



# Madrone LEAVES

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

VOLUME 45

October 2011

Number 2

## Birding Goes to Hollywood

By Daphne Smith

*The Big Year* is coming! The movie version, that is.

Some of our members may have read the book—Mark Obamscik's best-selling chronicle of three colorful and obsessive birders as they compete for the biggest “Big Year.” Well, after watching the movie's trailer, MAS Conservation Chair Diane Hichwa noted, “I don't quite remember the book being like this...”

Fox will release *The Big Year* on October 14. This is a major Hollywood motion picture devoted to birding that Audubon had an exclusive opportunity to preview at the studios of Twentieth Century Fox. The film stars Owen Wilson, Jack Black, and Steve Martin. Whereas Obamscik's book describes three actual birders engaged in a real, if slightly crazy, yearlong birding competition, the film is going in a slightly different direction. However, it could be a lot of fun.

*The Big Year* is directed by David Frankel, an Oscar winner who also did *Marley & Me* and *The Devil Wears Prada*. It's narrated by John Cleese from *Monty Python*. You can watch the trailer online and read interviews with the stars of the movie and an article by Mark Obamscik in the September-October issue of *Audubon Magazine*.

Audubon makes a few appearances in the movie itself. National Audubon President David Yarnold describes its involvement this way: “Audubon served as a resource for the filmmakers, contributing both expertise and Audubon branded materials for set-dressing... After our exclusive preview, our take is that it's a positive, engaging look at birding and birders. It even

presents a fairly accurate version of Audubon's founding and its history. Clearly, it's not every day that a major film with high profile talent injects birds and birding into the pop culture mainstream. This is a rare opportunity to engage both current members and new audiences.”

### Our Local Birding “Scene”

Bodega Bay may not appear in the film, and it has just a cameo appearance in Obamscik's book in a chapter called, “Bodega Bluff.” Two competitors meet there to take a chartered boat out to sea, but

the boat can't leave because of high waves, and, naturally, the story digresses into a mini-review of that other famous film set in our area, *The Birds*. We know that Bodega Bay deserves better.

Although the search for rarities is inherent in a competitive “Big Year,” North Bay birders who are only looking for a good day outdoors and maybe one special sighting have no need to dash to far Alaskan islands and Florida swamps—Sonoma County and the Sonoma Coast are great birding spots. Local birders who like

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### OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING

#### “Saving Songbirds, One Bird at a Time”

Monday, October 17, 7:30 PM

First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa

Ever wonder what a wildlife rehabilitator does? Does rehabilitation really make a difference for wildlife? If you find an injured or ill bird, shouldn't you just “let nature take its course”?

Veronica Bowers of The Songbird Hospital in Sebastopol will answer these questions and more as she discusses her work saving native passersines through rehabilitation and release back to the wild. She'll share some of her favorite success stories—stories that demonstrate how wildlife rehabilitation really does make a difference, not just for an individual but sometimes for a population.

Veronica will also share some helpful tips that we can all use to support our songbirds by reducing negative impacts and providing habitat in our own backyards.

Veronica Bowers is a past president of Madrone Audubon and has been a wildlife rehabilitator for 15 years. She is the founder and director of The Songbird Hospital, an all-volunteer, nonprofit wildlife rehabilitation organization. When she's not caring for the sick and injured, she's out in the field learning as much as she can about these amazing and beautiful birds.

### COMING IN NOVEMBER

Christopher Calonje presents “Colombia and Its Birds: a Photographic Tour”



## 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.

### **Saturday, October 1, 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM**

**POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE.** Our always-exciting annual trip to the Point to search for fall migrants. Meet at 7:30 AM at the Petaluma Park-and-Ride (located at Highway 101 and Lakeville Highway just west of Highway 101) for carpooling or at the Whitehouse Pool parking lot, near the intersection of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and Bear Valley Road, at 8:00 AM. Bring a lunch; rain cancels. Leaders: Tom Cashman, 217-5103; and Bob Speckels, 569-0563; and Ken Wilson, 775-2558.

