



Madrone LEAVES

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

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Summer 2013

Number 6

Congratulations to 2013 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: enjoyed birding opportunities and interesting programs, citizen science activities, social get-togethers, and victories in the conservation area. There will be hurdles to overcome in the future, but I'm confident that we'll rally 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 Reynolds

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 & their habitats and

improve our earth community.

Tom Reynolds took his camera and his appreciation of birds and all wildlife into his retirement, benefiting Madrone Audubon and overall conservation efforts in Sonoma County. His exceptional county-wide photography reminds us every single day of the very special places around us – on our coast, in our parks, and in our open spaces. His photos are much appreciated by the Regional Parks Department to boost local support for the parks; his photos have been used in the *Madrone Leaves* and on our website. Though photography is his passion, he's quick to lend a hand as needed for other projects, including a heron/egret slide presentation for students at the Lincoln School Festival activities.

Bewick's Wren Award – Bob Speckels

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 Bob Speckels who served as President and Vice President of Madrone for four years, from 2008 to 2012. He was one of the organizers of the twice-a-month Saturday Beginning Bird Walks for four years, and he has done bird censuses in the spring months both at the Modini-Ingalls Environmental Preserve since 2010 and at the Mayacamas Sanctuary. In the fall of 2010, he plunged in to be a co-leader for the current five-year

Cliff Swallows Die in Petaluma, What We Intend to Do About It, and How You Can Help

by Veronica Bowers and Susan Kirks

The nearby Petaluma Wetlands and river bank – with mud for nests and high numbers of insects for nutrition – make the Petaluma River Bridge and Lakeville Highway Overpass Bridge an established return nesting site for migratory Cliff Swallows. Just as the Capistrano Swallows return to nest in Capistrano each year, the Petaluma Cliff Swallows migrate from South America to Petaluma in March to begin making nests, raise their young, and then return to South America 6000 miles away for the winter.

This would be another incredible story of nature in Sonoma County and a great opportunity to observe this natural

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GENERAL MEETINGS

No General Meetings in the months of June, July, or August; however, beginning in September, the meetings will have a new starting time of 7:00 PM. Have a good summer!

Coming Monday September 16

Author, naturalist, and tour guide Michael Ellis will take us on a journey through one of the most beautiful deserts on the planet, the Mojave.

To receive *Leaves* via email in PDF format just email your request to:

madroneaudubon@um.att.com

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Summer 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.

Saturday June 1, 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

PINE FLAT ROAD. Always a very birdy outing. 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 impacts the birding and the residents of the area. Bring lunch. Rain cancels. Leaders: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115 and Bill Doyle, 483-8773.

Wednesday June 5, 7:00 PM

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

Saturday June 15, 7:30 AM - 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 impacts 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 6:45 AM. Leaders: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115 and Bill Doyle, 483-8773.

Saturday June 15, 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 22, 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 June 29, 7:30 AM - Noon

ANNADEL STATE PARK, CHANNEL DRIVE. Meet in the Annadel State Park parking lot, at the very end of Channel Drive. The park has an entry fee of \$6. Rain cancels. Leader: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115.

Saturday July 13, 7:30 AM - 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. Bring lunch. Rain cancels. Leader: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115.

Wednesday September 4, 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM

BODEGA BAY. Bird Walk. See directions for "Bodega Day", listed above. Bring lunch. Contact Tom McCuller, sisypus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

INTRODUCING THE KIDS TO NATURE...

2013 Feather Fest for Kids: Birds, Eggs, & Nests!

by Al Hesla

PWA held its first ever Feather Fest for Kids on Sunday April 7th at Shollenberger Park and what a great day it was! It was designed for kids ages 6-12 and their parents as a requested follow-up activity to the annual Christmas Bird Count for Kids. Fifty-one people participated in the event, including 21 kids, 19 relatives, and 11 docents. The weather was pleasant and the birds were displaying their nesting behavior for all to enjoy. A special kid-friendly tailgate lunch was provided at the end of the walk. Pitching in to help with the lunch setup was Madrone President, Susan Kirks.

