



The Rail

MARIN AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vote Yes on Measure E



Ed Nize

Marin Audubon's Simmons Slough property provides an area for flood control by ponding winter storm runoff as well as being good wildlife habitat.



Dr. Wendy Schackwitz

Yellow-billed Magpie

As our climate changes, the entire web of life must adapt or perish. If a flower blooms earlier due to increased temperatures, insects that depend on that flower must hatch earlier, and birds that consume those insects must arrive from their spring migration earlier. Whether birds will be able to adapt is uncertain.

National Audubon has determined that 50% of our birds will be threatened by climate change. During this program, Dr. Schackwitz will explain the science behind this research, and provide a set of actions that you can take to help our climate-threatened birds. All participants will receive a free copy of Napa-Solano Audubon's booklet, "California Birds in a Changing Climate."

Our speaker, Wendy Schackwitz, is Executive Director of Napa-Solano Audubon, scientist at the Joint Genome Institute, and an avid birder with more than 700 birds on her life list. Dr. Schackwitz has worked for the last 13 years in Walnut Creek at the Joint Genome Institute/Lawrence Berkeley National Lab as a scientist, where she leads a group that studies the genetics of organisms that are important for bio-fuel production.

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Novato's residents have an opportunity to address flood control and marsh restoration in Flood Zone 1 by voting YES on Measure E in the November 7 election. Zone 1 includes and extends from Bel Marin Keys, Black Point, and Bahia on the east, north to the Burdell Open Space Preserve (OSP), then west to past Stafford Lake and south to and including the Indian Valley and Ignacio Valley OSPs and Pacheco Creek. In addition to flood protection, water quality will be improved, fish and wildlife habitat will be restored and adaptations for sea level rise will be achieved by Measure E funding.

We all remember last year's flooding on Highway 37 but most of us probably haven't been around long enough to remember the 12 major floods in Novato over the last 90 years. This special tax is for the specific purpose of increasing flood protection both along the Bay and along streams. Paying for flood protection measures now will be much less than paying for the losses and damage when flooding occurs in the future.

Although some may think otherwise, current funding is not sufficient to cover the costs of correcting the damage that has been done by the last 100+ years of narrowing and

encasing creeks in levees, and diking, filling, and/or building on flood plains in the Novato Creek watershed. The years of damage have left Novato vulnerable to flooding from sea level rise and from storm events which are expected to increase in frequency and intensity with climate change.

The tax will fund projects to reduce flooding on local roadways; evaluate and implement measures to increase the scouring of sediment and improve the flow of flood waters to the Bay from lower Novato Creek; and restore creeks and marshes that buffer land from storm surges and rising tidal waters. Prop 1, the Water and Restoration Bond passed in November 2014, will fund projects throughout the Bay. Marin will get a fair share but that measure will most assuredly NOT fund all of the flood control measures needed in Novato.

Twenty-nine percent of the funds will be used for City of Novato drainage projects, thirty percent to repair or replace storm-damaged and aging levees and pumps, and fifty percent to restore habitat and reduce flooding by widening Novato Creek and restoring tidal marshes along its banks. The money raised can be used to leverage federal and state grants if

continued on page 4

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

President	Barbara Salzman 924-6057
Vice President	Lowell Sykes 388-2821
Secretary	Everett Clark 789-9224
Treasurer	Susan Winston 949/632-0908
Conservation	Phil Peterson 828-4780 Barbara Salzman 924-6057
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Special Projects	Jude Stalker 680-6291
Nominating	Phil Peterson 828-4780
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Property Management	Ed Nute 669-7710
Publicity	Barbara Freitas 497-4705
BAAC Reps	Lowell Sykes 388-2821 Barbara Salzman 924-6057

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.

The 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 Studio NaCl (www.studionacl.com). Deadline is the first of each month.

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Website: www.marinaudubon.org

Members can receive *The Rail* electronically instead of a hard copy by emailing membershipsecretary@marinaudubon.org

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 \$500 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

The hurricane catastrophes in Florida and Texas are a sobering reminder of just how vulnerable we all are to the forces of nature. Reports of the destruction of habitats, and the impacts to birds are coming in as we go to press. One interesting phenomenon is the birds that were detected by radar in the calm eye of the hurricane. One report indicated that they were trapped, while another that the eye offered them protection.

