



Veronica Bowers

Songbird Sanctuary Habitat Garden

Your garden is your outdoor sanctuary, and it can be a haven for native birds as well. Landscaped with native species, your yard, patio, or balcony becomes a vital recharge station for migratory birds passing through and a sanctuary for nesting and overwintering birds.

Each patch of restored native habitat is just that—a patch in the frayed fabric of the ecosystem in which it lies. By landscaping, or wildscaping, with native plants, we can turn a patchwork of green spaces into a quilt of restored habitat.

We will demonstrate the importance of restoring our communities, one garden patch at a time. Learn how to create wildlife-friendly gardens that help combat the loss of open spaces and create green corridors that link your wildscape to larger natural areas.

Veronica Bowers is the founder and director of Native Songbird Care and Conservation in Sebastopol. NSCC is a state and federally permitted wildlife rehabilitation facility that cares for approximately 1,000 songbirds each year.

Veronica's passions are songbirds and native plants. She has created the Songbird Sanctuary Habitat Gardens on the grounds of NSCC. The gardens include 1.5 acres of habitat comprised mostly of native plants and support over 70 species of songbirds.



The Rail

MARIN AUDUBON SOCIETY

MAS Annual Report, July 2017 - June 2018

This year has been challenging, productive and successful. As we begin a new fiscal year (July 1 through June 30) it's a good time to reflect on the accomplishments of the past year. Thanks to the efforts of our Board members, volunteers, donors and other supporters, we have many successes and are on our way to others. We've expanded our education program, introduced special programs for members, and continued our conservation activities focused on making Marin a better place for wildlife and all of us. Our major activities and accomplishments are below.

EDUCATION

Field Trips, Speaker Series, and Outreach MAS sponsored many activities to enlighten our members and others about birds and the natural world. We published 10 issues of our newsletter, *The Rail*, and offered 10 Speaker Series programs focused on birds and other natural resources. We increased our field trip offerings to 72, which included boat trips to the Farallon Islands, Sacramento Delta, Petaluma River, San Francisco Bay, Cordell Banks and Alcatraz. Regular field trips included our "Birding in Marin" series and monthly walks at the Las Gallinas Sanitary District Ponds. The majority of our trips were held in Marin and Sonoma Counties with additional trips in the Central Valley, Yolo County, San Francisco, and East Bay locations. We initiated special field trips for members and sponsored workshops covering Birding as a Hobby, Digital Camera Photography, eBird and Practicing for Bird Counts. We also informed members about current activities through email messages, our website and Facebook.

HABITAT RESTORATION

Corte Madera Marsh Restoration This marsh restoration was successfully completed in January and the transition zone plants installed in February. The project added six more acres of tidal marsh habitat to the bay to benefit Ridgway's Rails and other species and to accommodate sea level rise. The next phase is focused on maintaining the transition vegetation and planting plants

now being grown for us by The Watershed Nursery. This final phase is also funded by the Wildlife Conservation Board and the State Coastal Conservancy.

Tiscornia Nature-Based Sea Level Rise Adaptation With grant funding from the Marin Community Foundation through the State Coastal Conservancy, consultants Environmental Science Associates (ESA) prepared project designs to restore Tiscornia Marsh, strengthen the levee to improve protection for the community from sea level rise, and provide transition zone habitat. In partnership with our consultants, Shore Up Marin and Siegel Environmental, several community meetings and a site walk were also conducted.

HABITAT ENHANCEMENT

We've worked to restore, maintain and enhance habitats on properties MAS owns. Over 20 volunteer work days were held at Bahia and Triangle Marshes, volunteers have begun to weed and water at Corte Madera, and MAS-organized workdays removed the non-native *Limonium* from shoreline properties in southern Marin.

ACQUISITION

We finished most of the work to complete the purchase of another six tax default properties and to purchase two more from a private owner at Black Point (see page 5 for more information). Grants from the Marin County

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ACTION ALERT

Marin Supervisors need to hear that environmentalists support continued efforts to permanently protect the San Geronimo Golf course property to benefit endangered fish, special status Northern Spotted Owl and other wildlife as well as the people of Marin. **PLEASE CONTACT** Supervisors: Kate Sears, Denis Rodoni, Katie Rice, Judy Arnold and Damon Connolly have the same email address @marincounty.org and mailing address 3801 Civic Center Drive, San Rafael, CA 94903.

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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	Lowell Sykes 388-2821
Special Projects	Jude Stalker 680-6291
Nominating	Bob Hinz, 383-8688
Editor, <i>The Rail</i>	Bob Hinz, 383-8688
Website	Barbara Freitas 497-4705
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.

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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 coming year promises to be an exciting and challenging one. With the many indications of climate change—heat, fires, more frequent and more intense storms, and high tides, we're trying to do our part to address this world-wide problem. We will continue addressing climate change by pursuing the nature-based marsh restoration at Tiscornia and restoring habitat by advocating for protecting vegetative habitats and planting native plants on our properties. At this time we are focusing on Corte Madera and Triangle Marshes. We will continue to protect San Francisco estuary habitats with our partner Marin Baylands Advocates, and to restore, enhance and maintain marsh and adjacent upland habitats. Native marsh plants, trees and other upland species serve two important functions: provide habitat for wildlife and sequester carbon, a primary component in changing the earth's climate.

