



Madrone LEAVES

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

VOLUME 58 October/November 2024 Number 2

Make It Safe – They Will Come

by Trish Wells Taylor

We love to watch the birds. What the birds need, though, is to be allowed safe habitat. Given habitat loss, birds need humans to double down in providing safe havens for them. As bird lovers, we try to attract birds to our yards so that we can see them, but what they need are hiding places. It is hard to see that we, in our own yards, are part of their problem. Gardening traditions and landscaping aesthetics make pretty yards, but birds need us to be a little scrappy. Those seed heads of flowers, don't cut them! Leave them for the ecosystem.



Willow Flycatcher

Courtesy of Tom Reynolds

The irresponsible gardener has, in the past, been identified by a yard with brush piles, unraked leaf litter, jumbles of dead branches. Yet birds and critters love these unmanicured spots! Snakes and beneficial insects use these environments, too. Yes, it's messy by traditional standards, but a garden figurine cleverly placed nearby the pile could indicate, "This is part of the garden!" For fire safety, and for bird privacy, these patches of nature are best placed away from your house. Then, once these havens are established, the gardener's work is done. The critters have a place of their own. We just get to be a good neighbor.

Consider though, even a "scrappy," natural yard can be a hazard for birds, local and migratory. Birds are killed by details that homeowners have put in place to add beauty and convenience

to our lives. For example, birds collide into windows. This is a big problem with skyscrapers, but all homes have windows. Nighttime lights make it even worse, disorienting them. Even little garden lights can disrupt bird navigation and breeding. Cats, too, are on the prowl for birds. Ground-feeders are easy prey. Sometimes, our method of feeding birds actually lures them into an exposed, dangerous setting. The same is true for bird baths. Lastly, there is our air: smoke and fumes from the BBQs, cigarettes (tobacco and other), woodsmoke, propane patio heaters, all of it hurts the lungs, yes, of birds too.

We are just living our lives – we mean no harm. But we can do better and with little effort. We can think more like a bird and less like a traditional gardener. We can study what birds need –

Continued on page 2

GENERAL MEETING

Monday, October 21, 2024
6:30 - 8:00 PM

This meeting has been rescheduled to
January 20, 2025 – will be via Zoom

Western Snowy Plovers at Pt. Reyes National Seashore & Travels in Asia

Presented by Matt Lau

Wildlife biologist Matt Lau has worked on Western Snowy Plover conservation for 12 years, in Humboldt County and at Point Reyes National Seashore. He will present on snowy plover natural history and breeding biology, and provide an update on the status of the breeding population at Point Reyes relative to the range-wide Pacific coast subpopulation. Then, we'll take a fun detour where Matt will talk about his month-long honeymoon travels to Japan, Taiwan, Laos, and Thailand, and all the diversity of habitats and birds they observe.



Matt Lau



MAKE IT SAFE

Continued from page 1

study like a student does. Ask questions:

- 1) What birds eat insects?
- 2) What insect do they like? OK, hoverfly.
- 3) What season is it? Winter. Many insects are immature larvae in winter.
- 4) What do hoverfly larvae look like? And their eggs?
- 5) The internet has lots of photos.
- 6) Repeat the study for parasitoid wasp, native bees, lacewing, orius (commonly called minute pirate bug).

As your interest in insects grows, you may want to buy a bug hotel to go with that brush pile!

We want to do right by nature. What, precisely, is right to do changes with each setting. We can, at least, do as little harm as possible. We can help more by doing less. To know what helps and what harms, we need to study, we all do. We love to watch the birds. What the birds need, though, is safe haven. Having allowed for that, they will come, and we can watch.

(A graduate of the University of Virginia, Trish Wells Taylor is part of five generations in Sonoma County.)

Share your stories and experience with birds and habitat gardening.

We suggest 300-word stories with a photo.

