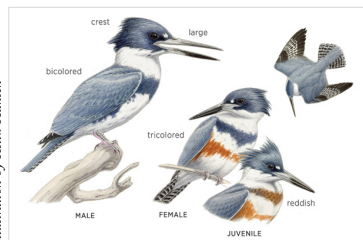


**Eye, Mind, Hand, Line: Identifying Birds Through the Eyes and Ears of an Artist**

By Keith Hansen

Illustration by Keith Hansen



**Belted Kingfisher**

**Note new time!** Register for the April Speaker Series Zoom program on the MAS website Speaker Series page.

Our program focuses on highlights from Hansen's Field Guide to the Birds of the Sierra Nevada, artist-naturalist Keith Hansen's sixteen-year project to illustrate the birds of the Sierra Nevada. From the tiniest hummingbirds to condors with nine-foot wingspans, Keith brings his artist's perspective to the identification and characteristics of his avian subjects through his beautiful illustrations and unique descriptions.

Keith's path to his life's work began as a barefoot kid exploring the woods of Maryland. Captivated by birds, he began drawing them as a teenager. Gathering fundamental experience regarding avian anatomy, he studied and banded hundreds of birds over the years on California's Farallon Islands through the Point Reyes Bird Observatory. His life has been a generous mix of art and travel as he illustrated numerous books, ornithological publications and countless private commissions.

**NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER:**

**THURSDAY, MAY 12**

**7:00 PM**

**Northern Spotted Owl Monitoring in Marin County**

By Renee Cormier

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# The Rail

**MARIN AUDUBON SOCIETY**

## Return of Junior Birdwatchers!

We are thrilled our Junior Birdwatchers program is available again for budding-birdwatchers to learn about birds.. Birdwatchers was originally a program of National Audubon Society and was offered through the Richardson Bay Audubon Center and Sanctuary. In 2007, Marin Audubon took over the program and for the next 10 years, the program was offered in school classrooms under the auspices of Marin Audubon Society. However, for the last five years, the program has been dormant. We have been working on bringing it up to date. We are happy to announce the launch of our revitalized Junior Birdwatchers Program.

It is a fun and exciting way for children to learn about birds and their habitats. The new program is designed for elementary and middle school children. It's a great family activity and can be enjoyed with children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and neighbors!

To learn about Junior Birdwatchers, go



Elise Omerick

**After five years, the Junior Birdwatchers Program has returned to Marin Audubon!**

to [marinudubon.org](http://marinudubon.org) on the web. Click on "Birds" at the top of the Welcome Page, then scroll down to "Junior Birdwatchers" and your child can start learning about the birds we see and hear each day! For questions, email Lelia Lanctot at [leliaannlanctot@gmail.com](mailto:leliaannlanctot@gmail.com) or call Lelia at 415-515-1476.

## Announcing Year 2 of the Marin County Breeding Bird Atlas

By Joan Lamphier

With spring arriving – and along with it, the delight of encountering not only newly-returned migrants and new birdsong, but also signs of courtship, nest building, and more by our local breeders – we are entering Year 2 of the Marin County Breeding Bird Atlas. For those of you who are new to this, the Breeding Bird Atlas is a four-year field effort to map the distribution of birds that nest in Marin County. This project, under the sponsorship of the Marin Audubon Society, is a continuation of a major effort that was completed forty years ago by Dave Shuford and Point Blue Conservation Science (then Point Reyes Bird Observatory). In this second phase, we will be comparing the distribution to that earlier seminal effort, four decades later. Repeated breeding bird atlases help us understand how changes in human

population, land use and environmental changes affect a whole suite of species, both locally and at a broader scale.

The project in its second year is managed by Project Coordinators Daphne Hatch, Diana Humple, Joan Lamphie, who will be organizing the framework for the long term. There are four Regional Coordinators who oversee the same 221 survey blocks that the county was divided into in the original effort. The project's other key participants are the many dedicated volunteers conducting surveys during the primary atlas survey period (mid-April through mid-July), documenting all species and looking for behaviors that indicate local nesting.

