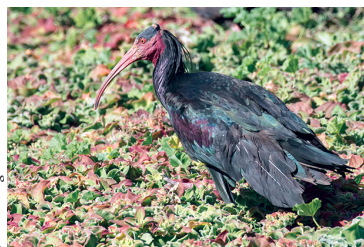


THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11 7:30 PM

Birding Adventures in Morocco

By John Sterling



Northern Bald Ibis

The November Speaker Series program will be a Zoom meeting. Visit the MAS website Speaker Series page to register for the program.

With its high mountains, high desert, low Sahara desert, agricultural plains, coastal lagoons, cork oak woodland, and coniferous forest, Morocco has much to offer to birds and birders. Home to several endemic bird species as well as North Africa species not readily seen elsewhere, it is also along the major migratory pathway for European migrants including shorebirds, raptors, songbirds and others. Join us for virtual tour of the country's birds, landscapes and culture.

John Sterling is a professional ornithologist and has worked for the Smithsonian Institution and US Forest Service research stations among other organizations since 1981. John has traveled extensively throughout California learning about local bird distribution and is an authority on that state's avifauna. John currently has his own company, **Sterling Wildlife Biology**, specializing in tours, birding classes, research and environmental consulting for The Nature Conservancy, and the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center among other organizations.

NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER:

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9 7:30 PM

Monarchs in Marin! How Much Trouble Are They In?

By Mia Monroe and Ed Nute

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The Rail

MARIN AUDUBON SOCIETY

Commission Schedules Farallon Islands Mouse Eradication Plan



Gulls nest near the North Landing area of the Farallon Islands National Refuge.

The Coastal Commission's hearing on the Mouse Eradication Plan has been scheduled for December. Which day of the usually three-day hearing it is scheduled for, is as yet unknown. But that doesn't mean there is nothing to do. Below is a summary list of major reasons, put together by Point Blue Conservation Science, to support the US Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) plan to restore the South Farallon Islands by removing invasive house mice.

1. The Farallones ecosystem is severely out of balance, putting the survival of threatened species at risk.

- The introduction of non-native house mice has caused direct and indirect harmful impacts on the islands' breeding seabirds, especially ash storm-petrels, but also on Leach's storm-petrels, as well as on native salamanders, crickets, other invertebrates, and native plants.
- Removal of the house mice will allow the ecosystem of the Farallon Islands National Wildlife Refuge to recover and to restore to a more natural state.

2. A one-time application of rodenticide is the only proven effective solution for island settings that can safely achieve 100% eradication.

- The only way to allow the ecosystem to recover is to eradicate 100% of the house mice. The survival of even a single pair of mice jeopardizes the whole project. Using best management practices from successful eradications world-wide, will pose minimal risk to native wildlife, the marine environment, and other non-target species.
- Invasive rodent removals have been successfully completed on nearly 700 islands worldwide, including on California's Anacapa Island in the Channel Islands National Park, three National Wildlife Refuges in the Pacific, two islands off the coast of Mexico, many islands off the main islands of New Zealand, and recently, multiple islands in the Galápagos Archipelago. Nearly all of these successful projects utilized the

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

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DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Meetings open to members. 6:30 PM, First Tuesday of the month. Meetings are currently held online via Zoom. If you wish to participate please call 924-6057.

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

As we're gradually moving out of Covid, our field trips are working out well for the most part, even though there is limited space. We're looking forward to expanding the number of attendees, but not this month. And we have no plans to change our programs from being presented on Zoom.

Hurray! As we go to press, the rains have arrived in full force. Our plants are happy, we can stop irrigating, and look forward to planting new plants later in the rainy season.

Christmas Bird Count time will soon be here. We're planning to hold the Southern Marin Count this year on New Years day, Saturday, January 1. The West Marin Count has been scheduled for December 18 and the Cheep Thrills Count in North Marin has been scheduled for December 16. At this time none of the counts are planning to hold count dinners.

