



Len Blamin

**Black Oystercatcher**

Birds are experiencing a variety of threats, and to identify and reduce these threats and conserve bird populations requires knowledge of population trends over long time scales. Audubon California is committed to measuring the impact of our conservation actions. Community science efforts such as the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) are helping us understand and predict how birds respond to changes in conditions and give us the information needed to take actions that conserve bird diversity for generations to come.

Gregg will share an interactive report for the Black Oystercatcher in coastal California to demonstrate how we are tracking conservation successes, failures, and funding opportunities. He will also demo a new CBC trends map viewer with a focus on birds that the MAS finds in large numbers. CBC numbers could well reflect the productivity of species during the breeding season.

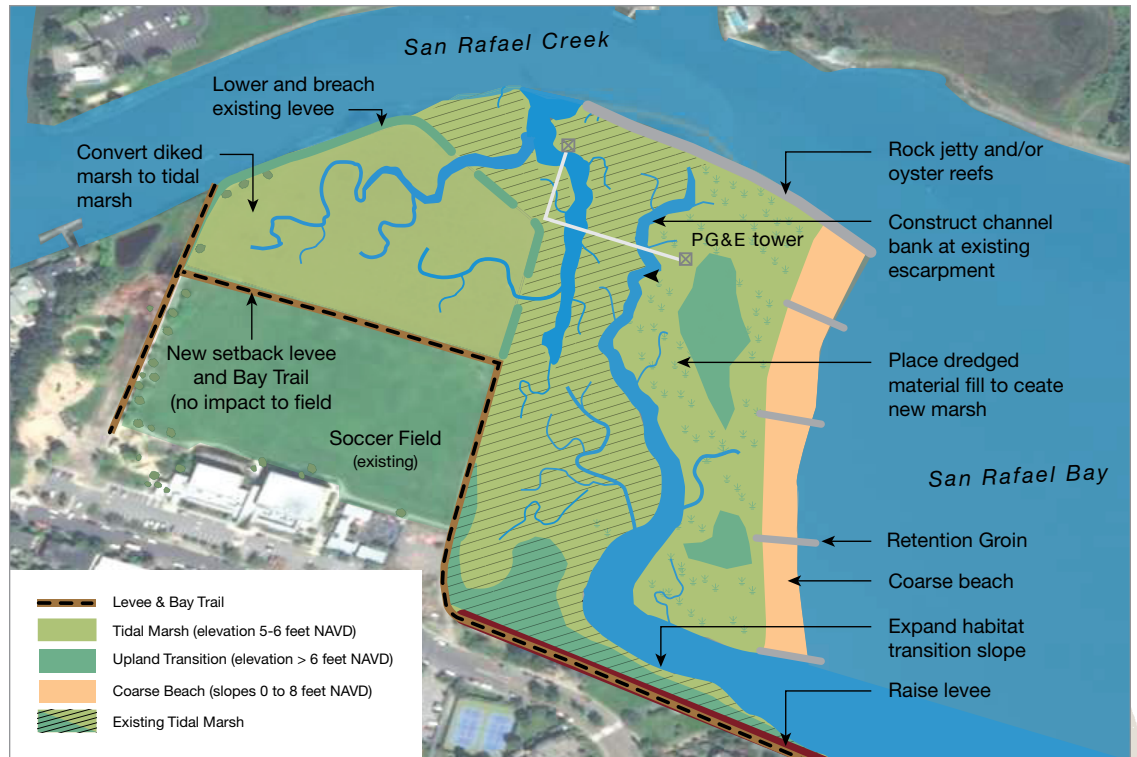
Gregg Verutes is a data scientist and visualization specialist with NAS. He builds decision support tools to communicate sustainability science using maps, serious games, interactive visualization, and storytelling.



# The Rail

MARIN AUDUBON SOCIETY

## Tiscornia Marsh Happenings



**Tiscornia Marsh Nature-Based Sea Level Rise Adaptation and Marsh Restoration Plan Preferred Option 3: Maximum Tidal Marsh Restoration to Protect Against Sea Level Rise and Restore Habitat**

The end date for this grant is coming up at the end of July. The purpose of our grant is to provide nature-based designs that address sea level rise, contribute to protecting the community and, if possible, expand the existing tidal marsh. We have accomplished what we have set out to do. Our consultant, Environmental Science Associates (ESA), has produced three alternative nature-based designs for addressing sea level rise by restoring the tidal marsh and improving the levee.

**Option 1.** Restoring only MAS's 20-acre property which includes the marsh, some adjacent mudflat and the existing levee along the south boundary of the site. We would import clean fill/bay mud, perhaps from dredging of the canal and/or nearby marinas, to raise the elevation so marsh plants would colonize naturally. A rock jetty or levee would need to be built along the canal and a gravel bench or ledge along the bay edge to contain sediments that would be imported and those

that come in with the tides so they do not flow out into the canal and bay.

**Option 2.** Creating marsh on our property without importing any fill material. In this option, the marsh would fill in naturally with sediments brought in by the tides. It is not clear that there would be sufficient sediment from the Bay to keep up with sea level rise. In that case, one of the goals of the project, to provide protection against sea level rise, would not be accomplished.

