



# THE Clapper Rail

MARIN AUDUBON SOCIETY

**SPEAKER SERIES**

*Free and Open to the public*

Richardson Bay Audubon Center  
376 Greenwood Beach Road  
Tiburon, California 94920  
Information: 415/789-0703

This year our program is on the **FIRST THURSDAY** of the month at 7:30 pm instead of 8:00 pm. Mark your calendar now!

Because the first Thursday of September falls before Labor Day, there will be no September speaker.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7 7:30 PM**

**Bird Photos Through Your Scope or Digiscoping Birds**

*With Len Blumin*



Photo courtesy of Len Blumin

**Black-necked Stilt**

This program will introduce the subject of DIGISCOPING, which refers to taking photos using a conventional spotting scope and a simple digital camera. Len Blumin will discuss the technical aspects of photography through a scope, with an emphasis on taking photos of birds in their natural environments. Many photos will be included, along with a simple demonstration of the technique.

Len is a retired physician who now enjoys birding along with his wife Patti. He has helped with the Christmas Bird Count for many years and has been leading the first Thursday MAS walk at the Las Gallinas treatment ponds for the past year.

Come at 7:15 pm to socialize accompanied by refreshments and stay to enjoy this informative presentation replete with beautiful bird photos!

**Watch Your Mail!**

Marin Audubon Society is thrilled to be sponsoring a September event to support our acquisition of the Mira Monte property. The event is being organized by Marin Baylands Advocates, the group for which Marin Audubon serves as fiscal sponsor. Please look for the invitation from MBA in your mail. We hope you will join us!

## Marin Audubon Society Names Jude Stalker Volunteer of the Year



Photo courtesy of Bob Chitlers

with their planting. Concerned that we would not have the Mother's Day Barbecue when no one volunteered to chair the event, Jude stepped up. Thanks to her, the event was a huge success.

Moreover, Jude has been our representative at the monthly workdays at Bahia with volunteers from the Center for Volunteer and Non-profit Leadership. Jude always gives a wonderful presentation

**O**ur Volunteer of the Year for 2009-10 is Marin Audubon Society's board member, Jude Stalker. Jude has been a lifesaver for us this year. To ensure monitoring protocols were right for our site conditions at Bahia, she volunteered to help develop the regional monitoring protocol for revegetation projects in the Bay Area, working with the San Francisco Estuary Institute and Save the Bay. She did such a good job that she and MAS have been credited on the protocols, and Jude is now on the monitoring team. She, with help from last year's Volunteer of the Year, Lowell Sykes, went on to monitor the rhizomes we planted at Bahia, and has been a huge help

and works right along with volunteers. She also takes spectacular pictures, which you often see in our publications. In addition, Jude has been MAS's representative to Earthshare.

Jude has done all of this while holding a full time job with the Invasive Spartina Project. To top it off, she is an unfailing advocate for wildlife.

Thank you, Jude, for being such an important part of MAS's success.

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## 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	Helen Lindqvist 789-0703
Membership	Mary Nealon 233-6602
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Programs	Helen Lindqvist 789-0703
Special Projects	Jude Stalker 668-1242
Nominating	Phil Peterson 898-8400
Volunteers	Bob Hinz 383-8688
Property Management	Ed Nute 457-9241
Publicity	Martha Jarocki 461-3592
BAAC Reps	Lowell Sykes 388-2821 Barbara Salzman 924-6057

## DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Meetings open to members.  
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; and assisted by other members of MAS. Deadline is the first of each month.

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

## 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

The Marin Audubon Board is pleased to present our Annual Report in this issue of *The Clapper Rail*. We are proud of our work and our many accomplishments – all made possible through the dedication of our board, many other volunteers and, you, our many supporters. As you can see, we have been strong advocates for habitat and have been working on planning and implementing on-the-ground habitat restorations, acquiring baylands, and enhancing habitats on our properties.

As we begin our new fiscal year, we know there will be many challenges ahead – the most looming is raising sufficient funds to purchase Mira Monte.

There will be a few changes. As noted last issue, we welcome two new board members: our new publicity chair, Martha Jarocki, and fund-raising chair, Flinn Moore Rauck. Helen Lindqvist will be in charge of our Speaker Series. On the national scene, National Audubon has just hired a

new president and CEO, David Yarnold, who is currently Executive Director of the Environmental Defense Fund and President of its Environmental Defense Action Fund. Prior to that he was a Pulitzer Prize winning editor at the *San Jose Mercury News*.

Also, we will be trying a new day for our speaker programs. They will be presented on Thursdays instead of Fridays in October and November. Let us know how you like the change through our Web site or by phone.

Wendy Feltham will again chair our "Birdseed Sale" in October. Sign up for this high quality birdseed using the form below.

Our volunteer opportunities continue. We need a coordinator for the Southern Marin Christmas Bird Count. And we are still looking for a volunteer coordinator to help us get better organized with our volunteer program.

I hope everyone is still having a wonderful summer. We look forward to seeing you all in the fall.

