



Madrone LEAVES

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

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Madrone Audubon Enters the 21st Century: YOU MUST READ THIS – IT AFFECTS YOU!

By *Gerald Moore*

For several hundred years the written word was one of the main methods people used to communicate with each other. It worked well, but was not terribly fast. But times are now changing quickly. The postal service has lost a third of its business in the past few years and is about to go broke unless it has more rate hikes and/or dramatic cuts in service and personnel. Most of the organizations I belong to have already switched to communicating with their members by e-mail. Goodbye paper newsletters. Many people now do all of their communicating by e-mailing and texting; they pay all their bills electronically.

At the September 2011 Madrone board meeting, our treasurer led us through a cost analysis of our income and expenditures. Over each of the last three years, our expenditures exceeded our income. We decided that in order to maintain or increase the level of our educational and conservation programs, we were going to have to make significant cuts in some of our expenditures.

Our single biggest expense is the paper newsletter. At the October Madrone board meeting, we voted to initiate changes in our newsletter delivery. Madrone now mails out nine newsletters a year to both our 500

“Friends of Madrone” who send us annual dues and to the 2,100 “National Audubon only” people who live in Sonoma County, but do not pay dues to Madrone. The annual cost of producing and mailing these 2600 paper newsletters (nine times a year) is over \$17,000, and will undoubtedly rise sharply in the near future.

The Madrone board has decided to bite the bullet and start the conversion to more economic ways to provide you, our valuable members, with timely updates on our activities. Here are some of the big

Continued on page 3

NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING

“Columbia and Its Birds: A Photographic Tour”

Monday November 21, 7:30 PM • First United Methodist Church • 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa

Born and raised in Colombia, Christopher Calonje has been living in Klamath Falls, Oregon for seven years, working for a small environmental consulting firm. He specializes in wetlands, botanical surveys, environmental education, and biological assessments.

Christopher has been conducting birding tours in Colombia for many years and has amassed a large collection of bird and landscape photographs, which he has organized into a PowerPoint presentation. This presentation is a photographic tour of Colombia and its birds, including in-

formation on Colombia's geography, cuisine, culture, and people. It also touches on the improved security situation. The Colombian government, at all levels, has made great strides in bringing peace and prosperity to this beautiful country.

Colombia boasts the world's longest list of birds, now over 1870 species (more than North America and Europe combined). Much of this diversity is due to the country's complex topography, which includes three Andean ranges and the valleys between those ranges, Atlantic and Pacific coasts, vast grasslands border-

ing Venezuela, and a very large portion of the Amazon Basin. Birding in Colombia promotes responsible environmental and social ecotourism and provides an opportunity of a lifetime for birdwatchers. Christopher is involved with various nonprofits in Colombia that work for conservation and support local communities; he will talk about these relationships in his presentation.

Colombia offers amazing birding opportunities and the chance to learn about and get involved with locals and their conservation efforts.

NO GENERAL MEETING IN DECEMBER, but a great Christmas Bird Count opportunity.
COMING MONDAY JANUARY 16: James A. Martin will present “Islands of San Francisco Bay”



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 exchanges information by phone and e-mail as soon as possible when an issue surfaces. Please contact Diane Hichwa at 785-1922 or dhichwa@earthlink.net.

Wednesday November 2, 7:00 PM

BOARD MEETING. Sonoma County Environmental Center, 55A Ridgeway Avenue, Santa Rosa. For agenda information, contact Bob Speckels at robertspeckels@yahoo.com.

Wednesday November 2, 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM

SONOMA COAST: DUNCAN'S LANDING TO GOAT ROCK. Bird Walk. Meet at Duncan's Landing (within the Sonoma Coast State Beach), approximately three miles south of the Russian River on Highway 1. Bring lunch. For information contact Tom McCuller at sisyphus@sonic.net or 546-1812.

Saturday November 5, 8:00 AM to Noon

ELLIS CREEK WATER RECYCLING FACILITY. Our newest field trip location, Ellis Creek, provides easy, closeup views of its large, diverse bird population. From Highway 101 in Petaluma, go east on 116 (Lakeville Highway), right on Pine View Way, and then left on Cypress Drive. Go to the end of the road and through the gates. We will meet at the large sign board at the beginning of the trail. Informal carpools meet at Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District Office, 747 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, at 7:20 AM. The parking lot is behind the office (access from Carillo Street). Bring lunch. Rain cancels. Leaders: Tom Cashman, 217-5103; Bill Doyle, 483-8773; and Bob Speckels, 569-0563.

