



Gordon Beebe

Collared Trogon

Visit four very different rainforest ecologies in Costa Rica, as we search for the Resplendent Quetzal in the high mountains of the south, then to a sea level marsh with a high diversity of bird and mammal species, a mid-elevation lodge on the continental divide with a variety of eastern and western species, and finally to an active geothermal area in the north. Experience both the visual and auditory wonders of the animals of the rainforest, with in-depth stories of fascinating plant and animal relationships. Views of trails and lodgings depict what you can expect from a visit to this tropical paradise.

Gordon Beebe is a field trip leader and website editor for Madrone Audubon Society, as well as a volunteer at Native Songbird Care & Conservation in Sebastopol. He specializes in documenting birds, other animals, and plants in photographs, audio and video. He lives in Santa Rosa, CA.

NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER:



The Rail

MARIN AUDUBON SOCIETY

Annual Report For Fiscal Year 2018-19

It's been a challenging and very successful year. Through the great work of our Board members, volunteers, and our other supporters, we've increased our habitat enhancement and protection work, and education about birds and the natural environment. We continued our successful efforts making Marin a better place for wildlife and for all of us. Our major activities and accomplishments during the year are briefly described below.

HABITAT RESTORATION

• **Measure AA Grant for Tiscornia Nature-Based Sea Level Rise Adaptation:** Marin Audubon was awarded a Measure AA grant in the amount of \$939,084 to prepare technical reports, develop a conceptual plan and conduct environmental review for this marsh

restoration/levee improvement project to produce a design ready to obtain regulatory agency permits. (See the story below.)

Other grants helped us continue our habitat protection work by contributing to the purchase of two parcels at Black Point: from Marin County Open Space District, Marin County Fish and Wildlife Commission, California Alpine Club Foundation, Rose Foundation, and RHE Foundation. The Alpine Club Foundation also contributed to purchasing native plants for Bahia.

HABITAT ENHANCEMENT

At Corte Madera, we completed planting of the transition zone by installing 15,200 additional plants which we are now watering with a plan

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MAS Awarded Measure AA Grant for Tiscornia Marsh Restoration Project

At its June meeting, the Restoration Authority approved the staff recommendation to award Marin Audubon Society a grant \$939,848 for the Tiscornia Marsh Nature-Based Restoration Project. Our project received the highest score of the 15 proposals that were submitted.

We are honored to have been awarded this major grant. Building on the preliminary design produced by Environmental Science Associates (ESA) over the last few years with a grant from the Marin Community Foundation, this phase of the Tiscornia Marsh Project will advance the design for restoring an eroded section of the marsh to benefit endangered and other species, raising the height of the levee to improve flood protection for the adjacent Canal Community, and constructing the Bay Trail on the levee. The slope will provide transition habitat and high tide refugia for wildlife, allow for migration of marsh with sea level rise and stabilize the levee. The grant will also cover CEQA environmental review.

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VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR JANE MEDLEY

The MAS Board is happy to announce our choice of Jane Medley as our Volunteer of the Year awardee. Jane is in her second term on the Marin Audubon Board and she has been Field Trip Chair since the beginning.



Jane Stalker

Throughout her tenure, Jane has greatly expanded the number and diversity of field trips offered to our members. She has initiated special trips for chapter members only and scheduled special unusual trips including boat trips to the Farallons, the Delta and San Francisco Bay. Under her direction, we now have a regular field trip series to places of birding importance in Marin.

Jane is an asset to Marin Audubon and to our members and to wildlife. The more folks know about species, the more they are likely to want to protect them.

Thank you, Jane, for your dedication and all the wonderful field trips, workshops and programs you have organized for our members.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Most 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	Ann Thomas 914-9559
Treasurer	Susan Winston 949/632-0908
Conservation	Phil Peterson 828-4780 Barbara Salzman 924-6057
Field Trips	Jane Medley 559/760-1551
Membership	Barbara Demeter 707/479-1124
Outreach, Social Media	Elyse Omernick 694-2320
Speaker Series	Doug Waterman 415/506-4675
Special Projects	Jude Stalker 680-6291
Nominating	
Editor, <i>The Rail</i>	Bob Hinz 383-8688
Website	Dave Chenoweth 415/381-7908
Property Management	Ed Nute 669-7710
Volunteer Coordinator	
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 LETTER

By Barbara Salzman

The coming year promises to be exciting and challenging. We are beginning work on our new grant from the Restoration Authority which will fund planning, over the next two years, to restore Tiscornia Marsh and improve the levee to protect the Canal Community from sea level rise. The project will have major benefits for the people of San Rafael and the wildlife of San Rafael Bay. We're also beginning grant applications to establish Monarch Butterfly habitat, and we'll be hard at work maintaining the habitats we own.

