



MADRONE LEAVES

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

VOLUME 43

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Congratulations to 2010 Award Winners

Madrone Audubon's annual membership meeting in May has a special purpose. It's a convivial potluck dinner followed by one of our fine speakers, but also it winds up our 2009-2010 year, installing a new slate of officers for 2010-2011 and recognizing a number of volunteers who have made very valuable contributions to the chapter's program.

Here's a summary of the awards given on May 17, with a bit of information about each recipient. We congratulate them heartily, and we wish all of our members an excellent summer!

Bewick's Wren and Bowen Awards

Madrone Audubon's oldest awards for exceptional contributions to the chapter are the Bewick's Wren Award, honoring longtime valuable service, and the Evalyn and Les Bowen award for an outstanding contribution to the chapter's work. The Bewick's Wren is Madrone's symbol, chosen when the chapter was founded in 1967. Evalyn Bowen was the founding president, and Les was Sanctuary Chairman—he also designed the Bewick's Wren insignia that we still use today. These awards were established in 1988 and 1991, and have been awarded since then on a yearly basis.

DAVE & KATHY BIGGS – BEWICK'S WREN AWARD

Kathy and Dave Biggs were chosen for this award as long-time Audubon members who have made valuable contributions to the chapter. They joined Madrone in 1976 when they moved

to Sebastopol and began to learn about birds and the north coast environment, especially from founding members such as the Bowens, the Harpers, Martha Bentley, Betty Burrige, Ernie Smith and others. Between them Kathy and Dave have held positions as Publicity Chair, Membership Chair, Treasurer, and Vice-President. They were the founders, along with Kathi Jacobs, of Junior Audubon (originally called Pee-Wee Audubon).

Kathy and Dave worked with Martha for several years with Bird Rescue, specializing in swallows. The birds led them to dragonflies and now they lead dragonfly walks for Madrone and also give dragonfly walks and talks to other Audubon chapters and organizations throughout the West. Kathy is the author of California's first dragonfly guide (recently revised), the Southwest's first dragonfly guide, and with Tim Manolis of Sacramento Audubon, she has authored the first ever dragonfly coloring book.

Recently, degradation of the seep and ponds above the Mayacamas Mountains Audubon Preserve east of Healdsburg led Kathy and Dave into a new phase of activism—advising the Bureau of Land Management in habitat restoration at that site (a rare dragonfly breeds there). They are also meeting with the BLM State Ecologist to document locations of rare dragonfly sites as well as sites with great dragonfly diversity on BLM lands.

MIKE SEDDON – EVALYN & LES BOWEN AWARD

For the past seven years, Mike has been the *Leaves* editors' ghost editor. We could count on him to edit the Observations, Calendar, and Western Sonoma Christmas Bird Counts, to do occasional proofreading and respond to urgent computer dilemmas. Regardless of when these pages were sent to Mike, the editors knew there would be a quick turnaround—he was always ahead of the deadline. Mike's contribution saved the *Leaves* editors numerous hours of work on every issue.

The Summer 2010 issue will be his last editing of the *Leaves*. Think we're going to miss him? You bet we will!

Mike is a computer specialist in his working life. He started bird feeding to give his indoor cat some entertainment while he was at work. But he found an avocation for himself as well. Here's how he tells it:

"I liked seeing species I'd never seen before, which led to more kinds of feeders and more kinds of food. I now have

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NO GENERAL MEETING IN THE MONTHS OF JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST

Coming September 20: Author, illustrator and environmental educator John Muir Laws will talk on "Finding Connection in Nature."



calendar

All walks and meetings are open to the public. Bird walks are recreational and educational in purpose, and all levels of expertise are welcome. Bring field equipment and wear comfortable shoes and layered clothing for variable weather conditions. Please carpool whenever possible. Forecasted heavy rain cancels. There is no charge for activities unless otherwise specified, but some parks have day-use fees.