Do join us on a habitat work day and minimize your impact on the earth as you go about your daily lives. Efforts to limit climate change can take many forms. At home we can do our part by conserving water and reducing packaging (particularly plastics), both of which will reduce energy consumption, and lowering your fuel consumption.

In addition to climate change impacts on wildlife and habitats, the very laws that protect biodiversity by protecting our most threatened species are under attack. The administration's latest attack is on the Endangered Species Act with the proposal to eliminate protections for threatened species.

Please comment at www.regulations.gov/docket?D=FWS-HQ-ES-2018-0006.

Our conservation work will continue our efforts to protect Northern Spotted Owl and habitats on Marin County Parks, MMWD lands and Highway 37. These are opportunities for local action where you can make a difference. Other opportunities in the coming months are expected to concern unveiling of MMWD's Vegetation Management Plan EIR, and Marin County's Final EIR on San Geronimo Creek. These are projects we know will need attention. Attend our Conservation Committee to learn more and participate in our actions.

Jane Medley will be continuing her excellent work expanding our education programs with exciting field trips and workshops designed to expand our understanding and enjoyment of the natural environment, birds in particular. We hope you will join us. Field trips are fun and challenge your brain. See page 5 for the special series on the Evolution of Birds beginning on October 18.

A huge thank you to donors to our spring appeal to support birds by supporting our habitats. It's not too late if you haven't given yet. You can still benefit the habitats we own with this special appeal by sending your gift our P.O. Box 599, Mill Valley, CA 94942. You will be helping us to have native plants grown and planted in habitats and weeds removed on our properties.

As you can see, there are many ways you can become more active with Marin Audubon, take advantage of our educational programs and field trips, join us to help save and restore habitats, and protect wildlife in Marin.

BIRDS IN FLIGHT PHOTO WORKSHOP

Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District Classroom San Rafael

Wednesday, October 10, 2018

8:15 AM to noon

With Dave Strauss

This is a workshop for those who wish to improve their photographs of **BIRDS IN FLIGHT**. We'll begin inside discussing equipment, camera settings and techniques—then move outside to shoot photos—and later return to the classroom to look at them and learn from our results.

This is not a beginning photography class. You should be comfortable with your camera and familiar with its controls, and have at least some previous experience photographing birds or other wildlife. You should be generally familiar with these terms: aperture, shutter speed, ISO, focus, and depth-of-field.

Please bring your digital camera and a zoom or prime lens of at least 300mm. If you don't own such a lens, we recommend borrowing or renting one and experimenting with it prior to the workshop. Tripods are optional but helpful. We suggest bringing a spare fully-charged camera

battery and a notebook.

Our workshop leader will be MAS member and Marin native Dave Strauss, www.dscomposition.com. If you have questions about the workshop content, prerequisites, camera, lenses, etc., please contact Dave directly, dave@dscomposition.com or 510/612-6109.

The cost is \$20 for MAS Chapter-Supporting members and \$55 for all others. Please be prepared to pay with cash or a check at the workshop. Credit cards will not be accepted. If you are not a MAS Chapter-Supporting member, you may sign up now at www.marinaudubon.org or at the workshop in order to enjoy the reduced price.

Signups will begin on September 5 and will be limited to 15 participants. To sign up, please contact Jeanine Starritt at jeanineis@comcast.net. Please include your name and phone number. We will confirm your registration, and if the workshop fills, we will accept names for a waiting list.

DIRECTIONS: See the directions for the Sept. 6 Las Gallinas field trip. Our class will meet in the building by the bridge across from the parking lot.

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, September 6, 2018

9 AM to noon

With Sande and Bob Chilvers

Join old friends and meet new ones as we resume our regularly scheduled walks on the first Thursday of the month at Las Gallinas. We especially welcome beginning birders on this leisurely walk around the ponds. Special thanks to Bob and Sande Chilvers for volunteering once again to lead our monthly walks in search of waterfowl, waders, songbirds, raptors, and shorebirds. Recent sightings have included the Least Bittern, Virginia Rail, Sora, and American White Pelican. With fall migration underway, we are likely to spot some interesting species, so come assist in our search.

We welcome bird enthusiasts of all levels. We all help each other to find and identify the birds, and there are usually several experienced birders to assist. 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 our group is easy to find.

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.

RODEO LAGOON

Marin Headlands

Saturday, September 8, 2018

7 AM to noon

With William Legge and David Wiechers

Join William and David for the first of their fall field trips at Rodeo Lagoon. This is their longtime "patch" where we are likely to see over 60 species. With large numbers of birds moving through the area this time of year, it's sure to be interesting with both daily variations in species seen and unusual sightings expected. Our group will be targeting Parasitic Jaeger, migrating shorebirds, warblers, and other passerines. We will begin the morning with a Sea Watch at 7 AM. Those arriving later may join us at 8 AM for a circuit of the lagoon.