## MARIN AUDUBON SOCIETY'S 25TH ANNUAL BIRDSEED SALE

# Treat the Birds! Saturday, October 9, 2010

It's that time of year again when sparrows, titmice, siskins and other hungry winter visitors return to Marin and will be looking for handouts at your feeders. Don't disappoint them! Our birdseed is the finest quality to which our Marin County feathered friends have become accustomed. Order your seeds now, and celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Birdseed sale! All profits from this sale go to support Marin Audubon Society's programs!

## SEED MIXES AVAILABLE

**Wildbird Audubon Mix:** Blended specially for us to attract Bay Area songbirds. It contains only red and white millet together with black oil sunflower seeds; no wasteful fillers.

**Wildbird Premium Mix:** For birds that prefer a pure red and white millet mixture without sunflower seeds.

**Black Oil Sunflower Seeds:** This is a favorite of chickadees, nuthatches, titmice, finches, and many others. If you want a variety at your feeder, this is the seed for you.

**Nyjer Thistle:** This minute seed, which is rich in nourishing oil, is very appealing to smaller birds, but unattractive to larger birds and squirrels. It is imported from India and is 98% pure. For the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bird seed sale, we are offering a 20-lb. bag for the first time.

TO ORDER: Fill out the order form on right. All prices include California sales tax. Enclose a check for the total amount of purchase made out to Marin Audubon Society and send with a self-addressed stamped envelope to SEED SALE, c/o Wendy Feltham, 49 Oak Springs Dr., San Anselmo, CA 94960. Deadline for orders to be received: September 25, 2010.

SEED PICK-UP: The pickup date is Saturday, October 9, from 10 AM to 1 PM at the Richardson Bay Audubon Center in Tiburon. No seed is available before or after the pickup date. Directions and a confirmation by e-mail or in the mail will be sent. For information, call Wendy at 415/453-6577, not the Richardson Bay Center.

ITEM	Number of Bags	Unit Price	Total Price
20 lb. Wildbird Audubon Mix		\$15.00	
20 lb. Wildbird Premium Mix		\$14.00	
20 lb. Black Oil Sunflower		\$15.00	
40 lb. Black Oil Sunflower		\$26.00	
4 lb. Nyjer Thistle Seed		\$10.00	
20 lb. Nyjer Thistle Seed		\$40.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>			

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

## Acquisition of Mira Monte Property

Marin Audubon Society and the Marin Baylands Advocates have been working diligently to raise funds to acquire the Mira Monte property near Olompali. The site contains ancient tidal marsh, ancient oak trees on a former island in the bay, Burdell Island, and seasonal wetland. We thank everyone who has donated, so far.

Fortunately, the property owner agreed to extend the closing date to March 2011. This will give MAS enough time to get information required by the Coastal Conservancy before we take the project

to their Board in December to request funding. We expect to hear in September about Federal funding that we applied for some months ago.

We are planning a big event at the end of September on the Mira Monte property. Marin Baylands Advocates, the organization for which we act as fiscal sponsor, will be sending invitations to our members. This will be a great opportunity to visit this out-of-the-way property, learn about its wildlife and history, and contribute to its acquisition and permanent protection.

## Volunteer for Snowy Plover



Photo courtesy of Len Blumin

If you want to help this federally threatened shorebird, consider contacting Jenny

Woodward by e-mail and volunteering with a new program begun at Lawson's Landing. With the help of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, Jenny has been hired as the new Snowy Plover Coordinator. She has been walking the beaches to talk to beach users and informing them of the Snowy Plovers' presence and about their habitat needs, life cycles, and sensitivity. The approach of the program is to encourage protection of the Snowy Plover through education and voluntary compliance with the species protection measures. It is modeled after other programs including one in Santa Barbara that have been successful protecting Snowy Plovers by this passive approach. Sometimes people don't even know the Snowy Plovers are present on the beaches.

The Snowy Plover is in trouble throughout its range on West Coast beaches primarily due to the popularity of beaches which is where Snowy Plovers nest and spend their winters, but also due to predation by such species as the raven. The Snowy Plover depends on the beaches at Lawson's Landing for their "wintering" season, July through late March/early April, with their greatest numbers in winter. Lawson's Landing supports one of the largest wintering populations of the Snowy Plover between San Francisco and the northern end of the plovers' range in Washington State. This year Jenny has seen 50 plovers on the Lawson's Landing beaches.

Snowy Plover Coordinator, Jenny Woodward, can be reached at [woodwardbandb@gmail.com](mailto:woodwardbandb@gmail.com). Jenny could use help on weekends because there are more people on the beaches on weekends.

## Annual MAS Mother's Day BBQ a Great Success

Despite the threat of rain, Audubon Canyon Ranch's Volunteer Canyon was once again filled with the love and laughter of families and friends who turned up to enjoy Mother's Day in such a spectacular setting.

This annual tradition raises funds for the educational programs of both ACR and Marin Audubon Society. We could not pull it off without the help of the many enthusiastic volunteers and generous donors.

Huge "Thank you's" go to all the volunteers and donor businesses. Please show your appreciation to the donors by supporting the businesses listed in last month's *Clapper Rail*.



