

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 7:00 PM**

**From Sea to Summit: The Marvelous Hummingbird**

With Benny Jacobs-Schwartz



Benny Jacobs-Schwartz

**Sword-billed Hummingbird**

Register for the September program on the MAS website's Speaker Series page.

Join us as we explore the magic of hummingbirds!

Hummingbirds are found from Alaska to the high Andes of South America – 360 species are recognized globally.

We'll discuss the remarkable hummingbird biology and their ecological significance. And you'll find out the best way to attract them to your garden. Along with stunning photographs, and amazing flight videos there will be a section in the program on how to identify the hummingbirds that appear in our local communities.

For more than ten years, Benny Isaac Jacobs-Schwartz has worked as a naturalist, international bird guide, educator, guidebook author, and professional photographer specializing in birds.

In his bird-watching walks, Benny's goal is "to inspire others to care about the wild spaces that often go unnoticed."

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12 7:00 PM**

**Central Valley Bird Status**

With John Sterling

IN THIS ISSUE	
President's Message	2
Field Trips	3
Conservation	3
Annual Report	4 – 5
Habitat Stewardship	6
Birdlog	7



# The Rail

MARIN AUDUBON SOCIETY

## Annual Report for FY 2022-23

**O**ur fiscal year 2022–23 has been a busy, productive, and challenging one. During the past year, several Board Members retired, and we welcomed two new Board Members who have become valued members of our team.

We continue our major sea-level rise and climate-change efforts, and most of our work addresses those threats. We continue to address regional and local issues of conservation concern, advance knowledge of birds through the citizen science work of the Breeding Bird Atlas and Christmas Bird Counts, support habitat protection and restoration through stewardship of our lands and acquisitions, broaden the understanding of the natural world through our programs and advocacy work, and we participate in equity programs to support multicultural communities.

In all, 205 volunteers contributed a total of 10,387 hours working on Marin Audubon activities. This includes hours the Breeding Bird Atlas and Marin Baylands Advocates contributed. We are grateful for the contributions these volunteers have made to Marin Audubon's accomplishments that benefit wildlife.

During the past year we've continued our established activities, our major projects, and begun new initiatives as presented below. While we hire experts to help with our programs and, specifically, our restorations, we are basically an all-volunteer organization.

### MAJOR PROJECTS

#### Addressing Climate Change/Sea Level Rise and Underserved Communities

Our **Tiscornia Marsh Restoration Project** addresses multiple issues of current concern. We continued to plan for restoring tidal marsh for endangered and other wildlife using sediments dredged from the Canal, improving the levee to stabilize the shoreline, increasing flood protection for the city, and upgrading the public trail. All of this will make the Canal community, the most diverse underserved community in Marin County, more resilient to

sea level rise and climate change. Through our project partner, Multicultural Center of Marin, the project has involved and informed residents about sea level rise and how it could impact the Canal community.

We're partnering with the Community Alliance in their new initiative, **Marin Climate Justice Collaborative**, funded by a grant to the Community Alliance, to work in the Canal Community to empower its residents to address climate change.

#### NOVATO CREEK BAYLANDS STRATEGY

With this new initiative, we are partnering with the San Francisco Estuary Institute, Marin *continued on page 4*

### Coordinator Needed for Southern Marin Christmas Bird Count

Marin Audubon will once again plans to sponsor three Christmas Bird Counts (CBC): Southern Marin, Cheep Thrills (Northern Marin) and Point Reyes. Ed Nute, who has coordinated the Southern Marin CBC since 2014, will not be returning in 2023. Bob Hinz will continue to do the heavy lifting of compiling the data. **We need a volunteer to take on the tasks to prepare for the count.** Ed has offered to help.

Coordinator responsibilities include communicating and coordinating with area leaders, replacing or adding count participants where needed and distributing information to volunteers. The coordinator also arranges the count dinner, if there is one this year. MAS will provide assistance and support.

For more information, contact Doug Waterman at [newsletter@marinaudubon.org](mailto:newsletter@marinaudubon.org) or 415/506-4675.

## 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	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 outreach@marinaudubon.org
Speaker Series	Mike Anderson 990-9784
Special Projects	Jude Stalker 680-6291
Nominating	Martha Jarocki 461-3592
Editor, <i>The Rail</i>	Doug Waterman 506-4675
Property Management	Clint Kellner 895-8591
Volunteer Coordinator	Ellena Ochoa volunteercoordinator@marinaudubon.org
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.

*The Rail* is published ten times a year by the Marin Audubon Society on 100% recycled paper; edited by Doug Waterman, [newsletter@marinaudubon.org](mailto:newsletter@marinaudubon.org), 506-4675; assisted by other members of MAS; and designed by Studio NaCl ([www.studionacl.com](http://www.studionacl.com)).

