

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 7:00 PM

**Beauty and the Beast: California Wildflowers and Climate Change**

Rob Badger and Nita Winter



Rob Badger and Nita Winter

**Desert Candles, Carrizo Plain NM**

Register for the September Speaker Series Zoom program on the MAS website [Speaker Series page](#).

Internationally acclaimed conservation photographers Rob Badger and Nita Winter take you behind the scenes of their 27-year journey photographing wildflowers throughout California and the West. As the climate changes, and development impacts the natural world, wildflowers are vanishing. This program shows how two dedicated photographers continue to use their art, and the voices of a diverse group of scientists, environmental leaders and nature writers, to inspire hope and action regarding climate change, land conservation and species extinction.

Bob and Nina's work has been featured in Time, Mother Jones and Sierra Magazines, the New York Times, San Francisco Chronicle and Los Angeles Times. They are recipients of the Sierra Club's 2020 Ansel Adams Award for Conservation Photography. In their new, award-winning book, "Beauty and the Beast: California Wildflowers and Climate Change," art and science are woven together to celebrate California's wildflowers and promote Rob and Nina's conservation and climate change messages.

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# The Rail

MARIN AUDUBON SOCIETY

## Annual Report for FY 2021-22

**W**e've navigated another challenging year dealing with COVID and drought. In spite of it all, we brought back Junior Birdwatchers and reestablished Marin County Breeding Bird Atlas 2, continued to maintain our habitats, received two large and several smaller grants, and carried out our field trip, speaker series and conservation programs. All of our accomplishments are thanks to time donated by our volunteers and funding contributed by our supporters.

In all, 193 volunteers have helped with our programs and activities throughout our fiscal year 2021-22, volunteering an estimated 10,981 hours to benefit our organization and our habitats and the ecosystem.

Our major activities and accomplishments are described below.

**RESTORING HABITAT/CLIMATE CHANGE****• Tiscornia Marsh Restoration Project**

Through the year we continued to refine the project plan, working with San Rafael to further the trash capture facility which will benefit Bay water quality and the Tiscornia project. We met several times with the Bay Regional Restoration Integration Team and, after more than a year of trying, we connected with PG&E about their power lines. The Multicultural Center of Marin conducted several public meetings on Zoom and erected a sign showing the project plan. The project will address sea level rise/climate change, expand Ridgway Rail habitat and improve flood protection by restoring tidal marsh habitats and improving the levee on which there will be a public trail.

We finished work on and closed out our first San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (SFBRA) grant and we were awarded new grants from the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) and the SFBRA. We began work under the OPC grant.

**• Monarch Project at Simmons Slough**

Begun as an effort to restore monarch butterfly populations, this project has expanded

to be a pollinator plant enhancement project. Ed Nute has shepherded the project through the review process required to receive funding from the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the federal agency that holds an easement on the Simmons property. Volunteers have been preparing the soil for installing plants purchased with a Marin County Fish and Wildlife Commission grant.



Jude Stalker

**Volunteers remove Invasive Sea Lavender (*Limonium*) from the marsh at Schoonmaker Point Marina and Galilee Harbor.**

**• Limonium Removal** Jude Stalker again gathered volunteers to continue removing non-native *Limonium* along the bay in Southern Marin including at the Ecological Reserve and sites in Sausalito.

**• Corte Madera Habitats** At Triangle Marsh, Bob Hinz and other volunteers continued to manage upland habitat adjacent to the marsh by watering, weeding and adding new plants. At the Corte Madera Ecological Reserve, Martha Jarocki has been overseeing restoration of the uplands. This involves removing invasive Harding grass and other non-natives. Saturday volunteer workdays are held every month at both sites.

**• Bahia** Lots going on here. STRAW students planted a large section of the east peninsula along the Petaluma River and STRAW staff is

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## 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 Lancot 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 (on leave)
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 membershipsecretary@marinaudubon.org.

## DONATIONS APPRECIATED!

Marin Audubon Society welcomes gifts of funds, stock, or property, and bequests in general, or in honor or memory of someone. Gifts may be directed to any MAS project. Unspecified gifts of more than \$500 will be placed in the Endowment Fund for conservation, the protection of wildlife species, and the preservation and enhancement of wildlife habitats. Since MAS is an all-volunteer organization, 100% of your donation goes to its projects. All gifts are tax-deductible and will be acknowledged in *The Rail*, as well as personally on behalf of the Society. Checks should be made out and mailed to: Marin Audubon Society, P.O. Box 599, Mill Valley, CA 94942.

## MISSION STATEMENT

To conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife and their habitats, for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By Barbara Salzman

*The Rail* looks a bit different this month with publication of our Annual Report telling you what we've accomplished this past year and also the Bird Log missing. Noah is away but will be back next month.

I want to convey our very special thanks to Noah Arthur who has been producing our Bird Log for more than five years. Noah creates reports that are informative, interesting and fun to read. They motivate the reader to go out and find those rarities. We greatly appreciate his volunteering to produce the Bird Log reporting rarities coming through Marin. It takes a time to put together such and we know Noah has a busy schedule apart from the Bird Log. Thank you Noah from all of us at Marin Audubon.

