



Madrone LEAVES

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

VOLUME 50 December 2016/January 2017 Number 3

Inspiration at Yosemite – the Audubon CA Assembly

by Cheryl Harris

Recently, very early on a sharp, brisk, icy morning, I found myself joining a group of like-minded friends and new acquaintances at the amazing overlook at Glacier Point in Yosemite National Park. What a treat. We set out on a 3 mile round-trip hike through mature red fir forest to look for birds, enjoy the incredible views and share ideas and experiences with other Audubon activists. We hiked a rather steep trail uphill to Sentinel Dome (8,122 foot elevation) where the incredible views were beyond imagination---majestic Half Dome, adjacent glacial peaks and outcroppings, 1000 foot+ waterfalls, distant snow-capped mountains and views into the glorious valley far below.

We enjoyed excellent sightings of target birds including Mountain Chickadee, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Red-breasted, White-breasted and Pygmy Nuthatch, Black-backed Woodpecker, White-headed Woodpecker, a pair of Sooty Grouse and more. Many thanks to our hosts and trip leaders from the Yosemite Audubon chapter.

Later, as we drove from Glacier Point down into Yosemite Valley we were delighted and surprised, at this late date, to see the valley clothed in glowing fall color – rich butter yellows and soft golds of Big-leaf maple, willow and black oak contrasting with the reds and magenta of the dogwoods. Fall is truly a wonderful time to visit this national gem.

However, the thousands of dead and dying pine trees at the southern end of the park severely dampened our enthusiasm! It was a sad reminder of the huge toll taken by

the ongoing California drought, raising further concerns about the future effects of Climate Change with the resulting on-going loss of habitat.

So, what beckoned me to Yosemite? I was privileged to participate in the **2016 Audubon California Assembly** as a representative of our Madrone Audubon Chapter. It was a weekend of inspiration and contemplation. Approximately 130 chapter leaders and bird enthusiasts representing the state's 49 Audubon chapters participated in this event. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet other Audubon folks, exchange ideas, share experiences and establish connections and partnerships. Workshop topics included Conservation opportunities, ideas for creating bird friendly communities, use of social media for outreach and membership building, partnership possibilities and suggestions for how to expand diversity and inclusion within our chapters.

The highlight of the event was our wonderful keynote speaker – David Allen Sibley–



Auduboners hike Yosemite Provided by Cheryl Harris

who gave an entertaining viewpoint on the psychology of bird identification, accompanied by several fun anecdotes and insight from his own experience.

Continued on page 2

GENERAL MEETING

First United Methodist Church • 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa

Monday, January 16, 2017, 7:00 PM

“Local hawks in the region: migration, resident and over-wintering; identification and natural history”

Larry Broderick, of West County HawkWatch will present details on how to identify what you see when you are looking at hawks and some history on the past, present and future of our local and migrant Birds of Prey. Larry will describe opportunities to go out and see these birds on upcoming scheduled hikes, walks and counts, and will have handouts to help with the hawk identification process. Come and learn about interesting and surprising local finds.



WEST COUNTY HAWK WATCH

Courtesy of Larry Broderick



YOSEMITE

Continued from page 1

An excellent new publication was presented: “California Birds in a Changing Climate, 170 Species at Risk.” It provides an up-to-date picture of what is happening



*Bark beetle and drought damage
Provided by Cheryl Harris*

in the various regions of our state, explains which birds are especially at risk and offers suggestions about how we as individuals can help mitigate the negative effect on birds and other wildlife. This publication will be accessible soon for download at www.napa-solanoaudubon.com/Main/Climate.

Inspired and motivated, I returned home dedicated to finding more ways to participate in the movement to help birds deal with habitat loss due to Climate Change. Some thoughts: Continue working on current conservation efforts but also seek an even further reduction in our carbon footprints, increase our water conservation efforts, review and adjust our recycling/reuse and buying habits. But also, we must help educate others using the basis of science based data and predictions to make sound choices. Then, we must exercise our rights, speaking out to our legislators, local officials and the press.