The Conservation Committee exchanges information by phone and e-mail as soon as possible when an issue surfaces. Please contact Diane Hichwa at 785-1922 or dhichwa@earthlink.net.

Wednesday, June 2, 7:00 PM

BOARD MEETING. Sonoma County Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway Avenue, Santa Rosa. For agenda information, contact Bob Speckels at 569-0563.

Saturday, June 5, 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

PINE FLAT ROAD. A bird-rich outing that we all look forward to every year. We will meet at the first bridge on Pine Flat Road, just east of its intersection with Highway 128, north of Healdsburg. We will combine into as few cars as possible. Please do not join us in an additional vehicle after the trip has started, as a large number of cars negatively impacts the birding and the residents of the area. Bring lunch, liquids and layers of clothing. Rain cancels. Leaders: Tom Cashman, 433-2528; Bill Doyle, 483-8773; Bob Speckels, 569-0563.

Saturday, June 12, 9:00 AM

SHOLLENBERGER PARK. Petaluma Wetlands Alliance leads a nature walk. Meet at the first kiosk. Rain cancels. Contact Gerald Moore at 763-3577.

Sunday, June 13, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

MAYACAMAS MOUNTAINS AUDUBON SANCTUARY FIELD TRIP. Come see late blooms on serpentine at Red Hill with Lynn Houser, President of the Milo Baker Chapter of California Native Plant Society. Plant identification, ecology, and natural history of the Mayacamas area will be featured. Moderate grade, 1- to 2-mile hike. Bring binoculars, field guides, and camera. Plant lists will be available. Older children OK with supervision. Meet on Pine Flat road just before the Sausal Creek Bridge; no reservations needed.

Saturday, June 19, 8:00 AM to Noon

SANTA ROSA CREEK AT WILLOWSIDE ROAD. A short walk, but an intense birding experience. Meet at Santa Rosa Creek bridge on Willowside Road, between Hall and Guerneville Roads. Rain cancels. Leaders: Tom Cashman, 433-2528; Bob Speckels, 569-0563; and Ken Wilson, 775-2558.

Saturday, June 19, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

MAYACAMAS MOUNTAINS AUDUBON SANCTUARY FIELD TRIP. Retired ranger and archaeologist Daniel Murley will lead a moderately strenuous hike discussing the pre-history, human history and natural history of the area northeast of Healdsburg near

the old town of Pine Flat. Bring a light lunch and your curiosity. Older children OK with supervision. Meet on Pine Flat road just before the Sausal Creek Bridge; no reservations needed.

Saturday, June 19, 10:00 AM

SHOLLENBERGER PARK. Petaluma Wetlands Alliance leads two children/family nature walks. One-to-two hours, dependent on age of children. Meet at the first kiosk. Rain cancels. For the children/family walk in English, contact Gerald Moore at 763-3577; for the walk in Spanish, contact Connie Peabody at 338-2237.

Saturday, June 26, 9:00 AM

ELLIS CREEK WATER RECYCLING FACILITY, PETALUMA. Petaluma Wetlands Alliance leads a walk at the Ellis Creek ponds. Go to the end of Cypress Drive and through the gates. Parking lot is on the left. Rain cancels. Contact Bob Dyer at 763-2934.

Saturday, July 3, 8:00 AM to Noon

SALMON CREEK ROAD. Another annual favorite! Meet at the corner of Bodega Highway and Salmon Creek Road, in the town of Bodega (not Bodega Bay), where we will combine into as few cars as possible. Please do not join us in an additional vehicle after the trip has started, as a large number of cars negatively impacts the birding and the residents of the area. Informal carpools meet at Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District office, 747 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa at 7:15 AM. Leaders: Tom Cashman, 433-2528; and Bob Speckels, 569-0563.

