



# Madrone LEAVES

Madrone Audubon Society, Inc., Post Office Box 1911, Santa Rosa, California 95401

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## Meet Madrone's 2012 Award Recipients

Six local conservationists received awards at Madrone's Annual Meeting and Potluck Dinner on May 21. The recipients were Susan Kirks, George Batchelder, Chris Engel, Larry Broderick, Andy LaCasse and Phil Persons. We were very pleased to recognize each one for helping our chapter work for the benefit of birds and wildlife.

### BOWEN AWARD – SUSAN KIRKS

This is Madrone's oldest award, established in 1988 in memory of Evalyn and Les Bowen. Evalyn Bowen was a driving force in founding of the Madrone Audubon chapter in 1967 and she served as founding president. Les Bowen designed the chapter's insignia for the new society's symbol—the Bewick's Wren. This award acknowledges outstanding contributions to the chapter.

Susan has an impressive record in several ongoing conservation projects. Her work as co-founder of the Paula Lane Action Network (PLAN) is close to completion after a 10-year battle to keep an 11-acre property in west Petaluma preserved as valuable habitat for badgers, birds, and other wildlife. (See *Bay Nature* web article of February 20, 2012 for more on Susan's passion for badgers and PLAN.) She has done extensive work for Madrone on wind energy awareness, encouraging the County to draft better regulations to protect wildlife. She has also been

an active volunteer with Petaluma Wetlands Alliance and other West County and Petaluma area environmental concerns.

### BEWICK'S WREN AWARD – GEORGE BATCHELDER

The Bewick's Wren Award was established in 1991. Taking after our energetic little bird, this award is given to a person who has been vital to the Chapter's activity and energy over a period of time.

George has been our General Meeting Assistant for many years. He attends all the meetings and provides incidental but valuable assistance behind the scenes. He has knowledge of the workings and the protocol of the church and its personnel, which keeps our relationship with the church running very smoothly. He's loyal, dependable, and always graciously ready to help.

### BENTLEY-SMITH AWARD – CHRIS ENGEL

Chris Engel received the Bentley-Smith award, which recognizes a Madrone member for exceptional contributions to the environment through education and conservation. Madrone Audubon instituted this award in 2002 in honor of Martha Bentley and Ernestine Smith, charter members of Madrone and lifelong environmental advocates and educators. Martha (through the Santa Rosa Bird Rescue Center), and "Ernie" (through the Bouverie Preserve of Audubon Canyon Ranch) reached untold numbers of children and adults.

Chris is an active docent for the Laguna Foundation, working on restoration projects, bird surveys and children's activities in the field and classroom. She's also an active volunteer with the Sonoma Land Trust and recently became a docent for their Glen Oaks property. She helps with restoration

projects at the Bouverie Preserve and has been a deeply valued volunteer at the Songbird Hospital for the past six years.



Western Bluebird at nest box  
*Photo courtesy of Craig Tooley, Ruffimage.com*

### BURRIDGE AWARD – LARRY BRODERICK

This is Madrone's newest award, established in 2008 by Diane and Bryant Hichwa to recognize those who contribute to research and education. It honors Betty Burridge, our go-to birder for North Bay identification and research and author of the first Sonoma County Breeding Bird Atlas, completed in 1995.

This award went to Larry Broderick for his promotion of citizen science in the areas of raptors and the environment. He has worked to establish a West County Hawk Watch where the area is counted by covering

**No General Meetings  
in the months of  
June, July or August.  
Have a good summer!**

Coming Monday, September 17:  
Joe Mueller of the College of Marin  
will present "What's Special about Birds."

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## 2012 AWARD RECIPIENTS

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it in a grid pattern, and he has been instrumental in establishing a Jenner Headlands Hawk Migration program, training volunteers to do scheduling and recording of the data. By coordinating walks and workshops with Sonoma and Solano Land trusts, local farmers and the IOOBY program of Landpaths, he takes families and individuals out on protected properties to expand everyone's knowledge and enthusiasm for protecting raptors and their habitats.

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION – ANDY LACASSE AND PHIL PERSONS

Since 2007, Madrone has recognized Madrone members or members of the community who have made a special ongoing contribution to local birds and bird habitats. Andy LaCasse has built and placed nest boxes for many different cavity-nesting species on public and private lands. Phil Persons has worked with cavity nesters since 1997. He was recognized for his citizen science work with Western Bluebird monitoring at Ocean Song, Salmon Creek School, and other West County properties. He also involves property owners and school children in his field studies.

*Madrone Audubon would like to thank the members of the Awards Committee—Diane Hichwa, Bob Speckels and Janeann Erikson—for making the final selections and contributing the information for this article.*

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## NOTES FROM YOUR BOARD

### New Officers, a Big Vacancy and a Retiring Editor

At the May 21 Annual Meeting Madrone Audubon installed the following officers for the 2012-2013 year:

President: Susan Kirks  
Vice-President: Gordon Beebe  
Recording Secretary: Emily Heaton  
Corresponding Secretary: (Vacant position)  
Treasurer: Linda Lebovics

Nominating Committee members were Bob Speckels, Diane Hichwa and Janeann Erikson. Bob Speckels summed up the elections

results nicely, "Susan and Gordon will be a very formidable team and Madrone a strong force moving to the future."

Since Gordon Beebe is assuming the position of vice-president for Madrone, he will leave an important vacancy as corresponding secretary. For anyone who is interested, Gordon will be most happy to help with training and transition.

