

NOTE THAT THIS WILL BE THE
FIRST THURSDAY OF JUNE

THURSDAY, JUNE 4 7:30 PM

Birding Tanzania

With Wendy Dreskin



Photo courtesy of William Dreskin

Southern Ground Hornbill

Famous for having the biggest concentrations of large mammals on the planet, Tanzania is also an exciting birding destination. This presentation will feature those birds travelers would be likely to see on a safari to Northern Tanzania in the winter, before migratory birds have left for their breeding grounds to the north. Birds you will meet include the **Hammerkop**, a compulsive nest-builder, the **Sacred Ibis**, extirpated from Egypt but easily seen in Tanzania, the vulnerable **Southern Ground Hornbill**, the endangered **Saddle-billed Stork** and other storks, **Ostriches**, **Courasers**, **Bee-Eaters**, the **Secretary Bird**, and a variety of eagles.

Wendy Dreskin is a professional nature educator. She has been teaching the popular class Meandering in Marin at College of Marin for the last 17 years as well as teaching nature education classes for children. As a volunteer, she runs the Junior Bird Watcher Program for Marin Audubon. She has been leading nature trips to US destinations since 2003, and led her first trip to Tanzania in 2014. In the winter quarter she taught the College of Marin class Armchair Safari: Preparing for a Trip to Tanzania.

Wendy's husband, William Dreskin, whose photos are featured in the presentation, is an award-winning photographer whose photographs have appeared in books and magazines including *Marin* magazine, *Bay Nature* magazine, and *American Art Collector*. He has exhibited in numerous galleries and national exhibitions, and his photographs are in private and corporate collections in the US and abroad.

Come at 7:15 PM for refreshments. Meeting begins at 7:30 PM.



The Rail

MARIN AUDUBON SOCIETY

Richardson Bay Anchor-Outs



Photo courtesy of Google Earth

Anchor-outs dot the waters of Richardson Bay off Sausalito. Anchor-outs cause damage to eelgrass beds, a valuable habitat of the Bay seen as the darker areas in this Google Earth photo.

From 1982 through 1986 the Bay Conservation and Development Commission conducted a lengthy process that included an advisory committee, community input and reports that eventually led to the establishment of the Richardson Bay Regional Agency (RBRA) by a Joint Powers agreement between the cities of Sausalito, Mill Valley, Tiburon, Belvedere and the County of Marin. The purpose and intent was for the Agency to remove the anchor-outs from Richardson Bay. Now, twenty years later, not only have the anchor-outs not been removed, but they have more than doubled in number and the RBRA is poised to approve yet another process to try to get them out of the Bay.

On May 7 elected officials from the Joint Powers jurisdictions that make up the Joint Powers Board voted (subject to approval by their respective councils/supervisors) to begin a process that is intended, again, to remove the anchor-outs from Richardson Bay. Whereas twenty years ago space was provided in existing marinas for anchor-outs with the intent that they would be moved from the open Bay waters, this time the focus is on establishing a mooring field to which all boats would have to be moored. If providing space elsewhere

was not effective in getting anchor-outs not to anchor out twenty years ago, it is not clear why it would work now.

Anchor-outs are boats or houseboats (vessels without motors) that simply drop anchor. In 1986 the estimated number was 70-120, in 2008 there were approximately 100 and now there are more than 200. Nobody really knows the exact number. They are difficult to keep track of because they move around, and come and go.

Supporters of retaining the anchor-outs describe and praise this use as a culture, a way of life. Yet, the adverse impacts of this unregulated use are numerous. Some vessels are abandoned and/or dislodged from their anchors and end up on opposite shorelines smashing into private docks and sea walls; some hit other boats and/or create navigational hazards, while others simply sink. Dismantling and disposing of these derelict boats is expensive and appears to be the major activity of the RBRA harbor master. Anchor-outs have a direct adverse effect on the Richardson

continued on page 5

IN THIS ISSUE

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

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DIRECTORS MEETINGS

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

6:30 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.