And we all need to GET INVOLVED! Many of us may feel we have little time to spare. But both large and small volunteer efforts on behalf of our beloved birds,

Dear Members – if you prefer to receive *Leaves* in PDF format, just email your request to:
info@madroneaudubon.org

combined with the acts of others, can make a huge difference. Madrone Audubon offers many opportunities for involvement. Whether it be a Citizen Science activity, like the Christmas Bird Count, our wonderful Phenology Project, the Stewardship Task Force, or monitoring on our own through Project Feeder Watch or the Hummingbirds at Home program—this data provides a very important baseline for conservation planning. Additionally, helping with youth educational activities and events like the Lincoln School Bird Festival and Junior Audubon are extremely valuable. For those of us who can commit to giving a little more time, there are open positions on our Madrone Audubon board as well as several of our dynamic committees.

Let’s make our voices heard!! Discover more about volunteer opportunities and what we each can do to moderate the effects of Climate Change on birds and



*Common Raven with a view
Provided by Cheryl Harris*

other wildlife. Go to our website often for updates; follow us on Facebook; check out what is happening with National Audubon and California Audubon. And – talk with us! Together WE CAN make a difference.

For details about how you can help with chapter projects and activities, go to www.madroneaudubon.org or contact our Board President, Susan Kirks, at susankirks@sbcglobal.net or 707-241-5548. Additional suggestions can be found at www.audubon.org and www.ca.audubon.org.

Welcome New Madrone Audubon Board Member

by Susan Kirks

We’re so pleased Cheryl Harris has joined our Board of Directors as an Ex Officio member for this year. Welcome, Cheryl! Please enjoy reading Cheryl’s article in this edition of Leaves about the annual Audubon California Assembly, November 4-6 at Yosemite. Cheryl now resides in Sonoma County and formerly served as the Chapter President of Napa/Solano Audubon for seven years.

Our Board currently has openings for Corresponding Secretary, Program Chair and Treasurer. Ready to give two years of service to your Chapter and assist our Board in decisions and activities? If interested in learning more about any of these roles, please contact Susan Kirks, susankirks@sbcglobal.net, 707-241- 5548.

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Madrone Readies for 50th Christmas Bird Count - January 1, 2017

by Jeff Holtzman

Madrone Audubon kicks off its 50th year on January 1, 2017 in grand style by hosting the 50th annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) in western Sonoma County. Twenty-one count teams will spread out over a fifteen mile circle and count the number of bird species and individual birds seen in an area roughly from Freestone west to Bodega Bay and north to Jenner. Last year’s count total was 177 bird species sighted by 137 volunteers.

Counters in western Sonoma County will join with thousands of others in the United States and different parts of the world during a two-week period to engage in what has been called the largest citizen science project for bird conservation ever undertaken. This year is the 116th CBC by the National Audubon Society.



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Continued from page 2

Bird lovers of all skill levels are invited and encouraged to participate in the CBC. Past participants will be contacted by your team leaders in the near future about this year's count. If you want to participate in your first count or if you have any questions, please contact CBC co-chairs Stacy Li by email at stacyli@sonic.net or Peter Leveque by telephone, 542-8946. Team leaders who will not be able to participate this year are also urged to contact Pete Leveque as soon as possible.

Following the day of counting in the field, a catered dinner will be provided by the folks from Worth Our Weight (www.worthourweight.com) at the Sebastopol Community Center. A \$5 donation is requested to offset costs. "We're so looking forward to serving the counters a nutritious simple meal and warmly welcoming everyone for this 50th year of the Chapter's participation in the Christmas Bird Count for West Sonoma County," says Madrone President Susan Kirks.

See page 4 in this issue of *Leaves* or Madrone's website (www.madroneaudubon.org) for information on other CBCs in the area.

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Book Signing Benefit and Nature Preserve Visit

by *Asenath LaRue*

Jane Alexander, actress, environmentalist, and National Audubon Society board member, began birding and journaling about her avian observations while in her teens. In her 30s, she rediscovered a love of birds and other wildlife that has become

a mainstay of her life. On October 20th at Copperfield Books in Petaluma, an enthusiastic audience was privileged to hear Jane recount adventures with naturalists around the world who are devoting their careers to wildlife research and conservation. Jane's recent book, *Wild Things, Wild Places* (Knopf, 2016), includes many compelling stories and is dedicated to women and men everywhere "who speak up for the natural world."

Madrone Audubon thanks Jane and Copperfield Books for hosting this event and for donating a portion of the book sale proceeds to Madrone's conservation and education programs.