Four teams of kids and family members were formed; they named themselves the Avocets, Loons, Eagles, and Hawks. The teams toured the wetlands and were led by PWA docents Andy LaCasse, Elaine Pruet, Peter Colasanti, Lisa Shiffrin, Wayne Till, JJ Harris, Gerald Moore, and Mary Edith Moore. The kids observed nesting behaviors of several bird species, including Canada Geese, American Avocets,

Mallards, Northern Shovelers, American Coots, Tree Swallows, Red-winged Blackbirds, Killdeer, Cinnamon Teals, Green Herons, Black-necked Stilts, Marsh Wrens, and Bushtits.

Following the walk, the teams met at the Shollenberger Park picnic tables for a lunch of hot dogs, chips, sodas, cookies, and oranges. During lunch, each family was presented with a children's illustrated book, *Take-Along Guide: Birds, Nests and Eggs*, by Mel Boring, compliments of the Petaluma Wetlands Alliance, a committee of the Madrone Audubon.

Future kids' events will be planned in the Petaluma Wetlands for the continued enjoyment and appreciation of our natural world.

Lincoln School Bird Festival

by Janeann Erickson

This annual festival celebrated May 1 was a big success, thanks to the time and energy of a few dozen volunteers. This event, which is organized by retired Lincoln School Elementary teacher Kathie Noguchi and Madrone members Janet Bosshard, Marcia

Johnson, and Janeann Erickson, is designed to teach the students and staff of the school about the wonders of the bird world. For most of the students the highlight of the day is viewing the herons and egrets nesting in the rookery a short walk from their school. They are able to get a close-up view of the birds' nests, thanks to the efforts of Emiko Condeso and Sarah Millus, biologists with Audubon Canyon Ranch. Emiko and Sarah bring their knowledge (and extra spotting scopes); everybody gets a good look at the birds on the nests.

There were also storytelling sessions with Ane Rovetta and visits by two resident educational birds from the Bird Rescue Center. Both the Turkey Vulture and the Barn Owl were a big hit. The day also included classroom art projects, games, and a session on bird beaks led by Marcia Johnson and docents from the Laguna Foundation. Tom Reynolds also visited the school before Bird Day and gave slide presentations of local birds.

This festival is a success due to the time and effort of dedicated volunteers. Anyone who has not been involved in the Lincoln School Bird Festival and would like to help out next year can contact Janeann Erickson at erickson@ap.net or 795-2498.



AWARD RECIPIENTS

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Sonoma County Breeding Bird Atlas project, a revision of the original 1995 Breeding Bird Atlas of the entire county.

His dedicated work has fulfilled the criteria for the Bewick's Award: "exceptional service, vital to our chapter's activity over a long period of time."

The Evalyn and Les Bowen Award – Scott Campbell

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 Scott Campbell whose nature education and working with children has been a long-time focus of Madrone Audubon. Madrone started a PeeWee activity program in 1984 for children with their parents; eventually the PeeWee program evolved into Junior Audubon. In November 2011 Scott coordinated Madrone's Junior Audubon activities and brought that program back to life with new places to go, see, and do.

Scott moved from Chico to Santa Rosa to work with the elderly and balances his work with "youth, where his heart is."

Burridge Award – Sarah Millus

The Burridge award was established in

2008 by Diane and Bryant Hichwa to recognize those who contribute to research and education.

Sarah Millus is Helen Pratt Field Biologist at Audubon Canyon Ranch (ACR). Sarah monitors and tracks the progress of herons and egrets nesting at the Martin Griffin Preserve and at other heronries throughout the northern San Francisco Bay Area. Her work adds to more than 40 years of heron and egret observations collected by ACR. Sarah has assisted Madrone members monitoring herons, and she regularly does the counting and tracking of the West 9th Street colony in Santa Rosa. She helps nearby Lincoln Elementary School students at Madrone's yearly Bird Festival learn about "their" herons and egrets.

Special Recognition – Steve Brady

Steve Brady is an Environmental Specialist with City of Santa Rosa. He has coordinated efforts among City Departments, including Public Works, Parks & Recreation and Administration, for the West 9th Street nesting site. This year he has helped to see that additional signage ("Birds Nesting in Area") is installed at the site, and he has supported Madrone Audubon in efforts to give more protection to these amazing birds in their chosen traffic-prone area. His untiring and selfless dedication to environmental issues in Santa Rosa helps neighborhoods with special wildlife issues, keeping the city an interesting and educational place to live and work.