Wednesday, September 1, 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM

BODEGA BAY. Bird Walk. From the center of the town of Bodega Bay, drive north on Highway 1, turn left at East Shore Road (the Bodega Head turnoff), then turn right at the stop sign, and continue 0.3 mile to the unpaved parking lot on the right. Bring lunch, liquids, and layered clothing. For information, contact Tom McCuller, sisyphus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

Wednesday, September 1, 7:00 PM

BOARD MEETING. Sonoma County Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway Avenue, Santa Rosa. For agenda information, contact Bob Speckels at 569-0563.

Saturday, September 4, 8:00 AM to Noon

RAGLE RANCH REGIONAL PARK, on Ragle Ranch Rd, in Sebastopol. Join us to look for early fall migrants, as well as a wide variety of our familiar county birds. Meet in the parking area near the dog park. There is a parking fee of \$6.00, or use your Regional Park Pass. Leaders: Bob Speckels, 569-0563; Tom Cashman, 433-2528; and Bill Doyle, 483-8773.

**2010 AWARD WINNERS**

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thirteen feeders for birds, three feeders for squirrels, two birdbaths, and one birdhouse. My birdhouse has been home for four generations of Oak Titmice and one of Chestnut-backed Chickadees. Somehow, I've progressed from filling a single window feeder to buying 25-pound bags of sunflower seeds and 50-pound bags of peanuts.

I enjoy watching the birds, seeing the differences in their behavior and personalities – the confident and energetic chickadees, the skittish goldfinches – and believing that by providing them with a reliable source of water and food in a sheltered area, I'm making their lives a little easier."

Bentley-Smith and Burrige Awards**JEANNE WIRKA -
BENTLEY-SMITH AWARD**

Madrone Audubon Society instituted the Bentley-Smith Award in 2002, to recognize a Madrone member for contributions to the protection and enhancement of the environment through education or conservation activity in the community. This award was created in honor of Martha Bentley and Ernestine Smith, who joined the fledgling Madrone Audubon Society as charter members in 1967. Their work continues to be an inspiration to us all.

Jeanne Wirka is the resident biologist at the Bouverie Preserve of Audubon Canyon Ranch and co-director of ACR's education program. She received a Master's Degree in Ecology from U.C. Davis and a B.A. from Harvard University. She came to ACR from Audubon-California (the state subsidiary of the National Audubon Society) where, as the project ecologist for the Landowner Stewardship Program in Yolo County, she worked with farmers and ranchers to restore and protect wildlife habitat on private lands.

Her primary area of expertise is in California plant community ecology with a focus on native grasslands, oak woodlands, and riparian habitats. At Bouverie, Jeanne also teaches natural history classes to volunteers and works with the ACR science staff on research and resource management programs specific to the preserve. She also oversees the oak woodland restoration program (Project GROW), working with other Bouverie staff to plant over 400 oak trees and associated oak woodland species.

Jeanne has a long history of working with volunteers in a variety of community and ecological projects and especially enjoys providing "hands-on" experience to school-age children. She has expanded the Junior Naturalist Program (Junipers) so that we now have a summer program for high school age Junipers. She says about her work, "It is my "dream job. Being a naturalist and working outdoors is something that I've wanted to do since I was a little kid... I have two wonderful daughters who live at Bouverie with me, Laurel and Grace, ages 14 and 8, and Laurel is already a Juniper!"

**RUTH RUDESILL -
BURRIDGE AWARD**

The Burrige Award is given for continuing contributions to research and education. Diane and Bryant Hichwa established the award in 2008 and named it in honor of longtime Madrone member, volunteer and birder par excellence, Betty Burrige. Betty edited the first *Sonoma County Breeding Bird Atlas*, published in 1995, and promises to be a consultant to the MAS committee working on an update.

Ruth Rudesill is a native Californian, born in Los Angeles, but raised in the Bay Area. Her family encouraged her early interest in the outdoors—she received her first *Peterson Guide* for her seventh birthday.

