



THE Clapper Rail

MARIN AUDUBON SOCIETY

SPEAKER SERIES

Free and Open to the public

Richardson Bay Audubon Center
376 Greenwood Beach Road
Tiburon, California 94920
Information: 415/789-0703

This month the Speaker Series will be on the second THURSDAY of the month at 7:30 pm.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 7:30 PM

Feathers in Focus

With Richard Pavek



Photo courtesy of Richard Pavek

Western Scrub Jay

Many MAS members know Richard's bird images either through his weekly e-mail list of beautiful, funny or unusual birds; or his monthly column, *The Bird Side of Marin*, in the *Whistlestop Express*, which is folded inside the Pacific Sun, the last Thursday of each month; or in the WildCare newsletter. What you may not know is that Richard is becoming recognized worldwide as an expert in BIF photography, Birds in Flight.

In this presentation, Richard will show many of his favorite BIF photographs from Marin habitats and trips to other countries and relate some of his more memorable experiences in taking them.

Richard Pavek began his photographic journey over fifty years ago when he bought his first 35mm camera. He shot fashion, advertising and travel photography — but no birds!

After a period spent focused on other work, he re-entered photography, this time equipped with digital cameras. Shortly after, he discovered birds, which are about all he photographs!

Come at 7:15 PM to socialize and have refreshments before the program.

Volunteer of the Year: Jo Kreider

The Marin Audubon Board is very pleased to recognize our treasurer, Josephine Kreider, as our volunteer of the year for 2010-2011. Jo has been an important part of the success of the Marin Audubon Society since joining our Board six years ago.

Jo's work is largely behind the scenes. She produces dependable monthly financial reports, arranged for and guided us through an audit of our financial position several years ago, ensures our taxes and other bills are paid on time, produces our complicated budget, picks up our mail from the post office and distributes it to the appropriate person, participates in our Financial Committee and bugs us – always in a nice way - for the requests and reports information she needs to keep our books up to date and in good order.

Jo is well organized, can always be relied upon to provide quickly any kind of financial information that is needed and is always on top of how much money we have to spend or not spent. And she is always cheery and upbeat.

She does all of this and still manages to volunteer in other ways when another hand is needed to get out our newsletter, or do habitat



Photo courtesy of Jade Stalker

restoration work on our properties. And she even has time to work and volunteer with other organizations.

Thank you, Jo, for all you do for us. You are an essential part of MAS's success.

Annual Report to Members

Marin Audubon carries out our mission by advocating for the protection of native wildlife and natural habitats, by acquiring, restoring and enhancing habitats, through our educational activities, field trips, speaker series, birding classes, citizen science and through our advocacy work on behalf of wildlife and habitat protection.

HABITAT ACQUISITION

MAS currently owns and manages 508 acres on 26 parcels in Mill Valley, Corte Madera, San Rafael, City of Novato, and unincorporated Novato. This year we were pleased to accept the donation of two parcels adjacent to Norton Pond

in Black Point from the Johns family. We are hopeful several other parcels may soon be donated, and we have also been in discussion with other property owners who wish to sell. Opportunities are passing us by, however, because there is little public money available now. We continued our partnership with Marin Baylands Advocates, for which we serve as fiduciary agent, in acquiring habitat lands.

continued on page 4

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message	2
Conservation Report	2
Field Trips	3
Birdlog	7

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

President	Barbara Salzman 924-6057
Vice President	Lowell Sykes 388-2821
Secretary	Mariah Baird 456-3355
Treasurer	Josephine Kreider 381-1910
Finance Chair	Greg Block 479-8254
Conservation	Phil Peterson 898-8400 Barbara Salzman 924-6057
Earthshare	Jude Stalker 668-1242
Field Trips	Vicky Van Meter 299-2514
Membership	Ruth Pratt 453-2989
Fundraising	Flinn Moore Rauck 892-7554
Programs	Helen Lindqvist 789-0703
Special Projects	Jude Stalker 668-1242
Nominating	Phil Peterson 898-8400
Volunteers	Bob Hinz 383-8688
Property Management	Ed Nute 457-9241
Publicity	Martha Jarocki 461-3592
BAAC Reps	Lowell Sykes 388-2821 Barbara Salzman 924-6057

DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Meetings open to members.
7:30 PM, First Tuesday of the month
Richardson Bay Audubon Center
376 Greenwood Beach Road
Tiburon, California 94920

MAS telephone: 721-4271 (for messages only)

Marin Audubon Society is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. All memberships and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

The Clapper Rail is published ten times a year by the Marin Audubon Society on 100% recycled paper. Edited by Bob Hinz rbrthnz@comcast.net, 383-8688; and assisted by other members of MAS. Deadline is the first of each month.

©2011 Marin Audubon Society

Web site: www.marinaudubon.org
Northern Calif. Bird Box: 681-7422
(Provided by Golden Gate AS)

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 \$100 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 Clapper 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

July marks the beginning of a new fiscal year for Marin Audubon Society. We are pleased to present our Annual Report for 2010-2011. As you will see, we have been busy and had many successful activities on the local, regional, state and national levels.

