



# Madrone LEAVES

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

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Number 3

## Water Issues *by Diane Hichwa*

When the Water Bond initiative was on the recent ballot as Proposition 1, Madrone Board members had a healthy discussion about water and the issues we face, in a drought year and in our future in California. Water is NOT an issue that is going to go away. We realized it would be good to provide all of us with background and perspective. We have asked Dr Stacy Li to introduce the subject through a several-part-series of articles to give us a real understanding of the issues involved. We hope you will find this first article intriguing and will be eager to read more of the articles.

Stacy says, "The Bay Delta Authority has not come out with any official design for the new water system. So if the present water system fails, the repair funds will be spent on the existing system, which is ill-suited for the needs of California—good money down the drain."

*Stacy Li, Ph.D., is a semiretired consulting aquatic biologist with 28 years experience. His credits include participation in the Mono Lake hearing, eight years service as a fish ecologist and water rights specialist with the National Marine Fisheries Service, and currently serves as an officer on the board of the Madrone Audubon Society.*

## The Deep and Troubled Waters of California

*by Stacy Li, Ph.D.*

The Delta is in trouble again and will soon fail, both from a water supply and an ecological perspective, because the conceptual design of the Central Valley Project (CVP) is fundamentally flawed. First, the CVP is designed to use solely the San Joaquin River as water supply. The amount of water exported each year by the state and federal agencies (a combined total of 5 million acre feet per year) is approaching the amount of runoff produced by the San Joaquin watershed (5.66 million acre feet per year). Since the State Water Project (SWP) was constructed, it has been assumed that Sacramento River water could be captured simply by pumping longer from the existing Federal Jones Pumping Plant (CVP) and State Banks Pumping Plant

(SWP), both located about 31 river miles upstream on the San Joaquin River; this concept is known as "Through Delta Conveyance."

"Through Delta Conveyance" is impractical because the waters of these two rivers

do not mix downstream of their confluence, and the Sacramento waters from Georgiana Slough and the Delta Cross Channel flow largely west to the San Francisco Bay rather than south to the pumps. Second, the Sacramento River

Continued on page 2

**NO GENERAL MEETING IN DECEMBER, BUT COME JOIN US ON MADRONE'S CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, SUNDAY DECEMBER 28. Details on page 8. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

### **JANUARY GENERAL MEETING**

**"Exploring the Colombian Andes and Intermountain Valleys"**

Monday January 19, 7:00 PM  
First United Methodist Church  
1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa

Gordon Beebe, president of Madrone Audubon Society, will present a blend of photos, video, and a soundtrack of recordings taken on a two-week trip to several natural locations in Colombia. This presentation will be similar to his Costa Rica presentation last March. You will experience the visual beauty and unique songs and calls of the birds of the varied habitats of southern Colombia, from the intermountain valleys, cloud forest, freshwater lagoon and rivers, to the *páramo*, a treeless zone high in the Andes.

**COMING Monday February 16**

David Rice is a clinical psychologist, living in Berkeley, who co-authored the *Alameda County Breeding Bird Atlas*. He will speak on the topic, Why We Bird, seven reasons why people are compelled to do this.

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**madroneaudubon@um.att.com**

You will get your copy faster and help save paper.



### TROUBLED WATERS

Continued from page 1

water is used primarily only to resist seawater intrusion during incoming tides, despite being almost four times more abundant in runoff volume. This places the security of both pumping plants on the integrity of the fragile, poorly designed and poorly maintained San Joaquin Delta levees and intensifies the ecological stressors, especially in the San Joaquin Delta. The major direct adverse effect of water diversion activities of CVP and SWP is reversal of downstream flows in the main channels of the San Joaquin Delta. These actions destabilize the sustainable ecology of the San Joaquin Delta. Finally, water diversion infrastructure is lacking to harvest Sacramento River water in an efficient manner that is ecologically sustainable.



Bay/Delta Map

The design solution to correcting this flawed water redistribution scheme is to assign the Sacramento River the function of “export water supply”, along with water quality maintenance and resistance to

tidal intrusion. The San Joaquin River should function only as water supply for the San Joaquin Delta and resistance to seawater intrusion during incoming tides. Because of its greater gradient, Sacramento River water is less sensitive to environmental perturbation and could accommodate increasing the water supply demand, resulting in a decrease of water treatment costs due to superior water quality. Also it would improve ecological conditions in the San Joaquin Delta and, because of its higher gradient, avoid adverse impacts in the Sacramento Watershed. The more environmentally sensitive San Joaquin River could be managed more simply so that it mimics the historical tidal interaction pattern that would remove significant environmental stressors in the San Joaquin Delta. Substantial increases in San Joaquin Delta anadromous fish populations are expected, especially fall-run Chinook salmon, steelhead, all the members of the Pelagic Organism Decline [POD] (Delta smelt, longfin smelt, threadfin shad, young-of-the-year striped bass) and Sacramento splittail.

Cost for this solution to Delta water supply and ecological problems is estimated to be around \$25 billion or about 1/4 the cost that would be needed to reconstruct or repair San Joaquin Delta levees. Because flooding in the Sacramento watershed has been a recurring problem, the levees there are better constructed and better maintained. Levee integrity should be addressed only as a flood control issue rather than an element of a susceptible water supply infrastructure.

However, the cost of failing to solve the water supply problem may result in massive economic disruption of California’s economy, one of the ten largest economies in the world. Surely this will trigger a worldwide economic depression.