Earlier in the afternoon of Ms. Alexander's presentation, our Chapter President, Susan Kirks, hosted a guided walk at the Paula Lane Nature Preserve. We appreciate all who signed up and attended the walk, learning about the open space property, habitat and wildlife there. The 11 acre land in West Petaluma, conserved in 2012, is a long-time active habitat for American Badger, a CA Species of Concern, and over 100 avian species. This property is also the site of Madrone's sponsored research and education project, The Phenology Project. Volunteer observers visit the property once monthly and, using National Phenology Project protocols, observe and record data for 8 avian species, 4 plants, and 1 mammal (Mule Deer). The National Phenology Project is an action component for National Audubon's *Birds and Climate Change* released in 2014. With Susan's recent proposal to the National Phenology Project, American Badger will now be added to mammal species for observation in the U.S. beginning January 2017. We're very pleased to share this good news and note this 1 additional (special) mammal will be added to Madrone's Phenology Project for observations! Over time, citizen scientists observing and recording data in the National Phenology Project may help identify migratory and resident wildlife patterns and food and habitat resources in the context of climate change impacts.

MEMBERS' COLUMN

Crows in Mourning

by *Marilyn Strand*

At my country house south of Sebastopol one afternoon, I heard a terrible racket outside. Crows were screaming their heads off, and one lone scrub jay was joining



American Crow
Courtesy of National Audubon Society

them. I stepped out the front door, and there in a huge weeping willow were dozens of crows in a state of great agitation. I walked to the tree and at the foot of the tree lay a dead crow. The crows looked down at me, and when they realized that I had found their fallen friend, they became quiet. Then, in small groups they flew away. I put the dead bird in a plastic bag and called the West Nile Virus people. Sure enough, the crow tested positive for the virus.

I saw what I saw, and I heard what I heard...and I truly believe that crows have funerals.

A note to all Madrone members...

Do you have bird observations or experiences to share? Something that caught your eye in your backyard, on a hike in one of Sonoma County's parks or open spaces, or on a recent vacation? Please send a brief description (and a photo if you have one), and *Leaves* will include as many of these contributions as we can. It doesn't have to be exotic... just a chance to share whatever you find interesting.

Are you a National Audubon member?

Please consider joining our local chapter, Madrone Audubon.

(see membership form, back page)



Welcome New Members

Bodega Bay

John Poulos

Cloverdale

Arlene Toral & Tim Pile

Guerneville

Susan & Fred Ziegler

Kenwood

Marilyn & Paul Noah

Santa Rosa

Carol Ciavonne

Ruth Karlen

The Sea Ranch

Cheryl Harris

Sebastopol

Dr. George Curtis

(Gift membership from JJ Jent)

Barb & Bill Kobabe

Windsor

Jill Bulbeck

Appreciated Donations

In Honor of...

Marcia Johnson

by Linda & David Hanes

**Lisa Peters and
Patty Newland**

by Carolyn Metz

In Memory of...

Betty Burrige

by Kathleen Mugele

by Marilyn Scott

Helen Lathrop Petty

by Cornelia Young

Lois Weeth

by Elizabeth Lefson

Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs)

End this year well, or start the new one off right, by celebrating our local birds. Meet your friends at daybreak, observe and tally the birds, and enjoy the dinner celebration as the day's adventures are relived and shared. Please join us at one or more of these special days for birders. With last year's rains at average levels, and October rains this year, all are hoping for great bird numbers for this season's CBCs!

Pt. Reyes CBC

Saturday, December 17, 2016

The 47th Point Reyes Christmas Bird Count, sponsored by MAS and Point Blue, will be on Saturday December 17, 2016. This count is typically in the top ten in the USA for the number of species sighted. Last year was about average with 197 species and 198 participants. The 27 territories within this count circle are centered around Tomales Bay, stretching from Drake's Bay and Abbotts Lagoon to Walker Creek and the Chileno Valley. The Point Reyes count welcomes participants of all ages and skill levels. Bird counters are also welcome to attend the compilation dinner held at the Dance Palace in Point Reyes Station starting at 5 PM. For complete information about the count and dinner and to register go to <http://tgaman.wixsite.com/prcbc>.