Thursday November 10, 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM

LAKE HENNESSEY IN NAPA COUNTY. Bird Walk. From the intersection of Silverado Trail and Highway 128 (which is east of Rutherford), go east on Highway 128 to a parking area at the bottom of the Conn Dam spillway on the left of the road. Bring lunch. For information contact Tom McCuller at sisyphus@sonic.net or 546-1812.

Saturday November 12, 9:00 AM

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

Saturday November 12, 9:30 AM

JUNIOR AUDUBON. A field trip is scheduled to PRBO's Palomarin Field Station for a mist-netting demonstration. Call Scott Campbell at 530-828-6115 for meeting place and reservation. See page 3.

Wednesday November 16, 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM

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

Saturday November 19, 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 Eng-

lish, contact Gerald Moore at 763-3577; for the walk in Spanish, contact Connie Peabody at 338-2237.

Saturday November 19, 8:00 AM to Noon

DELTA POND AND ADJACENT WETLAND PRESERVE. A very "birdy" walk in a wonderful place, not normally open to the public. We are grateful to Denise Cadman, Natural Resources Specialist for the City of Santa Rosa, who arranges entry to this and other city properties in the Laguna de Santa Rosa. Meet at the bridge over Santa Rosa Creek on Willoside Road, halfway between Hall Road and Guerneville Road. Park off the pavement and combine into as few cars as possible to enter the property. Rain cancels. Leaders: Tom Cashman, 217-5103; Bill Doyle, 483-8773; and Bob Speckels, 569-0563.

Monday November 21, 7:30 PM

GENERAL MEETING. Christopher Calonje will show his "Colombia and Its Birds: a Photographic Tour." First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa. Please see the front page announcement. The public is always invited to attend these programs.

Saturday November 26, 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.

Wednesday and Thursday, November 30 and December 1

SACRAMENTO VALLEY WILDLIFE REFUGES. Auto birding tours (with stops at designated observation points) at Sacramento Valley National Wildlife Refuges. Meet at the Sacramento NWR headquarters at 9:30 AM on Wednesday. Bring lunch. 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. Driving time from Santa Rosa is about 2.5 hours. Many of us will stay in Yuba City (Bonanza Inn Magnuson, 530-674-8824 (formerly Best Western Bonanza Inn) on Wednesday night and bird Gray Lodge State Wildlife Management Area on Thursday. For information contact Tom McCuller at sisyphus@sonic.net or 546-1812.

Saturday December 10, 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 Interstate 5: from the junction of Interstate 5 and Highway 99, take Highway 99 north to Live Oak; turn west on Pennington (North Butte) Road; turn right on Almond Orchard Avenue, and continue to entrance. The distance from Live Oak is about eight miles. After birding Gray Lodge, we will go to Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge for the afternoon with the hope of enjoying good views of the fly-out at dusk. Some of our group will stay overnight in Willows Friday and/or Saturday to visit other parts of the nearby Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge. Call one of the leaders for more information. Leaders: Tom Cashman, 217-5103, Bill Doyle, 483-8773; and Bob Speckels, 569-0563.



21ST CENTURY

Continued from page 1

changes that are being considered, starting in Feb 2012:

- Getting the vast majority of our members to switch to electronic newsletters, which they could read on-line or print the first of every month from the Madrone website <http://audubon.sonoma.net>. Electronic newsletters will contain colored photographs, while snail-mail versions would be limited to black & white photos; in addition digital newsletters can, on occasion, be made longer with no increase in costs to the organization.
- Publishing six newsletters per year instead of the present nine; the bimonthlies will be bigger. The planned issues starting in December are: December/January (which we do now), February/March, April/May, June (or summer issue which we do now), September, and October/November.
- If the vast majority of our readership **does not** consent to receiving the newsletter electronically, we will be forced to consider discontinuing the mailing of paper newsletters to the “National Audubon only” people on our mailing list. We will always give new “National only” people an initial paper newsletter with an invitation for them to join Madrone Audubon and invite them to read the *Leaves* on line.