Part of the **fire debate** is what happens to forest areas that have burned. Called post-fire logging, for years this clearing practice of the U.S. Forest Service was to remove burned trees to reduce fuel for future fires. However, fire ecologists now say that this practice contributes to the speed a fire moves; dead wood soaks up and retains moisture and interrupts the fire

flow, thereby slowing fires and giving people more time to escape. An example is cited in a recent Open Letter to Decision-Makers from GEOS Institute, an organization that uses technical expertise to help build climate resilience in communities. Signed by 370 scientists, including forest ecologist and resource managers, the message is that, with climate change, we can expect larger landscapes to burn hotter and reduce forest resilience. This happens because soils are compacted, seedlings that will naturally regenerate are killed, fire resistant dead and live trees are removed, degrading fish and wildlife habitat, and likely raising fire hazard. With natural habitats under increasing hot, dry windy conditions, we may take a lesson from nature's approach. Before human intervention, burned trees remained in place. They returned nutrients to the soil, harbored insects, and served as foraging places and homes for wildlife. In natural systems, these trees provide protective cover and support for new growth to regenerate and, as pointed out, slow down fires so people have a better chance to get out of the way. Nature is the great recycler. It makes sense to me to leave burned trees in place.

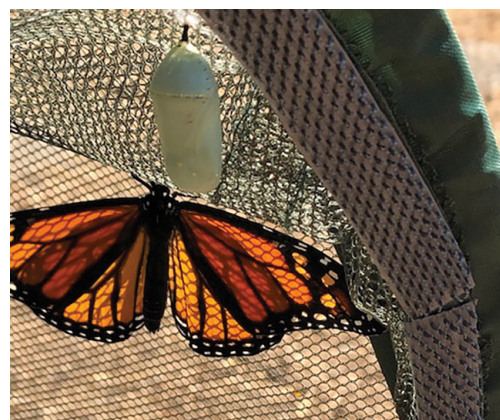
Stay well.

Monarch Butterfly Success

The milkweed planted on two of MAS properties has successfully hosted monarch butterflies, from egg to adult. Three years ago volunteers started planting native narrowleaf milkweed and nectar plants in suitable areas on two of our properties. Milkweed is the host plant for the threatened monarch butterfly and contains toxic cardenolides, which provide the monarch caterpillars and adults some protection from predators.

Monarch butterflies are in serious decline. Last year in the west only 2,000 overwintering monarchs were counted in all of coastal California. Three years ago the count was around 200,000 and in 1997 the count was 1.2 million. This dire situation has been a wakeup call and has served to mobilize many people and organizations into action. The federal government is finally considering listing the iconic monarch butterfly as an endangered species.

At MAS's Simmons property at Deer Island some 160 milkweed seedlings as well as nectar plants were planted starting in January 2019. About half of the milkweed plants have flowered and set seed. We noticed some monarch caterpillars this summer but



Ed Nute

Monarch and chrysalis inside tent enclosure

they seemed to disappear. We attributed this disappearance to the marauding flocks of wild turkeys, which like to scratch in the mulch, so we installed a short fence round some of the milkweed. We have now counted about four chrysalises which may eclose (emerge) as adults.

This year we also planted milkweed at the Bahia site. Despite their toxicity one patch was

continued on page 4

MAS FIELD TRIPS

Open to the public

In person field trips have resumed and are open to all fully vaccinated participants. Trips are limited to allow social distancing. Register for trips on the MAS website Field Trips page. Registration is available on the date indicated in the trip announcements below.

WILLOW CREEK ROAD, Jenner

Saturday, November 13, 2021

8:30 AM to 12:30 PM

With Teresa and Miles Tuffli

Head up the Sonoma County coast to bird Willow Creek Road in Jenner. We'll have the chance for multiple raptor species, including potential for **Ferruginous Hawk**, **American Kestrel**, and maybe even **Bald Eagle**. Many year-round passerines will be frequenting the willows, alders, and scrub. With a view of the Russian River, we'll look for some waterbirds as well.

We'll meet at the Russian House #1 restaurant and bird the road's entrance on foot. We'll then move all cars down the road to a large pullout. We'll bird the willows, creek area, and river view on foot before consolidating cars and continuing down the road, stopping to bird various sections. For a peek at the area, check out Miles and Teresa's recap of birding Willow Creek Road back in July: <https://imbirdingrightnow.com/2019/07/28/sonoma-county-birding-willow-creek-road>
No bathrooms. Heavy rain cancels. Bring binoculars, layers, sunscreen, water, lunch, or snacks. Please carpool if possible.

Registration opens November 4 at 8 AM on MAS website's Field Trips page. Trip limit is 15 **fully-vaccinated** participants.

DIRECTIONS: Russian House #1 is at 9960 Hwy 1, Jenner, CA. It is 9 miles north of Bodega Bay (15–20 minutes), directly along Hwy 1, on the right just before the Russian River bridge.