DIRECTIONS: Head south on Hwy 101 and take the last Sausalito exit just before the Golden Gate Bridge. At the exit stop sign, turn right and go under the freeway, then follow the road down to the left. Within 300 feet turn left at the sign to the Marin Headlands (This is the only available left turn before you

begin the descent into Sausalito). You should see the tunnel with the five-minute light. Proceed through the tunnel on Bunker Rd. to the Rodeo Lagoon Parking Lot at the end. Meet by the bridge over the channel to the beach or join MAS birders with scopes along the nearby beach area.

FARALLON ISLANDS

Departs from Clipper Yacht Harbor, Sausalito

Sunday, September 9, 2018

7:30 AM to 4 PM

With David Wimpfheimer

This trip is **SOLD OUT**. If space becomes available, we will contact people on the waiting list. The following information is a reminder for 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, take a left on Harbor Dr. and go into the parking area at the end. We will meet on the south side of the parking lot to check in before boarding. Be there at 7:30 AM.

DRAKES BEACH AND THE FISH DOCKS

No. 9, Birding in Marin Series

Point Reyes National Seashore

Saturday, September 15, 2018

8:30 AM to mid afternoon

With Jim White and Bob Battagin

September provides the most surprising month of birding in Marin as many juvenile birds make their first migration south and west without the aid of Google Maps. Some western migrants such as Nashville, Hermit, and Black-throated Gray Warblers may be in the Point Reyes tree islands, and we sometimes see more unusual Eastern species. Drakes Bay also begins to harbor wintering species like Red-necked Grebes, Marbled Murrelets, and Loons. We will picnic early and then head over to the Fish Docks and/or the ranches along the road to the lighthouse. This year's trip will not include a walk to the lighthouse due to restoration work in that area.

DIRECTIONS: Meet at the Drakes Beach Parking Lot near the monument, which is located in the shrubby area across from the restrooms. Follow Sir Francis Drake Blvd. through Inverness out to Point Reyes National Seashore. Keep going until you get to the Drakes Beach Rd. where you'll bear left. Expect about a 35-minute drive from Point Reyes Station to Drakes Beach.



VAUX'S SWIFTS – MCNEAR BRICK & BLOCK San Rafael

Wednesday, September 19, 2018

6 to 7:40 PM depending on weather

With Maureen Lahiff

Join this evening opportunity to witness Vaux's Swifts during their fall migration through Marin, which occurs in September and October. Dan McNear of McNear Brick & Block has kindly allowed Marin Audubon to access this remarkable site where decommissioned smoke stacks provide an important communal roosting place for the swifts. Watching thousands of swifts as they descend into the stacks just before nightfall is a memorable sight. At the peak of migration, as many as 29,000 swifts have been counted in one evening!

Sunset on the evening of our visit will be at 7:12 PM, so plan on arriving early to be ready. If the weather on the day of our trip is particularly cool or windy, the swifts are likely to enter the stacks early, so plan accordingly. Bring scopes, binoculars, and, if desired, folding chairs for your seating comfort. It can be chilly at dusk. Please stay with our group and do not enter any of the private areas on the property.

DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 take the Central San Rafael exit. Head east on Point San Pedro Rd. for about 3 miles. The brickyard will be on the right. The address is 1 McNear Brickyard Rd. Turn in at the brickyard entrance and park as directed.

NATIVE SONGBIRD CARE & CONSERVATION Sebastopol

Thursday, September 20, 2018

10 AM to noon (lunch and birding optional)

With Veronica Bowers

As a follow-up to her presentation "Wildscaping for Songbirds" at our Speaker Series on September 13, Veronica Bowers will host this field trip to her Songbird Sanctuary Habitat Garden in Sebastopol. Don't forget your binoculars as we will tour the 1.5 acre, mostly native plant habitat which supports over 70 species of songbirds throughout the year. We will also visit the adjacent Native Songbird Care and Conservation facility, a 'bird hospital', that cares for approximately 1,000 songbirds each year.

After our tour, participants are invited to eat their lunches in the garden. Those wishing to further explore the surrounding area may join our bird walk through nearby Ragle Ranch Regional Park known for its beautiful oaks and prime bird-watching habitat along Atascadero Creek. There is a \$7 entrance fee at this park.

DIRECTIONS: Follow Hwy 101 North from Marin. Exit Hwy 116 West in Cotati. Continue on to 8050 Elphick Rd. in Sebastopol.

