



# THE Clapper Rail

MARIN AUDUBON SOCIETY

**SPEAKER SERIES**

Free and Open to the public

Richardson Bay Audubon Center  
376 Greenwood Beach Road, Tiburon  
Information: 415/789-0703

**THURSDAY, JUNE 14 7:30 PM**

**Discovering and Conserving  
Bryan's Shearwater**

With Peter Pyle



Photo courtesy of Peter Pyle

**Bryan's Shearwater**

In 2011 a new species of bird, Bryan's Shearwater (*Puffinus bryani*), was described by Peter and colleagues at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, based on a specimen collected in February 1963 on Midway Atoll. During the winters of 1990-1991 and 1991-1992, a second Bryan's Shearwater was discovered calling in a rock crevice on Midway. Peter will present a history of the discovery of this new species along with updated information, will review potential at-sea records in the North Pacific, and will present recent exciting information on where Bryan's Shearwater colonies may exist.

**Peter Pyle** has been a full-time Biologist at the Institute for Bird Populations (IBP) since 2003 and from 1996 to 2003 split his time between IBP and the Point Reyes Bird Observatory. From 1985 until 2003 Peter was a biologist on the Farallon Islands. Before that he worked on various bird surveys including at-sea surveys and also on various bird banding projects. Among bird banders he is best known for his *Identification Guide to North American Birds* which includes detailed criteria for ageing and sexing all North American birds in the hand and the field.

*The Speaker Series will resume in the fall after a summer break*

## Hearing Set for San Rafael Airport Recreational Facility



Google Maps

**Aerial view showing location of the proposed San Rafael Airport Recreational Facility.**

The hearing date for the meeting to discuss the San Rafael Airport Recreational Facility, referred to as “merits of the project,” before the San Rafael Planning Commission has been rescheduled for May 29. Members of the public need to let the Commission know your view on whether the project should or should not be built. While MAS does not actually oppose many projects, our Board voted unanimously to oppose this one because of the many environmental impacts this project would cause.

The project consists of two outdoor soccer fields, (one lighted and one unlighted), a four-story gymnasium with two multi-purpose sport courts, locker and restrooms on the 71,300 square foot ground floor level. Other floors would include a viewing area, café, restrooms, sport shop, offices and meeting rooms.

There are many reasons oppose this massive project – view, traffic, pollution, safety and environmental impacts. The potential adverse environmental impacts are numerous. The project, and the multitude of people that would be attracted to the games, would disturb the adjacent tidal marsh and the species that depend on it. All of Gallinas Creek is Clapper Rail habitat; in fact, it has the largest population of endangered California Clapper Rails in the North Bay. Clapper Rails have been observed in the tidal marsh immediately

adjacent to the site. The almost constant presence of crowds of people, undoubtedly many with dogs, the increased noise, lights, and litter would adversely impact the rails and the many other species that depend on the Gallinas Creek tidal marshes.

The entire site is diked baylands, former tidal marsh. San Rafael general plan policies support protecting baylands. The EIR consultant claimed the policy does not apply because the site no longer has the functions and values of baylands. The policy does not require that wetland functions be currently present, and those functions could easily be restored as long as the project is not built.

Furthermore, the project, even with constant maintenance of the levees, would always be subject to flooding from sea level rise. The site has subsided and is only kept from flooding by the extensive levee system and pumps. We oppose developments in low-lying baylands. The safety risk related to possible plane collisions is also a concern.

We are not opposed to soccer fields, but we are opposed to building them on baylands in *continued on page 5*

**IN THIS ISSUE**

President's Message	2
Field Trips	3
Conservation Report	4
Birdlog	6

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

All phone numbers are in the 415 area code unless otherwise noted. Questions? Please contact the Board member.

President	Barbara Salzman 924-6057
Vice President	Lowell Sykes 388-2821
Secretary	Mariah Baird 456-3355
Treasurer	Josephine Kreider 381-1910
Finance Chair	Greg Block 479-8254
Conservation	Phil Peterson 898-8400 Barbara Salzman 924-6057
Earthshare	Jude Stalker 668-1242
Field Trips	Vicky Van Meter 299-2514
Membership	Ruth Pratt 453-2989
Fundraising	Flinn Moore Rauck 892-7554
Programs	Helen Lindqvist 789-0703
Special Projects	Jude Stalker 668-1242
Nominating	Martha Jarocki 461-3592
Editor, <i>The Clapper Rail</i>	Bob Hinz, 383-8688
Volunteer Coordinator	Cindy Fatura 815-8512
Property Management	Ed Nute 457-9241
Publicity	Martha Jarocki 461-3592
BAAC Recs	Lowell Sykes 388-2821 Barbara Salzman 924-6057

## DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Meetings open to members. If you wish to attend please call 924-6057.