Photo courtesy of Jude Stalker

We hope you all had a great day and look forward to seeing you again next year!

Jude Stalker, MAS BBQ Chair

### MAS FIELD TRIPS

Open to the public

Bring lunch, field guide, and binoculars. For information, weather check and accessibility: Helen Lindqvist at 415/789-0703 or 415/306-2325 (cell)

### LAS GALLINAS STORAGE PONDS THURSDAY MORNING WALK

September 2  
8:30 AM to 12 noon  
With Len Blumin

Join Len on this Thursday morning leisurely walk at the storage ponds to view a variety of birds up close and personal! Some of our feathered Fall visitors will have arrived to join the resident ones that stay all year round.

From Hwy 101 in northern San Rafael, take the Smith Ranch Rd exit, go east to the McInnis Park entrance, turn left immediately after crossing the railroad tracks and go to the parking lot at end of the road. Meet the group by the bridge. Bring water and snacks!

### ELLIS CREEK, PETALUMA

Saturday, September 26  
8:30 AM – 1 PM  
With Peter Colasanti

The new Ellis Creek Water Recycling Facility (ECWRF) came on line last year and now much of the area is considered to be a wildlife sanctuary that is accessible via a 3-mile trail system. Good birding/nature-viewing places are around the polishing ponds/wetlands, seasonal wetlands (winter/spring), in the trees lining the edges of the property and along the tidal marsh trail to the river (Sept. 1 – Jan. 14). Bird sightings could include Blue-winged Teal, Great-tailed Grackle, White Pelican, moorhens, rails and good shorebirds like dowitchers! The walk may be extended over to Shollenberger Park.

Going north on Hwy 101 from Marin, take the second Petaluma exit which is Rte 116 (Lakeville Hwy). Go east about one mile to South McDowell Blvd (4th traffic light) and turn right. At the curve turn right on Cypress and drive straight to east end. Meet in the parking lot just inside the gate.

For more info go to [petalumawetlands.org](http://petalumawetlands.org).



## 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.

### SUPPORT WILDLIFE – BUY A DUCK STAMP – ATTEND THE COMPETITION

Buying duck stamps is an effective way to help conserve habitat for birds and other wildlife. Since 1934, the Federal duck stamp program has raised more than \$700 million to acquire more than 5.2 million acres of habitat. Ninety-eight percent of the proceeds from stamp sales go to the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund which supports the purchase of wetlands.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service chooses each year's duck stamp from work submitted by noted wildlife artists in an annual duck stamp art contest. For the first time the competition will be held on the West Coast, at the David Brower Center in Berkeley on October 15-16. Bird walks, art workshops and other events will be held throughout the week of October 10th to the 17th to celebrate the event. Check the Web site [www.fws.gov/cno/duckstamp.html](http://www.fws.gov/cno/duckstamp.html).

To purchase a duck stamp go to [www.duckstamps.com](http://www.duckstamps.com). Duck stamps are also sold at some post offices.

### CORTE MADERA ECOLOGICAL RESERVE UPDATE

The problems continue at the Ecological Reserve, unfortunately. Kiteboarders ignore the signs and continue to walk out over the marsh to launch from the end, although a few are going to the end of an east-west levee. As many as five people have been observed walking in a group across the marsh. At least three "Keep out of marsh" signs have been stolen.

Our thanks to Bob Bundy and John Howard for placing the "No Dogs in Marsh" signs around Marta's marsh at the south end of the Reserve. People seem to be abiding by the message of these signs.

### GRANTS RECEIVED FOR WORK AT BAHIA

Our thanks to the Alpine Club for a grant to help fund the removal of highly invasive wild radish at Bahia, and to the Marin County Fish and Wildlife Commission for a grant to construct two additional propagation beds for plants that will be used to revegetate Bahia and our other properties.

### TIBURON PUBLIC LIBRARY EXPANSION

Marin Audubon Society submitted comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the expansion of the Belvedere-Tiburon Library. The project proposes to expand the 10,500-square-foot library to 29,990 square-feet in two stories, and relocate the parking lot. The parking lot would be moved closer to Railroad Marsh and extend into the marsh buffer/transition zone. Only 25 feet would be left between the marsh and the parking lot.

We recommended reducing the size of the building to protect a 100-foot buffer on adjacent upland, not only to buffer impacts of people but to provide resting and nesting habitat for marsh-dependent species. We commented that the proposed mitigations, which are a sign saying the marsh is "important" and enhancement of the remaining buffer, are inadequate because they are not a substitute for the reduced buffer width. We also commented on the inconsistency of posting a sign describing the marsh as "important habitat" and then building on the transition zone, which is part of the marsh habitat. The DEIR acknowledged that the reduced buffer does not comply with the Tiburon General Plan, which requires a 100-foot buffer. This discrepancy was addressed by stating that the Plan would be changed.

### "680" TRAIL

As of this writing, MAS is in the process of submitting comments to the County of Marin on the Initial Study/Negative Declaration (IS) on the proposed new 680 Trail. The trail would extend from Loma Alta to Terra Linda.