©2023 Marin Audubon Society

**Website:** [www.marinaudubon.org](http://www.marinaudubon.org)

Members can receive *The Rail* electronically instead of a hard copy by emailing [membershipsecretary@marinaudubon.org](mailto: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

Although conservation and habitat maintenance activities have continued during the summer, we only have space for a brief report on our conservation activities on page 5. Most of this September issue of *The Rail* is devoted to our Annual Report. We're proud of our accomplishments and hope you, our members, are too.

Looking to the year ahead, we expect we will bring to fruition some exciting opportunities to acquire and restore new habitats. We'll be continuing partnerships involving underserved communities, moving closer to constructing the Tiscornia Marsh restoration project, continuing to enhance habitats on properties we own, and hopefully settling the suits we are involved in to the benefit of our properties. During the next few months, our Board will be doing homework intended to make the rest of the year run smoothly. We're currently preparing our budget, reviewing and updating our Policies and Procedures, and looking at ways to improve efficiency and management of documents and membership data. And we will be involved in countywide and regional initiatives intended to improve habitats.

We're in need of a volunteer coordinator to help us continue the Southern Marin Bird Count. This is a significant activity that all Audubon Chapters sponsor. It is a way non-scientists can contribute to the understanding of bird population trends and it's fun to participate. It would be too bad if we have to skip this year because we don't have someone to do the necessary pre-count organization. If you care about this count continuing, please consider volunteering to coordinate it. See page 1 for more information.

We're also planning an **Open House** at our

Corte Madera Marsh property to show off progress of the tidal marsh, ongoing restoration work to create habitat on the upland, and offer an opportunity to tour the property inside the fence. See notice below for details.

Long-time Board Member **Ed Nute** has retired from our Board, but he's not saying goodbye. Ed has been a valued member, making important contributions to Marin Audubon's function for twenty-plus years. He's been a strong supporter of our purchasing and owning properties, has performed many tasks necessary to acquire and manage properties, including stewardship and revegetation responsibilities for them. Our thanks to Ed for his many contributions. We're pleased he will continue to help with properties and administrative tasks.

I'm excited to see the first shorebirds have returned: curlews have been at Corte Madera Ecological Reserve for several weeks now, and last week several small flocks of peeps were flying around there too. Adult shorebirds return from their northern breeding grounds in summer, leaving their young to return on their own. Truly an amazing migration.

As we gear up for the coming year, we welcome and encourage members to join us during what promises to be an exciting year by volunteering on our work days. You will be a part of what we do to benefit wildlife and our environment. We invite you to join us on our field trips and at our speaker series programs.

As we go to press, an invitation from the National Park Service arrived for a virtual meeting to present information on the proposed Tomales Point Area Plan i.e., management of and for the tule elk. See page 7 for more information on the meeting.

## Save the Date for Our Fall Open House

At the Marin Audubon Society's Marsh Restoration Project  
at the Corte Madera Marsh Ecological reserve

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 14 | 10 AM - NOON**

Join Marin Audubon Society for our Fall Open House at our Corte Madera wetland habitat next to the Corte Madera Marsh Ecological Reserve.

Hear how Marin Audubon acquired this five acre parcel, restored it to tidal marsh and reconnected it to the Ecological Reserve Marsh.

Learn about our ongoing stewardship work to create high tide refugia habitat for the Ridgway Rail, shorebirds, waterfowl and other wildlife.

See the upland refugia habitat and the native plantings, and view the tidal marsh from close up.

More details will follow in the October issue of *The Rail* and on MAS's website: [www.marinaudubon.org](http://www.marinaudubon.org).



## MAS FIELD TRIPS

Open to the public

MAS is providing a full schedule of free field trips for the 2023 season.

**Advance registration is required** for most of our trips, nearly all which have size limits to prevent overcrowding. Registration will open 10 days prior to the trip date on the Marin Audubon website's Field Trips page.

Trips can fill up quickly. Please register early to make sure you get a spot. If you won't be able to attend a trip that you have registered for, please use the "contact organizer" button on the Ticketbud trip description page so that the spot may be opened for someone else. If a trip is closed when you try to register, use the "contact organizer" button and request to be put on the waiting list.

The field trip to **VAUX'S SWIFTS AT MCNEAR BRICK AND BLOCK** will not be offered this year due to the owners decision not to allow groups on the property.

A view of the Swifts descent into the McNear chimneys can still be had from Point San Pedro Road where it borders the property near McNear Brickyard Road. Our Vaux's Swifts field trip was originally scheduled for September 20, between 5:30 and 7:30 PM.