Santa Rosa CBC – Redwood Ornithological Society

Sunday, December 18, 2016

Anyone wishing to volunteer to join a team may contact Bill Doyle, Compiler, at shortbill@comcase.net. Team Leaders should check in with Bill as soon as possible to let him know whether you will be leading your areas again this year. The Compilation Dinner will be at Adel's Restaurant, on the corner of College and Mendocino, at 5:30 PM.

Sonoma Valley Audubon CBC

Friday, December 30th

Potential participants should let their group/area leader know if they will be able to help us count again this year. If you are new to this count, or have other questions, contact compiler Eugene Hunn at enhunn323@comcast.net or 981-7301. Last year's Sonoma Valley CBC set a near-record at 170 species on count day. Hoping for another excellent count this time around.

Madrone Audubon's 50th Western Sonoma County CBC

Sunday, January 1, 2017

New to this count? Go to <http://www.madroneaudubon.org/birds-christmas-bird-count.php> to see a map of the count areas, and check back at this site in late November or early December for an updated listing of team leaders and their contact information. Questions? Contact CBC co-chairs Stacy Li by email at stacyli@sonic.net or Peter Leveque by telephone, 542-8946. Page 2 of this issue has more information about this year's count and the post-count dinner.

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CBCs for Kids...

Celebrate Birding with your Children or Grandchildren

Mayacamas CBC for Kids

Saturday, December 10, 2016, 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Dwight Center at the **Pepperwood Preserve**, 3450 Franz Valley Road, Santa Rosa 95404

FREE, with donations appreciated

Start the day with a "binocular boot camp" where you'll learn or brush up on the basics of binocular use. Then you'll work in teams with local bird experts and be assigned to



All walks and membership 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 2016 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 7, 7:00 PM

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

Wednesday, December 21, 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM

BODEGA BAY. Bird Walk at Bodega Bay Harbor and environs. Note MEETING PLACE CHANGE. To meet the group, take Doran Park Road from Highway 1 at the southern end of Bodega Bay harbor, then enter Doran County Park (a Sonoma County park permit or \$7 entrance fee is required). Continue 0.5 miles past the park entrance to the parking lot of the Cypress Day Use Area on the left side of

the road. After birding Doran Park, the group will search the harbor and adjacent seas and woodlands for birds. Weather permitting, the group will eat a picnic lunch on the west side of the harbor. Leader: Tom McCuller, t.sisyphus@comcast.net, 707-546-1812.



Townsend Warbler

Courtesy of Gordon Beebe

January 2017 calendar

Sunday, January 1, dawn to dusk

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. Join us for the 50th Annual Western Sonoma County Christmas Bird Count, hosted by Madrone Audubon. See page 2 in this issue for more information about the count and post-count dinner.

Wednesday, January 4, 7:00 PM

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

Monday, January 16, 7:00 PM

GENERAL MEETING. First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa. “Local hawks in the region: migration, resident and over-wintering; identification and natural history.” This is a free event and all are welcome.

Wednesday, January 18, 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM

BODEGA BAY. Bird Walk at Bodega Bay Harbor and environs. Note MEETING PLACE CHANGE. To meet

the group, take Doran Park Road from Highway 1 at the southern end of Bodega Bay harbor, then enter Doran County Park (a Sonoma County park permit or \$7 entrance fee is required). Continue 0.5 miles past the park entrance to the parking lot of the Cypress Day Use Area on the left side of the road. After birding Doran Park, the group will search the harbor and adjacent seas and woodlands for birds. Weather permitting, the group will eat a picnic lunch on the west side of the harbor. Leader: Tom McCuller, t.sisyphus@comcast.net, 707-546-1812.

Saturday, January 21, 8:30 AM – Noon

LAKE SONOMA. Our first Saturday walk of the year. We frequently see a variety of birds, including Wood Duck, Merganser, riparian species, and more on this trip. Meet at the Lake Sonoma Visitor Center below the dam. From Highway 101, take Canyon Road to Dry Creek Road, then Rockpile Road to the Center. Lunch optional. Leader: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115.



Out & About

Golden Gate Audubon Recommended Outing...

