



# Madrone LEAVES

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

VOLUME 47 October/November 2013 Number 2

## Madrone's Stewardship Task Force

by Diane Hichwa

It is a "far stretch" to the northwest corner of Sonoma County, but Madrone Audubon members have teamed up with local residents in an active coastal program of seabird and beach activities. The Stewardship Task Force formed in 2007 when new fireworks over the Gualala River estuary threatened disturbance to a nesting colony of Brandt's Cormorants---- and we took the word "stewardship" to heart! The group's activities focus on the California Coastal National Monument along our entire coast (Sonoma County AND California): rocks, islands, and pinnacles exposed above mean high tide.



**Black Oystercatcher Family**  
Courtesy of John Batchelder

Volunteers stepped up to: monitor seabird nesting in breeding season, survey coastal islands quarterly to establish baseline information in case oil spillage or changing sea levels impact our coastal habitats, track in non-breeding season

to see how species usage varies through the year, search for incredibly camouflaged nests of Black Oystercatchers or BLOY, track the reproductive success of the BLOY, locate a rare grass on the bluff edge (and a single known island occurrence) and record its locations along a ten mile stretch of ocean bluff, begin beach debris monitoring, step in to continue a long-term intertidal survey, offer quarterly nature walks to broaden public interest and background, and still watch, enjoy

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**Pallet covered with live gooseneck barnacles**  
Courtesy of Bryant Hichwa

### OCTOBER GENERAL MEETINGS

Monday October 21, 7:00 PM (Please note time change)  
First United Methodist Church  
1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa

Dr. Claudia Luke, Director of Field Stations and Nature Preserves at Sonoma State University, will speak on: **"Environmental Education for a Changing Planet: a Role for Sonoma State University Preserves"**.

Environmental change is the challenge of our century. Now more than ever, we need programs and experiences that create transformative experiences for learners of all ages. How can we engage students, faculty, and community members to engage on local environmental issues? Dr. Luke will speak about Sonoma State's three preserves and developing on-site programs. Doctor Claudia Luke, Director of Sonoma State University Preserves, has 20 years of experience directing field stations for the University of California and California State University. She has worked to build regional education, research, and management collaborations in the areas of watershed management, habitat connectivity, habitat restoration, and environmental education.

**COMING Monday, November 18, 7:00 PM**  
First United Methodist Church  
1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa

John Muir Laws will speak on and demonstrate how **"You can sketch birds!"** John Muir Laws, author, naturalist, educator, and artist, will give us some lessons on drawing and journaling while on field trips in the wild. His book, *Drawing Birds*, will be available for purchase.

"Have you ever wanted to sketch birds? You can do it. With a handful of tricks and some practice you can make fast field sketches of birds. We will learn how to block in the basic shape of a bird and then tackle what to do when the bird moves. You do not need a photographic memory. Learn to smoothly transition between drawings as the bird you are watching takes different poses. You will also strengthen your ability to pick up on some of the subtle clues used by the top birders to ID by gestalt. Bring your own pencil and a sketchbook."

To receive *Leaves* via email in PDF format just email your request to:  
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You will get your copy faster and help save paper.



## STEWARDSHIP TASK FORCE

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and count BIRDS! Volunteers go out as Citizen Scientists and the data is analyzed and reported on by professional biologists. The Task Force this year helped train a group starting to record data on seabirds and marine mammals in the Jenner to Bodega Bay stretch. (Your help is welcomed if you want to volunteer.)



*Gualala Point Island with Brandt's Cormorant nests and Common Murres standing. Courtesy of Craig Tooley*

In 2012 we were able to report that Gualala Point Island and Gull Rock by Jenner provided the first Sonoma County nesting records for Common Murre. Several sightings in 2013 of a Tufted Puffin, consistently in one area beyond a rock island, has us asking if nesting might be possible there. And this summer we took samples from a large green plastic pallet that washed on shore, with white Kanji lettering on its side that identifies it from a factory located near the Japanese tsunami epicenter.

One concern for debris is introduction of invasive species so we immediately contacted Fish and Wildlife. The gooseneck barnacles it carried were locals; sample of the hydroids however, have gone to Bodega then Massachusetts and now Canada for identification. Photos were sent to the Japanese Consulate.

Several years of following Black Oystercatcher nests from egg-laying to successful fledging (or not) of chicks will give us baseline information for a coastal bird that may indicate early signs of global climate changes. Finding the nest of those black birds on black rocks is a fun and challenging activity. Once the tiny chicks hatch they give us an even greater challenge as they run and hide.

## Breaking News

-adapted from Jeff Miller, Center for Biological Diversity

### Historic Vote Moves California Closer to Banning Lead Hunting Ammunition

SACRAMENTO— The California Senate passed historic legislation to protect the state's condors, eagles and other wildlife from lead poisoning by requiring the use of non-lead ammunition for all hunting by 2019... The bill had already passed in the Assembly so after the Senate vote it went to reconciliation and on September 16 was on the Governor's desk to be signed. When signed, California will be the first state in the country to require the use of nontoxic bullets and shot for all hunting.