### Madrone’s Bird-A-Thon 2015 – Our Primary Fundraiser

by Marcia Johnson  
Bird-A-Thon Coordinator

February through April is Madrone Bird-A-Thon season. Teams have a great day just counting birds, while gathering sponsors and getting donations to support our Chapter. We had six teams last year, and we are hoping that they will all participate again. Feather Questers, Roadrunners, Zonotripias, Grey-headed Seersuckers, and March Madness, are you game for another year? New this year, and looking for more participants, is Susan Kirks and her Burrowing Owls. If you’d like to join Susan’s team, contact her at susankirks@sbcglobal.net or 241-5548. If you would like to form your own team with friends, or family, contact Marcia...try it, it’s fun.

#### How to be part of Bird-A-Thon 2015

##### For Birding Teams:

Contact BAT coordinator Marcia Johnson at owlsnesttwo@att.net or 829-3808, and she will send you a sign-up sheet with instructions. Start signing up your sponsors.

After your “big day”, tell your sponsors how many species you saw and how much they owe.

Teams, send ALL your checks to Marcia at 1460 Big Cedar Lane, Sebastopol 95472, or bring them to the next General Meeting.

##### For Sponsors:

Say “Yes” to anyone who asks you to pledge. If no one asks, you can sign up to support a team at the General Meeting or contact Marcia.

Last year, we collected almost \$9,000 – all of which was used for educational and conservation programs, such as the popular Junior Audubon. Funds also provide “Audubon Adventures”, a FREE resource kit for teachers to use in their 3rd, 4th and 5th grade classes. The Lincoln School

#### Are you a National Audubon member?

Please consider joining our local chapter, Madrone Audubon.

(see membership form, back page)



**BIRD-A-THON**

Continued from page 2

Bird Festival for all students benefits from money earned.

Sponsors (you) are the backbone of a successful Bird-A-Thon. Teams will contact you and ask for your support. Please be generous by sponsoring a team or teams with a pledge of 5 cents to whatever per bird species, or even a set amount. The Team will contact you after their day of birding to accept your donation with thanks and a brief review of their day.

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**Enrich Your Life –  
Become a Petaluma  
Wetlands Docent**

*by Mary Edith Moore*

If you live in Petaluma or Pengrove, consider joining the Petaluma Wetlands Alliance (PWA) as a docent. Our new-docent training begins Thursday January 8 and continues for eight consecutive Thursdays thru February plus the first two Wednesdays in March, 8:30 AM – Noon. The 10 training sessions are held at the Lucchesi Community Center and Shollenberger Park.

PWA has a very active wetlands program: teaching third grade hands-on activities in the classroom and in the field, nature discovery walks with the second graders, bilingual nature/bird walks for higher grades and adults, bird research, and stewardship & restoration at Shollenberger Park and Alman Marsh. Obviously, there is a niche for everyone.

You would be joining a great group of docents who enjoy each other's company and are always ready to pitch in and help when the call comes. Teachers sign up quickly for a space in our program.

We ask that applicants pay \$40 toward the cost of materials and apply by Tuesday January 6. For more information, visit [www.petalumawetlands.org](http://www.petalumawetlands.org), click on "Education" and then click on "Docent Program", or call 763-3577.

**Breeding Bird Atlas**

submitted by Gordon Beebe

Napa Solano Audubon has completed their *Breeding Bird Atlas* and printed the results in a beautiful 12x13 inch book. See their website, <http://www.napasolanoaudubon.com/Monitoring/SolanoAtlasSamples>. Inspiring and something for Madrone Audubon to think about once we complete our own atlas and tabulate the results.

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**Ramsar International  
Convention on Wetlands,  
June 2014**

*by Gerald Moore*

Ramsar was started in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran as a fallout of the Iraqi invasion of Iran in the 1960s and the spiteful destruction of Iran's wetlands by Saddam Hussain. These wetlands had been the home of the "Marsh People" for centuries. The Marsh People are still working to restore their wetlands and this dedicated effort has led to the creation of an international effort to preserve wetlands around the globe. The Ramsar Convention has expanded into thousands of sites first in the mid-east, then

Europe and North America. Ramsar is the only world-wide treaty based on the preservation of wetlands. Over 200 countries have signed on the Ramsar preservation program and pledged to preserve their wetlands. There are no contracts or legal agreements to maintain a wetlands site forever, just a "gentlemen's" agreement to try to preserve and restore their wetlands.

By 2010 there were over 30 major Ramsar sites in the U.S. represented by such places as Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, Everglades National Park, Bolinas Lagoon, Tomales Bay, Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve, the Laguna de Santa Rosa, and many other sites in the United States. Over the last two years almost all of the San Francisco Bay has joined the Ramsar Convention. The big federal wetlands were taken in first, and now most of the small wetland sites are applying for admission, including the Petaluma public wetlands. The Bay Area Ramsar program is being managed by Beth Hunning, long-time manager of the San Francisco Bay Joint Ventures, at no cost to any of the Bay Area applicants. There are now 26 local major stakeholders in the Bay Area working together to make wetland restoration projects happen.