Please submit to
susankirks333@gmail.com


GENERAL MEETING

Monday, November 21, 2024
6:30 - 8:00 PM

Zoom link will be available on Home Page of our website
<https://www.madroneaudubon.org>

International Bird Rescue Update & Stories
Presented by JD Bergeron

IBR Executive Director JD Bergeron will share updates on seabird and shorebird rescues, treatment and trends. Birds are indicators of the health of Nature. We will gain an understanding of impacts to birds in our coastal areas and in ocean habitat. International Bird Rescue also receives and treats rescued herons and egrets from West 9th Street in Santa Rosa, following stabilization at Bird Rescue Center in Santa Rosa.



*Brown Pelicans and White Pelicans
Courtesy of Tom Reynolds*

Migrating South in a Hurricane

A day before Hurricane Helene reached the mainland, bird migration forecasting maps showed a complete shift of migrating birds southward from the eastern seaboard inland and over Texas. BirdCast.com is a website with updated migration forecasting maps supported by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Colorado State University.



Prothonotary Warbler

by Scott Carey

Important Thanks for Nesting Project Support

We wish to acknowledge Republic Services in Santa Rosa for their prompt and positive response to our request for the 2024 nesting support project cleanup. Republic Services donated a large debris box to support our cleanup team and did so graciously and efficiently. (Recology was prematurely thanked in our September 2024 newsletter our donation request, submitted 6 weeks ahead of time, apparently did not reach the current coordinator and our request for a donation of debris box and 6 moving carts to help with cleanup was denied a few days before one of our main cleanup days. (The reason for denial was they receive hundreds of requests and cannot approve them all, and our request was not received in a timely way.) As always, we appreciate our team from Need A Hand Movers who suggested we reach out to Republic Services to request assistance.

Fall Membership Renewals are due now



Sonoma County Children’s Museum – Fun and Learning

Our September general meeting presentation by Dr. Dan Levitis, Volunteer Manager, for the Sonoma County Children’s Museum was inspiring and informational. The many activities and experiences offered at the museum were shared. We talked about providing connections to Nature through birds and habitat. Are you a member who might want to regularly give time to setting up and maintaining a safely placed Hummingbird Feeder? Please contact Dan at dan@cmosc.org. Be sure to share you are a Madrone Audubon member. We know our members volunteer in many settings. Becoming a volunteer at the Children’s Museum and contributing to the ideas we’re discussing about birds and their habitat may mean a positive difference in many young people’s lives. Let us know if you want to be part of our conversations. Reach out to susankirks333@gmail.com. And, to Dr. Dan Levitis, thanks again for a wonderful September meeting presentation.



Downy Woodpecker

by Tom Reynolds

Are you a National Audubon member?



Please consider joining our local chapter, Madrone Audubon.

(see membership form, back page)

New Members

Petaluma

Janet Clover

Sebastopol

Thomas Silman

Santa Rosa

Wendy White

Sonoma

Laurie Glover

Donations

In honor of
Diane Hichwa

by Deidre Harrison
by Jeanne Jackson

In memory of
Alma Cooper

by Kathy Rodrigues

In memory of
Andy LaCasse

by Rae Ann LaCasse

In memory of
Thomas McCuller

by Teresita Salter-Haag

In memory of
Bill Payne

by Nancy Fudenberg

In memory of
Chris Stover

by Lorraine Bazan

In memory of
Carol Zeldman

by Kathleen Cooke



Roseland Creek Pomo Park?

In September 2024, the Santa Rosa City Council reviewed and certified the Environmental Impact Report for what has been named Roseland Creek Community Park. The 30-acre property, bordered by Burbank Avenue and across from Roseland Creek Elementary School, has been advocated by Roseland Community Action and many educators and community members to be a Nature Preserve with connection to Indigenous Pomo heritage. The EIR occurred as a result of litigation to require it, in order to document the natural features and environmental impacts of proposed City-planned elements, many considered to be too impactful for this natural area. Roseland Creek traverses through the property. Many questions were raised as a result of the Environmental Impact Report. We understand Santa Rosa City Councilmember Eddie Alvarez is supportive of a shift to less impacts, uplifting the natural environment, and honoring Pomo tribal heritage, suggesting the name Pomo Park. The effort to conserve the 3 parcels that will become the park has occurred over many years, greater than 25. Madrone Audubon has supported the least impactful, most natural, and most conserved and restored land for the enjoyment by the community and the protection and provision of habitat for multiple species.