A Winter Day at the Salton Sea

Sunday, January 15, 2017, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Join Eddie and Noreen Weeden at one of California's premiere birding destinations for an exploration of the wonderfully eccentric Salton Sea. Winter birds expected include most of the water birds seen at other California refuges and also southern specialties like Gambel's Quail, Verdin, Abert's Towhee, and Black-tailed Gnatcatcher. Ducks, Grebes and Shorebirds are abundant. The Salton Sea is typically warmer than Central and Northern California refuges. Raptors, especially falcons are common and the area has one of the highest density of American Kestrels in winter in California. A robust Burrowing Owl population resides in this area, and winter rarities are not uncommon. Inclement weather cancels.

We recommend a three day (or more) stay in the area to enjoy this trip. Day trip will begin near the North East section of the Salton Sea, continue down the eastern shore and end the day at the south end of the Sea. Nearest quality lodging options in Brawley from there. There are few services along the route. Participants should arrive with enough fuel for the day (~100 miles – car pooling encouraged), lunch, beverages and snacks, warm clothes, rainwear and boots (wet conditions = mud). Be prepared to walk about two miles on flat terrain throughout the day. Contact Eddie Bartley at eddie@naturetrip.com (preferred) or 415-355-0450 for logistics, details and other birding hot spots in the Coachella Valley area.

4th Annual Waterbird Festival

Saturday, January 21, 2017, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Richardson Bay Audubon Center and Sanctuary
376 Greenwood Beach Road
Tiburon, CA 94920

Celebrate scaups, scoters, cormorants and more! Visit Richardson Bay Audubon Center & Sanctuary for naturalist-led bird walks, exclusive field trips, and fun bird-themed activities. Bring binoculars or use their spotting scopes to see waterbirds that call Richardson Bay home.

Join us for this popular and educational annual festival, hosted by National Audubon with many Chapters participating along with Bay Area conservation groups. More info: richardsonbay.audubon.org/programs/waterbird-festival.

18th Annual Snow Goose Festival of the Pacific Flyway

Wednesday through Sunday, January 25 – 29, 2017

Chico, CA

Stretching from the Bering Strait off the coast of Alaska to Patagonia in South America, the Pacific Flyway ranks as one of the greatest migratory pathways in the world. Millions of birds representing hundreds of species use this great avian highway each year, and nowhere is this abundance of bird life more accessible than the northern Sacramento Valley. The area attracts a huge wintering population of waterfowl and raptors, including the majestic Snow Goose. As many as one and a half million Snow Geese use the Pacific Flyway, and tens of thousands winter in the Sacramento Valley.

The keynote speaker at the upcoming Snow Goose Festival is Alvaro Jaramillo, international bird guide and author, who will share his knowledge of "The Birder Brain"...what our brains go through as we identify birds. Join birders from far and wide for a wide range of workshops and numerous field trips covering rice fields, wildlife refuges, and river walks.

Go to www.snowgoosefestival.org in December for program details and online registration.

First Sighting of Pine Warbler in Sonoma County

October 11, 2016 – Owl Canyon, Sonoma County – Donald Kirker with Alan Wight reported to eBird their



Pine Warbler Courtesy of Dan Nelson
Oct 12th at Owl Canyon –
Sonoma County's first

sighting, subsequently confirmed by multiple observations and photographs. Observations Compiler Dan Nelson shares the Pine Warbler photograph in this issue. The Pine Warbler is on National Audubon's list of Climate Endangered Birds.

From the Audubon Climate Report:

"This species is particularly well named: it nests only in pine woodlands of the East. Audubon's climate model projects a significant (72 percent) shift in summer range and a small (22 percent) decrease in ideal summer climate space. Unlike most warblers, this species' winter range is currently almost entirely within the U.S. The model predicts that to remain true, but that the range may shift northward. While climatically suitable area is projected to become available along the Pacific Coast and in Alaska, this eastern short-distance migrant is probably not well suited to take advantage of them."



CBCs FOR KIDS

Continued from page 4

explore one of three local ecosystems in search of birds. Teams will return to the Dwight Center to share their findings and celebrate their efforts helping to protect local birds! All findings will be posted on eBird.org. The count will include an easy hike of 1-2 miles at a slow pace. For children ages 7 and up.