MORE FIELD TRIPS ON PAGE 7

Marin Audubon Society
Statement of Financial Position
As of June 30, 2018

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Operating Bank Accounts	56,851
Property Bank Accounts	127,019
Marin Baylands Advocates Bank Account	32,472
Total Current Assets	216,342
Real Property	4,548,291
Investment Account	1,223,232
TOTAL ASSETS	\$5,987,865

Marin Audubon Society
Statement of Activities
July 2017 through June 2018

REVENUE AND SUPPORT	
Donations	92,310
Grant Income for Property Restoration, and Enhancement	532,644
Membership	34,052
Events and Activities	22,950
Interest and Dividend Income	36,708
Marin Baylands Advocates Income	39,455
TOTAL REVENUE & SUPPORT	758,119

EXPENSES	
Property Restoration, Enhancement, and Management	565,721
Professional Services	33,910
Office Supplies, Printing, and Postage	30,589
Program Expenses	23,995
Insurance	10,949
Property Parcel Taxes	9,820
Permits and Fees	4,137
Website and Social Media	1,837
Other General Expenses	3,473
Marin Baylands Advocates Expenses	50,773
TOTAL EXPENSES	735,204

RESULTS FROM OPERATIONS	22,915
Investment Gain – Realized and Unrealized	44,777
CHANGE IN EQUITY	67,692
TOTAL EQUITY – BEGINNING OF YEAR	5,920,173
TOTAL EQUITY – END OF YEAR	\$5,987,865

Annual Report

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Fish and Wildlife Commission, the California Alpine Club Foundation, the Marin Open Space Trust and many private donors are enabling us to purchase the two additional Black Point properties. We now own a total of 530 acres.

CITIZEN SCIENCE

Sponsored Christmas Bird Counts: Southern Marin County and Cheep Thrills in northern Marin County.

PARTNERING

Continued to serve as fiscal agent for Marin Baylands Advocates, our partner in acquiring baylands; partnered with other organizations on individual and long-term projects through representation on boards and advisory committees: Audubon Canyon Ranch, San Francisco Estuary Institute, San Francisco Estuary Partnership, San Francisco Bay Joint Venture, MMWD's Lagunitas Creek Advisory Committee, Marin County Open Space District's Environmental Roundtable, and San Francisco Bay Shoreline Advocates. We work with other Marin organizations on updating Community Marin.

CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES TO PROTECT WILDLIFE AND HABITAT

- **Richardson Bay Anchor-Outs** Continued to raise objections to the Richardson Bay Regional Agency (RBRA) about anchor-outs on Richardson Bay. Permanent living on the Bay is a violation of the public trust, which holds that waters of the state are reserved for public use including fish and wildlife habitat. Permanent living on the Bay not only damages eelgrass, it covers and degrades open water where diving birds need to feed and rest.
- **Marin County Open Space District (OSD): Hunt Camp Trail** Partnered with Marin Conservation League and the Native Plant Society in a suit against the OSD for failure to conduct adequate environmental review for the Hunt Camp Trail at the Giacomini Preserve. Negotiation is ongoing. *E-bikes* Sent a letter opposing use of e-bikes on Open Space Trails in order to maintain habitats as peaceful natural areas for wildlife and people.
- **Highway 37** Attended multiple meetings of the Policy Advisory Committee (consisting of elected officials of Marin, Sonoma, Solano and Napa counties), and participated in the Baylands Group which has been organized to ensure the North Bay ecosystem is a major consideration in planning Highway 37 both at MTC and other venues.
- **San Geronimo Golf Course** Supported County and Trust for Public Land's efforts to acquire this property to restore habitat that benefits salmonids, Northern Spotted Owl, other wildlife and people.

- **Larkspur Owls** Provided written and verbal testimony regarding the need for CEQA analysis to address the presence of a Northern Spotted Owl (NSO) nest immediately adjacent to a private house. The applicant has withdrawn the plan to expand the house and is focusing on renovating the interior. Noise from interior work disturbing NSO nesting is also a concern.
- **Lawson's Landing** Provided written and oral testimony to the Coastal Commission in support of limiting the requested expansion of facilities in order to protect environmentally sensitive habitat areas. The Commission denied the Lawson's application to modify their permit.
- **Corte Madera Projects:**
 - *Corte Madera Inn Rebuild* Continued to promote protection of the pond, its heron rookery and other birds that use it. The Planning Commission sent the project back to the drawing board.
 - *Environmental Constraints Analysis for Greenway Trail* Reviewed and commented to County Public Works on the environmental analysis pointing out discrepancies, omissions and failure to address adverse impacts on the Corte Madera Ecological Reserve's Ridgway's Rail habitat of the trail expansion.
 - *Restoration Hardware* Recommended measures to protect Corte Madera's Shorebird Marsh and its wildlife from impacts of improving the gravel parking lot. Buffer area, vegetation and fencing were recommended to protect Shorebird Marsh habitat.
- **Seaplanes on Richardson Bay** Recommended limiting seaplane use during overwintering period to enable diving birds to rest and forage in the embayment where the planes land. The supervisors approved the applicant's request to continue current operations without limits.
- **Tiburon Projects:**
 - *Tennis Club Expansion Plan* Because the project has been reduced and the facilities moved away from the marsh, impacts would also be reduced so our comments were minor.
 - *Non-native Plant Removal Project* Supported this project to remove non-native plants in order to protect the endangered Tiburon Jewelflower.
 - *Bayfront Park Knoll Tree Removal* Commented to the Tiburon Council in support of removing non-native eucalyptus and acacia trees. The Council approved removing the younger trees only.
- **StoneTree Driving Range** Reviewed the current condition of this driving range that is now operating in baylands adjacent to the StoneTree Golf Course. Owners have a temporary use permit issued by the city and want a longer-term permit to operate.