A.B. 711 would require the state Fish and Game Commission to issue regulations by July 1, 2015, that phase in use of non-lead ammunition for hunting of all kinds, including game mammals, game birds, nongame birds and nongame mammals. These requirements would be fully implemented statewide no later than July 1, 2019.

Nationwide, millions of non-target birds and other wildlife are poisoned each year from scavenging carcasses containing lead bullet fragments, eating lead-poisoned prey, or ingesting spent lead-shot pellets, mistaking them for food or grit. Spent lead ammunition causes lead poisoning in 130 species of birds and animals. Nearly 500 scientific papers document the dangers to wildlife from this lead exposure. Lead left behind in spent ammunition is one of the greatest sources of lead discharged to our lands and water. Scientists agree that this also poses a significant risk to human health as well as to the environment. People who eat meat hunted with lead ammunition can also consume this lead.

In our state many of the California condors are recaptured regularly and have to undergo chelation to be detoxified from lead! "The three main things we found were that condors are continually exposed to harmful levels of lead, the principle source of that lead is ammunition, and that lead poisoning from ammunition is preventing the recovery of the condor population," said study researcher Myra Finkelstein, a research fellow at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

We have invested so much effort into saving the condor that to have it constantly threatened by lead is extremely counterproductive. These bills make all the more sense given that

alternatives to lead ammunition are already widely available and in use by thousands and thousands of hunters.

We appreciate many of our members having written or called in to our representatives on this bill and others. (If you are unsure how to contact your representative or, with redistricting even who it is, you can sign in with your zip code to Project Vote Smart: Search results for '95402' - Project Vote Smart [votesmart.org/search?q=95402](http://votesmart.org/search?q=95402)

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## We Need Your Help

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

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

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

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

Another position we would like to fill is **Publicity Chair** to make the broader public aware of our programs and activities.

A crucial Board position is **Treasurer**. This post requires maintaining financial records, but our finances are good, and we contract with someone to file our taxes.

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



## Donations for the Cliff Swallows

by Susan Kirks

In mid-August, we sent a letter about the Cliff Swallows litigation to our Friends of Madrone and members of National Audubon in Sonoma County. To date, the response has been very positive. Several donations included notes of encouragement. We want you to know how grateful we are. Thank you for supporting our coalition's effort to protect migratory birds and ensure adequate environmental review of the Marin Narrows Widening Project and Bridge Construction. Look for an update on the lawsuit in our December 2013 Leaves. (If you would like to donate to support our effort and help with legal expenses, but haven't yet, please send your donation to Madrone Audubon, PO Box 1911, Santa Rosa, CA 95402. Please note "cliff swallows" on your check memo line.)

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## Temporary Closure of Shollenberger Park

by Gerald and Mary Edith Moore

The closure of Shollenberger Park for Ducks Unlimited restoration will be scheduled in October or early November 2013; however, Alman Marsh at the marina entrance and Ellis Creek will remain open. The goal of this restoration is to replace the two water gates on the east channel, which allow water to enter and leave the main dredge-spoils pond. The old water gates of sheet metal have rusted away, but the new ones will be made of cement with plastic interior pipes similar to those in commercial gas or water pipes. One new water gate will be installed at the position of the old one on the east channel, while the other new gate will be installed in the south levee to drain directly into the Ellis Creek tidal marsh. This configuration of water gates will allow dredge water from the central

pond to be removed directly into the Ellis Creek brackish water marsh, or the pond water can be removed through the decant channel and back into the river as was done in the past. This choice of two removal routes for pond water allows the city to avoid harming the native plants and animals, which used to live in the decant channel, when the city needed to lower the water levels. Additional funds with this grant will be used to partially dig out the thirty years of sediment in the decant channel and remove a lot of the excess cattails now choking out that channel. The result will be a much more bio-friendly control of dredge water resulting in a return of the many species of birds, reptiles, mammals, and invertebrates that have been lost from the dredge channel in the last several years. Exact closure dates will be announced soon and posted on the Petaluma Wetlands Alliance website, [www.petalumawetlands.org](http://www.petalumawetlands.org), Madrone Audubon website, <http://audubon.sonoma.net>, kiosks at Shollenberger, the Argus-Courier newspaper, and elsewhere.

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## Location, Location, Location — Birding Hot Spots and Recent Sightings

*-compiled from North Bay Birds website and other observations*

**Purple martins** have been sighted up Pine Flat Road in the Mayacamas and near the Gualala River.

A **Hudsonian Godwit** off Buschi Road in Napa. Birders have enjoyed viewing this very cooperative bird; interesting to watch its foraging behavior compared to Marbled Godwits.

A **Western Wood Pewee** at Mendoza Ranch. At the Fish Docks, a first year **American Redstart** has been seen fluttering around like redstarts do in the small pine tree stand on the slight crest of the road before it heads down to the final dock.

### Are you a National Audubon member?

Please consider joining our local chapter, Madrone Audubon.