Continued on page 4

**New Friends of Madrone Audubon Society**

**Cazadero**

Sandra McKeon

**Graton**

Celia Cummings

**Occidental**

Hollis Bewley

**Petaluma**

Lance Cerny  
Roberta Hossett  
Sheri & Jeff Oster

**Rohnert Park**

Sachiko & Michael Knappman

**Santa Rosa**

Lily Jean Adams  
Betty Andrews  
Alice Fardig  
Mourna & Michele Fitterer  
Judith Ann Johnson  
Asenath LaRue & Arthur Montana  
Kathleen Marsh

**Sebastopol**

Hideka Oga



**RAMSAR**

Continued from page 3

The latest from Beth on the Petaluma public wetlands: “.... I have not completed the report/ revision, as it requires a full re-application to Ramsar. There are a number of sites that are being amended or added to, not just adding Petaluma. That would be pretty straight forward, and it would have been done by now. But Ramsar is requiring pretty much a re-do of the original application, as we are making several additions and are required to report all of the different changes to habitat on existing Ramsar tracts since the original application and approval. I have it partially complete, but we need to pull information on all the sites together to do this all at once. It also takes Ramsar awhile to review changes. I’ll keep you posted when the final reapplication is submitted. Thanks for hanging in there.”

The potential benefits to Ramsar affiliation include: INCREASED PUBLIC AWARENESS, INCREASED PARTICIPATION BY STAKEHOLDERS, GREATER SUPPORT FOR PROTECTION OF WETLAND SITES, INCREASED ACCESS TO CONSERVATION FUNDING, and ENHANCED OPPORTUNITES FOR RESEARCH AND ECOTOURISM.

For more information visit [www.ramsar.org](http://www.ramsar.org); Twitter or Facebook; call Gerald Moore, Chair Petaluma Wetlands Alliance, 763-3577 or Susan Kirks, Madrone Audubon Society, 773-3215.

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**OUT & ABOUT**

**16th Annual Snow Goose Festival of the Pacific Flyway**

*Wednesday thru Sunday, January 21-25, Chico and Red Bluff*

The Pacific Flyway ranks as one of the greatest migratory pathways in the entire world, stretching from the Ber-

ing Strait off the coast of Alaska to the steeps of Patagonia in South America. Millions of birds representing hundreds of species use this great avian highway each year, and nowhere is this abundance of wildlife more accessible than right here in the northern Sacramento Valley.

With an ideal combination of mild winter weather, abundant food, and rich quantities of water, the area attracts a huge wintering population of waterfowl and raptors. A local favorite among these is the majestic Snow Goose. With the estimated overall population of Snow Geese exceeding 5 million, as many as one and a half million use the Pacific Flyway. Tens of thousands of these will winter right here in our own backyard.

Renowned naturalist and author, Scott Weidensaul, joins the festival this year as the keynote speaker at the “Gathering of Wings” banquet and silent auction on Saturday evening, January 24. He will explore the wonder and mechanics of bird migration and share his research, experiences, insights, and the simple, effective ways we can preserve our feathered friends.

We have put together more than 60 field trips and workshops that cover six counties, reaching out into the rice fields, wildlife refuges, and river walks where mild winter weather, abundant food, and lots of water draw our avian visitors. Online registration begins in December at [www.snowgoosefestival.org](http://www.snowgoosefestival.org).

**Tours of the Monarch Butterfly Grove Natural Bridges State Beach, Santa Cruz CA**

*Guided tours Saturdays & Sundays, 11:00 AM & 2:00 PM until the monarchs migrate, usually late January*

Natural Bridges State Beach is world-renowned for its yearly migration of monarch butterflies. Visitors can see

thousands during the butterflies’ peak season. The best time to see monarchs in the park is usually from mid-October to late January.

The grove’s eucalyptus trees are located in a small, protected canyon, providing the Monarch needed shelter from the wind. These winter flowering trees are also a convenient source of nectar for the butterfly. On chilly days when the temperature drops below 60 degrees, the butterflies cluster together in the eucalyptus trees for warmth and protection. On warmer days, butterflies flutter and float through the air as they fly from tree to tree. The park also maintains a milkweed demonstration patch where visitors may view Monarch eggs, caterpillars, and chrysalides. For about half a year, milkweed is the Monarch’s home, supermarket and maternity ward. The Monarch larva eats only the milkweed plant. Visitors can learn and explore even more about the mysterious migration and life cycle of the monarch on one of the parks tours.

Monarch migration is variable; please call the park if you would like more information. Public tours are offered on weekends and no reservations are necessary, or call 831-423-4609 to arrange a tour for a group of 10 or more. Meet at the Visitor Center for the hour-long program. The walk is stroller and wheelchair accessible.

**Directions:** Take Swift Street west from Highway 1, or follow West Cliff Drive north along the bluffs until it ends at Natural Bridges.

**ParkStore/Visitor Center:** The ParkStore/Visitor Center features displays on the monarch butterflies and other features of the park. An aquarium features animals found in the tidepools. A video is available for viewing. The ParkStore/Visitor Center is open most weekends and some weekdays. Call 831-423-4609 for visitor center hours, special events, and migration update.

Continued on page 7



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.

## December 2014 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 December 3, 7:00 PM*

**BOARD MEETING.** Sonoma County Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway Avenue, Santa Rosa. For agenda information, contact Gordon Beebe at gdbeebe@earthlink.net.