We welcome our new Membership Secretary, Mark Forney, who has taken over from Mary Nealon the important responsibility of maintaining our membership records. Mark lives in Larkspur with his wife and daughters, and may be known to some of you as co-compiler of last year's Southern Marin Christmas Bird Count. We also express our thanks to Mary for her thorough and efficient work during the past year.

We welcome Susan Kelly as the new field trip leader for our monthly field trips to Las Gallinas. Some of you may remember Susan as our Christmas Count co-compiler. Susan is a great birder and we encourage all members who can make a weekday field trip to join her on the first Thursday of the month.

Our major disappointment this year was the sale of Mira Monte to the former owner's real estate agent. Needless to say we will be watching to evaluate any plans that are submitted that could adversely impact the sensitive natural resources at the mouth of San Antonio Creek. We will be looking to ensure compliance with the many local, state and Federal regulations that apply to resources on the site. We are still hopeful the property will eventually be acquired in protective ownership.

Thank you to everyone who supported our spring appeal by sending a donation. You are helping us to maintain and enhance our properties as viable native habitats. A special thank you to the California Alpine Club

Foundation for a grant that will enable us to purchase a mower to help us more efficiently remove invasive weeds.

We were disappointed by the Marin Community Foundation's change in focus away from the environment. Although it has been many years since the environment has been a high priority for the Foundation, it did provide some funding for environmental projects which was helpful in maintaining and restoring Marin's natural resources. While the Foundation's new focus areas are worthy, it is unfortunate their funding priorities do not reflect the importance of clean air, water and natural places to the Marin community, particularly to seniors, young people, and underserved communities.

We are sorry to have to announce that we will not be having a bird seed sale this year. The company from which we purchased seed was sold, and the new owners have significantly raised the prices and initiated other changes that make it impossible for us to continue. Should we find another supplier, we will have a sale next year. We thank our members who supported MAS by purchasing seed from us and hope this is not too much of an inconvenience.

As we begin our new fiscal year, we invite each of our members to become more involved with Marin Audubon. We have lots of volunteer opportunities including: habitat enhancement projects, outreach and publicity activities, bird surveys, computer work, and fund raising. Don't assume because you have a physical limitation you can't volunteer. We have activities for all ability levels. We'd love to have you become more active with us. Just call Bob Hinz at 415/383-8688.

CONSERVATION

BCDC CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

The Bay Conservation and Development Commission has scheduled for September 1 a final vote on the Climate Change policies it has been deliberating for more than three years. The revised findings and policies are reorganized with additional background information and clearer policies than previous drafts. The policies are a compromise between environmental concerns and complaints from developer interests and local jurisdictions that do not want policies or want them delayed. As described below, the policies could be stronger and have some deficiencies, but they are a beginning; we believe they should be supported.

The Climate Change policies clarify BCDC's jurisdiction, call for areas that contain significant habitat or species to be given "special consideration" for protection, and recommend that agencies, governments and the general public work together to develop a regional sea level rise adaptation strategy to protect natural ecosystems and determine where development should be protected or encouraged. While this approach delays BCDC's making difficult decisions now, it is a first step toward addressing Climate Change. Policy 7 recommends evaluating projects on a case-by-case basis and lists types of projects that should be encouraged along the shoreline,

continued on page 6

MAS FIELD TRIPS

Open to the public

No need to sign up for one day trips, just join us. Bring lunch, field guide, and binoculars. For information, accessibility and weather check: Vicky Van Meter at 415/299-2514

LAS GALLINAS STORAGE PONDS SAN RAFAEL

Thursday, September 1, 2011

8:30 AM to 12 noon

With Susan Kelly and friends

Beginner birders are especially welcome on the first Thursday of each month for a leisurely walk around the Las Gallinas Storage Ponds near McInnis Park. There is always something interesting to see and over 100 species have been reported over the course of a year. Hawks are frequent and we see the graceful Northern Harrier on virtually every trip. This is great way to start learning the raptors, waterfowl and other groups, as well as to get tips on optics, birding books and birding etiquette.

DIRECTIONS: From Highway 101 take the Smith Ranch Road exit; go east toward the McInnis Park entrance. Turn left immediately after crossing the railroad tracks and go the end of the road to the Las Gallinas Storage Ponds parking lot. Meet the group by the bridge just past the parking lot. The walk starts at 8:30 but late arrivals should easily be able to find the group.