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Members can receive *The Rail* electronically instead of a hard copy by emailing 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 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 is our last issue until the September issue which is published in late August. We take a vacation during June and July. Our last Speaker Series talk is in June and they begin again in September. Other activities and issues of concern will continue, however. We will have field trips but there will be fewer of them. Our volunteer stewardship will continue and we will probably need your help more than ever because we will need to maintain our plants diligently with recycled water and DriWater in the face of our drought. Conservation matters will continue also. Marin County's *Vegetation Management Plan* comments are due in July and we expect the Environmental Impact Report for the Corte Madera Inn Expansion to be released soon. We may also hear that developers have other projects in the works.

Thank you for your generous response to our spring mailing. Your donation to this appeal goes in total to support our habitats—growing plants, amending soil, buying tools, hiring crews for heavy maintenance work we cannot accomplish with volunteers alone, providing healthy munchies to support our volunteers while they donate their time, and supplying other necessities for our properties.

This Mother's Day Picnic was the best ever. The weather was perfect—warm and breezy—and the food was delicious. It was wonderful to see families gathering and having fun. Some families, Marty Griffin, Dianne Sierra and the Soldavinis, have attended most years and it's always great to see them. This year we missed a few of our long-time attendees, Jean Starkweather and the Massens. People came from as far away as Oakland and San Jose. A huge thank you to Martha Jarocki for chairing this event, to her wonderful crew of kitchen helpers who prepared our meal, to Wendy

Dreskin who supervised the children's table and led the nature walk, to Jude Stalker who set up our display and children's table and to Mary Anne Cowperthwaite who handled the reservations and took sign-ins with me. Two hundred fifty-seven people were served and although the financial report is not yet finalized, we expect we will have raised a respectable amount to benefit Audubon Canyon Ranch and Marin Audubon Society. And a hearty thank you to our donors. See the list on page 6. We urge you to patronize their businesses as a way of thanking them for their generous support for Audubon.

The burden of the drought is somewhat lighter on many of us in Marin because our unique location in the landscape produces significant rain. But even if we live in MMWD's jurisdiction, we still have an obligation to save water. Some of MMWD's water comes from the Russian River. Do consider getting rid of your water-guzzling plants and replace them with Marin natives. And if you have a lawn, do get rid of it. Even in the most water-plentiful years, lawns are never appropriate for a climate that has no rain all summer. One thing you might consider to keep some of your plants alive is using reclaimed water. The North Marin Water District has a reclaimed water program which we use often to water our habitats; it allows you to get reclaimed water from their purple hydrants for watering your garden plants. Call the District for information.

And it's still nesting season—don't forget to delay your tree trimming until after nesting season in August. It's often difficult to see nests that are hidden in trees or shrubs to protect them from predators so you are likely to expose or destroy them during pruning.

See you again at the end of the summer.

MAY 5 FIELD TRIP

Big Rock/Loma Alta, Lucas Valley With Dave Herrema and Friends

By Dave Herrema

Fifteen of us headed up the Loma Alta trail, south of Big Rock, on a cool morning that didn't take long to warm up. We saw the lovely **Lazuli Bunting** almost immediately and at least six more along the trail. **Lark Sparrow** and **Western Bluebird** seemed to be everywhere. We missed the **Grasshopper Sparrow**; my guess, we were a little late in the day. We saw several **Red-tailed Hawks**, a **Northern Harrier**, and the ubiquitous **Turkey Vulture**. There were two northbound **Osprey** flyovers. The highlight for everyone was extended looks at a male **Indigo Bunting**. This incredibly deep blue bird

is common in the east but a noteworthy highlight in California. He was singing in all his glory. Thanks to Michael, Linda and Nick for their expertise on the walk. Ann identified the wildflowers which were another highlight of the trip.



Indigo Bunting

Glenn Topke, gtopke@pbac.com

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 or co-host, Jane Medley, 559/760-1551, janermedley@gmail.com.

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR THE MOST RECENT UPDATES.

OUTER POINT VAGRANTS WEST MARIN

Saturday, June 6, 2015

Meet at 7:30 – 8 AM, trip ends
mid-afternoon

With Peter Colasanti

We will meet at Whitehouse Pool and bird the area as the group gathers. The first two weeks of June is coastal vagrant season. Peter promises to bring along somebody with great ears who can recognize displaced chip notes. Our itinerary for the day will depend on what has been happening in the area.

DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Larkspur, take the Sir Francis Drake exit 20.4 miles to Olema. Turn right onto Hwy 1 and go 2 miles. Before the green bridge, turn left (continuing on Sir Francis Drake Blvd) and follow 0.7 mile. Look for the White House Pool sign and parking lot on the right.

MUDDY HOLLOW TRAIL POINT REYES

Saturday, June 13, 2015

8 AM – mid-afternoon

With Dan Singer

Join Dan for a walk in West Marin. We will meet at 8 AM in the big lot at the Bear Valley Visitors Center where bathrooms are available and we can arrange carpools. We will then carpool to the Muddy Hollow trailhead. We will bird along the 1.8 mile trail and return back along the same route. Be prepared for any kind of weather and bring lunch and water.

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 Bear Valley Visitor Center.

FIVE BROOKS AND BEAR VALLEY No. 2, Birding in Marin Series

Saturday, June 20, 2015

8:30 AM – mid-afternoon

With Jim White and Bob Battagin

Join Jim and Bob on this trip as part of their year-long series of Marin walks. We will meet at Five Brooks to walk the trail. We have a chance of finding **Wood Ducks** and other pond-nesting birds at the retired logging pond. We will also look for birds in the Douglas Fir forest. We will then travel to Bear Valley where there is a fine place to picnic under an **Acorn Woodpecker** granary. Walks on the earthquake trail and to the Miwok village Kule Loklo will add to our knowledge of nesting birds.

DIRECTIONS: Meet at the Five Brooks parking area which is 0.25 mile west of Highway 1, 5 miles north of Stinson or 4 miles south of Olema. From Hwy 101 take Sir Francis Drake for about 20 miles. Turn left onto Hwy 1 and drive about 3 miles to the signed entrance on the right side of the road.

CARSON RIDGE/PINE MOUNTAIN, CASCADE DAM/KENT LAKE No. 3, Birding in Marin Series

Saturday, July 18, 2015

8:30 AM – mid-afternoon

With Jim White and Bob Battagin

Join Jim and Bob on the July walk to explore the watershed north of Mt. Tam. The walk will begin at the Carson Ridge trailhead on the Fairfax-Bolinas Road. We will hike up to Pine Mtn. and back (3 miles). We may then drive to nearby Bon Tempe Lake or Cascade Dam on Alpine Lake for an additional

walk. Bring plenty of water, hat and sunscreen as the Carson Ridge hike can be warm in summer.

DIRECTIONS: Take Hwy 101 to San Rafael, and take the Central San Rafael exit. Head west on 4th street to San Anselmo and then turn right on Sir Francis Drake to Fairfax. Turn left on Pacheco Rd. Take an immediate right on Broadway, then first left on Bolinas Rd. Drive 3.8 miles on Bolinas Rd to the top of the ridge, passing the golf course half way. On the right side is the gated Pine Mountain Road; there is a large parking area on the left side of the road.

ABBOTTS LAGOON No. 4, Birding in Marin Series

Saturday, August 15, 2015

8:30 AM – mid-afternoon

With Jim White and Bob Battagin

August will find Jim and Bob exploring Abbots Lagoon. Arctic nesting shorebirds begin arriving here in late July, the adults having left the juveniles to find their own way south. We will search the shores of the outer lagoon and scope the ocean for shearwaters and such. We may be a bit early for juvenile **Baird's** or **Pectoral Sandpipers** but a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** likely lurks with the **Western** and **Least Sandpipers** and something may surprise us.

DIRECTIONS: Allowing about an hour and a half travel time from San Rafael, follow Sir Francis Drake Blvd (SFDB) to Olema. From Stinson Beach go north on Hwy 1 to Olema. From Olema continue north on Hwy 1 (SFDB) and take the second left turn (SFDB west). Continue through Inverness, turn right (north) onto Pierce Point Road and keep driving until you come to the Abbott's Lagoon parking lot on the left (west) where our group will gather.

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.

CLOSE THE GAP

Approval of grant funding for our acquisition of the 5.2 acres adjacent to the Corte Madera Ecological Reserve will be on the Coastal Conservancy Board's agenda on June 25 (Correction: not May 25 as reported in last month's newsletter). The Conservancy's Board meeting is in Sacramento. Approval of funding by Marin County is scheduled for the Marin County Board of Supervisors June 9 meeting. These two sources will provide sufficient funds to cover the purchase price.