Our work protecting threatened habitat has begun with appeals of two projects that would impact habitats: one for 11,310 solar panels in baylands and another for two houses that would impact our properties at Black Point. There are major projects and issues we will address to protect habitat: on the Farallon Islands; on baylands at risk with a possible Gness Field runway extension; and at Pt. Reyes with the new Management Plan and DEIS. We'll also be continuing our work on fire and fire suppression activities as they affect natural habitats and wildlife. It looks like it will be a busy fall for our Conservation Committee.

To improve our functioning and communications, our Board members have begun work to upgrade our website, guided by our new Outreach Chair David Chenoweth. We'll be looking at attracting more members under the leadership of our new Membership Chair Barbara Demeter. You can expect some exciting

programs arranged by Douglas Waterman for our Speaker Series, and continued exciting field trips planned by Jane Medley, whose exceptional work was recognized as MAS Volunteer of the Year. Well deserved, Jane! The rest of our dedicated Board members will be continuing their important work.

But we have some gaps we need to fill to carry on. We will be losing our Treasurer Susan Winston. If you have accounting skills and would like to support and be a part of Marin Audubon's habitat acquisition, restoration and protection and environmental education work, call me for information 415/924-6057. We also need a Volunteer Coordinator, which is an opportunity for someone who likes people and wants to help encourage volunteers, especially to maintain habitats on our properties.

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to our spring appeal. This appeal is dedicated to our properties. As we acquire and restore more habitats, we have greater needs for removing invasive plants, replacing them with native plants, and watering newly planted plants.

We're looking forward to an interesting and stimulating year meeting the challenges of property ownership and ongoing threats to our natural resources while continuing to offer educational and fun activities. Join us for a field trip, for a program, on a volunteer work day or join one of our Committees. We're here for you, for our wildlife and for habitats.

Pt. Reyes National Seashore Management Plan

The National Park Service (NPS) has released the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for a General Management Plan Amendment for the Point Reyes National Seashore and the north district of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area which is managed by the Seashore. The stated purpose of the Plan and the EIS is to establish guidance for the preservation of natural and cultural resources, including Tule Elk, and the management of infrastructure and visitor use in the planning area which consists of 28,000 acres currently leased for grazing of dairy and beef cattle. Ranching is considered part of the Seashore's cultural heritage. Management of the Drakes Estero and Limantour Tule Elk herds is discussed. Six alternatives are presented:

A. No Action (required by the National Environmental Policy Act) would continue to follow the 1980 General Management Plan which allows continued ranching use on 27,000 acres under 5-10-year leases. NPS would capture and move, or kill elk that leave the Park.

B. Continued ranching with lease terms of up to 20 years, and an elk population threshold (NPS's preferred alternative). B would adopt a new Ranchland Zone with three sub-zones and management direction; would allow diversification (pigs, goats, sheep and row crops with no irrigation) in some subzones; establish lease terms of up to 20 years and set a threshold of 120 for the Drake's Bay herd where the elk-rancher problems have occurred; and cull the herd using lethal methods. *continued on page 6*

MAS Needs A Treasurer

Do you have accounting experience? Would you like to support MAS in our habitat protection and education work? Then we'd like to talk to you! For more information please contact Barbara Salzman at 415/924-6057 or bsalzman48@gmail.com

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.

PACHECO POND, Novato

Thursday, September 5, 2019

8:30 AM to noon

With Bob and Sande Chilvers

Join old friends and meet new ones as we resume our regularly scheduled walks on the first Thursday of the month. While construction projects continue at the Las Gallinas ponds, we will be offering our traditional walk at an alternate location. For the months of September and October and possibly longer, we will be checking out Novato's Pacheco Pond, known to provide habitat for a variety of ducks, **Black-crowned Night-Heron**, **Common Gallinule**, **Sora**, and **Virginia Rail**. Nearby trees provide additional habitat for both songbirds, egrets, and a number of raptors including **Peregrine Falcon**.

Thank you, Bob and Sande, for agreeing to continue as our expert and friendly guides on this popular monthly walk. We welcome bird enthusiasts of all levels and help each other to find and identify the birds. The area around Pacheco Pond is mostly flat, but **we will be walking across some rocky, uneven surfaces**. Dress in layers and bring binoculars, scopes, and water. Heavy rain cancels.

DIRECTIONS: Take the Bel Marin Keys Blvd exit from Hwy 101. Travel east on Bel Marin Keys Blvd for 1.4 miles passing through a commercial/industrial section until arriving at a small parking area on the right, which faces the pond. We will meet in the parking area and walk to the trail a short distance up the road.