This is the beginning of our new fiscal year, the time when we set our goals, review and evaluate our accomplishments, and update our Policies and Procedures. As you can see from our Annual Report in this newsletter we've had a busy and successful year and can claim many accomplishments.

Looking forward to the coming year, we have major tasks ahead furthering the critical work we have begun protecting wildlife, enhancing and restoring habitat for them, and taking on new challenges that are sure to come up.

We've planned more field trips in our effort to make sure all members who want to attend our trips are able to. We have scheduled field trips that still require signing-up and will be scheduling trips during the year that do not require signing up. There is one no-sign-up trip this month. Although COVID is still with us, we feel that we can safely conduct field trips in locations where people have space to spread out. Our thanks to Doug Waterman for all of his hard work lining up the field trip leaders.

We're sad to say a goodbye (fortunately it's temporary) to Board member Clint Kellner who, along with his wife Madeline, has gone to Peru with the Peace Corps. Marin Audubon has benefitted greatly from Clint's involvement, knowledge and insights. We look forward to this return. This is the second tour with the Peace Corps for Clint and Madeline. The Kellners will be gone for about a year.

I also want to thank donors to our Spring appeal which is dedicated to our habitats. Donations have continued to come in through June and into July and they are most welcome. We have significant costs ahead, irrigating plants that have been planted, continuing our revegetation and enhancement on our properties. Another big expense this year is hiring consultants to do the necessary field work and prepare the monitoring report required by the Army Corps of Engineers as a condition of our permit

for the Bahia marsh restoration 15 years ago.

Also, an apology to some of our donors who did not receive a thank you letters until several months after they made their donation. This is unusual and happened because the vacations of several people we depend on to produce our thank you letters overlapped. We're working to make sure it doesn't happen again.

As we begin our year ahead, we'd invite you to join our field trips. Now that we are having more of them and some without needing to sign up, we expect there to be more opportunities for those who want to attend. We also invite you to join one of our monthly work days in Corte Madera to help enhance our habitats.

We hope you've all had a wonderful summer. Stay safe from COVID.

## TROPICAL MILKWEED ILLEGAL TO SELL IN MARIN

On August 24, the Marin Agricultural Commissioner declared selling tropical milkweed (*Asclepias curassavica*) illegal in Marin County. All stock must be removed from nursery shelves.

Tropical milkweed has recently been declared a B-rated weed regulated by the Department of Food and Agriculture. This plant species has proved to be harmful to monarch butterflies.

More information will be provided in next month's *Rail*.

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Judith Armstrong, Judy Austin, Janna Bar-kin, Suzanne Bertram, William Bettinelli, Bryan Birch, Erin Bouayad-Agha, Norma Brach, Robin Brandes, Mardi Brayton, Fiona Burr, Debra Butterfield, Eric Callies, Edward Chiera, Daniel Cohen, Scott Cuper, Mary D. Daily, Charles Eckart, Cindy Edwards, Marie Eisen, Janet Ellinwood, Nancy English, Amy Faulkner, Marcia Fields, Thomas Flynn, Linda Friou, Susan Gertman, Ronald Goldman, Gordon Family, Jordonna Grace, Ann Sheree Greenbaum, John Greenspan, Carly B. Gregory, F. Guerin, Johanna Gunning, Jane L. Hall, Ingrid Hirashima, Beverly A. Hodges, Celeste Joki, John Kaufmann, David Kell, Max Kelley, David Kest, Ray Kuhn, Susan Lederman, Pat Lindstadt, K. Lipinski, Paul Macomber, Christine Mariscal, Elizabeth Marshall, Suzanne Mellen, Genevieve J. Meunier, Takashi Mikawa, Lisa Moreno, Ben & Kate Morris, Diane Nicolson, Ronald Pimentel, John Putnam, Cynthia Rangaves, Penny Reiter, Julie Riboli, Roberta Rigney, Fredrick Robertson, Brian Ross, Steve Ross, Merilee Rossi, Isaac Safdie, Gina Schieber, Jim Schlegel, John R. Shedaker, Hong-Guang Sheng, Jennifer Shepard, Cynthia Ann Theobald, James & Celia Wagner, Judy Webb, Ingrid Wheeler, Amy Worth, Georgia Wright

## MAS FIELD TRIPS

Open to the public

MAS is mounting a full schedule of field trips for the 2022-2023 season. While most trips are limited and require registration to allow for social distancing due to Covid-19, we have one open trip this month and are planning to schedule others.

### THE PONDS AT THE LAS GALLINAS VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT (LGVSD)

San Rafael

Saturday, September 1, 2022

9 AM to noon

With Sande and Bob Chilvers

All fully vaccinated participants are welcome to join this trip. No registration required.