During the initial 2021 season, the project documented over 119 confirmed breeding

*continued on page 2*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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	Doug Waterman 506-4675
Secretary	Lelia Lanctot 924-6138
Treasurer	Ann Thomas 924-9559 Martha Jarocki 461-3592
Conservation	Roger Harris 510/710-9120 Barbara Salzman 924-6057
Field Trips	Doug Waterman 506-4675
Membership Chair	Bob Hinz 383-8688 Contact Bob for membership problems or questions.
Outreach, Website	Elyse Omernick 694-2320
Speaker Series	Doug Waterman 506-4675
Special Projects	Jude Stalker 680-6291
Nominating	Bob Hinz 383-8688
Editor, <i>The Rail</i>	Doug Waterman 506-4675
Property Management	Ed Nute 669-7710 Clint Kellner 895-8591
Volunteer Coordinator	Open
BAAC Reps	Barbara Salzman 924-605 Doug Waterman 506-4675
At-large Director	Lowell Sykes 388-2821

## 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 membershipssecretary@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 tragedy in the Ukraine is a heavy weight. Watching the fighting on TV seems unnatural and seeing Ukrainians escaping Russian attacks, mothers and children fleeing for safety, is heart wrenching. Seeing communities and countrysides destroyed is disheartening. We in America may have to bear some economic stress, but a rise in some food costs and a higher price for gas, for those of us who need gas, are small inconveniences to support the Ukrainian people. The war is undoubtedly affecting native birds and other wildlife caught in the fire and with habitats destroyed. Our issues and problems pale in comparison.

Our local problems may seem small in comparison but our problems are real and we must deal with them. We're working to keep our plants alive and habitats functioning in this challenging time of drought and climate change. On a broader scale, we are threatened by sea level rise, fire and our increasing drought conditions. Marin Audubon's habitat restorations, particularly Tiscornia, are addressing climate change as are our other habitat restorations. North Marin Municipal Water District seems to have a clearer path, but Marin Water is struggling to address reduced water supply. Do we remove the salt from ocean water through desalination that will leave brine and impact bay resources? Or do we seek water from the state water system, which is based on an archaic system of water rights that allows the diversion of so much water to agriculture, Southern California, and most Bay area communities. Meanwhile, it has already left many species of fish well on the way to extinction and our estuary modified to the extreme. Can and should we take more water from Sonoma County and/or choose other options, including a more comprehensive effort to conserve?

Among Marin Audubon's concerns is ensuring our members can learn about and enjoy the diverse bird species that live in our community. We're sorry that some have had

problems signing up for our field trips. We would love to have more field trips and will be working to do so. This should help by giving more alternatives. It might also help to receive monthly email notices of our programs, field trips and other important information. These arrive before our newsletter is delivered. To receive notices, go to our website homepage, scroll down the third column to "Join our email list." If you would like to help us arrange more field trips, please let me know.

There have been some major changes at California and National Audubon. Two resignations, Executive Director Sara Rose, who held that position for about five years, and Anna Weinstein who, for more than fifteen years, was Director of Marine Conservation for California Audubon and then for National Audubon.

Elections are coming up for Marin Audubon's Board of Directors. Our By-laws require the slate of nominees to be announced to members 20 days before the election. That means we have to present nominees in the April issue of *The Rail* even though the election will not take place until our Annual Meeting at our Speaker Program in May. James Raives, the newest nominee, is a retired Marin County Open Space Planner. Clint Kellner will return for his first full term after serving a partial term of less than a year. Jude Stalker, Ann Thomas, and Doug Waterman are nominated to return.

## MAS BOARD NOMINEES

We are pleased to announce this year's nominees for a three-year term on Marin Audubon Society Board:

### NEW

James Raives

### RETURNING

Clint Kellner, returning for first full term  
Jude Stalker  
Ann Thomas  
Doug Waterman

## Marin County Bird Atlas

*continued from page 1*

species in Marin. This included several species not confirmed by the original atlas, including **Mute Swan, Wild Turkey, American Avocet, Forster's Tern, Peregrine Falcon and Bald Eagle**. We are excited to embark on our second year in partnership with Marin Audubon Society, and to continue learning about our local breeding birds!

While much of this is a volunteer effort, we

rely on donations to fund our technical work. If interested in providing support (any level is appreciated!), please send checks, payable to Breeding Bird Atlas, to Joan Lamphier, PO Box 1022, Stinson Beach.

