

**Aves Argentinas: From Rescue to Resilience**  
Hernan Casanas and Tamara Zalewski



Blue-winged Macaw

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

For more than a century, Aves Argentinas has been at the forefront of bird and nature conservation in Argentina. Its mission is to protect birds and biodiversity through science, education, advocacy, and collaborations.

Hernan Casanas and Tamara Zalewski will discuss how, by tending to critically endangered bird species and landscapes, they have built large-scale conservation programs.

Hernan is the Executive Director of Aves Argentinas, responsible for the organization's strategies and the building of strategic alliances, which have been instrumental in the creation of nationally protected areas. He has a degree in biological sciences from the Universidad de Buenos Aires and has written more than 100 publications on the environment and ornithology.

Tamara grew up in Patagonia, where she learned to love and care for nature from a young age. She leads partnership development efforts, looking for partners worldwide who are driven to save species and ecosystems.

**Motus – Bird Movement and Tracking System**  
Kianna Leung

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# The Rail

MARIN AUDUBON SOCIETY

## New Potential Acquisition: Greater Bahia Acquisition Project

Following on our thrilling announcement in last month's *Rail*: Marin Audubon Society (MAS) is actively working on purchasing two large diked bayland parcels just north of the Rush Creek Marsh and Cemetery Marsh in northeast Novato. The parcels are currently used for grazing. The acquisition will enable MAS to restore the properties, totaling 323.28 acres, to tidal marsh, which will expand and reconnect the tidal marshes in the Petaluma River watershed.

Pinkston Slough separates the two parcels. The parcel to the north of the Slough also borders Gness Field Airport and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) diked seasonal wetland that surrounds the airport on two sides. The second parcel, south of Pinkston Slough, borders Binford Road and is north of the westernmost section of the Bahia tidal marsh that MAS restored 15 years ago. The Leveroni family has owned the parcels for decades and has managed them as part of their dairy operations. An old barn on the south parcel is located near Binford Road. Currently, a small section of the south property is leased to a landscape contractor.

The ecological importance of the properties stems from their historic bayland status, their location in the landscape, and their potential to be restored to tidal marsh. They are located in the center of a corridor of tidal marshes that encompasses the entire western side of the Petaluma River in Marin County. The corridor extends from the tidal marshes at Black Point, through Bahia, the CDFW's seasonal wetlands at the airport, Mira Monte Marina marshes, to the Petaluma Marsh. The Petaluma Marsh is the largest tidal marsh in the state that has



Greater Bahia Expansion Parcel sought by MAS for acquisition

never been diked.

As we have restored other tidal marshes we've purchased in the vicinity—the Petaluma Marsh Expansion project restored 100 acres in 2003, and Bahia Marsh restored about 300 acres in 2008 and 2010—we are looking forward to restoring these properties. We are eager to return these diked agricultural lands to tidal marsh so they can again be a functioning part of the ecosystem of the Petaluma River. The restored marshes will reconnect existing tidal marshes, restore a movement corridor for wildlife, and expand the tidal marsh habitat for fish and wildlife, including the endangered Ridgway Rail and Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse. The restoration project will include a setback ecotone levee that will provide transition habitat for marsh-dependent species, foraging and nesting habitat for the Black Rail, Salt Marsh Common Yellowthroat, and San Pablo Song Sparrow.

A wide-sloped ecotone levee will increase resiliency of the marsh by providing an expanse for tidal marsh to migrate landward, adapting to sea-level rise. The levee will also provide flood protection for adjacent vulnerable development along Binford Road and Highway 101.

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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.

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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](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

The seasons are changing, nights are getting longer. Even though our temperatures do not change as dramatically as lands to the north and east, autumn is in the air. It feels different. It's my favorite time of year. We can also tell it's autumn by the movement of birds. We're seeing more and more water birds stopping by to rest and refuel, while others will be staying for the winter. Upland birds are also changing. It's an exciting time to be interested in birds. Do join us on our field trips and/or get out to enjoy the birds on your own.

It's also a time to prepare for the winter months ahead. Fall is the time to be doing your yard work, your tree cutting and pruning, shrub trimming, and clearing. With breeding season over, there is no risk of adversely affecting nests or young birds.