(see membership form, back page)

The following birds were all found at Campbell Cove:

**Orchard Oriole** – near boardwalk, and preening across pond after bathing.

**Baltimore Oriole** – an immature male was seen at the northwest corner, calling 4-5 times and seen well.

**Northern Waterthrush** – seen 3 times at the northwest corner and from boardwalk.

**Tennessee Warbler** – seen in the northwest corner, early morning.

**Canada Warbler** – heard only, in the northwest corner, 3 **Fox Sparrows** calling nearby.

**Indigo Bunting** – north and northwest of pond; flew up to top area overlooking pond.

**Purple Martin** – calling bird flying and foraging overhead.

Other notables: **Peregrine Falcon, Cooper's Hawk, Wilson's Snipe, Common Moorhen, Barn Owl, Yellow-rumped Warbler** (first this fall at this site), **Yellow Warblers, Warbling Vireo, Western Flycatchers, Willow Flycatchers, Swainson's Thrush.**

At Hole in the Head (at Campbell Cove) saw a young male young male **Black-chinned Hummingbird** in the northwest corner; also **Western Tanager** and **Warbling Vireo.**

### From John Sterling:

On September 9 Bodega Bay: "We had a successful day in Sonoma County with

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## LOCATION, LOCATION

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my shorebird class. We had a brief side trip to look for the **Canada Warbler** at 2:30 PM and within minutes we saw it! Very lucky...

Later in the day, I noticed a **Peregrine Falcon** chasing a bird in the harbor area, and Logan Kahle shouted 'Storm Petrel'. The Peregrine was chasing a **Black Storm-Petrel** through the harbor and the eventually we lost it in the fog as the birds flew out towards the entrance to the bay.

One **Baird's Sandpiper** at Salmon Creek mouth, one adult **Pacific Golden-Plover** at Shollenberger Park, three **Pectorals** chased off by a Peregrine at Bodega Farm Pond, and a **Red Knot** off Doran State Park were the shorebird highlights."

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## Great Birding Spots

There are lots of unusual birds being sighted because of migration, at "hot spots" like Point Reyes and Bodega Bay's Owl Canyon. Check out information on Madrone's website.

Bodega Bay is probably the hottest birding spot in Sonoma County. More rare birds have been spotted here than in any other area in the county. Owl Canyon, "Hole-In-The-Head" and the bushes below Diekmann's Store have consistently yielded great finds. Madrone Audubon organizes many birding trips to Bodega Bay, including Walkabouts, Field Trips and Beginners Bird Walks. This is also a prime spot for the Christmas Bird Count.

### *Places to Bird at Bodega Bay*

**DORAN REGIONAL PARK** (camping available, flush toilets, and telephones in two paved parking lots plus picnic tables and a beautiful beach) is on the sand spit that separates Bodega Bay (which is open to the ocean) from the harbor where the town of Bodega Bay is located. On the ocean side pelagic birds can be seen on

the water or in the air, and Snowy Plovers live above

high tide line on the beach, especially at its east end near the tollbooth. Shorebird flocks gather on the mudflats and waterfowl use the open water on the harbor side of the park along the eastern half of the sand spit.

**DORAN POND** is a tidal pond visible on the right hand side of the road approaching the Doran Park tollbooth. Wildlife viewing pullouts are available on each side of the road. Watch for shorebirds and waterfowl, except in summer, and listen for rails in the marshes there all year round.

**SMITH BROTHER'S ROAD** - Shorebirds, gulls, terns, pelicans and large raptors can be observed from the roadside on the mudflats below. Pull off carefully and watch for poison oak.

**DIEKMANN'S STORE PARKING LOT** overlooks shrubbery that harbors migrants and vagrants. It is courteous to patronize the store if you use their parking lot.

**THE RAIL PONDS** start at the intersection of Bay Flat Road and Westshore Road and are divided by a short connecting road where a wrecked potato boat has been decaying for years. There are Virginia and Sora Rails in here year round, and the Virginia's have bred here. Look for warblers in the willows lining the ponds.

**SPUD POINT MARINA** may have lurking loons and alcids seeking refuge from storms.

**SPUD POINT** is the next mudflat southeast of the marina. Shorebirds, gulls, and windsurfers frequent this spot depending on the tides.

**WESTSIDE PARK BOAT LAUNCH** - (Flush toilets and telephone; be sure to walk in or pay day use fee.) There is a good view of birds floating on the harbor's open water from here, and occasional rarities show up here too. There

is camping 'next door' in this park.

**U. C. (BODEGA) MARINE LAB** is generally closed to the public but good viewing is available from Westside Road onto the mudflats. Depending on season and tides, shorebirds, gulls, terns, pelicans and raptors can be found there.

**OWL CANYON** - (a widely used but unofficial name) is accessible from the very

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### **A message from Dr. Paul Green, Tucson Audubon:**

*I write to you today to ask if you would send a message to your members and ask them to consider donating a small sum to purchase Paton's Birder Haven for the Audubon family.*

*I feel sure that you have among your members people who have traveled to southeast Arizona and visited Paton's Birder Haven in Patagonia. You may have visited yourself and seen the Violet-crowned Hummingbird and other characteristic species of the borderlands.*

*You may know that since Marion Paton passed away, the family has wanted to sell the house, and to keep it open in the way that the birding community has become accustomed. This vision is shared by the birding community and now we have an opportunity to do just that. With the American Bird Conservancy and Victor Emanuel we have launched an international campaign to raise the funds for its purchase and renovation.*

*Once purchased by the American Bird Conservancy, ownership will be transferred to Tucson Audubon to run Paton's Birders Haven for the birding community. You can help by visiting this website: [www.abcbirds.org/paton](http://www.abcbirds.org/paton).*



## GREAT BIRDING SPOTS

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large pull out on the west side of Westside Road by seeking out a steep, sandy and narrow trail that climbs up into the second eucalyptus grove at south end of pull out. There are Great Horned and Barn Owls who live in this canyon and in the other eucalyptus nearby. This canyon, with its clear flowing fresh water stream and dense riparian cover, is a trap for errant migrants almost all year long, but especially in the fall.