Special Recognition – Steve Jette

Petaluma Wetlands Alliance docent Steve Jette has had a passion for the Petaluma River and its tributaries for decades. Last September Steve put together a work crew of some homeless men and, with assistance from the Petaluma Public Works Department and the Sonoma County Water Agency, was able to bring a wetlands trail and creek "back to life." Starting by the Petaluma Outlet Mall they unearthed the trail and creek hidden by weeds, blackberries, trash, and old cars... then continued cleaning for two miles downriver. This is

a fine example of one man's determined effort to cleanup a beautiful river. PWA is very proud of what Steve has accomplished and hopes to help him this summer to remove the invasive blackberries that will return to the cleared trails during their growing season.

Madrone Audubon would like to thank the members of the Awards Committee—Diane Hichwa, Janeann Erikson, and Daphne Smith—for making the final selections and contributing information for this article.

CLIFF SWALLOWS

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phenomenon if the other part of the story were not horrifying and true: Cliff Swallows arriving in Petaluma this year were met with sloppy and inadequate exclusion netting which Caltrans' contract workers had installed under both bridges. The installation was claimed to be part of the Highway 101 Marin Narrows Widening Project, requiring a work distance of 50 feet from active nests. However, the ground work below the Petaluma River Bridge was over 100 feet away, far from the nests. No one at Caltrans or their contractor will explain why this netting was installed in the first place or why netting only portions of the bridge would effectively work to exclude nesting.

Cliff Swallows and other birds, including White-Throated Swift, House Finch, and Starling, became entangled in the netting. Large numbers of Cliff Swallows naturally swarmed and approached their nesting site and were left hanging there, entrapped, to suffer and die. Veronica Bowers discovered the ongoing tragedy when she noticed the birds entrapped in netting as she drove into Petaluma on April 7th. She immediately contacted Caltrans, with no response. Repeated calls to US Fish and Wildlife Service and the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife went unanswered. Veronica and volunteers from Native Songbird Care and Conservation, as well as Madrone Audubon,

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CLIFF SWALLOWS

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returned to the bridge to document this unfolding and ongoing tragedy and demand action to stop it.

On April 10th, the project manager for the contractor, CC Myers, told an observer they had been aware of the “problem” for three weeks and had removed many dead and dying birds from the nets. Maggie Rufo, a dedicated conservationist and wildlife rehabilitation volunteer, started a petition on www.change.org which has over 6,300 signatures as we go to press. Lisa Shiffrin, Madrone’s Membership Chair, sent an email to Madrone members to inform them of this ongoing tragedy and ask them to contact those responsible to REMOVE THE NETTING and STOP THE KILLING.

In spite of the netting challenges put in their way by Caltrans, the swallows were able to build about 200 nests, collectively located on the two bridges. Cliff Swallows are also trying to construct nests ON the netting, the attempted netting repairs made by Caltrans, and on scaffolding installed on the Petaluma River Bridge. This scaffolding was apparently designed to enable Caltrans workers to reach the netted areas by lifts, climb onto the scaffolding, cut the dead birds out of the netting, and then destroy partially completed nests to reduce nesting. The entire scene is like seeing a bad, bad comedy of errors. Many swallows continued to die. Since April 7th when Veronica Bowers first discovered entrapped and dying birds, she personally documented 104 Cliff Swallows who lost their lives because of this incompetence and arrogance.

In early April Madrone Audubon retained the firm Lippe Gaffney Wagner LLP in San Francisco to explore potential legal violations and actions to remove the netting from both bridges, stop the killing, and hold responsible parties accountable. Animal Legal Defense Fund, a national animal advocacy group based in Cotati, also began to take action, sending a demand letter to Caltrans. Madrone’s attorney, Brian Gaff-

ney, prepared excellent violation letters, insisting the netting be removed and demanding a response by May 1 about violations of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and State and Federal Environmental law. Federal and state agencies were slow to respond, saying they needed more time.