For more information or to learn how to participate, including how to submit your own incidental breeding observations, check out our webpage (on the Marin Audubon Society website under the dropdown menu for heading of "Birds")!

## 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.

### CORTE MADERA ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

#### Corte Madera

Saturday April 23, 2022

9:00 AM to noon

*With Bryan Flaig*

Join us for a spring bird walk to outer Corte Madera Marsh. We'll start by visiting the Marin Audubon Restoration Area and continue out to the edge of San Francisco Bay. We'll complete a 2.5 mile loop back to the flood control pond and finish at our starting location. The winter residents should be leaving and spring visitors arriving. We can expect to see red-wing blackbirds, several species of swallows, sparrows and boisterous Western Meadowlarks. We may also catch a glimpse of the resident osprey and peregrine falcon. We'll stop along the trees that line the main hiking trail to check for migrating warblers! This trip requires several miles of walking on flat terrain at a comfortable pace. It's the perfect trip for beginning birders and those who want to explore more of Corte Madera Marsh.

Restrooms are available at nearby stores, but not on the marsh. Bring binoculars, scopes, layers, water, and snacks. Light rain does not cancel the trip.

Limit of 15 fully vaccinated participants for this trip. Registration for the Corte Madera trip will be open starting on April 13 at 8 AM on the MAS website Field Trips page. There will not be a waiting list. No drop-ins please.

**DIRECTIONS:** *Corte Madera Ecological Reserve is located behind Trader Joe's in Corte Madera. Meet in the parking lot behind the store, accessed by the driveway on the southside of World Market.*

### OLIMPALI STATE HISTORIC PARK

#### Novato

Saturday April 30, 2022

9 AM to noon

*With Rich Cimino & Janet Bodle*

It's always an exciting time to birdwatch at Olompali State Historic Park! Some think spring is the best time. Beginning and experienced birders are invited to join leaders Rich Cimino and Janet Bodle to bird the park. Late spring arrivals should be on hand as we walk the old ranch road to the park's reservoir. We hope to see a wide variety of species that thrive in the park's oak savanna and open grasslands: raptors, flycatchers, vireos, warblers, woodpeckers, nuthatches, thrushes, and **Hooded Oriole**. The field trip will start at 9 AM in the parking lot. Heavy rain cancels.

Limit of 15 fully vaccinated participants for this trip. Registration for the Olompali trip will be open starting on April 20 at 8 AM on the MAS website Field Trips page. There will not be a waiting list. No drop-ins please.

**DIRECTIONS:** *Exit Hwy 101 at Atherton Ave/San Marin Dr in Novato. Follow the signs to Olompali State Historic Park. A right turn onto the Old Redwood Hwy frontage road will take you to the park. **Note:** There is an \$8 parking fee.*

### MOUNT BURDELL/STAFFORD LAKE OR RUSH CREEK, Novato

#### Birding in Marin, Season 7, Trip 5

Saturday, May 7, 2022

8:30 AM to mid afternoon

*With Jim White and Bob Battagin*

Join Jim and Bob for a field trip to the gentle slopes of Mount Burdell where we'll listen to and observe the impressive variety of songbirds that make this area their springtime home. Species we might see include **Lark Sparrow**, **Ash-throated Flycatcher**, **Bullock's Oriole**, **Lazuli Bunting**, and **Grasshopper Sparrow**, among many other possibilities. In the afternoon we plan to continue birding at Stafford Lake or Rush Creek.

This will be a moderate hike with many opportunities to look at birds and spring wildflowers. Wear comfortable walking shoes and layered clothing. Bring water and snacks. We will meet at the end of San Andreas Drive in Novato.

Limit of 15 fully vaccinated participants for this trip. Registration for the Mount Burdell trip will be open starting on April 27 at 8 AM on the MAS website Field Trips page. There will not be a waiting list. No drop-ins please.

**DIRECTIONS:** *Take Hwy 101 to Novato. Take the San Marin Dr/Atherton Ave exit. At the end of the exit ramp, turn west (left) on San Marin Dr. Go approximately two miles and turn right on San Andreas Dr. Drive nearly to the end of the road and park on the street. No restrooms available.*



## CONSERVATION

Marin Audubon Conservation Committee reviews critical issues related to wildlife habitats and comments to cities, agencies, and other jurisdictions. To attend, phone Barbara Salzman at 415/924-6057.