Join old friends and meet new ones as we resume our regularly scheduled walks on the first Thursday of the month at Las Gallinas. Special thanks to Bob and Sande Chilvers for volunteering once again to lead our monthly walks in search of waterfowl, waders, songbirds, raptors, and shorebirds. With fall migration underway, we are likely to spot some interesting species, so come assist in our search.

We welcome bird enthusiasts of all levels. We all help each other to find and identify the birds, and there are usually several experienced birders to assist. You don't even have to arrive on time because we spend the first 30-60 minutes studying the birds around the first pond, and our group is easy to find.

**DIRECTIONS:** From Hwy 101, exit at Smith Ranch Rd. Drive east on Smith Ranch Rd toward McInnis Park. Turn left immediately after crossing the railroad tracks and drive about 0.5 mile through the LGVSD gates and into the parking lot at the end of the road. Meet the group by the bridge just past the parking lot. There is an outhouse in the parking area for public use or you can use the bathrooms at nearby McInnis Park.

### ABBOTT'S LAGOON AND THE INVERNESS TENNIS CLUB AREA

Birding in Marin, Season 7 – Trip 9

Saturday, September 3, 2022

8:30 AM to mid afternoon

With Jim White and Bob Battagin

Limit of 15 fully vaccinated participants for this trip. Registration opens on August 24 at 8 AM on the MAS website's Field Trips page.

Abbott's Lagoon is one of Marin's premier birding locations sporting an eBird sum of 283 species. Fall migration south along the coast brings many birds to this area. Some that we hope to see include **Ferruginous Hawk**, **Baird's** and **Pectoral Sandpipers** and **Red-necked Phalaropes**. Ducks, geese, herons, **Peregrines** and **Ospreys** are also likely visitors. You will get some exercise; out and back is about 3 miles (some in sand) and Jim likes to do a full 5-mile loop. So pack a lunch for a picnic on the beach, bring layers for the fresh ocean air and help us spot a rarity.

We plan to stop along Tomales Bay near the Inverness Tennis club to look for Pine and Alder woodland birds.

**DIRECTIONS:** From Point Reyes Station on Hwy 1 go just south of town, right turn onto Sir Francis Drake Blvd, follow that thru Inverness up over Inverness ridge into the Point Reyes National Seashore then go north on Pierce Point Road. The Abbott's

Lagoon parking lot is on the left in about 3 miles. Car Pool if you can, allow 1.5 hours from San Rafael.

### RODEO LAGOON

Marin Headlands

Wednesday, September 7, 2022

7:30/8:30 AM to noon

With William Legge and David Wiechers

Limit of 15 fully vaccinated participants for this trip. Registration opens on August 28 at 8 AM on the MAS website's Field Trips page.

Join William and David for this fall migration field trip at Rodeo Lagoon. This is their longtime "patch," which never seems to disappoint birders with daily variations in species seen and unusual sightings. On this particular trip, our group will be targeting **Parasitic Jaeger**, migrating shorebirds, warblers, and other passerines. We will begin the morning with a Sea Watch at 7:30 AM. Those arriving later may join us at 8:30 AM for a circuit of the lagoon.

**DIRECTIONS:** Head south on Hwy 101 and take the last Sausalito exit just before the Golden Gate Bridge. At the exit stop sign, turn right and go under the freeway, then follow the road down to the left. Within 300 feet turn left at the sign to the Marin Headlands (This is the only available left turn before you begin the descent into Sausalito). You should see the tunnel with the five-minute light. Proceed through the tunnel on Bunker Rd to the Rodeo Lagoon Parking Lot at the end. Meet by the bridge over the channel to the beach or join MAS birders with scopes along the nearby beach area.

### VAUX'S SWIFTS AT MCNEAR BRICK AND BLOCK

San Rafael

Saturday, September 17, 2022

6 to 7:40 PM depending on the weather

With Rich Cimino

Limit of 15 fully vaccinated participants for this trip. Registration opens September 7 at 8 AM on the MAS website's Field Trips page.

Join other MAS members for an evening opportunity to witness **Vaux's Swifts** during their fall migration through Marin, which occurs in September and October. Dan McNear of McNear Brick & Block has kindly allowed Marin Audubon to access this remarkable site where three decommissioned chimneys provide an important communal evening roosting place for the Vaux's swifts.

Watching tens of thousands of Vaux's swifts as they descend into the stacks just before nightfall is an unforgettable sight. At the peak of migration, as many as 19,000 swifts have been counted in one evening. However, keep in mind that the number of swifts varies greatly from night to night and can range from a few hundred to thousands. Like everything else in birding, there are no guarantees!

Sunset on the evening of our visit will be at 7:11 PM, so plan on arriving on time to be ready. If the weather on the day of our

trip is particularly cool or windy, the swifts are likely to enter the stacks early, so plan accordingly. Bring scopes, binoculars, and, if desired, folding chairs for your seating comfort. It can be chilly at dusk. Please stay with our group and do not enter any of the private areas on the property. Use soft voices and be sure to respect the privacy of local residents.