The Conservancy's grant will be for \$400,000 and Marin County will provide \$100,000 from Proposition A funds, the Open Space District measure that voters passed with a substantial majority several years ago. The County is establishing a grant program for funds from the ballot measure that are designated for protection of natural resources lands that are not planned to be owned by the county. Ours will be the first grant to provide funds to help purchase a property that will not be owned by the Open Space District.

We've been revising our application for a National Coastal Wetland Conservation program grant for resubmission. The focus in our 2014 application was to fund the acquisition; this time our focus is on funding the restoration of the habitat. We are also in communication with staff of the State Lands Commission, the Bay Conservation and Development Commission and SMART about access, and we are getting cost estimates for preparing the final design and for constructing the restoration. We need access from SMART to construct the restoration project. SMART owns the north-south railroad right of way. The final design drawings will show the boundaries of the areas to be excavated, where the excavated material will be placed and the target elevations for the marsh and transition zones. We are required to obtain permits from regulatory agencies to construct the project and permission for access from SMART to cross their right-of-way.

We are currently anticipating closing escrow on August 29 and we have executed an amendment to our purchase/sale agreement with the property owners to extend the closing to that date. This will ensure that the Coastal Conservancy has sufficient time to complete their paperwork before closing.

CONSERVATION UPDATES

Vegetation and Biodiversity Management Plan (VBMP) And Draft EIR

The county's recently published VBMP and

DEIR are now in a public review period with comments due July 8, before our next newsletter. We are sorry we have not had sufficient time to review and give you our impressions of these documents.

The documents are available for viewing at most county libraries, at the Marin County Open Space District office where you can also obtain a high resolution digital copy on a USB flash drive, and on the Marin County Parks website at www.marincounty.org/depts/pk/our-work/os-main-projects/vmbp. We will put our evaluation on our website for your review since we won't have another issue of *The Rail* before the July due date.

Trail Use

We are in the process of writing to our Supervisors to ask that they support strict enforcement of policies that ensure unauthorized trails are not retained. We made this request because of the Morrison Trail incident where Marin County Parks took action to close this trail which was constructed by some members of the public without authorization of the owner before the county acquired the property. Users of the unauthorized trail criticized county Parks for efforts to close the trail. We fully support closure of the Morrison as well as other unauthorized trails.

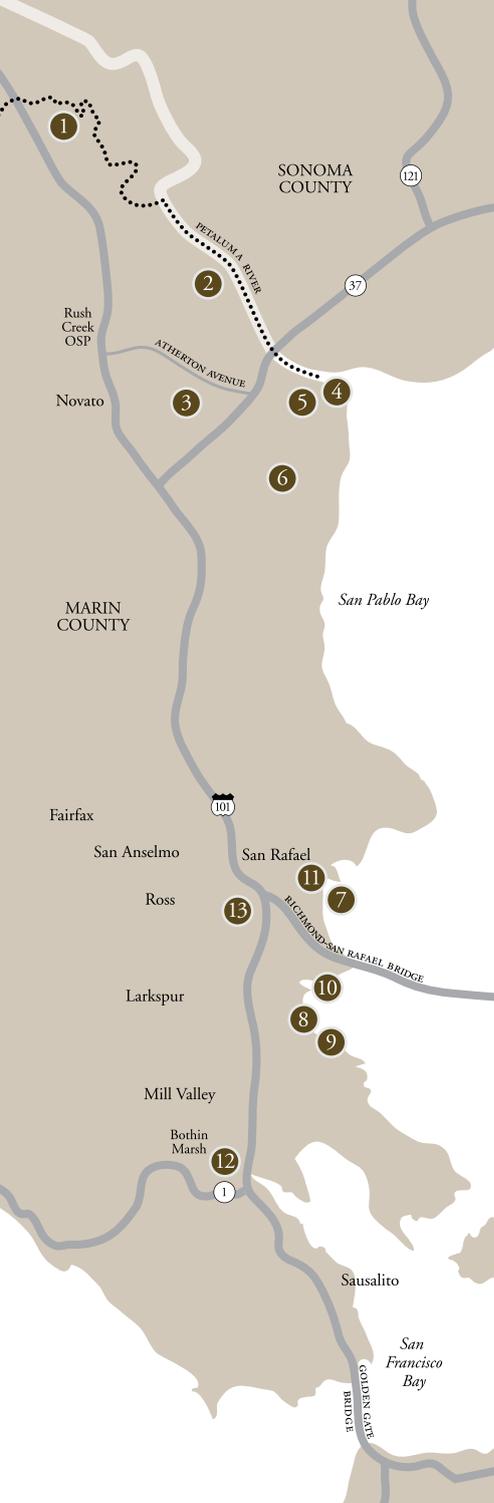
How many of us would think it was fine for people to come onto our property and start cutting trails? The same principle holds true for the county—none of us have the right to cut trails without authorization of the owner. Marin County Parks has determined that all trails constructed after November 2011 would be considered for removal based on the outcome of a process they will establish to evaluate the impacts of existing authorized and unauthorized trails. We are not entirely happy with this process; we wanted all unauthorized trails removed. We might not like other aspects of the evaluation process, but this doesn't mean we have a right to take matters into their own hands by removing the trails.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: We urge you also to write your supervisor and urge him/her to remain firm and direct the Open Space District to enforce policies that do not allow members of the public to construct trails on Open Space lands.

