



Madrone LEAVES

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

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State Route 37 – Surrounding Peace and High Traffic Congestion?

by Susan Kirks, Christine Cohen and Larry Broderick

State Route 37 is a narrow, too-congested roadway. While undesirable, it's the "only available" travel route. With concrete K-rail dividing lanes from one end to the other, little to no chance exists for safe wildlife crossing of **21 miles** of roadway. Ironically, the drive east or west on SR 37 includes vast vistas of open water, wetlands, wading birds nearby, sometimes right next to the roadway, and other sightings incongruent with the travel route itself.

SR 37 traverses the northern shore of San Pablo Bay, linking US 101 in Novato, Marin County, with Interstate 80 (I-80) in Vallejo, Solano County. It is a vital connector among Marin, Sonoma, Solano and Contra Costa Counties and the Central Valley. Sonoma County Transportation Authority describes SR 37 as the "northernmost non-mountainous east-west link between US 101 and I-5 (via I-80 and I-505)" in California. Most of us know the SR 37 drive as congested, with accidents and unpredictable travel times. It can be a nightmare. The end of life for wildlife trying to cross SR 37 is worse than our delayed travel times.



Canvasback Ducks (Female - top, Male - bottom) Courtesy of Tom Reynolds



Black-necked Stilt Courtesy of Gordon Beebe

How can there be surrounding peace? SR 37 is also reachable via Lakeville Highway 116 from Petaluma. This connection opens for us the experience of wetlands, the Bay, and a serene environment. Just 15 minutes southeast of Petaluma on Lakeville Highway at the SR 37 intersection, one can drive

right into a parking lot for access to the Sonoma Baylands. A port-a-potty is conveniently located nearby. A short walk takes visitors to interpretive signage and information. Flat trails with vast views of water, peace and quiet, ducks, wading shorebirds, benches and very few people make for a very enjoyable experience. Visitors can bring a picnic lunch, sit on a bench after a

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GENERAL MEETING

First United Methodist Church
1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa

NOTE: In-Person Meetings at First United Methodist Church are postponed. Please check our website, www.madroneaudubon.org, for updates and to view any of Gordon Beebe's Nature Narratives.

We'll miss our Annual Membership Meeting in May, potluck gathering, and the first in our Ernestine Smith Lecture series – hope for next May! (See News Updates, page 10 for more info.)



STATE ROUTE 37

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nice walk on the flat trails, and feel that natural recharge we so often desire. On the way in or while departing, one can take a moment to review signage and information, learning about the many partners dedicated to protecting and restoring the wetlands, bay and wildlife. It's a phenomenal multi-partnered undertaking.

We'll be hearing a lot about State Route 37 in the coming years. A process has begun to redesign this nightmare roadway, address climate impacts, including sea level rise, and



Interpretive Area – Baylands Public Access *Courtesy of Christine Cohen*

protect the surrounding sensitive environment with maximum strong standards. Included in the process are plans for elevation of the roadway, with attention to open wildlife crossing integrated into the design; better access to all wildlife resource parking areas; and public access to surrounding lands with interpretive programs. How to travel on the newly redesigned roadway will also be determined. The new design must consider multi-modal transportation and measure energy efficiency with a planning tool of vehicle miles traveled (VMT). The context of equity, assuring affordable and available modes of travel, will be important. SR 37 needs to be redesigned and constructed as climate-ready, environmentally balanced, and better. Madrone Audubon is a member of the Baylands Group of organizations and agencies, one of many groups and stakeholders, reviewing and participating in this process.

Interested in learning more and becoming involved in the process? Senators Mike McGuire and Bill Dodd will host a town hall, *Resilient State Route 37*, April 15, Thursday, 6-7:30 pm. Town Hall Details: www.scta.ca.gov/highway37 or call 510- 286-1204.

An additional public meeting to learn about the *Corridor Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study* will be offered virtually on May 26, Wednesday, 5:30-7:30 pm. Info: www.SR37CorridorProjects.com or call 510-286-1204.

Our Madrone Audubon members can contact us with questions and input. We will be mindful of your interests and concerns as we participate in this important transportation and environmental process.

Membership Renewals for Spring Processing Now!

Coastal Things

by Diane Hichwa

At The Sea Ranch we have done a Christmas Bird Count for 24 years. It is not an official National Audubon Count since it is not a circle, but it is the 10-mile length and 1-mile width of Sea Ranch. It provides a record and perspective on local birds. Thanks to social distancing and masks, we had a good Count Day on January 9, 2021.

It was a year of pleasant surprises! Following a Zoom bird review, there was a surge of interest so we had lots of people in the field (54) and others at home feeders (14). At the Zoom wrap-up, participants were enthusiastic about the day. Our Species count was 105; then a few more trickled in: Red Crossbills had been seen on Saturday afternoon in firs at the NW corner of the airstrip. A few Cedar Waxwings and a single Brown-headed Cowbird at a feeder brought our Species Count to 108. And our Total Individual Birds, 6,103!