A phone conference call arranged by California Assembly Member Marc Levine’s office with Caltrans, US Fish and Wildlife, CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife, Veronica Bowers, and Madrone’s attorney listening silently occurred on May 2nd. It was not a fruitful phone call, with Caltrans not accepting responsibility, saying “with nets, always gonna have some death,” and claiming they netted the bridges (100 feet above ground construction under the Petaluma River Bridge) to meet their requirement of staying 50 feet away from nests while doing construction. Caltrans claimed they were going to be installing new columns for the new Petaluma River Bridge in July and nesting birds with eggs would stop them. They failed to acknowledge the complete failure of the netting and the fact that multiple nests are established on both bridges outside the netting areas.

Both Animal Legal Defense Fund and Lippe Gaffney Wagner began preparing for lawsuits to address legal violations. Native Songbird Conservation and Care, Animal Legal Defense Fund, Madrone Audubon, Center for Biological Diversity, Marin Audubon,

and Golden Gate Audubon coalesced to consider litigation under the auspices of Animal Legal Defense Fund with Meyer Glitzenstein & Crystal, a Washington, D.C. based public interest law firm. This agreement occurred on May 9th. We also believe the US Fish and Wildlife Service should prosecute for the Migratory Bird Treaty Act violations, and we want to work with California legislators to pass legislation, prohibiting use of netting for exclusion under bridges.

What we have witnessed should never have happened – should be stopped – and should never occur again. This is why we are in litigation, representing our Madrone Audubon membership to the best of our ability and supporting the dedicated work of songbird expert Veronica Bowers.

The Cliff Swallows migrate from South America to the Petaluma River Bridge and Lakeville Highway Overpass Bridge to build their nests. They help control our insect populations naturally and raise their young, before migrating back to South American for the winter. These migratory swallows did not deserve this treatment by Caltrans and its employees.

For more information, including a full accounting of the death of the Cliff Swallows from April 7th to the present, visit the website of Native Songbird Care and Conservation, www.nativesongbirdcare.org.

Will you support Madrone Audubon and our partners in litigation to stop the Cliff Swallow killing and hold those responsible accountable?

Here’s what you can do to help:

1. Go to www.change.org, find the Cliff Swallows petition and sign it today.
2. Visit www.nativesongbirdcare.org. Select calls to make and emails to send by reviewing the list of agencies and legislators involved. Make that call or send that email today. Demand the netting under the Petaluma River Bridge and Lakeville Highway Overpass Bridge be removed immediately AND demand that those responsible for killing the migratory Cliff Swallows be held accountable.
3. Consider sending a donation to help our coalition’s effort in litigation. Mail your check of support to Madrone Audubon, PO Box 1911, Santa Rosa, CA 95402 – designate “Cliff Swallows” on your check memo line. We will add your support to our coalition’s intention and effort.



Madrone Bird-A-Thon 2013 Results Are In!

by Marcia Johnson,
Bird-A-Thon Coordinator

A grand total of \$9,323.00 was raised to support Madrone's educational and environmental projects. Thanks to all the teams and sponsors.

"Feather Questers" with Diane Hichwa, the only team member counting this year. Low tire pressure resulted in a three-hour late start and left Diane unable to meet her partner. The tide at Bodega Bay was way out, as were the birds. Even with this, 116 birds were seen by this solo lady.

At Jenner, an immature Bald Eagle was preening. At the Russian River mouth, Osprey, Harbor Seals, 80+ Double-crested Cormorants, Common and Pacific Loons were seen. Strangely, several Virginia Rails answered the calls from Diane's cell phone at the little ponds at Highway 116 and Highway 1. At the Laguna, a Wilson's Snipe, Long-billed Curlews, and Cattle Egrets were seen.

Canada Geese, Wild Turkeys, and Eurasian Collared Doves showed up in numerous places. A Scrub Jay flew by carrying a stick for its nest. Orange-crowned Warblers and Hutton's Vireos sang repeat performances. And a White-tailed Kite caught a mouse to bring back to his mate.

At Shollenberger, Avocets in breeding plumage, Black-necked Stilts, and nearby 20 Ring-necked Ducks made for a great day. Birding is ALWAYS a treat!