VAUX'S SWIFTS AT MCNEAR BRICK AND BLOCK, San Rafael

Thursday, September 19, 2019

6 PM to 7:40 PM depending on the weather
With Rusty Scalf

This event is organized for MAS members. Due to limited parking availability, this is not an open invitation for the general public. Please do not publicize this event on Nextdoor or other community listservs.

Join other MAS members for an 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 an unforgettable sight. At the peak of migration, as many as 19,000 swifts have been counted in one evening. However, keep in mind that the number of swifts varies greatly from night to night and can range from a few hundred to thousands. Like everything else in birding, there are no guarantees!

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. Use soft voices and be sure to respect the privacy of local residents.

DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 take the Central San Rafael exit. Head east on Third St./Point San Pedro Rd for about 3.5 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.

DRAKES BEACH AND THE FISH DOCKS

No. 9, Birding in Marin Series

Point Reyes National Seashore

Saturday, September 21, 2019

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. 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 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 continued 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.

CORDELL BANK PELAGIC TRIP

From Porto Bodega, Bodega Bay

REGISTRATION OPEN

Sunday, September 22, 2019

7 AM to 5 PM

With Steve Howell

There is still space available on MAS's third annual pelagic trip to the Cordell Bank, a rocky undersea bank 22 miles west of the Point Reyes headlands. Both experienced and beginning birders are invited to join this trip to one of the West Coast's best locations for birds and whales. This year we have partnered with the Redwood Regional Ornithological Society (RROS) in offering this exciting trip. We will again travel on Rick Power's *New Sea Angler*, a 65-foot fishing charter boat suitable for birding.

The Cordell Bank is a magnet for unusual and rare sightings. It is a great

trip with possibilities of **Tufted Puffin**, **Laysan Albatross**, and **South Polar Skua**. Additional September possibilities include **Wilson's Storm-Petrel**, **Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel**, **Scripps's Murrelet**, **Buller's Shearwater**, and **Sabine's Gull**. Other more numerous pelagic species seen on last year's trip included **Black-footed Albatross**, **Northern Fulmar**, and additional shearwater, phalarope, jaeger, and auklet species.

The cost will be \$150 per person for Marin Audubon Chapter-Supporting Members and \$185 for all others. If you are not yet a Marin Audubon Chapter-Supporting Member, please sign up now at www.marinaudubon.org to enjoy the reduced cost of this trip. **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 1 from the town of Bodega Bay. Continue past the fire station and the Tides Wharf in Bodega Bay. Turn left on East Shore Rd at Bodega Bay Inn and head downhill to the port.

RODEO LAGOON, Marin Headlands

Sunday, September 29, 2019

7 AM to noon

With William Legge and David Wiechers

Join William and David for this second of their fall migration field trips at Rodeo Lagoon. This is their longtime "patch," which never seems to disappoint birders with daily variations in species seen and unusual sightings. On this particular trip, 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.

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developed by volunteer John Perone. Martha Jarocki is leading monthly volunteer workdays to maintain the habitat. At Bahia we hired the Center for Social and Environmental Sustainability (CSES) to help our volunteers plant, maintain and enhance habitats. We removed highly invasive French broom from, and then planted native grasses on the newly purchased property at Black Point. Triangle Marsh workdays led by Bob Hinz are continuing and MAS volunteer, Jude Stalker, continued to organize workdays to remove non-native *Limonium* from shoreline properties in southern Marin. Ed Nute began planning for planting milkweed, the primary plant for Monarch Butterfly, whose population is in steep decline across the US.

**Marin Audubon Society
Statement of Financial Position
As of June 30, 2019**

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Operating Bank Accounts	94,544
Property Bank Accounts	101,060
Marin Baylands Advocates Bank Account	24,175
Total Current Assets	219,779
Real Property	4,662,542
Investment Account	1,364,375
TOTAL ASSETS	\$6,246,696

**Marin Audubon Society Statement of Activities
July 2018 through June 2019**

REVENUE AND SUPPORT	
Donations	236,855
Grant Income for Property Restoration, and Enhancement	526,021
Membership	38,869
Events and Activities	23,735
Interest and Dividend Income	43,010
Marin Baylands Advocates Income	34,530
TOTAL REVENUE & SUPPORT	903,020

EXPENSES	
Property Restoration, Enhancement, and Management	569,194
Professional Services	17,995
Office Supplies, Printing, and Postage	34,638
Program Expenses	28,339
Insurance	10,344
Property Parcel Taxes	14,174
Permits and Fees	4,316
Website and Social Media	2,447
Other General Expenses	2,862
Marin Baylands Advocates Expenses	1,156
TOTAL EXPENSES	685,465

RESULTS FROM OPERATIONS	217,555
Investment Gain – Realized and Unrealized	44,777
CHANGE IN EQUITY	258,831
TOTAL EQUITY – BEGINNING OF YEAR	5,987,865
TOTAL EQUITY – END OF YEAR	\$6,246,696

ACQUISITION

Completed acquisition of nine properties at Black Point: six tax default parcels, two others purchased and one donated. Funds from our partner Marin Baylands Advocates along with other grants funded the purchase of the tax default properties and a portion of the purchase of the larger parcel from a private owner. We now own 18 parcels at Black Point.