SAN FRANCISCO AND SAN PABLO BAYS BOAT TRIP

Berkeley Marina

Sunday, November 14, 2021

9 AM to 4 PM

With Roger Harris

San Francisco Bay, the largest and one of the most important estuaries along the Pacific Flyway, is our own backyard. Join us as we cruise from Berkeley toward the Golden Gate Bridge and north into San Pablo Bay, hugging the shorelines and waters that are home to thousands of wintering birds. We will pass ten islands, under two bridges, and up two creeks in four counties in search of migrating and resident waterfowl, shore-birds and marine mammals. This trip offers water bird and marine mammal viewing in stunning locations, many of which can only be seen by boat. Dress in layers. Bring liquids and lunch. Please bring a mask for any time spent inside the cabin. All participants must be fully vaccinated.

The trip costs \$120. Limited to 25 people. Registration begins on October 8 on MAS website's Field Trips page. If the trip is full, you may click "Contact Organizer" and request to be put on a waitlist.

DIRECTIONS: Registered participants will receive directions to the Berkeley Marina and other instructions prior to the trip.

RODEO LAGOON, Marin Headlands

Wednesday, November 17, 2021

7:30 AM to noon

With William Legge and David Wiechers

Mid-November is a surprisingly active time for migrants at this Marin Headlands location, as we search for scarcer late fall migrants including winter wildfowl, loons, grebes and passerine migrants. As always, the weather will determine the focus of our search on the day. This "hotspot" has produced some memorable Marin rarities in recent Novembers, including **Tricolored Heron**, **Scaly-breasted Munia** and **Rusty Blackbird**. We will begin the morning with a sea watch and/or visible migration watch at 7:30 AM. Those arriving later may join us at 8:30 AM for a circuit of the lagoon.

Registration opens November 8 at 8 AM on MAS website's Field Trips page. Trip limit is 12 **fully-vaccinated** participants. There will not be a waiting list. No drop-ins, please.

DIRECTIONS: Head south on Hwy 101, taking the last Sausalito exit just before the Golden Gate Bridge. At the exit stop sign, turn right. Go under the freeway, following the road 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. Meet by the bridge over the channel to the beach.

BAHIA, HORSESHOE POND & RUSH CREEK Birding in Marin

Saturday, December 4, 2021

8:30 AM to mid afternoon

With Jim White and Bob Battagin

MAS acquired and restored to tidal action the diked bay lands around the residential Bahia neighborhood. As the ebbing tide exposes the mudflats thousands of shorebirds now descend to feed while on the flood tide hundreds of ducks and some gulls float, forage and loaf about. The oak-wooded ridge stretching from Hwy 101 to Bahia, also saved from development by MAS, holds **Oak Titmice**, **White-breasted Nuthatch**, **Hutton's Vireo**, at least four woodpecker species and many sparrows in the winter.

Horseshoe Pond (Homeowners Lagoon) at the southeast end of Topaz is a great place to look for wintering ducks. **Goldeneyes**, **Scaup**, **Canvasbacks**, **Buffleheads**, and **Mergansers** seem to like it and it has been Marin's best place for **Barrow's Goldeneyes** the last few years.

After lunch we plan to take a look at the nearby Rush Creek area from the Airport Rd which parallels Hwy 101 north of Atherton.

Registration opens November 24 at 8 AM on MAS website's Field Trips page. Trip limit is 15 **fully-vaccinated** participants. There is no waiting list. No drop-ins, please.

DIRECTIONS: From 101 in north Novato take Atherton Avenue east, take the Y left onto Bugeia which becomes Bahia Drive, near the end at the bottom of the hill take a right onto Topaz, follow Topaz to its end and park.

JEAN AND JOHN STARKWEATHER

SHORELINE PARK, San Rafael

Thursday, December 9, 2021

11 AM to 1 PM

With Rich Cimino and Janet Bodle

Join Rich and Janet for an easy bird walk on level ground during the incoming high tide high tide. We will bird the shoreline of San Pablo Bay watching for shorebirds on the rocks and diving ducks, loons, and grebes on the bay. We will also bird the fresh water ponds (Spinnaker Lagoon) looking for wintering dappling ducks, warblers, White-crowned Sparrow. Bring your scope, water, and snacks. No restrooms are available at the bird walk. Meet in the parking lot for the Jean and John Starkweather Shoreline trailhead. Heavy rain will cancel.