### STATE ROUTE 37 INTERIM PROJECT UPDATE

At the last Policy Committee meeting of elected officials, Caltrans staff reported that they do not intend to evaluate two environmentally sensitive alternatives in the Environmental Impact Report for the SR 37 Interim Project from Highway 101 to 121 (Section A). Staff reported that a causeway was rejected because of its expense (\$450,000) and improving the levees was rejected because the underlying lands are in private ownership. Caltrans “preferred” alternative for the Interim Project is still the earthen embankment (cost \$250,000) from Highway 101 to Black Point. Two less impactful alternatives would be addressed: replacing the Novato Creek Bridge to 2050 SLR elevation and replacing the bridge to 2050 SLR elevation combined with a passive flood barrier to Atherton Avenue.

Constructing an earthen embankment includes raising its height and widening its base which would result in extensive environmental damage including filling of seasonal wetlands and air quality degradation. Huge quantities of fill would be necessary and where they would get the fill is a question. Although the source location is not identified, mining the huge quantities of fill that would be needed would undoubtedly cause additional significant environmental damage. A mountain somewhere may have to be removed. There also is a concern that if installed there would be pressure for it to remain because it would be too expensive to remove.

### RICHARDSON BAY REGIONAL AGENCY UPDATE

The Richardson Bay Regional Agency (RBRA) Board has approved, on the recommendation of its Interim Director, Steve McGrath, hiring the consulting firm of RHD to plan a mooring field and to conduct an environmental review for the Mooring Field project. This firm’s view was that minimal environmental review, such as a Categorical Exemption or a Negative Declaration would suffice, while the other firm that bid on the job, Anchor QEA, suggested that an Environmental Impact Report might be necessary to comply with CEQA. The RHD consulting firm is not known to us but one of their subcontractors is, Zentner and Zentner, a firm that for years represented the Bahia Homeowners Association when we

were trying to purchase the property, and also worked for the Corte Madera Inn among other developers. We’ll need to keep an eye on their recommendations.

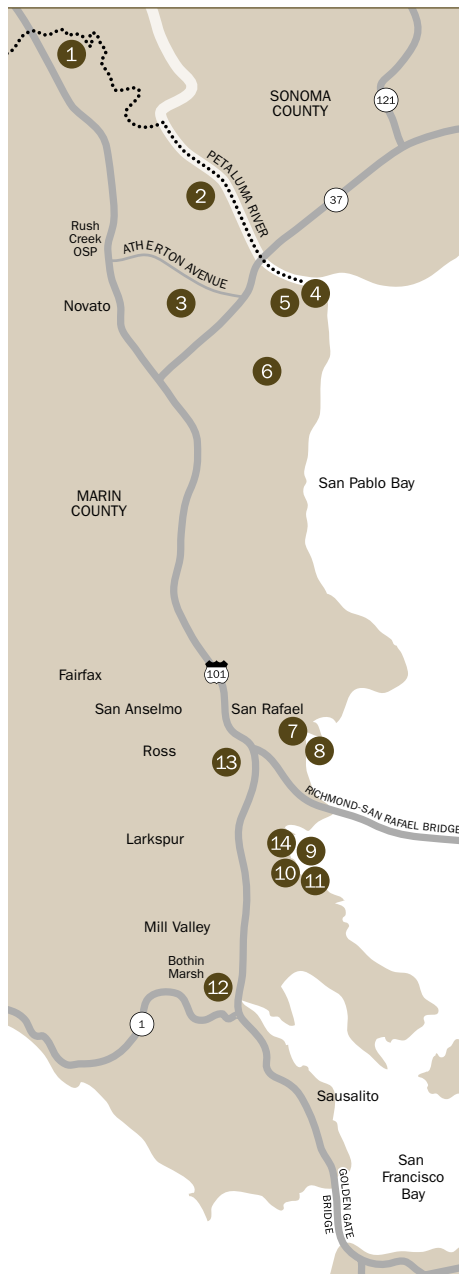
RBRA’s Transition Plan 2.0 (TP 2.0), has been released and the comment period is still open. TP 2.0 is substantially revised from the original to reflect the 2021 *Agreement between the Richardson Bay Regional Agency (RBRA) and the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC)*. TP 2.0 is intended to guide actions in three categories: Eelgrass habitat, Housing and Vessel Enforcement. It does a good job laying out actions to accomplish the RBRA’s responsibilities under the Agreement. Our major concern is that the TP 2.0 strategies link implementation of the *Eelgrass Protection and Management Plan* as well as preparing and implementing an *Adaptation Restoration Management Plan* to obtaining funding from grants and other sources. “Upon securing funding” and “Pending availability of funding” are phrases used to qualify requirements to implement and monitor the eelgrass restoration. We commented that RBRA is responsible for producing and implementing these eelgrass plans whether or not they get outside funding. The RBRA may need to come up with all or some of the needed funds themselves. Our other questions are related to how general strategies to “urge” or “encourage” removal of vessels would be carried out. What are they planning to do to urge and encourage vessels to be removed?