### Duties of the Corresponding Secretary

The Corresponding Secretary is one of the elected officers of Madrone Audubon's Board. This position is responsible for Madrone's contact with the members and public by mail and phone. Here are the basic duties of this office:

- The secretary picks up the mail from the downtown Santa Rosa post office box at least once a week, more often during heavy mailing times. The mail is opened and is passed to the appropriate committee chair for membership, treasurer, president, conservation chair, newsletter, etc.
- The secretary logs all checks received by mail, such as membership payments and donations, on an Excel spreadsheet. The spreadsheet is then sent to the Treasurer and to the Membership Chair. The secretary then deposits the checks in Madrone's account at Redwood Credit Union.
- The workload increases for several weeks in the fall, as local Friends of Madrone Audubon renew and end-of-year donations are received. Often volunteers will help out at these times.
- The secretary acknowledges donations by mailing letters to donors (done by word processing).
- MEDIA: Email messages are picked up and answered online at AT&T website. Telephone messages are received and answered or referred to the appropriate board member.

### Message from Retiring *Leaves* Editor Daphne Smith

I edited my first issue in September of 2000. My resume for the job wasn't that wonderful: Ursuline High School French teacher, member (but true, often secretary) of various local boards, and way back, a bit of journalism in high school and college... an enthusiastic birder, though, and good credentials for

long time Madrone membership and participation.

My longevity as *Leaves* editor is thanks to becoming a co-editor in 2005. Mary Edith Moore and I have shared the position, meeting for lunch every summer and dividing up the nine issues, one of us doing four one year, then five the next. It's been an enjoyable partnership. The *Leaves* task has been challenging at times, but also a pleasure; I have truly enjoyed working with the Madrone Board.

I'm happy to say that we have someone who is planning to join Mary Edith as co-editor next year. Denise Kelly is a horticulturist and botanist. A Madrone member, she works for a few environmental consulting firms, and does some habitat garden design. She also has a copyediting certificate from UC Berkeley. We look forward to seeing her at upcoming Madrone meetings.

### Memorial Gifts

**In memory of Barbara Taylor**  
Janet Bosshard

**In memory of Barbara Taylor**  
Betty Burridge

**In memory of Barbara Taylor**  
Gary Haag & Teresita Salter-Haag

**In memory of Tom Cordoni**  
Ernestine Trujillo

**In memory of Viola Brown**  
Betty Burridge

## Madrone Audubon Sonoma County



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reminders, special  
announcements and more.**



## The Mayacamas Mountains Sanctuary: A History and an Update

By Bryant Hichwa

On a recent Sunday fellow photographer Craig Tooley and I led a nature photography walk on the Mayacamas Sanctuary. It was a clear spring day, just the right temperature, birds were staking out their territories by singing and the wildflowers were magnificent. As we admired the incredible view from Horse Trough Springs, I thought about the many changes that have occurred at the Mayacamas Sanctuary over the past 18 years... and those ahead.



**Jewelflower or *Streptanthus*, a serpentine endemic**  
*Photo courtesy of Bryant Hichwa*

In 1994 the owner of these 1350 acres, known as the McCord ranch, reached an agreement with the Sonoma County Open Space District to restrict development through a "Forever Wild" conservation easement. Shortly thereafter the land was donated to National Audubon Society (NAS). Unfortunately, monies associated with the "Forever Wild" easement did not transfer to Audubon and the Mayacamas Sanctuary had no active management resources. Madrone Audubon stepped up to the challenge and provided leadership, including outdoor programs for the public as well as a number of nesting bird surveys in various habitats.

In the late 1990's the city of Santa Rosa constructed a 40-mile pipeline from Santa Rosa to the Geysers to provide treated wastewater to revitalize the steam field generating electricity. That pipeline, as well as the older tall PG&E transmission towers, crosses the Sanctuary. Construction was limited to June through October to avoid the nesting season for birds and the winter rainy season. During construction phase a number of concerns were addressed, including safety issues (added pullouts on the road) and damage to the environment along Pine Flat Road by off-road vehicles (discouraged by placing rock barriers). Madrone members monitored the construction of the pipeline through the sanctuary especially to preserve rare plants in close proximity to the pipeline. The pipeline was completed in 2001 and is operated by the City of Santa Rosa.

In September 2004 a major wildfire burned significant portions of the Sanctuary and the adjacent Modini Ranch. Seven and a half years later we can see the new growth of madrone, manzanita and pines. In a recent court decision, some funds were provided to eliminate invasive plant species and restore habitat in the affected areas.

National Audubon's strategic plans changed over those years and they decided to divest the Mayacamas Sanctuary. Negotiations with Audubon Canyon Ranch (ACR) began about three years ago. In the interim period, ACR has managed the Mayacamas Sanctuary under a Memorandum of Agreement. In May of this year the donation agreement between ACR and NAS was completed.

Currently ACR manages the Martin Griffin Preserve in Bolinas, the Cypress Grove research center on Tomales Bay and the Bouverie Preserve in Glen Ellen. A major activity at the Martin Griffin and Bouverie Preserves centers around environmental education for 3rd and 4th graders and continuing nature education for older students (Juniper Program at Bouverie). Docent opportunities and other adult programs are a great way to learn more about nature and help us and our children connect to the natural world.

In 2010 Jim and Shirley Modini decided to gift their ranch to ACR. It is one of the most pristine sites in Sonoma County. ACR is committed to carrying out the Modinis' dream to protect their ranch in perpetuity. The Modini ranch and the Mayacamas Sanctuary share a long contiguous border and together they provide a unique wildlife corridor in northeastern Sonoma County.