**Option 3.** Maximum marsh restoration on MAS property and on the adjacent city-owned diked bayland parcel. This alternative would also require importing bay mud to extend the marsh on MAS property as in Option 1 above. On the city property, the dike would be breached to allow tidal waters onto the site, and a new levee with the public path on it would be constructed adjacent to the field. Currently the

*continued on page 4*

**IN THIS ISSUE**

President's Message	2
Field Trips	3, 6, and 7
Conservation Report	4
Habitat Stewardship	6
Birdlog	7

## 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
Field Trips	Jane Medley 559/760-1551
Membership	William Legge 388-7883
Outreach	Elyse Omernick 694-2320
Fundraising	Everett Clark 789-9224
Speaker Series/Programs	Susan Kelly 883-9505
Special Projects	Jude Stalker 680-6291
Nominating	Bob Hinz, 383-8688
Editor, <i>The Rail</i>	Bob Hinz, 383-8688
Website	Susan Kelly 883-9505
Property Management	Ed Nute 669-7710
Publicity	Barbara Freitas 924-7477
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](mailto:rbrthnz@comcast.net), 383-8688; assisted by other members of MAS; and designed by Studio NaCl ([www.studionacl.com](http://www.studionacl.com)). Deadline is the first of each month.

©2018 Marin Audubon Society

**Website:** [www.marinaudubon.org](http://www.marinaudubon.org)

Members can receive *The Rail* electronically instead of a hard copy by emailing [membershipsecretary@marinaudubon.org](mailto: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

**This is our last issue of *The Rail* for the summer.** That doesn't mean we will be taking a real vacation. We will be working on conservation and habitat stewardship projects: maintaining the newly planted plants at our Corte Madera restoration (the first year or two after planting are the most critical); tending the rest of our properties mostly by removing the weeds; continuing to negotiate on the Hunt Camp Trail suit; keeping on top of the anchor-out problem; moving to the next phases of our Tiscornia Marsh restoration project; raising sufficient funds to complete the purchase at Black Point; and continuing with field trips are just the most obvious of the activities that we will be working on. Undoubtedly projects will arise that we do not know about now.

Also note that there will be no Speaker Series programs in July or August, and we have fewer field trips. Although there are resident and migratory nesting upland birds and some waterfowl around, summer is a quieter time in the bird world.

Our 2018 Mother's Day Picnic was a huge success. From all accounts a good time was had by all. We are grateful to our volunteers without whom we could not ever put on this event—especially Martha Jarocki, whose calm oversight makes the event run smoothly, and to donors of food, beverages and other items. See lists of volunteers and donors on page 5. Donations of food help make this a successful fund-raising event to support ACR and MAS as do the many folks who attended. Our attendance was almost 300 this year. We also thank all who attended.

Thank you to our members who attended the May program and elected our slate of four returning Board Members: Jane Medley, Phil Peterson, Ed Nute and Barbara Salzman. We still have vacancies on the Board. I am pleased to be returning and I know the other Directors are as well. We still want to find someone interested in working with us to get volunteers and help sustain and improve our habitat stewardship and restoration program. Let us know if you are out there. **WE WANT YOU!**

You have received our Spring appeal letter which we send each year to support habitat stewardship work on our properties. This is the primary source of our funding to maintain our properties and enhance their habitats. We do this by purchasing and planting native plants, usually from The Watershed Nursery, removing weeds, fixing fences and meeting other responsibilities that come with owning

properties.

If you have a chance to see the documentary *Albatross*—take it. The photography is impressive and it is a beautiful presentation of the life of albatross and the terrible deaths of many young albatross due to plastics in the ocean. Their stomachs are filled with pieces of plastic taken from the ocean as food and regurgitated by their unknowing parents. They die a tragic death unable to take off from their island birthplace weighted down by our plastic. The message—**AVOID PLASTICS WHEREVER AND WHENEVER POSSIBLE.**

You may also be receiving toward the end of the summer, if you haven't already, a request to donate for the purchase of the Black Point parcels (see article on page 5). The closing date for escrow is September 30.

One last message, a reminder that, as discussed in the April issue of *The Rail*, our annual membership fee will be increasing from \$25 to \$35 at the end of June. The increase is necessary to continue and expand where possible our education, advocacy and stewardship programs. We thank you for your past and future support.

Have a great summer—and do get out and enjoy our feathered friends!

## Comment to Protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

The Department of Interior has opened a public comment period on a plan to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas leasing. The Refuge supports millions of nesting migratory birds, a 200,000-animal caribou herd, the largest in North America, wolves, grizzly bears and polar bears. The comment period ends on June 19. Convey your opposition to Secretary Zinke, Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management by one of the following means:

**WEBSITE:** [www.blm.gov/alaska/coastal-plain-eis](http://www.blm.gov/alaska/coastal-plain-eis)

**EMAIL:** [blm\\_ak\\_coastalplain\\_EIS@blm.gov](mailto:blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov)

**MAIL:**

Attn: Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS  
222 West 7th Ave, Stop #13  
Anchorage, AK 99513-7599

## 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.

### PHOENIX LAKE: YOLANDA AND HIDDEN VALLEY TRAILS

#### San Anselmo

Friday, June 1, 2018

9 AM to 1:30 PM

With Kurt Rademacher and Susan Kelly

The Yolanda and Hidden Valley Trails offer a casual 3½-mile loop through a variety of habitats to observe late-spring bird life. Our route explores Oak-Madrone woodlands, open grassy slopes and chaparral along the lower slopes of Bald Hill, and returns through Redwood forests, riparian woodlands and along the shores of Phoenix Lake. Bring lunch and fluids. Be prepared for sun and shade, plus a couple of moderately steep trail sections.