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CONSERVATION

MORE HABITAT PROTECTED AT BLACK POINT

Six more parcels are permanently protected at Black Point because Marin Baylands Advocates provided funding to purchase them in a tax default sale, and Marin Audubon was ready to take title to them. After an application process that went on for more than a year, during which the acquisition was approved by the Board of Supervisors, the deeds were recorded in August. Marin Audubon Society is now the proud owner of five more parcels in Black Point's Grandview area, bringing our total owned to 10 parcels there, and one more parcel on the shore of Norton Pond. We now own the pond and all but two parcels on its banks. Many years ago, Black Point was subdivided into tiny parcels that were given as incentives for subscriptions to a regional publication. The parcels are too small to be developed unless combined.

We continue to raise funds to purchase two parcels in the Holly/Hemlock and Bayview area of Black Point from a private owner. We received early funding from the Marin County Fish and Wildlife Commission, Marin Open Space Trust, Alpine Club Foundation, and from many generous donors in response to Marin Baylands Advocates appeals and articles in MAS's newsletter. More recently we've received grants from the Rose Foundation's Wildlands Grassroots Fund and the Wimberly Fund through Audubon California. Funding from the County Measure A is expected to be approved on September 11. Escrow is scheduled to close on September 30.

We are inches away from having the full amount, so if you'd like to be the one to put us over the top—send your donation to MAS, P.O. Box 599, Mill Valley, CA 94942, NOW!

Annual Report

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- **Gallinas Creek Rails** Wrote the city of San Rafael and federal and state agencies expressing concern about impacts of future projects including the soccer field and improvements at Buck's Landing on Ridgway's Rail use of the creek. The population has declined since SMART train construction and service began.
- **Bolinas Marine Lab** Supported restoration of this facility for scientific and public use.
- **EAC Vegetation Removal and Bird Nesting Resolution** Joined in supporting the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin in their efforts to protect nesting birds from roadside tree clearing by

ANCHOR-OUTS IMPACT DELTA

The adverse impacts of the Richardson Bay anchor-outs are more far-reaching than imagined. A recent Abandoned Vessel meeting focused on Richardson Bay's anchor-outs. Participants, including representatives from the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, State Lands, NOAA, law enforcement from other parts of the North Bay and the Delta, and non-profits, offered advice to the Richardson Bay Regional Agency (RBRA) Harbor Master and Executive Director, from their experience elsewhere in the estuary. Without exception, each Committee member emphasized, some in very strong terms, that enforcement is essential. A second take-away message is that the adverse impacts of the anchor-outs are not confined to Richardson Bay but reach far into the estuary.

The committee described their experience that anchor-outs, some with criminal histories, mental health problems and/or substance abuse lifestyles, move from one location to another as they are forced to leave other areas of the Bay that are more concerned about their waters and environment and diligent about enforcement. Just the week before, a Contra Costa enforcement officer found that an anchor-out they had just evicted from their county had taken up residence in Richardson Bay. Derelict boats are easy to come by; when one is confiscated, others are readily found which facilitates people moving around the bay and continuing as anchor-outs. It is well known that Richardson Bay is a haven because there is no enforcement. One of the law enforcement officers even offered to come to Richardson Bay to help with enforcement. His offer was not accepted. The lack of political will on the part of

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Caltrans, Marin County and PG&E and supported a County resolution to protect nesting birds.

- **MMWD Azalea Hill** Submitted comments on the Azalea Hill trail improvement project Environmental Impact Report raising questions about the impact of relocating a section.
- **Pt. Reyes Vegetation Management Plan** Submitted comments to the National Park Service concerning protection of habitat for wildlife.

LEGISLATION

Supported **Proposition 68**, the **Water Bond Measure**; **Novato Flood Control Measure**; and **Measure AA** that established the Bay Restoration Authority that administers funding for restoration/enhancement projects on San Francisco Bay.

The Evolution of Birds

NEW CLASS!

Six Classroom Sessions and Two Field Trips
Beginning October 18, 2018

Richardson Bay Audubon Center and Sanctuary
7 PM to 8:30 PM
With Bob Lewis & Bruce Mast of GGAS

Take your knowledge of birds beyond the usual identification skills. This fascinating, in-depth introduction to Avian Evolution may be just the class for you. Fast-paced, never boring, this is an advanced class with college-level material featuring all the latest research in the field of Evolutionary Biology.

WEEK 1 – OCTOBER 18

Avian Evolution – Introduction and History of Science

WEEK 2 – OCTOBER 25

How Birds Evolve

WEEK 3 – NOVEMBER 1

Dinosaurs to Birds – Evolution of Birds from the Mesozoic Era to Today

WEEK 4 – NOVEMBER 15

Western Hemisphere – South America: Avian Evolution During the Paleogene & Beyond

WEEK 5 – NOVEMBER 29

Welcome to North America – Bird Arrival and Speciation

WEEK 6 – DECEMBER 6

An Island Called California – When and where did California's birds originate and how did they get here?