Binford Road Self Storage

The owner of the Binford Road Self Storage property near the Gness Field runway has applied to the county for an amendment to change the design for eleven of the thirteen

continued on page 5



MARIN AUDUBON PROPERTIES

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Petaluma Marsh | 180 acres |
| 2. Bahia | 60 acres |
| 3. Simmons Slough | 144 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 |
| 13. Cal Park | <1 acre |

Conservation

continued from page 4

storage units in order to eliminate walls. This carport design is undoubtedly cheaper to build, and it is also more likely to attract people to store vehicles, such as RV's, boats, trucks and heavy equipment, from which hazardous substances could eventually be discharged and to abandon vehicles. We communicated our concern to the County about potential leakage of oil, grease and heavy metals from stored

vehicles as well as impacts to nesting birds, such as swallows, that would be attracted to nest under the roofs and eaves.

Swallows on Petaluma River Bridge

Madrone Audubon folks have their hands full keeping track of how Caltrans work impacts the swallow nesting attempts on the bridge. As this newsletter goes to press, it appears that Caltrans has removed nest starts from several new columns and are leaving nests on two other columns.

Richardson Bay Anchor-Outs

continued from page 1

Bay environment. Discharges of gray water, sewage, and hazardous substances such as petroleum degrade water quality in the shallow bay, adversely affecting fish, birds and people. Anchor-outs can have on-board holding tanks, but most do not, and facilities to pump out sewage are limited. Trash and debris falls off some boat decks adversely affecting wildlife, recreational users and the safety of boats.

And, anchor-outs are a direct and major threat to eelgrass. Eelgrass beds are an essential substrate for spawning and a nursery habitat for herring, and they provide cover and food

habitat for many other fish species and birds. In addition to the impacts of degraded water quality, anchors are dropped in eelgrass beds and then the dragging scope of the anchor attached to the vessel kills the eelgrass in huge circular patterns called "crop circles."

Richardson Bay is an important habitat for overwintering waterbirds. Across their range waterbirds, including Greater and Lesser Scaup and Surf Scoter, are negatively impacted by disturbance, poor water quality and loss of habitat, all conditions that are created by anchor-outs.