EDUCATION

• **Field Trips, Speaker Series, The Rail, and Outreach** Most MAS activities serve to educate others about natural resources, be it speaking at hearings, writing letters, hosting events (field trips, workshops or speaker series). The past year we published 10 issues of our newsletter, *The Rail*, presented nine Speaker Series programs focused on birds and other natural resources, and held 79 field trips (including San Francisco Bay and Delta trips, two pelagic trips and the “Birding in Marin” series with Bob Battagin and Jim White) and classes (“Birds in Flight” photography, six “Evolution of Birds” sessions, birding classes for beginners, and Spring Bird Song classes). Our website is active and we’re on Facebook.

CITIZEN SCIENCE

Sponsored three Christmas Bird Counts, Cheap Thrills in northern Marin County, Southern Marin County, and the Pt. Reyes Count.

PARTNERING

Continued to serve as fiscal agent for Marin Baylands Advocates, our partner in acquiring baylands, and to represent MAS on Boards and committees: 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, One Tam, San Francisco Bay Shoreline Advocates, and various committees related to improving Highway 37. We continue to work with other Marin organizations on updating *Community Marin*.

CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES TO PROTECT WILDLIFE AND HABITAT

MAS Policies: To guide our advocacy work, we adopted a solar policy and are working on a policy addressing the effects of fire management in relation to habitats.

• **Richardson Bay Anchor-Outs** Continued to raise objections to BCDC and the Richardson Bay Regional Agency about anchor-outs on Richardson Bay, advocating for their removal. 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, and not for private uses such as permanent residence that damages eelgrass, and covers and degrades open water habitat.

• **Marin County Open Space District (OSD):**

Hunt Camp Trail Settled the suit we brought with the Marin Conservation League and the Native Plant Society against the OSD for failure to conduct adequate environmental review for the Hunt Camp Trail on the Giacomini Preserve. Since the suit, the OSD is taking a more responsible approach to trail improvements and our concerns have diminished.

Ponti Ridge Submitted comments on the OSD efforts to consolidate trails and protect habitat.

• **Highway 37** Participated in meetings with the Baylands Group, property owners organized to work to protect the North Bay ecosystem; a Public Access Committee (wildlife agencies and organizations that own properties or restore habitat and are concerned about public access impacts on wildlife and habitat), an outgrowth of Resilient by Design; and meetings of the Policy Advisory Committee (consisting of elected officials of Marin, Sonoma, Solano and Napa counties).

• **San Geronimo Golf Course** Spoke at hearings and a press conference in support of Trust for Public Land’s efforts to acquire this property to restore habitat for the benefit salmonids, Northern Spotted Owl, other wildlife and people.

• **Northern Spotted Owl** Worked with Marin County OSD and cities with nests within their boundaries (Larkspur, Mill Valley, Corte Madera and Fairfax) in an effort to set up a public notice process to protect the owls.

• **San Anselmo Flood Risk Reduction Project** Submitted comments to Marin County supporting moving forward with an environmentally sensitive project and raising some issues related to habitat.

• **290 Grandview** Opposed expansion of a house that violates Novato’s Urban Growth Boundaries. Novato approved the project.

• **Brescia Houses** Submitted multiple comment letters stating many issues related to houses on two properties that virtually surround three of MAS’s parcels at Black Point; objected to the removal of 53 trees and construction of a 10.5-foot high retaining wall, among other points.