ONLINE REGISTRATION WILL BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2018 at www.marinaudubon.org. The cost is \$110 for Marin Audubon Chapter-Supporting Members and \$145 for non-

members (includes a one-year MAS chapter-supporting membership). Those registering for this class will receive lecture notes and additional information prior to the first meeting.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Arntz Family Foundation, Larry Brilliant, Girija Brilliant, Patrick Burke, Timothy Erdman, James Foley, Joan Gray, Adrienne Karp, Candace Key, Margaret Lee, Michael Oldham, Lawrence Plotnick, Jeannene Przyblyski, John & Barbara Robeson, Susan Ryan, Mike Schulist, Marjorie Siegel, Kathy Sheridan, Carol Talmage, Marie-Madeleine Vespa, Patricia Wright

HABITAT STEWARDSHIP

TISCORNIA MARSH – NATURE-BASED SEA LEVEL RISE GRANT

July 31 marked the end of this year-long grant period. The grant required us to develop nature-based alternatives to protect the Canal Community against the impacts of sea level rise and to restore tidal marsh. Our engineering consultants, ESA, conducted surveys and analyses, and produced three alternatives, in addition to the no project: improving the levee, which is part of each of the alternatives, and maintaining the marsh in its current configuration; restoring the marsh to 1987 boundaries, when it was one-third larger, by natural sediment deposition; restoring to 1987 size using material dredged from nearby; and the preferred alternative, restoring the marsh to 1987 size using dredged material along with restoring the city's adjacent diked bayland to tidal action. A report describing the alternatives and the analysis supporting them has been completed. Also, during the grant period, with the help of Shore Up Marin, Siegel Environmental and ESA, two meetings and a site walk were conducted for the community.

Our next steps include applying for additional grant funding to undertake geotechnical and other engineering studies, finalizing the design, coordinating with the city on use of a minor section of city property, extending the Bay Trail onto the new upgraded levee, investigating permitting, and keeping the community involved and informed.

We've also met with STRAW folks who have a Measure AA grant to plant native plants in the transition zone along the levees. We look forward to partnering with them on the

transition zone planting and involving local school children to plant.

CORTE MADERA ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

Over the summer our volunteers have been maintaining the native plants installed last February. We've had Hanford ARC install an irrigation system to keep the young plants alive, and our volunteers have been watering using the system. We've ordered more plants to be planted in the fall. We'll have to water them with our own funds as our grant ends in December 2018.

A group of volunteers from the Greenbrae Boardwalk is now working at the Marin Audubon restoration site at the Corte Madera Ecological Reserve. Now that some natives are growing, there is need to pull invasives that are moving in and competing with the natives, as well as water in this season of no rain. Contact Martha Jarocki, email: marthajarocki@gmail.com or phone 415/461-3592 for information.

Martha's message is: "Please join us. On each visit we notice more greenery, as the marsh plants (pickleweed and sea lavender) reseed in the low-lying areas, and as the planted natives take hold. The transformation is a joy to watch as are the birds, under the big sky of the open marsh."

We're excited that many pickleweed plants have sprouted along the shoreline of the new marsh. They began to show up less than six months after completion of the excavation. And we're thrilled that Boardwalk residents will be helping to maintain the habitat by weeding and helping to water on a regular basis.

Conservation

continued from page 5

the RBRA was recognized as the major problem in the failure to address the anchor-out problem in Richardson Bay.

At the same time, the RBRA is planning to provide a mooring field for the anchor-outs so that they can stay in Richardson Bay. At their last meeting in July, the RBRA Board agreed to begin the process by seeking funds to conduct a study of how other areas with mooring fields operate and to draft an ordinance to incorporate new requirements for vessels in Richardson Bay. They are looking to their October meeting for the first reading of the ordinance.

MAS pointed out to the RBRA Board that there were no reports on how many anchor-outs are in the Bay, on the number of anchor-outs evicted, derelict vessels removed, nor were any enforcement actions, or intended actions,

even mentioned as a subject needing study.

One Board member responded that he wanted enforcement addressed as they move forward.

On the other hand, Sausalito is taking responsible action. They are applying for state grants to remove derelict boats, an expensive process, and they have established a GIS system to track anchor-outs in their waters so they can identify and keep track of them when they move around, coordinating with the sheriff, and removing derelict vessels and debris. Also, the Sausalito City Council heard presentations from Audubon California, on their study of the impacts of the anchor-outs on eelgrass, and from MAS on our position that anchor-outs should be removed from all of Richardson Bay to remove impediments to diving birds feeding and resting and other adverse impacts.

The next RBRA meeting will be Thursday September 13 (<http://rbra.ca.gov>).

HABITAT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Through the summer we've been reducing some of the invasive plant species that hinder the establishment of the native species that do the most for the web of life in Marin. *Dittrichia graveolens* (stinkwort), a good-for-nothing plant here, is making its usual late season appearance so we'll be going after that one and, of course, continuing to reduce the Harding grass.