Pied-billed Grebe

by Tom Reynolds

Christmas Bird Count on December 29, 2024

Sunday, December 29, 2024, is this year's West County Christmas Bird Count date. Please join us – as an experienced counter or a new counter. To locate a team near you and connect with the team leader, contact our Christmas Bird Count Co-Coordinator – Chris Grabill (cgrabill@gmail.com) or John Lundblad (jlundblad@srcs.k12.ca.us)

New Circle – Are you a Petaluma member? We are adding a new circle to the West County Christmas Bird Count, from the Paula Lane area westward, to document bird species and counts in this area. We're seeking 3-5 team members. Please contact team leader Susan Kirks, susankirks333@gmail.com, 707-241-5548, and become part of the Madre Audubon CBC.



Our Meetings for Members

Over the years, we've always enjoyed gathering the 3rd Monday of each month at 1551 Montgomery Drive in Santa Rosa to hear a variety of importance and enjoyable presentations. Post the COVID pandemic and considering seasons of Autumn, Winter, Spring and Summer, just like the life cycles of birds, we're adapting our meeting "locations."

We so enjoy gathering together, whether in person or virtually via Zoom. Please join us for meetings in our 2024-2025 members' year! If a meeting is virtual, the link will be available on the Home Page of our website and in the newsletter. If you would like assistance with how to access the link and sign in to join a virtual meeting, please contact Susan, our Chapter President, at 707-241-5548, susankirks333@gmail.com.

2024-2025 Schedule

- September - In person
- October - Usually In Person
- November - Virtually via Zoom
- December - No meeting
- January - Virtually via Zoom
- February - Virtually via Zoom
- March - in Person
- April - In Person
- May - Annual Picnic & Chapter Awards (In Person!)

As always, our general meetings are also open to members of the public.

Madrone Audubon
Sonoma County

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



Audubon in Action Grant Award

Madrone Audubon is a 2024 Audubon in Action Grantee! We received an \$8,200 grant award to support our Habitat Gardening program. National Audubon provided a total of \$305,000 to 26 community chapters in the U.S. The Audubon in Action grant program supports principles of National Audubon’s strategic plan, Flight Plan, with plans and actions for climate strategy and action to help habitat and birds as well as our people power with a strong diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging component. Other California Chapters receiving grant awards include Redbud, Monterey, Morro Coast, Plumas, San Diego and Ventura,

Our grant award will be creatively used to cultivate our Habitat Gardening program. We are assuming responsibility for the Lincoln Elementary School garden on West 9th Street, located close to the West 9th Street rookery where we’ve installed and maintained nesting support, now in our 12th year. Our encroachment permit management of that area includes interfacing with City of Santa Rosa staff and departments as well as residents of the neighborhood. The habitat garden at Lincoln Elementary has received significant creative and

material support from the School Garden Network with whom we will also partner. We want to enhance the existing garden, especially for support of resident and migratory birds, and consider a large open grassy area not far from the rookery for additional habitat support. Our project will also include wood-art sculpting for a possible garden sign and/or kiosk as well as a bilingual info card to share with teachers and the community about the area and migratory birds and habitat plants supporting the wild-school interface. We are very excited about expanding our West 9th St. presence and support for the environment! If you would like to volunteer with us in our Habitat Gardening program, we would love to have you join us! Please reach out – 707-241-5548, susankirks@sbcglobal.net. As part of our Habitat Gardening template for schools and open spaces, we are also helping with water element provision and are maintaining the water element at McNear Elementary School in Petaluma this Summer. We also continue to plan to support the Paula Lane Nature Preserve in Petaluma, where our Phenology Project 2016-2019 was an important educational component to help guide habitat planting and species nutrition.