Here are two options for receiving the *Leaves* under the new system:

One option is for Madrone to e-mail each member the *Leaves*. However, that would be a tremendous strain on our manpower and electronic capabilities. The other option and a simpler answer is for members to go to the website on or about the first of the month and read and/or print those pages of interest to you from the on-line newsletter. Initially, we could remind you via e-mail to do this until you get the hang of it.

If the majority of our members were willing to share their e-mail addresses with us, we would use them to electronically send our annual renewal and year-end donation letters, saving us hundreds of more dollars.

No e-mails would be given out to anyone outside Madrone nor would we abuse your e-mail by bugging you with other issues. If you have not already done so, please advise us of your e-mail address. You can do this by sending an e-mail to either madroneaudubon@um.att.com or contact any board member. We could use your e-mail to remind you to check the website for the latest edition, or to let you know that the website was having problems and the new edition would be late.

If you don't own a computer, and never want to go there in this lifetime, we will continue to send you a paper copy of the *Leaves*. If we only have to snail-mail a hundred or so paper newsletters instead of the current 2600, think of all the money Madrone can move into more productive uses. That is a lot of money we can put into education and conservation, and we can all feel like we have helped contribute to a more productive Madrone Audubon, lowered greenhouse gases, and delivered a better product, all without spending an additional penny out of our pockets. So if you have an e-mail address let us know.



Madrone considers their membership to be a group of smart, environmentally orientated people who wish to see Madrone Audubon use their money wisely to promote education and conservation, not people content to see a quarter of the Madrone budget going for paper, printing, and postage. Remember, electronic newsletters are both free and potentially more exciting with color photography and perhaps even audio or video clips just a click away. Think about it, and please contact any of our board of directors with your input, questions, and particularly your e-mail addresses.

Thank you for your cooperation on this matter.

Your Madrone Audubon Board

Junior Audubon Outing

Saturday November 12, 9:30 AM

Join us for a field trip to PRBO's Palomarin Field Station for a mist-netting demonstration. This is a fantastic program that includes a short walk around the field station to see all seven of the mist-nets, an explanation and demonstration of banding, and a visit to the field station's tiny but wonderful museum.

Because of the higher concentration of migrating birds, a fall morning is the best time for this trip. We are almost sure to see several birds caught in the nets and several demonstrations of banding. At least 22 species of birds are commonly caught year-round at the field station.

If we're lucky, we will see Allen's Hummingbird, American Goldfinch, Barn Swallow, Black-headed Grosbeak, Common Yellowthroat, Hermit Thrush, Hutton's Vireo, Lincoln Sparrow, MacGillivray's Warbler, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Orange-crowned Warbler, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Pine Siskin, Puget Sound White-crowned Sparrow, Rufous Hummingbird, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Swainson's Thrush, Townsend's Warbler, Tree Swallow, Warbling Vireo, Western Flycatcher, Western Wood-pewee, Wilson's Warbler, and a Yellow Warbler.

PRBO has a video about banding on their website, <http://www.prbo.org/cms/194>. If you scroll down, you can also find a link to a California Report audio/slide show about the mist-nets at Palomarin Field Station.

Because Madrone Audubon will be paying the fee for each student who attends, we need you to register. Please contact Scott Campbell at 530.828.6115 or campbesk@gmail.com by November 5.

**Welcome New Friend of
Madrone Audubon Society**

**Petaluma
Angela Parsons**



Shollenberger Bird Survey, Tuesday 4 October 2011

By Mary Edith Moore

What a fantastic survey -- 80 bird species in a total count of 4496 birds! The morning was perfect, a pleasant 59-62°. Andy LaCasse led the survey team, Elaine Pruet recorded the sightings, and the counters were Peter Colasanti, Gary Compari, Gene Hunn, Larry Johnson, Joy Mander, Mary Edith Moore (at the bottom of the learning curve), and Len Nelson. Excitement knew no bounds when the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, a first sighting in the Petaluma Public Wetlands, was spotted and its identity confirmed.