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

Thursday, September 7, 2023 and  
Thursday, October 5, 2023

8:30 AM to noon

With Sande and Bob Chilvers

All 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. We especially welcome beginning birders on this leisurely walk around the ponds. Special thanks to Bob and Sande Chilvers for volunteering to lead our monthly walks in search of waterfowl, waders, songbirds, raptors, and shorebirds. Among other birds, we will see various species of rails, swallows and teals. 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.

### RODEO LAKE AND MARIN HEADLANDS

September 20

7:30/8:30 AM to noon

With William Legge and David Wiechers

Registration required for this trip. Registration opens on September 10 at 8 AM on the MAS website's Field Trips page.

Join William and David for this second fall migration field trip at Rodeo Lagoon. This is their long-time "patch," which never seems to disappoint birders with daily variations in species and a good chance of an unusual sighting. On this trip, our group will be targeting **Parasitic Jaegers**, migrating shorebirds and migrant passerines. We will begin the morning with a Sea Watch from Rodeo Beach 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.

### GOLDEN GATE RAPTOR OBSERVATORY, Hawk Hill

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

9:45 AM to noon

With Rich Cimino

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

The field trip, to the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory Hawkwatch wing measurement platform, is timed for the prime period for **Broad-winged Hawk** and **Black Swift** migration.

Restroom facilities are limited and a steep walk uphill on loose gravel. Wear layered clothing.

**DIRECTIONS:** From 101 south to exit 442 toward Alexander Ave. Right on Alexander Ave, after 0.3 mi turn left on Bunker Rd. (continue through the tunnel) for approx. 1.2 miles, turn left on McCollough Rd, in approx. 0.9 mi at the traffic circle, take the 2nd exit onto Conzelman Rd. for approx. 0.6 miles to the destination, where there is a parking area and a few portable restrooms nearby. Meet Rich at the parking lot at 9:45 AM.

### ABBOTT'S LAKE AND THE INVERNESS TENNIS AREA

Birding in Marin, Season 8 – Trip 10

Saturday, October 7, 2023

8:30 AM to mid afternoon

With Jim White and Bob Battagin

Registration required for this trip. Registration opens on September 27 at 8 AM on the MAS website's Field Trips page.

Abbott's Lagoon on the Pacific Coast in the Point Reyes National Seashore is one of Marin's premier birding locations with an eBird sum of 283 species. Coastal fall migration south brings many birds to this area. Some include **Ferruginous Hawk**, **Baird's** and **Pectoral Sandpipers**, **Red-necked Phalaropes**, **Lapland Longspur**, **Horned Lark** and **Pipits**. Hundreds of ducks of a dozen species, geese, herons, **Peregrines** and **Ospreys** are also likely visitors. Out and back is about 3 miles (some in sand) and Jim likes to do a full 5-mile loop. Pack a lunch for a picnic on the beach and bring a couple of layers for the fresh ocean air.

After, we'll stop along Tomales Bay near the Inverness Tennis Club to look for Pine and Alder woodland birds. A surprising number of species have been seen here and there is a beach where we usually find several kinds of gulls.

**DIRECTIONS:** From Point Reyes Station on Hwy 1 go just south of town, right turn onto Sir Francis Drake Blvd, follow that through Inverness into the Point Reyes National Seashore. Go north on Pierce Point Rd. The parking lot is on the left in about 3 miles. Car pool if you can, allow 1.5 hours from San Rafael.

## CONSERVATION UPDATES

### Bolinas Wye Wetlands Restoration Project Coming

Changes are coming to Bolinas Lagoon with Marin County's Wye Wetlands Restoration Project, the design for which has been under development for ten years. When the Open Space District gets the funding, the hydrologic and biological connections at the north end of the Lagoon will be restored by the Project. The western section of Bolinas-Fairfax Road (called the Cross-over Road) will be removed from Highway 1 to the Olema-Bolinas Road to allow for the free flow of Lewis Gulch Creek to the lagoon and restoration of adjacent riparian and wetland habitats. The connection from Highway 1 to Olema-Bolinas Road will be farther north, and a section of the road will be on a causeway allowing further hydrologic restoration.

The public comment period for the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration of the Project ended on August 8. MAS's comments supported the restoration, especially reducing the road footprints. We asked for more information on the proposed mitigation for the trees that would be removed. The IS reported that 126 trees would be removed and, as mitigation, 1,246 trees would be planted, a ten-fold increase. The species of mitigation trees were not identified, and whether there would be space in the removal area for all of them to be planted was not clear. The IS mitigation was vague about the placement of the mitigation trees. We want assurance that all of the trees would be native and planted in an area where they would directly benefit the natural resources of the lagoon.

### REPORT BARRED OWL SPOTTINGS

Barred Owls have extended their range to the west coast and have been seen in Marin. There is 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://marinaudubon.org/2020/09/01/alert-report-barred-owl-spottings>.