FARALLON ISLANDS BOAT TRIP

Depart from Clipper Yacht Harbor,
Sausalito

Sunday, September 11, 2011

7:30 AM to 4 PM

With David Wimpfheimer

This trip is full, but if you wish to be on the waiting list, please send an e-mail to Vicky Van Meter. Participants should be at the boat dock at 7:30 AM. There is always a chance the trip may need to be rescheduled at the last minute due to sea conditions, so we will attempt to reach participants if there is a change. Be prepared for any kind of weather with layered clothing. Rain jacket and pants are essential no matter what the weather on shore. Take seasick medication if needed. 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 Drive and proceed to the parking area at the end. We will meet on the south side of the parking lot to check in before boarding. Contact Vicky Van Meter at Vicky.vanmeter@gmail.com or call 415-299-2514 with questions.

POINT REYES BIG DAY

Tuesday, September 27, 2011

7:30 AM to 3 PM

With Keith Hansen



Keith Hansen, well-known wildlife artist, naturalist and enthusiastic and knowledgeable birder, will lead us on a Point Reyes Big Day. We will meet at 7:30 AM at the Bovine Bakery in Point Reyes Station. This is located on the "Main Drag" (Hwy. 1) across from the Palace Market. Folks can coffee down, sugar up and hit the rest room there before we make our way to the OUTER POINT. Weather permitting, we will most likely drive, (car-pool, if possible) to the Light House. After that, it will likely be a quick stop at "Road Forks Pool" and then the "Fish Docks," looking high and low for winged treasures. Next it is off to "Nunez Ranch," then "Mendoza Ranch" and "Jr. Mendoza." From there we will blast to "Spaletta Slop Ponds" and to Drakes Beach for a well-deserved lunch. Bring a lunch and lots of water. For those who want to keep going, we may stop at "Abandon Ranch" and/or "The RCA Station." The day can go as long as anyone wants, but for those who need a specific time to end, let's say 3-ish. Keith is aiming for 100 SPECIES and is looking forward to seeing you ALL there!

CLASSROOM AND FIELD RAPTOR IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP

Fort Cronkhite and Hawk Hill
(Marin Headlands)

Saturday, October 1, 2011

8 AM – 12 noon or all afternoon

Limited to 30 participants

With Allen Fish, Director,
Golden Gate Raptor Observatory

The Golden Gate Raptor Observatory (GGRO) is dedicated to studying migrating birds of prey along the Pacific Coast. Over 250 volunteers and interns count, band and conduct radiotelemetry studies from mid-August through early December. Hawk Hill, in the Marin Headlands, is the best place to observe the fall migration. Allen Fish, the Director of GGRO, is a leading raptor biologist and a dynamic teacher. Allen has graciously agreed to present a condensed one-day classroom and field workshop on raptor identification for Marin Audubon.

We will meet at 8 AM at Bldg. 1050 at Ft. Cronkhite for a 90-minute classroom Powerpoint presentation on identifying California raptors. At about 10 AM we will drive up to Hawk Hill for a two-hour field class, with the option of staying up all day. Bring layered clothing for heat or cold. Bring lunch, snacks, water, hat, binoculars, and field guide. If raining or fogging we will still meet.

Because of limited classroom space, this workshop will be limited to 30 participants. Please send an e-mail to Vicky Van Meter at Vicky.vanmeter@gmail.com or phone 415-299-2514 (e-mail preferred) to reserve a space.

DIRECTIONS: To Bldg. 1050, Ft. Cronkhite: Drive into the Marin Headlands via Alexander Avenue and the five-minute tunnel on Bunker Road. As you drive alongside Rodeo Lagoon, watch for the only building with a wooden porch just across from the foot bridge to Rodeo Beach. This is Building 1050. Park alongside the road.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

David Adams, Judy Alstrom, R. Annin, Aida Avila, Linda Bartera, Mrs. Robert Blau, Gennady & Yelena Borinshteyn, Pat Bower, Ms. Patty Bradford, Jackie Brand, Pablo Brigham, Jason Brisson, Ted Burik, July Carlson, Kathleen Corlett, Patricia R. Cummings, Jean Dakota, Dusie & Jim Davis, Carol & Donald Davis, Ralph Derango, Darla Donovan, Daniel Druckerman, Karen Ennis, Jandira Fenimore, Bean Finneran, Addie Finseth, Dean Folk, Holly Gadsby, M. C. Giacomini, Terri A. Glass, Margaret Gordon, Lori Grace, Marge Gregg, H. Gross, Mr. Paul Hawken, Christine Helbling, Vera J. Howley, Richard Jencks, Juliana Kaye, Camille & Ed Lee, Josephine Lemon, Anne E. Libbin, Edward Lubin, Christopher Lydon, Jeanne Mahon, Miki Matthews, Erin McVey, Dov Michaeli, Louis E. Moore, Elaine Mossberger, Vicki Nichols, Ilka Normile, Elias Olson, Carol Peltz, Rudolph R. Picarelli, Stephen J. Plank, Dr. Mary Press, William H. Risch, Peter J. Sapienza, Jules Schindler, Glenda Sears, Peter Siewert, Shirley A. Silvestri, Janice Simonds, Lloyd Smith, Richard Sullivan, Mari T. Summary, Karin Thoreson, Mona Tieche, Shirley Welcome, Ian Wilson, Jane Woodman, Elizabeth Wozniak, Michelle Yelen, Gine Zaccor