**DIRECTIONS:** From Hwy 101 take the Central San Rafael exit. Head east on Third St./Point San Pedro Rd for about 3.5 miles. The brickyard will be on the right. The address is 1 McNear Brickyard Rd. Park as close to the San Pedro Road entrance as possible. Please do not drive to or park near the closed gate.

### POINT REYES LIGHTHOUSE TO DRAKES BEACH

Birding in Marin, Season 7 – Trip 10

Saturday, October 1, 2022

8:30 AM to mid afternoon

With Jim White and Bob Battagin

Limit of 15 fully vaccinated participants for this trip. Registration opens September 21 at 8 AM on the MAS website's Field Trips page.

This is the place to be for fall birding. Many migrants – like hawks, jaegers, shorebirds and loons – follow the coast south. Many songbirds migrate at night and seem to have a compass bearing in mind, momma said to fly "15 degrees east of due south for 4 days." Millions of recently fledged birds undertake a journey of 2,000 to 4,000 miles without a Google assistant and many without further parental guidance. Some get lost.

Imagine that you are a dyslexic **Connecticut Warbler** hatched in early June in the boreal forest of north central Canada. It is your second night flight, you are flying west instead of east or south, you crossed some mountains so that you are flying sort of high, morning is approaching so you descend through the clouds and there is nothing but water. A fog shrouded coast was not in your flight plan. You reverse directions, trying to avoid the gulls and jaegers pursuing you, when you see trees miles away on a point sticking above the fog. Relief, a place to land, to rest, and to find something to eat. These vagrant warblers and other eastern songbirds are the reasons that the tree islands of the Point Reyes peninsula are so popular with birders.

We intend to visit the nearby Fish Docks after the lighthouse then work our way back to Drake's Beach for lunch and more birding.

**DIRECTIONS:** Meet at 8:30 at the Point Reyes Lighthouse parking area. The parking area is at the west end of Sir Francis Drake. Going north through Inverness follow Sir Francis Drake to the lighthouse. Allow 30 minutes from Inverness or 1.5 hour from San Rafael.



Annual Report

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maintaining the plants over the summer. MAS had a Hanford crew install plants along another section of the levee around the homeowners lagoon (the fourth year for such planting) and a Hanford crew is irrigating the plants over the dry seasons. We welcomed volunteers from Sonoma Impact Volunteers,

Marin Audubon Society  
Statement of Financial Position  
As of June 30, 2022

<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Operating Bank Accounts	140,260
Property Bank Accounts	154,765
Sponsee Bank Accounts	74,040
Total Current Assets	369,065
Real Property	4,667,993
Investment Account	1,797,318

**TOTAL ASSETS \$6,834,375**

Marin Audubon Society Statement of  
Activities July 2021 – June 2022

<b>REVENUE AND SUPPORT</b>	
Donations	254,567
Grant Income for Property, Restoration, and Enhancement	437,762
Membership	38,336
Events and Activities	6,306
Interest and Dividend Income	30,071
Marin Baylands Advocates Income	21,469

**TOTAL REVENUE & SUPPORT 788,511**

<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Property Restoration, Enhancement, and Management	530,296
Professional Services	31,806
Office Supplies, Printing, and Postage	32,192
Program Expenses	8,968
Insurance	10,426
Property Parcel Taxes	10,874
Permits and Fees	1,151
Website and Social Media	–
Other General Expenses	6,857
Marin Baylands Advocates Expenses	1,388

**TOTAL EXPENSES 633,958**

<b>RESULTS FROM OPERATIONS</b>	<b>154,552</b>
Investment Gain – Realized and Unrealized	(260,539)

**CHANGE IN EQUITY (105,987)**

**TOTAL EQUITY – BEGINNING OF YEAR 6,899,489**

**TOTAL EQUITY – END OF YEAR \$6,793,502**

Like everyone else, our financial condition during most of our fiscal year was quite good, but at the end of the year, when the stock market dropped significantly our investment value also suffered. We will be able to continue our programs, but are hopeful the investment outlook will improve.

who finished the mulching. And a grant from the California Alpine Club Foundation helped fund the Bahia planting.

EDUCATION

Field trips, speaker series, our newsletter *The Rail*, and now Junior Birdwatchers, make up our education program. Thanks to Doug Waterman, we sponsored 10 speaker series programs on Zoom and presented 24 field trips. In addition, Doug was responsible for editing the 10 issues of our newsletter. Lelia Lanctot helped bring back the Junior Birdwatcher’s program, which provides elementary school students an opportunity to learn about birds they might see in their neighborhood. Students from Mary E. Silveira School and youngsters individually have benefitted from the program.

CITIZEN SCIENCE

- **Christmas Bird Counts** Sponsored Southern Marin and Cheep Thrills Bird Counts continuing our tradition of sponsoring Bird Counts and contributing data to National Audubon Society which assesses bird population trends across the country.
- **Marin County Breeding Bird Atlas 2 (MCBBA2)** Updating the original Atlas published in 1999, surveys of birds breeding in Marin are now being conducted by volunteers with MCBBA2 (see more below).

