, John and Jo Kleis, Al and Paula Kritz, Peter and Olivia Leveque, Ann Luft, MaryAnn Desmond and Bill McKee, Jim Moir, Karen and Ted Nagel, Becky Olsen, Craig and Kelly Olsen, Mike Parmeter, Bev Penn, Sally Pola, Dave and Chris Powell, John and Linda Reichel, Rich Kuehn and Dean Schuler, Jim Seeser, Richard Shipps, Liz and Mike Thach, Deborah and Joe Votek, Danna and Janice Vough, Cathy and Larry Zbikowski.

Amount raised: \$1,999.80.

With fond thoughts of Phyllis Schmitt, our "Dabbler", \$166.00 was raised in her memory. Thanks go to the following for remembering: Anonymous, Betty Burridge, Joannie Dranginis, Chris Engel and Hugh Helm, Sandy Martensen, Nora Raggio, and Daphne Smith.



Litigation to Protect Environment and Wildlife

by Susan Kirks

Dutra asphalt plant proposal in Petaluma

Litigation to stop this asphalt plant is ongoing. To donate to the legal defense fund, please send a tax-deductible contribution to the O.W.L. Foundation (Open Space and Water Resource Protection and Land Use), 1390 North McDowell Blvd., Suite G-306, Petaluma CA 94954. On the memo line of your check write "Shollenberger Legal Defense." The O.W.L. Foundation is the fiscal arm of the Petaluma River Coalition, which has mobilized the legal efforts against this asphalt plant project. One hundred percent of these contributions will go toward our legal expenses. For more information, please visit www.saveshollenberger.com.

Roblar Road Quarry Proposal in West Petaluma, Open Space Violation

Litigation to stop this is ongoing. To donate to the legal defense fund, please send a tax-deductible donation to: Paula Lane Action Network, PO Box 2903, Petaluma CA 94953. On the memo line of your check write "Roblar Road Legal Defense." For more information, please visit www.carrq.org.

Lincoln Elementary School Bird Festival

by Janeann Erickson

Thanks to the time and energy of approximately 20 hard-working volunteers the annual Bird Festival at Lincoln School was another great success. The event, which is organized by Madrone volunteers and third grade Lincoln schoolteacher Kathie Noguchi, is a half-day of outdoor activities, art projects, and presentations by the Bird Rescue Center and storyteller Ane Roveta. For many students the highlight of the day was getting a closeup look at their neighborhood birds - the herons and egrets nesting in the middle of West Ninth Street, a block from the school. Thanks to Emiko Condeso and Sarah Millus of Audubon Canyon Ranch and Gerald and Mary Edith Moore of Madrone Audubon, the students were able to use binoculars and scopes to get a better look at the birds. Another popular session was a feather class taught by Marcia Johnson and volunteers from the Laguna Foundation. Gordon Beebe and Gayle Pena led an origami session that was challenging for the students but still a lot of fun. Because of the repeated success of this event, plans are already being made for the 2012 festival.

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Ah...now that summer has come

June 14, Tuesday, 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Shollenberger Shindig

Lagunitas Brewing Company, 1280 North McDowell Blvd., Petaluma

Let's party! Come to a joyous beer party and help raise funds for Shollenberger Park's future. Our legal challenge to the County's approval of the Dutra asphalt plant needs your financial support. General admission is \$20, VIP access is \$100, and children under 12 free. Three musical groups, "Foxes in the Hen House", "The Riverreens", and "Three-legged Sister" will entertain. Call 763-2934 for details.

June 17-19

5th Annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua

Lee Vining CA

A Chautauqua is an institution that began in the late 19th century to provide higher education opportunities through the combination of lectures, concerts, and public events. Following this tradition, the popular Mono Basin Chautauqua offers three days of evening presentations, seminars, field trips, music, and great birding. All proceeds support continuing research in the Mono Basin.

The Mono Basin encompasses one of California's richest natural areas, stretching from the Sierra Crest to the shores of Mono Lake, with a diverse mix of habitats. Twenty-seven years ago birds became a rallying point for the protection of Mono Lake. For more information, visit www.birdchautauqua.org, e-mail info@monolake.org, or call 760-647-6595.

June 26th, Sunday, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

13th Annual Gardens Day at Hallberg Butterfly Gardens

8687 Oak Grove Avenue, Sebastopol

Enjoy docent-led tours; self-guided tours; butterfly and bird sightings; informative displays; children's activities; plants, books, crafts, and stationery sales; and historic habitat gardens. Admission is free. No reservations needed. Contact information: call 823-3420 or e-mail leah@hallbergbutterflygardens.org.

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Death of a Loyal Bird-A-Thon Sponsor

submitted by Betty Groce, co-leader of the The Roadrunners Bird-A-Thon team

Long-time Madrone member, Frances Kohn died April 13. Frances was a regular Walkabout participant and an avid birder until the mid 90s. She has been a loyal sponsor of The Roadrunners since 1989.