7:30 PM, First Tuesday of the month  
Richardson Bay Audubon Center  
376 Greenwood Beach Road  
Tiburon, California 94920

**MAS telephone:** 721-4271 (for messages only)

Marin Audubon Society is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. All memberships and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

*The Clapper Rail* is published ten times a year by the Marin Audubon Society on 100% recycled paper. Edited by Bob Hinz rbrthnz@comcast.net, 383-8688; assisted by other members of MAS; and designed by www.studionacl.com. Deadline is the first of each month.

©2012 Marin Audubon Society

**Web site:** www.marinaudubon.org  
Northern Calif. Bird Box: 681-7422  
(Provided by Golden Gate AS)

Members can receive *The Clapper Rail* electronically instead of a hard copy by e-mailing joandbijou@sbcglobal.net

## DONATIONS APPRECIATED!

Marin Audubon Society welcomes gifts of funds, stock, or property, and bequests in general, or in honor or memory of someone. Gifts may be directed to any MAS project. Unspecified gifts of more than \$100 will be placed in the Endowment Fund for conservation, the protection of wildlife species and the preservation and enhancement of wildlife habitats. Since MAS is an all-volunteer organization, 100% of your donation goes to its projects. All gifts are tax-deductible and will be acknowledged in *The Clapper Rail*, as well as personally on behalf of the Society. Checks should be made out and mailed to: Marin Audubon Society, P.O. Box 599, Mill Valley, CA 94942.

## MISSION STATEMENT

To conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife and their habitats, for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Barbara Salzman

This will be your last issue of *The Clapper Rail* until September. We don't publish during July and August. You are encouraged to check our Web site from time to time for updates on important meetings and issues. These are likely to include the GGNRA Dog Plan and Regulations and progress of the ballot measure for Marin County Parks.

Applause and a very special thank you to all of our volunteers who worked so hard to bring off another very successful Mother's Day Barbecue. Chair Martha Jarocki did an exceptional job organizing and big thank yous to all her dedicated helpers.

You have, or will shortly be receiving, our Spring appeal letter seeking funding to help us maintain our properties. The 500+ acres we own are really owned by all of our members. Your donations are a critical part of our ability

to maintain and enhance the sites, so we hope you will give generously. This is one of only two appeals we do during the course of the year. The end-of-year letter is to support our general operations.

We welcome our returning Board members: Ed Nute, Phil Peterson, Helen Lindqvist, Cindy Fatura, and me. We look forward to a challenging and productive year. There are lots of opportunities to help MAS activities; just let us know if you have a bit of free time and what you like to do. E-mail Cindy Fatura.

Don't forget to limit tree and shrub trimming to protect nesting birds, leave nesting swallows alone and enjoy our summer breeding residents and visitors.

Hope you all had a great time at the Mother's Day BBQ.

Have a wonderful summer!

# Tips for Watching Wildlife

The California Department of Fish and Game has a great little hand-out about viewing wildlife responsibly. The following is adapted from, with some elaboration on, their recommendations for how to enjoy wildlife respectfully:

## DON'T GET TOO CLOSE

Stay far enough away so that you do not annoy, flush or come close enough to a bird or other wildlife that you cause it to stop the activity it is engaged in – feeding, resting, etc. Use binoculars and zoom lenses to view and photograph wildlife from a distance. You see more wildlife from a distance.

## DON'T TREAD ON ME

Walking, riding horses or biking off trails can disturb wildlife, kill vegetation, cause erosion, and injure animals we may not even see. Pets should be kept only in designated areas and leashed, quiet and under control.

## SILENCE IS GOLDEN

Moving and talking quietly will not only lessen your disturbance of wildlife, it will enable you to see more wildlife because they will not be frightened away.

## DON'T FEED THE BIRDS

Feeding wildlife, particularly feeding bread to water birds such as geese and ducks, can interrupt natural life cycles and result in unnaturally high populations which can create conditions for spread of diseases. Animals that become accustomed to or dependent on people

can be harmed in other less-friendly circumstances.

## KEEP YOUR HANDS TO YOURSELF

Attempting to touch a wild animal is dangerous for you and the animal. Young birds and other wildlife that are alone probably have not been abandoned and their parents are nearby.

## EVERYTHING IN ITS PLACE

Don't collect, relocate or handle wildlife or natural objects. Transporting animals, plants or fish from one site to another can disrupt the wildlife community and introduce predation, disease or competition.

## HIDE AND SEEK

Concealing yourself among plants, can prevent your being detected, but take care not to damage plant life. Use your vehicle as a blind on roads. Sometimes it is better to sit quietly and wait for wildlife to come to you.

## DON'T CALL US, WE'LL CALL YOU

Using recorded or hand calls to attract wildlife has been shown to cause undue stress on some species. It can interrupt courtship, nesting and feeding.