Say's Phoebe *Courtesy of Michael Reinhart*

The weather was chilly, but good, without rain. Along the bluff, timing is everything! The surf was high so birds bobbed in the waves in the distance and water washed over the rocks so none could perch. Unusual sightings and sometimes one-of-a-kind single bird sightings included: two Merlins barreling by, one Marbled Murrelet on the water (a bird nesting in older growth redwood forest), amidst Red-winged were 13

Tri-colored Blackbirds (unusual in overwintering along the coast), Glaucous-winged gulls and even 2 Glaucous Gulls. On Sunday morning Bill Mutch and his cat saw a Great Horned Owl in the trees above to add to the species list. Then there were the birds in the hundreds, enough for all to see and ID! These included: Western Gulls, California Quail, and 395 American Robins!

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COASTAL THINGS

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Along with Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 864 of the Yellow-rumped Warblers, aka Butter-butts, White and Golden-crowned Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos. Birds so common that they may be good to start with if you want to learn ID! February 25th, there were Common Murres ON the rock islands at Jenner.

At Gualala Point, we had 300 rafting on the water. These pre-season rafts on the water and rock attendance are evidence of an established murre colony. (And it was just 2012 when we confirmed murres breeding in Sonoma County at both locations, Jenner and at Sea Ranch.)



Bands – Black-legged Kittiwake
Courtesy of Kathryn Arnold

February 26th brought an unusual sighting of a Black-legged Kittiwake (which unfortunately had struck a stationary object and died). It wore Federal band number 0794-84100 and

Bird-a-thon for Madrone Audubon!
Please support our teams!



Black-legged Kittiwake (deceased) Courtesy of Kathryn Arnold

several colored bands. It had been banded 07/03/2002 “as a bird too young to fly” at Middleton Island, Valdez-Cordova Alaska. This nearly 19-year-old bird has gone to the California Academy of Sciences for its collection.

A report on February 18th had Pelagic Cormorants bringing in nesting material to the cliffs, so nesting season with eggs and chicks is just around the corner!

Found a baby bird? Now what?

by Veronica Bowers, Director
Native Songbird Care & Conservation (NSCC)

It’s Spring and our feathered neighbors are busy building nests and raising families. Wild birds live among us in our gardens and parks, natural, and urban areas. Some birds nest high up in trees, others nest low to the ground, some use nest boxes, and others share our human dwellings. Baby songbirds are vulnerable and sometimes they are genuinely in need of human assistance, but how can you tell?

Baby birds go through specific stages of growth and development before they become independent and no longer require the care of their parents. Their behavior and need for parental care varies at each stage. If you encounter a baby bird that you suspect may need to be rescued, some knowledge of their natural development is helpful.



American Robin Nestlings Native Songbird Care & Conservation (NSCC)



American Robin Hatchlings Native Songbird Care & Conservation (NSCC)

As hatchlings, 0-4 days of age, songbirds are naked with scant tufts of natal down, helpless, their eyes are closed, and they’re unable to thermoregulate (maintain their body temperature). At this stage, they remain in their nest and without the constant care of their parents, will quickly die of hypothermia and starvation.

Nestling songbirds are still nest-bound and very dependent on their parents for care, but their eyes are open and they are vocal at this stage. Their bodies will be covered in pin feathers, feathers which are just developing and still covered in a keratin sheath.

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BABY BIRD

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Older nestlings will have mostly feathered bodies, but their tail and wing feathers are very short and still growing.

It is important to know that the length of the nestling stage for songbirds varies from species to species. For some of our common backyard birds such as Northern Mockingbird, California Towhee, and American Robin, the nestling stage is usually 10-14 days from the time they hatch. Other passerine species, such as swallows, swifts, cavity-nesting species, Black Phoebes, Bushtits, and others remain in the nest 18-24 days. How long baby songbirds remain in their nest depends on their natural history. For example, cavity-nesting species can remain in the nest longer than an open-cup nesting species like a mockingbird, because their nest cavity offers more protection from predation.

The most common call we receive at Native Songbird Care & Conservation during the baby bird season is when a good Samaritan encounters a baby bird on the ground and they're not sure if the baby needs help. Babies that are obvious hatchlings or nestlings always need help, but what about babies that are fully feathered who can stand and hop, but cannot fly? Is it a fledgling doing what fledglings do? Well, that all depends on the species.



American Robin Fledglings Native Songbird Care & Conservation (NSCC)

It is normal for species such as towhees, jays, robins, and mockingbirds to fledge the nest and only be able to hop, run, and awkwardly flutter up to very low branches in a bush. Their tail and primary feathers will not be fully grown, but within a week after fledging the nest they will have enough feather development to make short flights. The majority of other songbird species leave the nest with sufficient feather development to sustain flight. Species, such as orioles, warblers, vireos, and cavity-nesters like chickadees, are able to make short flights up to 10 meters from branch to branch when they first fledge. Other species such as swallows, swifts, Bushtits, bluebirds, and phoebes leave the nest fully flighted. A fledgling of these species found on the ground unable to fly is usually a baby in need of rescue.