Is one of these areas in your neighborhood? Act locally and join us on a workday. 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: September 1, October 6

Meet at 10 AM on Paradise Dr. 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.

Corte Madera Ecological Reserve Expansion:

Some volunteers from the Greenbrae Boardwalk are working at Marin Audubon's new restoration site behind Cost Plus Plaza. We are trying to keep the native plants ahead of the invasive non-natives from year one. Please pitch in.

Contact Martha Jarocki, marthajarocki@gmail.com or phone 415-461-3592

THANK YOU TO OUR STEWARDSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Debbie Ablin, Dave Chenoweth, Bob Hinz, Jennifer Hitchcock, Martha & Gerry Jarocki, Lucienne O'Keefe, Jude Stalker, Sonya Suzuki, Lowell Sykes, Marla Ulrich, Kenji Yamamoto

BENEFIT MARIN AUDUBON SOCIETY

Make your next Amazon order through AmazonSmile. For information, visit <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-6076664>.

MARIN BIRDLOG: JUNE – JULY 2018

By Noah Arthur



Andy Reago and Chrsy McClarren, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0>, detail

Brown Thrasher

June started off with a **White-winged Dove** (DF) and an **American Redstart** (DHe) at the Pt. Reyes Fish Docks on the 2nd. Quite unusual for June was a **Long-tailed Duck** at Abbotts Lagoon on the 6th (ML), which continued into mid-June. The rarest eastern vagrant of the spring was found on the 9th, a **Brown Thrasher** at the Pt. Reyes Fish Docks (MC & PE), which was also present for several days. Another rare mimid was a **Gray Catbird** at Muddy Hollow on the 14th (MD). One **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was at the Pt. Reyes Lighthouse on the 17th (HC), and another was at Rush Creek on the 21st (MF). Also on the 21st a **Black-and-white Warbler** was at the Palomarin field station, and a second **Black-and-white** was at the Fish Docks on the 22nd (GD)!

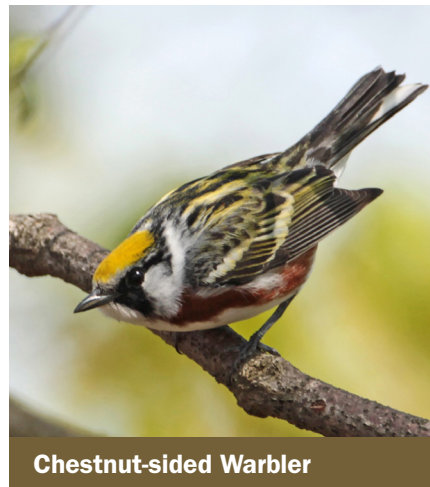
As usual, the rare bird action slowed as June came to an end, but an **Eastern Kingbird** showed up on July 1st at Commonweal (LN) and continued a few days. A last wave of eastern migrants included a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** reported by Palomarin workers at Muddy

Hollow on the 5th, a **Northern Parula** at Vision Rd. in Inverness on the 10th (at a known over-summering location for the species in past years) (JB & OM), an **Indigo Bunting** along Pt. Reyes – Petaluma Rd. on the 10th (CW), and another **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at feeders southwest of Inverness, also on the 10th (LN).

A **Black Swift** flew by Gull Rock on July 13th (NW & EB), suggesting that birds from the Año Nuevo nesting colony may be regularly wandering to the Marin coast on long foraging trips or as pre- and post-breeding visitors. Presumably the same long-staying **Black Vulture** put in an appearance in Pt. Reyes Station on the 15th (GM).

Shorebird migration is well underway along the California coast by early or mid July, and rarer species were being reported elsewhere on the coast this July, but none were reported in Marin. August may yet yield some shorebird rarities.

Editor's note: For the complete Birdlog that includes May observations, go to www.marinaudubon.org/birds-birdlog.php



Chestnut-sided Warbler

Matt Tillet, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0>, detail

Observers and Acronyms **CW:** Canyon Williams, **DF:** Dea Freid, **DHe:** Derek Heins, **EB:** Eddie Bartley, **GD:** Guy Dutson, **GM:** Gerry McChesney, **HC:** Heather Cameron, **JB:** Jonah Benningfield, **LN:** Larry Nigro, **MC:** Mimi Calter, **MD:** Mark Dettling, **MF:** Mark Forney, **ML:** Matt Lau, **NW:** Noreen Weeden, **OM:** Oscar Moss, **PE:** Philip Eager

MAS FIELD TRIP (continued from page 3)

HAMILTON WETLANDS

Novato

Sunday, September 23, 2018

8:30 to 11 AM

With Youth Leader Joseph Zeno and Jason Hassrick

Join young birder Joseph Zeno and Wildlife Biologist Jason Hassrick as they bird in the Hamilton Wetlands. Expect to see a diverse array of sandpipers, plovers, and other shorebirds as they migrate through Marin. We will also

look for passerines like House Finch, Lesser and American Goldfinches, Black Phoebe, Cliff Swallow, and Barn Swallow.