## DO UNTO OTHERS

Be considerate of other wildlife viewers and nearby landowners. Serve as a goodwill ambassador for other wildlife viewers. Obtain permission before entering private property and leave it undisturbed.

*continued on page 5*

## MAS FIELD TRIPS

Open to the public

No need to sign up for one day trips, just join us. Bring lunch, field guide, and binoculars. For information, accessibility and weather check: Vicky Van Meter, 415/299-2514, vicky.vanmeter@gmail.com

### LAS GALLINAS STORAGE PONDS SAN RAFAEL

Thursday, September 6, 2012

There will be no Marin Audubon-hosted walks at Las Gallinas during the summer months. Join us again on the first Thursday of September.

### ALCATRAZ SAN FRANCISCO

Tuesday, June 12, 2012

Boat leaves at 10 AM

Led by Alcatraz docents

Join us for a tour of the birds of Alcatraz. In early summer the "Rock" is an important breeding area for Western Gull, Cormorants, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Snowy Egret and other species. We will leave on the 10 AM boat from Pier 33 in San Francisco and be met by the island docents for a 1-2 hour tour to see the birds and learn about the interesting history and issues of the area. After the tour, participants can stay to tour the rest of the island and return on any boat they wish. Cost is \$20 per person for the ferry. The trip will be limited to 25. The Alcatraz paths and steps are steep and uneven in places. Please send a check with the name, e-mail address, and contact phone number of each participant to Marin Audubon, Box 599, Mill Valley, CA, 94942-0599. Please write "Alcatraz" on the envelope and check. Additional information will be sent before the trip.

### BREEDING BIRDS OF POINT REYES BEAR VALLEY VISITOR CENTER

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

9 AM to 4 PM

With David Wimpfheimer

Join us as we enjoy a day of birding to focus on the breeding birds of forest, wetlands, coastal scrub and ocean habitats. Weather conditions and recent sightings will determine the exact sites we visit. Vocalizations of breeding warblers, woodpeckers, flycatchers, thrushes and other species will also be covered.

**DIRECTIONS:** From Point Reyes Station, go south on Hwy. 1 about 2.5 miles. Look for a brown "Point Reyes National Seashore" sign just beyond the Olema RV Resort & Campground. If you get to a flashing red light, you've gone 100 yards too far. Turn right onto Bear Valley Road and head west about one-half mile. Look for a big red barn on the left and a sign for "Visitor Center" on the right. Meet at the bathrooms at the far end of the parking lot opposite the Bear Valley Visitor Center.

### FARALLON ISLANDS BOAT TRIP CLIPPER YACHT HARBOR, SAUSALITO

Sunday, September 2, 2012

(Labor Day weekend)

7:30 AM to 4 PM

With David Wimpfheimer

Join us for our fifth annual day of seabird and marine mammal watching as we head out to the Farallon Islands and offshore waters. The outing will be led by naturalist David Wimpfheimer aboard Jim Robertson's power catamaran *Outer Limits*. On past trips more than fourteen pelagic bird species, including albatross, shearwaters and auklets have been sighted, as well as many sea lions, porpoises, dolphins and whales. We will get an up close look at the islands and learn about their interesting natural and human history. This is a trip that both experienced and first-time birders and nature lovers will enjoy.

The cost will be \$110 per person. To register, please send a check to Marin Audubon at Box 599, Mill Valley, CA, 94942. Include the name, e-mail address and contact phone number of each participant. There is always a chance the trip may need to be rescheduled at the last minute due to sea conditions, so we need to be able to reach participants. We will send an e-mail to participants a few days before the trip. Write "Farallons" on the envelope and check. Please sign up early, as we will limit the number of participants to make for a comfortable trip. Be prepared for any kind of weather with layered clothing. Rain jacket and pants are essential no matter what the weather on shore. Take seasick medication if needed. Bring lunch, snacks, water and plenty of sunscreen.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take Hwy. 101 to the Marin City/Sausalito exit, head south on Bridgeway, take a left on Harbor Drive and proceed to the parking area at the end. We will meet on the south side of the parking lot to check in before boarding.