Madrone Audubon and ACR will continue to work together on projects. The Mayacamas Sanctuary Field Trips will continue.

The last two of this year's trips, one on the serpentine ecology of the area and another on dragonflies, are coming up in June. See the calendar in this issue for details about these trips.

In addition, Madrone and ACR plan to reenergize various volunteer land management and restoration projects on the Mayacamas Sanctuary. If you are interested in participating in these projects, call Sherri Adams of ACR at 415-868-9244.

So things are certainly changing at the Mayacamas Sanctuary. Come out and join us in one of Sonoma County's special natural areas.

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## Madrone Members Birdwatch in Panama

By Ken Wilson

In February 2012, nine members of Madrone Audubon traveled to Panama with Talon Tours for a birding and nature adventure. During the two-week tour we were in the very capable hands of the Canopy Tower Family and their bird and wildlife guide, Carlos Bethancourt. Once we entered the Darien portion of the trip we were joined by local expert, Beny Wilson.

Our tour began in the Canal Zone at Canopy Tower located in the Soberania National Park, close to such well-known birding sites as Pipeline Road, Old Gamboa Road and Ammo Dump Ponds. The birding and wildlife was first class and we saw birds such as Blue Cotinga and White-whiskered Puffbird.

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## BIRDWATCHING IN PANAMA

Continued from page 3

Another day tour took us to the Caribbean coast where we visited the World Heritage site of the old Spanish Fortress of San Lorenzo. Along Achioté Road we found Black-breasted Puffbird, White-headed Wren (a canopy-dwelling wren) and Black-throated Trogon. Our return to Canopy Tower was on board the Panama Canal Railway flanking the Panama Canal, passing through lowland rainforests, cruising alongside the Canal's locks, through the historic Gailard Cut and crossing over narrow causeways in Gatun Lake.

Carlos roused us during one of our afternoon siestas at the Tower to say that the much sought-after Rufous-vented Ground-Cuckoo had been seen attending an army ant swarm along Pipeline Road. Soon we were able to watch the ground-cuckoo along with the many antbirds and woodcreepers that were taking advantage of the insects and small animals that flushed in an attempt to escape the army ants.



**Brown-throated Parakeet**  
*Photo courtesy of Ken Wilson*

Reluctantly, but with anticipation we moved on to Canopy Lodge. This lodge is located two hours by road from the Canal Zone, near the town of El Valle and situated within the crater of an extinct volcano at an elevation of approximately 2000 feet. There we saw many tanagers, orioles, hummingbirds, oropendolas and flycatchers, some of which were visiting the fruit feeders that were located close to

the outdoor dining area. One memorable day was spent in the lowlands close to the Pacific Coast where our efforts focused on dry forest habitat, watching such birds as a flock of Brown-throated Parakeets that dined on the pink blossoms of the roadside trees.

During a picnic lunch at a beach house we watched Royal and Sandwich Terns, Laughing Gulls and Magnificent Frigatebirds. In addition the local fishing fleet loaded their catch onto the beach while some of our group cooled off with an ocean swim. On the drive back to the lodge we had excellent views of a perched Pearl Kite and then visited the day roost of a Tropical Screech Owl. We also birded a Cloud Forest within the crater in an area called Altos del Maria. Among the many species of birds present we found the elusive White-tipped Sicklebill and a furtive Dull-mantled Antbird.

We also saw a variety of mammals, including agouti, coati, peccary, several species of monkeys, both species of sloth, and an anteater, the Northern Tamandua.

On the eleventh day some of the group moved on to the airport and their flights home. The rest of us embarked on an exploratory extension of the tour into an area known as the Darien Lowlands. Traveling toward Colombia on the Pan-American Highway we passed through Kuna and Embera Indian villages, and while birding, we found Black Oropendola, Orange-bellied Euphonia, and a group of singing and displaying White-throated Nunbirds.

At the end of the Pan-American Highway lies Yarvisa, a frontier town of 2000 people and 20 bars, on the banks of Rio Chucanque. Time was short, though we did walk the main street absorbing the raw atmosphere and taking photos from the swing bridge that crosses the river. We noted that most of the homes had a satellite dish attached to the roof.

After visiting the future site of Canopy Towers' new African-style tent camp, we birded our way back to Panama City stopping to visit the Embera Indian village of Ipeti. Women artisans of the village showed us how they create their very fine basketry, some of which we could not resist purchasing. All of the women and men in attendance wore traditional body paint; some of our group chose to be painted

in similar fashion after learning that the dyes do fade after a short time.

We were all very impressed with the birding and wildlife in Panama; Talon Tours will offer this tour again in March 2013.

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## Lincoln School Bird Festivals

The 3rd annual "Bird Day" at Lincoln School in Santa Rosa was a huge success thanks to the work of many volunteers. Scopes were set up outdoors so the students could get a close-up look at the many herons and egrets flying in and out to their nests at the rookery on 9th Street next to the school. Students of all ages were involved in outdoor games and classroom projects with bird themes. Volunteers from the Santa Rosa Bird Rescue Center brought a Red-tailed Hawk and a Barn Owl to show the students; plus there was a wonderful presentation by Alicia Retes, a Native American storyteller from the Museum of the American Indian in Novato.