While attending Santa Rosa Junior College, Ruth went on her first birding trip with one of Pete Leveque's condor expeditions. She turned into a true birder after a wonderful sighting of a Great Gray Owl. No surprise, then, that she graduated from Humboldt State University with a Wildlife Management degree, with an emphasis on birds.

Ruth's working life has been in the business world; but she participates in breeding bird atlases, surveys, and Christmas counts, and also has taught bird classes. She's currently the compiler of the Santa Rosa CBC, a member of the committee currently updating the *Sonoma County Breeding Bird Atlas*, and has been the Sub-regional Editor for *North American Birds* for Sonoma County bird observations since 1987.

**DENISE CADMAN AND
JOHN SHRIBBS -
SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS**

Madrone also gave special recognition at our annual meeting to two local people who have been particularly helpful in furthering our chapter's goals.

Denise Cadman

Denise is a resource specialist with the City of Santa Rosa. For a number of years she has been our "go-to" person to provide access and lead walks at the city's treatment ponds and other preserve properties. She's a teaches biology at SRJC, conducts several bird censuses in Laguna area and is a Board member and active volunteer with the Laguna Foundation; giving lectures to docents, monitoring the Delta Pond Rookery, and managing restoration programs and the Foundation's native plant nursery. She's participated in our Christmas Bird Counts and provided Madrone's Veronica Bowers with a 100-nest-box study area in the Laguna.

We are truly fortunate to have Denise's support, birding with us and opening doors, or gates, for our birding activities.

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2010 AWARD WINNERS

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John Shribbs

If you've been to Shollenberger Park and Alman Marsh, you've seen countless native plantings of grasses, shrubs, and trees sporting a colorful ribbon or nearby flag. These native plantings were grown and nurtured at Petaluma's Casa Grande High School Plant Nursery. John, a Petaluma Wetlands Alliance board member and teacher at Casa Grande, designed the nursery and constructed it with on-site teachers and students. He continues to upgrade and expand the nursery, always on the lookout for a helping hand (teachers, students, PWA docents, and community volunteers beware!) The fruits of all this labor are seen in the healthy, beautiful plants that reside in the Petaluma wetlands. On weekends during the winter months, you might find John along the Shollenberger Park trails teaching volunteers how to plant; in the summer, you might see him watering the new plantings. We are fortunate to have John do so much for wetlands restoration.

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Focusing on Birds at Lincoln School

It was "Bird Day" this year at Lincoln School in Santa Rosa on May 5, courtesy of Madrone Audubon. Guided by Madrone organizers Phyllis Schmitt and Janeann Erickson and 17 other volunteers, students in kindergarten through sixth grade enjoyed a special day learning about birds.

The activities ranged from outdoor races that taught the students about the hazards of migration to art projects where the students could design their own birds. Popular hands-on (sticky!) activities were making mini-birdfeeders

to hold birdseed and peanut butter "suet." There were lively storytelling sessions with Michael Litzky of San Francisco, and raptor handlers from the Bird Rescue Center introduced three of their resident birds: a Great Horned Owl, a Turkey Vulture and a Merlin.



Also, biologists from Audubon Canyon Ranch came with scopes so the students could get a close-up view of the egrets in the nesting colony located on West Ninth Street a block from their school. For years, presumably before Santa Rosa's western expansion, a group of large trees were "settled" for nesting by a number of herons and egrets, mostly Great and Snowy Egrets and Black-crowned Night Herons. Every year the City of Santa Rosa closes two traffic lanes along West Ninth Street during the breeding season to minimize dangers for young birds.

With frenetic avian activity so close to the school, Madrone Audubon has a special interest in Lincoln, and this is the second year and the most ambitious program our chapter has presented there. Special thanks to all the volunteers, and also to Wayne at the Wild Bird Center, who donated the birdseed used in the day's activities.

BIRD-A-THON 2010—the final results...almost!