- **MMWD** Commented on the CEQA document for the **Azalea Hill** project and on **MMWD's budget**. MAS supported a budget that included more funds to ensure habitats of the watershed are maintained. No funds were added but the budget was approved over objections to any increases.
- **Pt. Reyes General Management Plan and EIS** Submitted scoping comments on the six alternatives the Seashore developed, and requested that an alternative be included that would maximize protections and habitat for all native wildlife, not just elk.
- **Robin Drive, Corte Madera** Commented on the loss of native trees. This is a positive project with affordable housing, but that does not justify removing mature, native oaks, particularly the ancient oaks near the ridge.
- **Corte Madera Gap Closure** Submitted comments on this segment along Wornum Drive which is part of a larger project that is proposed to extend southward from Corte Madera Creek.
- **PG&E Maintenance Permit** Commented to regulatory agencies on PG&E's Operations and Maintenance General Application asking that mitigation be in-kind and that impacts to San Francisco/San Pablo Bay wetlands not take place at a Suisun Marsh site, which PG&E has already purchased for mitigation, jumping the gun on the regulatory process.
- **North Bay Mitigation Bank** Objected to the Regional Water Quality Board and the Army Corps of Engineers on a proposed mitigation bank on private property along San Antonio Road with a number of specific questions. MAS does not support mitigation banks because they set the stage for losing wetland resources elsewhere.
- **GGBHTD Mitigation Plan** Commented on the Bridge District's proposal to restore and mitigate four acres of tidal marsh on the north end of the 72 acres it owns on the Corte Madera Bayfront. We recommended locating the mitigation on the northeast corner instead of northwest so that it would be adjacent to the existing marsh, not constructing a trail all around the marsh and improving the transition zone by increasing its width and planting native plants.
- **BCDC Fill Policies** Submitted written comments and testimony at the public hearing, supporting revising BCDC's policies to allow fill for marsh expansion. BCDC policies currently allow fill in the Bay only for public access. Fill will be needed to expand the marsh for our Tiscornia project.

CONSERVATION

MAS APPEALS PROJECTS APPROVED BY MARIN COUNTY — SUPPORT NEEDED

MAS and Marin Bayland Advocates (MBA) appealed the following two projects to the Planning Commission because the environmental analyses by staff were inadequate. In partnership with others, we felt obliged to appeal to the Planning Commission in the hope of getting more thorough environmental analyses.

Brescia Houses Readers of *The Rail* will recognize that we've been commenting on proposals for building these two houses for many months. On July 2, Marin County approved the smaller of the two houses and denied the second, larger house but approved the removal of seven trees to build a turnaround for fire trucks. Other issues included in the appeal were a 10.5-foot high retaining wall that would block access to Marin Audubon property, loss of native trees and other impacts on MAS property. We were joined in this appeal by MBA and neighbors.

Both appeals are scheduled to be before the Planning Commission on September 9.

Silveira Property Solar Facility adjacent to Redwood Landfill and between the SMART tracks and Highway 101. Proposed on baylands and adjacent uplands, the solar facility, consisting of 11,310 solar modules, was approved by the Deputy Marin County Zoning Administrator without recognizing that the site is historic bay and adjacent uplands, both parts of the Baylands Corridor, and with an inadequate analysis of potential impacts. Marin Conservation League appealed separately on the basis of lack of a solar ordinance.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Please help by sending an email to the respective planners: Megan Alton at malton@marincounty.org for the Brescia projects and Sabrina Sihakom for the Solar project, ssihakom@marincounty.org

Measure AA *continued from page 1*

Marin Audubon will manage the grant and will again contract with ESA to prepare, over the next several years, technical studies that will inform the project design; prepare a CEQA environmental document, under



the direction of the City of San Rafael, that will result in a conceptual design sufficient to apply for permits from regulatory agencies. At

the same time, the Multi-cultural Center of Marin (MCM) will reach out to the Canal Community about sea level rise and the Tiscornia Project, and will work with youth to produce a video and radio show.

This major grant for the Tiscornia project is from the 2016 Measure AA, the Clean and Healthy Bay Measure managed by the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority. The Authority was established to fund projects that restore, protect and enhance the wetlands and wildlife habitat along San Francisco Bay and its shoreline. Learn more about the Authority at <http://sfbayrestore.org>.

Changes at Audubon Canyon Ranch

Since the establishment of Audubon Canyon Ranch, which began with the purchase of the Martin Griffin Preserve lands by the Marin Audubon Society, more than fifty years ago, the supporting chapters have appointed representatives to the ACR Board of Directors. The chapter representation was based on a mutual understanding between the Boards of Directors that is codified in the ACR Bylaws. Initially each chapter had three representatives. Four years ago, the number was reduced to one.

In May of this year, the MAS representative on the ACR Board, was dismissed along with three other (non-chapter appointed) Directors. No explanation was given, either to the MAS Board or to the Directors dismissed. The only response to our questioning was that the ACR Board action was in conformance with the state code and ACR Bylaws and that there was an attorney present. We have no knowledge of, nor have we had any experience with, our ACR representative that would support a dismissal.

We are disappointed and concerned that this action indicates a major change in the long-standing, open relationship between MAS and ACR.