MARIN AUDUBON THANKS THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR DONATIONS:

Phyllis V. Akers, Anonymous, Mariah Baird, Jeanne Ballestero, Betsy Wanner Bikle, Mark and Beverly Birnbaum, Judy and H. Spencer Bloch, Greg Block, Andrew Bollen, Michael Branton, Kenneth & Ann Bugher, Robert Bundy, California Alpine Club Foundation, Carroll Covey, Carol & Donald Davis, Genevieve & Rudolph De May, Anne R. DeLaney MD, Cecelia & James Donahue, Barbara Dwyer, EarthShare of California, David & Erin Elliott, Betty Gandel, Susan Gray, Thelma Gregory, Jeannette Gustafson, Nancy Hanson, Roger Harris, Harry and Elaine Hicks, Elizabeth Huning, Joan and Eugene Jacks, Victoria Jackson, Richard Jennings, John Kane, Forrester Kennedy, Thomas & Karyn Kennedy, Mary and Robert Kroninger, Richard Leonards, Harry & Ann Likas Jr, Mark Lindberg, Ellanor Malinowski, Donald W. McLeod, Jean Moore, Joe Mueller, Linda Nicoletto, Warren and Marcia Nute, Carol Olwell, Diane Parish, Pasadena Community Foundation, Phil Peterson, PG&E Corporation Foundation, Edith Piltch, Paul Pratchenko, Dr. Mary Press, Jeanne Price, Audrey K. Pullis, Janette and John Quinley, Flinn Moore Rauck, Susan and John Ristow, Roger and Dorothy Roberts, Elisabeth Rothenberger, Barbara Rothkrug, Anne Roughton, SF Estuary Project/ABAG, Joanne Sobel, Jean Starkweather, Meryl Sundove, Stephen and Britt Thal, Jeanne and Peter Tymstra, Muriel S. Ullman, Janice Ursin-Smith, Elizabeth R. Voorhees, Ken & Christina Waldeck, Donna Williams, Sandy Williams



Photo courtesy of Bob Hing

Petaluma Marsh, one of Marin Audubon's properties

Annual Report

continued from page 1

RESTORATION

We completed the restoration to wetlands of the 19-acre parcel at the intersection of Olive and Atherton in Novato. The restoration involved removing concrete and other fill that had been dumped in the wetland. We are working with the Natural Resource Conservation Service to begin the work to expand seasonal wetlands on the 160 acres we own across Olive Avenue and on which NRCS holds a conservation easement.

We received grants to support habitat restoration from the Marin County Fish and Wildlife Commission, the Marin Community Foundation, Patagonia Inc., and many generous individual donors.

We have also been working on a project to move to higher ground trails worn by people walking through the Corte Madera Ecological Reserve. We are working with the California Department of Fish and Game, and have applied to the Wildlife Conservation Board for funding and for the necessary permits. We also are working with Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District on future plans for property it owns nearby.

HABITAT STEWARDSHIP

We continue to focus on upland restoration and enhancement efforts at Bahia, and on removing invasive plants and planting natives at Triangle Marsh in Corte Madera. We have been fortunate that the Center for Volunteer and Non-profit Leadership has provided us with hard-working volunteers one Saturday a month. Member donations and grants have allowed us to hire crews from the Conservation Corps North Bay. We have also had discussions with The Redwoods in Mill Valley, where we own the section of the adjacent creek, about enhancement of the creek bank. We have probably

removed 50,000 invasive plants and planted several thousand native plants and rhizomes.

We completed the monitoring for both Bahia and Petaluma Marsh restoration projects in compliance with requirements of regulatory agencies.

SCIENCE

We sponsor the Southern Marin Christmas Bird Count. Volunteers Jules Evens, Jim White, Len and Patti Blumin, Don Reinberg and others have surveyed bird use at Bahia as required by our permits. Fifty species were identified with the majority waterfowl (26) and shorebirds (15). Abundances ranged from 360 to 2795 individuals per survey.

OUTREACH

The Clapper Rail, our field trips and monthly speaker series, our Web site revised last year, Junior Bird Watchers, and birding classes conducted by Meryl Sundove and Roger Harris make up our diverse education and outreach program. This year we had more field trips than in previous years and more trips to out of Marin locations, such as the Farallon Islands, as well as interesting and timely programs as reflected in the increased attendance.

COLLABORATION/PARTNERSHIPS

We continue to work with and serve as fiduciary agent for Marin Baylands Advocates, our partner in habitat acquisitions. Various board members serve on other Boards: San Francisco Bay Joint Venture, San Francisco Estuary Institute, Audubon Canyon Ranch Board, BCDC Advisory Committee, Friends of the San Francisco Estuary, and the San Francisco Estuary Partnership. Participation with other organizations and regional issues broadens our focus, opens opportunities and increases our effectiveness.