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

The deadline for comments on the Transition Plan 2.0 has been extended at least until April 15, so there is time to review. You can find the RBRA Transition Plan 2.0 on the first page of the RBRA website.

### STATE ROUTE 37 SB 1050 UPDATE

State Route 37 is on the way to becoming a toll road if SB 1050, introduced by Senator Bill Dodd (D. Napa), passes the legislature. SB 1050, the State Route 37 Toll Bridge Act, would provide toll funds to make structural changes to reduce congestion along SR 37. The bill focuses on near term improvements (Interim projects) from Hwy 121 to Mare Island. However, the bill also allows for the tolls to be used for the Ultimate Project which



#### MARIN AUDUBON PROPERTIES

1. Petaluma Marsh Expansion Site	180 acres
2. Bahia	60 acres
3. Simmons Slough	144 acres
4. Norton Avenue Pond	4 parcels
5. Black Point Parcels	many parcels
6. Arroyo San Jose	2 parcels
7. Tiscornia Marsh	20 acres
8. Tidelands and Murphy's Rock	34 acres
9. San Clemente Creek Tidelands	4.34 acres
10. End of Channel Drive	1 acre
11. Triangle Marsh	31 acres
12. Arroyo Corte Madera del Presidio	2 acres
13. Cal Park	<1 acre
14. Corte Madera Ecological Reserve Expansion Site	5.2 acres

is to rebuild SR 37 from 101 to Interstate 80 to address climate change and congestion. This means the tolls would go on for a longtime.

The bill would create a SR 37 Toll Authority and a SR 37 Toll Fund. The Authority would be responsible to install and operate toll facilities with the tolls used to improve Sonoma Creek and SR 37 from 101 to Interstate 80 and would have the authority to issue bonds. The funds collected from tolls, bonds or leveraged from other sources, are specified to be used for capital improvements to expand the toll bridge capacity, improve the corridor operation and improve resiliency of the transportation corridor to sea level rise, flooding and traffic congestion. The bill also authorizes funds to be used for ecological enhancements, mitigation, land acquisition, to provide public access, leverage funds from other sources, reimburse consulting agencies, and reduce demand for travel by increasing public transit, carpooling and non-motorized options. The Bay Area Toll Authority would oversee the SR 37 Toll Fund.

Tolls would be authorized for as long as necessary to pay off the bond and other expenditures. But they could continue if the Authority determines it is necessary to reduce vehicle miles and incentivize transit.

The Toll amount would be one dollar to a maximum of not greater than toll rate imposed by the Bay Area Toll Authority on other Bay bridges. For low income users living in the four SF 37 counties, a discount of no more than 50% would be offered. Low income is not yet defined.

One or more public meetings would be held to hear input from the public.

## MAS SUPPORTS STATE BILL 1065

SSB 1065 (Eggman) will create a statewide program to fund the coordination and oversight necessary to remove and destroy unseaworthy vessels from waters of the state. There is a dire need to stop the significant pollution and other environmental damage to California's waterways, water quality, habitats, and wildlife, caused by derelict commercial vessels (CADV) abandoned in the state's waterways.

Currently, the removal of derelict and abandoned vessels is fragmented and ineffective resulting in wreckages along shorelines and in waterways. The lack of funding and coordinated authorities results in nothing much being done to protect our aquatic resources in spite of concern and

alarm by many individuals, organizations, agencies and jurisdictions. The problem is exacerbated by a federal program that allows unseaworthy vessels to be sold at auction. These issues are discussed with great frustration at Abandoned and Derelict Vessel meetings that are organized by the U.S. Coast Guard and State Lands Commission.