Thanks to Sponsors: Karen and Jay Abbe, Dorcas Allison, David and Kathy Biggs, David and Jeanne Marie Black, Scott Campbell, Lynn Cominsky, Kit and David Daine, Gwen Dhesi, Joanne Dranginis, Don and Donna Friedrich, Jim and Glenda Gentile, Dorothy Gregor, Karlene Hall, Steve Hemenway, Katherine Hichwa, Val Hanelt and Hans

Hickenlooper, John and Jo Kleis, Debbie and Lloyd Kreuzer, Al and Paula Kritz, Peter and Olivia Leveque, Ann Luft, Mary Ann Desmond and Bill McKee, Jim Moir, Karen and Ted Nagel, Mike Nelligan, Becky Olsen, Benjamin Mike Parmeter, Bev Penn, Sally Pola, Dave and Chris Powell, Linda and John Reichel, Rich Kuehn and Dean Schuler, Marilyn Scott, Jim and Judy Seeser, Daphne Smith, Carol Harrison and Don Tanner, Judy and Phil Temko, Liz and Mike Thach, All Tails Wagging Vet, Danna Vough, Jan Vough, Anne Ysunza, and Cathy Zbikowski.
Amount raised: \$2,732.00.

Wandering Tattlers with Carol Zeidman, Barbara Arbunich and friend Linne McAleer had a joyful day as always. Their big find was a flock of ducks in flight from The Tides Restaurant over to the Harbor in Bodega Bay. After finishing lunch, they proceeded to the Bay to find a flock of 500+ Marbled Godwits napping along the shoreline! So dramatic!!!! The Tattlers tallied 65 species, or as Carol's son said, "tracked down" that number. What a terrific day.

Gratitude to Sponsors: Ellen Anderson, Mark Arbunich, Mike Arbunich, Jane Armstrong, Chuck and Lois Aswell, Renee Aufort, Jullian Ballard, Marilyn Blake, Marty Arbunich and Jane Blonien, Marcia Bohan, Susan Briggs, Jenny Brownlow, Dean and Linda Bullert, Scott Campbell, William Carlsen, Peter Ciarlo, Kathleen Cooke, Terry and Joanne Dale, Joy Devins, Gerri Donato, Dan Esperon, Gloria Fahey, Sandra Hallock, Monica Hansen, Kathy and Jim Harvey, Lori Jacobson, Joanne Keratzides, Tom Koren, Karen Yanagisako and Marty Lycan, Rebecca Maloney, Linne McAleer, Penny Nader, Kathie O'Shea, John Pearlman, Richard Pearlman, Lisa Peters, Lisa Pitman, Julie Porter, Cathy Ralph, Kara Raymond, Ann and Jerry Robertson, Brent Ryan, Don Schmidt, Karen Sharkey, Robert Sheardy, Hank and Maggie Skewis, Lee Soskin, Skip and Kim Sos-

kin, Eva Starkey, Jessica Vaughan, Diana Vernon, Ari Zeidman, Henry and Colleen Zeidman, and Phil and Carol Zeidman.
Amount raised: \$1,835.00.

The Gray-headed Seersuckers with Ken Wilson, Becky Olsen, and Ian Morrison picked March 10th as the perfect day for weather and birdwatching. They traipsed around the county searching every bush, tree, and clump of grass in search of species. Starting at 7:00 AM at Spring Lake, a pair of Bushtits was seen building their nest and a large group of Common Mergansers flew into the lake...only two of the 60+ species seen at Spring Lake.

Bodega Bay was the next stop, after finding a pair of Hooded Mergansers and a flock of approximately 28 Long-billed Curlews at the Laguna in Sebastopol, with no Bald Eagles in sight! Bodega Bay and Harbor were productive, although the Rock Sandpiper was not present. Diekmann's Store included Wilson's, Nashville, and Orange-crowned Warblers. A group of over 150 Cackling Geese flying southward over the harbor raised some questions about leadership. The day ended at Shollenberger Park at 5:30 PM, where Black-necked Stilt and American Avocet were added. This team totaled 132 species. Though there were no surprises or unusual sightings, every bird was lovely to see.