ADVOCACY

Our advocacy efforts this year were many and varied:

continued on page 5

Developments

We submitted comments on many proposed development projects: to the Marin County Community Development Agency identifying potential adverse impacts to habitats from the following projects: Whaler's Point on Richardson Bay, Golden Gate Baptist Seminary, Flying "H" Ranch, new Wildcare facility in Santa Venetia, AT&T antennas at San Domenico School, Spirit Rock Meditation Center, the DEIRs for the Easton Point project and the 680 Trail, and to the Marin County Agricultural Commissioner regarding a proposed vineyard ordinance. We commented to cities: Corte Madera on a proposed community garden in Town Park; Novato regarding the Draft EIR on the Hanna Ranch project; and Tiburon on the Revised Draft EIR on the Library Expansion Project. We appealed projects to construct meteorological towers on two ranches in West Marin to the Coastal Commission after our unsuccessful efforts to get the county to conduct adequate environmental review of potential impacts to birds; and we submitted comments on the staff report to the Commission on the Lawson's Landing project. We also responded to an Army Corps of Engineers public notice expressing our opposition to placing material dredged from Port Sonoma Marina on the Carneros River Ranch, a diked bayland across Hwy. 37. We also sent scoping comments to Alameda County on the Altamont Pass EIS.

Plans

We submitted comments to the US Fish & Wildlife San Pablo Bay Refuge on a draft Plan for San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge and on a Mosquito Management Plan for that refuge; to the Golden Gate National Wildlife Refuge in support of restricting access for dogs in some parts of GGNRA in order to protect wildlife and habitat; and scoping comments to the Farallon Islands National Wildlife Refuge for the Environmental Impact Statement on a plan to protect seabirds by eradicating introduced mice.

We commented to the City of Larkspur regarding revisions to its general plan and regarding a grant to plan for a SMART station at Larkspur Landing, and participated in meetings discussing restoration options for the Smith Ranch Road Pond in San Rafael.

Regulation

We participated in meetings with environmental organizations, spoke at Commission meetings and wrote multiple letters supporting strengthening the Bay Conservation and Development Commission's (BCDC) climate change policies in order to protect people, the Bay, wetlands

and wildlife. BCDC is the only agency focusing on the long-term impacts of climate change, and they have been under siege by local governments and development interests urging delay and weakening of restrictions.

We sent comment letters to the State Water Resources Control Board in support of the state's adopting a wetlands definition and establishing a program to regulate isolated wetlands, over which the Corps no longer has jurisdiction due to court decisions; and another on a Basin Plan amendment addressing beneficial uses of waterways in Central Bay.

We submitted comments to the Army Corps of Engineers regarding the Nationwide Permit (NWP) program and to the SF District of Army Corps regarding regional conditions for the NWP program. We wrote the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries in support of restricting low airplane flights over Tomales Bay, and commented to the Dept. of Transportation regarding Federal guidelines for meteorological towers to protect birds.

We commented to the California Department of Fish and Game on the Draft EIR for a Suction Dredging Permit Program for gold mining, raising many concerns about impacts to streams and water quality, and another comment letter regarding possible removal of the designation of Mt. Tamalpais as a wildlife refuge.

We continued to support Drake's Estero by commenting on a special use permit to counteract the oyster farm owner's efforts to remain beyond 2012; commented on the DEIS, and wrote US Interior Secretary Salazar on the special use permit for Drake's Estero.

We supported Marin's plastic bag ordinance and San Francisco's Bird-Safe Building ordinance. We also supported humane measures to control the Canada goose population at Las Gallinas Sanitary District.

Legislation

Wrote Assemblyman Perea supporting state bill AB 703 to extend tax benefits for non-profits owning land for environmental purposes and supported other bills: SB 588 to give the Coastal Commission discretionary authority to impose administrative penalties for violations of the Coastal Act; AB 376 to expand restrictions on the sale of shark fins; and AB 1103 to provide flexibility for local jurisdictions in meeting state-mandated housing needs.

REPORT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

We are pleased to report that Marin Audubon's financial position at the end of our fiscal year is sound. We have realized gains in our investments and our endowment has rebounded, thanks to astute guidance by our Finance Chair, Greg Block. The recent financial downturn is a concern, but we are hoping we remain in good shape.