Registration opens November 29 at 8 AM on MAS website's Field Trips page. Trip limit is 20 **fully-vaccinated** participants. There will not be a waiting list. No drop ins, please.

DIRECTIONS: From the north, take Hwy 101 to the Bellam Blvd exit. Turn left on Bellam then right on East Francisco Blvd, which parallels I-580. Head east (toward the Richmond/San Rafael Bridge for about 1-1/2 miles. You will see a Bay Café sign at the Bay Park Center. Turn left on Pelican Way then right to the trailhead parking area. From the south you can take the exit to the San Rafael Bridge getting off at the last Marin exit, the San Quentin exit. For GPS, use the Bay Café address, 2165 Francisco Blvd, San Rafael.

COSUMNES RIVER PRESERVE, Galt

Saturday, December 11, 2021

1 to 5:30 PM

With Kurt Rademacher

At the junction of the Great Central Valley and Delta, the Cosumnes River Preserve is a 46,000-acre conservation project acquired and jointly managed through the collaboration of a number of conservation organizations and agencies. Here, the last undammed river on the west slope of the Sierra still routinely floods up in winter, fostering bountiful habitats of wetlands, savannah and riparian forest for wintering birds. **Greater** and **Lesser Sandhill Cranes** are a highlight of our tour, and we'll end up at Staten Island for sundown to witness the spectacle of some 15% of the Pacific Flyway's cranes noisily settling down for their nightly roost.

Come prepared with warm clothing for changeable weather including rain and mud for "Crane-down."

Registration opens December 1 at 8 AM on MAS website's Field Trips page. Trip limit is 15 **fully-vaccinated** participants. There will not be a waiting list. No drop ins, please.

DIRECTIONS: We'll meet at the Cosumnes River Preserve Visitor Center parking lot at 13501 Franklin Blvd, Galt. Allow about two hours from Central Marin via Hwys 37, 80 and 12 through Rio Vista to I-5, then north to Twin Cities Rd. exit. (Or you can take I-80 to Sacramento, then south on I-5 to Twin Cities Rd. exit.) On Twin Cities Rd. proceed east briefly to turn right on Franklin Rd about 1.7 miles to the parking area.

Farallon Islands

continued from page 1

techniques proposed for the South Farallon Islands house mouse eradication.

- The USFWS will follow lessons learned from successful eradications and will implement hazing and other measures to minimize any potential negative impacts on non-target species.

3. The research and planning for this project have been one of the most comprehensive, transparent, and scientifically rigorous processes of any ecological restoration project.

- Selection by the USFWS of a short-term, limited use of the rodenticide brodifacoum, was carefully considered over ten years, subject to rigorous review by outside experts and agencies, and included extensive public input.
- After more than ten years of careful study, the USFWS produced a scientifically rigorous EIR, including many peer-reviewed scientific papers, extensive research and field tests, accompanied by lab testing and modeling by the USFWS and its partners, to ensure minimal risk to native wildlife.

This project has broad and diverse support from conservation, science, and wildlife rehabilitation organizations. Project opponents have been speaking at almost every recent Coastal Commission meeting every month. We've been told that it's likely to be a close vote and that every bit of public support we can show will help. Public support for the Anacapa removal project was instrumental in its success. We need to repeat that support for the Farallones.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:

Only one more month to give testimony before the Commission at "open public comment period" that occurs at the beginning of each meeting (9 – 10 AM) for items NOT on the agenda. The next meetings will be November 17 – 19. You must sign up in advance, by 7 PM the night before is recommended. Go to the Commission's website at www.coastal.ca.gov. Under "Meetings" on the top banner, click on "Monthly Agenda" and then click on the button

"submit a speaker request here." It's very straightforward! Public comments are limited to 2 minutes. It is advisable to write out your comments in advance. Speakers can use PowerPoint slides and videos if you coordinate with CCC staff. Or you can provide written or email comments.

SAN GERONIMO VALLEY DRAFT STREAM AND CREEKSIDE ORDINANCE RELEASED

The Marin County Community Development Agency has released a draft ordinance intended to comply with the Superior Court's April 9, 2021 ruling after years of law suits and decisions in favor of the plaintiffs, the Salmon Watershed and Protection Network (SPAWN). That ruling requires the county to formulate, adopt, and implement an ordinance to mitigate potentially significant adverse impacts to salmonids habitat and survival.