New Members

Mill Valley
Ronald Brown

Oakland
Marilyn Kecso

Petaluma
Frederick Bethke

Rohnert Park
Sharon Cabaniss

Santa Rosa
Analise Decker
Carolyn Fassi

Sebastopol
Margaret & Joseph
Schwall

Regardless of flight capability, all fledgling songbirds are vocal, mobile, and still dependent on their parents for care. Although the parents may not be with their fledgling every minute of the day, they remain in vocal contact. Additionally, the location where you observe the baby is usually the parents' territory, so mom and dad should be nearby. Depending on the species, it will take a couple of days to more than a week before fledgling songbirds can fly well enough to keep up with their parents and safely evade predators. They are vulnerable and naïve at this age. If you have outdoor cats, the kindest thing you can do for the birds is safely contain your cats.

So, what do you do if you find a baby bird? If you answer "yes" to any of the following questions, the bird needs help. If you're unsure, please always contact a wildlife rehabilitator to help assess the situation.

- Is the bird sick or hurt? Is it bleeding, unable to flutter its wings or stand? Is it weak, shivering, or covered with insects? Is it lethargic and unresponsive?
- Is it suffering from heat exposure due to an extreme heatwave?
- Did the bird have contact, or suspected contact, with a dog or a cat? Cats have bacteria in their mouth and claws that are lethal to birds.
- Is it a hatchling or nestling on the ground?
- Was the nest destroyed?
- Is one parent or are both parents known to be dead, injured or missing?
- Is it a fledgling of a species that should be flying but is not?

For more details about when and how to rescue a baby songbird, please visit the Native Songbird Care & Conservation website at www.nativesongbirdcare.org, or call or text us at 707-484-6502. Please remember that all native birds are federally protected and can only be cared for by a licensed wildlife rehabilitator.



Bird-A-Thon 2021 – Annual Fundraiser

by Carolyn Greene

If the Oak Titmouse and Bewick’s Wren’s incessant songs are any indication, it must be time for our annual Bird-A-Thon (BAT), our biggest Fun & Fund-Raiser of the year! I hope you’ll participate in one or more ways again this year. All money raised (\$6,000 in 2020, during shelter-in-place!) goes directly and only to Madrone’s many local educational and conservation projects, such as our Lincoln Elementary School Bird Festival, West 9th Street Heron & Egret nesting support project, programs and speakers, Phenology Project with 2 locations in Petaluma, support for our bird walks, the *Leaves*, and our broad conservation work in Sonoma County and the Bay Area.

BAT is a team event. Team leaders and team members contact friends, family, co-workers - anyone who knows how much YOU love birding and who also supports bird conservation! We ask for pledges of any amount (those \$25 pledges really add up!) for your favorite team, and the team will report back to you about the ‘thon part of the event – the number of species and birds observed and recorded for the team. These months are great for observing migrants and resident breeders so we’re hoping for quality and quantity.

You may be loyal to a particular team. If new to our Chapter, please consider selecting a team or teams to support with a pledge (which will be collected from you by the team leader) and also consider helping out with a team day or days for the ‘thon.

Our five teams this year are:

Feather Questers (led by Diane Hichwa).

Oakmont Birding Buddies (led by Carolyn Greene)



American White Pelican

Courtesy of Tom Reynolds

Grey-headed Seersuckers (led by Ken Wilson, Becky Olsen & Ian Morrison)

Burrowing Owls (led by Susan Kirks)

March Madness (Gene Hunn’s 1-person wonderment).

Thanks in advance for helping us meet our goals, once again, in the midst of the glimmer of recovery from the pandemic. (Each team will follow strict COVID protocols.)

To join an existing team or for more information, contact Bird-A-Thon Coordinator Carolyn Greene at cgnpark@icloud.com or call/text 805-443-7289.

This year, we also have a special opportunity to support Bird-A-Thon and our Chapter, too. Please read on.

American White Pelican Wall Hanging for Bird-A-Thon

by Susan Kirks

Diane Anthony, birder and watercolor artist, and Judith Lerner, quilt artist, have created an original wall hanging, the American White Pelican. Diane and Judith have donated their creation to Madrone Audubon to support our 2021 Bird-A-Thon fundraiser.

The original watercolor artwork is by Diane Anthony, and the original fabric wall hanging is by Judith Lerner. The colorful homage is a collaborative creation by the two artists who envisioned the piece while members of the Santa Rosa group of the Artist Conference Network... during the pandemic.

Madrone Audubon would like to ask our members to consider donating to the Chapter for Bird-A-Thon, and our highest donor for this year’s fundraiser will receive the wall hanging as a gift from us to you. Passing on the art for a good cause.