**Tidal marsh at Bahia. Restored by Marin Audubon Society in 2008.**

## Annual Report

*continued from page 4*

County Public Works, and the San Francisco Estuary Partnership to develop a strategy that will lead to restoring the diked baylands in the lower Novato Creek watershed.

### MAINTAINING AND ENHANCING HABITATS

MAS owns and maintains more than 525 acres of bayland habitats along San Francisco and San Pablo Bays, thereby ensuring they will be permanently protected and will continue to provide habitat for wildlife and many benefits for people.

We've had volunteer Stewardship Work Days at three sites: Triangle Marsh and Corte Madera Ecological Reserve, both in Corte Madera, where volunteers help to enhance upland transition habitat adjacent to tidal marsh. Also, at our Simmons Slough property, on Atherton Avenue in unincorporated Novato, our volunteers planted milkweed and pollinator plants to support monarch butterflies and other species. We also continue to remove invasive plants and install native species to outcompete invasive species and enhance levee habitat and seasonal wetland habitat at Bahia.

- **Monarch Project** This project, under the direction of Ed Nute, created habitat for monarch butterflies and other species with

the installation of more milkweed and pollinator plants this year.

- **Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW)** Habitat at Bahia benefitted from Marin County elementary school students planting native plants through the STRAW program of Point Blue Conservation Science.
- **Limonium Removal** Under this program, in coordination with the California Invasive Plant Council, Board Member Jude Stalker organized volunteers to remove the invasive species (*Limonium latifolium*) from a number of private properties along the Sausalito waterfront. We also hired a crew to help.

### PROTECTING SPECIES AND HABITATS

- **Northern Spotted Owl (NSO) Protection Program** We've continued our program of mailing packets, containing information about NSOs, their biology, and ways to protect them, to residents within a quarter mile of NSO nests. Board Member Elyse Omernick has, again this year, worked with our partner the Marin County Open Space District to manage a docent program.
- **Grants** We were awarded grants from the Marin County Fish and Wildlife Commission, the California Alpine Club Foundation, and the RHE Charitable Foundation all to help restore habitat at Bahia. A grant from the Ocean Protection Council is supporting the Tiscornia project. We were awarded another grant from the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority to support the first phase of construction at Tiscornia, improving the levees.

- **Legal** We engaged legal counsel to address potential loss of access rights to two of our properties: 1) Calpark, in unincorporated San Rafael – we were sued by the adjacent property owner who wanted to quiet title to paper streets in this 1972 subdivision; and 2) Deer Island Storage easements on our Simmons property in unincorporated Novato – actions by the new owner of the storage facility are threatening our access to our own property.

We joined with others in a lawsuit to require environmental assessment of the impacts of tourist planes and helicopters flying over the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), Point Reyes National Seashore, and Muir Woods National Monument. We are represented by the Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility.

### SPONSORSHIPS

- **Marin County Breeding Bird Atlas 2** MAS is serving as fiscal sponsor for the Breeding Bird Atlas 2, now in its third year of gathering data on breeding birds in Marin. We also serve as fiscal sponsor for **Marin Baylands Advocates**, our partner organization providing, over the last 30 years, funds and other support for acquiring baylands.
- **Christmas Bird Counts** We continued to sponsor three Christmas Bird Counts: Southern Marin, Cheep Thrills (Novato area), and Point Reyes.

### EDUCATION

**The Rail, Speaker Programs, and Field Trips continue.** Our primary education tool is our newsletter, The Rail, chock full of conservation

news, birding updates, and other matters of Audubon interest. Although attendance for some of our field trips is still limited, we added a few to expand opportunities for participants to join. Speaker programs continue on Zoom. Our advocacy to protect natural resources also offers opportunities to educate decision-makers and the public. For elementary school-age children, our Junior Birdwatchers program is available on our website, and the STRAW program involves students planting native plants at Bahia.

### CONSERVATION ADVOCACY

During the past year, MAS commented on general plans, proposed development, and other types of projects that could adversely affect natural resources, and we participated in public and private processes. We focus our conservation advocacy work on protecting wildlife and its habitats.

- **Larkspur General Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR)** We submitted comments on the draft EIR recommending policies that would protect endangered species, wetlands, native trees, and streams, and to correct significant deficiencies in the “Biological” chapter.
- **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.
- **Marin County Housing Elements for General Plans** We recommended that Marin County eliminate or reduce housing numbers proposed on sites that have wetlands or diked baylands, including 300 Olive, Jack Krystal, parcels surrounding our property at Calpark, and Vincent/Silveira.
- **Roy’s Redwoods Preserve Enhancement Project** Our comments on the Marin County Open Space District Restoration Plan for this Preserve in San Geronimo focused on protecting Northern Spotted Owls and floodplain habitats.
- **Stinson Beach Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment** We participated in a focus group and commented on the draft Assessment to protect wetlands in the vicinity.
- **Battery Storage Facility proposed on baylands at Highway 101 and State Route 37** We opposed a plan to build a battery storage facility on a diked bayland near Bel Marin Keys. The applicants did not complete their application, thereby abandoning the project when the application

termination date was reached. Supervisors adopted the ordinance.