### MONTEREY BAY PELAGIC BIRDING WEEKEND

Saturday-Sunday, October 6-7

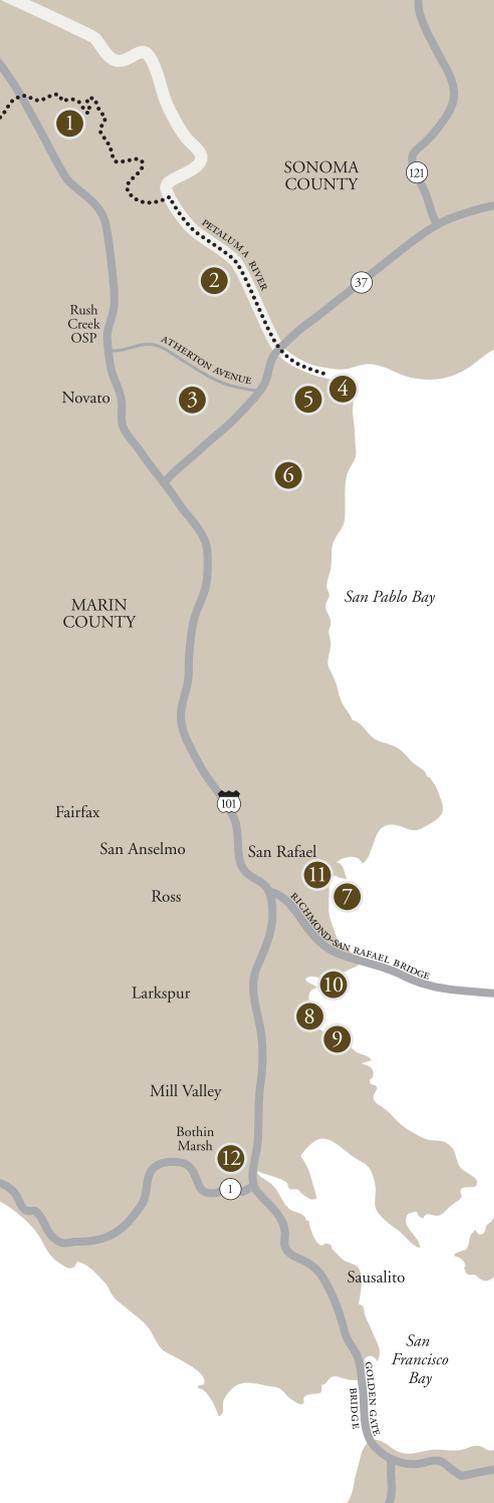
With Terry Colborn

Terry Colborn is leading a weekend birding trip for us to the Monterey Bay area, October 6-7, 2012, during the peak of fall migration. The weekend will feature a pelagic trip on Saturday with Monterey Seabirding ([www.montereyseabirding.com](http://www.montereyseabirding.com)), and land birding on Sunday.

The pelagic trip, \$95/person, is limited to 25 participants. Sign-ups will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis beginning March 1. This trip will fill up very quickly. Make your check payable to Terry Colborn and mail to: 1714 Magnolia Place, Davis, CA 95618. Include each participant's full name, address, cell phone number and e-mail. Your payment in full is your reservation. More details about the trip can be found at [www.marinaudubon.org](http://www.marinaudubon.org). For questions, contact Terry at [tlcfdc@aol.com](mailto:tlcfdc@aol.com), or by phone: 916/705-8991.

# CONSERVATION

Marin Audubon Conservation Committee reviews critical issues related to wildlife habitats and comments to cities, agencies, and other jurisdictions. To attend, phone Barbara Salzman at 415/924-6057.



## COUNTY WEIGHING BALLOT MEASURE FOR PARKS

MAS has joined five other environmental organizations to request the Board of Supervisors to schedule a hearing to discuss placing a ballot measure to support open space on the November ballot. The recently renamed Marin County Parks (MCP) department (formerly Parks and Open Space) is considering a one-eighth percent sales tax that would fund agricultural easements and the Marin County Parks department, with a percentage to cities for their parks.

There is no doubt that MCP badly needs funding. There has been no dedicated funding for the department in 40 years. What the MCP would use money for is unclear, however. We want a reasonable amount of the funds raised to protect and acquire baylands and other natural habitats, not to support activities that have the potential to harm environmental resources.

The MCP has identified types of activities and projects needing funding:

- **Environmental Maintenance** – including road and trail maintenance, park repairs and improvements, stewardship and enforcement, vegetation management and fuel reduction, Bolinas Lagoon restoration, Bay wetlands restoration at McInnis Park;
- **Healthy Parks and People** – a bike park at Stafford Lake, athletic fields and a dog park at McInnis, community parks, and environmental education and interpretive programs; and
- **Preservation** – land acquisition for parks and open space and to preserve productive farmland.

An expenditure plan, which is yet to be prepared, will specify how the money raised will be spent. A preliminary proposal is for 20% of the funding raised to be allocated to agricultural easements, 1 or 2 percent to cities to be used as they wish, and the rest for the uses mentioned in the paragraph above. As you notice, MCP needs are simply listed, raising concerns about priorities. With such a listing, we are concerned that acquisition and habitat protection might not be funded at all.

Sometimes the criticism is put forward, that the department can't take care of what it has so why buy more? The answer is that while maintenance may be important, when lands are lost to development they are lost forever. If specific funding is not earmarked to protect the

natural resources that are at risk, these could be lost. We will be working to assure that there is a reasonable allocation for bayland acquisition and habitat protection.