**“HOLE-IN-THE-HEAD”** - (Good picnic area, with tables, pit toilet and great view) is a deep freshwater pond with marshy area and stream leading through willows to the beach. The wooden boardwalk makes the viewing platform at the pond wheelchair accessible. Rails and Swamp Sparrows can be found in the marsh in winter. Breeding Black-crowned Night-herons are at eye level across the pond in spring and summer. Migrants and vagrants may be hiding in the willows.

**BODEGA HEAD PARKING LOT** - facing the Pacific -(pit toilets) is the dropoff point for several birding and whale watching adventures. From the highest view point at the south end of the parking lot, shorebirds can be seen on the sea stacks (rocks) below. Pelagic Cormorants and Pigeon Guillemots nest on the cliff face to the south. A loop walking tour (allow at least an hour) on a safe but narrow trail around “The Head” will take you past many more nesting cliffs, sea stacks, Sea Lion rocks, and open coastal plains and bluffs. Gray Whales and other cetaceans can be seen offshore in winter and early spring. There is also a great walk north of the parking lot toward the U. S. (Bodega) Marine Lab.

## County Renewable Energy Policy Adopted

by Susan Kirks

On Sept. 11, 2013, Sonoma County’s Board of Supervisors adopted 5-0 the long-awaited Renewable Energy policy and zoning rules to guide the County’s future of solar, geothermal, biorenewables and wind energy. In their review and discussion, it was clear the Supervisors would prefer a cautious, conservative approach—one more restrictive than had been recommended by their Planning Commissioners. This was welcomed news by all who care about both appropriately sited renewable energy and the exceptional natural resources in open space and wildlife in Sonoma County.

In essence, rooftop and accessory mounted systems will be encouraged and not restricted via a public review process. Collaboration with urbanized areas—where structures and rooftops are plentiful—to help meet the County’s renewable energy requirements, was supported by public speakers and the Supervisors. The Supervisors had already received a letter from the City of Petaluma expressing strong concern about a 23-acre solar installation proposed for Adobe and Frates Roads in an agricultural area and a gateway to Petaluma. A frequent disconnect between cities and the County on land use decisions was noted by one Supervisor.

Commercial renewable energy projects proposed on agricultural and open lands primarily in Petaluma and Sonoma (in the “Land Extensive Agriculture” category of the County’s zoning districts, the 1st and 2nd Districts), would have received much less stringent public input

and review, had the Planning Commission’s recommendations in this area been adopted. Instead, any such proposals will require review for rezoning, with public and Supervisorial review and input. This is welcomed news in Petaluma and Sonoma, where conservationists are currently opposing an asphalt plant 200 feet from the Petaluma Wetlands and are very concerned about the proposed 23-acre solar installation described above. Representatives from Sonoma County Conservation Action, Madrone Audubon, and Community Alliance of Family Farmers all advocated for a cautious, thoroughly reviewed-as-it-goes approach for commercial renewable energy projects in the County.

Madrone Audubon’s Renewable Energy Committee, formed in 2010, provided extensive input to County Planners on the wind energy system policy. The adopted policy allows only small wind energy systems. Still, we believe we have work to do in helping to transform perceptions and actions to support safer, environmentally superior wind energy technologies. This, because the first visual shown by the County Planners in their presentation to the Board on Sept. 11th depicted “wind energy” as several horizontal axis, bladed turbines we for so long have advocated against. This was included in our public comment at the meeting—we have more work to do in helping to transform perceptions, leading to best actions. The wind energy visual at the meeting depicted the old industry standard, the bladed turbine that kills birds, rather than the safer, environmentally friendly vertical axis turbine available in a variety of models.

It was, in fact, the sudden appearance back in 2010 in Sonoma of the industry standard, the horizontal axis, bladed turbines that prompted Tom Rusert of Sonoma Nature to reach out to Madrone Audubon and other conservationists regarding the need to proactively address wind energy and its potential impacts in Sonoma County. Now, 3 years later, with our Committee having given input to the County about safer and preferred approaches to

**Claire Shurvinton**, a past president of Madrone and teacher of biology at Santa Rosa Junior College, died this month at her home in Guerneville. Claire also led a Christmas Bird Count territory, and was an active birder, encouraging SRJC students to be involved in the environment.