By Marcia Johnson, Bird-A-Thon Coordinator

Almost all the results are in, and the Madrone 2010 teams brought in a whopping **\$8,116**. Thank you all for a great job. A special thank you to Janeann Erickson, our President, for supporting all the teams!

From "**The Feather Questers**" Team, **Diane Hichwa and Karen Nagel**:

Thanks to additional sponsors: Cynthia and Kevin Mc Collough, Deborah Votek. Amount Raised: \$3,222.

From "**The Gray-headed Seersuckers**" Team: **Betty Burridge, Ian Morrison, Ken Wilson, Becky Olsen and Ted Eliot**:

Appreciation to sponsors: Earl and Kathy Rathbun, Virginia Thornthwaite. Amount Raised: \$1,655.

From "**The Dabbler**" Team: **Phyllis Schmitt**:

Thanks to additional sponsors: Carole and Gene Bregman, Kathy and Phil Carlsen, Terry Carroll, Pat O'Brien, Janet Tezak. Amount Raised: \$ 491.

From "**The Road Runners**" Team: **Betty Groce and Don McCarthy**:

Two rain postponements in February resulted in a March 4th count. Betty said, "we covered our usual territories plus a couple of new ones and were flabbergasted to tally only 97 species." With a chilly morning, turning to a warm day, raptors were not flying and peeps were hiding at Bodega Bay! This duo had almost as many sponsors as birds, according to Betty!

Kudos to sponsors: Rick Abbott, Ann Anderson, Judy Barker, George Batchelder, Jim Batchelder, Dennis Beall, Peter Bellmann, Ellen Bingel, Malcolm and B.J. Blanchard, Janet Bosshard, Sam and Viola Brown, Jayne Buscho, Linda Cadwell, Jim and Jane Clegg, Beth Combs, Neal Conner, Rachel Corso,



Beverly Cowden, Dianne and Steve DeSalvo, Harriet Draper, Louise Eddy, Marilyn Edmondson, June England, Jannette Evans, Bob Frescura, Sandy Gilmer, Jules and Barbara Glaser, Stan and Hedda Gold, Leslie Goodrich, Gary and Terry Haag, Gordon Harlander, Susan Harris, Catherine Hickey, Claramae Hoffmann, Don Howard, Richard Hurley, Jr., Juhani Klint, Helen Kochendorfer, Francis Kohn, Karen Kubrin, Dale Kuhn, Andy Lacasse, Joan Lanfeld, Shirley Leaphart, Dennis Luz, Lorraine MacKenzie, Pat Marsh, Sandy Martensen, Tom and Shirl Maxon, Don McCarthy, Tom McCuller, Alexandra McDonald, Gerald and Mary Edith Moore, Judy Morrison, Doug and Barbara Murray, Len and Charlotte Nelson, Rob O'Donnell, Charlotte Oldaker, Carol Orme, Margaret Owles, Mike Parmeter, John and Polly Post, Gaines Post, Tom Pringle, Elaine Pruett, Gail Purtell, Cynthia and John Rathky, Frank and Marilyn Rathman, Rhio Reigh, Jaci Rienecker, Linda Rose, Ruth Rudesill, Maureen Rumford, Jack and Joy Ryan, Bonnie Saito, Marilyn and Don Sanders, Bunny Schmitt, Robin Schudel, Jack Schuyler, Tom and Minnie Silmon, Bobbie Sparrow, Bob Speckels, Lise Stevens, Cy Stewart, Marilyn Strand, Barbara Taylor, Tasha Thomson, Jean Tonascia, Gene and Barbara Toschi, Ernestine Trujillo, Frances Waska, Mary Winkler, Betty Witchey, Tom Wysham.

Amount Raised: \$2,748.



A Well-deserved Honor for PWA

Petaluma Wetlands Alliance, a committee of Madrone Audubon, received a 2010 Sonoma County Environmental Award for its Outstanding Environmental Education Program in March of this year.