### **Wednesday, October 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. For information: Tom McCuller, sisypus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

### **Wednesday, October 5, 7:00 PM**

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

### **Saturday, October 8, 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.

### **Thursday, October 13, 8:30 AM to Noon**

**SHOLLENBERGER PARK.** Bird Walk. Half-day search for migrating birds at the Shollenberger Park ponds and wetlands in Petaluma. From Santa Rosa, take the Highway 116 exit (Lakeville Highway), go left under Highway 101, turn right at the South McDowell traffic light, proceed to the City Park sign and turn right into the park lot. Information: Tom McCuller, sisypus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

### **Saturday, October 15, 8:00 AM to Noon**

**SPRING LAKE REGIONAL PARK.** Come explore this jewel of Santa Rosa birding. Parking fee (\$6) for non-permit holders. From Summerfield Road in Santa Rosa, go east on Hoen Avenue, turn left on Newanga, turn right inside the park entrance gate, and meet in the parking lot near the restrooms at the top of the hill. Rain cancels. Leaders: Tom Cashman, 217-5103; Bill Doyle, 483-8773; and Bob Speckels, 569-0563.

### **Saturday, October 15, 10:00 AM**

**SHOLLENBERGER PARK.** Petaluma Wetlands Alliance leads two children/family nature walks. One-to-two hours, depending on the age of the 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.

### **Monday, October 17, 7:30 PM**

**GENERAL MEETING.** "Saving Songbirds, One Bird at a Time." Veronica Bowers of The Songbird Hospital will discuss her work saving native passersines through rehabilitation and release back to the wild. First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa. Please see the front page announcement. The public is always invited to attend these programs.

### **Wednesday, October 19, 8:30 AM to Noon**

**HUDEMAN SLOUGH WETLAND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT.** Bird Walk. We usually find a variety of raptors, shorebirds, and water birds at these ponds and wetlands in southeast Sonoma County. There are no restrooms at this facility. Meet in the project parking lot—from Petaluma and Sonoma, turn right from Highway 12/121 onto Ramal Road. Continue on Ramal Road 2.4 miles to the gravel project parking lot on the right. Information: Tom McCuller, sisypus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

### **Saturday, October 22, 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.

### **Thursday, October 27, 8:30 AM to Noon**

**SPRING LAKE REGIONAL PARK.** Bird Walk. Parking fee (\$6) for non-permit holders. From Summerfield Road in Santa Rosa, go east on Hoen Avenue, turn left on Newanga, turn right inside the park entrance gate, and meet in the parking lot near the restrooms at the top of the hill. Information: Tom McCuller, sisypus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

### **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), which is approximately three miles south of the Russian River on Highway 1. Bring a lunch. Information: Tom McCuller, sisypus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

### **Saturday, November 5, 8:00 AM to Noon**

**ELLIS CREEK WATER RECYCLING FACILITY.** Our newest field trip location, Ellis Creek provides easy, close-up views of its large, diverse bird population. From Highway 101 in Petaluma, go east on 116 (Lakeville Highway), and right on Pine View Way, then left on Cypress Drive. Go to the end of the road and through the gates. We will meet at the large signboard 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 Carrillo Street). Rain cancels. Leaders: Tom Cashman, 217-5103; Bill Doyle, 483-8773; and Bob Speckels, 569-0563.



## LOOKING AHEAD

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to chase after uncommon birds can stay close to home. Many Madrone Auduboners remember the winter that an Emperor Goose "posed" on the sandbars in Bodega Harbor as birders and photographers set up their scopes.

Fall migration is often when unusual birds pass through Sonoma County and Bodega Bay, as well as Point Reyes and Hawk Hill in Marin County. Diane Hichwa checked North Bay Birds (BirdingontheNet, with daily updates as reports come in) in mid-September. The following is a sampling of some species we don't usually see.

### Near Santa Rosa:

MacGillivray's Warbler at Spring Lake and Willowside Creek, also Yellow Warbler at Willowside Creek.