Our disasters in California have been associated with earthquakes and wildfires, but flooding has also caused problems and flooding can be expected to increase with climate change. If sea level rise and recent storms are an indication, we will be facing disasters from flooding in more frequent and severe storms and storm surges, increased runoff, rising tides and breached levees as experienced this past winter—unless we prepare. Meetings I attend and reports I receive, very much indicate that more storms and wetter climate are a real possibility—but no one knows.

Unlike earthquakes, weather events are predicted. We can prepare for their coming as individuals and as a community. We can support flood control funding, regulatory measures to keep development and people out of harm's way, and efforts to reduce our ecological footprint.

One often hears complaints about land use regulations: there are too many regulations, permitting is too complicated, too expensive and too slow, and that it is an owner's right to develop. If anything, hurricane Harvey should teach a lesson about the value of regulation, planning and zoning laws. Houston essentially has no land use regulation. Perhaps some of the property and lives that were lost would have been avoided had there been regulations limiting building in those low-lying lands vulnerable to flooding.

Land use regulation is especially vital now that we know the ocean levels are rising, and climate is changing and bringing more intense storms. We may not get hurricanes, but we are vulnerable to intense rainstorms, high flood waters and storm surges. Marin County is working to protect its citizens. Its vulnerability analyses for the Bay shore and for West Marin's ocean coast are the first steps. The more difficult steps of identifying specific areas to be protected and how they will be protected is still ahead. Marin residents need to join with and support the county in this effort. If you live in a city, urge your councils to cooperate and work with other jurisdictions to address climate change. We may not be able to control nature, but we can work locally to minimize and even

avoid damage from weather conditions we cannot control.

We can also act to counter the causes of climate change by reducing our ecological footprint. Individuals can reduce our production of greenhouse gases by using electric cars, putting solar panels on our roofs, reducing packaging, buying locally, and planting native plants in your gardens to moderate climate, produce oxygen, sequester the carbon dioxide produced in excess by our urban society, and provide habitat. You can also help Marin Audubon to plant native plants on our properties.

So, if you are feeling helpless in the face of the natural disasters or frustrated by national politics, then do something locally, where you can make a difference. There are lots of places to volunteer. Marin Audubon needs help to plan and enhance the habitats on our properties. Why not adopt one of our properties near you? Help us reach out to our members and others with our messages and opportunities through social media. Help with conservation by writing letters and having input into our positions.

As part of our planning for the coming year, our new board has set goals that include working to maintain our properties and increasing communication with our members and others through social media. Our goals and vision include increasing educational opportunities; having beginner and out-of-county birding trips which connect us to nature; arranging more classes; finishing our marsh restoration at Corte Madera; continuing our focus on sea level rise particularly at Tiscornia Marsh; and continuing our other conservation efforts particularly for endangered Northern Spotted Owl and Ridgway's Rail. We need volunteers to help us carry out these exciting concepts. There is much work ahead to make our county and our world a better place. Do call me to volunteer: 415/924-6057.

A message to homeowners: NOW is the time to prune your trees and shrubs. Do it now after birds have finished nesting for the season and before winter storms arrive.

MAS Needs You

If you love birds and want to join in protecting them and their habitats, please volunteer. Help maintain our properties with planting and upkeep. Encourage your friends and family to volunteer. Become a Board member.

MAS FIELD TRIPS

Open to the public

No need to sign up for one-day trips, just join us. Bring lunch, snacks, water, field guide, and binoculars. For information, accessibility, and weather check: Jane Medley, 559/760-1551, janermedley@gmail.com.

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR THE MOST RECENT UPDATES.

THE PONDS AT THE LAS GALLINAS VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT (LGVSD)

San Rafael

Thursday, October 5, 2017

9 AM to noon

With Bob Chilvers, Rich Cimino, & Janet Bodle

Beginning birders are especially welcome on the first Thursday of each month for a leisurely walk around the Las Gallinas ponds. Bob Chilvers, Rich Cimino, and Janet Bodle will lead this month's group as we search for waterfowl, waders, songbirds, raptors, and shorebirds. With fall migration underway, we are likely to spot new arrivals and maybe even a rare, unexpected migrant.

We welcome bird enthusiasts of all levels. We all help each other to find and identify the birds, so come assist in our search.

We have been informed by the manager at the Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District that construction work in the parking area will begin sometime this fall, perhaps necessitating a change in the meeting place and route for our monthly walks beginning in November. Check the MAS website and our November newsletter for the latest on this scheduled work.

DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101, exit at Smith Ranch Rd. Drive east on Smith Ranch Rd. toward McInnis Park. Turn left immediately after crossing the railroad tracks and drive about .5 mile through the LGVSD gates and into the parking lot at the end of the road. Meet the group by the bridge just past the parking lot. There is an outhouse in the parking area for public use or you can use the bathrooms at nearby McInnis Park.

BODEGA BAY

Saturday, October 7, 2017

8:30 AM to 3:30 PM

With Lisa Hug

Join us at Bodega Bay during the fall migration when just about anything can happen. We'll meet at the Rail Ponds at 8:30 AM. We will make some stops for shorebirds and then move on to Owl Canyon, Sonoma County's premier vagrant trap, and then to a sea watch at Bodega Head. From the Head we'll return clockwise around Bodega Harbor with likely stops at Campbell Cove, Owl Canyon again, Porto Bodega and finally Doran Park (entrance fee) where we sometimes find Snowy Plovers.

DIRECTIONS: Drive north on Hwy. 1 through Bodega Bay approximately .5 miles past Diekmann's Store. Turn left on Eastshore Road, then right at the bottom of the hill on Bayflat Road. Drive to the harbor shore where you'll find the horse trailer parking lot (Rail Ponds) on the right, just shy of the northern-most part of the harbor. If this is confusing—the GPS address is 1600 Bayflat Road. You can also Google "Rail Ponds Bodega Bay" to see photo maps.

SHOLLENBERGER PARK

Petaluma

Saturday, October 14, 2017

8:30 AM to 1:30 PM

With Peter Colasanti

Shollenberger Park is one of the major birding hotspots in the North Bay with more than 230 species recorded. "It's like Las Gallinas without the sewage," says our leader, Peter. Thanks to last winter's ample rainfall there's still water in the central pond, a typical high tide roost for shorebirds with 18 species having been seen in Octobers past. Expect early waterfowl and maybe some late vagrants. If time and interest permit, we may extend to Ellis Creek.

DIRECTIONS: 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. Take the third right at Cader Lane and park in the lot at the end.

ABBOTTS LAGOON

No. 10, Birding in Marin (BIM) Series

Saturday, October 21, 2017

8:30 AM to mid-afternoon

With Jim White and Bob Battagin

This month Jim and Bob will explore Abbotts Lagoon in the Point Reyes National Seashore. Plan to meet by 8:30 AM in the parking lot on Pierce Point Road. Fall migration south along the Pacific coast brings many birds to this place: ducks and geese, shorebirds, raptors, even sparrows and pipits. Tufted Duck, Greater White-fronted Goose, Baird's Sandpiper, Ferruginous Hawk, Clay-colored Sparrow, and American Pipit are a few of the birds that we may find. We will get a look at this migration and many of the birds that stay for the winter. This should be an excellent field trip and will be good exercise.

DIRECTIONS: Allowing about an hour and a half travel time from San Rafael, follow Sir Francis Drake Blvd (SFDB) to Olema. From Olema drive north on Hwy 1, take the second left turn at SFDB, continue through Inverness, and turn right (north) onto Pierce Point Road. Drive until you come to the Abbotts Lagoon parking lot on the left where our group will gather.

SANDHILL CRANES ON WOODBRIDGE ROAD

Near Lodi

Saturday, October 28, 2017

1 to 6 PM

With Paul Tebbel

Join western US crane expert, Paul Tebbel, for a trip in the north Delta to observe sandhill cranes, swans, geese, and other waterfowl. Most of the trip will focus on cranes, which are known for their fascinating and intricate behaviors displayed while wintering in California.

You'll learn to differentiate between the lesser and greater subspecies, recognize young of the year, and hopefully see dancing and/or territory displays.

Our guide, Paul Tebbel, has been a student of cranes for over 40 years, including 11 years as manager of Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary in Nebraska. This trip will cover general crane viewing from 1-4 PM, then will proceed to a good viewing spot to observe the fly-in until about 5:30 PM. Participants can leave after the general crane viewing to avoid driving in the dark. However, Paul tells us that the fly-in is both a visual and auditory spectacle. Attendees should bring binoculars, spotting scopes, bug repellent, munchies, water, and folding chairs. Very little hiking is involved.