Speaking of breeding, this year the Bald Eagle pair that nest along the Tiburon shoreline fledged three young. You may have been seeing more Bald Eagles flying around. Flocks are stopping for a while then moving on perhaps to their final wintering habitat. This is the fourth year they've successfully nested.

A new EPA regional administrator, Mike Marcucci, has recently been appointed and appears supportive. There is otherwise no sign of change on the federal level. Things even look glum at the state level, where the attack on the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) continues. At the Assembly Budget Committee hearings the week of September 9, many legislators expressed outrage that the worst provisions of SB 131 remained unchanged, in spite of promises to change them. In response, our assemblyman, Damon Connolly, introduced AB 1083 to address the major flaws in AB 131. AB 1083 will restore essential CEQA provisions for communities and the environment. The legislature is scheduled to vote on AB 1083 in January 2026. Do thank Assembly Connolly for supporting the environment.

We're looking for help with our treasurer tasks. See box on right to find out more.

Our board is also preparing for the year ahead by renewing and updating our Policies and Procedures and adopting an Annual Plan for the 2025-26 fiscal year. Our priorities are to begin construction on the Tiscornia Marsh Restoration Project, close escrow on the 323-acre diked bayland properties near Rush Creek, and begin work on our grant for the Regionally Advancing Living Shorelines project. Of course, we'll be continuing our usual activities.

**Correction:** In the September issue, the invasive plant, *Limonium latifolium*, was mistakenly identified as being removed from shorelines in Marin County. The species being removed are *Limonium ramosissimum* and *Limonium duriusculum*.

Help Needed with Treasurer Tasks

We are looking for a volunteer to help with our treasurer tasks. Accounting experience, and/or familiarity with Excel spread sheets, is desirable but not necessary. This is a Board position.

Responsibilities include processing receipts and disbursements and interfacing with accounting, finance and membership.

If you like what Marin Audubon does and are interested in part or all these responsibilities, please contact Mike Anderson at [mdander65@gmail.com](mailto:mdander65@gmail.com) or 415/990-9784 for more information.

UPDATED DATA ON MAS VOLUNTEERS

New data from the Point Reyes Christmas Count revises our totals to 571 volunteers and 13,342 volunteer hours because the Pt. Reyes Count data was not included.

The report presented last month on volunteers and volunteer hours spent on MAS projects was incomplete. The Point Reyes count had total of 125 participants, including 25 leaders, who spent 290 hours on the count. The numbers were lower than usual because the weather was horrific on the count day. Flooded roads and downed trees prevented many counters from getting to their assigned areas. About fifty people who were assigned to the count could not participate.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Cecilia Alighieri, Holly Beckner, Inez Blumenthal, Jeff Brown, Pamela D. Brown, Judy A. Calder, Thomas Caudle, Bruce Chernack, Jill P. Connolly, Jay Derieg, Curry L. Eckelhoff, Robert Eickwort, Thomas Ervin, Carol Fairchild, Anastasia Fiandaca, Chris Finch, Sarah Forsman, Roland G. Fuelle, Katie Gallagher, Linda Gerwig, Adi Desanna Girroir, Christine Heubach, Margaret Hoopingartner, Nina F. Howard, Karen Iacobucci, Barbara Kreitzberg, Shirley Lee, Sandra Levine MD, Kristina Mansbridge, Cynthia McGuinn, Phoebe E. Moyer, Chrissie A. Neukom, Lois Nole, Marjorie Paradis, Annelie Persson, Janis Phillips, Evelyn Reece, Judith Rice-Jones, Dylan Rivers, Ruth Rubin, Elinor Schell, Brigitte E. Schwager, Pamela Smith, Joan Taschian, Carly Tegt, Frances Vanloan, Katherine Wing, Nita Winter, Linda E. Wright, Diane Yates



## MAS FIELD TRIPS

Open to the public

MAS is providing a full schedule of free field trips for the 2024–2025 season.

**Registration is required for our trips** with size limits, which are used 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. If a trip is closed when you try to register, use the "contact organizer" and request to be put on the waiting list. **If you are unable to attend a trip you signed up for, use "Contact Organizer" to cancel so that someone on the waiting list will have an opportunity to attend.**

**In some instances, trip signups aren't available precisely at 8 AM but it doesn't mean the trip is full. PLEASE TRY TO REGISTER AGAIN A FEW MINUTES LATER.**

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

Thursday, October 2, 2025

Thursday, November 6, 2025

8:30 AM to noon

With Mark Clark

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

On this trip we especially welcome beginning birders to join Mark Clark, along with bird enthusiasts of all levels, on our monthly walk around the ponds at Las Gallinas. On our search we'll be looking for waterfowl, waders, songbirds, raptors, rails and swallows. We are likely to spot some interesting species, so come assist in our search.