### On the Sonoma Coast:

Red-necked Phalaropes, Red Knot, Baird's Sandpiper, Pacific Golden-Plover at Bodega Bay;

American Redstart, Hermit, Nashville and Yellow Warblers at Bodega Bay's Owl Canyon;

### Willow Flycatcher in Campbell Cove:

Marbled Murrelet, and Sooty Shearwater off Bodega Head.

### Marin County:

Three Black Swifts and 26 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers migrating with the hawks at Hawk Hill;

Prairie and Peregrine Falcons, Buff-breasted, Pectoral and Stilt Sandpiper at Point Reyes.

Enjoy your fall birding AND the movie!

### Save the Date!

**The 2011 Christmas Bird Count will take place on January 1, 2012.**

**Watch for information in the November Leaves.**

## Paula Lane Open Space – Closer to Reality

By Susan Kirks

The planned 11.22-acre nature preserve on Paula Lane in West Petaluma is one step closer to reality. A purchase agreement negotiated between the City of Petaluma and property owners was recently submitted to the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District. Over the next few months, additional procedural steps will be completed at the District.

Paula Lane Action Network, a 501c3 conservation nonprofit, will partner with the City of Petaluma to implement and manage the open space project following acquisition. The Open Space District, in addition to providing funding for acquisition through the Matching Grant program, will place and hold a conservation easement in perpetuity. For over a century, this land has been active habitat for the American Badger and other upland wildlife. The land is centrally located in a movement corridor connecting Helen Putnam Regional Park south of Paula Lane to areas north and west. An avian survey conducted in 2003 documented approximately 100 resident and migratory species on Paula Lane.

The open space project is multifaceted, just like nature. In addition to protecting habitat and wildlife movement areas, public access via a trail with viewing area will be created, along with a sunset viewing area (sunsets are remarkable at this location!). Open classrooms for environmental education will be developed for several schools within walking distance of the land. Community volunteer days for habitat enhancement and restoration will be planned. And an area for community gardening and sustainable agriculture will be created, with the habitat-agriculture interface as an educational tool.

As a member of P.L.A.N., I'm grateful this important step has been completed. We appreciate those who have gone before to help projects like Paula Lane become possible. Without courageous

individuals and organizations, work like ours would not be possible. Joan Vilms of Santa Rosa has been supportive of the project since 2002. She has understood the importance of the American Badger to upland habitat areas, and has provided guidance and support. The Friends of Paulin Creek in Santa Rosa helped establish a precedent for smaller acreage open space protection through advocacy for the eight-acre Paulin Creek Matching Grant acquisition project in 2002. Madrone Audubon Society and the Petaluma Wetlands Alliance, with their educational, docent and habitat restoration programs, are exemplary in providing models for integrity, conservation and education.

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## MAS is a "Top Sponsor" of Audubon Adventures

Madrone Audubon ranked 6th nationally among Audubon Chapters in sponsoring the use of Audubon Adventures in Sonoma County schools in 2010-2011. Janeann Erikson reported at the August Board meeting that 92 of these resource kits for students in grades 3-5 were distributed locally last fall and spring. There were 20 "Top Sponsors", that is, chapters enrolling the magazines in over 50 classrooms. The first place was Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, with 130 classrooms.

Much credit for last year's success goes to Janeann, MAS Audubon Adventures chair, and also to Marcia Johnson. They took over and continued the work initiated by Phyllis Schmitt, who died unexpectedly last September.

Janeann and Marcia are hoping for a similar result this year. If you are a teacher, parent or friend of our local schools, you can help by sponsoring a classroom or giving them a school to contact. Every subscription to Audubon Adventure kits costs \$50. More information on the kits can be found on page 6 of the September issue of the *Leaves*.



## Bird Rescue Center News

*From Mary Ellen Rayner,  
Bird Rescue Center Executive Director*

Here at The Bird Rescue Center, the 2011 baby bird season is winding down, yet we are moving upwards in our resident raptor compound. Thanks to very generous contributions from two trust estates, we have been able to commence construction to replace some very old mews with new housing for our resident raptors. These resident birds play an important role as ambassadors to the public in our education program.