**DIRECTIONS:** As parking at the Phoenix Lake trailhead in Natalie Coffin Greene Park is extremely limited, we will meet 0.4 mile back from there at the junction of Glenwood Ave. and Lagunitas Rd. in Ross, outside the Lagunitas Country Club. To get there from the North or South, exit Hwy. 101 at Sir Francis Drake Blvd. westward; drive about 2.5 miles to turn left onto Lagunitas Rd. at the signal. Proceed 0.75 mile to junction with Glenwood.

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

#### San Rafael

Thursday, June 7, 2018

8:30 AM to noon

With Sande and Bob Chilvers

Beginning birders are especially welcome on the first Thursday of each month for a leisurely walk around the Las Gallinas ponds. Spring is now in full force at the ponds with Northern Harriers performing nuptial displays and resident ducklings and cygnets growing daily. Mammal sightings during May included gophers, river otters, jackrabbits, muskrats and coyotes.

We welcome bird enthusiasts of all levels. We all help each other to find and identify the birds, so come assist in our search. You don't even have to arrive on time because we spend the first 30 – 60 minutes studying the birds around the first pond and the group is easy to find. Heavy rain cancels.

**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 0.5 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.

### RETURN OF THE TERNS

#### Alameda

Saturday, June 9, 2018

11 AM – SOLD OUT, 12:15 PM, or 1:30 PM

With East Bay Regional Parks District

Join with other Marin Audubon members for this special visit sponsored by the East Bay

Regional Parks District to a nesting colony of the endangered California Least Terns in Alameda. We will meet at the Crab Cove Visitor Center for a slide show about the terns. This will be followed by a bus ride to the proposed Alameda National Wildlife Refuge to view a nest site teeming with several hundred pairs of terns and their chicks. To avoid disturbing the endangered terns, visitors must stay on the bus with interpretive experts. The site is accessible just once a year. The cost is \$9 for Alameda County residents or \$11 for non-residents.

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED for the bus ride. REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN. One-hour bus tours are offered on June 9 at 11 AM, 12:15 PM, and 1:30 PM. **The 11 AM tour is full, but at press time for The Rail there was space at 12:15 and 1:30.** You are free to reserve space on either of the later tours. Arrive an hour before the bus ride to view the slide show, then board the bus for the visit to the tern colony. Those attending the 11 am tour may wish to gather after the tour for a picnic lunch near the visitor center. Reserve your space on this unique tour at: [https://apm.activecommunities.com/ebparks/Activity\\_Search/return-of-the-terns/20818](https://apm.activecommunities.com/ebparks/Activity_Search/return-of-the-terns/20818).

### MUDDY HOLLOW TRAIL

#### Point Reyes National Seashore

Sunday, June 10, 2018

8:30 AM to mid-afternoon

With Bob Atwood

Join Bob on this easy trail as we watch and listen for a variety of birds in Point Reyes. Our trek will start in open coastal scrub habitat with views of Drakes Estero and then move into riparian woodland. This is a particularly good area for raptors, Wilson's Warblers, and all three of our local Picoides woodpeckers, Hairy, Downy, and Nuttall's. We will watch for large Dusky-footed Woodrat lodges beneath alders and willows and hope for Virginia Rails in the marsh area.

Meet at 8:30 AM in the big parking lot at Limantour Beach where bathrooms are available. We will bird 1.8 miles along the trail and then return along the same route. Be prepared for variable weather and bring a lunch and water.

**DIRECTIONS:** From Point Reyes Station, go south on Hwy. 1 and after crossing a steel bridge just south of town, head west on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. In about a mile turn left onto Bear Valley Rd. After approximately a half-mile, turn right onto Limantour Rd. Follow this road all the way out to the Limantour Beach parking lot at the end of the road.

### BIRDING ON ALCATRAZ

#### Trip Full – Waitlist Only

Thursday, June 14, 2018

Boat leaves Pier 33 at 8:45 AM

With Corny Foster & Pauline Yeckley

All available spaces on this boat trip quickly filled. Those confirmed on the trip will receive information about parking in San

Francisco and other instructions the week before the trip. If you wish to be included on the waitlist for this outing, contact Jane Medley at janermedley@gmail.com. Be sure to include the name, email address, and phone number for each possible passenger.

For a complete description of this trip, consult our May 2018 *Rail* available at [www.marinaudubon.org](http://www.marinaudubon.org).

### BIG ROCK & LAS GALLINAS

#### No. 6, Birding in Marin Series

Saturday, June 16, 2018

8:30 AM to 3 PM

With Jim White and Bob Battagin

Trails at Big Rock, while rather steep, allow us to view some of the expansive grasslands and forested ravines in Marin. Some of the grassland nesting birds we will be looking for include Lazuli Buntings, Lark Sparrows, Western Meadowlarks, Grasshopper Sparrows, Horned Larks, and Ash-throated Flycatchers. We will also have a vast amount of sky visible so that swallows, swifts, and raptors may appear with a chance for a Golden Eagle. The locally rare Indigo Bunting, which appeared here for several years, has not been seen so far this year, but we will watch for it.

At midday we expect to drive to Las Gallinas where we will be looking for American and Least Bitterns, Green Heron, Common Gallinule, and Great-tailed Grackle.