**In the Garden at Lincoln School**  
*Photo courtesy of Janet Bosshard*

The festival organizers, Lincoln School Principal Kathie Noguchi, Janet Bosshard, Marcia Johnson and Janeann Erickson, want to thank all the individuals who helped out that day. The volunteers were Tish Brown, Pam Murnane, Jim Dempsey, Kathie Jacobs, Patty Newland, Bob Speckels, Scott Campbell, Gordon Beebe, Daphne Smith, Monica Schwalbenberg-Pena, Tom Reynolds, Sheridan Gold, Gale Meuhlbauer, Mary Edith Moore, Susan Kirks, Joe Roberts, Sarah Millus and Michelle Krieg. Sarah and Michelle are biologists with Audubon Canyon Ranch.



## Summer calendar

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.

**CONSERVATION COMMITTEE.** The 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.

**Saturday, June 2, 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM**

**PINE FLAT ROAD.** A bird-rich outing. We will meet at the first bridge on Pine Flat Road, just east of its intersection with Highway 128, north of Healdsburg. We will combine into as few cars as possible. Please do not join us in an additional vehicle after the trip has started, as a large number of cars negatively impacts the birding and the residents of the area. Bring a lunch; rain cancels. Leaders: Bill Doyle, 483-8773 and Bob Speckels, 569-0563.

**Wednesday, June 6, 7:00 PM**

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

**Saturday June 9, 9:00 AM**

**SHOLLENBERGER PARK.** Petaluma Wetlands Alliance/Madrone leads a nature/bird walk. Meet at the first kiosk. Rain cancels. Contact Gerald Moore at 763-3577.

**Sunday, June 10, 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM**

**MAYACAMAS FIELD TRIP.** Sherry Adams, biologist with Audubon Canyon Ranch, will lead a hike focusing on serpentine outcrops. We'll see late season plants, and topics for discussion include post-fire regeneration, serpentine ecology and grasslands. This is a moderate hike; bring field guides, hand lens, cameras and notebooks. Older children OK with supervision. Meeting place is on Pine Flat Road between Red Winery Road and the Sausal Creek Bridge. Reservations are not required. For more information contact Suzanne at 829-7234.

**Saturday, June 16, 8 AM to Noon**

**SANTA ROSA CREEK AT WILLOWSIDE ROAD.** A short walk, but an intense birding experience. Meet at Santa Rosa Creek bridge on Willowside Road, between Hall and Guerneville Roads. Rain cancels. Leaders: Bill Doyle, 483-8773 and Bob Speckels, 569-0563.

**Saturday, June 16, 10:00 AM**

**SHOLLENBERGER PARK.** Petaluma Wetlands Alliance leads two children/family nature walks. One-to-two hours, dependent on age of children. Meet at the first kiosk. Rain cancels. For the children/family walk in English, contact Gerald Moore at 763-3577; for the walk in Spanish, contact Connie Peabody at 338-2237.

**Saturday, June 23, 9:00 AM**

**ELLIS CREEK WATER RECYCLING FACILITY, PETALUMA.** Petaluma Wetlands Alliance leads a walk at the Ellis Creek ponds. Go to the end of Cypress Drive and through the gates. Parking lot is on the left. Rain cancels. Contact Bob Dyer at 763-2934.

**Sunday, June 24, 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM**

**MAYACAMAS FIELD TRIP.** Kathy and Dave Biggs will help us find and identify the dragonflies found along Pine Flat Road and through the sanctuary. We'll visit seeps, springs, ponds, creeks and end at the Russian River. Each habitat should present us with different Odonata (Dragonflies and Damselflies) fauna. Close focus binoculars are best and a ten-power or higher hand lens is helpful. Please wear shoes and clothes that can get wet. Children 12 and over OK. Any rain cancels this easy hike. See June 10 entry, above, for meeting place and contact.



**Vivid dancer, male**

*Photo courtesy of Bryant Hichwa*

**Wednesday, September 5, 8:30 AM to 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 a lunch. Contact: Tom McCuller, sisypus@sonic.net or 546-1812.

### Welcome New Friends of Madrone Audubon

#### Healdsburg

David P. Dietz, Jr.

#### Novato

Karen Schepke

#### Occidental

Margaret U. Field  
Ellen S. Joni

#### Olympia, WA

Susan Dean

#### Petaluma

Carol M. Weisker

#### Santa Rosa

Eleanor Buckingham  
Harold Lapham  
Lorraine Rapalyea  
W. Austin Turner

#### Sebastopol

Karen S. Gann  
Jackson Mayes

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**madroneaudubon@um.att.com**

You will save paper and your copy will be in color.

**Observations**March - April - Early May • Dan Nelson • 479-2918 • [birdsurf64@sbcglobal.net](mailto:birdsurf64@sbcglobal.net)