DIRECTIONS: We will meet at Woodbridge Ecological Reserve/Isenberg Crane Reserve South on Woodbridge Rd. To get to Woodbridge Rd from I-5, take the Peltier exit from the north or the Hwy 12 exit from the south. Get onto Thornton, which runs parallel (super close) to I-5 just to the east. Turn west on Woodbridge and go about 3 miles. Pass Isenberg North and proceed another half mile to Isenberg South. There is a lovely wetland there with an ag chemical plant in the background.

LEFT OF THE FAULT: POINT REYES BIG DAY BLAST

Point Reyes Station

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

7:30 AM to 4-5 PM

With Keith Hansen

Join renowned bird artist Keith Hansen for a full, fine-feathered day of fall birding at Point Reyes. Sometimes thought of as "too late" for fall migrants, November is often an underappreciated time for finding rare birds. We will attempt to see at least 100 species "west of the San Andreas Fault"! We will meet in Point Reyes Station and carpool to the Outer Point hitting as many of the migrant traps as is possible. Time permitting we'll increase the list by hitting the Teal Ponds, Heart's Desire Beach, and maybe Bear Valley and Five Brooks.

This is an all-day trip that is not for the faint of heart or those just looking for a leisurely bird walk. Bring a lunch and plenty of liquids. Be dressed for good, to less than good weather. Feel free to bring a scope. Only a big storm will cause us to cancel.

There is no charge for this trip but signup is required, as the number of participants is limited. Contact Janet Bodle from 9 AM Monday, October 9 to Friday, October 27 if you wish to sign up. Email Janet at jlbodle@hotmail.com. After 5 PM October 27 the trip slots will be filled and the participants notified. Any vacant slots after that will be allotted on a first-come, first-served basis.

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.

VOTE YES ON MEASURE E

continued from page 1

additional funds are needed. Government grant programs require matching funds.

The Highway 37 area will be a major focus. Measure E funding will enable the diked baylands along Highway 37 to be restored to tidal marshes that will buffer rising tides. These lands along Novato Creek are subject to tidal action and, as demonstrated by last year's flooding, are particularly vulnerable. Marshes are the first line of defense against rising tides and storm surges.

MAS is excited about the opportunities this measure offers. We own 20 parcels within flood zone 1. We maintain our parcels in a natural state so they can provide habitat for wildlife as well as serve flood protection functions by absorbing rainwater and/or providing areas for runoff to pond which reduces the flow and the risk to downstream areas. We want our properties to be part of the solution, not part of the problem. Our diked historic tideland property at Olive and Atherton Avenues is a good example. This 145-acre site is a designated flood basin that ponds runoff protecting the adjacent roads and nearby structures and, at the same time, provides habitat for waterfowl and shorebirds that rest and feed in that ponded water. We have specifically requested that this parcel be included in the plan for the Highway 37 corridor.

The tax will be \$47 on parcels with single family houses and will be higher for larger parcels with multifamily structures and for property with commercial/industrial structures. The tax will be in effect for 18 years and raise \$1.1 million annually. Government-owned and MAS-owned properties would not be taxed. There is an exemption for low income seniors.

Your vote is critical. The Measure needs at least two-thirds of the registered voters voting thereon. So get out and vote **YES** on **MEASURE E**.

NEW HOPE FOR HIGHWAY 37 WETLANDS CORRIDOR

A new group, the State Route 37 Baylands Group, is convening to ensure that changes in Highway 37 transportation corridor include measures to protect and restore the North Bay ecosystem. The group includes government agencies and other owners of property along Highway 37: Marin County, Sonoma Land Trust, Marin Audubon Society, San Francisco

Estuary Institute, scientific organizations, and other regional interest groups.

The guiding vision for the Baylands Group is that infrastructure improvements along Highway 37 can and should be integrated with conservation and restoration of the San Pablo Bay ecosystem.

The impetus for creation of the Baylands Group is the narrow focus of the Highway 37 Policy Committee, which consists of Supervisors from the four counties along Hwy. 37 (Marin, Sonoma, Solano and Napa), on eliminating congestion. The Policy committee has been meeting for more than a year and began to meet in order to address a proposal from a private company, United Bridge Partners, to widen Highway 37, take ownership of the property and establish it as a toll road.