Even with all the construction activity, we remain open for our regular visitors' days, the first Saturday and third Sunday of every month from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. We also continue to provide field trips for the many scout troops, elementary schools and other organizations that request an introduction to wild birds and their importance to our environment. Please stop by, meet our ambassadors and view our progress.

The Bird Rescue Center is located at 3430 Chanate Road across from Sutter Hospital; you can visit the website at [www.birdrescuecenter.org](http://www.birdrescuecenter.org), or call 523-BIRD (2473).

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## Remembering David Yearsley

Longtime Madrone Audubon member David Yearsley passed away on September 5. He was a professional woodworker and a champion of many activities in support of the Petaluma River, its wetlands and its wildlife.

While living near the river in the mid-90s, David felt it was less appreciated than the Russian river and other parts of the Sonoma and Marin watershed, so he patrolled it weekly as the Petaluma Riverkeeper for the San Francisco Baykeeper program. He founded a non-profit organization, the Friends of the Petaluma River, and was a strong supporter of creating the wetlands that are today part of Petaluma's Ellis Creek wastewater treatment facility next to Shollenberger Park.

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Two years ago David Yearsley spearheaded the effort to establish the Petaluma River Heritage Center and helped organize events at the Center, such as the River Heritage Fair and the Rivertown Revival Festival. He also helped campaign to acquire the property for Tolay Lake Regional Park southeast of Petaluma.

He will be missed. His efforts have helped enhance many of the areas popular today with Sonoma County birders.

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## Notes on Ongoing Litigation

### Dutra Update

Madrone et al v. County of Sonoma, Dutra Group, Shamrock Materials: Briefs and Responses to Briefs are scheduled for filing September-November 2011. Case hearing scheduled in Sonoma County Superior Court with Judge Rene Chouteau December 9.

To help the Friends of Shollenberger Park legal defense fund: Please send a check of any amount for a tax-deductible donation to O.W.L. Foundation, 1390 N. McDowell Boulevard, Ste G306, Petaluma, CA 94954. Note "Shollenberger legal defense" on memo line.

### Roblar Rock Quarry and CARRQ

The Roblar Rock Quarry and open space CEQA lawsuits were discussed in a Case Management Conference in Superior Court in August. No hearing date for the CEQA lawsuit opposing the rock quarry was set at that time, but a time frame of early 2012 was discussed. In the interim, however, Judge Elliot Daum dismissed the CEQA open space mitigation lawsuit.

CARRQ et al filed the suit, putting forth that the mitigation decision by the Board of Directors was flawed, in that this decision related directly to the rock quarry project and should be subject to CEQA review. Judge Daum, on review, disagreed with the CARRQ position and dismissed the CEQA open space mitigation lawsuit. CARRQ et al may appeal this portion of

the legal challenge. The CEQA lawsuit related to the rock quarry project continues.

To help Citizens Advocating Roblar Rural Quality of Life (CARRQ): Please send a check of any amount for a tax-deductible donation to their umbrella fiscal organization, Paula Lane Action Network, P.O. Box 2903, Petaluma, CA. Note "CARRQ legal defense" on memo line.

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## Madrone Requests Review of Wind Energy Ordinance

*By Susan Kirks*

In June, our Wind Energy Committee submitted a letter with recommendations to David Hardy of Sonoma County's Permit and Resource Management Division (PRMD). Specific recommendations were made to amend Sonoma County's Zoning Regulations, Chap. 26, Article 88, Small Wind Energy Conversion Systems (WECS) - Ordinance No. 4973, 14, 1996.

Recommendations include environmental review pre-permit and installation, post installation environmental monitoring, siting away from ridgetops and sensitive environmental areas, prohibition of large wind energy systems, and giving incentives to small and medium wind energy systems with advanced and cost-effective technological designs more protective of wildlife. For a copy of our letter and recommendations, please send request to [susankirks@sbcglobal.net](mailto:susankirks@sbcglobal.net) or phone 773-3215.