**DIRECTIONS:** From Hwy. 101 in San Rafael, exit on Lucas Valley Rd. and go west approximately 5.5 miles (look for the big rock). We will be walking approximately 3 miles. Since this area can get quite hot this time of year, be sure to wear a hat, use sunscreen and carry plenty of water.

### FIVE BROOKS & BEAR VALLEY

#### NO. 7, BIRDING IN MARIN SERIES

Saturday, July 21, 2018

8:30 AM to 3 PM

With Jim White and Bob Battagin

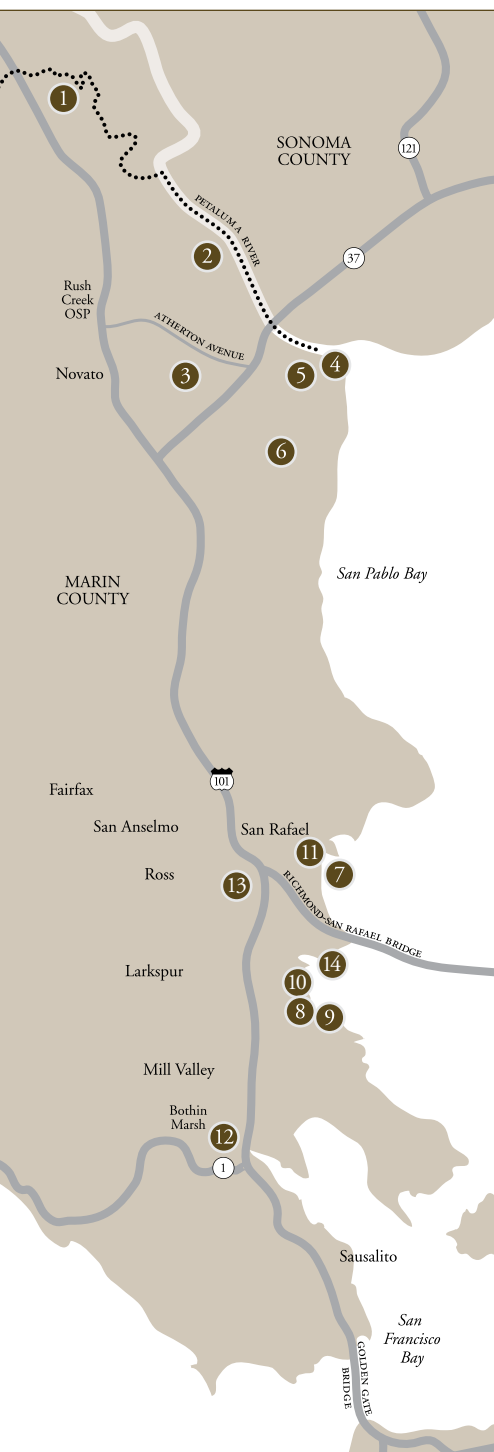
Join Jim and Bob on this trip as part of their yearly series of Marin walks. We will meet at Five Brooks to walk the trail. We have a chance of finding Wood Ducks and other pond-nesting birds at the retired logging pond. We will also look for birds in the Douglas fir forest. We will then travel to Bear 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:** From Hwy. 101 take Sir Francis Drake Blvd. toward Point Reyes for about 20 miles. At Olema turn left onto Hwy. 1 and drive about 3.5 miles to the signed entrance to Five Brooks on the right side of the road. We will meet at the Five Brooks parking area, which is 0.25 miles west of Hwy. 1.

**MORE FIELD TRIPS ON PAGES 6 AND 7**

## 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.



*continued from page 1*

diked land is vegetated primarily with wetland plants because the soil is bay mud and water ponds in the site in winter. This alternative is preferred by our team because it would restore the most marsh. While there is no commitment to a final design, we are very pleased that the city has allowed us to incorporate their diked marsh into the restoration plan. It makes for much improved protection for the community against sea level rise as well as expanded and improved habitat.

**Levee Improvement Options:** The three options for improving the levee are the same for all marsh alternatives. Target elevation for raising the levee is 14 feet which is 3-4 feet above the current elevation. To raise the levee, the base would also have to be widened. We could simply raise up the levee in the same place. With this alternative it would have straight sides and only a steep-sided minimal transition zone habitat.

Two other designs have a gradual slope which would provide for a more stable levee. In order to provide a sloping edge, the levee would have to be widened. This would require either extending it into the marsh or onto city property if widened on the land side of the levee. A gradual slope on the bay side would also provide refugia habitat for endangered and other wildlife. We hope we can work out a design that does not need to fill marsh.

**Public Outreach:** In April, our Tiscornia Team conducted a community walk and the second community meeting. Special thanks to Douglas Mundo of Shore Up Marin who made all arrangements. Both events were well attended with the walk drawing about 60 people and community meeting about 50. Both provided the community with opportunities to view and comment on the options explained above. On the walk, attendees also had an opportunity to view the designs while looking at the actual marsh and levee. Our consultants from ESA, Siegel Environmental, and Shore Up Marin were present for both and were available for questions.

Attendees raised no issues about our preferred alternative. The primary question that arose was whether folks would be able to use the “beach.” With this we realized that using the term beach for the outer berm/ledge is misleading. It would be a structure made of gravel or other hard substance to support and contain the marsh sediments—not as a public use area. However, our project would

widen and improve the levee for public access. Comments on the plan can be made through the Tiscornia Marsh web site ([www.tiscorniamarsh.org](http://www.tiscorniamarsh.org)) and on the MAS web site.