In addition, the 200-plus anchor-outs on Richardson Bay are covering public waters which are held in trust to benefit all of the

continued on page 7

Another Great Mother's Day Picnic



Thank to Our Volunteers Mariah Baird, Greg Block, John Cherone, Mary Anne Cowperthwaite, Wendy Dreskin, Leah Hassett, Dave Herrema, Garth Herrema, Bob Hinz, David & Sarah Kirley, Jo Kreider, Mardi Leland, Helen Lindqvist, Jane Medley, Flinn Moore Rauck, Linda Nicoletto, Ed Nute, Phil Peterson, Barbara Salzman, Jay Salzman, Shirley Soldavini, Carol Stalker, Jude Stalker, Lowell Sykes, Vicky Van Meter, Rona Weintraub, Jim White, Doug Wilson, Periann Wood, Katy Zaremba. **See our Mother's Day donors on the right.** >

THANK YOU TO CORTE MADERA PROPERTY ACQUISITION DONORS

Maria Mangold, Elaine & Robert Drude, Sarah Kass, Jessica Schroeder and Eric Setterberg

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING MARIN AUDUBON'S OPERATIONS

Phyllis V. Akers, Janet Arrigotti, Holly A. Bacuzzi, Mariah Baird, Katharine Ballinger, MD, Aileen Berg, Ben & Frances Borok, Tempe J. Brown, Nora L. Burgess, MD, Terry Cantrell, Sol & Frances Capper, Chevron (donor match), Everett Clark, William A. Clarke, James Cleaves, Ruth M. Collins, Carroll Covey, Daniel & Lee Drake, Lillian B. Dreyer, Earth Share of California, M. C. Giacomini, William Gonda & Sally Sehring, L. Martin Griffin, Jr., Maureen Groper, Erika W. Harris, Roger Harris, Robert Hinz, Molly Hynes, Richard Jenkins, Ervin & Denise Jindrich, MD, Lorraine Johnson, Hilda J. Leefeldt, Mark Lindberg, Patricia Lowrie, Virginia & Daniel Mardesich, Allan & Eleanor Martini, Peter Mason, Ken Minkoff, Gerald & Mary Edith Moore, Jean Moore, William and Laura Moseley, Patrick Murray, Russell Nelson, J. Morrow Otis, Ruth T. Overton, Gertrud V. Parker, Carol Peltz, John R. Petrovsky, Norma Pomerance, Susan & John Ristow, Robert & Susan Rosenberg, Richard & Anne Ruben, Andrina Ruzick, Ruth M. Schuler, Elizabeth Simmons, Casey Stikker, Susan & Brian Stompe, Pamela & Brewer Stone, Peter & Marie Sullivan, Constance Vandament, Arlin Weinberger, Donna Williams

THANK YOU MOTHER'S DAY DONORS

Bovine Bakery, Pt Reyes Station
Brickmaiden Breads, Pt Reyes Station
Don & Sons (Sebastiani), Napa
Judy's Breadsticks, Mill Valley
Lagunitas Brewing Co., Petaluma
Ravenswood Winery, Sonoma
Redwood Empire Disposal/North Bay Corp.
Safeway, Mill Valley
Sloat Garden Center, Mill Valley
Three Twins Ice Cream, Petaluma
Trader Joe's, San Rafael, Corte Madera
United Markets, San Rafael
Whole Foods, Miller Ave., Mill Valley

HABITAT STEWARDSHIP

We're bracing for the hot summer months and our plants' need for water. We expect we will have to purchase lots of DriWater as well as reclaimed water from the North Marin Water District.

BAHIA (Novato)

We have been overwhelmed by the invasive radish plants that exploded on several of our properties. It was way beyond the ability of our volunteers even to control, much less to eliminate them. A group of five volunteers pulled a lot from the Central Peninsula, but huge amounts remained, so we contracted with the North Bay Conservation Corps. To remove the radish, the crew of ten pulled some and used string trimmers (otherwise known as weed whackers) on most of it. It took them three days to finish the job.

Three years ago MAS received funding through a State Water Resources Control Board program called a Supplemental Environmental Project for a spill into this pond by the Novato Sanitary District. There is one more year under this contract. We submitted our quarterly report No. 10 in April.

SIMMONS SLOUGH (Novato)

Our tenth quarterly report for this Supplemental Environmental Project was also submitted at the



Photo courtesy of Jude Stalker

Second Saturday volunteers at Bahia in May removed Harding grass.

end of April. No new on-the-ground work was done here this month.