Donations in her memory can be made to Madrone Audubon.



renewable energy, along with many other conservation organizations, we believe the Supervisors' action on Sept. 11th represents a good first step. We will continue to monitor the policy and proposals. Thanks to Tom Rusert for his astute observations and concern back in 2010. And to Gerald Moore of Petaluma Wetlands Alliance for encouraging continued monitoring for new, safer technologies as part of our Renewable Energy Committee's process and communication.

Renewable Energy Committee Members: Susan Kirks, Diane Hichwa, Ken Wilson, Veronica Bowers, Larry Broderick, Tom Rusert, Darren Peterie, Gerald Moore, Robert Speckels. Geoff Geupels of Pt. Blue Conservation Science also provided valuable insights. Contact susankirks@sb-cglobal.net with questions and suggestions.

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## Important Changes at Audubon California that Affect all Chapters

from Garry George

Managing Director Brigid McCormack has been promoted to Executive Director of Audubon California and Mike Sutton will concentrate on the Pacific Flyway as vice president. From the press release:

"Michael Sutton, who has served as executive director of Audubon California since May of 2012 will now focus all of his efforts on his work as vice president of the Pacific Flyway, building regional conservation initiatives in support of Audubon's Strategic Plan. McCormack will continue to report to Sutton, and will continue to serve as a vice president of the National Audubon Society.

"Given the success she has had in the last year running the day-to-day operations, it made all the sense in the world to give Brigid the clear leadership role for Audubon California," said Sutton. Since joining Audubon California in August 2012, McCormack has stabilized the organization's budget process and fundraising, brought aboard key staff, and refocused its strategic direction.

Dan Taylor, our policy director and an  
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Audubon staff member for over 35 years, is retiring in October, although he has not set the exact date. The Audubon California Board honored Dan at a dinner last Thursday, and National Audubon honored Dan with the Callison Award for outstanding staff member of 2012. AB711 will probably be his last big effort for Audubon California but what a legacy.

Audubon California has begun a recruitment campaign through a recruitment firm. Please forward the attached job description to anyone you know who might be interested.

If you wish to send Dan a message his email is dtaylor@audubon.org.

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## Good Reads

*Nature and Science* June 2013

"The river is moving.  
The blackbird must be flying."

~ Wallace Stevens (1879-1955), American poet, "Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird"

*Bird Sense: What It's Like to be a Bird*  
by T.R. Birkhead

It's difficult to make generalizations about bird behavior—and even more difficult to understand it. Unlike humans, birds can see ultraviolet light, echolocate, and sense the earth's magnetic field. So what is it really like to be a bird? In addition to defining the five "traditional" senses—sight, smell, hearing, taste, and touch—and comparing ours to those of birds, ornithologist and behavioral ecologist T.R. Birkhead discusses "magnetic sense," which birds use to navigate, and avian "emotions," a nascent field of inquiry. In this thought-provoking introduction to the sensory biology of birds, Birkhead examines the unique ways in which birds perceive their environment as well their equally singular responses to it.

*Gifts of the Crow: How Perception, Emotion, and Thought Allow Smart Birds to Behave Like Humans*

by John M. Marzluff and Tony Angell  
Corvidae—members of the family that

includes crows, ravens, magpies, rooks, jackdaws, and jays—are smart. They can fashion tools out of found materials such as pieces of wire. They can plan and implement multi-step strategies to obtain food or, if someone provides them with sustenance, reciprocate with a small gift. They can remember individual human faces and, in some cases, convincingly imitate human speech. (They can even guzzle human beverages, such as beer and coffee, with no ill effects.) Will readers continue to underestimate their feathered neighbors? Nevermore! (At least, provided they read this book first).

*What the Robin Knows: How Birds Reveal the Secrets of the Natural World*  
by Jon Young with Dan Gardoqui

Birds know everything about their environment, claims veteran bird-watcher and naturalist Jon Young. And, by reading *What the Robin Knows*, so can you! The author suggests finding a quiet spot to sit and, by returning to the same spot day after day, honing one's powers of observation. By immersing oneself in "deep bird language," it's possible to use bird-based clues to predict weather patterns, locate food sources, and pinpoint the position of predators. Though your survival may not depend on these skills (nor will you acquire a Dr. Dolittle-esque ability to talk to the animals), you will come away with greater awareness of your surroundings and an increased appreciation for the wonders of the natural world.

*The Bluebird Effect: Uncommon Bonds with Common Birds*  
by Julie Zickefoose

Obsessed with ornithology since childhood, author and illustrator Julie Zickefoose has spent her entire life observing and studying all things avian. As a longtime wildlife rehabilitator, she has interacted with all kinds of birds, ranging from a quartet of bean-sized baby hummingbirds (they require feeding every 20 minutes) to Mr. Troyer, the rescued bluebird who despite a permanently injured wing goes on to father 53 offspring over the next seven years. Divided into four sections, one for each season of the year, *The Bluebird Effect* looks at 25 common bird species in unexpected and deeply personal ways.