Madrone Audubon Society Funds Statement – July 2023 through June 2024

	Operating	Conservation & Education	Subtotal	Stewardship Task Force	TOTAL
Balance as of June 30, 2023	151,091.04	-53,627.23	97,463.81	1,628.32	99,092.13
Income					
Friends' Dues	8,880.00	0.00	8,880.00	0.00	8,880.00
Donations	11,197.95	0.00	11,197.95	0.00	11,197.95
Donations-CBC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Donations-E Smith Trust	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Donations-Farallones	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
In Kind Donations	0.00	1,963.00	1,963.00	0.00	1,963.00
Bird-A-Thon	4,215.00	0.00	4,215.00	0.00	4,215.00
NAS Sharing	5,460.75	0.00	5,460.75	0.00	5,460.75
Investment Income	64.35	0.00	64.35	1.21	65.56
Miscellaneous Income	306.49	0.00	306.49	0.00	306.49
Other Grants	0.00	8,200.00	8,200.00	0.00	8,200.00
Investing Income	4,198.98	0.00	4,198.98	0.00	4,198.98
Total Income	34,323.52	10,163.00	44,486.52	1.21	44,487.73
Expense					
ADMINISTRATIVE	8,398.76	215.33	8,614.09	0.00	8,614.09
CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CONSERVATION	100.00	7,784.36	7,884.36	0.00	7,884.36
EDUCATION	0.00	2,856.20	2,856.20	0.00	2,856.20
LEAVES	16,855.98	0.00	16,855.98	0.00	16,855.98
MEMBERSHIP EXPENSES	973.99	0.00	973.99	0.00	973.99
OUTREACH	16.20	188.61	204.81	0.00	204.81
JUNIOR AUDUBON	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
GENERAL MEETINGS	1,818.20	0.00	1,818.20	0.00	1,818.20
PUBLICITY	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
FUNDRAISING	69.29	0.00	69.29	0.00	69.29
STEWARDSHIP TASK FORCE	0.00	0.00	0.00	144.00	144.00
BREEDING BIRD ATLAS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Expense	28,232.42	11,044.50	39,276.92	144.00	39,420.92
Net Income	6,091.10	-881.50	5,209.60	-142.79	5,066.81
Balance at end of period (June 30, 2024)	157,182.14 *	-54,508.73	102,673.41	1,485.53 **	104,158.94

*E.I. Smith Bequest: \$96,847.96 Schwab balance, June 2024/Operations Fund Balance = \$60,334.18
 ** This STF balance is preliminary and may change slightly.



Our Board and Conservation Committee meetings are held virtually. For Board meeting information, contact President Susan Kirks, 707-241-5548, susankirks333@gmail.com. For Conservation Committee meetings and information, please contact Diane Hichwa, 707-785-1922, dhichwa@earthlink.net. Also, please visit our website, www.madroneaudubon.org for updates.

October-November 2024 Outings

Bring binoculars and wear outdoor clothing suitable for the weather forecast. Our outings are free for members and the public. (We may have binoculars to loan for your outing.)

Thursday, October 10

8:30-10:30 AM

Crane Creek Regional Park, Santa Rosa

5000 Pressley Road, off Petaluma Hill Road Rohnert Park.

Leader: Janet Bosshard

Parking permit required. Mostly level dirt trails with some uneven surfaces.

Info: 707 480-3432.

Thursday, October 24

8:30-10:30 AM

Riverfront Regional Park, Windsor

Leader: Janet Bosshar

Take US 101 North to Old Redwood Highway exit 498, left onto Windsor River Road. Proceed to Eastside Road, turn left go about 2 miles. Park permit is required. We will meet near the Redwood grove/restrooms. The trails are all level.