We found many gaps in information about the trail and its impacts and recommend that an EIR be required to provide information to adequately inform the public and decision-makers, specifically the supervisors.

The county proposes to cut 2.44 miles of new trail through grasslands and native oak woodlands. The entire trail would be 2.84 miles long. The new trail would be five to eight feet wide. It is unclear how much would be 8-foot wide. The trail would require the construction of eight bridges, 14- to 24-foot long; nine wet crossings, retaining walls one to four feet high and 13 to 50 feet long; barrier fencing to block off the existing trail area; temporary drainage crossings for construction; and rolling dips for drainage. There is no information about the location of these structures. The IS also does

not explain why the existing trail, that parallels the proposed trail for most of its length, can't be used.

The trail would cut through native oak woodland, fragmenting the habitat. The IS does not state the number of trees that would have to be removed. It would probably be in the hundreds. To make matters worse, there is basically no mitigation for the loss of native trees. The IS claims that replacing the native trees on site would create circumstances that would foster invasion by non-native species. The options for mitigating the loss of trees are speculative: the county would plant trees in some yet-to-be identified location or pay for restoration elsewhere (we note that the county would be paying itself). The IS does not even recognize that the trail itself would be a major pathway for invasion of non-native species even though it reports that the invasive plants that are along the alignment now are on the existing trail. Invasive plants thrive on newly graded slopes. Cutting new trails also opens pathways for erosion and sedimentation downstream.

The IS addresses the presence of badgers, a keystone species, by installing cameras in burrows and removing or filling the burrows, if unoccupied. There is no discussion of avoiding the area near the badger den or of impacting other large mammals, such as coyote, bobcat and mountain lion, all of which have been observed on the property.

The IS proposes that the Open Space District's Maintenance and Operations Staff carry out long term maintenance, but in the last few months there have been several lay offs, which begs the question whether monitoring and maintenance by remaining staff is even feasible. Enforcement of use restrictions is not addressed.

In conclusion, the significant damage that would be caused by this trail project is unnecessary and would be avoided by using fire roads and trails, which appear to exist in all but a small section, rather than cutting a new trail. Or better yet, negotiations with the neighbor might be resumed so that a land trade or other agreement might be reached. We can't believe the neighbors want so much damage, either.

### BE A CITIZEN SCIENTIST

Protect your favorite birding sites. Submit your bird observations to [eBird.org](http://eBird.org)

# MARIN BIRDLOG – MAY, JUNE, JULY 2010

By Rich Stallcup

As often happens, the spring vagrant season 2010 was nearly blown away by constant northwest wind but, as always, a few rarities were found by Marin's vigilant birders. Summer produced some nice nesting records and from late June through July, shorebird migration proceeded as normal.

## SPRING MIGRATION

A pair of **Harlequin Ducks** 6/1 (NB) off Drake's Beach were showing strong courtship behavior with the male doing his "bobble-head" display, stretching his body out on the surface of the bay and swimming in circles while the female did her best to ignore him. They were not seen again and may have gone off together to some wild river for nesting and parenting.

A **Solitary Sandpiper**, always an exciting find, was at Bolinas 5/1 (KH) – then *four* showed up together at the Rush Creek Wetlands 5/5 (RS) with two of them remaining until 5/8 (m.ob).

One lost and very late **Varied Thrush** at the Point Reyes Lighthouse trees 7/5 (ME) was not unprecedented. When the weather allows a late-spring fallout of migrants on "The Point," Varied Thrush is often on the species list of displaced vagabonds.

A **Townsend's Solitaire** at the RCA Station, Point Reyes 5/14 (RS,NB) was a surprise because the northwest wind had been howling for over a week.

Not discovered until 7/12 (JW), the **White-eyed Vireo** at Muir Beach was a lost spring migrant that had most likely been around since early June! It was seen (often with difficulty) by many birders through, at least, the end of July. Spring vagrant warblers were elusive because the wind disallowed fallouts on the headlands. Most years there are two to four territorial **Northern Parulas** in west and south Marin. This spring only one was detected – at Inverness Park during June (CL,DW).

A singing **Hooded Warbler** at Bolinas 5/11 (BH,KH) was an excellent find – we now expect one to three each spring in Marin. One small window without wind opened 5/17 and on 5/18, a female **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was at the Point Reyes RCA station and an 11-month-old **American Redstart** 5/17 singing from the Point Reyes Lighthouse trees, serenading oblivious tourists.

A male **Indigo Bunting** was at the Fish Docks (m.ob, RS). Another mind-boggling rarity was at Muir Beach 6/18 – a **Common Grackle** (JW) – only about the fifth ever for Marin.

## SUMMER

**Peregrine Falcons** are doing well in Marin and there were at least four territories that produced young this year (m.ob). Isn't it grand that these birds have clean, organic food to eat and safe places to raise their young.

**Bald Eagles** nested at Kent Lake for the third consecutive year (JE). These are the first of the species ever known to reproduce in the county.