With renewable energy a high priority for Sonoma County's conservation and energy future, the Madrone Audubon Board voted at our Annual Planning Meeting in August to re-name our Wind Energy Committee to Renewable Energy Committee. Any interested Friends of Madrone who would be interested in participating in our committee's work as needed are welcomed.

For updates on our progress with the wind energy ordinance amendment, please look for updates in future editions of the *Leaves*.



## Vaux Swifts at Rio Lindo Academy

Here's an interesting bit of follow-up data on this year's appearance of the Vaux Swifts at Rio Lindo Academy in Healdsburg. Brad Benson works at the Academy and volunteers at the Bird Rescue Center in Santa Rosa.

### Brad Benson writes:

Vaux's Swifts have been roosting in the Rio Lindo Academy chimney since 1989, the first year the boiler wasn't producing steam year round. The chimney is still used in the winter when the boiler generates heat for the school campus, but that is after the fall migration. The first small groups of migrating birds usually appear in mid-August. The numbers increase and generally peak between September 10 and 20. In an average year we'll see the count peak between 5,000 and 10,000 birds for a few evenings. The highest numbers that have been observed were in 2008 when for a couple of nights the estimate was near 20,000 birds. The lowest was in 2005; the highest count was only 300.

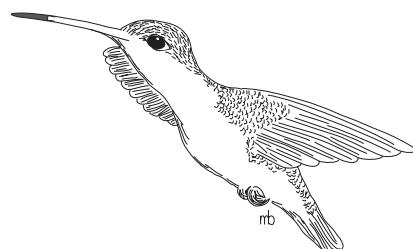
### Brad's 2011 Vaux's Swift Counts

He has been keeping a record on the swifts from the first arrivals on August 14 up until press time for the Leaves in September, 10 days later. About 50 birds arrived on August 15 and began to enter the chimney at 8:15 PM. Numbers increased, sometimes doubled each evening and the number had grown to approximately 6500 by September 11, when they began to enter the chimney at 7:08 PM. Sundown over the period went from 8:04 PM to 7:25 PM, with evening temperatures varying between 63 degrees to 76 degrees. A Cooper's Hawk appeared on the scene on August 24 and two Merlin's came to look around on September 10.

If the count is still on the Academy's website in October, you can see Brad's postings at [www.riolindo.org/](http://www.riolindo.org/) and click on "Vaux's Swifts in Rio Chimney."

## Check out Geek.com

Have you been wondering how hummingbirds make the sounds that accompany their mating rituals? We haven't really either, but Bryant Hichwa sent along this illustrated article that explains it.



<http://www.geek.com/articles/geek-cetera/how-hummingbirds-produce-fluttering-sound-during-elaborate-mating-rituals-20110910/>

Don't worry, they didn't put the hummers into the wind tunnel...

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## October Highlights

**Wednesday, October 26 from**

**7:00 to 8:45 PM**

### Valley of the Moon Nature Lecture

#### Hawks – Masters of Flight

*A Partnership with Sonoma County Regional Parks & Sonoma Birding*

Sonoma Veterans Memorial Building, 126 First Street West, Sonoma (new location). \$5.00 at the door.

Hawks have captured our imagination in ways that few other bird groups do. Easily seen, they push our primal poetic buttons. In this program Dick Ashford, President of the Klamath Bird Observatory, will help us examine the natural history of these fascinating creatures, including hunting behavior, courtship, and adaptations for survival.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The American Birding Association will be presenting the Ludlow Griscom Award to Tom Rusert at this lecture in Sonoma at 7:00 PM. See page four of the September *Leaves* for more information about Tom and this prestigious ornithology award. Congratulations again to Tom!

## Saturday, October 22, 9:00 AM to Noon Burrowing Owl Habitat Installation at the Baylands

You can be part of a regional effort to help lure the declining western Burrowing Owl back to Sonoma County for wintering protection and the long shot potential for breeding here. Moderately strenuous work will include digging with shovels and picks. Although the soils are hard, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has made the job easier by pre-drilling the center large burrows.