Marin Audubon Society Statement
of Financial Position as of June 30, 2011

ASSETS

Current Assets – Checking Accounts	
General (Unrestricted)	18,164
Marin Baylands Advocates (Restricted)	5,386
Property (Restricted)	167,281
Special Projects (Restricted)	7,767
Total Current Assets	\$198,597
Fixed Assets – Real Estate	
Arroyo CM del Presidio Mill Valley	2,600
Arroyo San Jose	4,800
Atherton (Chang)	315,000
Atherton (Sheridan)	370,000
Bahia	1,600,471
Black Point	18,100
Corte Madera Tide Lot 1	3,200
Channel Drive	2,800
Murphy's Rock	9,719
Norton Avenue	14,100
Olive (Mission)	315,000
Petaluma Marsh	276,526
Tiscornia Marsh	11,026
Triangle Marsh Tidelands	3,800
Triangle Marsh	7
Total Fixed Assets	\$3,697,142
Other Assets	
Endowment (Designated)	818,530
Total Other Assets	\$818,530
TOTAL ASSETS	\$4,714,268

Marin Audubon Society Statement
of Financial Income and Expense
July 2010 through June 2011

INCOME

Donations	70,136
Endowment Income	20,285
Events & Activities	8,972
Grants	51,395
Interest Earned	394
Marin Baylands Advocates Income	12,382
Membership	15,929
Total Income	\$179,493

EXPENSE

Bank Charges & Credit Card Fees	756
Contributions	350
Copy & Printing Services	23,910
Endowment Expense	4,854
Insurance	10,962
Marin Baylands Advocates Expense	13,277
Mira Monte Land Acquisition Costs	29,000
Miscellaneous	874
Office Supplies & Expenses	671
Permits & Fees	1,353
Postage & Shipping	4,157
Professional Services	16,811
Program Expenses	8,614
Property Expenses	3,992
Property & Sales Taxes	7,604
Rent	866
Web site	750
Wetlands Restoration Construction*	191,348
Total Expense	\$320,149
NET INCOME	(\$140,655)

*Paid from Restricted Property Funds

HABITAT STEWARDSHIP

HABITAT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

After a summer of great progress there are still some perennial and/or late-blooming non-natives to remove including Harding grass, stinkwort and fennel. Help us get them before they produce mature seeds. Please join us on a work day beside the bay this fall. We have the tools and gloves. We generally work until about 1 PM, but even an hour is valuable help. Everyone is welcome.

VOLUNTEER WORK DAYS

Triangle Marsh, Corte Madera:

First Saturday: September 3

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

Bahia, Novato:

Wednesday, September 7

Thursday, September 15

Wednesday, September 21

Thursday, September 29

Second Saturday: September 10

We will meet at 10 AM at the end of Topaz Drive near Bolero Court and the tennis courts.

It would be helpful, but not necessary, to contact Bob Hinz (415/383-8688 or rbthnz@comcast.net) if you would like to attend.

SAN FRANCISCO ENACTS THE 'SAFE BIRD' ORDINANCE

The Safe Bird ordinance is intended to reduce the risk of bird strikes with new buildings. Methods to help birds see and avoid windows include "fritting," placing ceramic lines or dots on glass, and reducing lighting. Fritting also reduces air conditioning costs by lowering heat loss from windows. Reducing interior and exterior lighting during migratory seasons also reduces risks to birds and electricity costs. Lighted buildings can confuse and draw birds off their migratory course often resulting spiraling flight, exhaustion, injury or death for millions of birds every year. The city will be divided into zones based on the threat of impact. Thank you to the American Bird Conservancy and Golden Gate Audubon Society which were instrumental in the city's adoption of these landmark guidelines.

Summer is the time to remove weeds. We have removed at least 50,000 weeds of many species, including wild radish, Harding grass, Australian bentgrass, fennel, thistle and ice plant, so far and we are still going strong. With the help of grants and member donations we were able to hire the Conservation Corps North Bay (CCNB) to remove radish and they were very successful. Jude Stalker has been our guide at the monthly workdays for volunteers from the Center for Volunteer and Non-profit Leadership (second Saturday). They removed many pounds of Australian bent grass from seasonal wetlands earlier in summer. We also had young people from CCNB Project ReGeneration, a program that benefits middle school students, work on removing Harding grass and ice plant at Bahia, and removing Harding grass at Triangle Marsh. Lowell Sykes has been tending plants all summer at Bahia.

Conservation

continued from page 2

most of which are fine except for "c. [...] concentrate employment or housing near existing or committed transit service." A list of measures that could be used to prevent flood damage includes raising facilities above the 100-year flood level and constructing levees, seawalls and marshes. Unfortunately, locating development away from a shoreline that is at risk of inundation is not one of them.

How you can help: Write or e-mail before September 1 to 50 California Street, 26th Floor, San Francisco, 94111 or to joel@bcdca.gov. The full text can be found on the BCDC Web site www.bcdc.ca.gov. MAS recommends supporting the policy and mentioning one or more of the other issues noted in the paragraph above.

THE AMERICA'S CUP

The America's Cup's coming to the Bay may be exciting, but it will not come without environmental impacts. The activities will take place in August and September of 2012 and 2013 along the San Francisco waterfront from Pier 27 to just west of the Golden Gate. Spectator venues will include Marin sites at Fort Baker, Cavallo Point, Marin Headlands, Sausalito, Alcatraz, Angel Island and probably parts of Tiburon.