Hooded Merganser (male)	4/21	Lake Sonoma, Old Sawmill Campground; male giving territorial croaking call	EH
Tufted Duck (male)	4/1	Shollenberger Park	PD
Pigeon Guillemot	4/12	Off Bodega Head	DN
White Pelican (12)	4/30	Hudeman Slough wetlands	DN
Laughing Gull (ad. in alt.)	4/29	Marin Civic Center ponds; goes back and forth to Las Gallinas ponds	JM
Caspian Tern (1	3/7	First arrival at Jenner, mouth of Russian River	DN
Swainson's Hawk (imm.)	4/30	Hudeman Slough wetlands	DN
Swainson's Hawk	5/2	Tolay Creek Ranch, Sonoma Land Trust	PC
Swainson's Hawk	5/5	Tubbs Island N.W.R.	KW, MM
Cooper's Hawk (ad.)	5/2	Pine Flat Road, upper chaparral ridge	DN
Golden Eagle	3/13	5 miles east of Geyserville	CB
Short-eared Owl	3/14	Bodega Bay above Campbell Cove, one-eyed individual	RG
Short-eared Owl	5/5	Tubbs Island N.W.R.	KW, MM
Sooty Grouse (6-7)	4/19	King Ridge, heard only	DN
Mountain Quail (4-5)	4/19	King Ridge Road	DN
White-faced Ibis (2)	4/19	Hudeman Slough wetlands	GH
Solitary Sandpiper	4/27-5/1	Hudeman Slough wetlands	AW, DN, RL, et al
Ruff	4/21	Bodega Harbor (thought to be the Hudeman bird)	KM, DB
Red-necked Phalarope	5/1	Doran Park, Bodega Bay	DE, MOB
Snowy Plover (16)	3/21	Wingo area; 1 mile east of Viansa Winery	GH
Rufous Hummingbird	3/28-4/9	Paula Lane residence, Petaluma	DN
Rufous Hummingbird	4/11	Cazadero	DBeall, PConley
Calliope Hummingbird (male)	4/8	Paula Lane residence. Video clips on YouTube, Happy Easter bird!	DN
North American Dipper	3/-	Hauser Bridge Road	LH
Bank Swallow (2)	4/12	Shollenberger Park	RS
Purple Martin (3)	5/2	Pine Flat Road, upper chaparral ridge	DN
Western Kingbird	4/6	Crane Creek Park, Roberts Road	DH
Western Kingbird (2)	4/7	Pepperwood; Franz Valley Road	DBarry
Western Kingbird	4/9	McInness Golf Course, Las Gallinas; first hole	MH
Cassin's Kingbird	4/26	Willig Avenue (road to Jenner Headlands) [2nd Sonoma County record]	PC
Western Wood Pewee	5/2	Pine Flat Road	DN
Olive-sided Flycatcher (3)	5/2	Pine Flat Road	DN
Olive-sided Flycatcher	4/21	Occidental	MH
Ash-throated Flycatcher	4/21	Occidental	MH
Ash-throated Flycatcher (5)	5/2	Pine Flat Road	DN
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	4/1	Spring Lake	HK
Black-throated Gray Warbler	4/19	King Ridge Road	DN
Wilson's Warbler	4/1	Occidental; ridge above Freezeout Creek	MH
Wilson's Warbler	4/9	Paula Lane residence, Petaluma	DN, LH
MacGillivray's Warbler	5/2	Pine Flat Road, singing male at Little Sulphur Creek one lane bridge	DN
Great-tailed Grackle (3)	5/2	Mengel Road	PC
Western Tanager (4-5)	4/19	King Ridge Road	DN
Cassin's Vireo	4/19	King Ridge Road	DN
Warbling Vireo	4/19	King Ridge Road	DN
Varied Thrush	3/13	5 miles east of Geyserville	CB
Swainson's Thrush	5/1	Salmon Creek School, Freestone area	MH
Hooded Oriole (male)	4/5	Paula Lane residence, Petaluma	DN
Bullock's Oriole (male)	4/8	Paula Lane residence, Petaluma (1.5 - 2 weeks late this year)	DN
Sage Sparrow (2)	5/2	Pine Flat Road (top), pair nesting likely	DN
Lazuli Bunting	4/19	King Ridge Road	DN
Black-headed Grosbeak	3/31	Pauline Drive, Graton area	G & KJ
Black-headed Grosbeak	4/4	Spring Lake	D Beall, P Conley

**CONTRIBUTORS:** Dave Barry, Dennis Beall, Chester Bowles, Dan Brown, Peter Colasanti, Pam Conley, Pam Davisson, Bill Doyle, Dea Freid, Randy Gibbons, Emily Heaton, Mike Heffernon, Diane Hichwa, Lisa Hug, Gene Hunn, Greg and Kathi Jacobs, Helen Kochenderfer, Marci Kyne, Rick Lebadour, Meg Marriot, Joe Morlan, Kathy Moore, Dan Nelson, Ruth Rudesill, Rich Stallcup, Alan Wight, and Kerry Wilcox.

THANKS TO ALL !



## NOTES FROM THE FIELD

*Sonoma County Breeding Bird Atlas, 2nd edition, Second Season of Surveys – a report from BBA Co-chair Veronica Bowers*

We have embarked on our second season of field surveys for the 2nd edition of the Sonoma County Breeding Bird Atlas. Of the 200 blocks in Sonoma County, 120 have been assigned. In our first year of surveys, our dedicated volunteers submitted data for 59 of those blocks and 153 species have been reported so far. Some of the surprises include first breeding confirmations of Sora and Swainson's Hawks. Other exciting survey notes include Marbled Murrelets heard at Stewart's Point and new nesting areas for Snowy Plover and Tricolored Blackbird.

The Breeding Bird Atlas is an important and serious citizen science project, but it's also fun and rewarding. We still have plenty of blocks to survey. It's not too late to sign-up for your own block and join the fun. Take a look at what our BBA volunteers have to say about their experience:

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"In addition to delving into the intricate lives of birds and learning from other birders, it's great to be a part of an effort that will ultimately help inform conservation efforts and educate the larger birding and environmental community."

*Jennifer Michaud*

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"The BBA is deepening my love and appreciation for birds and the habitats they live in. It is expanding my knowledge and understanding of the birds I am surrounded by everyday at home and work. It is so nice to watch for a while to see what type of behavior the birds are exhibiting. It allows one to be in the moment with nature."