The packed dirt paths around the ponds are wide, flat and easy to navigate. Heavy rain cancels. There is a portable restroom in the parking area for public use.

**DIRECTIONS:** 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.

### ABBOTTS LAGOON AND THE INVERNESS TENNIS AREA Birding in Marin, Season 10 – Trip 10

Saturday, October 4, 2025

8:30 AM to mid afternoon

With Jim White and Bob Battagin

Registration required for this trip.

Registration opens on September 24 at 8 AM on the MAS website's Field Trips page.

Abbotts Lagoon on the Pacific Coast in the Point Reyes National Seashore 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, 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. Plus, you get some exercise; out and back is about two miles (some in sand). Pack a lunch for a picnic on the beach and bring a couple of layers for the fresh ocean air and help us spot a rarity.

After leaving Abbotts Lagoon, we plan to 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 nice little beach where we usually find several kinds of gulls.

**DIRECTIONS:** From Point Reyes Station, on Hwy. 1 go just south of town, and turn right 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 Abbotts Lagoon parking lot is on the left, after about three miles. Carpool if you can, allow 1.5 hours from San Rafael.

### MARIN ART AND GARDEN CENTER Ross

Saturday, October 11, 2025

8 to 10:30 AM

With Rich Cimino

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

Our trip to Marin Art and Garden Center offers an opportunity to experience its 11 acres of spectacular gardens, which support several different habitats, including two water features. We'll listen for **Black-headed Grosbeak, Hairy Woodpecker, Band-tail Pigeon**. Both **White-breasted** and **Pygmy Nuthatches**, possible **Orange Crown, Wilson** and **Black-throated Gray Warblers**. Who knows, we may stumble on an exciting species visiting, like singing **Purple Finch** or **Western Tanager**.

Trails are flat and easy to navigate. The location has bathrooms and parking.

**DIRECTIONS:** Meet at 8:15 AM in the Main Art and Garden Center parking lot located at 30 Sir Francis Drake Blvd in Ross.

### RODEO LAGOON AND MARIN HEADLAND

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

7:30/8:15 AM to noon

With William Legge and David Wiechers

Registration required for this trip.

Registration opens on October 5 at 8 AM on the MAS website's Field Trips page.

Join William and David for this fourth 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 Jaeger**, migrating shorebirds and scarcer 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 8:15 AM for a circuit of the lagoon. A brief mid-morning "coffee-stop" is

planned at the Headlands Center for the Arts, and it would be appreciated if participants come willing to contribute via the onsite "tip-jar" as a thank you to the Headlands Center for the Arts for accommodating our group. This field trip is less suitable for beginners.