*Photo courtesy of Scott Artis*

Meet at the Sonoma Land Trust Baylands Center on the San Pablo National Wildlife Refuge at 2100 Highway 37 at 9:00 AM. It's the only cluster of buildings on the south side of Highway 37 between Lakeville Highway and Highway 121. Please arrive on time, as we will set out almost immediately. For more information contact Tom Rusert at [sonomanature@gmail.com](mailto:sonomanature@gmail.com) or phone 939-8007.

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## Tolay Fall Festival October 13-16 and 19-23

Tolay Lake Regional Park, end of Cannon Lane off Lakeville Highway

More popular than ever in its 6th year, the Tolay Fall Festival attracts people from around the region for family fun

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## OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

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on a spectacular 1,737-acre ranch outside Petaluma. This year's festival will provide 9 days of fun.

Over 15,000 people attended last year, delighting in the Native American Village with demonstrations, "From Earth to You" hands-on children's area & Kiddie Corral, Night Time Creatures Barn with Creepy Crawly Critters room, live animals, and nature hikes, all returning this year.

Take a free ranger-led hayride that even those in wheelchairs can enjoy. Pick your own pumpkin in our huge pumpkin patch. The harvest of fall goodness includes colorful gourds, mini-pumpkins, unusual squash, multi-colored corn and more! The World Record Pumpkin Seed-spitting Contest is open to all. Visitors can also sign up for an orientation to receive a Day Use Permit for the park.

The cost is \$6 for parking, \$3 for ages 13 and over, \$1 age 12 and under. Festival hours vary according to the day. For more information contact the Sonoma County Regional Parks.

### Welcome New Friends of Madrone Audubon Society

#### Petaluma

Dina Angress

#### Rohnert Park

Brenda Calligan and  
Dennis McCormack

#### Sausalito

Richard Pavek



**Three Saturdays: October 15 and 29,  
November 12**

**Half-day hikes from 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM**

### Guided Nature Walks at ACR's Bouverie Preserve in the Valley of the Moon

The Bouverie Preserve is beautiful in the fall. Trained docents lead small groups through the mixed evergreen forest, oak woodland and rugged chaparral. Reservations required; reservation information is at [www.egret.org/visit\\_bouverie](http://www.egret.org/visit_bouverie).

### Saturdays and Sundays in October Golden Gate Raptor Observatory

*(Note: Road construction has been completed, and Upper Conzelman Road and Hawk Hill are now open to the public.)*

Fall migration peaks over the Marin Headlands in the month of October. GGRO's mission is to study migrating birds of prey along the Pacific Coast and to promote public awareness of the state of raptor populations.

Hawk Talks and banding demonstrations normally occur every Saturday and Sunday during September and October, weather permitting (heavy fog or rain cancels). The Hawk Talk begins at noon—a volunteer introduces GGRO and talks about hawk migration and identification. At 1:00 PM, a banding volunteer brings up a newly banded hawk, explains the banding program, shows everyone the hawk, and lets it go in front of the crowd. It is a great way to learn about hawks and see one up close.

Check out the Daily Hawk Count and Hawkblog at [www.ggro.org/](http://www.ggro.org/).

**Saturday, October 8, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM**

### California Native Plant Society, Milo Baker Chapter

Santa Rosa Veterans' Memorial Building  
(across from the Fairgrounds)

Fall is planting time for natives! Our huge plant sale gives you a chance to purchase a variety of natives at a very reasonable price and to get expert advice on how to grow them.

Featuring:

- Trees, shrubs, perennials, bulbs, and a selection of native seeds
- Expert gardeners to answer questions
- Paintings and note cards
- Books (discount to members)
- Native plant posters
- T-shirts

### Mark your Calendars: 15th Central Valley Birding Symposium.

*November 17-20, at the Stockton Hilton Hotel*

Programs and field trips fill up fast at this event, which features a full set of engaging programs and bird-filled field trips. Keynote speakers are Ron LeValley, Ed Harper, John Sterling and Jeffery Gordon. You can register online at [www.cvbs.org/](http://www.cvbs.org/).

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### Volunteering at Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue

Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue is dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and release of sick, injured and orphaned wildlife and promotes understanding and appreciation of wildlife through our Education Outreach Program.