The statewide program and council of federal, state and local agencies that will be created by SB 1065 will have authority to identify, prioritize and fund the removal of CADVs. We urged that the majority of the funds be allocated for the actual removal of the vessels which is very costly. We also recommend that a representative of the Bay Area be included on the Council.

California's coasts, water quality, habitat, and ecosystems should not have to bear the burden of inadequate coordination, funding and abatement actions.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Email Marin's Senator Mike McGuire and Congressman Mark Levine urging them to support this bill when it comes to them for a vote. The easiest way is to go to their websites and use the form they provide.

## MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE CONSIDERS AQUACULTURE LEASING

At its meeting at the end of March, the Marine Resources Committee of the Fish and Game Commission (FGC) will be receiving public input about and discussing initial steps toward defining public interest criteria for evaluating new aquaculture lease application in state waters. Marin Audubon has sent a letter to the Committee urging that no new aquaculture leases be issued in Tomales Bay until the public interest criteria are clarified. In our view the primary responsibility of the Commission is to protect the wildlife, tide and submerged lands, and waterways in the interest of the people of the state.

The range of public interest concerns with aquaculture include impacts to boating, fishing and other public recreational uses in addition to natural resources. In our comments, Marin Audubon urged that the Commission's criteria ensure impacts to the following natural resources in Tomales Bay be avoided:

**Avian species** Intertidal mudflats and shallow waters support numerous species of waterfowl and shorebirds that depend on Tomales bay during migration and overwintering.

**Marine Mammals** The three harbor seal pupping areas in Tomales Bay.

**Eelgrass** Tomales Bay eelgrass is essential habitat for Brandt and many species of fish.

**Ecosystems** Coastal ecosystems are essential to support our wildlife and aquatic dependent species. Their long-term health and integrity must be sustained for the benefit of all of the species that depend on it, including people. Additional ecosystem benefits include adaptation to climate change including adaptation through wetlands that not only provide habitat but sequester carbon and buffer impacts of sea level rise, flooding, storm surges and flooding.

## LAS GALLINAS VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT NEW BUILDING DESIGN A CONCERN

According to the current plan, Las Gallinas' new three-story Operations Control building would house offices, a laboratory and conference rooms and have a glass exterior which is raising concern about bird collisions. Collisions with glass, which the birds cannot see, contribute to the death of millions of birds annually.

The Las Gallinas wildlife and other ponds are important habitat for a great diversity of species during migration, overwintering and breeding. These ponds have probably the highest density and diversity of birds of any habitats in the east county, undoubtedly due to the on-site habitats and the adjacent habitats. These include seasonal wetlands, fields, tidal marsh and slough. Raising the risk of birds colliding with glass is that the habitats attract birds migrating through and that many of the overwintering and nesting birds move among the habitats.

Our comments on the project advised the District that their three-story all-glass building design would be a danger to birds in this highly-used habitat area. We expressed the preference for redesigning the building. We also passed along information about companies from which bird-safe glass can be purchased, and urged use of these special glasses for any sized windows on the building, regardless of the building height.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Write to the city of San Rafael urging redesign of the building and that bird-safe glass be required to be used throughout the buildings. Send your comments to the San Rafael Planner, Steve Stafford, [steve.stafford@cityofsanrafael.org](mailto:steve.stafford@cityofsanrafael.org).

## HABITAT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Italian thistle and Harding grass will be on the verge of blooming in early April so we will either remove them or cut them off to interrupt seed production. Mulching helps retain soil moisture but removing the weeds closest to the native plants also saves moisture for sagebrush, yarrow and the rest of what we've planted. Left in place, the dead weeds then act like mulch shading the soil. If there is no substantial March rain, some new plants might need to be watered.

Rain cancels our workdays. Act locally and join us on a workday. Being there and being active would be good for your mood as well as the landscape. California's wild plants and animals need your help. We all make a difference.