News of the sighting traveled quickly and birders descended on Shollenberger. Many birders were rewarded for their effort. Andy, with houseguests in tow, spotted the sandpiper again on Friday. Forty members of the Golden Gate Audubon Society were seen as late as Saturday morning, searching for the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper.

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Fundraisers

*By Bob Speckels,
President of Madrone Audubon*

As you know, this year our Chapter will be placing an increased emphasis on our fundraising activities. In order to continue our efforts in conservation and education, we will be focusing on strengthening our traditional fundraising activities (Annual Fundraising Letters, Bird-A-Thon, etc.) and looking at other, less traditional, ways of generating revenue for the Chapter. Suggestions include "yard sales" of bird-related items, grants, silent auctions of some of the terrific articles that have been donated to Madrone, and raffles. At the 17 October General Meeting, raffle tickets were available (details at the door) for two tickets to the Santa Rosa Symphony's November 12th performance - a great program, great seats!

Jay House Vacation Rental in Colusa

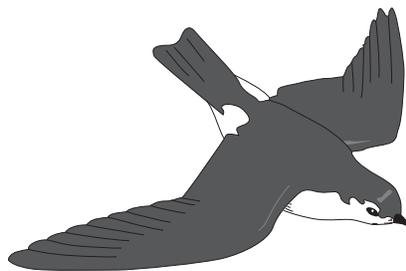
It's hard to believe October is almost over, and another fall migration season has begun. Chris and I look forward to hearing again from guests who have stayed at Jay House and welcoming some new ones.

The booking calendar is still wide open for the fall and winter, so this is a great time to plan your next visit. Jay House is completely furnished with a fully equipped kitchen, bathroom, linens, and other amenities including free WIFI. It has two bedrooms and will sleep up to nine comfortably:

- Master bedroom with queen bed, plus a curtained alcove with a daybed
- Second bedroom with a double bed, plus bunk beds
- Sofa sleeper with double bed in the living room.

Located on Jay Street in the heart of Colusa, Jay House is a short walk from the Sacramento River, restaurants, and lovely historic neighborhoods.

The cost is \$120 per night for two people, plus \$10 per night for each additional person. Well-behaved dogs are welcome at no additional cost, and there is a fenced back yard.



As you start making your holiday lists, please remember that we have gift certificates available. We also continue to donate nights at Jay House for fundraisers, so if you are a member of a nature-oriented organization that has an event coming up, feel free to ask. For more information, as well as a reservation calendar, visit www.jayhousecolusa.com or call Connie Cloak at 480-3457.

Judgment Day on the Dutra Asphalt Plant

By Gerald Moore

The lawsuit by the City of Petaluma, Madrone Audubon, and several other environmental organizations against building the Dutra Asphalt Plant was filed almost a year ago. The case is scheduled to be heard on 9 December, 2:20 PM, in Sonoma County Superior Court by Judge Rene Chouteau. Either side has 30 days to appeal the decision. We strongly encourage everyone who is against building this asphalt plant 200 yards from Shollenberger Park (in Petaluma) to come to the courtroom for this hearing to "vote to with your body", and show the judge that we care what happens with this case.

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Local Businesses Partner with the Petaluma Wetlands Alliance (PWA)

By Gerald Moore

Shollenberger Park and Alman Marsh, the two main public wetlands where PWA operates, lie between the Petaluma River and the Southgate Business Park. We are proud to share with you that several businesses in the business park periodically partner with PWA to help support our educational and/or habitat restoration projects, which in turn makes the business park a more interesting, pleasant place to work.

RNM Properties, our first corporate sponsor, donated generously to help PWA get our third grade wetlands science program started several years ago. RNM is back again, building a deluxe kiosk at the entrance to Shollenberger Park which will replace the old, small kiosk that is sliding down the hill into the dredging pond. This new eye-stopper is modeled after the new kiosk installed in front of the Yosemite National Park Visitor Center. It will have lockable cabinets

Continued on page 5



PETALUMA WETLANDS

Continued from page 4

with glass windows to display lots of information about the wetlands and a new, separate display board to hold all of the current park-policy information. RNM is also upgrading several warning signs in the area.

Since 2008 Econscious, an environmentally conscious women's sportswear company, has donated annually to PWA to help with our educational needs and has helped with removing nonnative, invasive plants. Bridget McCoy, Comptroller at Econscious and our contact with the company, has also been a friend on environmental and conservation issues.