### *Wednesday and Thursday, December 3 & 4*

**SACRAMENTO VALLEY WILDLIFE REFUGES.** Meet at the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge (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. 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., 530-534-5566) on Wednesday night and bird Gray Lodge State Wildlife Management Area and Colusa NWR on Thursday. Information: Tom McCuller, sisyphus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

### *Saturday December 6, 9:30 AM to dusk*

**CENTRAL VALLEY - GRAY LODGE and SACRAMENTO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.** This is 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 the junction of Interstate 5 and Highway 99, take Highway 99 north to Live Oak. Turn west onto Pennington (North Butte) Road. Turn right onto Almond Orchard Avenue and continue to the entrance. The distance from Live Oak is about eight miles. After birding Gray Lodge, we will go to the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge for the afternoon, hoping to enjoy 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 the leader, Bill Doyle at 483-8773, for more information.

### *Wednesday December 10, 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, turn left onto Newanga Avenue, turn right inside the park entrance gate, and meet in the parking lot near the restrooms at the top of the hill. Information: Tom McCuller, sisyphus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

### *Saturday December 13, 9:00 AM*

**ALMAN MARSH, PETALUMA.** Petaluma Wetlands Alliance leads a walk at Alman Marsh. The walk starts at the new kiosk on the southern edge of the Petaluma Marina/Sheraton Hotel. Rain cancels. Contact Gerald Moore, 763-3577.

### *Thursday December 18, 8:30 AM – Noon*

**SHOLLENBERGER PARK.** Bird Walk. Search for wintering birds at the Shollenberger Park ponds and wetlands in Petaluma. 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. Information: Tom McCuller, sisyphus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

### *Saturday December 27, 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 Gerald Moore, 763-3577.

### *Sunday 28 December, dawn to dusk*

**MADRONE AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT.** See page 8 for details. We are in dire need of volunteers to help with setup and cleanup of the dinner. Please contact Peter Leveque at 542-8946 for more information or to volunteer.

## January 2015 calendar

### *Friday January 2, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM*

**PETALUMA CBC FOR KIDS.** Kids, ages 8 to 15, will count birds in the Petaluma public wetlands and end the count with a Tailgate Party. See page 8 for details.

### *Wednesday January 7, 7:00 PM*

**BOARD MEETING.** Sonoma County Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway Avenue, Santa Rosa. For agenda information, contact Gordon Beebe at gdbeebe@earthlink.net.

### *Wednesday January 7, 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), then turn right at the stop sign and continue 0.3 miles to the unpaved parking lot on the right. Bring lunch. Information: Tom McCuller, sisyphus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

### *Saturday January 10, 9:00 AM*

**ALMAN MARSH, PETALUMA.** Petaluma Wetlands Alliance leads a walk at Alman Marsh. The walk starts at the new kiosk on the southern edge of the Petaluma Marina/Sheraton Hotel. Rain cancels. Contact Gerald Moore, 763-3577.

### *Thursday January 15, 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM*

**RUSH CREEK AND HAMILTON FIELD WETLANDS IN MARIN COUNTY.** Bird Walk. Meet at Rush Creek Preserve in Novato. From Highway 101 drive east on Atherton Avenue, turn left onto Bugelia Lane, which becomes Bahia Drive. Continue to the Rush Creek trailhead at end of Bahia Drive. Bring lunch. Information: Tom McCuller, sisyphus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

### *Saturday January 17, 8:30 AM to Noon*

**LAKE SONOMA.** Walk. Meet at the Lake Sonoma Visitor Center. From Highway 101, take Canyon Road to Dry Creek Road, then Rockpile Road to the Center. Leader: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115.

### *Monday January 19, 7:00 PM*

**GENERAL MEETING.** "Exploring the Colombian Andes and Intermountain Valleys", presented by Gordon Beebe, president of Madrone Audubon Society. First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa. Please see the front page announcement. The public is always invited to attend these programs.

### *Wednesday January 21, 8:30 AM – Noon*

**SEBASTOPOL AREA.** Bird Walk. We will search for wintering birds in the north-east Laguna, Ragle Park, or other interesting local spots. Meet at the Sebastopol Community Center, 390 Morris Street. Bring lunch. Information: Tom McCuller, sisyphus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

### *Saturday January 24, 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 Al Hesla, a.hesla@comcast.net.

### *Thursday January 29, 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM*

**ISENBERG CRANE PRESERVE AND COSUMNES RIVER PRESERVE NEAR LODI.** Bird Walk. Meet at McDonalds in the Sunset Shopping Center in Suisun City at the intersection of Highway 12 and Sunset Avenue/Grizzly Island Road. Driving time to meeting point from Santa Rosa is approximately 1.25 hours. Bring lunch. Information: Tom McCuller, sisyphus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

### *Wednesday February 4, 8:30 AM – Noon*

**ELLIS CREEK WATER RECYCLING WETLANDS.** Bird Walk. We will bird the wetlands and adjacent areas of this facility in Petaluma. From Santa Rosa on Highway 101, take the Highway 116 exit (Lakeville Highway), go left under Highway 101, turn right (south) at the South McDowell traffic light, turn right on Cypress Drive, which ends at the facility gate. Information: Don McCarthy, (415) 883-0763.