The **Great Horned Owls** of outer Point Reyes practice population control. Most or all will produce young one year then most or all will go a year or two without producing even one egg. Because each viable territory out there is occupied by two adult birds, there isn't room for floaters. Two thousand ten was a production year. Two owlets fledged each at The Abandoned Ranch, the Fish Docks and the Lighthouse caves and four at Mendoza. That is ten youngsters on the Point beyond the RCA station – eighteen owls in all. **Spotted Owls** in Marin County have similar behaviors because all the good territories are occupied and job opportunities for floaters are very scarce. Our friends who monitor the birds (with some families showing up in public places) suggest that 2010 was a good production year for Spotted Owls too!

*Recurvirostridae* had a very poor nesting season. **Black-necked Stilts** usually fledge 50-75 chicks at the Rush Creek Wetlands – this spring there were none. Even though there is a tide gate and the water level is supposed to be managed for birds and other wildlife, it isn't. **American Avocets** failed to nest at Rush Creek and we found no evidence at the Village Mall mitigation ponds so it is likely no baby Avocets were raised in Marin in 2010.

One **Black Skimmer** seen at Bolinas 7/13 (KH) was at Bodega the next day. This post-breeding dispersal to the north is typical. We have read band numbers on some (2) of these summer skimmers and they are from nesting colonies in Southern California rather than from San Francisco Bay.

A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** documented 7/31 from the vessel Salty Lady 1.5 miles west of Bolinas Head (RH) must have been a nice surprise to some of the whale watchers on board. There are at least six "summer" records for Marin and whether these can be referred to as lost spring vagrants or post breeding dispersants is unknown.

*continued on page 6*

## THANKS TO OUR STEWARDSHIP VOLUNTEERS:

Marin Country Day School seventh graders, Linda Nicoletto, David Nakashima, Prem McMurdo, Flinn Moore Rauck, Rajeev Shakya, Sara Yama, Mike Allems, Frishta Ataie, Leticia Jones, Lance Carnes, Debbie Ablin, Megan Hirschfeld, Teya Hirschfeld, Phil Nonneman, Dawn Williamson, Jude Stalker, Barbara Salzman, Bob Hinz, Lowell Sykes

## DONATIONS IN HONOR OF

Bill Atchley by L. Martin Griffin

## DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF

William Alden Niccolls by Mary Burton  
William Alden Niccolls by Helen K. Cahill

## MARIN AUDUBON THANKS THE

### FOLLOWING FOR THEIR DONATIONS:

Ted Adams, Phyllis V. Akers, Bud Alderson, Thomas & Helen Anawalt, Andrew Bollen, Neil Brandt, Beatrice & Mark Brown, Robert Bundy, Michael Cass, James Cleaves, Mary Connors, Genevieve & Rudolph De May, Anne R. DeLaney MD, Nona Dennis, Marie Louise Detert, Audrey Earl, Stephen & Sally Fee, Shirley Fischer, Mark H. Forney, Carol Fraker, Lewis Fredrickson, Richard Gale, Michel & Rima Gannage, Francine Goodman, Daphne D. Greene, Mary Griffin-Jones, Sallie Griffith, Maureen Groper, Jeannette Gustafson, Roger Harris, Robert Hinz, Locke Hyde, Joan & Eugene Jacks, Peter & Bonnie Jensen, Carvel & Karen Johnson, Patricia L. Kampmeier, Robert & Rae Keating, Forrester Kennedy, Patricia Kiska, George & Barbara Klein, Josephine Kreider, Sunny & James Kuegle, William Lary, Patricia Laszewski, Beatrice & Robert Laws, Richard & Betty Leonards, Nina Lilienthal-Murphy, Mark Lindberg (Kaiser), Virginia & Daniel Mardesich, Marin Community Foundation/Marin Baylands Advocates (for Mira Monte), Alice May, Lynette McLamb & Todd Steiner, Rohana McLaughlin, Prem & John McMurdo, Sally L. Milligan, Mike Moser, Muller Family Foundation, Barbara Munden, Patrick Murray, Frank & Lois Noonan, Howard & Christa Ortman, J. Morrow Otis, Pacific Gas & Electric Co. (Matching donation of Barbara Benson), William M. Palmer, Phil Peterson, Alison Quoyeser, Flinn Moore Rauck, Walter & Joan Rentsch, Susan & John Ristow, Robert & Susan Rosenberg, Santa Venetia Neighborhood Assn., Mary Schrader, Virginia & William Schultz, Barbara Searles, Virginia & John Shaffer, Harriet Stix, Helen L. Stoddard, Pamela & Brewer Stone, Meryl Sundove, Susan Tanner, Rex Thompson, Jacques & Muriel Ullman, Rolf & Janice Ursin-Smith, Gary & Karen Whitten, Amy & Bruce Wilcer, Janet Willis, Lee Windheim, Christine Wood, Jane Wood, Periann Wood, Suzanne Zimmerman

# HABITAT STEWARDSHIP

## BAHIA & TRIANGLE MARSH

We are pleased to have had teams of North Bay Conservation Corps middle school children helping at Bahia and Triangle Marsh this summer. Through the Corps' Regeneration Program crews of middle-school children have removed radish, Harding grass, stinkweed and other non-native plants. Our habitats have had the benefit of 13 days of their work and we are very impressed with their enthusiasm and accomplishments. In all, we have had 13 teams of 10 youth plus two supervisors who cleared about five acres of weeds total. Participants in the program volunteer for four weeks after which they receive \$500 toward college.