**Moving Forward:** Our next steps will be to apply for additional grant funding and further refine the preferred alternatives. Geotechnical study is needed as well as CEQA analysis. Once the design is finalized, we must get permits from regulatory agencies.

### ANCHOR-OUTS

At its May meeting, the Richardson Bay Regional Agency (RBRA) approved their budget for the coming year without changes, but not without comments and questions from the audience. The now-approved budget is for a program that would be business as usual. There is not much in it about enforcement, no new water quality studies, which were requested by members of the audience, nothing to indicate that there would be any increase in the effort either to get more debris out of the bay, or much less, to begin to move inhabited boats out of the Bay.

During the meeting, we learned from the anchor-outs in the audience, that there are 10 new boats in the bay and the total is up to 180. There was no answer to our question asking for information about these new boats. RBRA is not following up on who the owners of these boats are and why they are here. Are they travelers staying for a short time, people wanting to set up permanent residence, or are they abandoned? The Harbor Master could not find anyone on the one or more boats when he visited. It is unclear how many as he is recovering from a broken leg. There was also concern expressed about the number of boats in one ownership and about limiting uninhabited boats used for storage. Interestingly, these issues were brought up by the two or three anchor-outs who are now regularly attending the RBRA meetings, not by staff or RBRA Board members.

I suggested that they need more monitoring and enforcement than by just one person. How about a partnership with the police departments and sheriff? The Board response was that there would need to be additional funding for the additional time and services if provided by the sheriff.

There was more back and forth between the RBRA Board members and members of the audience at the May meeting, which is a

### 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

positive sign. Perhaps there is a chance for a new approach where there is a dialogue instead of the audience making comments to which there is no response as has been the case in the past.

We need more folks to attend the meetings to show community concern. The Agency is meeting monthly now, 5:30 pm to 7 pm, usually at the Tiburon Town Hall. The meetings are calmer now that they have moved from Sausalito. **If you're concerned about protecting Richardson Bay from being covered with permanent housing and debris, particularly if you are a resident of one of the RBRA member jurisdictions (Belvedere, Mill Valley, Tiburon or the county), WE WANT YOU!** Email Barbara Salzman: bsalzman@att.net.

### ELECTION RECOMMENDATION — YES ON PROPOSITION 68

California faces a multitude of environmental problems related to climate change including sea level rise, extreme weather events, and other natural disasters in addition to chronic and acute environmental issues such as diminished wildlife habitat, reduced wildlife populations, and, for some communities, unsafe drinking water and limited access to natural areas.

Prop 68 will provide for the sale of bonds in the amount of \$4 billion and for funding to appropriate state agencies to be spent directly or disbursed in the form of grants to address

these problems. Our wildlife, natural resources and people need Proposition 68.

View the bill in your ballot pamphlet.

### BLACK POINT PURCHASE

We are currently focused on raising funds for the purchase of the 2.6-acre seasonal wetland and hillside property in the area known locally as the 'gridiron' in Black Point. So far we have submitted applications to several local foundations, sent appeal letters to the Marin Baylands Advocates donor list, and to residents of Black Point.

As we go to press, we are pleased to be able to report that our fund raising has yielded more than half of the \$115,000 purchase price. This means that your donation will be even more significant because it may just be one of the last to get us over the top and complete the purchase.

The property consists of diked historic bayland, seasonal wetland and wooded hills that form a cove habitat similar to that at Bahia. When we take ownership, MAS will remove the debris (car body parts) and a large patch of invasive French broom.

**DONATE NOW** by sending your generous check to check to Marin Audubon Society, Box 599, Mill Valley. Be sure to designate your donation as for the Black Point Purchase.

MAY 13, 2018

## A Delightful Mother's Day Picnic



for annual support. Each year, sixty percent of funds raised at the event go to ACR and 40 percent to Marin Audubon. The event is successful only because local businesses donate food and supplies and because many volunteers pitch in.

Our generous food sponsors are listed on the right. Please remember their support and patronize them.

**Thank you, volunteers.** We couldn't have done it without you:

Barbara Freitas (Donor Solicitations) Everett Clark, Mary Ann Cowperthwaite, Dave Herrema, Garth Herrema, Leah Hassett, Bob Hinz, Gerry Jarocki, Martha Jarocki (Coordinator), Sarah Kirley, Mardi Leland, Jane Medley, Barbara Salzman, Jay Salzman, Michael Salzman, Carol Stalker, Jude Stalker, Vicky Van Meter, Rona Weintraub, Jim White, Susan Winston

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Janice Bennett, Stephen M Braitman, Norman Cauntay, Gail Cushman, Deborah Dohm, Bonnie Gosliner, Ellen Greenwald, Michael McCabe, Holly Middleton, Felicia Mitchell-Silva, Carol Myers, Susan Pfeister, Michael Ring & Jackie Bonner, Katherine Rousseau, Donald F. Sadowski, Hildegard F. Serbin, Lorraine Walter, Joann Wheeler

### THANKS FOR YOUR DONATIONS

Linda Allison, Robert L. Belichick, Jackie Bonner & Michael Ring, Stephen Braitman, Norman Cauntay, Deborah A. Celle, Deb Dohm, Jane W. Evans, Charles & Norma Flanik, Bonnie Gosliner, Ellen Greenwald, Thomas Heinz, Tom Hendricks, Christina Jaqua, Joyce L. Johnston, Clifford Lardinois, Felicia Mitchell-Silva, Carol Myers, Lisa & Colin Nicholls, Diane Parish, Stacey Pogorzelski, Walter Rentsch, Richard K. Robbins, Robert & Susan Rosenberg, Donald Sadowski, Sonja D. Schmid, Donna Williams