### Volunteer Workdays

#### Triangle Marsh, East Corte Madera:

First Saturdays: April 2, May 7

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: April 9, May 14

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, Annette Anzalone, Bob Hinz, Martha Jarocki, Gerry Jarocki, Lowell Sykes, Nick Nycamp Whitehead, Pam Whitehead

## ALERT

### Report Barred Owl Spottings

Barred Owls have extended their range to the west coast and have been seen in Marin. There is increasing concern about their impact on Marin's Northern Spotted Owl population. Barred Owls are larger, more aggressive and occupy the same habitat type as Spotted Owls. See contact list at <https://marin-audubon.org/2020/09/01/alert-report-barred-owl-spottings>.

## HABITAT STEWARDSHIP

### BAHIA

Organized by Point Blue Conservation Science's STRAW (Students and Teachers Restoring A Watershed) lots of school classes came to plant native species on the Eastern Peninsula at Bahia in March.

**March 9** 16 students from San Geronimo Valley Elementary School

**March 10** 19 students from Glenwood Elementary School's fifth grade

**March 11** 41 students from Olive Elementary School's fifth grade

**March 14** 53 students from Loma Verde Elementary School's second and fifth grades

**March 15** 28 students from the Novato Charter School's first grade

**March 16** 24 students from Loma Verde Elementary's third grade

**March 18** 60 students from Loma Verde Elementary's fourth grade

**March 22** 67 students from Edna Maguire's fifth grade

**March 23** 41 students from Two Rock Elementary's fourth through sixth grades.

Our thanks to STRAW staff for their impressive work organizing the schools and the planting locations, for growing the plants, helping the students to plant them and for maintaining the plants after installation.

We also welcomed 9th graders from Marin Academy doing a week of experiential learning about "Animals in Science." While at Bahia they learned about various animals that use the baylands habitat that they were helping to restore. To improve the habitat, the Marin Academy students spread compost and mulch on new plantings that Hanford installed this past winter.

Because we have had minimal rain since December, we've engaged Hanford again to water and finish placing mulch around the plants that were installed this year. We expect, with the lack of rain this winter and spring, that we're looking at a long, dry and expensive summer.

We're pleased to announce that we've received a grant from the RHE Foundation for planting at Bahia. The grant funds will arrive in August, which will be very timely for the frequent watering we will need to be doing to keep the young plants alive.



## TISCORNIA MARSH RESTORATION AND SEA LEVEL RISE ADAPTATION PROJECT

We're closing up our first San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority grant which ends on March 31. Also we've been working with Multicultural Center of Marin to get a sign produced and a permit from the city to install the sign before the end of the month. We've also been working to get a contract with the Ocean Protection Council executed.

## CORTE MADERA ECOLOGICAL RESERVE RESTORATION

The regular Second Saturday workday at the Corte Madera Ecological Reserve restoration site was warm and only a little breezy. We pulled a surprisingly large amount of Scotch Broom, given that zero broom was on the site two years ago. In the ongoing effort to deal with Harding grass, we cleared a small area, covered it with cardboard, and mulched (this is known as sheet mulching). We will plant there next winter. Saturday's volunteers were Annette Anzalone, Lowell Sykes, Bob Hinz, Gerry and Martha Jarocki.

This past month, Martha Jarocki, Clint Kellner and Barbara Salzman met with Garret Allen, our new California Fish and Wildlife biologist for the Reserve and Central Bay.

We explained to Garret our history with the site, the restoration and current efforts to revegetate and weed removal on the uplands. We also admired the progress of the marsh. We wish John Krause, the only other biologist we have known for the site, well in his new position.



# MARIN BIRDLOG: FEBRUARY 2022

By Noah Arthur

February is early spring in Marin, with weather beginning to warm and the first flowers blooming as a few hardy early birds begin to nest. It is one of our less-productive rarity months, and there were relatively few new rare finds this February. Numerous continuing birds were enjoyed by all though.

The first new rare bird of the month was a **Winter Wren** at Pine Gulch in Bolinas (MM), although this may have been a continuing bird found briefly there in November. A marsh behind the McDonald's in Strawberry yielded a **Lesser Yellowlegs** on the 5th (RR).