In addition, the Center for Volunteer and Non-Profit Leadership has continued their monthly volunteer days this summer. These volunteers have removed invasive Harding grass, thistle, stinkweed, and wild radish at Bahia. Our hats off to them as well.

And a special thanks to our faithful member-volunteers, Flinn Moore Rauck, Debbie Ablin, Bob Hinz, Jude Stalker, and Lowell Sykes. They regularly weed and water the rhizomes in the propagation beds at Bahia. This month we will be watering the rhizomes transplanted to the habitat. The creeping wild rye planted two years ago now appears to be thriving. Little



Photo courtesy of Barbara Salzman

## Simmons Slough Construction

appeared last year, but it was apparently dormant and is now actively growing.

## SIMMONS SLOUGH HABITAT RESTORATION

The wetland restoration project on our 19-acre property at the intersection of Olive and Atherton Avenues in Novato restarted in early August and will be completed by October 15. We're removing slabs of concrete placed in the seasonal wetland years ago, reportedly during an expansion of Highway 101.

We will create about three acres of seasonal wetlands by removing this debris and some soil and will grade a gradual buffer between the marsh and the upland which will then be hydroseeded and planted with native plants. After completing the project, MAS will donate the property to the Marin County Open Space District.



## MARIN AUDUBON PROPERTIES

- |                                      |            |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Petaluma Marsh                    | 180 acres  |
| 2. Bahia                             | 60 acres   |
| 3. Simmons Slough                    | 162 acres  |
| 4. Norton Avenue Pond                | 2 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    |

## Marin Birdlog

*continued from page 5*

### FALL

Southbound shorebird migration began here on 6/22 as expected and seemed to be going well still at the beginning of August.

The only surprises so far were a **Pectoral Sandpiper** at the Bolinas Mesa 7/20 (KH) and a **Baird's Sandpiper** just north of Marin at PRBO, Petaluma 7/17 (RS). These were passing fall migrants and were both adults ... we would know that by the early dates alone.

**Observers and Acronyms SA:** Sara Acosta, **BB:** Bob Battagin, **MB:** Matt Brady, **HC:** Heather Cameron, **ME:** Mark Eaton, **JE:** Jules Evens, **KH:** Keith Hansen, **RH:** Roger Harris, **BH:** Burr Heneman, **JH:** Justin Hite, **DH:** Diana Humple, **OJ:** Oliver James, **WL:** William Legge, **CL:** Carolyn Longbreth, **DM:** Deborah Maier, **M.OB:** many observers, **DM:** Dominik Mosur, **NB:** Native Birds Birding Group, **PRBO:** PRBO Conservation Science, **BP:** Bob Power, **DR:** Don Reinburg, **MAR:** Mary Anne Rotella, **MR:** Maggie Rufo, **RS:** Rich Stallcup, **CT:** Chris Taylor, **JW:** Jim White, **KW:** Kerry Wilcox, **DW:** David Wimpfheimer, **HW:** Hilary Winslow.

## Compiler Needed for Southern Marin Christmas Bird Count

The CBC is a one-day event held around the Christmas Holidays. On the count day, birders identify and count every bird they can find in a 15-mile diameter circle. The compiler organizes volunteer counters, assigns them to a team that covers a designated area, collects the day's results and reports the results to National Audubon.

This is a volunteer position. The Compiler should have moderate or better birding skills, computer skills, and good organizational skills. Marin Audubon Society provides support for the compiler in planning the count, organizing the count dinner and other tasks.

The Southern Marin CBC area covers from the Golden Gate Bridge to Bolinas Lagoon to Terra Linda.

For more information about the compiler's role or the CBC committee, please e-mail Barbara Salzman at bsalzman@att.net or Harrison Karr at h.karr@comcast.net.

# ANNUAL REPORT TO MEMBERS

Marin Audubon Society focuses on protecting birds and other wildlife and their habitats, particularly wetlands.

We pursue our mission by acquiring, restoring and enhancing natural habitats and through our field trips, speakers series, classes and advocacy. During the past fiscal year, July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010, we accomplished the following:

**Habitat Acquisition:** MAS contracted to purchase the 57-acre Mira Monte property on the Petaluma River at the mouth of San Antonio Creek, and is in discussion with the owners of another property. MAS currently owns 508 acres on 22 properties and has purchased more than 1,000 acres during the past 10 years, largely with funds from state and federal agencies and assistance from the Marin Baylands Advocates.

**Restoration:** We obtained all necessary permits for the restoration of our 19-acre parcel at the corner of Olive and Atherton Avenues in unincorporated Novato. After the restoration is complete, MAS will transfer title of the property to the Marin County Open Space District.