## Observations

Summer 2013 • Dan Nelson • 479-2918 • [birdsurf64@sbcglobal.net](mailto:birdsurf64@sbcglobal.net)

Rhinoceros Auklet	6/19	Adult landing on rock near Goat Rock, off mouth of Russian River.	LH, RR
Common Goldeneye (fem.)	June-July	Shollenberger Park	M.Ob
Brown Booby	5/22-27	1st year bird fishing the channel near Campbell Cove (2nd County record)	JLu, M.Ob
Franklin's Gull	5/22-23	Bodega Harbor, Doran, Gaffney Pt.	JLa, M.Ob
Royal Tern	7/24	Doran Park mudflat (1st County record)	BG
* Note: This same individual Royal Tern was apparently photographed 10 days previous, on 7/14.			RL
Swainson's Hawk	6/15	Salmon Creek Road, west end	BD, et al
Cooper's Hawk (3 juvs)	7/17	Wickersham Park, Petaluma; apparently fledged nearby.	J. Harris
Bald Eagle (pr. adults, juv.)	7/1	Nicasio Reservoir, Marin County (nested south of this location)	M.Ob
Bald Eagle (ad.)	6/8	Ft. Ross Road, near coast	KM
Barred Owl	6/19	Heard from Stewart's Point-Skaggs Springs Road	RR
White-faced Ibis (1)	5/13	Hudeman Slough	TB
American Bittern	6/10	Flying over marsh east of Valley Ford	DN
Pacific Golden Plover (1)	8/13	Shollenberger Park	LH
American Avocet (2)	6/11	Bodega Harbor (alternate plumage)	DN
American Avocet (1)	7/31	Bodega Harbor	DF
Red Knot (1)	7/22	Bodega Harbor	BDP, DF
Ruddy Turnstone (1)	7/16	Shollenberger Park ( 3rd record for this location)	LH
Stilt Sandpiper	7/10-14	Shollenberger Park (2nd record for this location)	SC, M.Ob
Semipalmated Sandpiper (ad.)	7/16	Lawson's Landing/ Brazil Beach, Marin County	DS
Semipalmated Sandpiper (ad.)	7/22-23	Shollenberger Park	LH, et al
Semipalmated Sandpiper (juv.)	8/4	Shollenberger Park	LH
Semipalmated Sandpiper (juv.)	8/6	Doran Park entrance pond	LH
Wandering Tattler	7/26	Bodega Head	DH, BDP, JP
Red-necked Phalarope (2)	8/25	Porto Bodega	DN
Wilson's Phalarope (20+)	7/11	Shollenberger Park	DN, et al
Wilson's Phalarope (8)	7/29	Doran Park	DF
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	9/2	Putah Creek, Yolo County	RR
Common Nighthawk	6/19	Salt Point Pygmy Forest, 1 adult fly-by	RR
Black-chinned Hummingbird	8/31	Bahia area of Novato, Marin County (adult male)	ML
White-throated Swift (2)	5/31	south end of The Sea Ranch	DH
Gray Catbird	6/6 -10	Nunes Ranch, Pt. Reyes	M.Ob
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	8/14	Rail Ponds	DH
Chestnut-sided Warbler	6/6	Pt. Reyes Lighthouse trees	KF, M.Ob
Northern Parula Warbler	6/10	Pt. Reyes Fish Docks	PP
Blackpoll Warbler (male SY)	6/10	Pt. Reyes Fish Docks	PP
Hermit Warbler	8/27	Owl Canyon	RR
Townsend's Warbler	8/8	Bolinas/ Palomarin- earliest fall record by 2 days.	RC, PRBO
Ovenbird	6/10	Redwood Creek, Muir Beach: Marin County	PRBO
Ovenbird	6/10	Campbell Cove, Bodega Bay	RR
American Redstart	6/6	Campbell Cove, Bodega Bay	DN
American Redstart	6/10	Campbell Cove, Bodega Bay (different individual than 6/6 bird)	DN
Orchard Oriole	8/27	Diekmann's Store trees	PC
Orchard Oriole	8/27	Campbell Cove (same bird as Diekmann's?)	DH, RR
Scott's Oriole (male)	6/12	Pt. Reyes Fish Docks	A. Hesla
Green-tailed Towhee	6/1	Pine Mountain, Carson Ridge: Marin County	JE
Red Crossbill (s)	6/19	Salt Point	RR
Indigo Bunting (ad. male)	8/25	Campbell Cove, Bodega Bay	SC
Lazuli Bunting (fem.)	8/25	Campbell Cove, with the male Indigo Bunting.	SC
Blue Grosbeak (fem.)	6/6	Pt. Bonita Lighthouse; ravine near parking lot	DS
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	6/9-11	Campbell Cove, Bodega Bay. Singing adult male.	DN, et al

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**Madrone Audubon Society**

Post Office Box 1911  
Santa Rosa, California 95402

October/November 2013

**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL  
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY  
CALENDAR ENCLOSED**



MADRONE LEAVES



Madrone Audubon Society meets on the third Monday of each month, except in June, July, August, and December. Meetings start at 7:00 PM at First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Dr., Santa Rosa. All meetings and walks are open to the public. Information: telephone answering service - 546-7492, e-mail - madroneaudubon@um.att.com.

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<b>National Audubon Society:</b> 225 Varick Street, NY, NY 10014.....	212-979-3000

**Join Madrone Audubon – Support Your Local Chapter**

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

Please note: We are a chapter of National Audubon, but membership in and donations to Madrone Audubon are separate and support our local chapter. Membership and donations are tax deductible.