- **Marin Water (formerly MMWD) Recreation Plan** We’ve followed this ongoing effort by Marin Water to develop a plan for recreation on the watershed. While protection of the watershed habitats should be central, Marin Water has focused completely on recreational uses.
- **Sand Mining Supplemental EIR** We submitted scoping comments on reissuance of permits by the State Lands Commission for two companies to continue to mine sand (used in construction) from the waters between Angel Island and the Marin shoreline. We requested that the EIR address impacts on whales, other marine mammals and species now using this part of the Bay.

### ONGOING CONSERVATION

- **Farallon Islands Mouse Eradication** We continue to advocate for protection of the Islands’ ecosystem through the US Fish and Wildlife Service’s Mouse Eradication Plan. Our volunteer M. J. Schramm comments regularly to the Coastal Commission on our behalf in support of the Plan.
- **Impacts of Fire Suppression Activities on Habitats** Attempting to limit the loss of understory habitat requires attending various hearings, Board and committee meetings, and commenting on projects. With significant local, state, and federal funding available to remove vegetation, protecting habitat seems insurmountable.
- **Richardson Bay Anchor-Outs** We continued to observe the Richardson Bay Regional Agency in its efforts to rid the Bay of anchor-outs by 2026, in accord with its agreement with BCDC. Continuing oversight is important to ensure the Agency doesn’t slip from its commitment.
- **State Route 37** Following this issue and advocating for the protection of the extensive baylands along this route has involved commenting on planning documents, participating in many public hearings and meetings, including Planning and Environmental Leadership (PEL), and committee meetings consisting of environmental representatives, elected officials, and agency representatives.

### PARTICIPATING IN ONGOING COMMITTEES

- Barbara Salzman represents MAS on county and regional committees:
- **Lagunitas Creek Advisory Committee** – a committee of Marin Water The purpose is to protect the endangered salmonids whose spawning habitat was impacted by the construction of the dam around Lake Lagunitas.

- **Environmental Roundtable** Meets monthly to review open space projects and species on Marin County Open Space Preserves. Bob Hinz also represents MAS.
- **San Francisco Bay Joint Venture Works** to protect wetland habitats for wildlife.
- **San Francisco Estuary Partnership** Meets monthly to review open space projects and species on Marin County Open Space Preserves. Bob Hinz also represents MAS.

### Marin Audubon Society Statement of Financial Position As of June 30, 2023

#### ASSETS

Current Assets	
Operating Bank Accounts	45,066
Property Bank Accounts	154,382
Sponsee Bank Accounts	116,654
Vendor refund receivable	28,311
Total Current Assets	344,414
Real Property	4,667,993
Investment Account	1,806,415

**TOTAL ASSETS \$6,818,822**

### Marin Audubon Society Statement of Activities July 2022 – June 2023

#### REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Donations	102,960
Grant Income for Property, Restoration, and Enhancement	679,167
Membership	46,742
Events and Activities	6,549
Interest and Dividend Income	65,982
Marin Baylands Advocates Income	19,585
Breeding Bird Atlas Income	28,187

**TOTAL REVENUE & SUPPORT 949,172**

#### EXPENSES

Property Restoration, Enhancement, and Management	848,763
Professional Services	70,950
Office Supplies, Printing, and Postage	33,721
Program Expenses	8,350
Insurance	10,467
Property Parcel Taxes	10,900
Permits and Fees	822
Contributions	10,000
Other General Expenses	2,776
Marin Baylands Advocates Expenses	985
Breeding Bird Atlas Expenses	4,023

**TOTAL EXPENSES 1,001,757**

#### RESULTS FROM OPERATIONS (52,586)

Investment Gain – Realized and Unrealized	77,906
---	--------

**CHANGE IN EQUITY 25,320**

**TOTAL EQUITY – BEGINNING OF YEAR 6,793,502**

**TOTAL EQUITY – END OF YEAR \$6,818,822**



## HABITAT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Two annual invasive plants, Russian thistle (*Salsola soda*) and stinkwort (*Dittrichia graveolens*) are becoming visible and making their way toward seeds for next year. Both are relatively easy to pull but we dare not stop with one single sweep across our restorations; new plants will appear after we think that we got them all.

Join us on a workday. Doing the work with other folks makes the time go quickly and provides an opportunity to learn more about a native habitat of your county. Make a difference.