Great thanks to Sponsors: Ted and Pat Eliot, Gary Fregien, Jack and Deyea Harper, Earl and Kathy Rathbun, and Daphne Smith.
Amount raised: \$ 325.00.

The Zonotripias with Bill Doyle, Helen Kochenderfer, and Don Kirker put in a long day, 13.5 hours. As always, they missed some but had some pleasant surprises. Highlights included three Red-breasted Sapsuckers on one power pole across the street from the bakery in Duncan's Mills, an unexpected Pacific Golden Plover at Shollenberger, and a juvenile/first summer GlaucousXGlauc-

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**BIRD-A-THON**

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cous-winged cross Gull at Lucchesi Park. The odd collection of Cackling Geese is still present at Ellis Creek. This team ended up with 144 birds.

Kudos to Sponsors: Mary Ellen and Jeff Baker, Ira Byock and Yvonne Corbeil, Anita Doyle, Charles and Dian Doyle, John and Sally Doyle, Teresa Doyle, Sarita Eastman, Brian Hecker, Jeff Hanson and Peggy Kearns, Don and Beth Kirker, Kochenderfer Business, Carol Kochenderfer, Cynthia and Delfin Labaq, Suzie and Eric Lewis, Brooke Loomis, Rick Marsi, Cece Neber, and Bob Speckels. **Amount raised: \$1,208.00.**

A Team of One, with Gene Hunn: Gene planned a Big Foot Day, leaving a bicycle at Doran Park and a pickup at Owl Canyon; however, his wife Nancy rescued him at sundown after a long day.

Gene started at Owl Canyon at 6:55 AM (nothing much there), hiked to Campbell Cove, up the road to Bodega Head. He spotted a group of British birders scoping the Rock Sandpiper (a bird present since Christmas). In his hurry to continue, he missed the Surfbirds! At the Marine Lab, the Burrowing Owl was hiding, but the only White-tailed Kite of the day was seen on the high point. Hiking down to the Westside Campground area, Spud Point to the Rail Ponds, Ruddy Turnstone, Whimbrel, and a few Western Sandpipers were found. Later seen were Marbled Godwits, Willets, Sanderlings, and Dunlins.

At the Rail Ponds, Gene managed to pish up a Hermit Thrush and a sleeping Clark's Grebe. He then hiked over the dunes to Salmon Creek, where gull numbers were low, though Herring, Thayer's among others were seen. Hiking south of Salmon Creek Bridge, a Northern Harrier and a Merlin cruised by. On to Porto Bodega and Diekmann's Store which were basically quiet. While eating a pizza from Diekmann's, a likely female

Peregrine screamed overhead, striking an unwary Bufflehead. While enjoying her meal, a kleptoparasitic Turkey Vulture swooped down and stole the Peregrine's lunch. The enraged falcon spent 15 minutes strafing the vulture before giving it up as lost.

Walking south to Doran Spit and on to the outer beach with a cold wind blowing, a couple of Snowy Plovers, a Red-necked Grebe, and a female Harlequin Duck were seen amongst loons and scoters. As no dabbling ducks had been found as the sun was setting beneath the clouds, a flock of American Wigeons, a couple of Gadwalls and Green-winged Teals were welcome. Considering that Gene walked approximately 15 miles for about a 12-hour day, 91 species is very impressive!

Thank you to Sponsors: Mary Abbott, David Hoffman, Amy Hunn, Serena Stark and Nancy Hunn, Gerald and Mary Edith Moore, Benjamin and Ruthmary Parmeter, and Arthur Wang. **Amount raised: \$293.00.**

The Roadrunners Betty Groce and Don McCarthy spent another Bird-A-Thon together. A Bird-A-Thon is like a treasure hunt. As each species is found, the coffers of Madrone go KA-CHING! Music to all our ears. Betty has been doing the Bird-A-Thon for 20 plus years, following basically the same route and no two results have ever been the same. This year they missed their faithful Ross's Goose and Hooded Merganser at their respective usual places. They timed their arrival at Bodega Bay on a warm, sunny day to coincide with the tide for optimal shorebirds, but when they got to the head, the fog rolled in and they were lucky to get Oystercatchers before they were completely obscured. Who knew? This year, Betty's ("my") Band-tailed Pigeons and Wild Turkeys showed up in her yard while she was there to count them for a change. No special birds to report. This team tallied 106 species from 6:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Not their best effort or their worst.