Young Birders
Courtesy of National Audubon Society

Petaluma CBC for Kids

Saturday, January 7th, 2017,
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Come join us for the 8th Annual Petaluma Christmas Bird Count for Kids, a half-day of birding designed for kids ages 8-15. This event is co-sponsored by the Petaluma Wetlands Alliance and the City of Petaluma Parks and Recreation Department. Check-in at the picnic tables near Shollenberger Park's main entrance. Parents must attend with their kids and provide any necessary transportation to various wetland areas. Sign up by January 2nd by contacting Al Hesla at a.hesla@comcast.net or 486-9030.

Pt. Reyes CBC for Kids

Sunday, January 8, 2017

The Point Reyes National Seashore Association, in collaboration with Sonoma Birding, invites families with children ages 3-18 to the 7th annual Point Reyes Christmas Bird Count for Kids on Saturday, January 8, 2017, at Point Reyes National Seashore's Clem Miller Environmental Education

Center. This seashore park is an ideal location for birding with 490 species (54% of all North American birds) reported here.

Naturalists will lead groups in the field to identify and count birds. Young Birders, ages 7-18, will participate in the official count and venture out to various locations within the park to identify and count birds. Budding Birders ages 3-6 are invited to join in a range of activities and a bird discovery walk around the education center. All children must be accompanied by at least one parent or guardian. Check <http://www.nps.gov/pore/> for start time and other updates about this event.

Sonoma Valley CBC4Kids

Saturday, January 14, 2017, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Sonoma Birding will host its 9th annual CBC4Kids teaming up with California State Parks, Sonoma State University Biology Outreach and Sonoma County Regional Parks. The free event will be based at the historic Sonoma Barracks on 20 Spain Street, Sonoma 95476. Visit www.sonomabirding.com to sign up or for more information about the many Bay Area Christmas Bird Count for Kids, or call 707-939-8007.

Coming Attraction – Madrone Audubon Bird-a-Thon – March 2017

by Carolyn Greene

Bird-a-Thon (BAT) veterans – start confirming your teams for our “24 Hours for Fun and Profit.” In 2016, we raised almost \$10,000, ALL of which was used for educational and conservation programs, including Junior Audubon, Audubon Adventures, and kids’ school birding programs.

New to BAT? We need MORE teams and more birders! If you'd like to form a team or join an existing team, contact Carolyn Greene at cgnpark@yahoo.com no later than January 15th.

Want to support BAT? Teams will contact you prior to March for your financial pledge. PLEASE be generous! They will be in touch with you after their “big day” to collect your pledge (checks, please) and to share highlights of their count.

Let's see if we can meet or exceed \$10,000 this year!

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Ovenbird Sighting at Bodega Bay

September 25, October 11, 2016 - Observations Compiler Dan Nelson, Peter Colasanti and others reported observing an Ovenbird at Bodega Bay. The Ovenbird



Ovenbird
Courtesy of Dan Nelson

is on National Audubon's List of Climate Threatened List. This bird's Summer and Winter ranges are normally far outside California. Summer range does include small areas of Western states such as Utah, Colorado and Arizona, with primary Summer ranges far north and east, and Winter ranges in the southern United States and further south tropical climates.

From the Audubon Climate Report:

“This charismatic species can be found strutting, chicken-like, along the forest floor or large, horizontal branches and logs in rich forests of both the North and the East. Audubon's climate model projects a large (two-thirds) shift northward in potential summer range, with a small total increase in area. A fair bit of this newly climatically suitable breeding area is north of the current tree line, though, and it would have to rapidly develop from tundra into a mature forest before the Ovenbird could take advantage of it. The model's winter projection is tempered by the fact that most Ovenbirds winter in the Neotropics.”



A Message from National Audubon President David Yarnold

by Susan Kirks

David Yarnold reached out to Audubon Chapters across our country following November 8, 2016. He encouraged all Chapter leaders to continue in our efforts on behalf of birds and wildlife. He wrote to us and to our members:

Audubon has persevered and prospered through the tenure of presidents from across the political spectrum. Having seen administrations of all political flavors come and go, I want to assure you that we're well positioned to continue to build on our 111-year legacy. It's easy to talk about being a centrist network when political leadership has your back. But it's even more valuable to be a centrist network when political leadership is in your face.