Please make your donation to Madrone Audubon, write “Bird-A-Thon” on the check memo line, and mail to Madrone Audubon, PO Box 1911, Santa Rosa, CA 95402. When donations are all received, we’ll be able to gift the wall hanging to the highest donor for the fundraiser. The wall hanging is estimated at \$400 in value.

More information about our generous artists: Judith Lerner has been playing with fabric to create vibrant, boldly colorful and delightfully whimsical Art Quilts for decades. Inspiration comes from her imagination, surroundings, and, in the case of commissioned pieces, from listening to her clients describe a vision, image, intention, or desire they’d like depicted with fabric. Please visit Judith’s website: www.dreammakermuse.com.

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WALL HANGING

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Diane Arnold is a watercolor artist and licensed architect. She is completing a young adult book full of original watercolors which ties her love of art and architecture together, called Our Houses, the architecture of our homes. She discovered birding in a new way while sheltering in place in Lake County and is working on a new series entitled “Bird Built, the Architecture of bird nests.”

(The Artist Conference Network is a non-profit, worldwide community of artists, working in every creative field. - writers, painters, musicians, filmmakers and much more! Information: artistconference.com.)

Welcome, New Board Member

We’re pleased to share **Claudia Rannikar** of Sonoma has joined our Board of Directors as Recording Secretary. The Recording Secretary, a Board Officer, maintains minutes of our Board meetings and participates in Chapter business and decisions. Claudia has enjoyed a long history of supporting migratory Hooded Orioles from Mexico arriving each year to nest in Sonoma. We’re so pleased to welcome Claudia and also add a Sonoma representative to the Board!

Our Board of Directors has openings to fill – We’d love to add Publicity Chair and Corresponding Secretary soon. If you feel motivated to serve our Chapter and help, please contact susankirks@sbcglobal.net for more information. Our Board meets virtually, via conference phone call or Zoom, so Board members can serve from anywhere in the County. Please consider serving for a year or two on our Board – you can help us make a difference for birds, wildlife and our members in Sonoma County!



Hermit Thrush

Courtesy of Tom Reynolds



American White Pelican Wall Hanging

Courtesy of Arnold/Lerner

American Coot and Common Gallinule hybrid



Courtesy of Tom Reynolds

Discovered by Lisa Hug
February 21, 2021 at Lake Ralphine



During the COVID-19 pandemic, our Board and Conservation Committee meetings are held virtually. For Board meeting information, contact President Susan Kirks, 707-241-5548, susankirks@sbcglobal.net. For Conservation Committee meeting and information, please contact Diane Hichwa, 785-1922, dhichwa@earthlink.net. Also, please visit our website, www.madroneaudubon.org for updates. Please see special instructions below for bird walks.

April/May 2021 Calendar

SATURDAY WALKS

Gordon Beebe has not scheduled Saturday walks for April/May 2021. Please refer to Madrone's website for updates or changes. www.madroneaudubon.org.

APRIL AND MAY THURSDAY WALKS

COVID-19 Precautions

The walks will be limited to 7 birders. Please drive by yourself. Reservations will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis. Future walks, if there are no changes regarding the COVID-19 situation, will favor those who have not joined a walk before. Your name will be put on a waiting-list, if a space becomes available. We will follow the COVID-19 protocols, staying 6 feet apart, wearing masks, and respecting other trail visitors. Come in good health, with no recent exposure to COVID-19.

Thursday, April 8

Sonoma Valley Regional Park. Hwy #12, Glen Ellen. Park permit is required. Meet across from the dog park. We will walk the paved path through the oak woodlands. There are benches, halfway down the path to sit a while to listen, look and identify the birds. ** To reserve a space, please, Janet Bosshard (707) 526-5883.



Brandt's Cormorant, plumes
Courtesy of Gordon Beebe



January 2021 Ragle Ranch

Courtesy of Janet Bosshard

Thursday, April 22

Bodega Bay, Campbell's Cove. We will check out the area around the Hole-in-the-Head, the ocean from the Head, then work our way back down the road along the Bay. Be prepared for various weather conditions. ** To reserve a space, please, call Janet Bosshard (707) 526-5883.

Thursday, May 13th

Helen Putnam Regional Park, Petaluma, 411 Chileno Valley Rd. We will walk the asphalt path, to the top of the park. ** To reserve a space, please, call Janet Bosshard (707) 526-5883.

Thursday, May 27th

Coastal Prairie Trail, Bodega Bay. Hwy #1, The Coastal Prairie Trail is a 1.1-mile bike and pedestrian trail between the Bodega Bay Community Center and Keefe Avenue. ** To reserve a space, please, call Janet Bosshard (707) 526-5883.