Info: 707 480-3432.

Saturday, November 2

8:00-10:00 AM

Ellis Creek Ponds, Petaluma

3890 Cypress Drive

Leader: Linda Fraly

Take Highway 101 to Petaluma. Go East on 116 (Lakeville Highway). Turn right (south) on S. McDowell Blvd. Turn right on Cypress Drive. Go to the end of the road and through gates. Meet near the restrooms.

Info: (559) 779-5211.



Male Northern Harrier

Courtesy of Tom Reynolds

Saturday, October 19

8:30-11:00 AM

Spring Lake Regional Park, Santa Rosa

Channel Drive & Violetti Road Entrance

Leader: Linda Fraley

Park in large lot opposite Swim Lagoon. We will walk to North Peninsula and return. Parking Permit required (may pay at entrance kiosk).

For questions call 559-779-5211.



Semipalmated Plover

Courtesy of Tom Reynolds

Thursday, November 14

8:30-10:30 AM

Bodega Bay

Leader: Janet Bosshard

We will meet at Doran Beach (Regional Park). Park pass is required. Meet in the second lot on the left with the cement restrooms. We will walk the Bird Trail and check out Doran Beach area.

Moderate rain will cancel. It can be windy, so layer up to keep warm. Info: 707 526-5883.



Female American Kestrel

by Tom Reynolds

There will be no outing on the fourth Thursday of November

**Observations**

Spring - Summer 2024 • Dan Nelson • 479-2918 • birdsurf64@sbcglobal.net

Tufted Puffin (1)	8/4	Cordell Bank	AJ, SH, DK et al
Yellow-billed Loon	1/11-8/8	Bodega Harbor, continuing	KMcD, DN, et al
Northern Gannet	8/2	Pillar Pt. Harbor jetty; roosting	SC, et al
Brown Booby (3)	May, Jun, Jul.	S.E. Farallon Island	M.Ob
Bonaparte's Gull (45)	6/5	Bodega Head	DN
Bonaparte's Gull (5)	6/15	Shollenberger Park	DN
Bonaparte's Gull (9)	8/7	Salmon Creek Beach	DN
Sabine's Gull (5)	8/4	Cordell Bank/ Bodega Canyon	AJ, DK, CC, LS et al
Arctic Tern (3)	8/4	Cordell Bank/ Bodega Canyon	AJ, DK, CC, LS et al
Long-tailed Jaeger (1)	8/4	Cordell Bank/ Bodega Canyon	LS, CC, DK, AJ et al
South Polar Skua (1)	8/4	Cordell Bank	CC, LS, DK, AJ et al
Laysan Albatross	7/27	Gulf of the Farallones, S.F. County	AJ, PP, et al
Laysan Albatross	8/4	Cordell Bank	AJ, SH, CC
Short-tailed Albatross	7/28	Offshore San Mateo County	AJ, M.ob
Flesh-footed Shearwater	8/4	Cordell Bank	SH, AJ, DK, CC et al
Wilson's Storm-Petrel (2-3)	7/27	Gulf of Farallones, S.F. County	AJ, et al
Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel (150)	7/27	Gulf of Farallones, S.F. County	AJ, et al
Ashy Storm-Petrel (250)	7/27	Gulf of Farallones, S.F. County	AJ, et al
Black Storm-Petrel (2)	7/27	Gulf of Farallones, S.F. County	AJ, et al
Hawaiian Petrel (4-5)	8/4	Cordell Bank, Marin Co.	AJ, et al
Broad-winged Hawk (ad.)	6/1	Taylor Ln., Occidental -Rare Spring migrant	MH
Least Bittern	7/24	Las Gallinas treatment ponds, Marin Co.	DE
American Bittern	6/16	Shollenberger Park	LD, DN
Baird's Sandpiper	8/2	Limantour Beach	DN
Red-necked Phalarope	8/7	Salmon Creek Beach	DN
Red-necked Phalarope	8/9	Bodega Harbor	DN
Pileated Woodpecker	8/9	Hwy 1 at Stump Beach, Sonoma Co.	SE
White-throated Swift	6/16	Shollenberger Park	DN, LD
Purple Martin (5)	7/15	Limantour Beach	DN
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	8/8	Monte Rio residence, yard bird	J Snead
Western Wood-Pewee	8/7	Coastal Prairie Trail (breeding)	DF
Gray-cheeked Thrush	5/16-19	Pt. Reyes Lighthouse trees	CC, M.Ob
Gray Catbird	6/13	Pt. Reyes "New" Willows	EM, et al
Pygmy Nuthatch (4)	8/9	Bloomfield Rd.	MF
Hooded Warbler	5/17	Nunes Ranch, Pt. Reyes	EM
Hooded Warbler	6/13	Junior Mendoza trees, Pt. Reyes	EM
Tennessee Warbler	5/17-19	Pt. Reyes Lighthouse	CC, DN, et al
Black-throated Gray Warbler	8/1	Pine Lake Park, S.F. (imm.)	DN, et al
Yellow-throated Warbler	5/17	Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes	LK, et al
Black-and-White Warbler	5/17-21	Pt. Reyes "New" Willows	LK, CC, et al
Ovenbird	5/17	Pt. Reyes Lighthouse trees	CC, LK, et al
Northern Waterthrush	5/21	Pt Reyes "New" Willows	CC, LS
American Redstart	6/13	Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes	EM, et al
Slate-throated Redstart	7/27-8/5	Pine Lake Park, S.F. – First State Record	D. Mosur, M.Ob
Yellow-breasted Chat	4/25-July	Santa Rosa Creek Trail, off Willowside Rd.	MF, M.Ob
Yellow-breasted Chat	5/17-20	Inverness Park	RDIG, JW, et al
Summer Tanager	6/13	Drake's Beach	EM
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5/18	Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes	DM, et al
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5/21	Pt. Reyes "New" Willows (female)	CC, et al
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5/27	Pt. Reyes "New" Willows (male)	CC, et al