So, give yourselves the credit you're due: We are a durable, respected, trusted, centrist conservation network with a deep and credible presence in communities all over the nation and the hemisphere. I learned that when I first arrived at Audubon 6+ years ago and I met Bobbie Haggood, the executive director of a land conservancy in South Carolina. I asked Bobbie why Audubon was so effective in a deeply conservative part of the U.S. and she told me, "Because y'all are from here and you understand our way of life."

Because we are home-grown everywhere, we bring an authentic voice to the local and state policies that are likely to hold the greatest opportunities for progress over the next four years. From Sacramento to Helena to Tallahassee to Washington, D.C., Audubon's policy leaders are known as pragmatists. We reflect a network of millions upon millions of people – from all across the political spectrum and of every conceivable background – who see, hear, and cherish birds every day.

You work every day in communities to plant gardens, clean up trash, protect special places and vulnerable species, fledge new baby birds from nest boxes or beaches, engage people in the joy of birds and nature, prepare the next generation of conservation leaders, and stand up as advocates for birds and the environment we share. Those are our strengths, and all of those things are more important today than ever.

We will work with this new administration wherever we can. And, based on its campaign

promises, it seems clear we'll inevitably oppose it as well. And when we do that, we will do it in full throat and with all of the tools we know how to use, while not cheapening or personalizing the civil discourse that makes democracy special.

But this election wasn't just about policy differences. For many, it was about core values of inclusiveness and multiculturalism, of equity and fairness. As Audubon's CEO, here's my topline message to each of you today as individuals and as leaders in the Audubon network: We value you, we respect you and we support you. Whomever and wherever you are; however you vote; whether you're White, Black, Asian, Latino, Native, or of another or mixed heritage; whether you're Jewish, Muslim, Christian, Hindu, Buddhist, Atheist, or of any other faith or tradition; whether you or your family are immigrants; whether you have a disability; whether you

are straight, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, asexual, or something else; and whatever a core value here at Audubon, and we stand firm in our values today and always.

We'll have lots of conversations to come about how we will continue to make a difference for birds, our communities, and the environment in the days and months ahead. I welcome your questions and ideas.

I have zero doubt that birds are going to remain a powerful constant that can bring people together when we need it most. As Bruce Springsteen famously wrote, "Everybody's got a hungry heart." We will continue to help feed hearts across America as we've always done.

Many local Chapters, including Madrone Audubon, are uniting to communicate with Congressional leaders through the following letter:

November 30, 2016

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Barbara Mikulski
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cochran, Ranking Member Mikulski, Chairman Rogers, and Ranking Member Lowey,

On behalf of the undersigned chapters of the National Audubon Society, we urge you to support strong funding for programs and policies that protect our nation's birds and other wildlife as part of the final appropriations bills for Fiscal Year 2017.

More than 46 million Americans participate in birdwatching, and countless more enjoy their presence on a daily basis. Birds provide vital services to our ecosystems, including as plant pollinators, and serve as key signals for the health of our environment. They also help support our economy, as birdwatchers spend more than \$100 billion each year that drives spending in our cities and states, creating \$13 billion in local, state, and federal tax revenue, and more than 650,000 jobs.

The FY17 appropriations bills provide an opportunity to support thriving bird populations and benefit our communities. First, we urge you to oppose harmful policy riders that would negatively impact birds and other wildlife and undermine core environmental laws. Proposed riders, such as a provision that would undo critical conservation protections for the Greater Sage-Grouse in the FY17 House Interior Appropriations bill, would set back years of collaborative progress toward needed solutions.

Second, we urge you to fully fund conservation programs. These include programs that help protect and restore habitat, such as the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, State and Tribal Wildlife Grants, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund. We also urge you to fund water conservation efforts that help reduce stress to rivers and streams that are critical for people and birds. Programs such as WaterSMART and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program help to increase water efficiency at a time when regions such as the Colorado River Basin have seen more than sixteen years of drought. We encourage you to include \$100 million for drought response in the West and \$150 million for USDA's Watershed program to further address this pressing challenge.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