At issue is development in the San Geronimo Valley. San Geronimo Creek flows through the Valley and is an important tributary of Lagunitas Creek that is critical habitat for endangered Coho Salmon and important habitat for Steelhead. More development brings increased impervious surfaces, loss of vegetation and other impacts. This impacts winter flows and water quality and consequently the fish, birds and other wildlife that depend on the creek.

The Marin County Community Development Agency's draft ordinance is based on the Marin Countywide Plan's Stream and Creek Area (SCA) ordinance. While the changes are improvements over current conditions, there are deficiencies and uncertainties. Some of our concerns are discussed below.

Our first concern is about the purpose statement: "to preserve the natural heritage of and adverse physical effects that might result from unplanned and inappropriate development design or placement are minimized or eliminated." The purpose should explicitly reference the creek as critical habitat for the endangered Coho Salmon and essential habitat for Steelhead and other fish and wildlife.

The draft ordinance describes the SCA, as it is described in the Countywide Plan, as including lands 100 feet from top of the bank or 50 feet from the edge of riparian

vegetation, whichever is greater. No development is allowed in this area with the following exceptions:

1. Development on parcels that fall entirely within the SCA is allowed. The County should state how many parcels, their size and location, that fall into this category to convey the potential impacts of developing these parcels in the creek buffer.
2. A 500-foot addition to existing structures as long as it does not extend into the SCA. This is a large expansion and it is not clear if it would be for multiple buildings or whether it includes impervious surfaces, e.g. patios, that are not buildings.
3. Removal of pyrophoric vegetation. There should not be many pyrophoric plants, if any, in SCA's because riparian vegetation only grows in wet areas and is not particularly flammable. The list should be provided.

The ordinance suggests a mitigation bank which MAS opposes. Instead, the county, or even an environmental organization, could keep a running list of potential mitigation sites.

The ordinance should require inspections and enforcement. Enforcement for permit violations within the SCA should include fines, removing structures built in violation of permits, and restoring vegetative habitat.

Provisions of the proposed San Geronimo Valley ordinance would apply only to development within the San Geronimo Valley but will set the stage for strengthening ordinances elsewhere in the county. So they should be of broad interest.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Attend the Marin County Planning Commission's Workshop on November 8, to ask questions or offer your opinion, and public hearing on December 13. Planning Commission review is expected to extend through January. Hearings before the Board of Supervisors will take place in February and March, 2022.

POINT REYES RECORD OF DECISION

We have now reviewed the Record of Decision (ROD) and it is indeed disappointing. The most distressing part is

continued on page 5

Point Reyes Record of Decision

continued from page 4

that it solidifies the permanent presence of ranching at Point Reyes National Seashore even if the current families do not want to operate their ranches.

The succession policy in the ROD states it will: “authorize continued multi-generational ranch operations or other adaptive uses within the Ranchland Zone in a manner that supports the Park’s natural and cultural resources management objectives and is consistent with revised ... ” (Alternative B).

Prior to release of the ROD, the National Park Service (NPS) signed an agreement with the Federated Indians of the Graton Rancheria (FIGR) “to expand their engagement in the stewardship of the land.” The press release states that the “The selected action...incorporates tribal views and traditional ecological knowledge into the management of tule elk and ranch lands in the GMPA (General Management Plan Area) planning area.”

According to the Succession Policy, which is a separate document from the ROD, in cases where an existing ranch family no longer wishes to renew its lease, the NPS would consider uses consistent with revised Alternative B and, in coordination with FIGR, would issue a request for proposals for grazing from 1) other current park ranch operators, 2) long-term park ranch employees, or 3) an FIGR identified operator. Although all must demonstrate an ability to meet identified performance conditions, there is no option to return ranchlands to natural habitats.

Revised conditions for ranchers in the ROD include:

Slight modification in the process for infrastructure upgrades in Ranch Operations Agreements (ROA) is included to ensure compliance with conditions required by the Coastal Commission to develop a strategy and timeline for improving water quality. Also ranch operators will be required to:

- Modify feeding strategies to reduce conflicts by reducing elk access to hay that are in elk-frequented areas.
- Identify and plan maintenance requirements for stock ponds documented as California red-legged frog habitat
- Implement the US Fish and Wildlife Service-approved Raven Management Program,
- Evaluate infrastructure conditions to

address deferred maintenance on the historic ranch infrastructure.

- Limit silage production on beef ranches(would be reduced by 280 acres).