## LOCAL COASTAL PLAN UPDATE

The Marin Board of Supervisors held two workshops on the Local Coastal Plan (LCP) after the Planning Commission approved the plan in February. At those workshops, the supervisors heard public testimony and expressed their own views and concerns. Various supervisors expressed concern about the wetlands, stream, wind energy, and water quality policies, consistency with the Countywide Plan, conflicts with the Coastal Commission staff, and duplication of the regulation of other agencies.

MAS submitted a letter and testified at the workshops objecting to some proposed policies that would damage and destroy habitats. We also proposed language that would protect the natural resources. Our recommendations included:

- *Prohibit grazing in wetlands other than for the purpose of removing invasive plants and allowing native plants to thrive.* The current policy would allow grazing in wetlands if the ranchers prepared a Water Quality Plan or partnered with one of several agricultural-support organizations. We pointed out that grazing cattle destroy wetland vegetation and trample plants. Neither a Water Quality Plan nor partnering with organizations would assure wetland protection.
- *Keep flood control and water supply facilities away from streams and stream buffers.* The current policy would allow construction of both of these types of facilities in streams and their buffers.
- *Prohibit public access paths in stream buffers.* A proposed current stream policy would allow public access paths to be located in stream buffers. Just because there may be some trails in buffers now, does not mean we should build more in these sensitive locations. One supervisor did not believe it was appropriate to prohibit trails in buffer zones because there are already trails there. That does not mean it is acceptable to build even more trails in buffer zones. Rather, we should avoid these impacts, now that we know better.
- *Comply with the state of California's longstanding "No Net Loss" of wetlands policy by changing the proposed LCP policy that allows*

### MARIN AUDUBON PROPERTIES

1. Petaluma Marsh	180 acres
2. Bahia	60 acres
3. Simmons Slough	162 acres
4. Norton Avenue Pond	4 parcels
5. Black Point Parcels	2 parcels
6. Arroyo San Jose	2 parcels
7. Tidelands at Murphy's Rock	34 acres
8. Corte Madera Marsh	1.8 acres
9. Triangle Marsh	31 acres
10. San Clemente Creek	4.34 acres
11. Tiscornia Marsh	20 acres
12. Arroyo Corte Madera del Presidio	2 acres

the filling of wetlands to be mitigated by purchasing existing wetlands. This would result in a net loss of wetlands. Wetland mitigation should ensure that new wetlands be restored or created whenever wetland loss is impossible to avoid.

MAS and other environmental organizations have been meeting with Marin County Planning staff to reach some accord over these and other proposed LCP policies. We understand County staff is also meeting with ranchers.

The Coastal Commission staff person who

has been in charge of the Marin LCP has recently left that position. The next hearings are scheduled for August 7 and September 18. Additional hearings will be scheduled if needed.

**How you can help:** Attend one of the scheduled hearings. Hearings will likely be in the afternoon. Call ahead to verify date and time. Or send an e-mail or a letter of support for adequately protecting streams and wetlands; keeping trails out of wetland and stream buffers; and requiring adequate mitigation for any unavoidable loss of wetlands.

## Recreational Facility

*continued from page 1*

this location and any other bayland location, particularly those where Clapper Rails could be adversely affected. We have already lost significant bayland habitat to such uses – fields in Larkspur, Mill Valley and Corte Madera to name just a few. It is time to stop.

**How you can help:** MAS urges all members, particularly San Rafael residents, to send an e-mail to the city opposing the project for any one or more of the reasons stated above. You can also write a letter or, better yet, appear at the hearing and express your views. City of San Rafael, P.O. Box 151560, San Rafael, 94915, 1400 Fifth Avenue, San Rafael, 94901. Project Planner – Kraig Tambornini e-mail: kraig.tambornini@cityofsanrafael.org.

## Wipe Out! Ferrari Lands in the Bay

By Jude Stalker



Photo courtesy of Jude Stalker

**A brand new Ferrari cooling its wheels in Richardson Bay.**

The Saturday May 5th restoration work day along the Strawberry Shoreline (Seminary Drive) started off like many other MAS restoration days; a friendly group of volunteers assembled in fabulous weather in a beautiful location. We had begun removing the wetland plant, invasive sea lavender, which we had come to conquer, were chatting amongst ourselves and were enjoying the calmness of Richardson Bay.

Within an instant, the entire scene changed to one of sheer panic, a mad scramble of volunteers as a speeding white Ferrari screamed around the bend, went over the embankment, flew through the project site and landed in the Bay.

The casualties included damage to two parked cars, one bicycle and a garden trowel but miraculously everyone there, including the Ferrari salesman and the test driver, escaped injury. Many people gathered (by land and by watercraft) to get a look at the unbelievable spectacle of a brand new Ferrari sitting in the Bay.