The award was announced at the annual dinner of the Sonoma County Conservation Council. Gerald and Mary Edith

Moore have received two certificates of recognition: one from the California State Legislature, signed by Senator Mark Leno and Assembly member Jared Huffman, and another from Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey.

Madrone made the nomination for PWA's Wetlands Education Program, whose docents provide outdoor education yearly for more than 900 schoolchildren of all ages at Shollenberger Park and Petaluma's wetlands adjacent to the Petaluma River, Adobe Creek, and Ellis Creek. PWA's commitment to this comprehensive program and ongoing support through wildlife protection and habitat restoration, are prime examples of caring deeply about enhancing awareness of nature and its diverse environments.



TWO SUMMER BIRD CAMPS FOR KIDS

Petaluma Bird Camp for Kids, ages 9 to 14
June 7 through 11, 9:00 AM to Noon

The Petaluma Wetlands Alliance is partnering with PRBO Conservation Science and the City of Petaluma to hold the first-ever Petaluma Bird Camp for Kids this summer. The camp is limited to 16 students, costing \$125 per student. Participants should be prepared for a fun and exciting week of learning about local birds, their lives and habitats, and what it is like to be an ornithologist (bird scientist). For more information, please contact Al Hesla at 765-9411. To register, visit www.activenet.active.com/petalumarec or call the Petaluma Community Center at 778-4380.

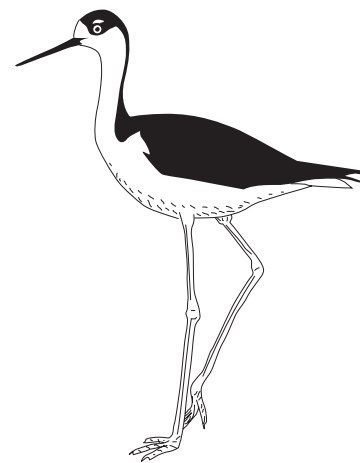
Sonoma Valley Bird Camp 4 Kids, ages 8 to 14

June 14 through 18, 9:00 AM to Noon

Now in its fourth year, the Bird Camp 4 Kids will uniquely focus each half day session with discussions and field trips re-

lated to seasonal birds observed in various Sonoma Valley habitats, including owls, hawks, wetland birds and our urban songbirds. The goal is to learn lots of facts about five birds each day that are observed by the students in class.

One day will be dedicated to cavity dwellers and building a bluebird house for each youngster to take home. There will be a field trip to the Viansa Wetlands and the Ellis Creek Water Recycling Facility in Petaluma. The camp features instructors from Sonoma Birding, Madrone Audubon, Petaluma Wetlands Alliance, Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue and PRBO Conservation Science. Contact Tom Rusert at www.sonomabirding.org or at 939-8007 for more information. Cost is \$125; partial scholarships are available. To register, please phone 938-4626, ext 1.



Bird Walk Report

Spring Lake, April 17

Five participants enjoyed the beautiful spring weather (Andrew Richardson, David Wayte, Colin Talcroft and two visitors from Los Angeles, Lynn Bossone and Ulrike Mehler. We observed 57 species including great looks at an Osprey enjoying a meal of fish, first Canada Goose goslings of the year, singing Black-headed Grosbeaks, Pacific-slope Flycatchers, and a Great Horned Owl sitting on a nest.

Ruth Rudesill, Leader



The Dutra Asphalt Plant At Shollenberger

By Gerald Moore

The debate about locating an asphalt plant next to Shollenberger Park is now four years and three months old and Dutra still doesn't get the message that it is a bad idea. They are currently revising the project to allow offloading of their aggregate at the adjacent Shamrock aggregate site since the Dutra site has been declared illegal for offloading for several reasons. However, this has caused the county to realize that Shamrock is also violating their permits, and everything appears in limbo.