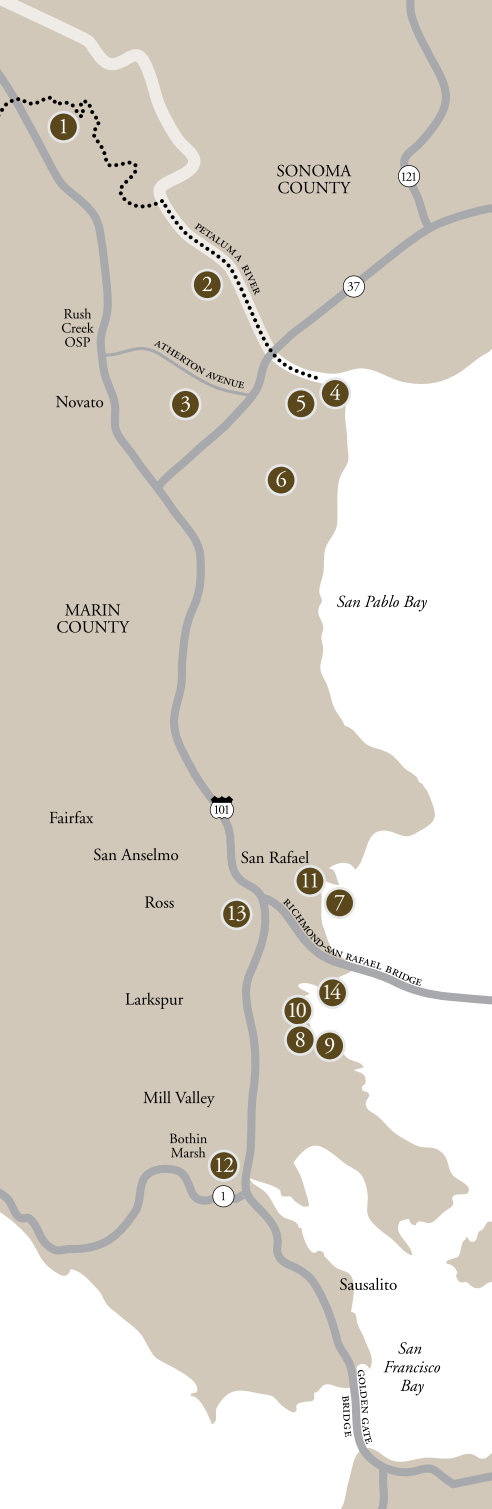
The discussions of the Policy Committee have been focused on solving the traffic problem, with a strongly voiced preference for a toll road. The Committee has shown no interest in the critical natural resources that this transportation corridor bisects or in ensuring that the North Bay ecosystem is not damaged or degraded further than it already has been. Only a few voices of organizations and individuals attending the Policy Committee meetings have raised environmental concerns. There is no evidence that these voices are being paid much heed.

With the Baylands Group now convening, there is hope for integrating transportation infrastructure with ecosystem protection and enhancement.

SAUSALITO SEAPLANES

At a recent well-attended Marin County Planning Commission meeting, the Commissioners declined to change the operations of the seaplane business on Richardson Bay, and staff reported that the agency that has jurisdiction is actually the Federal Aviation Authority, not the county. There had been numerous complaints from nearby residents about noise. The owner of the business and many of his supporters as well as opponents attended the hearing. A hearing before the Marin County Aviation Commission is scheduled for October 5.

The waters of Richardson Bay, including the section where the seaplane operates, is overwintering habitat for waterfowl and shorebirds. During the winter months, when they are here, diving ducks and other birds use the waters of the bay, and shorebirds forage



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 |
| 14. Corte Madera Ecological Reserve Expansion Site | 5.2 acres |

along the margins of the shoreline when mudflat is exposed. The feeding activities of shorebirds, in particular, and waterfowl to some extent, are attuned to the tidal cycles, not the time of day. Shorebirds can only feed when mudflats are exposed, and diving ducks need shallow water habitat.

During their winter stay, migratory birds must put on weight, rest and build up their body fat to enable them to make the arduous journey north and breed successfully. Disturbance during critical times in the tidal cycles reduces feeding time and could impact the health and breeding success of these migrants.