OUT & ABOUT

Spring Feather Fest, Petaluma – The annual Spring event in the Petaluma Wetlands is hosted by Petaluma Wetlands Alliance. It's a half-day of birding designed for youth ages 6-12. The event will not be held this year (related to the pandemic and being safe and healthy). There's hope for the Christmas Bird Count for Kids in January 2022 and the 2022 Spring Feather Fest. For info and planning, contact Sheryl Nadeau of PWA: 33sheryln@gmail.com.

**Are you a
National Audubon member?**

Please consider joining our local chapter,
Madrone Audubon.

(see membership form, back page)



Habitat Gardening for Small Spaces (Porch, Patio, Yard)

by Christine Cohen

With a creative spirit, you can provide a sanctuary for birds and other wildlife in a small place. It's possible to entice several species of birds into a carefully planned garden patio. The birds will most likely be small ones such as sparrows, finches and hummingbirds. Depending on choice of plants, trees, vines and shrubs you may be also rewarded with butterflies.



Brewer's Blackbird Posturing
Courtesy of Gordon Beebe

Small birds look for cover. Shrubbery with a close network of branches provides a safe haven, especially with inviting overhanging tree branches. Small flower beds and grasses encourage foraging birds. Certainly, you will see a California Towhee checking out the grounds. To augment your plantings, add a bird bath or a hanging one from a trellis

or from tree branches. Fuchsias in hanging containers will attract hummingbirds, especially when shaded. A balcony may provide just the right amount of shade and sunlight.

This winter, I hung a perforated metal tray from tree branches and placed suet cakes on the tray. All day long, I see White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrows pecking at the suet. At night, I bring in the tray and wash with sudsy warm water. Next morning, 20 or more birds may be waiting for the suet. They provide interesting viewing from the window all day long. If you decide



Habitat Gardening

Courtesy of Christine Cohen



Petaluma Regional Library Birdbath

Courtesy of Christine Cohen

on a feeding tray, I suggest selecting one with a metal perforated flooring (for rain water). Other materials will work as well as long as rainwater can readily drain. You can then place a shallow dish of seeds and ground nuts on the tray. The dish can be easily removed at night and kept clean.

With or without feeders, if you thoughtfully plant bird friendly plants such as grasses, berry bushes, and perhaps a fruit tree, many birds may find your patio a welcome sanctuary, especially if there's cool clean water to drink during our hot summer days.

Potted plants and trees in large containers may substitute for in ground plantings. With less cement and more earth and leafy areas with vegetation for forage and cover, you will provide vital habitat for birds and wildlife to enjoy. Finally, you will be helping us all in addressing the threat of species extinction through climate change.



Vertical Gardening in Apartments
Courtesy of Back to Nature

(Our gratitude to the McNear Landing Owners' Association in Petaluma for posting a link to this article on their website for handy reference and encouragement. McNear Landing is a residential development in southeast Petaluma, adjacent to the Petaluma River and within view of the Petaluma River Bridge.)



West 9th Street, Santa Rosa – Nesting Birds and Education

by Susan Kirks

Hérons and Egrets Arrive to Nest

Black-crowned Night Herons arrived in late March and were busy with nest building. Great Egrets arrived shortly afterward. Observers were watching for Snowy Egrets and Cattle Egrets. By the time our members receive the April-May *Leaves*, the annual “big nest” under the median street trees, installed over closed asphalt traffic lanes. will be in place. This is our 9th year for this project, implemented and managed late March to early September. We collaborate with the City of Santa Rosa and Bird Rescue of Sonoma County volunteers to support this large site in an active Southwest Santa Rosa residential neighborhood. The location is West 9th Street between Stony Point Road and Dutton Avenue.

Madrone’s nesting support project, the “big nest” under the trees, provides an enclosed area and cushioning for fallen birds. Bird Rescue Center volunteers monitor the area almost 24/7 to sensitively and carefully retrieve fallen birds and transport them

to the Bird Rescue Center. From there, the young birds that can be stabilized are transported to International Bird Rescue in Fairfield for rehabilitation and hoped-for release. Our orange traffic delineators with fencing around the site and rice-straw flakes padding from about 40 bales of straw have proven to be a practical, and now necessary, addition for safety and support of successful nesting for these magnificent and beautiful birds. This site, monitored by Audubon Canyon Ranch, often has over 300 nests.

Lincoln Elementary School Bird Festival

Each year, Madrone Audubon usually hosts the annual festival at Lincoln Elementary School. Janet Bosshard shares with us, this year, with pandemic impacts and coordination of education for the students, the festival will be on hold. We’re hopeful that Spring of 2022 will coincide with the school’s and our ability to once again host and enjoy the annual Bird Festival at Lincoln Elementary School.

News Updates

EARTHseed in Sebastopol -- A new Permaculture Center is coming to Sonoma County. This will be the first Afro-Indigenous Permaculture Center and Working Farm, located at 3175 Sullivan Road in Sebastopol (former Gabriel organic farm).