Our initial review has revealed threats of impacts to upland habitats, including endangered Mission blue butterfly habitat, by trampling, constructing and using viewing platforms, and littering. Water quality impacts are anticipated from unauthorized

Wetlands and Water Resources, our consultants, have begun monitoring at Petaluma with the grant funds that were approved by the Marin Community Foundation, and we obtained an aerial photograph of the Bahia site with San Francisco Foundation funds from an earlier grant. With grant funds from the California Alpine Club Foundation, we will be purchasing a mower that will greatly help in removing weeds, and we are purchasing native plants to plant in winter.

We invite and encourage you to join us for Volunteer work days in September. You will learn about native and non-native plants, habitats, and have the great satisfaction of being a part of restoring habitat for native wildlife.

Bob Hinz has continued the first Saturday workdays at Triangle Marsh through the summer with most of the effort focusing on removing Harding grass.

grey water and sewage discharged from boats. Disturbances to birds rafting in the bay waters and roosting along Alcatraz Island and other rocky shorelines from mooring or moving boats are also of concern. Damage to the fragile eelgrass beds on Richardson Bay from the thousands of boats that are expected for the event is also a serious concern.

According to the DEIR, the on-land impacts will be mitigated primarily by fencing and on-water impacts by providing boaters with educational materials informing them about the many restrictions and laws governing discharges and habitat protection in the bay. Enforcement is not mentioned, leading to the concern that none is planned. There is nothing to guarantee that boaters would even read the information provided much less comply with the restrictions.

MAS will be raising the issue of enforcement in our comments. The Draft EIR can be found by Googling America's Cup. The comment deadline is August 25.

LAWSON'S LANDING

On July 14, the California Coastal Commission approved the long-disputed Lawson's Landing project at Dillon Beach, ending a decades-long effort by various government agencies to get a handle on uses and to protect the rare dunes, wetlands and endangered species on the property. The Commission-approved project is a vast improvement over conditions that have been in effect for as many as 50 years.

The approved project cuts the number of campsites from more than 1,000 to 680 and reduces the acreage on which camping is

continued on page 7

MARIN BIRDLOG – MAY, JUNE, JULY 2011

By Rich Stallcup

A lot of late spring migration, some interesting summer events and the early end of fall seabird migration are included in this span of time.

Spring vagrants on the outer coast were mostly kept away by one relentless northwest wind (good for propagation in some colonial seabirds but abrasive to beachwatchers headland-birders). Summer was mostly normal and, because the two best *Tringa*-shorebird habitats at Point Reyes National Seashore (and Marin County) no longer attract shorebirds, early fall discoveries were limited to a single mid-July pelagic trip to Cordell Bank.

Two **Solitary Sandpipers** (yes, ignoring each other) were at Point Reyes Station 5/2 and another was at the same pond 5/10 (NB). A very late northbound individual was found on Gospel Flat, Bolinas 5/27 (AK,JC).

On 5/29 an **Eastern Phoebe** found at the same Point Reyes Station pond (RS,MS) was present through 6/13 (m.ob) and showed nesting intent. A **Bank Swallow**, rare anywhere in Marin, was also present there 5/29 (MS,RS).



Photo courtesy of Glen Topke, photo.com/igtopke

Rhinoceros Auklet

females, were with scoters against the north cliffs of the outer Point Reyes Headlands 6/5 (JC, m.ob) and because they were too worn to migrate, probably summered locally.

A **Laughing Gull** that frequented the lake at the Marin Civic Center from late winter to the end of April was seen occasionally at the Las Gallinas Ponds from 6/2 through 6/20 (JW,DR,LB,m.ob).

We have come to expect a tiny few **Black Skimmers** here during the summer. By reading leg-band numbers we find that most if not all of these birds come from nesting colonies on the coast of Southern California, not from the San Francisco Bay source. Two were at Bolinas 6/15 (KH).

Probably caused by “post-breeding dispersal” in West Mexico, a **White-winged Dove** sheltered in Bolinas 6/20 and 6/21 (WK).

This season always causes the presence of a very few **Northern Parulas** in Marin and the species has successfully fledged young here at least four times. A singing male was at Camp Taylor 5/15 (KH) and another near the Point Reyes National Seashore offices 6/25 plus (NB).

Another astounding rarity, an adult female **Dickcissel** at the Wildlife Gallery in Bolinas 7/10 to 7/13 (KH) was lost and wandering.

A summer pelagic trip 7/17 to and beyond Cordell Bank (to 28 miles WNW of the Point Reyes Lighthouse) was purposely planned at the very beginning of the southbound migration “just to see what’s there.” Though the species list isn’t as long as it would be later in the fall, the water was calm and everyone saw everything very well:

Black-footed Albatross – 30, Laysan Albatross – 1, Sooty Shearwater – 110, Pink-footed Shearwater – 16, Northern Fulmar – 74, Ashy Storm-petrel – 4, Common Murre – 220, Pigeon Guillemot – 23, Cassin’s Auklet – 450, Rhinoceros Auklet – 25, Xantus’s Murrelet – 4, Tufted Puffin – 1, Red-necked Phalarope – 18, Sabine’s Gull – 4, Long-tailed Jaeger – 2 ... and mammals, Blue Whale – 11, Humpback – 30, Gray Whale – 3, Harbor Porpoise – 8, Dall’s Porpoise – 14, Elephant Seal – 2, Northern Fur Seal – 3, Harbor Seal – 12, California Sea Lion – 15, Stellar’s Sea Lion – 4 (m.ob, RS).