Volunteer trainings take place every 3rd month (January, April, July and October) on the second Saturday of those months from 10 am to Noon. You can get more information on these trainings and other volunteer programs at Wildlife Rescue by going to the website at [www.scwildliferescue.org](http://www.scwildliferescue.org) or by calling 992-0274. They ask that you call and sign up so that they know how many people to expect.

### Memorial Gifts

Charles Hughes,  
in memory of Simon



## Observations

Summer – Early Fall • Dan Nelson • 479-2918 • birdsurf64@sbcglobal.net

Pintail (several, first of fall)	9/2	Bolinas Lagoon, S. end	KH, DS
American Wigeon (1)	9/2	Bolinas Lagoon, S. end	KH, DS
Harlequin Duck	9/4	S. of Doran jetties	MH
Elegant Tern	6/29	Bodega Harbor (first for summer)	DN
Parasitic Jaeger	9/3	Off Bodega Head, chasing terns	DN
Sooty Shearwater (50-60)	9/3	Off Bodega Head	DN
Bald Eagle (1 ad., 1 imm.)	May	Bodega Harbor	M.Ob.
Merlin	9/2	Campbell Cove fly-by	RL
Peregrine Falcon (fem.)	8/25	"D" Street towers, downtown Petaluma	DN
Sooty Grouse	Aug.	King Ridge Road	JL
White-faced Ibis (1)	9/4	Abbott's Lagoon, Marin County (S. end)	BB
Black-crowned Night Heron	6/23	Brush Creek, Santa Rosa	KA
Western Sandpiper (90-100)	6/30	Westside Park, Bodega Bay, first fall migrants	DN
Pacific Golden-Plover (3)	8/24	Shollenberger Park	DN
Wandering Tattler (1)	9/4	American Canyon, at end of Napa River trail ( 1st record for Napa Co.)	MB
Pectoral Sandpiper (2)	8/31	Nicasio Reservoir, re-found	LK
Baird's Sandpiper (3)	9/4	Abbott's Lagoon	BB
Buff-breasted Sandpiper (1)	9/2	Abbott's Lagoon	BB et al
Lesser Yellowlegs (1)	9/1	Carmody Road pond	BB
Wilson's Phalarope (119)	9/2	Shollenberger Park, peak number date	PM & LB
Stilt Sandpiper (1)	9/4	Abbott's Lagoon, S. end	BB, et al
Belted Kingfisher	June	Thompson Creek, Westridge ( SW Petaluma)	MK
Pileated Woodpecker	7/10	Pine FlatRoad	J. Roberts
Pileated Woodpecker	June	Santa Rosa, Montecito Avenue near Zieber Lane	S. Gelber Black-chinned
Black-chinned Hummingbird	8/26	Bolinas Art Gallery feeders, possibly 2nd or 3rd individual for August.	KH
Willow Flycatcher (5)	9/1	Spring Lake area	BD
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	6/20	Bodega Marine Lab entrance road, at Bodega Head trail; nicely photographed	Jackie Sones
Magnolia Warbler	9/4	Moss Beach, Fitzgerald Marine Reserve trees	PM
Nashville Warbler	9/1	Owl Canyon, Bodega Bay	DN
Hermit Warbler	9/1	Owl Canyon	DN
Yellow-throated Warbler	9/5	San Francisco, S. end of Lake Merced	H. Cotter
American Redstart	8/30-9/4	Owl Canyon (adult male)	SC, DN, LK, et al
Yellow-headed Blackbird	9/5	"A" Ranch, Point Reyes	RH
Hooded Oriole (male)	8/27	Still present at residence, Paula Lane, Petaluma	DN
Lark Sparrow	9/2	Campbell Cove, Bodega Bay	RL
Grasshopper Sparrow (3)	5/14	Pepperwood preserve, Franz Valley Road (also present last year)	DB
Lazuli Bunting	May	Sonoma Vista Ranch, several breeding pairs	CB

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## Madrone Audubon Society

Post Office Box 1911

Santa Rosa, California 95402

October 2011

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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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