Our members living in the area observe that the seaplane activity disturbs birds using the bay. The physical movement of planes through the water and the noise result in birds flying off from the water. They use up energy to fly away. Perhaps they come back, perhaps they find another place to feed or rest, or they may not. Some folks may say they can just go someplace else. Maybe they can. But what people may perceive as alternative habitats, just may not be suitable. They may not be as productive feeding areas, i.e., there may not be much food available. There may be other birds that are feeding the area so that the carrying capacity is exceeded already. Even if they don't fly away, if they have to stop what they are doing, be it resting or feeding, they have been disturbed. The more these disturbances happen, the more the birds will be adversely affected.

Most wintering migratory waterfowl and

shorebirds are present in Richardson Bay from October through March, but the Bay is also important habitat for water-dependent birds moving in later spring from wintering areas to the south to their breeding grounds in the north, and migrating south after breeding to find a place to spend the winter.

Our message to the Planning Commission was that it would be most beneficial for the migratory bird population and the species diversity, for there to be no seaplane activity in Richardson Bay. Our message to the FAA is the same. If the seaplane business remains, the fewest number of trips should be permitted, particularly during winter months when the major populations of water birds depend on our Bay habitats.

UPDATE ON LEGAL EFFORTS— NSO PROTECTIONS

We had thought we were close to an agreement, but as we go to press, we are still waiting for a response from the county. It has now been two months since we had our last settlement conference at which we thought we had general agreement. If we don't have one soon, we will be going before Judge Haakenson.

The new legal action on Hunt Camp Trail is just beginning. The three organizations that brought suit, Native Plant Society, Marin Conservation League and Marin Audubon Society, are in the process of working out a position that we can all agree on.

Volunteer of the Year, Debbie Ablin



Jude Stalker

Debbie Ablin

Folks who admire and enjoy the native plants and the wildlife that use them on Marin Audubon's Bahia and Triangle Marsh properties can thank Debbie Ablin. If the birds that use the vegetation could talk, we wager they would thank Debbie also.

Debbie is one of the most faithful and dedicated volunteers on Marin Audubon's properties. She was one of our earliest volunteers at Bahia, starting about ten years ago, pulling radish and removing Harding grass. She has expanded her helpful work to include participating in work days at Triangle Marsh in Corte Madera where she pulls some of the same invasives, as well as stinkweed and thistles, with Bob Hinz and others. She has even been known to swing a pick at an invasive plant.

During the last few years, Debbie has further extended her efforts to joining the crew working to eradicate non-native sea lavender, a high marsh plant that is colonizing shorelines throughout the Bay, in an effort organized by Jude Stalker through Marin Audubon and the California Invasive Plant Council. Fortunately, no invasive sea lavender has appeared on Marin Audubon properties.

Debbie loves to travel and she goes off to visit other places regularly. Her latest trip was to the Grand Tetons. Debbie is a retired radiologist and lives in Novato.

Thank you, Debbie. We wish we had clones of you

Birding: A Great Hobby!

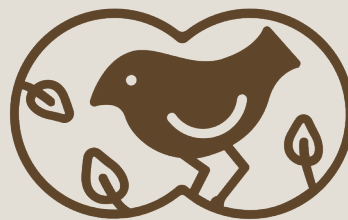
With Anne Kelly

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2017

9 TO 11:30 AM

RICHARDSON BAY AUDUBON CENTER AND SANCTUARY

376 GREENWOOD BEACH ROAD, TIBURON



This short, fun presentation will introduce participants to one of the world's most popular hobbies. We'll spend the first hour or two inside the classroom, explaining the "why," "what" and "where" of this great pastime. After talking a bit about the hobby, you can join us outside and try it.

Birds we might find outside the room include sparrows, finches, and woodpeckers. We'll walk over to the dock and look for birds on and around Richardson Bay. There we could spot ducks, pelicans, grebes, and much more.

If you're looking for a way to keep your brain stimulated, want to make new friends and have some fun outdoors, or are just curious about why people love birdwatching, please join us.

Bring binoculars if you have them; we'll have a few to share. Healthy snacks will be provided.

If you plan to stay after the classroom session for the birdwatching, dress in layers appropriate for the weather. In the event of heavy rain, we'll skip the outdoor activity.

There is no fee and Marin Audubon Society membership is not required.

Questions? Contact Susan Kelly at quailfriend@yahoo.com.

Illustration created by Marryn Jasinski from Noun Project

HABITAT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

October workdays will be the last opportunity to find and pull stinkweed and *Salsola soda* (various English names including Russian thistle) before the main flowering period. *Salsola* seems to be spreading rapidly but it is easy to pull. There are a few other invasive species, mustard and bristly ox-tongue, for example, still straggling on with late flowers. These two will survive till the rains come so getting them now would be a good thing. It is too dry and too early to plant.