Many local residents say that cars are often seen speeding along this stretch of Seminary Drive and that it is a popular test-drive route used by the local Ferrari and Porsche dealers. Perhaps this isn't the best place for them to do this.

We always do our best to arrange for a pleasurable, safe experience for all of the wonderful

volunteers that come to help us with our work, but can never anticipate the unforeseen surprises that may present themselves throughout the day. We have had coyote sightings, sudden hailstorms, amazing rainbow displays and more, but never have we experienced such an astonishing and harrowing event as we did on that day.

We did not complete our work there, but will reschedule the project and continue to monitor and remove the invasive sea lavender. The project of removing this plant is in partnership with the Bay Area Early Detection Network (BAEDN) and the Marin County Open Space District which owns the property. BAEDN is an organization that coordinates early detection and rapid response to infestations of invasive plants.

This highly invasive wetland plant is known to be growing in only three Marin County locations and threatens the survival of the native sea lavender and other wetland plant species. MAS has been working with BAEDN and our volunteers to eradicate this plant from Marin and to prevent it from spreading to other areas.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who were there that day for your help, quick thinking and courage. We hope to see you out there again.

For more information on the Bay Area Early Detection Network, please visit [www.baedn.org](http://www.baedn.org).

## Wildlife Watching Tips

*continued from page 2*

### DO YOUR HOMEWORK

Prepare for viewing wildlife by glancing through field guides and reading up on the wildlife. Knowing about the behavior and needs of animals will make spotting and identifying them easier and will also help you to avoid disturbing them.

Always consider the effects of your presence and your actions – there is often a fine line between viewing and damaging the natural world. Irresponsible wildlife viewing can threaten the very wildlife that you are trying to see, that we all enjoy, and that are essential parts of our native ecosystems.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Our wholehearted congratulations to long-time environmental activist, Florence LaRiviere, founder of the Citizen's Committee to Save the Refuge, for receiving this Year's National Wetlands Award. Florence has been a motivating force for protection of many South Bay wetlands. Barbara Salzman also received this award in 2004.

## HABITAT STEWARDSHIP

### HABITAT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Harding grass, star thistle and bull thistle will be our major summer targets, but we can't forget fennel. Most radishes and Italian thistles that have survived our early season work have produced seed by now. Perennial pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*) is highly invasive and practically impossible to control by mechanical means, but we can remove the flowers. Unfortunately it spreads primarily underground. Join us on a work day. You would make a difference.

We have the tools, gloves and snacks. We generally work until about 1 PM, but even an hour is valuable help. Everyone is welcome. Steady rain cancels; it could happen!

### VOLUNTEER WORK DAYS

#### Triangle Marsh, Corte Madera:

First Saturdays: June 2, July 7, August 4

Meet at 10 AM on Paradise Drive directly across from the main Ring Mountain trailhead.

#### Bahia, Novato:

Second Saturdays: June 9, July 14, August 11

Meet at 10 AM at the end of Topaz Dr. near Bolero Court and the tennis courts.

If you would like to help, please contact Bob Hinz at rbrthnz@comcast.net or 415/383-8688.

### PREVENTING BIRD STRIKES

Do birds strike your windows? Such collisions kill millions of birds each year. There quite a number of methods, commercial and otherwise, to prevent them. A very simple non-commercial idea, stringing feathers with monofilament line across windows or glass doors, can be found on this Web page of the Northeastern Wisconsin Audubon Society: <http://newiaudubon.org/#Second>.

Or for another device see this Web site: <http://stores.santarosanational.com/StoreFront.bok>

### eBIRD.ORG

It's for travelers, too. Check the eBird records to see where to find your target birds when you are going out of town or even out of the country. Of course, submit your observations, too.

Our volunteers continue to remove invasives at Bahia and Triangle Marshes. We're also busy figuring out what we want to plant and ordering native species for our planting next year at Bahia, Petaluma Marsh and our Simmons Slough properties.

We are also working on an easement agreement between MAS and Marin County for this 19-acre property at the corner of Olive and Atherton Avenues. Marin County Open Space District provided some funding which, along with major funding from the State Coastal Conservancy, enabled the purchase of this diked bayland site. Our agreement included a commitment to donate the property

to the Open Space District after we completed the habitat restoration project. We restored marsh last summer and have done some follow up removal of broom this year. The property is part of the Simmons Slough system. Simmons Slough is an historic tidal slough with fresh water input from the hills above Olive and Atherton Avenues. It flows through our historic baylands, the Novato Sanitary District property, under Highway 37 and empties into Novato Creek.

We're sending out a flyer to the Paradise Drive neighborhood for our June 5 Triangle Marsh work day. We are looking to remove Harding grass and perhaps fennel.