## Observations

Fall 2014 • Dan Nelson • 479-2918 • [birdsurf64@sbcglobal.net](mailto:birdsurf64@sbcglobal.net)

|                               |           |  |                      |
|-------------------------------|-----------|--|----------------------|
| Falcated Duck                 | 11/1      | Colusa N.W.R., from observation deck                 | LE                   |
| Red-necked Grebe              | 9/27      | Bodega Head State Park                               | DN, RROS, et al.     |
| Clark's Grebe                 | 9/27      | Bodega Head State Park                               | RROS, et al.         |
| Cassin's Auklet               | 11/5      | Doran Jetty area                                     | DH, BDP, et al.      |
| Brown Booby (imm.)            | 10/19     | Gualala Point Regional Park                          | RK                   |
| Parasitic Jaeger              | 9/27      | Bodega Head State Park                               | DN, RROS, et al.     |
| Black-vented Shearwater (1)   | 9/25      | Bodega Head State Park                               | GH                   |
| Black-vented Shearwater (50+) | 10/24     | Bodega Head State Park                               | RO'D                 |
| Black-vented Shearwater (2)   | 10/31     | Bodega Head State Park                               | SC                   |
| Fork-tailed Storm Petrel (10) | 10/31     | Bodega Head State Park                               | SC                   |
| Least Bittern (1)             | 10/17     | Shiloh Ranch Regional Park, pond                     | DS                   |
| Least Tern (1)                | 8/23      | Cheney Creek at Doran Park                           | LH, et al.           |
| Common Tern (2)               | 9/18      | Doran Park   | LH                   |
| Baird's Sandpiper (1)         | 9/12      | Carmody Road, south pond                             | BDP                  |
| Pectoral Sandpiper (1)        | 9/18      | Doran Park   | LH                   |
| Pacific Golden-Plover (1)     | 8/20      | Shollenberger Park                                   | LH                   |
| Spotted Sandpiper (1)         | Oct.-Nov. | Bodega Harbor at Diekmann's Store                    | M.Ob                 |
| Swainson's Hawk (dk mph)      | 9/12      | Glen Ellen, upper Sonoma Valley                      | RR                   |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo (juv.)   | 10/6      | Riverfront Regional Park                             | DS                   |
| Lesser Nighthawk (1)          | 10/17-21  | Point Reyes Fish Docks                               | MP, M.Ob             |
| Black Swift (6)               | 9/6       | Jenner Headlands                                     | KM, et al.           |
| Lewis' Woodpecker             | 10/21     | Shiloh Ranch Regional Park                           | RR.                  |
| Tropical Kingbird             | 10/4      | Westside Park, Bay Flat Road                         | SH, DK, et al.       |
| Tropical Kingbird             | 10/16     | Highway 1, south Bodega Bay                          | MF                   |
| Tropical Kingbird (2)         | 10/21     | Short-tail Gulch, south Bodega Bay near Osprey Drive | LH, et al.           |
| Eastern Phoebe                | 11/1      | Bodega Dunes Campground, #75-76.                     | DF                   |
| Gray Catbird                  | 8/28-9/13 | Owl Canyon   | PC, DH, DN, et al.   |
| American Pipit (2-3)          | 9/12      | Campbell Cove, 1st for Fall Season                   | DN                   |
| Philadelphia Vireo            | 9/3       | Owl Canyon, earliest ever, record for Sonoma County  | GH                   |
| Red-eyed Vireo (imm.)         | 8/29      | Owl Canyon   | DE                   |
| Red-eyed Vireo (adult)        | 9/1       | Owl Canyon   | BM                   |
| Yellow-green Vireo (imm.)     | 10/10-11  | Owl Canyon   | GB, DN, et al.       |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler         | 9/18      | Campbell Cove, 1st for Fall Season                   | DN                   |
| Tennessee Warbler             | 9/20-21   | Bodega Marine Lab gate                               | DN, JS, SC           |
| Tennessee Warbler             | 9/28      | Sebastopol, yard bird                                | SC                   |
| Northern Parula Warbler       | 9/22      | Shiloh Ranch Regional Park                           | DS                   |
| Blackpoll Warbler (3-4+?)     | 9/14-19   | Bodega Marine Lab gate and entrance road             | DN, JS, SC, et al.   |
| Black and White Warbler       | 8/29-31   | Owl Canyon   | DH, BO'C, DN, et al. |
| Black and White Warbler       | 9/11-20   | Campbell Cove  | DN, DH, BDP, et al.  |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler(male)  | 9/10-11   | Owl Canyon   | DN, DH, BDP, et al.  |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler        | 9/14      | Campbell Cove  | RW, DN, RM           |
| Blackburnian Warbler          | 9/9-10    | Owl Canyon   | DN, TB, et al.       |
| Blackburnian Warbler          | 9/20-21   | Bodega Marine Lab gate                               | DN, BDP, SC, SM      |
| Prarie Warbler                | 9/14      | Bodega Marine Lab entrance road                      | JS, DN, DF           |
| Prarie Warbler                | 9/15      | Campbell Cove Rim                                    | BO'C, OO'C, DN       |
| Prarie Warbler                | 9/18      | Campbell Cove  | LH, DN, LVC          |
| Northern Waterthrush          | 8/28-9/13 | Campbell Cove  | DW, DN, et al.       |
| Northern Waterthrush          | 9/27      | Rail Ponds east of Whale Ship                        | DN, RROS, et al.     |
| American Redstart             | 8/26      | Russian Gulch  | LH                   |
| American Redstart (ad. male)  | 8/26      | Doran Park   | DF                   |
| American Redstart             | 9/11      | Jenner Post Offic                                    | KM                   |
| American Redstart (fem.)      | 9/12      | Owl Canyon   | DN, et al.           |
| American Redstart (imm. male) | 9/12      | Campbell Cove  | DN, et al.           |
| Orchard Oriole (fem. or imm.) | 9/9       | Owl Canyon/ Marine Lab entrance gate                 | DN, et al.           |
| Hooded Oriole (imm. fem.)     | 9/17-19   | Marine Lab entrance/ Owl canyon                      | DN, M.Ob             |
| Hooded Oriole (ad. male)      | 11/1      | Pepperwood Preserve (unusual late record)            | LH, et al.           |
| Great-tailed Grackle (12)     | 9/18      | Ellis Creek treatment ponds                          | GH                   |
| Clay-colored Sparrow (1)      | 9/20      | Campbell Cove  | DN, et al.           |
| White-throated Sparrow (1)    | 9/19-24   | Owl Canyon   | DN, et al.           |
| Lincoln's Sparrow             | 9/10      | Owl Canyon, 1st for Fall Season                      | DN                   |
| Blue Grosbeak (imm.)          | 9/24      | Muir Beach restoration area                          | LH, JW               |