Act locally and join us on a workday. Witness restoration first-hand and be a part of it.

We have the tools, gloves and snacks. We generally work until about 1 PM, but even an hour is valuable help. Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend.

VOLUNTEER WORK DAYS

Triangle Marsh, East Corte Madera:

First Saturdays: October 7, November 4

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

Bahia, Novato:

Workdays will continue but on a more irregular schedule. If you would like to help, please contact Jude at judestalker@gmail.com.

THANK YOU TO OUR STEWARDSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Debbi Ablin, Katharine Cagney, Carolyn Corl, Bob Hinz, Sharon McCloskey, Flinn Moore Rauck, Jude Stalker, Lowell Sykes

THANKS FOR YOUR DONATIONS

Marjorie Belknap, Donna M. Cameron, Patricia DiLuzio, Michael & Valerie Hancock, Marilyn V. Knight, Michael Mooney, PG&E Corporation Foundation (donor match), L. Stephen Polito, Ruth M. Schuler, David & Maria Scott, Meryl Sundove & Roger Harris, United Way California Capital Region

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HABITAT STEWARDSHIP

TISCORNIA MARSH PROJECT BEGINS

Work funded by our Coastal Conservancy and the Marin Community Foundation Nature Based Adaptation to Sea Level Rise grant is finally beginning actively in September. Environmental consultants ESA are doing necessary background work, Siegel Environmental is communicating with the City of San Rafael, and Shore Up Marin will be preparing outreach material to go to the community.

CORTE MADERA ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

We're still working to construct our marsh restoration this fall/winter. We have our Biological Opinion from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Army Corps of Engineers 404 permit, Regional Water Quality Control Board 401 Certification, and are just waiting for our Bay Conservation and Development Commission permit. As required by our funding sources, we then have to go to bid to choose a construction contractor. So, it will be probably November before we can begin to remove the fill and restore marsh.



Jude Stalker

Flinn Moore Rauck with a cocklebur plant, a big problem at Bahia.

BAHIA AND TRIANGLE MARSH

Volunteers at the September workdays pulled all the stinkweed that they could find at these two sites; there is very little in comparison with several years ago. Then they went on to reduce other invasive species, cocklebur at Bahia and bristly ox-tongue at Triangle.

SEPTEMBER 24, 2017 FIELD TRIP

Farallons Pelagic Trip a *Huge* Success

By Jane Medley



Georgia Strubaker

Humpback whale tail

Clear skies and calm seas contributed to a rewarding day on the water with guide David Wimpfheimer and Captain Jim Robertson. We had satisfying views of many ocean creatures, some with wings and some with fins. As we left the protection of the Bay, we encountered **Sooty**, **Pink-footed**, and **Buller's Shearwaters**, a **Pomarine Jaeger**, and sitting on the water at regular intervals, many, many **Common Murres** all the way out to the Farallons.

Before reaching the island, a **Tufted Puffin** with its massive orange bill was spotted on the water. Then further out to sea, Captain Jim

delivered us great front-row seats to a **Humpback Whale** and **California Sea Lion** feeding extravaganza not to be forgotten. The humpbacks used their lunge feeding behavior while the sea lions, not to be outdone, exhibited their "porpoising" leaps out of the water in order to catch their own share of the fish.

Cruising close to the Southeast Island, we were fortunate to see both the **Blue-footed Booby** and the **Brown Booby** that had been reported earlier. We also viewed **California Sea Lions**, **Steller's Sea Lions**, and **Northern Fur Seals** resting on shore. Feeling satisfied as we headed back, we encountered 4-6 endangered **Blue Whales** feeding close to the surface with amazing views of their massive, pale grayish bodies. Not to be out-wowed, more humpbacks came into view surrounding our boat so closely we could hear their blowing and smell their fishy breath.

All of this was not to be missed. Plus we saw **Black-footed Albatross**, **Parasitic Jaeger**, and **Rhinoceros Auklet!**

MARIN BIRDLOG: AUGUST 2017

By Noah Arthur

August is shorebird month, with rare sandpipers and plovers popping up at marshes, creek mouths, and sewage ponds all along the California coast. Other uncommon “summer” waterbirds often make appearances, too, such as the juvenile **Black Skimmer** found on Rodeo Lagoon on the 5th (WL), likely dispersing from breeding colonies farther south in the Bay Area.