*Tiffany Erickson*

"I enjoy learning in greater depth the breeding behaviors of the different species. The survey demands of me a greater inquisitiveness, sensitivity, and respect for the lives of the birds that I'm watching."

*David Wayte*

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"Besides getting out to bird (as often as we can manage) with my best friend, there is the joy of watching and learning new behaviors, seeing different habitats, and getting familiar with other parts of the county."

*Kathleen Mugele*

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"I'd have to say that I love being privy to the mystery of it all. It's such a wonder! Just by going out and looking and listening I have seen so many exciting things—a Brown Creeper carrying pine needles to make its nest in a crack in a tree, a Swainson's Thrush carrying insects to its nestlings hidden in the blackberries."

*Monica Schwalenberg-Pena*

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"I love doing breeding bird atlases. I've done the first Sonoma, Napa, Alameda, Contra Costa, Solano, Yolo and now the second edition for Sonoma. I love it because it is up to you to determine what species might nest in your local area by habitat... because you can discover different and interesting information on the natural history of common bird species (Mourning Doves nesting on the ground)... because it is an excuse to ask permission to bird in areas where most birders don't go... because you will most likely discover some new species breeding (Snowy Plover, Least Tern, Eurasian Collared-dove, Cassin's Kingbird, Say's Phoebe and Great-tailed Grackle were first nesting records for Solano) or find them more or less abundant as generally thought (Swainson's Hawks commonly nest in eastern Solano County)... and because you can find new restaurants in the back country!"

*Robin Leong*

## Passages

*By Betty Groce*

Longtime Audubon member, Jack Schuyler passed away at age 89 on February 25. Jack was active with the midweek bird walkers in the 1990's but due to health concerns continued to bird on his own thereafter. Jack was a loyal supporter of the Roadrunners' bird-a-thon and he delighted in making unconventional pledges such as this year's 38 cents per species. He loved watching birds and would occasionally call Betty G. with a question and was thrilled to see her nesting Screech Owl.

Barbara Taylor, member of Madrone Audubon since marrying Laurence in 1994, died March 21 at age 82. She and Laurence were regular participants in the mid-week bird walks and were instigators of going to the fly-in and dinner the afternoon before the yearly trip to Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge. They also faithfully attended the monthly meetings until she became ill. Barbara was also a VERY generous supporter of the Roadrunners' bird-a-thon. She shall be missed.

Another passage to note... Viola Brown died in April. She and her husband Sam were very active in the outreach program for Audubon in the 1990s, setting up information tables for Madrone at events in the community. She was also a faithful bird-a-thon sponsor.

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## West Nile Virus

Is it going to be another bad year for West Nile Virus (WNV)? As with flu season for people, no one can tell until it gets here. One thing we can do is to report any findings of dead birds, especially corvids (crows, jays, magpies). To assist in the California WNV Surveillance Program, report a dead bird (dead less than 24 hours, intact) by calling their toll-free hotline 1-877-WNV-BIRD (968-2473), or by submitting a report online at [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov). They will come out and pick up the bird, and will notify you if it tested positive for WNV. Last year, they tested 2,497 birds, and 28% (699) were WNV positive.



## BIRD-A-THON 2012... Money is still coming in!

*By Marcia Johnson,  
Bird-A-Thon Coordinator*

A grand total so far of \$8,101.38 has been raised in the 2012 Bird-A-Thon. This money will be used to support Lincoln School Bird Day, Junior Audubon, Audubon Adventures, and other programs. Thank you to all the sponsors for making this possible, and to the teams for doing the work.

**“FeatherQuesters” with Diane Hichwa and Madrone’s new Treasurer, Linda Lebovics.** A good start with six ospreys fishing together at the mouth of the Russian River and a sub-adult Bald Eagle perched and preening. Always a delight are the secretive rails (Virginia and Sora) which popped up at Highway 116 and Highway 1 ponds and at the Rail Ponds in Bodega Bay. Unexpected sightings included a Marbled Murrelet close in at Bodega Head, breeding plumage Eared and Horned Grebes, a Western Kingbird at Crane Creek Regional Park and the Great-tailed Grackle at Shollenberger (heard and seen). Unfortunate sightings in Sebastopol near the Laguna included a Plain Titmouse, perky and cute but without a tail, followed by a Song Sparrow without a tail! Does this mean someone is feeding a feral cat colony in the wildlands? A sunny day kept them going to tally 125 species...and NOT A KESTREL in sight!

**Thanks goes to sponsors:** Karen and Jay Abbe, Dorcas Allison, Dave and Kathy Biggs, David and Jeanne-Marie Black, Buff and Gerry Corsi, Kit and David Daine, Gwen Dhesi, Maxine Spellman and Neal Fishman, Rich and Jan Fong, Don and Donna Friedrich, Jim and Glenda Gentile, Steve Sapers and Claire Green, Dorothy Gregor, Karlene Hall, Don Tanner and Carol Harrison, Steve Hemenway, Katherine Hichwa, Lynn Cominsky and Garrett Jernigan, Dustin Kahn, John and Jo Kleis, Al and Paula Kritz, Jeff Kross, Dan Lebovics, Paula Lebovics, Peter and Olivia Leveque, Ann Luft, Mary Ann Desmond and Bill McKee, Jim Moir, Alida Morzenti, Kathleen Mugele, Karen and