### THANKS MOTHER'S DAY DONORS!

#### Bovine Bakery

Pt. Reyes Station

#### Brickmaiden Breads

Pt. Reyes Station

#### Buehler Vineyards

St. Helena

#### Don & Sons (Sebastiani)

Napa

#### Good Earth Natural Foods

Mill Valley

#### Judy's Breadsticks

Mill Valley

#### Lagunitas Brewing Company

Petaluma

#### Nugget Markets

Corte Madera, Tiburon

#### Safeway Stores

Mill Valley

#### Sloat Garden Center,

Mill Valley

#### Three Twins Ice Cream

Petaluma

#### Trader Joe's

San Rafael and Corte Madera

#### United Markets

San Anselmo and San Rafael

Jude Stalker

This year the annual fundraiser for Marin Audubon Society and Audubon Canyon Ranch was a near sell-out. The setting in Volunteer Canyon at Audubon Canyon Ranch was stunning. The weather, slightly cloudy but windless with mild temperatures, made for perfect lolling on the grass.

This family friendly event exemplifies the shared work and values of these two Marin organizations and fulfills a MAS commitment as co-founder of Audubon Canyon Ranch

# HABITAT STEWARDSHIP

## HABITAT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

June is when Harding grass blooms so we will cut off as much as we can to stop seed production and also to weaken the entire plant. Mustard and fennel won't entirely escape our efforts. Some of last winter's new native plants would benefit from mulching. We will continue workdays through the summer in July and August.

Act locally and join us on a workday. Come out into the early spring air. Witness restoration first-hand and be a part of it. We all 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. Bring a friend.

## VOLUNTEER WORK DAYS

### Triangle Marsh, East Corte Madera:

First Saturdays: June 2, July 7, August 4

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

### Bahia, Novato:

Monthly workdays are continuing but on a more irregular schedule. If you would like to help, please contact Jude at [judestalker@gmail.com](mailto:judestalker@gmail.com).

### Corte Madera, new restoration:

We can't be sure of what invasive species will show up on the new upland, but we will be watching for invaders while they are still small and not well established. Stewardship plans are still unscheduled.

### Limonium Removal

At various locations in southern Marin Jude Stalker will be leading volunteers in pulling invasive, non-native *Limonium* (sea lavender) for several more weeks. For more information contact Jude at [judestalker@gmail.com](mailto:judestalker@gmail.com).

## THANK YOU TO OUR STEWARDSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Debbie Ablin, Margot Buchbinder, Katharine Cagney, Dave Chenoweth, Bob Hinz, Lucas Metzger, Dana Morawitz, Carol Mozet, Linda Nicoletto, Jude Stalker, Susie Sutphin, Lowell Sykes, Skye and Peter Thompson, Thomas Ulmen

## CORTE MADERA UPDATE

As required by our Coastal Conservancy grant, this month we welcomed San Francisco Estuary Institute scientists who assessed conditions in the new marsh using CRAM (California Rapid Assessment Method). After vegetation grows, the assessment will be repeated to document the change.

We're also pleased to report that grasses, that were munched down soon after planting by jack rabbits, are growing back quite nicely. They are now 3-4 inches tall! Perhaps feeding the rabbits was a benefit and has stimulated them to grow.

We're also amending our grant to move remaining funds not spent on construction to pay for revegetation. We are ordering more plants for planting next fall and will maintain (water and weed) the plants we planted a few months ago. Volunteers to help remove weeds during the summer months will be important for plants survival.

## BAHIA

**Educational Outreach – We are increasing our efforts to more effectively protect the Eastern Peninsula habitat for wildlife by repairing the fence and initiating an Educational Outreach program. If you can contribute even a few hours to help convey to recreational users the importance of protecting the habitat, please contact [bsalzman@att.net](mailto:bsalzman@att.net) Thank you.**

Thanks to the North Bay Conservation

Corps we have significantly fewer invasive radish and Harding grass plants at Bahia. A Conservation Corps crew worked on May 1 and 2 weed whacking and cutting to remove a huge quantity of these weeds.

On the first Saturday in May, students from Marin Primary in Larkspur also helped to control the highly invasive Harding grass by laying out cardboard and mulch to cover the plant stubs. Pieces of cardboard held in place by wood chip mulch can be an effective way to retard growth of Harding grass, which is threatening to overtake parts of our Bahia property. Our thanks to the students and parents who worked hard and did a great job.

## SIMMONS SLOUGH PROPERTY

Our volunteer, Lowell Sykes, took another approach to controlling Harding grass at our Simmons Slough property. He mowed the plants with our big mower, purchased years ago with a grant from the California Alpine Club Foundation. Although mowing does not kill Harding grass immediately, repeated mowing can be effective in sapping the energy of the plant which can, over time, kill the plant.

## TRIANGLE MARSH

On Earth Day the Scouts of Pack 59 sheet-mulched another flat area where we will plant native plants next winter. On the first Saturday of May volunteers pulled and cut Italian thistles, first in the area between the overlook and the Marin Country Day School playing field and then on the other side of the overlook.