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

**Observations**Spring 2011 • Dan Nelson • 479-2918 • birdsurf64@sbcglobal.net

Eurasian Wigeon	4/29	Rush Creek, off Binford Road, Novato	BP
Tufted Duck (fem.)	4/29	Shollenberger Park, continuing	RR
Redhead (2)	4/1	Viansa Wetlands pond	BB
Long-tailed Duck "Oldsquaw"	May	Bodega Harbor, continuing	MOB
Harlequin Duck	May	Bodega Harbor, continuing	MOB
Harlequin Duck	4/23	Sea Ranch, Black Point	DH
White-winged Scoter (5)	4/29	off Doran Park (good # for this dwindling species)	LHug, et al
Common Merganser	3/16	Fryer Creek, Sonoma	MD
Wood Duck (pr.)	3/15	Graton pond	AR
Wood Duck (pr.)	3/31	Spring Lake, near swimming hole	DL
Franklin's Gull (ad.)	4/3-4	Kennedy Park, Napa (pink-blushed bird)	MB, RC
Laughing Gull	4/30	Marin Civic Center pond, San Rafael (continuing)	CL
Solitary Sandpiper	4/29	Adobe Road pond, just southeast of Coro	AW
Swainson's Hawk (pr.)	4/11	Hudemann Slough area, (dk. morph female, lt. morph male)	DN
Swainson's Hawk	4/12	Highway 101 @ Atherton Avenue, Novato	MB
Swainson's Hawk (pr)	4/16	South of Viansa Wetlands, possible nesting	TR, DP
Bald Eagle (2)	March-April	Bodega Harbor (1 adult, 1 3rd-yr.)	DN, et al
Golden Eagle	3/26	Cotati Grade on Highway 101; pursued by up to 80 Ravens	DBarry
White-tailed Kite (pr.)	3/26	Penngrove, defending territory in large oak	MH
Sooty Grouse	4/3	King Ridge Road, "booming"	BD
Green Heron	4/20	Brush Creek Road, south of Montecito	KA
American Bittern	4/16	Spring Lake peninsula	CT
Eurasian Collared Dove	4/17	Washington Street, Petaluma	PS
Great Horned Owl	3/30	Spring Lake near swimming hole; nesting	DL
Rufous Hummingbird	April	numerous widely scattered reports, 2-3 weeks "late" in 2011	MOB
White-throated Swift (3-4)	5/4	Muir Beach, flyovers	JW, DN
Vaux's Swift (pr.)	4/13-May	Graton Road-nest attempt in brick chimney, after failure in 2010	LHallberg
Western Kingbird	4/23	Tomales Road	DN
Western Wood Pewee	4/24	Tomales Road, Coast Guard base, wooded hill to southwest	RJ
Olive-sided Flycatcher	4/21	Tomales Road, Coast Guard base, wooded hill to southwest	RJ
Olive-sided Flycatcher	5/1	Sonoma State University campus, Copeland Creek	AK
Ash-throated Flycatcher	4/27	Coleman Valley Road, near Oceansong	MH
Ash-throated Flycatcher (2)	4/28	Sonoma Mountain, Sonoma Vista Ranch	CB
Swainson's Thrush	5/1	Sonoma State University campus, Copeland Creek	AK
Great-tailed Grackle	April	Ellis Creek, in eucalyptus	MOB
Great-tailed Grackle	4/10	Hudemann Slough	MB
Cassin's Vireo	4/24	Tomales Road, Coast Guard Base, wooded hill to southwest	RJ
Cassin's Vireo (2)	4/3	King Ridge Road	BD
Warbling Vireo (2)	4/12	King Ridge Road	BD
Yellow Warbler (2)	5/1	Sonoma State University campus	AK
Black-throated Gray Warbler	5/1	Sonoma State University campus	AK
Wilson's Warbler	3/28	Muir Beach	DN
Western Tanager	4/13	Petrified Forest Road	DN
Bullock's Oriole (2)	3/31	Paula Lane, Petaluma	DN
Hooded Oriole	4/5	Paula Lane, Petaluma	DN
Lesser Goldfinch	4/23	East Madison Street, Petaluma	MEM
Evening Grosbeak (5)	4/24	Riverfront Regional Park, in Box Elders	GB
Evening Grosbeak (15-20)	5/2	Just west of Highway 101 @ Fulton	DS
Lazuli Bunting (several)	5/2	Helen Putnam Park, Petaluma	C & JR
Lazuli Bunting	4/28	Sonoma Mountain, Sonoma Vista Ranch	CB
Black-headed Grosbeak	4/4	Silvia Drive, Cazadero	DBeall

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Madrone Audubon Society
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Summer 2011

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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 7:30 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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