Ted Nagel, Becky Olsen, Craig and Kelly Olson, Mike Parmeter, Francie Petrocelli, Bev Penn, Sally Pola, Dave and Chris Powell, John and Linda Reichel, Rich Kuehn and Dean Schuler, Marilynn Scott, Jim and Judy Seeser, Daphne Smith, Judy and Phil Temko, All Tails Wagging Vet Clinic/Dr. Avra Tracht, Joe and Deborah Votek, Danna Vough, Janice Vough, David and Idie Weiss, Ann Young, Anne Ysunza and Cathy Zbikowski. **Amount raised: \$ 3,123.50**

**“Roadrunners” with Betty Groce and Don McCarthy.** This long-standing duo completed their Bird-A-Thon February 21. Their morning dawned foggy with a capital “F”! Oakmont, Spring Lake, Lake Ralphine, A Place to Play in Santa Rosa—all fogged in. On to Sebastopol and the Laguna—fogged in as well. A bright spot appeared as a pair of Hooded Mergansers were seen next to the shore in the Laguna, with just no distance viewing possible. There was still fog offshore, so viewing from Bodega Head was a lost cause. They finally left the fog behind while birding Shollenberger in Petaluma. In all Betty’s twenty years plus of doing the Bird-A-Thon, she’d never encountered fog before. In spite of all that fog, this team tallied 111 species, and had a good time, as usual.

**Appreciation to sponsors:** Rick Abbott, Ann Anderson, Judi Barker, George Batchelder, Jim Batchelder, Dennis Beall, Peter Bellman, Ellen Bingel, Malcolm Blanchard, Janet Bosshard, Jayne Buscho, Linda Cadwell, Jim and Jane Clegg, Elizabeth Combs, Ann Conger, Neal Conner, Rachel Corso, Bev Cowden, Joannie Dranginis, Harriet Draper, Louise Eddy, Marilyn J. Edmondson, June England, Janeann Erickson, Janette Evans, Bob Frescura, Jim and Sandy Gilmer, Jules and Barbara Glaser, Stan and Hedda Gold, Leslie Goodrich, Gary and Terry Haag, Gordon Harlander, Susan Harris, Carol Harrison, Denise Herzberg, Catherine Hickey, Donald K. Howard Jr., Richard Hurley, Karen Kubrin, Andy Lacasse, Joan Langfeld, Dianne Leger, Dennis Luz, Lorraine MacKenzie, Pat Marsh, Sandy Martensen, Shirl and Tom Maxson, Tom McCuller, Alexandra McDonald, Ellie Miller, Mary Edith and Gerald Moore, Judy Morrison, Doug and Barbara Mur-

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**“Wandering Tattlers” with Carol Zeidman, Barbara Arbunich and Linne McAleer (visiting Tattler from Marin).** This second-year team made February 12 their big day. They picked Shollenberger Park and Bodega Bay as their target destinations. One of the highlights was seeing 500-plus Marbled Godwits making a wave of their own on the shore at Spud Point. What a spectacular sight! The ladies particularly enjoyed the turnstones, also at Spud Point, huddling together on a sheltered pier support. Near Bodega Head, they saw a Northern Harrier who was flying low over the hillside, when the Harrier nabbed a plover in midair. Last sighting was a Peregrine Falcon rustling another raptor, protecting its hunting ground. Despite a strong wind, they counted 63 species and beat last year’s count by five birds!

**Much thanks go to sponsors:** Ellen Anderson, Mark Arbunich, Mike and Laura Arbunich, Renee Auforte, Marilyn Blake, Jane Blonien, Marcia Bohan, Veronica Bowers, Susan Briggs, Scott Campbell, Kathie O’Shea and Bill Carlsen, Peter Ciarlo, Kathleen Cooke, Angie Degraffenreid, Sue Derana, Joy Devines, Gerri Donato, John Dvda, Dan Esperon, Gloria Fahey, Erica Fuchs, Carol Harrison, Kathy and Jim Harvey, Michelle Zeidman and Josh Hockett, Joanne Keratzides, Tom Koren, Kathy Kuhn, Karen Yanagisako and Marty Lycan, Rebecca Maloney, Linne McAleer, Penny Nader, Barbara Nevins, John Pearlman, Richard Pearlman, Lisa

**BIRD-A-THON 2012**

Continued from page 8

Pitman, Kara Raymond, Anna and Jerry Robertson, Ruth Rose, Ruth Rudesill, Karen Sharkey, Robert Sheardy, Skip and Kim Soskin, Debra Spencer, Eva Starkey, Jessica Vaughan, Sue Vaughan, Diana Vernon, Mike and Mary Warren, Skewis Wine, Ari Zeidman, and Colleen and Henry Zeidman. **Amount raised: \$1,675.85**

**“A Team of One with Gene Hunn” with, who else, Gene Hunn.** This was Gene’s first Madrone Bird-a-thon, the day a bit blustery with a shower or two. At 5:50 AM Gene was at Tolay Lake Park, hoping for owls. He hiked the trails but no owls, just nocturnal Killdeer and a passing Snipe. However, he was pleased to have a Ferruginous Hawk fly right overhead. A Loggerhead Shrike pair was exploring nesting opportunities by the vineyard. He found lots of raptors, meadowlarks, and sparrows, including a singing Rufous-crowned Sparrow, a real treat. On the way to Papa’s Taverna for lunch he spotted a male Allen’s Hummer on a phone wire. En route to the Ellis Creek wetland a pair of Golden Eagles pivoted and plunged in a courtship display right over the highway. At Ellis Creek and Shollenberger he counted seven White Pelicans and an immature Brown Pelican, and a singing Common Yellowthroat at the kiosk concluded his day. A total of 108 species, a total time of 11 hours 40 minutes (including lunch), about 10 birds per hour.