## MAS BOAT TRIP

REGISTRATION BEGINS AUGUST 1, 2018

**CORDELL BANK PELAGIC TRIP**  
**MAS Chapter-Supporting Members Only**  
**From Porto Bodega, Bodega Bay**  
Sunday, September 30, 2018  
7 AM to 5 PM  
*With Steve Howell & Friends*

How would you like to see Albatrosses, Shearwaters, Fulmars, Petrels, Skuas, Jaegers, Murrelets, Auklets, and more, plus a variety of marine mammal species all on the same day? If that sounds like an opportunity you don't want to miss, sign up now for Marin Audubon's second annual pelagic trip to the Cordell Bank, a rocky, undersea bank 22 miles west of the Point Reyes headlands. The combination of ocean conditions and undersea topography in this marine sanctuary creates a rich and diverse marine community that you can visit for the day with no extensive, difficult expedition required.

Our guide, Steve Howell, and his capable team of spotters are pelagic experts eager to help participants identify whatever swims or flies by. We will travel on Rick Power's *New Sea Angler*, a 65-foot fishing charter boat suitable for birding. Both experienced and beginning birders are

invited to join this trip to one of the west coast's best locations for birds and whales.

The cost will be \$150 per person for Marin Audubon Chapter-Supporting Members only. If you are not already a chapter-supporting member, you may join when you register for the trip. **Online registration will begin on August 1, 2018, at [www.marinaudubon.org](http://www.marinaudubon.org). Include the name, email address, and contact phone number of each participant.** There is always a chance the trip may need to be rescheduled at the last minute due to sea conditions, so we need to be able to reach participants. As the trip date approaches, we will send an email with additional trip information.

Be prepared for any kind of weather with layered clothing. A rain jacket and pants are essential no matter what the weather on shore. Take seasick medication if needed. You will be on the boat all day. Bring lunch, snacks, water, a hat, and plenty of sunscreen.

**DIRECTIONS:** Head north on Hwy. 101 from the town of Bodega Bay. Continue past the fire station and The Tides' Wharf in Bodega Bay. Turn left on Eastshore Rd and head downhill to the port.

# MARIN BIRDLOG: APRIL 2018

By Noah Arthur



Hermit Warbler

April can be a slow month for rare birds in Marin, but this year there were a number of good finds, along with many of our regular spring migrants arriving to brighten the often cool and foggy spring days. A few of our common breeding songbirds, such as **Wilson's Warbler**, **Hooded Oriole**, and **Pacific-slope Flycatcher**, arrived in late March, with numbers continuing to increase into April.

On April 1st, a **Swainson's Hawk** at Chimney Rock on Pt. Reyes was a very unusual find for the immediate coast (EH). Per Logan Kahle, **Swainson's Hawks** are usually associated with warm east winds. Probably the same bird was seen occasionally around the area until late

in the month. Another **Swainson's Hawk** floated over Las Gallinas on the 8th (LC & MS).

Some tardier spring arrivals were the season's first **Yellow Warbler** in the Marin Headlands (BH), and multiple **Black-throated Gray** and **Hermit Warblers** along Bolinas-Fairfax Road (PP), all on April 13th. Also along Bolinas-Fairfax Road on the 13th were several **Purple Martins** (PP). The first **Western Wood-Pewee** was calling in a backyard in Marinwood on the 14th (LC & JZ).

Another vagrant from the interior was a fly-over **Sandhill Crane** at Schooner Bay on Pt. Reyes on the 13th (ML). Another or the same **Sandhill Crane** was foraging in a field along Sir Francis Drake Blvd. in Pt. Reyes Station on the 20th (CM).

Probably the rarest find of the month was a **Brewer's Sparrow** at Las Gallinas on the 23rd (DA), continuing through the next day.

The season's first **MacGillivray's Warbler** showed its bandit-masked face on the 26th along Muir Woods Road, and a getting-late **Tundra Swan** was on the Hamilton Wetlands on the same day (JW). Also on the 26th, and exceedingly rare for outer Pt. Reyes, was a **Hammond's Flycatcher** at the Fish Docks, and only a little less rare, a **Yellow-breasted Chat** at the Lighthouse (DSi).

Another exceptional flycatcher for the Outer Point – though much more regular in inland northern California—was a **Gray Flycatcher** found on a Point Reyes Birding Festival field trip on the 27th (DSe). Another festival group on the same day discovered a breeding-plumaged male **Lapland Longspur** at Tom's Point (DH).

As usual, the **Black Vulture** made its about-once-a-month appearance somewhere in Marin, this time soaring with **Turkey Vultures** over Inverness on the 29th (RD). The last notable sighting of the month was probably also the most surprising: a flock of about 40 **Elegant Terns** on the southern side of Bolinas Lagoon on the 30th (LH). This is months earlier than the usual summer arrival of flocks of Elegant Terns.