DIRECTIONS: We will meet at South Hamilton Park playground at Hamilton Field. From the south on Hwy 101 take the Nave Dr./Hamilton exit, and from the north use the Ignacio Blvd. exit. Follow Main Gate Rd., go right on South Palm, then turn right on Hangar Ave. for about 0.4 mile. The South Hamilton Park parking lot is at the intersection of Hangar Ave. and Maybeck St.

eBIRD FOR BEGINNERS

Blue Classroom

Richardson Bay Audubon Center

376 Greenwood Beach Road,

Tiburon

Saturday, October 13, 2018

8:45 AM to noon

With Bob Battagin

Interested in learning how to use eBird but not sure how to get started? This class is for you! eBird is a great way to keep track of your bird sightings, explore the latest bird observations in your area, research bird sightings in a different county, state, or country that you're planning to visit, and compete with your friends to find the most birds in your area. Perhaps most importantly, you'll also be making important contributions to science and conservation.

The class will have three one-hour segments. From 9 to 9:55 AM Bob will provide an overview, explaining **What is eBird?** You'll also learn how to register as a new user, submit a checklist of your bird sightings, and access and manage your personal checklists and data. From 10 to 10:55 AM you'll learn how to set up yard and patch lists, receive eBird alerts, and explore the vast world of eBird data. From 11 AM until noon you'll learn how to use Cornell's eBird mobile app on your smartphone, how to enter your bird list as you bird in the field, and other features of the mobile eBird app.

The *eBird for Beginners* class is open to all. MAS membership is not required. To maximize your learning experience, we are limiting the class size to 15.

Registration: Beginning on September 5, sign up by sending an email to this address: jeanineis@comcast.net. Include the full name and email address for each person that you're registering. We will confirm your registration in the class. Once the class is full we'll add names to a waitlist.

Equipment to bring: Since eBird is accessed via the internet please bring your smartphone, tablet, and/or laptop computer. If you don't have a laptop or smartphone, we'll try to pair you up with the instructor or another participant.

Advanced preparation: To save class time, please download the eBird Mobile app onto your smart phone before attending the class. It's free of charge from either Apple's App Store or from Google Play. You'll learn how to use it in the third hour. For additional information about accessing the eBird Mobile app, please see the class description at www.marinaudubon.org/events-field-trips.php.



The Rail

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Time Value

SAVE THE DATE

- October 3 **Field Trip:** Point Reyes
Migrants & Vagrants
With Peter Colasanti
 - October 4 **Field Trip:** Las Gallinas
With Bob & Sande Chilvers
 - October 10 **Photo Workshop:** Birds in Flight
With Dave Strauss
 - October 13 **Workshop:** eBird for Beginners
With Bob Battagin
 - October 14 **Field Trip:** Shollenberger
With Peter Colasanti
 - October 18 **Class Starting:** Evolution of Birds
With Bob Lewis & Bruce Mast
 - October 20 **Field Trip:** Abbotts Lagoon
With Jim White & Bob Battagin
 - Nov. 15 – 18 **Central Valley Birding Symposium**
Stockton, www.cvbirds.org/events/symposium
- Check website for updates and details

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SUPPORT MARIN AUDUBON SOCIETY — BECOME A CHAPTER-SUPPORTING MEMBER

We invite you to become a Chapter-supporting member of Marin Audubon Society (MAS) to support our important habitat protection and restoration work, conservation advocacy, our full calendar of birding field trips and speakers and our newsletter, *The Rail*. Marin Audubon is a chapter of National Audubon (NAS). However, becoming a **Chapter-Supporting Member** of MAS is separate and distinct from a membership in NAS. While MAS works with NAS on issues of mutual concern, we are a separate non-profit Section 501(c)(3) all-volunteer organization. Marin-based NAS members do receive this MAS newsletter, *The Rail*, however we encourage all NAS members to also become Chapter-supporting members of MAS to support our local work. Very little of our funding comes from NAS, and we rely on our MAS Chapter-supporting members and donors to help us fund our land acquisitions, restorations, habitat protection, conservation advocacy, this newsletter and our local programs.

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

You can join MAS or make a donation on our website using your credit card or PayPal by going to www.marinaudubon.org. Alternatively, you can join by filling out this form and sending us your payment by mail.

ALTERNATIVELY, IF YOU ARE LOOKING TO JOIN NATIONAL AUDUBON FOR THE FIRST TIME ...

MAS will receive 100% of your initial membership if you enter **MAS's chapter code C04** on your application. To join, go to www.audubon.org/join.

The best option for the birds: Join MAS **and** NAS.

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 Annual rate for students (18 years and under) and seniors (65 and over)
- \$35 Basic
- \$50 Sponsor
- \$500 Patron
- \$100 Sustaining
- \$1,000 Benefactor
- Please accept my donation in the amount of \$ _____

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Marin Audubon Society
P.O. Box 599
Mill Valley, CA 94942

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