The Athleta Company, now owned by Gap, partnered with us on restoring the space in Alman Marsh in front of their building by planting trees and shrubs. Athleta also assisted with weeding and watering the site. Two years ago Athleta gave us a grant for restoration work in the marsh.

Camelbak Corporation brought their employees to Shollenberger to help remove thistles and other nonnatives in front of their building. At the end of the workday, Camelbak gave us a case of military-style gloves which are still the favorites of many of our regular weed workers.

PRBO Conservation Science is also partnering with PWA to restore the marsh channel in front of their building to weed-free native plants. We have also partnered with PRBO's educational team at several public events and appreciate their input in training our new docents.

Mrs. Grossman's Sticker Factory and Barbara's Bakery have donated products for some of our events. The list goes on and on, even in these economic hard times. PWA appreciates the help of these businesses. Without their help a big portion of our educational and stewardship programs would have to be cut.

All of this support, along with grants from the Petaluma Educational Foundation and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, is what makes our program possible.

Alman Marsh Trail

(the one-mile trail between Shollenberger Park and the Sheraton Hotel)

By Mary Edith Moore

Due to the economy, the Petaluma Parks & Recreation Maintenance crew has been reduced from 17 employees to 7. A few weeks ago Ron DeNicola, Director of Petaluma Parks & Recreation Maintenance, asked the Petaluma Wetlands Alliance (PWA) if they would remove the nonnative plants on and along the Alman Marsh trail. PWA promised to do what it could in the wetlands. Initially two mornings, Wednesday and Sunday, were scheduled and a call for help went out to the PWA docents and the regular community volunteers.

Wednesday morning, the city met us at the Sheraton/Marina entrance to Alman Marsh with a motorized, small pickup (a "gator" which Andy LaCasse piloted) for negotiating the narrow trail to pickup bagged prunings and transfer them to the city's dump truck, which was parked at the entrance to Alman Marsh. There were about 15 docents/regulars. Sunday was a repeat, but we worked from the Shollenberger entrance and used the Moore's little red truck instead of the "gator" and dump truck. Much was accomplished, but there was a lot yet to do. Earlier Chief Petty Officer Sabrina Hearst, instructor at the U.S. Coast Guard Training Center Petaluma (Two Rock) and former member of the Madrone Board, made arrangements for 18 students and instructors to take out Poison Hemlock and mustard.

Momentum continued to build. Members of the North Bay Rowing Club and the Petaluma Small Craft Center Coalition came on board, spearheaded by Maggie Hohle. Rebuilding Together Petaluma (rtp), Executive Director Jane Hamilton, took up the challenge and added us to their Volunteer Workday, Saturday 15 October. At the *Leaves* press time, 40 people had registered with rtp to help on the workday. It is hopeful that this latest group effort will accomplish the goal of clearing the Alman Marsh trail; if not, PWA will organize another group and forge forward.

Black Oystercatcher Population Surprises Scientists

Reviewed by Diane Hichwa

Audubon California study reveals species density higher than expected. In June Audubon California led birders and biologists in collaboration with Audubon Chapters and several Public Agencies in a study of the Black Oystercatcher. Scientists were surprised at the number of sightings of the threatened bird. A total of 1,346 birds were counted and 175 nests were located. When compared against the total amount of suitable habitat, this initial result suggests that the total number of breeding oystercatchers in the state may be higher than the last estimate of approximately 1,000-1,200 individuals in 1991. The bird's population size is ultimately regulated by the availability of high-quality nesting and foraging habitats.



Photo courtesy of Hollis and Jerry Bewley

Biologists consider the size of the Black Oystercatcher's population a good indicator of the overall health of the rocky intertidal community, which makes up approximately 22% of the California coast.

The population survey took place from Crescent City through Orange County, coastlines where the Black Oystercatcher, *Haematopus bachmani*, lives year-round. The goal of this year's project was to answer some fundamental questions about the species and its distribution in California. "This is good news, especially considering the Black Oystercatcher's vulnerability to human disturbances," said Anna Weinstein, Director of Audubon California's Seabird Conservation Program. "It is

Continued on page 6



BLACK OYSTERCATCHER

Continued from page 5

completely dependent upon marine shorelines throughout its life cycle, which means we cannot forgo continued conservation efforts. With this information, conservation efforts can be directed to address specific issues like survival and reproduction success," said Weinstein. "The next step is to determine what these action items are."