Appreciation to Sponsors: Richard Abbott, Judith Barker, Jim Batchelder, Dennis Beall, Ellen Bingel, Malcolm Blanchard, Janet Bosshard, Jayne Buscho, Linda Cadwell, James Clegg, Elizabeth Combs, Ann Conger, Neal Conner, Rachel Corso, Stephen DeSalvo, DDS, Nancy Dill, Kathleen Dowdakin, Joan Dranginis, Harriet Draper, Frances Eddy, Marilyn Edmondson, June England, Janeann Erickson, Janette Evans, Barbara and Joe Ferrari, Robert Frescura, Stan Gold, Gary and Terry Haag, Gordon Harlander, Susan Harris, Denise Herzberg, Catherine Hickey, Don Howard Jr., Richard Hurley, K. Kettler, Juhani Klint, Karen Kubrin, Andy LaCasse, Joan Langfeld, Dennis Luz, Patricia Marsh, Sandra Martensen, Shirl and Tom Maxson, Tom McCuller, Alexandra McDonald, Eleonore Miller, Mary Edith Moore, Judy Morrison, Barbara Murray, Rob O'Donnell, Charlotte Oldaker, Norm Ortman, Mike Parmeter, Elizabeth Parsons, Suzanne Peta, Gaines Post Jr., John Post, Elaine Pruett, Gail Purtell, Cynthia Rathkey, Marilyn Rathman, Rhio Reigh, Tom Reynolds, Jaci Rienecker, Michael Rosen, Ruth Rudesill, Maureen Rumford, John Ryan, Bonnie Saito, Marilyn Sanders, Bernice Schmitt, Virginia Schrock, Robin Schudel, Monica Schwalbenberg-Pena, Tom and Minnie Silman, Daphne Smith, Barbara Sparrow, Lise Stevens, Marilyn Strand, Colin Talcroft, Laurence Taylor, Barbara Toschi, Ernestine Trujillo, Frances Waska, Elizabeth Witchey, and Thomas Wysham. **Amount raised: \$2,910.00.**

A special thanks to John Allen and Iris Tiedt who gave a general donation to the Bird-A-Thon.

Are you a National Audubon member?

Please consider joining our local chapter, Madrone Audubon (see membership form, back page)