Changed requirements for the five dairy ranches:

- Commit to upgrade modernization of manure and nutrient management to protect water quality.
- Cease to operate if rancher does not or cannot modernize, but they could convert to beef ranching.

Changes in elk management:

NPS will take a graduated approach to discourage establishment of new herds: haze back to original location, monitoring and possibly lethal removal in coordination with FIGR and CDFW.

- Manage Drake’s Beach herd to maintain a population of 140 animals (up from 120 in EIS), either existing core area or expanding to adjacent ungrazed area.
- Allow Limantour herd to expand in population and distribution.
- Use of hazing to discourage females from occupying ranch areas.
- Enhance forage for elk by planting plants elk like.

Changes in diversification:

- Keeping chickens is prohibited except that NPS staff has the ability to issue permits allowing chickens.
- Silage production is reduced.
- Unchanged from Alternative B is the limitation to 50 sheep and 66 goats and restriction farm stays to two guest rooms, depending on water availability. These uses had previously not been allowed in the park.

The ROD also identifies ways to improve visitor experiences; trails to improve visitor use for biking, hiking and equestrian uses. They claim no new trails will be constructed but will be trail improvements which will bring increased use of the farm roads and bike trails along roads. More people and uses over the ranchlands are likely to result in more impacts on native wildlife.

We trust the FIGR has strong ecological integrity because only their views are recognized, and there is not much in the ROD about protecting habitat or species except for elk management, a brief mention of Snowy Plover and discussions of compliance with wildlife agencies in attachments. Although lots of specifics about cultural resources are included the ROD shows little interest in the Seashore’s natural resources that existed long before the historic buildings at Point Reyes.

Much can happen on 25,500 acres of



E Ranch Dumpsite

ranchlands, particularly if there is little on-the-ground oversight and enforcement. The recently published photo of a dump on the E Ranch is an example of what can happen when there is inadequate oversight. Interestingly there is no reference in the ROD or EIS prohibiting use of the lands as dumps. We hope such a prohibition will be addressed in the ROAs.

Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks in the NPS press release that “the ROD adequately protects the diverse natural resources of the Park and it serves as a model where wilder needs can exist side by side with ranching.” We don’t see sufficient assurances this will be the case.

HABITAT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

It's too early in the season to plant so we will be focused on removing invasive non-native plants. We are pleased that stinkwort (*Dittrichia graveolens*) appears to have been eliminated at both Triangle Marsh and the Corte Madera Ecological Reserve expansion site. *Salsola soda*, an annual invasive species, is still present, and this will be the last chance in the season to pull it before its seeds mature. Harding grass is growing again even without early rain, and we will be digging some of that as well as probably bristly ox-tongue.

Act locally and join us on a workday. California's wild plants and animals need your help. We all make a difference.

Volunteer Workdays

Triangle Marsh, East Corte Madera:

First Saturdays: November 6, December 4

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

Corte Madera Ecological Reserve:

Second Saturdays: November 13, December 11

Meet at the end of Industrial Way near Trader Joe's in Greenbrae. For up-to-date information, 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, Bob Hinz, Gerry and Martha Jarocki, Ed Nute, Kristin Nute, Annette Anzalone, Jack Black, Lowell Sykes, Vicki & Steve Vann

THANK YOU, DONORS

To Bud Alderson, Anne Baxter, William Clarke, Jill and Collin Cochrane, the Fehrenbacher Family Fund, Michael Griffin, Lorraine Johnson, Jo Kreider, Jeanne Lavin, Ruth Nash, Marianne Riser, Charles Stanberry, to Steve Capper for the donation in memory of Bimboo, and the Marin County Fish and Wildlife Commission

BAHIA

A very special thank you to the Marin County Fish and Wildlife Commission and the Board of Supervisors for awarding a grant in the amount of \$2,350 to fund the purchase of plants for habitat on the levees at Bahia. Three years ago, we began a process of replacing invasive plants, primarily radish, with native species that will provide habitat for native species.

Hanford's watering with recycled water at Bahia has continued this month. The benefits of ongoing watering of young plants are clear. The plants in the photo were installed two years ago and were watered with recycled water left over from watering of plants we planted last winter.

Hanford crew is continuing to sheet mulch the extensive patches of Harding grass when they finish watering.