CONTRIBUTORS: Theodora Block, Scott Carey, Peter Colasanti, Daniel Edelstein, Leo Edson, Mary Follis, Dea Freid, David Hofmann, Steve Howell, Lisa Hug, Gene Hunn, Don Kirker, Richard Kuehn, Roger Marlowe, Bruce Mast, Suzanne Medina, Kathy Mugele, Many Observers, Dan Nelson, Brook O'Connor, Orion O'Connor, Rob O'Donnell, Michael Park, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Redwood Region Ornithological Society, Ruth Rudesill, Doug Shaw, Jackie Sones, Link Van Cleave, Jim White, Denise Wight, and Rockey Williams.



**OUT & ABOUT**

Continued from page 4

**Amenities:** One of the amazing monarch butterflies' favorite winter homes is a magical beach, lagoon, and forest on the northern edge of Santa Cruz. Starting in early October, the black-and-orange beauties start trickling in from colder climates to enjoy our moderate coastal weather. Natural Bridges State Beach has a Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary, with a fine boardwalk trail into the grove. It is a special place that has become a great source of local pride. Join a docent naturalist and see monarch butterflies wintering in Santa Cruz.

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**Winter Wings Festival**

*Thursday thru Sunday  
February 12-15  
Oregon Institute of Technology  
Klamath Falls, Oregon*

The Klamath Basin Winter Wings Festival is a four-day event that occurs every President's Weekend in Klamath Falls. The Klamath Basin Audubon Society produces the event. It opens early Thursday morning with a series of field trips and ends Sunday afternoon after a day of birding that matches your interests. In between, the Festival offers field trips, workshops, talks, vendors, displays, and free activities attractive to families.

The Winter Wings Festival is the oldest birding festival in the nation. Known for the largest wintering population of Bald Eagles in the lower 48 states, the Festival also celebrates the return of other raptors and wintering flocks of waterfowl to the Klamath Basin.

Speakers for 2015 include Richard Crossley, author of the *Crossley ID Guide* series and Jennifer Wu, a Canon Explorer of Light nature photographer that specializes in photography of the night sky and stars.

Typical Workshops include Photography, Beginning Birding, Raptor Identification, and many more. Numerous field trips take you to many areas of the Klamath Basin, including the famous lower Basin National Wildlife Refuges.

For more information visit [www.winterwingsfest.org](http://www.winterwingsfest.org), call 877-541-2473, or email: [info@winterwingsfest.org](mailto:info@winterwingsfest.org).

• • • • •

**Good News from  
Madrone's President,  
Gordon Beebe**

We have filled the CBC chair position: Peter Leveque and Stacy Li will be co-chairing the CBC this year. You may contact Peter at 542-8946, or go to Madrone's website for more information. Thank you Peter and Stacy!

• • • • •

**Christmas Bird Counts  
(CBC)**

*14 December through 5 January*

Pull on your hat and gloves, meet your friends, and start counting the birds. The CBCs are here. Rain or cold does not deter you—friends must get together again, count the birds, and enjoy the dinner celebration as the day's adventures are relived and shared with all.

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**RROS (Redwood Region Ornithological Society) Santa Rosa CBC  
Sunday 14 December**

All who wish to participate please contact your previous area leader or compiler Bill Doyle, [shortbill@comcast.net](mailto:shortbill@comcast.net). Compilation dinner will be held again this year at Coco's Restaurant, Farmer's Lane, 5:00 PM.

**Point Reyes 45th CBC  
Saturday December 20**

Welcome to the 45th annual Point Reyes Christmas Bird Count, sponsored by Marin Audubon. Tom Gaman and John Longstreth are co-compilers again this year. Our CBC is a big count with 29 territories and around 200 participants, one of the top ten counts in the United States, so we need everybody's cooperation. We also are generally in the top ten in North America for the number of species.

Every year the compilers and the area leaders try to ensure consistent coverage of each count territory with a good mix of participants. We need time to do this, so sign up with us, the compilers, by Dec. 14 (earlier is better) by emailing us or sign up online at <http://tgaman.wix.com/prcbc-0726>. Even if your leader has already contacted you, please register with us so we can keep track of who and how many are involved in the count. (Some of you have already signed up, but we still need your dinner information. See below.)

Expect a call or email from your area leader on or before December 15th. If your assigned area leader has not contacted you by December 17, contact us so we can investigate. This is the only communication you will receive from us, so hang on to this email and bookmark <http://tgaman.wix.com/prcbc-0726> where you can obtain updated information. Your next contact will be from your area leader.