The highest bird densities were reported in Sonoma and Mendocino counties. Both counties have extensive rocky intertidal habitat. At The Sea Ranch in northwest Sonoma County, there were 61 individuals and 12 nests, among the highest nest densities reported. Several nests were within 30 meters of each other. Virtually all nests were located on rocks tidally separated from shore, with high shelves and niches for nests. From Bodega Head three nests could be observed. Many of these nests are "historic nest sites" and are used every year. Eight of the 12 at The Sea Ranch had been used in 2010. Follow-up studies of reproductive success, from hatching to fledging, will be important. In a pilot study of reproductive success, we noted a long nesting season: incubation was observed May 21, several re-nestings occurred, and one nest still had unfledged chicks on September 7. Disturbance to nesting includes natural predators such as river otters as well as humans-- people clambering over the rocks without regard to the effects.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is a key agency partner, as it manages the California Coastal National Monument, made-up of the rock pinnacles and islands off our coast. James Weigand, BLM State Ecologist, stated, "I believe that the Monument is vitally important for the long-term conservation of Black Oystercatchers in California." Audubon Chapters participated with agencies including the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, California State Parks, National Park Service, and the U.S. Geological Survey. Other organizations included the Audubon Canyon Ranch, Mad River Biologists, and Carter Biological Consulting.

Those Wonderful Fall Outings

November 4-6

15th Annual Sandhill Crane Festival

The festival takes place at Hutchins Street Square in Lodi, CA and celebrates the return of the Greater and Lesser Sandhill Cranes to the rich delta wetlands of the Lodi area. The festivities begin November 4 with a wine & hors d'oeuvres reception and art show from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. Family activities, workshops, wildlife demonstrations, and nature tours are featured. General admission to the festival is free. There is no charge for most of the events at Hutchins Street Square, including the reception, art show, workshops, presentations, and exhibit hall. There is a charge for field trips (includes busing), which varies per tour. For a schedule of activities/registration, visit <http://www.cranefestival.com/> or call 800-581-6150.



Photo courtesy of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Wednesday November 16, 7:00 to 8:45 PM Valley of the Moon Nature Lecture Pacific Sea Turtles - The Great Leatherback Migration

A Partnership with Sonoma County Regional Parks & Sonoma Birding. Sonoma Veterans Memorial Building, 126 First Street West, Sonoma (new location). Cost is \$5.00 at the door.

The magnificent and mysterious Pacific leatherback sea turtle swims more than 6,000 miles across the ocean to feed on jellies (formerly misnamed jellyfish) along the California coast. Soon our Sonoma coastline will be designated a safe haven for these ancient and critically endangered ocean dwellers. Teri Shore, Director

of Turtle Island Restoration, will help us in exploring the secrets of these gentle giants. For more information contact Tom Rusert at sonomanature@gmail.com or 939-8007.

Saturdays & Sundays, 11:00 AM & 2:00 PM, November through 12 February

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

One of the amazing monarch butterflies' favorite winter homes is a magical beach, lagoon, and forest on the northern edge of Santa Cruz. 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. There is a Milkweed Demonstration Garden in the fenced enclosure.

Join a docent to learn the natural history and see thousands of monarch butterflies wintering in Santa Cruz. Phone: 831-423-4609.



Hold these January dates for Christmas Bird Counts (CBC)

Sunday 1 January,
dawn to dusk
Madrone Audubon Society CBC

Saturday 7 January,
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Petaluma "CBC4Kids"

Saturday 14 January,
8:00 AM to 1:00 PM.
Sonoma Valley "CBC4Kids"





Upcoming Holiday Bird Counts

You know the holidays are here when you don the hat and gloves, meet your friends, and start counting the birds. 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.

Thanksgiving Bird Count.

Counters are needed for the annual Thanksgiving Bird Count, one hour on Thanksgiving Day. The counter chooses the time that best fits his or her schedule. The count is made in a circle, measuring only 15 feet in diameter. The counter determines the location, usually a favorite area frequented by the birds, such as feeders, baths, covers, and/or wetlands. Individual birds are counted only once during the hour, even if the birds continue to pay visits. Flocks should be estimated or counted, and only the highest number at any one time used.