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Madrone Audubon Society

Post Office Box 1911
Santa Rosa, California 95402

October/November 2024

Madrone *Leaves* is published bimonthly from October through May, plus one issue each in June and September.



**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY
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MADRONE LEAVES



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

- President:** Susan Kirks - susankirks333@gmail.com 241-5548
- Vice President:** Position open
- Recording Secretary:** Claudia Rannikar - pinchipelon@comcast.net
- Corresponding Secretary:** Position open
- Treasurer:** Position open
- Membership:** Questions to Susan Kirks (Position open) - susankirks333@gmail.com ... 241-5548
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- Renewable Energy Subcommittee:** Susan Kirks & Larry Broderick, Co-Chairs 241-5548
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- Programs:** Position open
- Junior Audubon:** Position open
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- Bird Walks – Saturday:** Linda Farley (and various)..... 707-241-5548
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- Christmas Bird Count:**
- Chris Grabill - cgrabill@gmail.com 707-495-7340
- John Lundblad - jlundblad@srcs.k12.ca.us 707-484-8638
- Bird Rescue Center** 523-BIRD
- Native Songbird Care & Conservation** 484-6502
- Northern California Rare Bird Alert** 415-681-7422
- Audubon-California:** Gaylon Parsons - gparsons@audubon.org 415-644-4605
- Publicity Chair:** Position open
- National Audubon Society:** 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 or renew your Madrone membership

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

- New member Renewal
- Senior \$20 Basic Member \$30 Family \$40 Student \$15
- Sustaining \$50 Supporting \$100 Patron \$500

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**

Madrone Audubon is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our tax identification number is 94-6172986

Visit us on the Web at: <http://www.madroneaudubon.org>