**Observations**Fall 2016 • Dan Nelson • 479-2918 • birdsurf64@sbcglobal.net

Tufted Puffin	9/7	South Salmon Creek Beach, swimming offshore	BO'C, BG
Tufted Puffin (3)	10/9	R.R.O.S. pelagic trip	M.Ob
Thick-billed Murre	10/9	R.R.O.S. pelagic trip, off Sonoma Co. (winter-pl. adult)	M.Ob
Wilson's Storm-Petrel (1)	8/10	Offshore Sonoma County	DN, AO, VO
Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel (10-15)	8/10	Offshore Sonoma County	DN, AO, VO
Ashy Storm-Petrel (15-20)	8/10	Offshore Sonoma County	DN, AO, VO
Least Tern (2 juvs.)	8/7	Doran Regional Park	RL
Least Tern	8/11	Doran Regional Park	DF
White-faced Ibis	9/25	Salmon Creek ponds	TE
Iceland Gull (adult)	11/4-5	Goat Rock State Beach	NA, TB
Swainson's Hawk (2)	9/4	Hudeman Slough ponds	MB
Broad-winged Hawk	9/17	Jenner Headlands preserve	DB
Black Vulture	10/9-26	Bodega Bay and vicinity	RL, et al
American Golden Plover	9/22-23	Bodega Harbor	JS, LH
Lesser Sand-Plover	10/18-26	N. of North Beach, Pt. Reyes	ML, M.Ob
Red Phalarope (many)	Oct.-Nov.	Bodega Harbor, Salmon Creek, and other coastal locations	M.Ob
Baird's Sandpiper	9/4	Shollenberger Park	SC
Lesser Yellowlegs (5)	9/4	Shollenberger Park	SC
Semipalmated Sandpiper	9/4	Napa River at Kennedy Park	MB
Solitary Sandpiper	9/4-5	Hudeman Slough ponds	MB et al
Ruff	9/5	Hudeman Slough ponds	AO'D, RO'D
Bar-tailed Godwit (dull adult)	8/11	Bolinas Lagoon	PP, et al
Eastern Kingbird	8/17	Coastal Trail N. of Belltower	DF
Tropical Kingbird	Oct.	Bodega Head and vicinity	WA
Willow Flycatcher (4)	9/12	Bodega Head sites, peak # date	DN
Townsend's Solitaire	9/16	Mendoza Ranch, Pt. Reyes	RH
Red-throated Pipit	9/28-29	Nicasio Reservoir, N.E. corner on barren lakeshore	MS
Tennessee Warbler (1)	9/9	Campbell Cove	DN, et al
Tennessee Warbler (2)	9/12	Owl Canyon and vicinity	DN, et al
Black-throated Gray Warbler (3)	9/12	Bodega Head and vicinity, peak # date	DN
Black-throated Blue Warbler (male)	10/13-15	Bodega Marine Lab entrance, moving to Owl Canyon	DN, LK, JT
Magnolia Warbler (fall male)	10/11-15	Owl Canyon	GB, et al
Black-and-White Warbler	9/24-25	Campbell Cove	DF, BO'C
American Redstart	9/18-19	Campbell Cove	SC, DF
Bay-breasted Warbler	10/8	Campbell Cove	RR
Chestnut-sided Warbler	9/9-10	Campbell Cove	DN, BDP
Chestnut-sided Warbler	9/22-23	Santa Rosa Creek trail, W. of Willowside Rd.	DK, DH
Pine Warbler (imm. female)	10/11-12	Owl Canyon, in pines (1st Sonoma County Record- photos)	M.Ob
Palm Warbler	10/13	Bodega Marine Lab entrance trees	DN, LK, JT
Ovenbird	9/25	Bodega Head lone cypress patch (photos)	PC, DN, et al
Ovenbird	10/11	Bodega Head lone cypress patch (photos-different individual)	PC, DN, et al
Hermit Warbler	9/9	Campbell Cove	DN
Northern Waterthrush	8/19	Campbell Cove	LH
Northern Waterthrush	9/17-20	Rail Ponds	DN
Northern Waterthrush	9/23	Spring Lake	TR
Yellow-green Vireo	9/28	Pt. Reyes Lighthouse (photos)	NA, et al
Brewer's Sparrow	9/17	Huichica Creek WA, Napa Co.	MB
Clay-colored Sparrow	9/18	Huichica Creek WA, Napa Co.	MB
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	8/12	Santa Rosa near Spring Lake Park	RW
Lazuli Bunting	Sept.	Bodega Dunes C.G.	DN, et al
Green-tailed Towhee	9/13-14	Pt. Reyes Lighthouse	DF, TB, et al

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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

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