TISCORNIA MARSH RESTORATION AND SEA LEVEL RISE ADAPTATION PROJECT

We've applied to the Ocean Protection Council for the next phase of our Tiscornia project. This next phase will entail preparing applications for permits from regulatory agencies, BCDC, Army Corps, Regional Water Board and requirements it protect wildlife from NOAA, the CDFW and USFWS. The next phase, after we get permits, is beginning construction and for that we've applied for another Measure AA grant. The first construction activity will be building a coarse beach structure to contain the sediments that we will be working to obtain from local dredging projects.

Multicultural Center of Marin sponsored a public meeting on October 13 for the community to hear updates, learn about the CEQA



Barbara Salzman

Plants installed on Bahia Levee two winters ago

process and how comment effectively. The City is holding a public hearing in compliance with CEQA on October 26, after we go to press.

CORTE MADERA RESTORATION SITE

Martha Jarocki reports that the October 9th Second Saturday workday on the Corte Madera Marsh was a gorgeous fall day. The volunteer crew watered (with reclaimed water) late-blooming *Euthamia* still making seed, and a few drought stressed *Baccharis* (Coyote brush). After being favored with summer watering in their infancy, these natives are surviving the drought and showing their mettle!

Two hawks (our binoculars were in the car) circled overhead and more than once, seed-eating LBJs (binos still in the car) popped up for a look as we toted our recycled water. We also dug some invasive Harding grass clumps, which were amazingly green and fresh looking at the root. Thanks to Annette Anzalone for obtaining the recycled water and thanks to our volunteers: Annette, Vicki and Steve Vann, Jack Rabin, Gerry Jarocki and Bob Hinz.

The next scheduled workday at the CM site will be Saturday November 13th.

Monarch Butterfly Success

continued from page 2

mowed down by hungry jack rabbits (captured on a trail camera). However, this August at the other patch of six plants, one of our sharp-eyed volunteers noticed miniscule white monarch eggs. We purchased a tent to put over this small patch of milkweed to protect the caterpillars from the wasp, yellow jacket, lizard and bird predators. The caterpillars eventually built chrysalises on the ceiling of the tent and a total of 33 adult monarchs eclosed and were released from the tent.

We are encouraged by this experience helping the threatened monarch butterflies and plan to expand the stands of milkweed and nectar plants to additional areas on MAS properties. We would also encourage you to



Caliphons

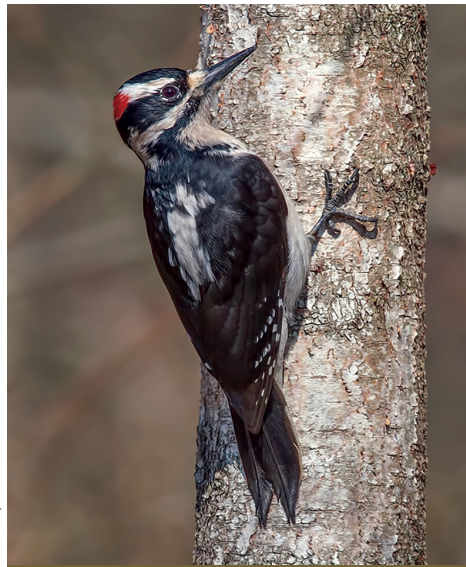
Monarch caterpillar on narrowleaf milkweed

plant native milkweed and nectar plants in your gardens to help with this effort. If you would like to volunteer for this project, please contact Ed Nute at e.nute@nute-engr.com.

MARIN BIRDLOG: SEPTEMBER 2021

By Noah Arthur

Note: Records of the most regular vagrants are summarized at the end.



Hairy Woodpecker (male)

on the 11th with a **Pacific Golden-plover** at Drakes Corner on Pt. Reyes (ST). A **Baltimore Oriole** at Drakes Beach on the 12th was one of the rarest eastern vagrants of the month (DS).

A impressive seabird find came on the 15th with a **Red-footed Booby** at Chimney Rock (LN). Very rare for the Outer Point, a **Hairy Woodpecker** turned up at the Lighthouse on the 15th (JH) and continued to kick around between Lighthouse and Nunes Ranch for several days.

A spectacular Outer Pt. Reyes day came on the 16th, including the rarest eastern passerine of the month – a calling **Eastern Wood-pewee** at the Lighthouse (DS & LK), only the second fall record ever in the state. Other excellent Outer Point birds on this amazing day included a **Painted Bunting** at the Lighthouse (EM & ES), **Vesper Sparrow** at the Lighthouse (DS & LK), **Canada Warbler** at Junior Mendoza (DS & LK), **Prairie Warbler** at RCA (EC & RM), and several regular eastern warblers (see last paragraph below).