**Compilation Dinner** – The post-count compilation dinner is a very popular event. Our attendance hovers around 150. Pam Ferrari Catering will prepare a wonderful homemade, fresh, organic meal for us. Pasta with olive oil and pesto or marinara sauce, fresh baked local Brick Maiden crusty French bread, fresh butter or olive oil to dip, an interesting seasonal salad, big



## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Continued from page 7

fresh baked cookie or brownies, tea and coffee. We will provide Inverness water. If you prefer another beverage, you are welcome to bring it yourself. This is a “no-impact event”, so please bring your own plate, utensils and glass. We will not have any china or utensils for people who forget. The dinner is for counters and their families only. The Dance Palace, 503 B Street, in Point Reyes Station will be open starting at 4:00 pm for set-up and Pam will start serving dinner 5:15-5:30. You must sign up and pay \$16 in advance for the dinner. Dinner checks should be sent to John Longstreth, PO Box 657, Inverness, California 94937 and received by December 15. (Checks made payable to “John Longstreth” please.) It is important that you order dinner in advance since Pam purchases fresh ingredients based upon our order. There is no refund after December 18, since the ingredients will be purchased. When ordering a meal(s) list the person(s) you are paying for. (If you haven’t pre-paid, at the door the cost for dinner, if available, will be \$20. If too many people do this, we will run out of food.) Please do not procrastinate. On December 1 we will post, on the website, a list of volunteer positions needed at the compilation dinner.

**Contact details and questions:** the best way to communicate and obtain more information is by email. You can contact John and Tom at [ptreysCBC@gmail.com](mailto:ptreysCBC@gmail.com). Important: please put “CBC RESPONSE” in the subject line. John Longstreth 415-669-7514 or Tom Gaman 415-237-0075. Forms, maps and other important CBC information will be posted in a timely manner on the website, so check in from time to time.

### Sonoma Valley 10th CBC Friday December 26, dawn - dusk

All area birders are welcome. The wild and bird-rich Petaluma and Sonoma watersheds are always filled with holiday surprises. Over 165 species are typically recorded during this highly ranked “inland” CBC by 35 plus teams on assigned routes led by helpful experienced birders. All wishing to participate, please call or email compiler Gene Hunn with your name, address, zip, and phone number: [enhunn323@comcast.net](mailto:enhunn323@comcast.net) or 981-7301.

### Madrone Audubon’s 48th CBC Sunday December 28, dawn - dusk

There is still time to sign up for our Western Sonoma County Christmas Bird Count—Audubon’s 115th. Nineteen teams will set out to census the diverse and rich habitats of Western Sonoma County. From the ocean to the forests, approximately 190 species can occur in our count circle. Visit our website to find an area and team that suits you at [madroneaudubon.org](http://madroneaudubon.org) (click on the Birds drop-down menu). To sign up, contact the team leader directly, or use our contact form: click on the “About” menu on the website.

There will be a delicious catered dinner following the count at the Sebastopol Community Center. A \$5 donation per person to help offset the cost of the catered dinner is requested. Madrone is asking counters and others who come to the dinner to please bring a dessert. Also please bring your own glasses, cups, plates, utensils, and beverages (wine and beer are OK). We are in dire need of volunteers to help with setup and cleanup of the dinner. Please contact Peter Leveque at 542-8946 for more information or to volunteer.

## Celebrate the holiday season with kids birding (CBC for Kids)

### Petaluma CBC for Kids Friday January 2, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Rain Cancels

Come join us for the 5th Annual Petaluma Christmas Bird Count for Kids; a half-day of bird-watching designed for kids ages 8-15. Sign up by December 31. This event is co-sponsored by the Petaluma Wetlands Alliance—a committee of the Madrone Audubon Society—and the City of Petaluma Parks and Recreation Department.



Courtesy of Scott Manchester

After the check-in at the picnic tables near Shollenberger Park’s main entrance, we will go birding in teams of six kids with each team accompanied by experienced adult birders. We’ll walk the trails in areas such as Shollenberger Park, Ellis Creek Water Recycling Facility, Alman Marsh, etc. We’ll count every bird we see and meet back at the picnic tables at 11:30 AM for a **Tailgate Pizza Lunch** and talk about what we observed.



Courtesy of Scott Manchester

Bring binoculars (if you have them), a hat and layered clothing, comfortable shoes or boots, and \$3.00 per person



**CBC FOR KIDS**

Continued from page 8

for lunch to be collected at check-in.

To register contact Al Hesla: 765-9411 or a.hesla@comcast.net.

**Point Reyes 5th Annual CBC for Kids  
Saturday January 10  
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

Join local naturalists and Bay Area families at Point Reyes National Seashore for the CBC for Kids. Point Reyes, with some 490 species of birds recorded (over 50% of species of birds in North America), easily claims the prize for the greatest avian diversity of any U.S. national park, which makes it an ideal location for this family-friendly event.

Every year for over a century, tens of thousands of volunteers take part in the National Audubon Society's Annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC), the longest-running wildlife census to assess the health of bird populations, and to help guide conservation action. This rigorous event often does not include young children, so in an effort to train future generations in this country-wide endeavor, Point Reyes National Seashore Association (PRNSA), in collaboration with the National Park Service at Point Reyes and Sonoma Birding, invites families with children ages 3 to 18 to join us for a half-day event to learn some of the important basic elements of this grand old Audubon tradition.