**Habitat Stewardship:** Our Volunteer Stewardship Program continues to restore upland transition habitats adjacent to restored tidal marsh at Bahia and Triangle Marshes. In addition to our dedicated members, we have been fortunate to have volunteers through the Center for Volunteer and Non-Profit Leadership helping at Bahia, and from the North Bay Conservation Corps at Bahia and Triangle.

**Education:** Our education and outreach efforts include our monthly newsletter *The Clapper Rail*, monthly speaker series, field trips, birding classes taught by Meryl Sundove and Roger Harris, Junior Bird Watchers, and testimony at public hearings.

**Science:** We sponsored the Christmas Bird Count and bird surveys for habitats of concern.

**Outreach:** One of our major accomplishments was completing our new Web site, [marinaudubon.org](http://marinaudubon.org). We also hosted our annual Mother's Day Barbecue fundraiser, held at Audubon Canyon Ranch.

**Advocacy:** We advocated habitat protection by participating in the CEQA environmental review process, reviewing and commenting on Environmental Impact Reports (EIR) or Initial Study/Negative Declarations. We advocated protecting endangered species, other resident and migratory species, and their habitats, with a focus on wetlands, including transition zones and buffers around streams and wetlands, to protect native habitats including native trees, woodlands, grasslands, and others. We participated on regional boards and committees: San Francisco Bay Joint Venture, Open Space District Vegetation Management, Audubon Canyon Ranch, San Francisco Estuary Partnership, and the Bay Area Audubon Council. We obtained legal and scientific support needed to increase our effectiveness.

**In 2009-10, we advocated on behalf of the following:**

**City of Larkspur:** The Rose Garden project with recommendations to protect Larkspur Creek habitat.

**BCDC:** The San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge's Lower Tubbs Island Marsh Restoration project, in opposition to a proposed expensive and environmentally damaging bridge to continue loop access.

**Marin County Supervisors:** The county's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan.

**Federal legislators and staff:** In support of designating Drakes Estero as Federal "wilderness" in 2012, as provided in the 1976 Wilderness Act. We also commented to the Fish and Game Commission supporting denial of Drakes Bay Oyster Company's application to increase the area in which they grow non-native Manila Clams.

**Caltrans and Transportation Authority of Marin:** The Marin-Sonoma Narrows project to widen Highway 101 through from Atherton Avenue to Petaluma. Our comments focused on reducing the project's footprint to avoid adverse impacts to wetlands and native trees.

**Sausalito Planning Commission:** The Mallya Project, on lands that we wished to purchase but that were recently bought by a developer. We supported protection of wetlands and bay edge.

**Marin County Parks:** Creekside Park Habitat Restoration Plan across from Marin General Hospital with recommendations for buffer treatment and increased area of marsh.

**City of Novato:** Issues to be addressed in the Mt. Burdell Mixed Use Project.

**California Resources Agency:** The "State of the State's Wetlands."

**California Coastal Commission:** Follow up to our appeal of Marin County's approval of the Lawson's Landing project; coordinating with other environmental organizations; continuing our review of the plan; and continuing efforts to reduce impacts to wetlands, native dune habitat and endangered Snowy Plover.

**County Planning Department and Marin County Supervisors:** Draft San Geronimo Valley Salmon Enhancement Plan, supporting protections for riparian vegetation and adequate buffers.

**City of San Rafael:** Final EIR for the proposed Target store along the San Rafael bayfront.

**Transportation Authority of Marin:** Scoping comments for the Highway 101 Greenbrae/Twin Cities Corridor Improvements, recommending issues to be addressed in the DEIR.

**To OSPRA** (the state agency that addresses oil spill response): The agency's poor handling of the Dubai Star spill in San Francisco Bay.

**Town of Corte Madera:** The proposed Higgins Boat Dock Initial Study/Negative Declaration, in particular, objecting to proposed mitigation for filling Corte Madera Creek that would consist of erecting a sign.

**California Department of Fish and Game and others:** Impacts of kite boarders using the Corte Madera Ecological Reserve Marsh.

**Marin County Community Development Agency:** Recommending issues to be addressed for proposed Grady Ranch development along Lucas Valley Road.

**SMART:** Opposing use of the Port Sonoma site for a ferry terminal because of the critical tidal marsh habitats at the mouth of the Petaluma River.

**Ross Valley Sanitation District:** Kentfield Forcemain Replacement Project Draft Negative Declaration.

**Marin County Planning Commission:** Urging that the Wind Energy Conversion System ordinance include pre- and post-construction surveys for birds (endangered species, special status species and raptors) and bats, as well as restrictions to protect wildlife and habitat.

**Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC):** Widening and other improvements to the Tennessee Valley Path on the east side of Coyote Creek in Tam Valley, objecting to plans that would impact wetlands and endangered species.

**Audubon California:** Supporting the application for Ramsar designation for San Francisco Bay and supporting inclusion of our properties. Ramsar is recognition for wetlands of international importance. Also, communicated with several cities requesting their support. Thanks to San Rafael for their support.

**BCDC:** Comments on the proposed San Francisco Bay Plan Amendment regarding Climate Change, requesting that language be added recognizing the potential loss of endangered species' habitats, the need for larger buffers, and the need to conserve lands adjacent to the bay to allow room for sea level rise.