## MARIN BIRDLOG – APRIL 2012

By Rich Stallcup



### Northern Gannet

4/19 (DD) and 4/25 (JM) was certainly a passing spring migrant but it's anybody's guess what the **Pileated Woodpecker** was up to at Rodeo Lagoon 4/14 (WL) where there is zero appropriate habitat.

The only **Yellow Warbler** known to be on territory in Marin was back at the NE corner of Nicasio Reservoir 4/12 (BB). **Hooded Orioles** arrived at Bolinas 4/2 (RD, KH) ten days before they were reported from the east side of the county.

While some species of birds may be revising their departure dates because of climate change, sparrows are sticking to traditional schedules. Most migratory juncos and *pugetensis* White-crowned Sparrows were gone by April 20, Fox and Lincoln's by the 24th and *gambelii* White-crowns by the April 27. As I have said for decades, you will still have a few Golden-crowned Sparrows and maybe a White-throated on April 29 but none on May first. It was all true again this spring.

The most astounding extralimital bird record here in years was that of a **Northern Gannet** photo-documented at southeast Farallon Island 4/23 (PRBO, PW). Not only was it the first of its species found in Bay Area waters but was new to California and the entire Pacific Ocean!

Provenance speculation ranged from: "it came around Tierra del Fuego," "through the Panama Canal riding on a boat," and "it was blown across Mexico," but NO! With a recent record or two from northeast Alaska we can strongly suspect that gannets are travelling over mostly ice free water from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Might they eventually colonize some north Pacific island or sea stack? Might some north Atlantic Alcids show presence in the north Pacific? Dovekie? Razorbill? Puffin?

A *very* recently fledged **Golden Eagle** towering over White House Pool 4/7 (RS, HC, RC) was, of course, feather perfect!

A single **Lewis's Woodpecker** along Bear Valley Road



### Hooded Oriole

**OBSERVERS:** Sara Acosta, Bob Battagin, Heather Cameron, Rigdon Currie, Dave DeSante, Ryan Digaudio, Keith Hansen, William Legge, Jeff Miller, PRBO Conservation Science, Maggie Rufo, Rich Stallcup, Pete Warzybok

# Mother's Day BBQ No. 49

By Martha Jarocki

Mother's Day dawned a foggy soup at Audubon Canyon Ranch, but the weather didn't prevent nearly 300 people from turning out for the BBQ. We had a new chicken provider, West Marin caterer Pam Ferrari, and the food was dubbed best ever.

After lunch the crowd lounged around under the apple trees, took up Wendy Dreskin's offer of a nature walk or wandered over to the next canyon, the Martin Griffin Preserve, to ogle the active heron nests. The rest of us drank lots of coffee and ate ice cream sandwiches and blondies. Parking, with the large crowd, was not easy. Next year we vow to make improvements.

Funds raised at the event are divided between Marin Audubon and Audubon Canyon Ranch. Its success depends upon donations from many Marin and Sonoma businesses. We are grateful to these local sponsors and urge you to extend our thanks the next time you patronize any of these vendors: Bovine Bakery, Brickmaiden Breads, Clover Stornetta Dairy, Don & Sons, Judy's Breadsticks, Lagunitas Brewing Co.,

Moylan's, Ravenswood, Redwood Empire Disposal/North Bay Corp; Safeway, Sloat Garden Center, Mill Valley; Sunnyside Nursery, Trader Joe's, United Markets, West Marin Community Services & Whole Foods Markets (San Rafael and Mill Valley).

Volunteers are the other half of the equation that pulls off the BBQ each year. Here are the volunteers that made it all happen this year: Oudi Baavour, Mariah Baird, Greg Block, Linda Cassidy, John Charckon, Mary Anne Cowperthwaite, Wendy Dreskin, Heather Foote, Dave & Garth Herrema, Bob Hinz, Luanna Helfman, Jo Kreider, Helen & Bill Lindqvist, Linda Nicoletto, Ed Nute, Ruth Pratt, Katie, Flinn & John Moore Rauck, Kathy & Katy Runeyon, Barbara & Jay Salzman, Carol & Jude Stalker, Lowell Sykes, Vicky Van Meter.

Next year, our Mother's Day BBQ will turn 50. We hope to make it a grand celebration. If you have old photos or memories, please send them along.



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Mary Abbott, Mark Bewsher, Ava Jean Brumbaum, Carlo Casagrande, Olive F. Cook, Lauri Corrigan, Janine DeMartini, Rowena Demayo, Skag Dukkers, Susan Fisher, Alexandra Freeman, Ana Garcia, Glenn Hopkins, Catherine Houghton, Richard Jennings, Judith Klein, Naomi Le Beau, Carol Luther, Robert Maucel, Frances & John Morse, Audrey Newman, Cherry Noble, Samuel W. Parke, Armando Quintero, Brian Racette, E. Rodgers, Richard F. Ruben, Zina R. Russell, Linda Sampson, Thomas A. Schmidt, Elisa Smith, Christine Snyder, Charles F. Stauffacher Jr, Melanie Stoll, Lamorna B. Swigart, Anna Tom, Everett Witzel, Karen Wright.

## THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR DONATIONS:

Anonymous, Janet & Louis Baesel, Rick Johnson & Maria Straatmann, Frances & John Morse, Barbara Munden, Benjamin Negrete & Victoria Fernandez, PG&E Corporation Foundation (donor match), PG&E Corporation Foundation (Campaign for the Community), Sheila Regnart, Jack, Edward & Daniel Williamson (Norton Pond)

## THANKS TO OUR MAS VOLUNTEERS:

Debbie Ablin, Cristine Albert, Martin Chourre, Bob Hinz, Candace Knodel, Michael Linvill, Prem McMurdo, Linda Nicoletto, Gina Rieser, Sara Sanchez, Jude Stalker, Lowell Sykes, Kiara Wade

## GOVERNOR MAKES STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Governor Brown has made two appointments to the State Water Resources Control Board, the agency that regulates water quality and water rights through the state:

Steve Moore – former San Francisco Bay Regional Board staff, current Board Member of the San Francisco Bay Regional Board and engineer with Nute Engineering.

Felicia Marcus – former USEPA Regional Director, executive vice-president for the Trust for Public Lands, and Western Director for Natural Resource Defense Council.

Steve and Felicia will join former National Audubon staff, Fran Spivey-Weber on the Board. With these appointments, things are looking up. Maybe there is hope for California's water problems yet



# THE Clapper Rail

MARIN AUDUBON SOCIETY

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
SAN RAFAEL, CA  
PERMIT NO. 87

Box 599 | MILL VALLEY, CA 94942-0599

Return Service Requested

Time Value

## SAVE THE DATE

- June 12 **Field Trip:** Birds of Alcatraz
- June 15-17 **Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua**  
Lee Vining  
www.birdchautauqua.org
- June 19 **Field Trip:** Breeding Birds of Point Reyes  
With David Herlocker
- Sept. 13-16 **Monterey Bay Birding Festival**  
Watsonville  
montereybaybirding.org/index.html, 831-726-8052
- October 6-7 **Field Trip:** Monterey Bay Pelagic Birding Weekend  
With Terry Colborn

Printed on 100% recycled paper

## SUPPORT MARIN AUDUBON SOCIETY

The success of Marin Audubon Society's (MAS) work depends greatly on its chapter supporting members. We work collaboratively with the National Audubon Society (NAS) on issues of mutual concern, but very little of our funding comes from NAS. MAS relies on local support for our habitat protection efforts, conservation advocacy, birding field trips, educational speakers series, and publication of *The Clapper Rail*, which you will receive as a MAS member. To better ensure we can continue our programs on the local level, MAS offers a separate chapter membership. Your membership in MAS will help us protect local habitats, resident and migratory birds and provide you with educational and enjoyable programs as well.

If you are not already a chapter supporting member, we urge you to join MAS and urge your friends, neighbors, relatives to join us, too.

You can also join or make a donation on our Web site using your credit card or PayPal. Please go to [www.marinaudubon.org](http://www.marinaudubon.org).

## JOINT NAS-MAS MEMBERSHIP

A National Audubon Society Membership is a joint membership with National and the chapter. With this joint membership, you will receive our newsletter and other chapter benefits, however, MAS receives no portion of your National Audubon Membership dues. We receive a fixed amount based on our 2001 membership. We will receive, however, a portion of any new memberships that are generated by MAS, the local chapter. So we request that you send all checks for new National memberships to: Marin Audubon Society, P.O. Box 599, Mill Valley, CA 94942.

For NAS membership renewals, send your check directly to NAS.

## Join or Donate to the Marin Audubon Society

Please fill in this form and mail to the address below. If you are paying by check, please make it payable to **Marin Audubon Society**. For more information, please contact Ruth Pratt, Membership Chair at 415/453-2989.

- Enroll me as a Chapter Supporting Member
- Renewal
- New Member
- \$1,000 Benefactor
- \$500 Patron
- \$100 Sustaining
- \$50 Sponsor
- \$25 Basic
- Please accept my donation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Master Card
- Visa

Fill out form and mail to:  
**Membership Secretary**  
**Marin Audubon Society**  
**P.O. Box 599**  
**Mill Valley, CA 94942**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

This is a Gift Membership from: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me *The Clapper Rail* by e-mail only.

### PAYMENT BY CREDIT CARD:

NAME ON CREDIT CARD \_\_\_\_\_

CREDIT CARD NO. \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_