HABITAT STEWARDSHIP

It's been a busy summer taking care of our properties.

CORTE MADERA RESTORATION SITE

At Corte Madera thanks to Martha Jarocki's leadership, we've had two workdays and removed lots of Harding grass. Thanks to John Perone's innovative design, and his Water Brigade crew of Ed Nute, Dave Chenoweth, Gerry Jarocki, Bob Hinz, and Lowell Sykes, there have been three watering days using John's plan that runs a long hose from the hydrant to our sprinkler system. If you would like to help, contact John, jperonemv@gmail.com. Watering days are planned for every three weeks until the rainy season begins.

BAHIA

We planted about 100 coast live oaks donated by the Native Plant Society, contracted with the Center for Social and Environmental

Sustainability (CSES) to help plant, water and cage the oaks and to remove invasive wild radish from the Central Peninsula. Lowell Sykes has followed up with watering the oaks.

BLACK POINT

For our Black Point properties we hired the CSES to remove a large stand of French broom and then to plant meadow barley where the broom was removed. CSES has also removed ice plant at Norton Pond.

TRIANGLE MARSH

At Triangle we did the usual things to try to limit some of the worst invasive plants: pulled and cut Italian thistle, cut and dug Harding grass, and removed various weeds from the purple needlegrass plantings.

ARROYO SAN JOSE

We're in the process of planning to remove ivy from valley oaks at Arroyo San Jose in Novato.

Point Reyes Report *continued from page 2*

C. Removal of Tule Elk. Zones and management would be the same as B; the Drake's Bay herd would be removed.

D. Reduced Ranching. Zones, management and 20-year lease arrangements are the same as in B; phase out the ranches with minimal infrastructure over one year on approximately 7,500 acres leaving 19,000 acres; elk management would be as in B.

E. Reduced Ranching. The six active dairy ranches would be phased out over five years but would be eligible to convert to beef. Beef grazing has less impact because the cattle do not have to return to be milked twice a day. Does not reduce acres ranched. 20-year leases the same as B; elk would be allowed to continue.

F. Discontinue Ranching. Ranching would be discontinued and visitor opportunities expanded. Prescribed grazing could be used to meet resource management goals. Elk could continue to expand within park.

The alternatives, particularly the Preferred Alternative B, clearly favor ranching over natural resources and the clear intent is for the current ranching acreage to be a permanent use. The NPS leasing guidelines provide that if lease holders do not wish to continue in agriculture, NPS will ask relatives, then neighbors and then go elsewhere to find lessees. Unless these guidelines are changed, it appears there would be no way to reduce ranching. The zoning restrictions and increased diversified activities (e.g., chickens, crops, and goats) are likely to attract predators and would require more funding to manage and enforce. Currently some of the ranches have more grazing animals than allowed under range management guidelines, and habitats, roads and trails are in need of repair. Funding for the Seashore has been decreasing in

recent years, and its natural resources are suffering. All of the alternatives address endangered species, but there is minimal discussion of habitat enhancement for the elk and the broader range of species that depend on the park. This is particularly evident in Alternative F, which discontinues ranching, but instead of instead of increasing habitat enhancement on the vacated lands, visitor use is expanded. A justification for retaining agriculture is that some species benefit from grazing. Indeed, some species do benefit from shorter grass, but 26,100 acres are not needed for wildlife that prefer short grass. Short grass habitat could easily be provided by reduced ranching or by prescribed grazing.

The reduced ranching alternatives, which would seem to be a compromise, appear to have been designed to be rejected. C and E are extreme. It is unreasonable to expect a family to close their ranch in one year as proposed in D or require a change to raising beef as in E. **MAS is still reviewing the DEIS, but we are planning to include in our comments, a recommendation for what we think is a more realistic alternative: a gradual phase-out of ranches by attrition, i.e., ending ranching when family members are no longer interested.** This would be fairer to ranchers and a long-term benefit to elk, other wildlife and natural resources. It would recognize the enabling legislation, allow the elk population to expand, and provide for improving streams, grasslands, and other habitats. A specific reduced acreage could be retained in ranching to preserve cultural history or prescribed grazing could be used to provide short grass habitat. We will recommend it again as it was ignored in the DEIS.

The rigid approach to retaining the huge ranching acreage of 26,100 acres fails to recognize that times change, people change and

continued on page 7

HABITAT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Two invasive, non-native, annual plants, *Salsola soda* and *Dittrichia graveolens*, become noticeable at this time of year. They will bloom in September and October so by pulling them now we will greatly reduce their abundance next year. Both can be pulled relatively easily.

Is one of our project areas in your neighborhood? Our volunteer days are particularly good opportunities for students who need a community service project. Act locally and join us on a workday. We all make a difference.