### Volunteer Workdays

#### Triangle Marsh, East Corte Madera:

First Saturdays: September 2, October 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: September 9, October 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](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, Ed Nute, Elena and Ted Ochoa, Dominic Oliveri, Lowell Sykes

### WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Susan Belway, Louise Bochkay, Barbara Borden, Barbara Braithwaite, Ruth Broady, Louise Brown, Michelle Brown, Natalie Carey, Carole Cassidy, Rachel Castrejon, Sally Champe, Joseph D. Cohon, Susanne Croley, Abby Cunningham, Robert Czeck, Georgette Dahlka, Evan Dahme, Merry Daily, Tapley Dawson, Jill Debroff, Tony DePrado, Nanci Dixon, Kathleen Fischer, William F. Geisler, Louise E. Gilbert, Patricia Goelz, Evelyn Goodman, Heather Gordon, Sara Gordon, Robert Hausner, Lynne Hoffman, Elizabeth Holt, Hallie Iglehart, Monica Jamieson, Stephen Johnston, Caroline Kingsley, Carolyn A. Kohler, Julie Lehman, Lisa A. Levine, Sandra Lum, Dawn Madole, Susan McConneloug, Marcia McEwen, Lucy McIntyre, Kathleen McTernan, Jeanne Moe, Sascha Nikolai, Alston Paff, Eric R. Palubinskas, Katherine Perry, Rebecca Phelps, Richard Reginato, James Revoir, Gregory Rice, Alice Rich, Elizabeth Riviere, Clare Rojas, Sherrill Schaefer, Sung-Ji Schmidt, Becky Schmitz, Sher Sheldon, Peter Sonnen, Katie Straub, Kenji Tomita, Linda Tunner, Gretchen Wallerich, Brennan Zerbe

## HABITAT STEWARDSHIP

### BAHIA

It has been 15 years since the Bahia tidal marsh restoration was completed, and our last monitoring report is due this year. Field work for this monitoring is being conducted this summer by the ESA. We expect the evaluation of the restored tidal marsh to be positive. The 356 acres we restored look just great. We estimate that the marsh is more than 90 percent vegetated with native marsh plants.

Tending the levee plants that we installed last winter on our property around the Homeowners lagoon has not gone so well, however. With the extensive rain last winter, a seasonal wetland developed, covering an area that was used in past years for truck access to the levee by STRAW and the crews we hired to work on another section. STRAW is planting on one side of the levee and MAS's crew is planting the other side. The blocked vehicle access and other issues delayed watering. As we go to press, the irrigation is back on track. The seasonal wetland was lovely while it lasted. It had dried up by late July.

### CORTE MADERA ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

We've hired a crew to help remove the major infestation of non-native Harding grass and some other non-natives on the uplands adjacent to the tidal marsh we restored five years ago. They've been cutting, digging them out, and then covering the cut plants with landscape cloth.

It's also the time for our last monitoring report required by the permitting agencies for the marsh restoration completed five years ago. We've engaged Environmental Science Associates (ESA) to prepare the report. Field work was conducted over the summer and we expect the draft report to be released in the fall. We expect the problem with invasives to be recognized, but evaluation of the tidal marsh should be positive as the marsh met goals of coverage with native marsh plants at the last monitoring, two years ago.

### SIMMONS SLOUGH

The extensive planting of milkweed and nectar plants has paid off this year. The stands of



Barbara Salzman

New seasonal wetlands at Bahia

narrowleaf milkweed are vigorous and now flowering. During the month of July, several monarchs were seen patrolling the milkweed, possibly males looking for females. The last week of July two instar caterpillars were found, indicating that at least one female had visited sometime before. Instars are the stages of development of larvae. The fifth instar is when they build a chrysalis and then emerge as adults. As monarchs complete their migration and return to the Marin coast, we're hopeful that more will visit our milkweed and pollinator plants at Simmons.

### TISCORNIA MARSH

Over the summer, our Tiscornia engineers have redesigned a section of the coarse beach structure to lighten its weight and move it farther away from the PG&E tower, thereby providing more protection for the tower. We've been working with San Rafael engineers on fitting together the plan for the new levee with the plan for the adjacent soccer field improvement project. We also treated the highly invasive Perennial Pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*) along our shoreline and a large patch in Tiscornia marsh itself. It's unlikely we will be completely rid of it, but if not controlled, this highly invasive plant will overtake the newly restored marsh and levee slopes. Restoration areas are particularly vulnerable right after construction, when they are unvegetated, i.e., until the native plants we install grow. Also, we're in communication with the Wildlife Conservation Board and preparing our application for a grant from that agency for the second phase of construction. Phase 2 will include constructing the coarse beach, importing sediments dredged from the bay, and restoring tidal marsh.