A juvenile **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, one of the quintessential late summer rarities in our area, showed nicely at Pt. Reyes North Beach on the 8th (LK, NA), loafing on the sand with **Least** and **Western Sandpiper** flock-mates. On the same day we saw the beginnings of fall songbird migration in the form of a **Western Kingbird** near Drakes Beach and a young female **Black-throated Gray Warbler** at the Pt. Reyes Fish Docks (LK, NA). Additionally on the 8th, a **Hermit Warbler** was at



Len Blumin

Black Skimmer



Armando Demesa

Black-throated Gray Warbler, male

creek mouths during fall migration. However, unlike the somewhat rarer Semipalmated, nearly all **Baird's Sandpipers** on the California coast are juveniles, suggesting that this is not a “normal” migration route for the species and that they are vagrants in our area, despite their regular occurrence.

A couple of early eastern migrants, a **Least Flycatcher** at the Fish Docks and a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** along Sir Francis Drake Blvd., showed up at Pt. Reyes on the 18th (DS).

Yet another great find on the Pt. Reyes shoreline was a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at Limantour Beach on the 19th (ML), in addition to the flocks of **Baird's Sandpipers**. Seven more **Baird's Sandpipers** were at Giacomini Wetlands (the south end of Tomales Bay) on the 20th, along with a **Ruddy Turnstone** (GC).

As fall progressed further, the usual offshore parade of thousands of **Sooty Shearwaters** (300 passing per minute) was occurring at Muir Beach on the 29th (JW).

Observers and Acronyms **DF:** Dea Freid, **DS:** Dan Singer, **GC:** Graham Chisholm, **JW:** Jim White, **LK:** Logan Kahles, **ML:** Matt Lau, **NA:** Noah Arthur, **RS:** Rusty Scalf, **WL:** William Legge



Glen Topke, gtopke@phases.com

Semipalmated Sandpiper

Junior Bird Watchers

By Wendy Dreskin

Junior Bird Watchers is a program designed to teach elementary school children to identify birds in their neighborhoods. This is not a Marin Audubon-sponsored activity.



Adam Levy passed the Junior Bird Watcher test at first grade level. He was very excited when he saw his first **American Goldfinch**.



Ryland Johnson passed the Junior Bird Watcher test at first grade level and would love to see a **Sandhill Crane**.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Connie Adams, Helen Amoroso, Ruth Barton, Richard Bass, Dulcy Brainard, Robert Collins, Mary Cook, Patricia Cooke, Claudia Coury, Mumu Delong, Susan Dexter, Judith Ets-Hokin, David Fiol, Catherine Fleck, Susan L. Fordyce, Roberta Goodman, Meghan Greenwood, Thora Harrison, Madelyn Hodges, Kimberlyanne Hoffman, Neil Illiano, Carol W. Johnson, Ellen Karel, Ann G. Lacey, Derek Lecy, Steve Lewis, Brian Mattson, Marc McMorris, Andy Mendell, J. Milton, Larry Moore, Gene F. Moore, Scott Muldavin, Kimo Nakamura, Susan Nelson, Lisa Nelson, Christian & Carol Oakes, Susan Simpson, Sandy Slichter, Michael Sopko, Jay Strauss, Georgia R. Struhsaker, Bong Suh, Michelle Tripp, The Uplands Family Foundation, H. J. Vannood, Laura Wais, Leslie Walker, Catherine M. Wallbank, Frances Williams, Carolyn Zaroff



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- Nov. 1 **Field Trip:** Point Reyes Big Day Blast
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- Nov. 2 **Field Trip:** Las Gallinas
(tentative location)
With Bob Chilvers & Friends
- Nov. 4 **Field Trip:** Rodeo Lagoon Encore
With William Legge
& David Wiechers
- Nov. 16–19 **Central Valley Birding Symposium**
<http://www.cvbirds.org/events/symposium/info/>
- Nov. 19 **Boat Trip:** San Francisco Bay
With John Klobas & Sarah Brooks
Registration open October 2
- Dec. 14 **Rich Stallcup's Cheep Thrills CBC**
Northern Marin
- Dec. 30 **Southern Marin CBC**
Check website for updates and details

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