VOLUNTEER WORK DAYS

Triangle Marsh, East Corte Madera:

First Saturdays: September 7, October 5

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

Corte Madera Ecological Reserve:

Second Saturdays: September 14, October 12

Meet at the end of Industrial Way (near Cost Plus Plaza).

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

Bahia, Novato:

If you'd like to help, please contact Jude at judestalker@gmail.com.

THANK YOU, STEWARDSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Debbie Ablin, Diana Benner and her Watershed Nursery crew, Dave Chenoweth, Bob Harlow, Bob Hinz, Martha and Gerry Jarocki, Linda Nicoletto, Ed Nute, Lucienne O'Keefe, John Perone, Roger Stoll, Lowell Sykes

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Leonard Baham, Frederick Binkley, Geraldine Brown, Stan Buman, Carolyn Ciampi, Richard DiLuzio, Sister Raya Hanlon, Kim Hettler-Coleman, Christian Jensen, Joan Lundstrom, Robert Mahoney, Laura Marx, Helen McQueen, Robin & Karen Meredith, Kate Merriman, Mary Meyers, Nadine Ondera, Susan Peters, Marti Phillips, Laura Phipps, Jack Rabin, Gayle Roberts, Kevin Anthony Rosa, Debbie Roycroft, Daniel Ryan, Shelly Scammell, Marlen Rosalie Schele, Michael Sheiner, Megan Smith, Lois Tolles, Pauline Tierney, Patrick Treseler, Linda Votteri, Douglas Wallace, Amy Witske & Warren Phillips, Cherie Whitmore

Point Reyes Report *continued from page 6*

climate has changed. Currently the demand for milk is decreasing, milk production is increasing, and dairy ranches are struggling. The 2019 International Climate Change report recognizes the significant contribution of meat production to global warming and encourages a plant-based diet to save the planet. The DEIS does not mention climate change or the changed demand. The approach is based more on politics, the former Interior Secretary Salazar's promise of 20-year leases at the time of the Drake's Bay Oyster controversy and Congressman Huffman's legislation to extending the ranching leases to 20 years, rather than conditions resulting from climate change and changing economics.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Access the plan at: <https://tinyurl.com/y2fptkfr>. Review it and comment through the "Comment Now" link on that web page. Comment deadline is September 23

SHOREBIRD IDENTIFICATION CLASS

A TWO-PART COURSE TAUGHT BY LISA HUG

Fee for both sessions: \$15

PART I: Classroom Only – \$10
Richardson Bay Audubon Center
Blue Classroom

376 Greenwood Beach Road, Tiburon
Thursday, September 5, 2019
7 PM to 9 PM

PART II: Field Trip Only – \$10
Starting at Porto Bodega, Bodega Bay
Sunday, September 8, 2019
8:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Identifying shorebirds is a difficult challenge for many birders. But there are strategies to use that can make shorebird recognition simpler. During our evening classroom presentation on September 5, Lisa will present a PowerPoint workshop on shorebird identification. We will not only look at shorebird identification to species but also learn how to age and even sex some shorebirds. Participants should bring their binoculars to this evening presentation.

Lisa's evening presentation will be followed by a field trip on Sunday, September 8, to various locations at Bodega Bay to practice some of the identification strategies discussed during the evening presentation. Bring layered clothing, snacks, water, binoculars, and a spotting scope if you have one to the field trip. There will be a \$7 entrance fee if we go to Doran Park. Heavy rain cancels.

There will be a \$15 charge to attend both sessions. Or you may pay \$10 to attend just the lecture or just the field trip. Signups will not be required, but please remember to bring cash or a check for payment on the day(s) you attend.

DIRECTIONS TO FIELD TRIP: Head north on Hwy 1 from the town of Bodega Bay. Continue past the fire station and the Tides Wharf in Bodega Bay. Turn left on East Shore Road at Bodega Bay Inn and head downhill to the port.

INVITE
YOUR
FRIENDS!

MARIN BIRDLOG

By Noah Arthur



D. Gordon E. Robertson, CC BY-SA 3.0

Common Redpoll

Among the most surprising birds ever to be seen in Marin was a Common Redpoll found at Point Reyes by Albert Linkowski (June 15). For the complete Birdlog, go to our website, <http://marinaudubon.org/birds.php>.

FIELD TRIPS (continued from page 3)

FALL MIGRATION HOTSPOTS

Point Reyes National Seashore

Sunday, October 6, 2019

7:30 AM to mid-afternoon

With Derek Lecy and Bob Atwood

Join Derek and Bob to some of Marin's migrant hotspots. Our plan will depend on what birds have been seen in the area. Point Reyes has proven to be one of the greatest migrant traps on our continent with more than half of all North American birds (at least 502 species) seen there.