# MARIN BIRDLOG: MAY 2023

By Noah Arthur

There have been some good spring vagrant seasons in Marin. There have been some really good vagrant seasons. And there has been 2023. This was by far the best spring for rare birds on Pt. Reyes in recent memory, and possibly the best single vagrant season here that anyone can remember. Given the sheer number of reports, the entire season couldn't fit in one Birdlog and this is just for the month of May.

Many semi-regular vagrants appeared in above-average numbers, collectively resulting in far too many reports to list individually here, even just for May. These included many **Tennessee**

**Warblers** (incredibly frequent on the Outer Point; probably 15+ total in May with multiple birds on some days), and two to several each of **Chestnut-sided Warblers**, **Ovenbirds**, **American Redstarts**, **Northern Parulas**, **Black-and-white Warblers**, **Indigo Buntings**, **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks**, **Eastern Kingbirds**, **Purple Martins**, **Townsend's Solitaires**, and Outer Point **American Crows**.

Things got going early with a Pt. Reyes vagrant wave in early May that started out with a **Blue Grosbeak** at the Pt. Reyes Fish Docks on the 4th. The 5th produced a late **Long-tailed Duck** at the Fish Docks (LH), and a first for the

Outer Point in a decade, a **Loggerhead Shrike** at Drakes Corner (LC). On the 6th a dark-morph **Swainson's Hawk** floated over Mendoza Ranch (LS & EM).

On the 7th, a pelagic trip out of Bodega Bay turned up several **Murphy's Petrels** and a **Hawaiian Petrel** in Marin waters. Back on the Point, a **Black-chinned Hummingbird** turned up at the Fish Docks on the 7th (EM). Three **Purple Martins** flew over Drakes Beach on the 8th (DM). A flyover **Sandhill Crane** at Muddy Hollow on the 9th (CP & SS) was already a very late record, but likely the same individual was seen again on the 13th flying over Pt. Reyes Oyster Farm (DS)!

A very late, sickly **White-throated Sparrow** still in Pt. Reyes Station on the 12th could have had avian flu (ES). Extremely rare on the Outer Point, an **Acorn Woodpecker** showed up at the Fish Docks on a foggy 17th (CA). On the 20th a **Phainopepla** turned up at Mt. Burdell (RY), and on the 21st, 2 **Bank Swallows** were hawking over Rodeo Lagoon (DW & WL).

One of the best birds of the season, a **Yellow-throated Warbler** was found at Mendoza Ranch on the 21st (CC). Also very rare in spring, a male **Blackburnian Warbler** was at the Fish Docks on the 23rd (BJ).

The first really massive Pt. Reyes vagrant wave of the season started on the 26th. Along with many regular vagrants, there was a **Least Flycatcher** at the Lighthouse (AM), and a **Cassin's Kingbird** along the road to the Lighthouse (LS). Regular in fall but very rare in spring, a **Clay-colored Sparrow** turned up at the Lighthouse (MD) and later reappeared at Mendoza. The 27th produced a fly-by **Lesser Nighthawk** at the Lighthouse stairs (LR), **Yellow-throated Vireo** at Fish Docks (MB & PR), another **Yellow-throated Warbler** at the Lighthouse (EMk) that later moved to Nunes, a very late **White-throated Sparrow** at the Lighthouse (LS), **Magnolia Warbler** at Drakes (LS), and rare for the Outer Point, a Nuttall's Woodpecker at Drakes Beach (LR).

One of the rarest reports came from the interior on the 28th, a **Black-throated Grey X Hermit Warbler hybrid** photographed on Shafter Grade Fire Rd. on the 28th (ML).

Back on the Point on the 29th a very late **Golden-crowned Kinglet** showed up at the Lighthouse (BB), and extremely rare for spring, a **Black-throated Blue Warbler** made a brief appearance at the Lighthouse (AB). The incredible peak of this vagrant wave came on the 30th, with new finds including **Eastern Phoebe** at the RCA Station (AB), **Cassin's Kingbird** near Mendoza (EM), **Hammond's Flycatcher** at the New Willows (CH & FF), **Northern Waterthrush** at Drakes (EM), **Cape May Warbler** at Mendoza Annex (AH), probable **'Eastern' Wilson's Warbler** at the Lighthouse (NA), and very rare for spring, a **Palm Warbler** at Nunes Ranch (CH).

The first half of June was more of the same, with some top highlights including a **Sedge Wren** near the road to the Lighthouse (not sure who found it), a **Mourning Warbler** at the Lighthouse (LC), **Eastern Wood-pewee** at the Fish Docks (LS), 3 **Royal Terns** in Bolinas Lagoon (first detection of 2 birds by PP) and 1 **Royal Tern** flying by off the Fish Docks (NA).