EARTHseed will be led by Pandora Thomas and “designed and run collectively by practitioners of Afro-Indigenous permaculture principles...built on the long legacy of Earth wisdom.” The farm and center will honor the memory of ancestor Octavia Butler and be connected with the Black Permaculture Network. This special farm and center includes envisioning “a place where thousands of adults and youth annually reclaim their relationship to the Earth, their history and their future through learning about Afro-Indigenous Permaculture.” As a for-profit farm, we anticipate opportunities to support EARTHseed and enjoy wonderful organic offerings. Info: pandorathomas.com/epc.

Farallon Islands – The proposed drop of a 2nd generation anticoagulant poison (Brodifacoum) over the islands may be revisited at the May 2021 meeting of the California Coastal Commission. Our Audubon Chapter, along with many conservation organizations, has expressed ongoing concern with questions about the efficacy and risks of the proposal. A multifaceted alternative project to protect the Ashy Storm-Petrel and address the mouse population deserves attention and consideration. Such an alternative includes capture and relocation of the 6-8 Burrowing Owls over-wintering on the islands, a mouse fertility control product under development and predicted to be available for use in 2021, and an extended



CA Quail and Sooty Fox Sparrow

Courtesy of Keith Sauer

eradication project with monitoring. This approach would pose no threat to nontarget species and eliminate the significant predicted bykill of gulls and other species. The food chain and nearby marine sanctuaries would be protected from infiltration of a 2nd generation anticoagulant poison. We continue to be hopeful that proponents, receiving updated information, may become open to considering an optimal long-term project and outcome, with the least risk to the exceptional environment and life of the Farallon Islands and San Francisco Bay Area.

California Condor to be Reintroduced to Pacific Northwest by Yurok Tribe – The Yurok Tribe will soon be the first tribal nation to reintroduce the California Condor to the wild. Returning the condor - *pregoneesh* in Yurok language – to the Pacific Northwest has been a focus of the tribe for decades.

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NEWS UPDATES

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“Bringing a species like California Condor, pregoneesh, back to our ancestral territory...that’s a huge reparation in the wound that the Yurok people and all tribes in the area have suffered since contact and the disruption to our eco-region,” said



Great Egret and Double-crested Cormorant *Courtesy of Keith Sauer*

Tiana Williams-Claussen, director of the Yurok Tribe’s wildlife department. “This is something I’ve been working for literally my entire adult career.” The first release to Yurok ancestral territory is anticipated for Fall 2021. The Yurok Tribe will build and manage a condor release facility in Redwood National Park, located in northern California near the Oregon border. The condor release and support are also part of the Yurok Tribe’s broad cultural restoration effort of language revitalization and removal of dams along the Klamath River. (Resources: Oregon Public Broadcasting (Bradley Parks), National Audubon Society).

California Condor Lays Egg in Burned Tree – The tragic Dolan Fire in August 2020 destroyed much of the research center for Ventana Wildlife Society (VSW) and killed 11 condors. Iniko was a chick who survived the tragic event. Iniko has been in rehabilitation at the Los Angeles Zoo; there’s hope for her release into the wild in the near future. A ray of hope and good news was reported throughout California in March 2021. Red Queen, the 23-year-old female Condor who was Iniko’s parent and whose mate, Kingpin, died in the Dolan fire, has a new mate and laid an egg. The egg was laid in the same burned tree where she nested the year prior. The egg has been observed, along with Red Queen, and is expected to hatch in late April. Our Madrone Audubon inaugural Ernestine Smith Lecture series guest in May 2020 was to be Mike Stake of Ventana Wildlife Society. The pandemic impacted our ability to meet in person. When we’re able to gather again for our annual meeting and potluck and our new lecture series, we sincerely hope Mike will be able to join us and share about the remarkable California Condor Recovery

Project. We remain hopeful for this future event and for the potential April 2021 hatching of Red Queen’s egg.

Safer Wind Energy – Compared to what we normally see, the Horizontal Axis Wind Turbine (HAWT) with giant turning blades, deadly for birds and bats, Vertical Axis Wind Turbine design (VAWT) research is promising and receiving more attention from researchers and manufacturers. The VAWT has a lower center of gravity. For off-shore wind installations, this unit requires less space on a platform. Composite materials now being used to manufacture VAWT units are extending unit life. Madrone Audubon is monitoring the progress of VAWT research. VAWTs have actually been researched since the 1970s. “Yet when we see wind energy represented in photos, “Always depicted is the Horizontal Axis Wind Turbine,” says Madrone President Susan Kirks. “I cringe every time I see this. We need to advocate for research and funding and enhanced awareness for the general public about Vertical Axis Wind Turbines.”

Phenology Project Volunteers

Madrone Audubon sponsored citizen science research

Two Petaluma Locations

Paula Lane: 9 avian, 2 mammal, 4 plant species

(This Nature Preserve project is currently modified & continuing.)