Thanksgiving Bird Counts were begun in 1966 by Dr. Ernest Edwards and the Lynchburg Bird Club in Virginia. Counts slowly spread to the west, but there are still many areas in the west in need of more counters and better count distribution. This bird count can be done in comfort, indoors near a window and be a welcome respite from the Thanksgiving dinner. Count results (even if you see no birds at all) should be sent to Dr. John G. Hewston, Count Compiler, Natural Resources Building, Humboldt

State University, Arcata California 95521. Instructions and bird count form are available at <http://www.palouseaudubon.org/Checklists/THANKSGIVING.pdf>.



Friday December 30, dawn to dusk Sonoma Valley Christmas Bird Count

This is the 7th Annual Sonoma Valley Christmas Bird Count, and all birders are most welcome! Forty birding teams (rain or shine) will once again hike/bike the mountains and boat the marshes, searching for the winter and migrating birds known to the area. At 5:30 PM, a potluck tabulation dinner will take place at the Sonoma Community Center's Andrews Hall, 276 East Napa Street off the Plaza. Become a team leader or member by contacting compilers Tom Rusert and Darren Peterie at www.sonomabirding.com or 939-8007. Cost is \$5.00 per person.

Sunday January 1, dawn to dusk Madrone Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count

Ring in the New Year by participating in Madrone Audubon's 45th annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC). The count is centered in Western Sonoma County (WSC) in the Salmon Creek watershed, from west of Sebastopol to the coast, and from just north of the Russian River to the Estero Americano.

To sign up for the WSC CBC, you must register online via the Madrone Audubon website at <http://audubon.sonoma.net>.

WSC CBC – Area Leaders Needed!

We are short a few area leaders. If you are interested in volunteering your time as an area leader, please contact Veronica ASAP at vlbowers@gmail.com or 829-2955, and she'll provide you with the details and responsibilities of an area leader.

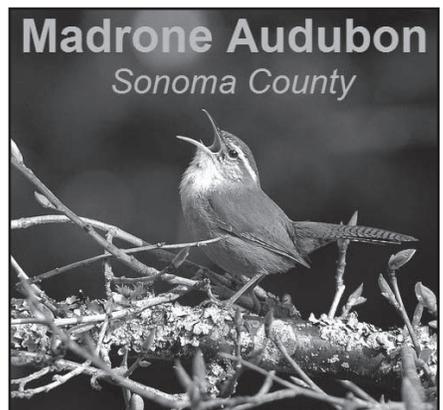
Back by popular demand – the Madrone CBC post-count dinner potluck!

Attention all CBC volunteers--this year, we are returning to our traditional potluck post-count dinner for the CBC. Chili, soup, and hearty hot dishes are always popular items at the potluck, as well as desserts and side dishes. So, put your culinary genius to work and bring something you'd like to share at this year's post-count dinner. The Sebastopol Community Center, where the post-count dinner is held, has a full kitchen and can be used for reheating/baking your specialty dish.

Veronica Bowers is the CBC Coordinator and Compiler for Madrone Audubon. If you have any questions, please contact her at vlbowers@gmail.com (preferred) or at 829-2955. Watch for more details on this CBC and the potluck post-count dinner celebration that will follow the count in the next issue of the *Leaves*.

A Madrone Fundraiser

All you birders take note. Madrone's new treasurer, Linda Lebovics, says that a night at Jay House will be raffled off at the November general meeting. Sounds like a terrific day/night of getting together with birding friends/family.



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



Madrone Audubon Society

Post Office Box 1911
Santa Rosa, California 95402

November 2011

**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY
CALENDAR ENCLOSED**



To receive *Leaves* via email in pdf format just email your request to:

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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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- 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.

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
Basic Member \$20 _____ Senior \$15 _____ Student \$15 _____ 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 _____
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Please make your check payable to "Madrone Audubon Society."
Detach this panel and mail to: **Madrone Audubon Society, Membership**
P.O. Box 1911, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Visit us on the World Wide Web at: <http://audubon.sonoma.net>