FISCAL SPONSOR

Marin Audubon serves as fiscal sponsor for two organizations:

- **Marin Baylands Advocates** In a relationship that is more than 30 years old, MBA partnered with MAS to protect properties by raising funds and strategizing for acquisition of baylands.
- **Marin County Breeding Bird Atlas 2** We renewed our sponsorship of the Atlas under new leadership. More than 220 volunteers surveyed Marin County breeding birds. The data collected will be used to identify and assess breeding birds in Marin County.

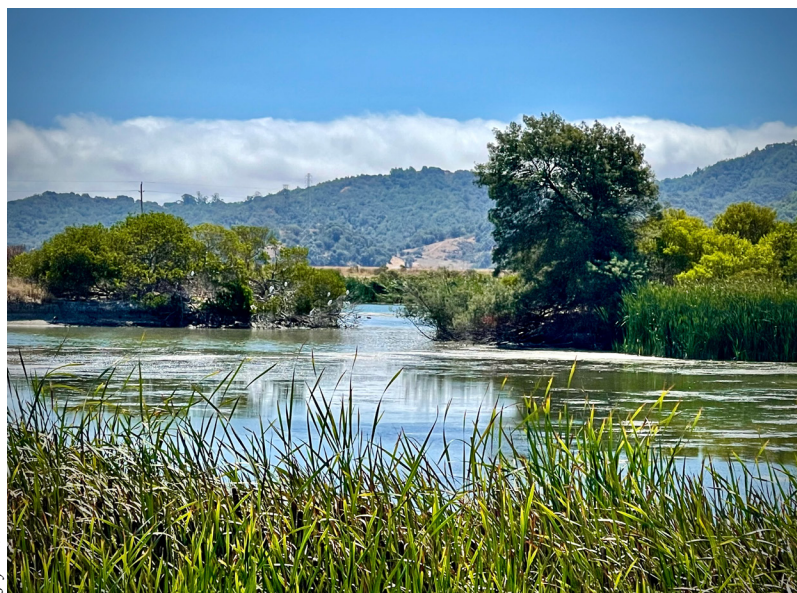
CONSERVATION ADVOCACY

We’ve been active with many projects and issues, working to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat:

- **Farallon Islands Mouse Eradication Plan** We testified at the California Coastal Commission consistency determination hearing in support of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s plan to eliminate invasive house mice from the islands. Representing MAS, M.J. Schramm has continued to work and speak in support of the USFWS’s plan at Commission’s open time.
- **Richardson Bay Anchor-outs** We continued to advocate for removal of anchor-outs, to protect eelgrass and wildlife resources of Richardson Bay. We commented on the

Richardson Bay Regional Agency agreement with BCDC, the Eelgrass Restoration Plan, the Transition and Mooring Field plans.

- **Northern Spotted Owl (NSO)** For a third year, we advocated for this threatened species: we sent informational letters to residents near NSO nest sites; with the help of the Open Space District, we conducted a docent program during time young are leaving the nest. We also advocated for NSO protection in other venues such as the Greater Ross Valley Defensible Space Project.
- **State Route 37** Participated in processes organized to address the traffic problem on SR 37: CalTrans, PEL (Planning and Environmental Linkages), Policy Committee (made up of elected officials) and the Baylands Group (made up of environmental organizations). Many agencies and organizations are engaged in processes that will result, hopefully, in a project that will replace the current SR 37 with a design that will improve traffic flows while protecting and enhancing and restoring, the historic baylands of the North Bay.
- **Fire Management and FERN (Fire and the Environment Resilience Network)** Worked as part of FERN (consisting of the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin, California Native Plant Society and MAS), attending meetings (e.g. ESP and MWPA) and reviewing environmental documents for vegetation removal projects.
- **San Geronimo Valley Stream and Creekside Ordinance** Supported the ordinance negotiated by SPAWN through their lawsuit. This ordinance will improve protection of riparian habitat to support salmonids and the many other species that depend on this riparian habitat. Our only objection was the allowance for removal of species of native trees without review. Supervisors adopted the ordinance.
- **Point Reyes National Seashore Management Plan** Commented on the consistency determination evaluation by the California Coastal Commission raising issues about the adequacy of the plan to protect natural resources of the Park. MAS’s position is that current family members be allowed to stay, but, when no family members are interested in ranching, the lands should be restored to nature.
- **Point Reyes National Seashore Tomales Point Management Plan** Submitted scoping comments containing issues to be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement on revising policies for management of the confined eel population at Tomales Point.
- **Corte Madera Inn/Residence Inn** The applicant revised the project to retain the



**Las Gallinas Wildlife Pond**

pond, that MAS and many others have advocated protecting, as part of the project design that was approved by the Corte Madera Town Council.