Gray Flycatcher



Purple Martin

Observers and Acronyms **BH:** Bob Hall, **CM:** Cindy McCormick, **DA:** David Assman, **DH:** Daphne Hatch, **DSe:** David Sexton, **DSi:** Dan Singer, **EC:** Everett Clark, **EH:** Eric Heisey, **JW:** Jim White, **JZ:** Joseph Pyle, **LC:** Lucas Corneliusen, **LH:** Lisa Hug, **ML:** Matt Lau, **MS:** Mark Schulist, **PP:** Peter Pyle, **RD:** Ryan DiGaudio, **RC:** Rich Cimino, **SS:** Sylvie Silverstein

## MAS FIELD TRIPS (continued from page 3)

### LIMANTOUR BEACH AND ESTERO

#### Point Reyes National Seashore

#### No. 8, Birding in Marin Series

Saturday, August 18, 2018

8:30 AM to 3 PM

With Jim White & Bob Battagin

August will find Jim and Bob exploring Limantour Beach and Estero. We will meet at the Limantour parking lot in the Point Reyes National Seashore where there are restrooms and ample parking. We intend to hike up the beach until we find Snowy Plovers, Brant and the declining White-winged Scoters. We will walk back on the Estero side expecting to see more shorebirds and ducks. After lunch (bring your own) we intend to walk a way up the Sky Trail to look for fir forest birds.

**DIRECTIONS:** From Hwy. 101 in Larkspur, take the exit for Sir Francis Drake Blvd. westward for 20.4 miles to Olema. Turn right onto Hwy. 1. Go 500 feet, turn left onto Bear Valley Rd., continue 0.5 miles, and turn left onto Limantour Rd. Drive 7.5 miles to the parking area.

### FARALLON ISLANDS BOAT TRIP

#### MAS Chapter-Supporting Members Only

#### From Clipper Yacht Harbor, Sausalito

Sunday, September 9, 2018

7:30 AM to 4:00 PM

REGISTRATION BEGINS JULY 16, 2018

With David Wimpfheimer

Join us for our annual day of seabird and marine mammal watching as we head to the Farallon Islands and offshore waters. Naturalist David Wimpfheimer will be our guide once again aboard Jim Robertson's power catamaran *Outer Limits*. Last year's sightings included both Humpback and Blue Whales, Sooty, Pink-footed, and Buller's Shearwaters, Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers, Rhinoceros Auklet, Tufted Puffin, Black-footed Albatross, and more. We will get a close-up look at the islands and hear about their interesting natural and human history. This is a trip that both experienced and first-time birders and nature lovers will enjoy.

The cost will be \$130 per person for Marin Audubon Chapter-Supporting Members only. If

you are not yet a Chapter-Supporting Member, you may join when you register for the trip.

**Online registration will begin on July 16, 2018, at [www.marinaudubon.org](http://www.marinaudubon.org). Include the name, email address and contact phone number of each participant.** There is always a chance the trip may need to be rescheduled at the last minute due to sea conditions, so we need to be able to reach participants. We will send an email to participants a week prior to the trip.

Please sign up early, as we will limit the number of participants. Be prepared for any kind of weather with layered clothing. A rain jacket and pants are essential no matter what the weather on shore. Take seasick medication if needed. If you get seasick easily, this is not the trip for you. We will be on the boat all day. Bring lunch, snacks, water and plenty of sunscreen.

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



# The Rail

MARIN AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

Box 599 | MILL VALLEY, CA 94942-0599

Return Service Requested

Time Value

## SAVE THE DATE

- July 16 **Registration begins:**  
Farallon Islands  
[www.marinaudubon.org](http://www.marinaudubon.org)
  - July 21 **Field Trip:** Five Brooks and Bear Valley  
*With Jim White & Bob Battagin*
  - Aug. 1 **Registration begins:** Cordell Bank  
[www.marinaudubon.org](http://www.marinaudubon.org)
  - Aug. 1–4 **Southwest Wings Festival**  
Sierra Vista, AZ, [www.swwings.org](http://www.swwings.org)
  - Aug. 18 **Field Trip:** Limantour Beach and Estero  
*With Jim White & Bob Battagin*
  - Aug. 24–26 **Lake Almanor Grebe Festival**  
[www.plumasaudubon.org/grebe-festival.html](http://www.plumasaudubon.org/grebe-festival.html)
  - Sept. 28–30 **Monterey Bay Birding Festival**  
[www.montereybaybirding.org](http://www.montereybaybirding.org)
- Check website for updates and details

♻️ Printed on 100% recycled paper

## SUPPORT MARIN AUDUBON SOCIETY — BECOME A CHAPTER-SUPPORTING MEMBER

The success of Marin Audubon Society's (MAS) work depends greatly on its chapter-supporting members. We work collaboratively with the National Audubon Society (NAS) on issues of mutual concern, but very little of our funding comes from NAS. We receive a fixed amount based on our 2001 membership. MAS relies on local support for our habitat protection efforts, conservation advocacy, birding field trips, educational speakers series, and publication of *The Rail*. To better ensure we can continue our programs on the local level, MAS offers a separate chapter membership. Your membership in MAS will help us protect local habitats, resident and migratory birds, and provide you with educational and enjoyable programs because all of your chapter-supporting dues stay with MAS.

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

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

## JOINT NAS-MAS MEMBERSHIP

A National Audubon Society Membership is a joint membership with National and chapters. With this joint membership, you receive our newsletter and other chapter benefits. However, MAS receives no portion of your National Audubon Membership dues.

## Join or Donate to the Marin Audubon Society

Please fill in this form and mail to the address below. If you are paying by check, please make it payable to **Marin Audubon Society**.

- Enroll me as a Chapter-Supporting Member
- Renewal
- New Member
- \$25 Basic (\$35 after June 30)
- \$50 Sponsor
- \$500 Patron
- \$100 Sustaining
- \$1,000 Benefactor
- Please accept my donation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Master Card
- Visa

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please send me *The Rail* by email only.

### PAYMENT BY CREDIT CARD:

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

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

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_