A meeting with the Board of Supervisors scheduled for May 11 at the supervisors' chambers in Santa Rosa was cancelled this week and will probably take place the last week in August. This change is due to the many changes in their project and their problems with federal agencies. We don't know the exact date in August, but encourage everyone to plan on attending this meeting. We will get any changes onto the Madrone website as soon as we hear of them. You can also call 763-3577 or 763-2934 for last minute clarification.

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Cornell Lab wins Webby Award

Ithaca, NY—The 14th Annual Webby Awards judges have chosen the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's All About Birds website as Best Lifestyle Site of the year. Hailed as the "Internet's highest honor" by The New York Times, the Webby Awards is the leading international award for excellence on the Internet.

The All About Birds website (www.All-AboutBirds.org) helps people identify and learn about nearly 600 species of North American birds. The site features photos, sounds, and video of birds, bird-identification tutorials, bird-feeding tips, gear reviews, and an online magazine about birds and bird watching.

"The All About Birds website helps satisfy people's curiosity about birds—and invites them to explore more about their diversity, beauty, and fascinating behavior," said Cornell Lab communications director Miyoko Chu. "We know that bird watchers are enthusiastic about our site, but we were so thrilled that it appealed to the Webby judges too, who considered sites on every topic from food to fashion."

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BOOK REVIEW

By Phil Persons

"The Birds of North America: Life Histories for the 21st Century"

"The Birds of North America" series, published by the American Ornithologists' Union, Academy of Natural Sciences, and Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology, provides comprehensive, authoritative summaries of current knowledge of the breeding bird species of North America. With over 760 separate species accounts published between 1992 and 2004, the series should be of interest to all birders, and nestbox monitors will find the accounts of cavity nesters helpful.

Each account is written by one or more specialists on the species. Information is presented in a standard format with these major topics: Distinguishing Characteristics, Distribution, Systematics, Migration, Habitat, Food Habits, Sounds, Behavior, Breeding, Demography and Populations, Conservation and Management, Appearance, Measurements, and Priorities for Future Research. An extensive bibliography is included.

Accounts are printed on 8.5x11 high quality paper with illustrations in color. The number of pages varies with species complexity and level of scientific knowledge; for example, 12 pages for the Violet-green Swallow account, 36 pages for Western Bluebird.

The series was formerly available by subscription, but the planned press run has sold

out. Paper copies, some as original prints and some as black-and-white reprints, can be purchased at Buteo Books, <http://www.buteobooks.com>. For a small annual fee, all individual accounts, many with recent updates, may be viewed online at <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/BNA/>. Downloads are not available.

Welcome New Friends of Madrone Audubon Society

Petaluma
Maureen H. Tischler

Santa Rosa
Jim Thomason

Sebastopol
Maya Balenz

Monitoring Nesting Birds

Ithaca, NY--Peeking is allowed. In fact, it is a vital part of participation in the NestWatch citizen-science project offered by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. NestWatchers peek into bird nests and nest boxes to collect data on which species are nesting, when eggs are laid, how many eggs are in a nest, and how many chicks hatch and fledge. Scientists use NestWatch information to learn more about nesting birds and study the impacts of climate change and land use.

"NestWatch is a free, fun activity for people of any age," says project leader Laura Burkholder. "The nesting season is now in full swing, and it's not too late to get in on the action. NestWatchers participate on their own, in classrooms, or as a home school project. We need more people to help gather this important information."

NestWatch was developed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in collaboration with the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, and funded by the National Science Foundation.



Donation from Burning Hawk Wines

Madrone would like to thank Burning Hawk Wines for selecting our chapter to receive a portion of all net sales of its wines in two local businesses during the first quarter of this year. The winery's partnership with The Toad in the Hole Pub in Santa Rosa and Valley Ford Market in Valley Ford resulted in a gift to Madrone of \$125.