I am a new member     I am renewing my Madrone membership

Senior \$15     Basic Member \$20     Family \$30

Sustaining \$50     Supporting \$100     Donor \$500    Other \$\_\_\_\_\_

I am a National Audubon member who wishes to make a **tax deductible contribution** to Madrone in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please send my *Leaves* via email

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

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

**P.O. Box 1911, Santa Rosa, CA 95402**

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



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.

## October 2013 calendar

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

### Wednesday, October 2, 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM

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

### Saturday, October 5, 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

**POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE.** Our annual trip to the Point to search for fall migrants. Meet at the Whitehouse Pool parking lot, near intersection of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and Bear Valley Road, at 8:00 AM. Bring lunch. Rain cancels. Leaders: Ken Wilson, 665-5127 and Gordon Beebe, 583-3115.

### Thursday, October 10, 8:30 AM - Noon

**HUDEMAN SLOUGH WETLAND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT.** Bird Walk. We sometimes find a variety of raptors, shorebirds, and water birds at these ponds and wetlands in southeast Sonoma County. There are no restrooms at this facility. Meet in the project parking lot. From Petaluma and Sonoma, turn right from Highway 12/121 onto Ramal Road. Continue on Ramal Rd. 2.4 miles to the gravel project parking lot on the right. Information: Tom McCuller, sisypus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

### Wednesday, October 16, 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM

**SHOLLENBERGER PARK/ELLIS CREEK.** Bird Walk. Search for migrating birds at the Shollenberger Park ponds and wetlands in Petaluma. After lunch, we will bird the wetlands of the adjacent Ellis Creek Water Recycling Facility. Meet at Shollenberger Park parking lot. From Santa Rosa, take the Highway 116 exit (Lakeville Highway), go left under Highway 101, turn right at the South McDowell traffic light, proceed to the City Park sign and turn right into the park lot. Bring lunch. Information: Tom McCuller, sisypus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

### Saturday, October 19, 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), right at the stop sign, and continue 0.3 mile to the large, dirt parking lot on the right. Bring lunch. Rain cancels. Leaders: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115 and Bill Doyle, 483-8773.

### Thursday, October 24, 8:30 AM - Noon

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

### Saturday October 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 Bob Dyer: 763-2934.

### Saturday October 26, 10:00 AM - Noon

**JUNIOR AUDUBON-HAWK WATCH AT JENNER HEADLANDS**  
Call to confirm / questions. Scott: 530-828-6115.

### Wednesday, October 30, 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM

**SONOMA COAST: DUNCAN'S LANDING TO GOAT ROCK.** Bird Walk. Meet at Duncan's Landing (within the Sonoma Coast State Beach), approximately three miles south of the Russian River on Highway 1. Bring lunch. Information: Tom McCuller, sisypus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

## November 2013 calendar

### Saturday, November 2, 8:00 AM - Noon

**DELTA POND AND ADJACENT WETLAND PRESERVE.** A very "birdy" walk, in a wonderful place, not normally open to the public. We are grateful to Denise Cadman, Natural Resources Specialist for the City of Santa Rosa, who arranges entry to this and other city properties in the Laguna de Santa Rosa. Meet at the bridge over Santa Rosa Creek, on Willowside Road mid-way between Hall Road and Guerneville Road. Park off the pavement, and combine into as few cars as possible to enter the property. Rain cancels. Leaders: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115 and Bill Doyle, 483-8773.

### Thursday, November 7, 8:30 AM till Noon

**RIVERFRONT REGIONAL PARK.** Bird Walk. Meet at the innermost parking lot of the Sonoma County Riverfront Regional Park, 7821 Eastside Road, which is west of Windsor. The parking lot is 0.4 mile from the park entrance. For those without a Sonoma County Park permit, parking is \$7. For information: Tom McCuller, sisypus@sonic.net or 546-1812.

### Saturday November 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.

### Wednesday, November 13, 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM

**LAKE HENNESSEY IN NAPA COUNTY.** Bird Walk. From the intersection of Silverado Trail and Highway 128 (which is east of Rutherford), go east on Highway 128 to a parking area at the bottom of the Conn Dam spillway on the left of the road. Bring lunch. Information: Tom McCuller, sisypus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

### Saturday, November 16, 8:30 AM - Noon

**ELLIS CREEK WATER RECYCLING FACILITY and SHOLLENBERGER PONDS.** Meet at Ellis Creek promptly at 8:30; the group may go to Shollenberger first. From Highway 101 in Petaluma, go east on 116 (Lakeville Highway), right on Pine View Way, left on Cypress Drive. Go to the end of the road and through the gates. We will meet in the parking lot, near the bathroom. Bring a scope if you have one. Rain cancels. Leaders: Bill Doyle, 483-8773; and Gordon Beebe, 583-3115.

### Saturday November 16, 10:00 AM

**SHOLLENBERGER PARK.** Petaluma Wetlands Alliance leads two children/family nature walks. One-to-two hours, depending on the age of the 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 November 16, 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

**JUNIOR AUDUBON-OWL PROWL AT ERICKSON RANCH, VALLEY FORD** Scott will lead carpool to the ranch, leaving at 3 PM. Call to confirm / questions. Scott: 530-828-6115.