**OBSERVERS AND ACRONYMS** DS: Dan Singer, LH: Lisa Hug, LC: Lucas Corneliussen, LS: Lucas Stephenson, EM: Eddie Monson, DM: Dominik Mosur, CP: Carla Parkinson, SS: Sylvie Silverstein, ES: Emilie Strauss, CA: Caitlyn Ambrose, DA: David Assmann, DW: David Wiechers, WL: William Legge, RY: Rosie Yacoub, CC: Connor Cochrane, BJ: Bill Jones, MD: Mark Dettling, AM: Alex Merritt, LS: Lucas Stephenson, NA: Noah Arthur, LR: Levi Rehberg, MB: Mark Butler, PR: Pam Rotella, DS: Dessi Sieburth, FF: Frank Fabbro, EMK: Ethan Monk, BB: Brian Browne, AB: Aidan Brubaker, CH: Chris Hinkle, AH: Alex Henry, ML: Michael Long

## THANK YOU, DONORS

Paul Atkinson, Greg Block, Edgar Bowron, Sharon Bozic, Barbara Braithwaite, Deborah Brown, Faith Brown, Terry Carlson, Robert Casey, Rich Cimino, William Clarke, Jeffrey & Kate Colin, Alan Cowan & Cynthia Samson, George Curth, John Davis & Gwen Davis, Ashley Dumbra, Heather English, Roy Falk, Kathleen Foster, Barbara & Thomas Garman, Elizabeth Graham, Ann Sheree Greenbaum, Margaret Harrington, Thomas Heinz, Tom Hollowell, Beth Hunning, Victoria Jackson, Bonnie & Peter Jensen, Stephen Johnson, Robert Keller, Elizabeth King, Caroline Kingsley, Jocelyn Knight, Lelia Lanctot, Anne Libbin, James Lleaves, Nancy Marshall, Sarah Martin, Sharon McCloskey, Doyleen & Addison McMurtry, Gayle Mills, Margaret Milton, Jules Monson, Janet Moon, Larry Mulryan, Eileen Murray, Ruth Nash, Meg Newcomer, Vicki Nichols, On Point Land Management, J Morrow Otis, William Parrish, Robert Perez, Philip Peterson, Lawrence Plotnick, Madeline Provost, Jack Rabin, Patricia Raven, Stephen Pipstick & Meg Rosegay, William Richardson, Marianna Riser, Susan Ristow, Steve Ross, Marilee Rossi, Doretta Ruzzier, Paula Samuelson, Julianne Schrick, David & Maria Scott, David Sexton, Jill Sideman, Inez Skog, Mary Jo Sorenson, Susan Stompe, The Dharma Book Group, Shilpa Tilwalli, Vicki Valentine, James Walker, Nancy Warfield, Marion Weeks, Elizabeth Welch, David Wiechers, Brenda & Victor Wong, Jerald Young

## Tomales Point Area Management Plan

JOIN THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICES ON SEPTEMBER 7, 2023, 5 – 7 PM

Hear about the proposed Area Plan. The purpose of the Plan is to establish the management direction of Tomales Point for protecting natural resources, preserving cultural and historic resources, wilderness character and improving visitor experiences. Key components are elk and visitor management and visitor use. Three preliminary management alternatives will be presented. Your participation and input are encouraged.

The meeting registration link is [bit.ly/3P5PtDI](https://bit.ly/3P5PtDI).

You can submit your comment online at [parkplanning.nps.gov/tpap](https://parkplanning.nps.gov/tpap) or by mail or hand delivery to: Tomales Point Area Plan, c/o Superintendent, Point Reyes National Seashore, 1 Bear Valley Road, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956. Comment deadline is September 25, 2023.





# The Rail

MARIN AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

Box 599 | MILL VALLEY, CA 94942-0599

Return Service Requested

Time Value

### SAVE THE DATE

October 12 **Speaker Series:** Central Valley  
7:00 PM Bird Status  
With John Sterling

October 18 **Field Trip:** Rodeo Lagoon  
8:30 AM With William Legge and David  
Wiechers

November 2 **Field Trip:** The Ponds at  
8:30 AM Las Gallinas  
With Bob and Sande Chilvers

November 4 **Field Trip:** Las Gallinas and  
8:30 AM Hamilton Wetlands  
With Jim White and Bob Battagin

Check website for updates and details

♻️ Printed on 100% recycled paper

### 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**.

- Enroll me as a Chapter-Supporting Member
- Renewal
- New Member
- \$25 Annual rate for students (18 years and under) and seniors (65 and over)
- \$35 Basic
- \$50 Sponsor
- \$500 Patron
- \$100 Sustaining
- \$1,000 Benefactor
- Please accept my donation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Master Card
- Visa

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

This is a Gift Membership from:

Please send me *The Rail* by email only.

PAYMENT BY CREDIT CARD:

NAME ON CREDIT CARD \_\_\_\_\_

CREDIT CARD NO. \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_