- **Paradise Drive Complete Streets Project, Corte Madera** Advocated for locating this proposed multi-use trail on the south side of Paradise Drive so that impacting the Triangle Marsh would be avoided.
- **Plan Bay Area** Submitted comments requesting more attention to protecting environmental resources.

all-glass design for the new office building as being unsuitable in such a high wildlife-use area, and that any glass used should be wildlife friendly.

- **San Rafael Quarry** Commented to the county urging revision of the Quarry Wetlands Restoration Plan, pointing out deficiencies in the Plan and the lack of biologically sound management by Dutra. Supervisors approved the update with no changes in the Plan.

- **Water Supply MMWD** Urged stronger conservation requirements to address drought.
- **San Rafael General Plan** Our comments recommended ways to improve wetland buffers and protections for streams and native trees.
- **Las Gallinas Wildlife Pond** Advocated for the protection of the wildlife pond and its continued management for wildlife. Also commented on the

- **Fremont Road** Commented to the San Rafael Planning Commission to protect redwood trees within a Northern Spotted Owl activity center.

## MAS BOARD MEMBERS PARTICIPATION

- **Lagunitas Creek Advisory Committee** Committee to protect salmonids. Barbara Salzman represented MAS.
- **Monarch Working Group** Led by MAS Board Member Ed Nute, worked to create monarch habitat.
- **Baylands Group** The voice for North Bay wetlands in the effort to improve traffic conditions along State Route 37. Barbara Salzman represented MAS.
- **San Francisco Estuary Partnership** Produced the Estuary Blueprint and oversees projects to benefit the estuary. Barbara Salzman represented MAS.
- **Environmental Roundtable** Organized by the Marin County Parks (MCP) to focus on protecting natural resources on MCP lands. Barbara Salzman and Bob Hinz represented MAS.

## CONSERVATION UPDATES

### ANCHOR-OUTS

The Richardson Bay Restoration Authority has decided not to pursue a mooring field. Instead, they will use their limited funds to pay anchor-outs to leave the anchorage. MAS has consistently opposed legitimizing anchor-outs in the bay which, establishing a mooring field, could do.

### BARRED OWLS

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service has begun an environmental review process to assess methods to manage the invasive Barred Owls that are threatening survival of the native Northern Spotted Owl population.

### FERN

We've reviewed and submitted comments on the Southern Marin Fuel Break Project and, through FERN, on the West Marin Evacuation Route Project.

### MMWD RECREATION PLANNING

Marin Water, MMWD's new name, has begun a process to develop a plan for recreation use of watershed lands. Workshops are being held to

provide opportunities for the public to express their views.

We urge members to attend and speak up for protecting the habitats of the watershed for the wildlife that depend on them as well as for passive enjoyment by users. Pressure for more trails and more bike use, including electric bikes, can be expected to continue. The next workshop is scheduled for September 22. To find out more, Google "Marin Water Watershed Recreation Planning Process."

### STATE ROUTE 37

The Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) a planning process that has been underway for more than a year, has identified the current alignment (Alternative 5) as its preferred route for an improved State Route 37. The process analyzed 10 alternatives with extensive input from a steering committee of interest groups and individuals. The intent of the PEL process is to inform and shorten environmental review, which often lengthens the timing for project review. We agree Alt. 5 is environmentally preferable, are hopeful

Caltrans will also choose it and that funding can be found to move ahead with environmental review quickly.

### POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE WATER QUALITY

The Water Quality Plan for Point Reyes National Seashore has been scheduled for a review hearing before the Coastal Commission. The staff report describes the testing and monitoring program the National Park Service and Regional Water Board has begun to implement for the purpose of improving water quality conditions. Our task is to evaluate whether the progress is adequate and we are doing that as *The Rail* goes to press.

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

To review the plan, go to <https://documents.coastal.ca.gov/reports/2022/9/Th10b/Th10b-9-2022-exhibits.pdf>.



## HABITAT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

For the next two months we will continue our summer watering for the newer plantings at the Triangle and Corte Madera Marshes. Two species of annual invasive plants, *Salsola soda* and *Dittrichia graveolens*, also get our attention in the fall. Both are relatively easy to pull. Previous years' work has practically eliminated *Dittrichia* but it is widespread in the county and a few seeds from off-site could become trouble.

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: September 3, October 1

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: September 10, October 8

Meet at the end of Industrial Way near Trader Joe's in Greenbrae. For up-to-date information, contact Martha Jarocki, [marthajarocki@gmail.com](mailto:marthajarocki@gmail.com) or phone 415/461-3592.

#### Bahia, Novato:

If you'd like to help, please contact Jude at [judestalker@gmail.com](mailto:judestalker@gmail.com).

### THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS

Debbie Ablin, Annette Anzalone, Bob Hinz, Martha Jarocki, Jude Stalker, Lowell Sykes, Jude Stalker, Dana Morawitz, Skye Thompson, Katharine Cagney, Linda Nocoletti, Alison Pence, Kathy Lake, Sam Collier – Lake, Terry Morawitz, Jutta Burger, Bob Huttar, Loralie Young

**Groups:** CP Lab Safety of Novato (at Schoonmaker Point Marina removing Invasive sea lavender); Marin Sonoma Impact Ventures (at Bahia mulching new plantings); and Pathways Climate Institute (at CalTrans Manzanita Park & Ride property removing invasive sea lavender)

## Junior Birdwatchers

The Junior Birdwatchers program is lots of fun and very informative for elementary and high school students.