TRIANGLE MARSH (East Corte Madera)

On April 24 as an Earth Day activity two Marin Country Day School second grade classes, the 'Buckeyes' and the 'Pines', and their teachers helped us clear the public overlook and pull radishes near the shore. In less than an hour all those little hands made quite an improvement. Then, on the first Saturday of May volunteers did some watering, cut some invasives (mostly radish, mustard and Italian thistle) and lopped off Harding grass seed heads. Now eleven years after first planting, Triangle Marsh has quite a variety of native plants even though individuals of some of those species are still few in number and not so obvious as coyotebush and monkeyflower.

2015-16 "Birding in Marin" Field Trip Series

Jim White and Bob Battagin have graciously offered to lead a trip for Marin Audubon on the third Saturday of each month for another year. We are pleased to have these trips on our schedule. Each trip will take us to a seasonal birding hotspot. The birds seen on each of the monthly trips will be tallied and participants will be provided with a list of all species seen during the year. Despite a few misses of expected species last year's trips recorded 195 species of birds.

For those of you who do not know these excellent birders, Bob has birded West Marin and the San Francisco Bay Area for 17 years. He has led field trips for several Bay Area Audubon Societies and has contributed monthly birding articles to the Plumas Audubon Society's newsletter for the past 13 years. Jim has retired from rocket engineering, teaching and general contracting and has been an avid birder for many years. Jim says he was tutored and inspired by the late great Rich Stallcup and the birds.

The trips will begin at 8:30 AM and last until mid-afternoon. Bring bins, scopes and lunch. Dress in layers. Carpool if possible and expect to walk 3 miles.

2015-16 "Birding in Marin" Schedule With Jim and Bob

2015

05/16	Muir Woods/Redwood Creek/ Muir Beach
06/20	Five Brooks/Bear Valley
07/18	Carson Ridge/Pine Mountain
08/15	Abbotts Lagoon
09/19	Drakes Beach/Fish Docks
10/17	Marin Headlands
11/21	Limantour/Sky Trail
12/05	Bahia, Rush Creek

2016

01/16	Bolinas Lagoon/Pine Gulch
02/20	Las Gallinas/Civic Center
03/19	Nicasio
04/16	Mt. Burdell

HABITAT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

The time to stop Italian thistles and radish has generally passed, but we will go after another thistle, the bull thistle, which is about to bloom. Bull thistle needs to be cut off below ground level, but remember that many weeds take hold in disturbed ground so it's a good practice to dig up as small an area as is practical when removing any invasives. We'll remove the maturing Harding grass seed heads and take them away. Last winter's plantings will need to be watered through their first summer.

Act locally and join us on a workday. 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.

VOLUNTEER WORK DAYS

Triangle Marsh, Corte Madera:

First Saturdays: June 6, July 4(?), August 1

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

Bahia, Novato:

Second Saturdays: June 13, July 11, August 8

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

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

THANK YOU TO OUR STEWARDSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Debbie Ablin, Breana Biggi, Bob Bundy, Bob Hinz, Marin Country Day School second-graders, Sharon McCloskey, William McMullen, Linda Nicoletto, Caroline Spence, Jude Stalker, Lowell Sykes, Alexis Toruno, Lacey Winthorne, Katy Zaremba

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Gordon Bennett, Nancy Bisio, Shirley Bogardus, Sharon A. Bozic, Inez Feller, Sue Fleckles, Porter Gale, Sally Sehring & William Gonda, Bette Hollis, C. V. Howe, Timothy Maiden, Steven B. Porter, Sophia Reinders, Sophia Reinders, Michael Roy, Florence Schreiter, Ruth Thompson, Robin Van Tassell, Mary Webster, Allison Williams, Elise Youmans

MARIN BIRDLOG: APRIL - MAY 2015

By Josiah Clark

By May winter becomes a distant memory and the signs of summer are well on their way. Golden-crowned Sparrows disappear, wildflower blooms taper off and grassy hills begin showing the first signs of brown. In just a month, all the hills will be the brown. During late May and early June the spring songbird vagrant season begins in earnest but Marin birders turned up lots of interesting birds during April.

On 4/17, Rodeo Lagoon had its first record of a **Great-tailed Grackle**, with others passing north across the Gate with the offshore winds the day before (WL).



Len Blumin

Calliope Hummingbird

The **Lewis's Woodpecker** continued until at least 4/24 near the northeast border of the county while the first returning **Swainson's Thrushes** were reported from Inverness that same day (DW). On May 1 the **Indigo Bunting** returned to the trail above Big Rock on Lucas Valley Road, where it has bred with **Lazuli Bunting** in years past (BH).