Observations

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

Ring-necked Duck (100+)	Feb-March	Sullivan/ Green Valley Road	GJ, KJ
Ruddy Duck (50+)	Feb-March	Sullivan/Green Valley Road	GJ, KJ
Long-tailed Duck (1)	4/30	Fish Docks, Point Reyes	BH, JK
Blue-winged Teal (2)	4/19	Hudemann Slough	BB
Greater White-fronted Goose (16)	4/4	Adobe Road	AW
Brown Booby (immature)	5/6	Point Reyes Lighthouse	MF, JM
Caspian Tern (1)	3/15	Bodega Harbor	DN
Least Tern (7)	5/6	Huichica Creek, South of Buchli Station Road, Napa County	DM
Swainson's Hawk	2/20	Downtown Petaluma flyover	DN
Swainson's Hawk	4/28	Middle Two Rock Road, Petaluma	GH
Swainson's Hawk	5/1	Sebastopol, over Laguna de Santa Rosa Preserve	SC
Swainson's Hawk (3)	5/6	Highway 121, north of Tolay Creek	DM
Bald Eagle	3/27	Ida Clayton Road	RR
Bald Eagle (immature)	4/8	Shollenberger Park; harassing Brown Pelican	TB
Sooty Grouse	5/3	Near end of Rockpile Road	TB
White-faced Ibis	4/17	Ellis Creek Creek	TR
Red Knot (7)	5/2	North end of Bodega Harbor	DR
Baird's Sandpiper	4/26	Millerick Road, near Wingo Junction	GH
Solitary Sandpiper	4/20	North of Wohler Bridge, Russian River	LH
Solitary Sandpiper	4/26	Laguna de Santa Rosa Preserve pond, Sebastopol	MS, SC
Cattle Egret (9)	4/26	Sebastopol, near Laguna Preserve	SC
Common Poorwill (3 heard)	4/23	Pine Flat Road, above Little Soda Creek	GH
Common Poorwill (day-roosting)	5/4	Sugarloaf State Park, Brushy Peaks Trail	RJ
Rufous Hummingbird	3/5	Santa Rosa residence	HK
Rufous Hummingbird	3/19	Larkfield	CK, NK
White-throated Swift	Feb-Mar	Highway 101, railroad overpass at north end of Novato	DN
White-throated Swift (2)	Feb-Mar	Highway 101 bridge, entering/leaving nest cavity	DN
<i>* Note: These White-throated Swifts were not seen after April 5; status unknown due to Caltrans illegal netting applications.</i>			
Vaux's Swift (3)	4/7	Santa Rosa Creek	DK
Northern Rough-winged Swallow (700+)	3/23	Russian River, Casini Campground, Duncan's Mills	D Barry
Pacific-slope Flycatcher (several)	3/21	Sugarloaf State Park	BD
Hammond's Flycatcher	4/21	Pine Flat Road (photographed, sound-recorded)	AW
Hammond's Flycatcher	4/24	Ida Clayton Road	RR
Ash-throated Flycatcher	4/17	Sebastopol residence	VB
Red-breasted Nuthatch (s)	5/6	Kenwood (possibly breeding?)	RR
Red-breasted Nuthatch (pr?)	5/6	Coast Guard Training station, west of Petaluma	GH, RJ
Rock Wren (2 adults & 3 juveniles)	5/3	Warm Springs Dam, stone spillway	TB
Townsend's Solitaire	5/6	Point Reyes Fish Docks	MF
Swainson's Thrush	4/14	Pepperwood Preserve	LK
Swainson's Thrush	4/17	Sebastopol residence	VB
Warbling Vireo	3/21	Sugarloaf State Park	BD
Cassin's Vireo	4/14	Pepperwood Preserve	LK
Black-and-white Warbler	3/6	Willow Creek Road	Madrone Audubon
Wilson's Warbler	3/17	Willow Creek Road	BD
Townsend's Warbler	5/1	Highway 1, Marin County, south of Five Brooks	DN
Tricolored Blackbird (several)	4/24	Knight's Valley; Highway 128, near Spencer Road	RR
Bullock's Oriole	3/27	Windsor	RB
Bullock's Oriole	4/3	Pauline Drive	GJ, KJ
Hooded Oriole	3/27	Fountaingrove Parkway at Agilent Technologies	AW
Hooded Oriole	4/1	Bahia area of Novato, Marin County	ML
Golden-crowned Sparrow	5/1	Sonoma Creek mouth	KW
White-throated Sparrow	5/1	Point Reyes Station	JE
Grasshopper Sparrow	4/4	Sonoma Mountain Road, Petaluma	AW
Red Crossbill (10)	3/5	Salmon Creek Road	LH
Red Crossbill (1)	4/14	Pepperwood Preserve	LK
Red Crossbill (18)	4/22	Mount Vision, Point Reyes, Marin County	JM
Lawrence's Goldfinch (1)	4/24	Pine Flat Road at Mile 1 recharge building area	JH
Lazuli Bunting (3+)	4/20	Chileno Valley Road, Petaluma, near Marin County Line	DN
Lazuli Bunting (many)	4/28	Helen Putnam Park, near west edge of Ridge Trail	CR
Indigo Bunting (singing male)	4/30	Burdell Mountain, north of Novato	LH
Indigo Bunting	5/6	Point Reyes "New" Willows	MF
Evening Grosbeak (8)	3/27	Bloomfield, visiting feeder	MJ
Black-headed Grosbeak (1)	4/1	Cazadero; Silvia Drive	D Beall
Black-headed Grosbeak (4)	4/4	Cazadero, Silvia Drive	D Beall
Black-headed Grosbeak	4/3	Pauline Drive	GJ, KJ

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Madrone Audubon Society

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Summer 2013

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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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