The rarities kept coming on the 17th, when early birders experienced a wave of migrants coming ashore just after dawn at the Lighthouse, including a **Blue-headed Vireo** (NA) and an **Ovenbird** (DK). Also on the 17th, a **Black-throated Sparrow** was at Bon Tempe Lake (LN), and a **Summer Tanager** was near San Anselmo (JP).

A **Broad-winged Hawk** flew over the Lighthouse on the 21st (DF), and another over Nunes Ranch the next day (JH). Another **Black-throated Sparrow** was also at the Lighthouse, and the rarest warbler of the month was a **Virginia's Warbler** in the New Willows on the 21st (both JH). Also on the 21st a **Hammond's Flycatcher** was caught and banded at Redwood Creek near Muir Beach.

The **Black Vulture** sailed over Inverness on the 22nd (RD).

A trifecta of rare warblers showed up on the 25th, with a **Bay-breasted** at the Lighthouse that was first seen flying in off the ocean at dawn (EI, EM, CT, & DS), a **Blackburnian** at the Fish Docks (LN), and a **Canada** in Muir Woods (ES & MM).

Another **Pacific Golden-plover** showed up at Spaletta on the 25th (EMs). On the 26th a **Lawrence's Goldfinch** flew over Hawk Hill. On the 28th a **Lapland Longspur** was hiding out in beach wrack on Pt. Reyes North Beach (ML).

To end the month, a reminder of winter to come was the first **Eurasian Wigeon** of the season arriving at Abbots Lagoon on the 30th (JW).

A spectacular showing of regular vagrants this month included **12 Chestnut-sided Warblers** (Fish Docks on the 1st, Pine Gulch on the 8th, Inverness Tennis Club on the 11th, Lighthouse on the 16th, new individual at Lighthouse on the 17th, **two** at Fish Docks on the 18th, Muir Beach on the 19th, Mendoza Ranch on the 18th, Spaletta Ranch on the 22nd, Pine Gulch on the 24th, Lighthouse on the 25th); **9 American Redstarts** (Drakes Beach on the 4th, **three** at Spaletta Ranch and **one** at New Willows on the 5th, Fish Docks on the 17th, **two** at the Lighthouse on the 18th, Mendoza Ranch on the 21st); **5 Tennessee Warblers** (Drakes Beach and New Willows on the 4th, Lighthouse on the 16th, New Willows on the 17th, Fish Docks on the 19th); **5 Black-and-white Warblers** at the New Willows on the 5th, **three** at Fish Docks on the 17th, Mendoza Ranch on the 18th); **5 Brewer's Sparrows** (Corte Madera



Bay-breasted Warbler

Creek and Spaletta Ranch on the 6th, near College of Marin on the 12th, Scottsdale Pond on the 13th, Corte Madera Marsh on the 24th); **4 Blackpolls** (New Willows on the 5th, Fish Docks on the 16th, Spaletta Ranch on the 17th, Fish Docks on the 21st); **4 Northern Waterthrushes** at Kehoe Beach on the 5th, New Willows on the 6th, Redwood Creek on the 21st, Mendoza Ranch on the 30th); **2 Clay-colored Sparrows** (Lighthouse on the 3rd, Corte Madera Creek on the 6th); and a **Palm Warbler** at Fish Docks on the 16th.

Observers and Acronyms **RC:** Reef Comer, **BB:** Bob Battagin, **EM:** Ethan Monk, **RM:** Ron Mallory, **DS:** David Sexton, **ER:** Erica Rutherford, **JC:** John Colbert, **MS:** Mark Stephenson, **LS:** Lucas Stephenson, **BB:** Brian Browne, **CC:** Connor Cochrane, **LC:** Lucas Corneliussen, **EMS:** Eddie Monson, **PD:** Patricia DiLuzio, **AL:** Ann Linder, **ST:** Sam Talarigo, **DS:** Dessi Sieburth, **LN:** Larry Nigro, **JH:** Jim Holmes, **ES:** Emilie Strauss, **NA:** Noah Arthur, **DK:** Durrell Kapan, **JP:** Jeff Perkins, **DF:** Dea Freid, **RD:** Ryan DiGaudio, **EI:** Emmett Iverson, **CT:** Cameron Tescher, **ES:** Erin Sharkey



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