As usual Bolinas and the birders there turned up many good birds this period. An **Eastern Phoebe** made a brief appearance at the base of Fairfax-Bolinas Road on 4/18. Several **Purple Martins** returned to nesting sites above the reservoirs over the hill as well (JC). On 4/25 the **Black Vulture** rematerialized above the school in its usual location in time for a large group of birders (PP, JC). A female **Calliope Hummingbird** captured by Point Blue birders at the Palomarin field



Glen Tepke, gtepket@hazco.com

Cassin's Kingbird

station on 4/14 was a rare record for the coast in spring (RC).

Outer Point Reyes will likely take a bigger role in next month's Birdlog, but this month ambitious vagrant chasers were out on the scene early, detecting many of the more common western migrants. One less common migrant found during the offshore winds on 4/30 was a **Cassin's Kingbird** at the Pt. Reyes lighthouse (DS).

Observers and Acronyms **BH:** Bob Hall, **DW:** David Wimpfheimer, **DS:** Dan Singer, **JC:** Josiah Clark, **PP:** Peter Pyle, **RC:** Renée Cormier, **WL:** William Legge

Richardson Bay Anchor-Outs

continued from page 5

public. The essential concept of the public trust doctrine, which originated in Roman law and came through English common law, is that waterways are a common asset, and government is the trustee to keep waterways open for the benefit of all people. As it has developed in California, the public trust covers a range of recreational and natural resource values including fishing, bathing, and preservation of waterways in their natural state for food and habitat for birds and marine life (Marks vs. Whitney 1971). Private permanent residential use of the waters of the bay is a violation of the public trust.

Twenty years ago, the Special Area Plan permitted a limited number of liveaboards in existing and new recreational marinas to facilitate removing the anchor-outs from the Bay. As is currently being proposed, permanent anchor-outs would have to be tied to a mooring field. Mooring for visiting boats is one thing (visiting boats are limited to a one month stay according to coast guard regulations). Providing mooring for permanent residential use, however, is quite another. Residential use

of the Bay is a purely private use and is not a use allowed under the public trust.

It is public information that the regulations exist to control the anchor-outs and that the RBRA has the jurisdiction and legal authority to enforce these regulations. It may be expensive and controversial, but other jurisdictions around the Bay have managed to clear anchor-outs from their waters; Marin should be able to do so as well. The approach of setting up another advisory committee may diffuse the issue for a time but is unlikely to solve it. In our view, it is time to actively enforce existing regulations and give staff the funding resources and the charge to do so.

One of the key take-away messages from a recent public workshop on the issue was "The current anchorage situation is adverse, getting worse, and is damaging the environment, human health and safety, and navigation." It is clear that the anchor-out situation is a health and safety issue for the anchor-outs themselves, for the public that has a right to a clean and usable Bay, and for the fish and wildlife that depend on Richardson Bay for their survival. It is time for the Regional Agency to take action, not just have more delays.

Junior Bird Watchers

By Wendy Dreskin

Junior Bird Watchers is an in-school program designed to teach elementary school children to identify birds in their neighborhoods. If you would like more information, contact Wendy Dreskin at 415/457-3949.



Angus Bly is in first grade at Mark Day School. He would really like to see a Killdeer.

Max Billington is a first-grader at Mark Day School. His most exciting sighting was on a trip to Chimney Rock with his friend Angus where they saw a Peregrine Falcon!



Berit Pigott, third-grader at Bacich School had a robin's nest at her house. "I got to see the babies! I got to see the parents feeding them. I saw them every day until they fledged!"

Claire Booth, a fourth-grader at Ross School, says, "I saw a male Red-Winged Blackbird! He was so cute!" She would like to see a Red-Tailed Hawk.



Alex King is in the fourth grade at Ross School. He would like to see a male Western Tanager.

Sophia Nogueiro, a fourth-grader at Ross School, says, "I'd like to see a Steller's Jay. They look pretty cool in pictures!"



The Rail

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- October 4 **Field Trip**: Gulf of the Farallones
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