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These reports came in May about Audubon's response to the Gulf of Mexico oil spill:

Citizen-Science Network Keeps Tabs on Birds

Ithaca, NY—As oil continues to gush into the ocean from the Deepwater Horizon well, Gulf Coast bird watchers are now taking action by surveying beaches and marshes for birds. By entering their counts at www.ebird.org, they are helping scientists track hundreds of species that could be affected as the oil spreads toward land.

"No one knows what the impact on birds will be, but bird watchers have a key role in helping us to find out," said Chris Wood, co-leader of eBird, a joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society. "We're asking birders to survey the coastline for Brown Pelicans, Roseate Spoonbills, American Oystercatchers, and other birds to help us understand the spill's impacts—and guide the region's clean-up and recovery efforts."

Anyone can view maps showing where each species is and how many are being reported up to the hour by visiting www.ebird.org. The new eBird Gulf Coast Oil Spill Bird Tracker on the site enables people to gain quick access to interactive maps showing the latest bird reports.

From National Audubon Chapter Services

Oil pouring into the Gulf of Mexico from that destroyed drilling platform is washing up at the first sensitive bird habitats. Protective booms are in place, but nesting birds still fly beyond them and dive into oiled waters for food. Response teams expect to recover oiled birds at any moment. Audubon volunteers are there and ready.

The urgent call from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service came in Wednesday. Oiled birds would soon be arriving by boat. Qualified volunteers were needed at the docks within hours to assist with transport.

Audubon reached out to the thousands who'd signed up on our emergency registration system. More than 200 immediately responded. Now, small teams are established and scheduled to staff the Louisiana docks every day for the next two months—to help the birds and the larger recovery effort. We're putting similar plans in motion for Mississippi and other locales as the oil continues to spread. They're just a part of the inspiring response Audubon supporters are making possible.

The sad situation at present is that Fish and Wildlife Service authorities on the scene are seeing many oiled birds on nests, including pelicans and terns. They are being left in place in the hope there will be some breeding success. However, it is expected that many will soon weaken from oil exposure and will then be brought in for rehabilitation.

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Summer Adventures in the Sierras

Yosemite Outdoor Adventures Birding Field Seminars in Yosemite National Park

Yosemite Association is featuring several birding courses this summer. The trips are conducted by experienced naturalists; they are limited to 15 participants and

rated between easy and moderate levels of difficulty. Programs in June and July include: Birding Yosemite Valley on June 12, Foresta Birding on June 13 and Crane Flat Birding on July 10. Go to www.yosemite.org or call (209) 379-2321 for more information.

4th Annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua June 18-20 at Lee Vining, California

A chautauqua is an institution that began in the late 19th century to provide higher education opportunities through the combination of lectures, concerts, and public events. Following this tradition, the popular Mono Basin Chautauqua offers over 40 presentations, workshops, field trips, and special events between Friday evening, June 17 and Sunday, June 19.

The Mono Basin encompasses one of California's richest natural areas, stretching from the Sierra Crest to the shores of Mono Lake, with a diverse mix of habitats. Twenty-six years ago birds became a rallying point for the protection of Mono Lake. Go to www.birdchautauqua.org for more information and registration.

Madrone Audubon would like to offer heartfelt condolences to Betty Groce, whose husband Jack died on May 2.

Memorial Gifts

In Memory of Linda Kamariotis-Boutte
Lawrence Boutte

In Memory of George and Phyllis Ellman
Flora E. Maclise

In Memory of Jack Groce
Jean Tonacia
Gary and Terry Haag



Madrone Audubon Society

Post Office Box 1911
Santa Rosa, California 95402

June 2010

**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY
CALENDAR ENCLOSED**



MADRONE LEAVES



Madrone Audubon Society meets on the third Monday of each month, except in June, July, August, and December. Meetings start at 7:30 PM at First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Dr., Santa Rosa. All meetings and walks are open to the public. Information: telephone answering service - 546-7492, e-mail - madroneaudubon@um.att.com.

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