Budding Birders (ages 3 to 6) will have a range of activities and a bird discovery walk, while Young Birders (ages 7 to 18) will participate in the official count and pre-choose their birding location. The objective of this event is to have fun, connect families with nature, and

potentially create a "home team" of birders for future bird counts. Kids will be guided and encouraged to look for, identify and record the kinds and numbers of birds they encounter with help from their local "bird brain." All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Parents and guardians will be encouraged to support their child's discovery and in the process learn some important methods to continue their child's exploration of the natural world.

Participants should wear comfortable hiking shoes, dress in layers, bring rain gear, and bring a picnic lunch. Bring binoculars if you have them. Loaner binoculars will also be made available.

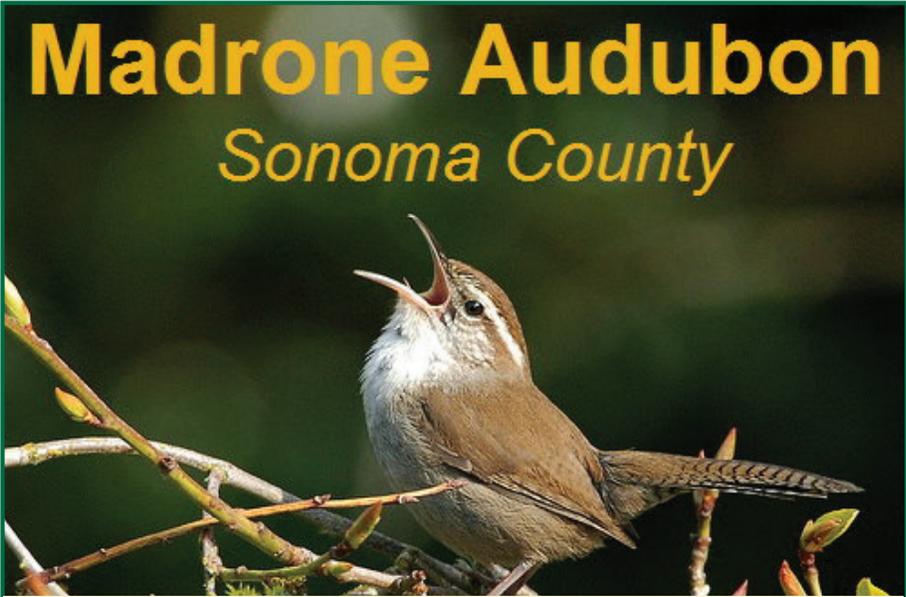
This is a free event sponsored by the Point Reyes National Seashore Association and the National Park Service at Point Reyes National Seashore. Pre-Registration Required. Registration will open in November 2014.

For more information, please contact Jessica Taylor 415-663-1200 x304.

**Sonoma Valley CBC4Kids  
Sunday January 18, 8:30AM – 1:00PM**

Celebrate winter birding at the 8th annual CBC4 Kids in Sonoma Valley. Experienced birders will lead small teams on 90-minute birding routes following registration, orientation, and "Binocular Boot Camp." One adult per youngster ages 8-16. Team presentations will be in Andrews Hall followed by pizza and drink in the Rotary Kitchen. A "Budding Birder Camp" for kids ages 4-7 will be offered for the younger family members by the Crescent Montessori School while their older brothers and sisters are out birding. All are welcome.

Visit [www.sonomabirding.com](http://www.sonomabirding.com) for sign up and details.



**Madrone Audubon  
Sonoma County**

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



**Madrone Audubon Society**

Post Office Box 1911  
Santa Rosa, California 95402

December 2014/January 2015



**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 - info@madroneaudubon.org.

- President:** Gordon Beebe - gdbeebe@earthlink.net ..... 829-9017
- Vice President:** Tiffany Erickson - tiffymm66@gmail.com ..... 479-0108
- Recording Secretary:** Emily Heaton - emilyheaton@gmail.com ..... 595-5058
- Corresponding Secretary:** Stacy Li - stacyli@sonic.net ..... 566-7937
- Treasurer:** Kathleen Barker - kbarker@comcast.net ..... 762-0715
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- Program & Circulation:** Joannie Dranginis - joanhd@att.net ..... 523-4373
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- Observations:** Dan Nelson - birdsurf64@sbcglobal.net ..... 479-2918
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- ACR Rep & MMAS Steering Committee:** Bryant Hichwa ..... 579-1182
- Petaluma Wetlands Alliance:** Gerald Moore - glmemoore@comcast.net ..... 763-3577
- Sonoma County Water Coalition Rep:** Paula Zerzan - pzerzan@comcast.net ..... 935-1523
- BBA:** Gordon Beebe, gdbeebe@earthlink.net; Veronica Bowers, vlbowers@gmail.com
- IMBD:** Veronica Bowers - vlbowers@gmail.com ..... 829-2955
- Christmas Bird Count:** Open
- Honorary Board Member:** Ernestine Smith ..... 545-4255
- Bird Rescue Center** ..... 523-BIRD
- Native Songbird Care & Conservation** ..... 484-6502
- Northern California Rare Bird Alert** ..... 415-681-7422
- Audubon-California:** Dan Taylor - dtaylor@audubon.org ..... 916-649-7600
- 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, 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.

- New member       Renewal       Petaluma Wetlands Alliance
- 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: [www.madroneaudubon.org](http://www.madroneaudubon.org)**