Petaluma River Bridge: Cliff Swallows (March-August)

Both Projects are in our 4th Year!

Accepting new volunteers for long-term, climate change impact project.

Visit 1 hour monthly, observe, record data for National Phenology Project

To volunteer, contact: Susan Kirks, Madrone Audubon President.

707-241-5548, susankirks@sbcglobal.net

(Beginning birders/naturalists welcomed)

Help With Local Climate Action

Check out our

Tree & Vegetation Planting Guide

www.madroneaudubon.org



Golden-crowned Sparrow *Courtesy of Gordon Beebe*

**Observations**

Winter 2020-2021 • Dan Nelson • 479-2918 • birdsurf64@sbcglobal.net

Eurasian Wigeon (2)	1/21	Doran Park entrance pond (continuing)	DN, et al
Northern Pintail (5)	3/5	Valley Ford wetlands	D Moring
Blue-winged Teal (2)	3/5	Valley Ford wetlands	D Moring
Tufted Duck (male)	2/20	Bahia Marsh wetlands, Marin Co.	AM, SC
Redhead (fem.)	1/28	Spring Lake (continuing)	RO'D, DN, et al
Black Scoter (2 males)	1/27	Salmon Creek Beach	DN
White-winged Scoter	1/21	Bodega Harbor near Owl Canyon	M.Ob
Barrow's Goldeneye	Jan.	Port Sonoma, on lower Petaluma River	LH, DN
Hooded Merganser (2)	1/6	Tolay Creek farm pond (continuing)	DN
Long-tailed Duck (2)	1/21	Porto Bodega and just to S. (continuing)	SC, DN et al
Greater W.-fronted Goose (38)	1/6	Lakeville Highway S. of Ellis Creek	DN, et al
Snow Goose (1 ad.)	1/27	Chanslor Ranch, just S. of Salmon Creek	DN
Ross' Goose (1 ad.)	12/20	Ludwig Ave., photos (Santa Rosa CBC)	DN, SM
Tundra Swan (1 ad.)	1/21	N. end Bodega Harbor (photos)	DN
Tundra Swan (7)	2/15	Guerneville Rd., Graton area	SC
Moorhen x Coot (hybrid)	2/5	Lake Ralphine (photos)	fide LH
Clark's Grebe	1/27	N. end Bodega Harbor	DN
Red-necked Grebe	2/13	Lakeville treatment ponds- seen from Ellis Cr.	AW
Marbled Murrelet (2-3)	1/27	Bodega Head, seen to West	DN
Yellow-billed Loon (imm.)	1/18-26	Tomales Bay; off Indian Beach	LS, JW et al
Glaucous Gull (1st yr.)	3/2	Salmon Creek mouth	WM
Glaucous Gull (1st yr)	1/1-15	Shollenberger Park (continuing)	NA, et al
Slaty-backed Gull (ad.)	1/24	Elephant Rock, Tiburon Marin Co.	LC, et al
Bonaparte's Gull (1)	1/6	Ellis Creek ponds	DN
Forster's Tern (2)	3/3	Doran Park	LH
Black Skimmer (2)	1/31	Bolinas Lagoon	BB
Ferruginous Hawk	1/5	S. of Pepper Rd, W. of Stony Pt. Rd	DN
Bald Eagle (ad.)	1/16	Lakeville Hwy. S. of Ellis Cr., perched in Eucalyptus	DN
Merlin	1/5	Devil Mountain Nursery area	DN
Prairie Falcon	Jan- Feb	Tolay Creek Regional Park	M.Ob
Prairie Falcon	3/3	Valley Ford wetlands	C Haile
Peregrine Falcon (2)	1/21	Gleason Beach pinnacles	DN, et al
Black Vulture	1/24	Stinson Beach area	C. Buechert
Short-eared Owl (2)	1/21	Tolay Creek Regional Park	M.Ob
Short-eared Owl (1)	Feb	Bodega Head (continuing)	MBa
Burrowing Owl	1/21	Tolay Creek Regional Park	M.Ob
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	Feb.	Sausalito, Marin Sailing Club, Marin Co.	JM
Sandhill Crane (4)	12/14-1/4	Tubbs' Island	PA, MBI, et al
Ridgway's Rail	1/13	Petaluma R. just S. of old 'Gilardi's' landing	DN
American Bittern (1)	1/5	Ellis Creek	DN, SM
Pacific Golden-Plover (1)	2/7	Doran Park mudflats	DN, SM
Snowy Plover (8)	2/7	Doran Park mudflats	DN, SM
Rock Sandpiper (1)	3/3	North Beach, Pt. Reyes	ML
Ruddy Turnstone (8)	1/27	Bodega Harbor, just N. of The Tides	DN
Wilson's Snipe (7)	1/5	Devil Mountain Nursery pond	DN
Long-billed Curlew (2)	1/28	Shollenberger Park	DN
Red Phalarope (1)	1/27	N. end Bodega Harbor (photos)	DN
Chuck-will's-Widow (1)	12/7	Bolinas, photos (non-chaseable)	M Dettling
Williamson's Sapsucker (imm.)	1/7	Olema Campground	WA
Red-naped Sapsucker	1/15	Salmon Creek Rd. (continuing, 2-yr. returnee)	SC
Northern "Yellow-shafted" Flicker	Jan	Cypress Hill Memorial Park, Petaluma	DN
Allen's Hummingbird	2/12	Paula Lane residence, Petaluma	DN
White-throated Swift (5-6)	1/28	Lakeville treatment ponds, S. of Ellis Creek	DN
Violet-green Swallow (1)	1/28	Ellis Creek ponds	DN
Tree Swallow (5-6)	1/21	S. Carmody Rd. pond	DN
Cliff Swallow (8-10)	2/28	Paula Lane residence Petaluma; North-bound	DN
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	Jan-Feb	Santa Rosa Creek trail; W. of Willowside	RS
Hammond's Flycatcher	Jan-Feb	Tolay Creek Reg. Park; cont. from 12/10	EV, JV, M.Ob
Mountain Bluebird (3)	Jan-Feb	Tolay Creek Reg. Park; continuing	R Storey, et al
Loggerhead Shrike (2)	1/5-15	S. of Pepper Rd.; W. of Stony Pt. Rd.	DN
Phainopepla	Dec-Jan	Westach Way, off Ramal Rd.; SE Sonoma	MS, LS, JB
Rusty Blackbird (male)	12/12-23	Devil Mountain Nursery, Pepper Rd.	LH, MBa, SC, et al
Swamp Sparrow (2)	Jan	Ellis Creek, SE corner of property in creek	GH, RS, et al
Harris' Sparrow (1 ad, 1 imm.)	2/20	Freestone	LH, MB, et al
Grasshopper Sparrow (1)	2/5	Taylor Mountain Regional Park	D Shuford
Red Crossbill (10-12)	2/22	Limantour Beach parking lot	DN, SM
Black Turnstone (20)	2/28	Richardson Bay, Tiburon	CC