**Marin County Board of Supervisors:** Whaler's Point site on Richardson Bay urging removal of debris, parked vehicles and feral cats to protect birds and the tidal marshes.

**Whole Foods San Rafael:** Provided information on impacts of feral cats and asked to remove Friends of Feral Felines from their donation list.

**Golden Gate National Recreation Area:** Supporting the plan to restore native habitats at Hawk Hill.

**US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS):** Scoping for Sears Point Habitat Restoration Plan Draft EIR/S.

**USFWS:** Supporting the Tidal Marsh Recovery Plan for San Francisco Bay and the North Coast and emphasizing the need to protect undeveloped lands adjacent to the Bay to ensure continued tidal marsh habitats in the face of sea level rise projections.

**Marin County Planning Commission on the Local Coastal Plan:** Supporting setback/buffers along streams and protection of all native riparian vegetation along streambanks.

**Marin County Public Works:** Comments to Draft Initial Study/Negative Declaration for Sir Francis Drake Blvd Restoration Project, which would adversely impact Lagunitas Creek and Coho Salmon, and would remove mature redwood trees near Samuel P. Taylor State Park.

**Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey:** Supported Federal legislation (S5041, Speier), which would provide funding for the San Francisco Estuary.

**State Assemblyman Jared Huffman:** Supported AB 234 which, if it had passed, would have prohibited the use of lead shot.

**Ongoing participation in the coalition of Marin organizations** to update the "Community Marin," a position document prepared by environmental organizations to influence the Countywide Plan in anticipation of the next Countywide Plan revision.

## Marin Audubon Society Statement of Financial Position As of June 30, 2010

### ASSETS

#### Current Assets – Checking Accounts

General (Unrestricted)	11,892
Marin Baylands Advocates (Restricted)	6,281
Property (Restricted)	324,515
Special Projects (Restricted)	7,756
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$350,443</b>

#### Fixed Assets – Real Estate

Arroyo San Jose	4,800
Atherton (Chang)	315,000
Atherton (Sheridan)	370,000
Bahia	1,600,471
Black Point	4,500
Black Point	3,700
Black Point	9,900
Corte Madera Tide Lot 1	3,200
Channel Drive	2,800
Mill Valley	2,600
Murphy's Rock	9,719
Norton Avenue 1	4,100
Olive (Mission)	315,000
Petaluma Marsh	276,526
Tiscornia Marsh	11,026
Triangle Marsh Tidelands	3,800
Triangle Marsh	750,000
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>\$3,687,142</b>

#### Other Assets

Endowment (Designated)	692,741
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>\$692,741</b>

**TOTAL ASSETS** **\$4,730,325**

## Marin Audubon Society Statement of Financial Income & Expense July 2009 through June 2010

### INCOME

Donations	47,120
Easement Fees	15,500
Endowment Income	14,125
Events & Activities	11,306
Grants	588,121
Interest Earned	886
Marin Baylands Advocates Income	26,909
Membership	19,697
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$723,664</b>

### EXPENSE

Bank Charges & Credit Card Fees	698
Contributions	385
Copy & Printing Services	24,124
Endowment Expense	4,192
Insurance	9,016
Marin Baylands Advocates Expense	21,731
Miscellaneous	863
Office Supplies & Expenses	2,739
Permits & Fees	3,800
Postage & Shipping	3,641
Professional Services	10,375
Program Expenses	8,166
Property Expenses	6,840
Property & Sales Taxes	7,428
Rent	1,091
Web site	2,279
Wetlands Restoration Construction	555,670
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$663,036</b>

**NET INCOME** **\$60,628**



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**SAVE THE DATE**

September 02 **Las Gallinas Storage Ponds  
Thursday Morning Walk**

September 14 **Joe Morlan's Birding Classes  
begin.** 415/561-1860 or  
[http://fog.ccsf.edu/jmorlan/  
fall10.htm](http://fog.ccsf.edu/jmorlan/fall10.htm)

September 26 **Mira Monte Fund Raiser**

October 07 **Speaker Series** ←  
Note: Lecture is now on  
Thursday nights at 7:30 p.m.

**NEW DATE AND TIME**

Printed on 100% recycled paper

**SUPPORT MARIN AUDUBON SOCIETY**

The success of Marin Audubon Society's work depends greatly on its chapter members. We work collaboratively with the National Audubon Society on issues of mutual concern, but very little of our funding comes from the 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*. Chapter members also have the opportunity to support and participate in the acquisition, restoration and enhancement of wildlife habitat which will be protected in perpetuity. Our members help us shape our agenda and carry out our goals and mission.

If you are not already a local chapter member, please consider joining MAS, and urge your friends, neighbors and 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 [marinaudubon.org](http://marinaudubon.org).

**NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in Marin Audubon Society does not include membership in National Audubon Society. For more information about and/or to join the NAS, visit to [audubon.org](http://audubon.org) or contact National Audubon Society, 700 Broadway, New York, NY 10003, 212/979-3000.

**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**.

Enroll me as a  
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