There are several levels to study, learning about bird identification and their habitats and behaviors.

Our first level includes these local birds: American Crow, American Robin, Bald Eagle, Brown Pelican, Canada Goose, Great Blue Heron, House Finch, Mallard, Mourning Dove and Western Scrub-Jay.

This is a wonderful activity for family members and family friends to do with their children!

The program details are found at [www.marinaudubon.org/birds/junior-birdwatchers](http://www.marinaudubon.org/birds/junior-birdwatchers).

# The Clean Water Act is 50!



**Petaluma Marsh, a beneficiary of the Clean Water Act, was destined to become landfill.**

The Clean Water Act provided the framework for protecting wetlands. Without it most, if not all, of our wetlands would likely have been filled.

Recognizing that wetlands improve water quality, regulating the loss of wetland is central to the Clean Water Act. The Army Corps of Engineers was chosen as the permitting agency for reviewing projects to fill wetlands because they were the only agency that had a structure for permitting. Other agencies, the Regional Water Boards, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and others, have a more prominent role now.

The Corps is still the primary agency regulating wetlands, issuing permits to fill wetlands and waters of the U.S. under section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Without the Clean Water Act, the 182-acre Petaluma Marsh site we were able to purchase, permanently protect and restore to tidal marsh would have become part of the landfill. We would have lost the Bahia wetlands to a large housing development and the diked wetlands at Canalways north of Target in the City of San Rafael, would also have been developed.

The Corps actually denied a permit to fill Canalways and we are still hopeful this 85-acre site can be restored to tidal marsh.

The Clean Water Act also established requirements that are carried out in California by the State Water Resources, and Regional Water Boards. Those regulations have cleaned up the waters of the Bay through requirements of discharges from sanitary districts, landfills, developments, roads and agricultural lands.

The environmental benefits the Clean Water Act has made possible are unparalleled, and very good reason to celebrate.

## Announcing Release of Estuary Blueprint

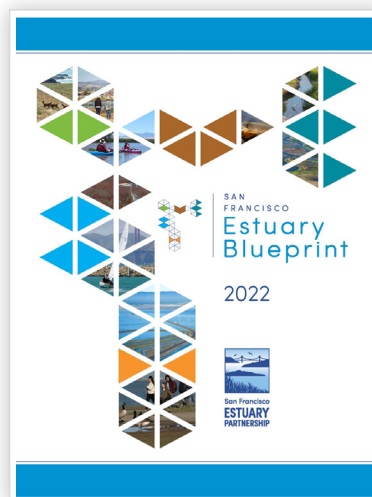
The Estuary Blueprint maps out regional actions needed for a healthy, resilient San Francisco Estuary.

The Blueprint, produced by the San Francisco Estuary Partnership (formerly Estuary Project), is the most comprehensive plan for the ecological health of the Estuary. Its 25 actions advance multiple goals and objectives and represent a cohesive, comprehensive approach to address the most pressing threats to the Estuary over the next five years.

The Blueprint identifies top actions needed to:

- Increase climate resilience
- Improve water quality for animals and people
- Create healthier habitats and wildlife
- Contribute to thriving human communities

Originally created in 1993 under the title "Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan," (referred to commonly as the "CCMP"), the Blueprint has now undergone several updates. To access the Blueprint, download the ADA-compliant PDF for easy web viewing, or download its print format for beautiful hardcopies at [www.sfestuary.org/estuary-blueprint](http://www.sfestuary.org/estuary-blueprint).



# Monarch Butterfly has joined the IUCN endangered list



Ed Nute

## Monarch Caterpillar feeds on Narrow-leaf Milkweed on MAS Simmons property

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has classified North America's iconic migratory monarch butterfly as endangered. Created in 1948 and headquartered in Switzerland the IUCN is the world's most comprehensive scientific authority on the status of species. The IUCN's "Red List" categories define the extinction risk of species in the wild. The IUCN listing is different from Federal endangered species status which would qualify it for legal habitat protection and threat reduction. In 2020 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service acknowledged that the monarch butterfly qualified for endangered species listing but other species took priority. Hopefully this will change in the future.

There are two migratory populations of monarchs. East of the Rocky Mountains monarchs overwinter in a specific forested area in Mexico and migrate as far north as Canada. The western population overwinters in coastal California including Bolinas, Stinson Beach and Muir Beach and monarchs migrate into Oregon, Nevada, Idaho, and as far north as British Columbia. Astoundingly this migration occurs over several generations, so the monarch returning to an overwintering site will be the great or great great progeny of the monarch which left the overwintering site 8 to 10 months before.