CONTRIBUTORS: Philip Aguilar, Will Andersen, Noah Arthur, Mario Ballitbit, Bob Battagin, Malcolm Blanchard, Courtney Buechert, Junco Bullock, Scott Carey, Christine Cohen, Lucas Corneliusen, Mark Dettling, Connie Haile, Lisa Hug, Gene Hunn, Matt Lau, Many Observers, Suzanne Medina, Alex Merritt, David Moring, Joe Morlan, Whitney Mortimer, Dan Nelson, Rob O'Donnell, Dave Shuford, Lucas Stephenson, Mark Stephenson, Ron Storey, Eva Valfer, Jeff Valfer, Jim White, and Alan Wight.



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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 - susankirks@sbcglobal.net 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) - susankirks@sbcglobal.net
- Conservation:** Diane Hichwa - dhichwa@earthlink.net 785-1922
- Renewable Energy Subcommittee:** Susan Kirks & Larry Broderick, Co-Chairs.... 241-5548
- Education Kits:** Barbara Novak - b.novak34@gmail.com..... 795-3996
- Programs:** Position open
- Junior Audubon:** Position open
- Website Editor:** Gordon Beebe - gordbb@gmail.com 583-3115
- Saturday Bird Walks:** Gordon Beebe - gordbb@gmail.com..... 583-3115
- Bird-A-Thon Coordinator:** Carolyn Greene – cgnpark@yahoo.com 805-443-7289
- Audubon Adventures:** Carolyn Greene – cgnpark@yahoo.com..... 805-443-7289
- Ex Officio Board Member:** Larry Broderick - northcoastraptor@gmail.com

- Leaves Editor:** Christine Cohen - forearhandsea@gmail.com 707-762-9642
- Leaves Asst. Editor:** Larry Broderick - northcoastraptor@gmail.com
- Leaves Production:** Kris Hutchins - kris@hutchins1.net 477-8156
- Hospitality:** Position open
- Observations:** Dan Nelson - birdsurf64@sbcglobal.net..... 479-2918
- Stewardship Task Force:** Diane & Bryant Hichwa – dhichwa@earthlink.net..... 785-1922
- Habitat Gardening:** Christine Cohen - forearhandsea@gmail.com 707-762-9642
- Sonoma County Water Coalition Rep:** Paula Zerzan - pzerzan@comcast.net..... 935-1523
- BBA:** Gordon Beebe, gdbeebe@earthlink.net; Tiffany Erickson, tiffymm66@gmail.com
- IMBD:** Veronica Bowers - vlbowers@gmail.com 829-2955
- Christmas Bird Count:** Peter Leveque and Stacy Li - stacyli@sonic.net..... 566-7937
- 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
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