### Thursday, November 21, 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM

**BOLINAS LAGOON IN MARIN COUNTY.** Bird Walk. Note 9:00 AM starting time. Meet at the first large turnout south of the Bolinas turnoff on Hwy.1. Bring lunch. Information: Tom McCuller, sisypus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

### Saturday November 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 Bob Dyer at 763-2934.

### Wednesday, November 27, 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM

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



## December 2013 calendar

*Wednesday and Thursday, December 4 & 5*

**SACRAMENTO VALLEY WILDLIFE REFUGES.** Meet at the Sacramento NWR headquarters at 9:30 AM on Wednesday. Bring lunch and liquids. Exit from I-5 at Princeton (approximately 17 miles north of Williams), turn north on the county service road and proceed to the NWR headquarters on the right. Motels are nearby in Willows, CA. Driving time from Santa Rosa is about 2.5 hours. On Wednesday we will bird the Sacramento NWR, the Sacramento River NWR (Llano Seco Unit), and many points between them. Some of us will stay in Oroville (Holiday Inn Express, 550 Oro Dam Blvd., 1-530-534-5566) on Wednesday night and bird Gray Lodge State WMA and Colusa NWR on Thursday. Information: Tom McCuller, sisyphus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

*Saturday, December 7, 9:30 AM - Dusk*

**CENTRAL VALLEY - GRAY LODGE and SACRAMENTO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.** 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 for more information. Leader: Bill Doyle, 483-8773

### OUT AND ABOUT

*Friday, October 4. 7:00 PM Sharp*

Hosted by the Bird Rescue Center at Church of the Roses, 2500 Patio Court, Santa Rosa. **'THE MYSTERY OF BIRD SONG'** with David Lukas, naturalist and bird guidebook author.

*Sunday, October 6. 10:00 AM - Noon*

### CUNNINGHAM MARSH WORK DAY

Come join us for the final workday at Cunningham Marsh, home of the endangered Pitkin Lily. We will put pine shavings on some lily exclosures,

open trails, do light weeding of lilies, and possibly plant acorns in the big field. Bring gloves (we have some), WATER, hat, sturdy shoes, and your favorite weeding tool. For more information contact Marcia Johnson: owlstesttwo@att.net or 829-3808.

*Friday, October 11, 7:00 PM*

**The first meeting to organize Mayacamas volunteers is October 11 at Modini House, 226 Center St, Healdsburg.** We need volunteers for a trail crew, folks who want to grow and plant natives, folks who'll help keep an eye on the place during drives or hikes, and so on. Or perhaps you'd like to help develop a habitat restoration and education program that will explore native cultures and their land care traditions. Some may be ready to lead walks or other projects. Visit the "Friends" page, [www.meetup.com/Friends-of-the-Mayacamas/](http://www.meetup.com/Friends-of-the-Mayacamas/) or ask [david.self@egret.org](mailto:david.self@egret.org) for details.

*October 12, 13 and 19, 20.*

### ARTrails Sonoma County

Our own Madrone Audubon board member Monica Schwalbenberg-Peña will open her studio! [www.sonomaarts.com](http://www.sonomaarts.com)

*Friday, October 11. 7:00 PM Sharp*

Hosted by Native Songbird Care and Conservation and the Bird Rescue Center: at Church of the Roses, 2500 Patio Court, Santa Rosa.

**'REALITIES OF RESCUE, REHABILITATION, AND RELEASE'** with Veronica Bowers, founder of Native Songbird Care and Conservation; Sheree Green, Director of Avian Care, the Bird Rescue Center, and the Bird Rescue Center's Raptor Ambassadors and their handlers.

*Sunday, October 20. 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM*

### WINE COUNTRY OPTICS AND NATURE FESTIVAL

Meet company experts from Swarovski, Leica, Zeiss, Nikon, Pentax, Kowa, Opticron, Celestron, and more. Experience the newest spotting scope, cameras and binoculars on the market. Nearly one thousand people attended the event at Cornerstone Sonoma last year. Stroll through award-winning gardens, shops, and visit with over 25 major nature non-profits from around San Francisco Bay. Biggest optics show in Northern California. Cornerstone Sonoma is located at 23570 Arnold Dr. Sonoma, CA 95476

## Nature, Ecology & Culture on the Mayacamas Mountains

**Join our hikes on local ecology, botany, culture, history, geology, etc.**

[www.meetup.com/Friends-of-the-Mayacamas/](http://www.meetup.com/Friends-of-the-Mayacamas/)

Also consider joining our

### 1st Volunteer Meeting

October 11, 2013 • 7pm • Modini House • 226 Center St. • Healdsburg

We need volunteers for a trail crew, folks who want to grow and plant natives, folks who'll help keep an eye on the place during drives or hikes, and so on. Or perhaps you'd like to help develop a habitat restoration and education program that will explore native cultures and their land care traditions. Some may be ready to lead walks or other projects.

Check the **"Friends" page**, or ask [david.self@egret.org](mailto:david.self@egret.org) for more details.