Observers Bob Battagin, Len Blumin, Patti Blumin, Kathi Borgmann, Mark Butler, Heather Cameron, Josiah Clark, Dave De Sante, Keith Hansen, Diana Humple, Walter Kitundu, Andy Kleinhesselink, William Legge, Marauding Skuas Bird Group, m.ob – many observers, Dominik Mosur, Native Birds Group, O.P. – outer Point Reyes, PRBO Conservation Science, Don Reinburg, Mary Anne Rotella, Maggie Rufo, Rich Stallcup, Janice Tweedy, Jim White, Kerry Wilcox, Harry Winslow.

An **Eastern Kingbird** on the O.P. 6/23 (RS) didn’t stay put for long as is their usual style here. A singing **Plumbeous Vireo** in Inverness 5/28 (DD) was an outstanding find! Two of the more regular “vagrant” warbler species made it to outer Point Reyes during a wind lull. A young male **American Redstart** was at the RCA Station 6/20 (DM) and a female **Blackpoll Warbler** was foraging in the lighthouse cypress 6/24 (RS). A wandering (seeking?) **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at the Richardson Bay Audubon Center 5/19 (KW,KB).

A **King Eider** and a **Harlequin Duck**, both

Conservation

continued from page 6

allowed; requires 100-foot buffers around some wetlands, removal of several roads from wetlands, and preparation of a Protection, Restoration and Enhancement Plan (PREP) to restore and enhance the dune-wetland complex and to protect endangered species. The property owners are working with the US Fish and Wildlife Service on a Snowy Plover public education program and will sell a conservation easement to the Natural Resource Conservation Service. That agency will provide major funding to develop and implement the plan to protect and improve the site’s natural resources. Most of the Commission’s five-plus hours of deliberation focused on camping and resulted in a final decision to phase out privately-owned camper trailers in five years.

MAS’s position was limited to habitat protection. We requested, among other things, that a technical/scientific advisory committee be established to guide preparation of the PREP and that the ditch system be redesigned to prevent the continued draining of wetlands. As approved, the PREP can be prepared solely by contractors chosen by the applicants without input from experts in dune or wetland ecology; wetlands can continue to be drained by the ditch system; and camping can continue in historic wetlands. There is some indication, however, that the property owners may involve the public in future planning, but there is no requirement to do so.

A huge thank you to the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin and Catherine Caulfield, in particular, for their diligent efforts to achieve the gains that have been made to protect the rare resources at Lawson’s Landing and ensure that the public will be able to enjoy the dunes, wetlands, beaches and wildlife in the future.



THE Clapper Rail

MARIN AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

Box 599 | MILL VALLEY, CA 94942-0599

Return Service Requested

Time Value

SAVE THE DATE

- Sept. 14-15 **Field Ornithology II, III**
With Joe Morlan
www.ccsf.edu/Services/Continuing_Education/
or 415/561-1860
(This is a non-MAS activity)
- Oct. 9 **Field Trip**
Ellis Creek
With Peter Colasanti
- Oct. 15 **Field Trip**
Marta's Marsh
With Meryl Sundove and Roger Harris

Printed on 100% recycled paper

SUPPORT MARIN AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

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

You can also join or make a donation on our web site using your credit card or PayPal. Please go to marinaudubon.org.

JOINT NAS-MAS MEMBERSHIP

A National Audubon Society Membership is a joint membership with National and the chapter. With this joint membership, you will receive our newsletter and other chapter benefits, however, MAS receives no portion of your National Audubon Membership dues. We receive a fixed amount based on our 2001 membership. We will receive, however, a portion of any new memberships that are generated by MAS, the local chapter. So we request that you send all checks for new National memberships to: Marin Audubon Society, P.O. Box 599, Mill Valley, CA 94942.

For NAS membership renewals, send your check directly to 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**. For more information, please contact Ruth Pratt, Membership Chair at 415/453-2989.

- Enroll me as a
Local Chapter Member
- Renewal
- New Member
- \$1,000 Benefactor
- \$500 Patron
- \$100 Sustaining
- \$50 Sponsor
- \$25 Basic
- Please accept my donation
in the amount of
\$ _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____ TELEPHONE _____

This is a Gift Membership from:

Please send me *The Clapper Rail* by e-mail only.

- Master Card
- Visa

PAYMENT BY CREDIT CARD:

NAME ON CREDIT CARD _____

CREDIT CARD NO. _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____

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