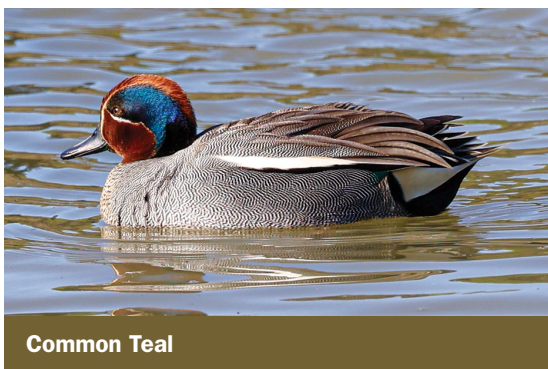


Black-legged Kittiwake

Five **Pacific Golden-plovers** were at the Pt. Reyes Oyster Farm on the 19th (DSe & BA), plus a large for Marin fly-over flock of 40 **Cackling Geese** (DSe & BA). The golden-plover flock was up to an impressive 9 individuals by the 28th (EC).

A new **Common Teal** turned up in Bolinas Lagoon on the 20th (DSi), adding to the pile of several Marin records this winter, and a juvenile **Tundra Swan** was with Mutes at Las Gallinas on the 21st (LC & JL). Also at Las Gallinas on the 21st were the first **Cliff Swallow** arrivals of the season (LC & JL). A seawatch from Pt. Reyes North Beach on the 21st yielded two **Black-legged Kittiwakes** and an **Ancient Murrelet** (LC & JL).

The last rarity of the month was perhaps the best, a male **Mountain Bluebird** in suburban San Anselmo on the 28th (MC).



Common Teal

The long-staying **Black Vulture** was seen in a number of West Marin locations during the month, with the first sighting being over CC's house in San Anselmo on the 6th. Rare for the Outer Point, two **American Crows** flew by the Fish Docks on the 6th (DH).

The first **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** of the season was at Fort Baker on the 12th (LC). A **Wilson's Warbler** at Muir Beach on the 16th (CP & SS) may have been a very early arrival but was more likely a continuing wintering bird.



Mountain Bluebird

## THANK YOU, DONORS

William Clarke, Rosalind Colver, Robert and Michelle Friend, Linda Green, Sallie Griffith, Thomas Heinz, Sarah Karste, David Kimball, Jeanne Kline, Steven Lanum, Sarah Martin, McMurty Family Fund, Linda Miller, Richard Morrison, Anne-Christine Nelson, Sandy Neumann, Jean Olive-Lammers, Leslie Plant, Colette Pratt, Sophia Reinders, William Richardson, Marianne Riser, RHE Foundation, Brian Shepard, Mary Jo Sorenson, Harry St John, Anne-Christine Strugnelli, Jill and John Templeton, Janet Weiner, Kristin Womack & Ted Bakkila ... and to John Crawford for the memorial donation in memory of Will Hynes.

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Alyssa Abbey, Terry Ainsworth, Matthew Anderson, Ann Bentley, Robert Bernheim, Joanna Boches, Timiera Bolden, Theresa Brand, Linda J. Brown, Marianne Bulchis, Myra Chow, Tom Ciemins, Zwanda Cook, Sheri Cooper, Sheilagh Creighton, John Deamer, Karen DeTore, Dorothy Domish, Nancy Drew, Neal N. East, Bart Ferrell, Dr. Joan O. Firestone, Susan H. Foster, Diane Frank, Deborah Freed, Elena Gogoleva, Kimberly Hansen, Richard Hongisto, Greta Johnson, Carla Kennis, Kevin Kennis, Matt Kennis, Robert Kennis, Brett Laflamme, Paul Larkin, Jennifer Lawson, Katherine Manning, Moira McDonald, Margreta McKeown, Dennie Mehocich, Linda Milark, Radhika Miller, Michelle Molloy, Thomas Moran, Anne-Christine Nelson, Deborah Neuman, Larry J. Nielsen, Kenneth T. Osaki, Harvey Pearlman, Patricia Ravitz, Charlotte Reiter, Dolores Robinson, Susan Robinson, Ruth Ellen Saarinen, Kristin Sardina, Lisa Sargent, Mary Jane Schramm, Claudia Schwalm, Jere Schweikert, Geoffrey W. Shaskan, Sarah Spengeman, Raoul Stepakoff, Gabriella Urban, Inta Vodopals, Christine Wegner, Philip Wolfson

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