The Western Monarch Thanksgiving and New Year's counts coordinated by the Xerces Society and Mia Monroe, count founder and long time volunteer, have documented an extreme decline in monarchs overwintering in coastal trees of California and northern Baja. The first such count in 1997-98 found over 1.2

million overwintering monarchs. Over the years this number has trended downward and in 2020-21 it plummeted to a low in coastal California less than 2,000 monarchs. This low resulted in a "Call to Action" in which federal, state, community organizations as well as the general public have undertaken efforts to help monarchs. The most recent count in 2021-22 found over 247,000 overwintering monarchs on the coast. No one can explain this bounce and people are cautioned not to become too complacent since this may only be a one time jump.

The only host plant for monarchs is the toxic milkweed. Unfortunately, rampant herbicide use in agricultural areas, such as the California Central Valley, has devastated stands of milkweed and nectar plants, which would commonly grow in waste areas and cropland margins. Fortunately, there is now a big effort to plant more milkweed and nectar plants and also limit pesticide use so the migrating monarchs have a chance.

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In 1998 more than 1.2 million overwintering monarchs were counted. In 2021 it plummeted to fewer than 2,000.

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Marin Audubon started to plant the native narrow leaf milkweed on part of its Simmons property in 2019. This effort has now been expanded to three locations with over 300 milkweed plants as well as a number of nectar plants. Work to date been done by volunteers at minimal expense. This year Marin Audubon received a \$3,000 grant from the Marin County Fish and Wildlife Commission for the purchase of milkweed and nectar plants. Planting will take place this winter.

Last summer a number of monarch eggs and caterpillars were observed on the milkweed at two of these sites. Despite predation by birds, yellow jackets, parasitic wasps etc., a number of chrysalises were also observed which means that some monarch butterflies successfully eclosed (hatched).

## THANK YOU, DONORS

Beverly Birnbaum, Blackbaud Giving Fund, Greg and Giselle Block, Juliana Bonicalzi, Deborah Brown, Faith and Stephen Brown, Tempe Brown, Kathleen Burke, Patricia Buzzotta, California Alpine Club Foundation, William Clarke, James Cleaves, Guy Craig, James Forsell, John Davis, Nancy Drew, Elaine Drude, Cindy Edwards, Heather English, Emily Ennis, Helen Fauss, Lee Fitzgerald, Ross Flewelling, Lewis Fredrickson, Nancy Frost, Marilyn Fye, John and Barbara Ganem, Thomas & Jennifer Gellini, Lisa Glaser, Mary Gleim, Rudolph Goerke, Carl and Donna Gowan, Steve Grayson and Barbara Kriz, Nadine Greenwood, Sharon Hampton, Michael and Valerie Hancock, Nancy Hanson, Sheila Harrington, Thomas Heinz, Sheila Hershon, Wanda Hosford, Elizabeth Jameson, Susan Janson, Robert Keller, Bonnie and Peter Jensen, Madeline Kellner, Kipp Family Bequests, Joe Kirkbride, William Klemme, Lelia & Larry Lanctot, Ron and Sondra Lanstein, Judith Lichterman, Carolyn Losee, Marion Love, Lynn MacDonald, Virdinia and Munro Magruder, Ron and Amanda Mallory, Marin Garden Club, Daniel Mardesich, Nancy Anne Marshall, Sarah Martin, Sandra Massen, Bob and Sandy Mauceli, Sharon McCloskey, Olga McKenna, Rohana McLaughlin, Susan Mellen, Jean Moore, John and Ana Hilda Mosher, Kari Mueller, Larry Mulryan, Eileen Murray, Lloyd Nakamura, David Neuman, Meg Newcomer, Linda Nicoletta, Elizabeth Niewiarowski, Larry and Maxine Nilsen, Susan Peters, Rebecca Oliver, Phil Peterson, Steve Piatek, Jessie Powell, Alissa Ralston, Patricia Raven, Kate Richardson, William Richardson, Marianne Riser, John and Susan Ristow, Jillian Robinson, Anne Ruben, Andrina Ruzick, Charlotte Scherman, Julianne Schrick, David and Maria Scott, Natalie Shapiro, Joanne Solberg, Susan & Brian Stompe, Cathian Summa-Wolfe, Valorie Van Dahl, Kathryn Van Dyke, Nancy Warfield, Doug and Joyce Waterman, David Wiechers, Nancy Lee Willet, Stefan Williams, David Wimpfheimer, Brenda and Victor Wong, Amy Worth, Yvonne Yarbro; and to Bob Hinz and Barbara Benson, and Ron and Amanda Mallory, for gifts to the Breeding Bird Atlas project; and to Doreen Gluckin and Richard Kanter, and Leslie Doughty, for gifts in memory of long-time Marin Audubon member Leonard (Len) Blumin





# The Rail

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## SUPPORT MARIN AUDUBON SOCIETY — BECOME A CHAPTER-SUPPORTING MEMBER

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Join or Donate to the Marin Audubon Society

Please fill in this form and mail to the address below. If you are paying by check, please make it payable to **Marin Audubon Society**.

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