**Kudos goes to sponsors:** Valerie Franklin, Jacob Newell and Emily Heaton, Gene and Nancy Hunn, Leonard and Charlotte Nelson, and Lisa Peters. **Amount raised: \$158.60**

**“The Zonotripias” with Helen Kochenderfer, Bob Speckles, Don Kirker and Bill Doyle.** This brand-new team met early in the morning of March 10, at Lake Ralphine, to begin their species hunt. They continued to Spring Lake, Ragle Ranch, Taylor Road and Bodega Bay, steadily accumulating birds. The conditions were excellent, cool and clear, with very little wind. From the coast, they birded down Valley Ford Road into Petaluma, where they visited the cemetery, and from there they finished the day with tours of both Shollenberger Park and Ellis Creek Wetlands. The most unusual bird of the day was the Palm War-

bler at the cemetery. They left Ellis Creek twelve hours after starting, finding 137 species, far exceeding their expectations.

**Appreciation goes to sponsors:** Jeffrey and Mary Ellen Baker, Ira Byock and Yvonne Corbeil, Anita Doyle, Charles and Dian Doyle, John and Sally Doyle, Teresa Doyle, Sarita Eastman, Jack and Deyea Harper, Jeff Hanson and Peggy Kearns, Don and Beth Kirker, Carol Kochenderfer, Helen Kochenderfer, Kochenderfer Business Service, Bill Lebus, Brooke Loomis, Rick Marsi, Peter Miller, Gayle Pena, Pat Coy and Karen Tanquist. **Amount raised: \$1,164.25**

**“The Grey-headed Seersuckers” with Ken Wilson, Becky Olsen, and Ian Morrison.** This long-standing team headed out on the morning of April 15, beginning in Santa Rosa at Howarth Park and Spring Lake. Then they moved west, stopping in the Laguna de Santa Rosa before reaching the coast at Bodega Harbor. Not satisfied with the number of species they were finding, they moved on to Shollenberger Park, Ellis Creek and Luchessi Park in Petaluma to round out a nice selection of varied habitats. Highlights for the day were early Ash-throated Flycatchers and Black-headed Grosbeaks, breeding-plumaged Black Turnstone, and both Eared and Horned Grebes, plus Common and Red-throated Loons. A Golden Eagle under attack from Red-tailed Hawks was exciting to watch, and the appearance of a Snow Goose at Ellis Creek was an interesting addition to their cumulative list. For the day, a total of 133 species was seen and/or heard.

Thanks goes to sponsors: Betty Burrige and Gary Fregien. **Amount Raised: \$ 125.00**

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**Bird-safe Windows**

Besides window netting, reflective tape, and decals (not very effective), there is now another method to protect birds from flying into windows. One of Madrone’s own members, Dave Warwick, has recently developed a device that uses monofilament line in vertical rows, supported by a rod at top and bottom. These are installed a few inches to the outside of each problem window.

Though not all impacts can be prevented, most birds see the translucent line, and either veer away, or if they do hit it, they are

cushioned by the line without contacting the window glass. He has successfully reduced bird strikes on his house from two per week, to at most, two per year. See examples of his “Bird Crash Preventers” at [www.BirdieBeware.com](http://www.BirdieBeware.com).

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**Wind Energy on the National Scene***By Susan Kirks*

The Secretary of the Interior recently released voluntary federal guidelines for wind energy development. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is responsible for monitoring the wind energy industry’s voluntary compliance. American Bird Conservancy strongly opposes the context of the new guidelines. ABC supports mandatory, not voluntary, guidelines. The wind energy industry is not required to follow the new guidelines.

National Audubon has taken a position of supporting the guidelines, saying the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Department of Interior must follow through and monitor the wind energy industry to ensure voluntary compliance. The guidelines are designed as uniform nationwide standards for siting wind farms to avoid or minimize bird impacts, building in mitigation plans in the early phases of a project, and limiting fragmented habitat. According to National Audubon, the new guidelines also set standards for reporting post-construction impacts.

National Audubon then reported on May 9 that the wind energy industry has submitted a request to the Department of Interior to extend the permit for take of Golden and Bald Eagles from five years to 30 years. Both National Audubon and American Bird Conservancy stringently oppose this request.

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**A Chuckle for Birders**

An excerpt from a note written by a participant to a tour operator: “We had a falconry demonstration where we not only learned about several species of RAPTURES, we got to see them fly and actually hold them. I was so impressed—I booked another tour.”

*Betty Groce*



## Madrone Audubon Society

Post Office Box 1911  
Santa Rosa, California 95402

Summer 2012

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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 7:30 PM at First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Dr., Santa Rosa. All meetings and walks are open to the public. Information: telephone answering service - 546-7492, e-mail - madroneaudubon@um.att.com.

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

**Joining or renewing with Madrone only.** Basic Madrone Audubon membership dues cover the cost of your subscription to the Madrone Leaves newsletter. Please consider joining or renewing at a higher level to support the important work of Madrone Audubon in environmental education and conservation critical to the protection of wildlife and the environment. **Note: By joining Madrone you will not become a member of National Audubon.**

I am a new member \_\_\_\_\_ I am renewing my Madrone membership  
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