We will be looking in the areas of Drakes Beach and the Fish Docks/Chimney Rock. We may also stop to check the fields and trees surrounding some of the ranches in the area as well as the more inland riparian area around the Inverness Tennis Club. Come help us find something rare and unexpected. Fall birders in these areas are rarely disappointed! This time of year, as Rich Stallcup said, "The Outer Point never gets old. It's never the same."

We will meet at Whitehouse Pool and bird that area as participants gather before carpooling to the Outer Point. Dress in layers (plan for wind and fog), and bring a hat, sunscreen, water, and lunch. Heavy rain cancels.

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

PACHECO POND, Novato

Thursday, October 3, 2019

8:30 AM to noon

With Bob and Sande Chilvers

Our first Thursday of the month walk in October will again take place at Novato's Pacheco Pond. This location is our current substitute for Las Gallinas, where construction continues. For the complete description and directions, see the September 5 field trip on page 3.

THANK YOU, DONORS

Bud Alderson, Diane Amarillas, Elizabeth P. Anderson, Thomas R. Anderson, Louise Armour, Annelies Atchley, Robert Atwood, Holly A. Bacuzzi, Marjorie Belknap, Andrew Bollen, Dewitt Bowman, Burkhard Braun, Ingrid K. Brennan, Estate of Margot Brogger Richardson, Priscilla & Michael H. Bull, Patricia Cahill, Steve Capper, Carolyn Ciampi, William A. Clarke, Carroll Covey, Judith & Robert Creasy, Katherine Cuneo, Richard Daly, Michael Donovan, Genevieve Droulers, Leslie Ellison, Timothy Erdman, Neil & Mary Erickson, Robert J. Fallat, Tamara & Louis Fehrenbacher, Richard & Joyce Finley, Frost Family Sustainability Fund, Carl & Donna Gowan, Sallie Griffith, Jeannette Gustafson, Arpad Gyorki, Dolores Hansen, Erika W. Harris, Tom Hendricks, Harry and Elaine Hicks, Molly Hynes, Iron Springs Pub & Brewery, Inc., Maureen Ivy & Jay Berger, Susan L. Janson, Richard Jennings, Duane Johnson, Lorraine Johnson, Joyce L. Johnston, Robert Johnston, Candace Key, David Kimball & Anne Taylor, Klein-Donahoe Family Fund, William M. Klemme, William Legge, Christine Lindner, Carolyn Lown & Carolyn Kneibler, Joan Lundstrom (In memory of Janice Huey), Marjorie Macris, Robert Mahoney, Ellanor Malinowski, Daphne Markham, Sarah Martin, Peter Mason, Sharon McCloskey, Maura McLane, Jane R. Medley, Richard Morrison, Hans & Kari Mueller (In memory of Janice Huey), Julie Munro, Eileen Murray, Patrick Murray, Steve & Ruth Nash, Warren and Marcia Nute, J. Morrow Otis, Anne Owen, John Perone, Susan Peters, Phil Peterson, PG&E Corporation Foundation (donor match), Susan Phillips, Jordan Rinker, Marianna Riser, Susan & John Ristow, Susan M. Ryan, Marylee Sammis, Shelly Scammell, Hugh & Georgia Schall, Ruth M. Schuler, David Sexton, Pamela Shandrick, Cynthia Shaw, Michael Sheiner, Inez Skog, Jennifer Sousae, Charles Stanberry, Jeanine L. Starritt, Roger Stoll, Michael Stone, Kandice K. Strako, Peter & Marie Sullivan, Meryl Sundove & Roger Harris, Donna & Joseph Terdiman, Rex Thompson, Lois Tolles, Charles M. Vadalabene, Marilyn & Robert Van De Loo, Kathryn VanDyke, Doug Waterman, Amy & Bruce Wilcer, Donna L. Williams, Amy Witzke & Warren Phillips (In memory of Janice Huey), World Wildlife Fund (In honor of William Legge & Jane Medley)



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SAVE THE DATE

- October 3 **Field Trip:** Pacheco Pond
With Bob and Sande Chilvers
- October 6 **Field Trip:** Fall Migration Hotspots at Point Reyes
With Derek Lecy & Bob Atwood
- October 19 **Field Trip:** Abbotts Lagoon
With Jim White & Bob Battagin
- October 27 **Field Trip:** Rodeo Lagoon
With William Legge

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
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- \$35 Basic
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- \$1,000 Benefactor
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- Visa

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Marin Audubon Society
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