**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.

### OLOMPALI STATE HISTORIC PARK — FALL BIRD WALK

Saturday, October 15, 2025

8 AM to noon

With Rich Cimino and Evan Weissman

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

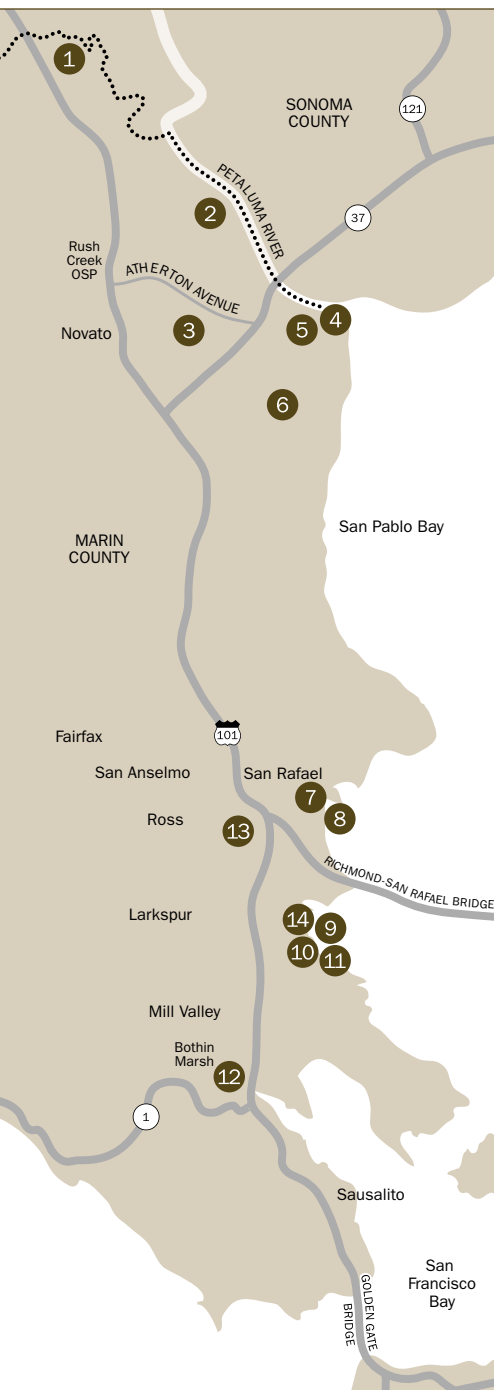
Join us to explore for fall migrants and year-round residents in Olompali's diverse ecosystems. Bird enthusiasts of all experience levels are welcome! We expect to see and hear thirty or more species – including woodpeckers, raptors, sparrows, and more – as we walk along the old ranch road, exploring grasslands, historic gardens, savannah, and up to the riparian zone by the park's small reservoir.

We'll walk at a fairly slow pace, about 2 miles roundtrip, on gravel and well-packed dirt trails, with moderate slope in portions. There are several picnic tables to rest at along the partially shaded route. Because the walk is a slow out-and-back, folks are welcome to join late or leave early as needed. Note that the only restrooms are at the parking lot.

Wear layered clothing, walking shoes, bring snacks, sunscreen, plenty of water, and binoculars and a birding field guide if you have one. We'll also have two binoculars to loan.

**There is an \$8 parking fee**, payable by cash, check, or via smartphone with QR code at the parking lot. No fee is charged if you borrow a free State Park pass from your local public library.

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# Conservation

## Potential Acquisition

*continued from page 1*

While the properties are zoned A60 and would not be easy to develop, it would not be impossible. Development, which would likely be industrial or commercial, would be a significant intrusion into the current habitat. Our acquisition would remove the threat of development forever.

According to our Purchase and Sale Agreement, escrow must close by mid-June 2026. We need that time to look into some title report questions and investigate conditions on the properties, including flood-control facilities, presence of hazardous materials, and, of course, raising sufficient money to complete the purchase. An appraisal has been completed, and the owners accepted a lower price that was supported by the appraisal.

We're fortunate to have Marin Baylands Advocates, our partner in permanently protecting baylands, helping to achieve this purchase. And both organizations are fortunate to have received a very generous bequest from Maureen Groper's estate (see adjacent article) that is helping to fund the acquisition. We will be applying to the Coastal Conservancy for a grant and are seeking donations from our members. To contribute send your donation to MAS, P.O. Box 599, Mill Valley, CA 94942 and identify as being for the property acquisition.

## LEGACY OF MAUREEN GROPER

Marin Audubon Society and Marin Baylands Advocates are fortunate to have been the beneficiaries of an IRA from the estate of Maureen Groper. Maureen was a friend to many of us in the environmental community. She loved wildlife and all animals. These two bequests, and others we are aware of, send a clear message that Maureen's interest was to support the protection of habitat for wildlife.

She knew Marin Baylands Advocates is dedicated to permanently protecting San Pablo and San Francisco Bay baylands, and that a major focus of Marin Audubon's is to protect wildlife habitat. She knew that Marin Audubon and Marin Baylands Advocates have been working together to acquire and permanently protect Marin's baylands for more than 30 years.

Maureen left half of her IRA to each organization. Both organizations have dedicated their portion of Maureen's bequest to the Bahia Expansion Acquisition. These bequests will be combined and, together, will cover a significant part of the \$3.4 million purchase price.

What more fitting legacy than to leave your estate to the permanent protection of habitat? We are forever grateful for Maureen's

most generous support of our efforts to protect habitat for wildlife and for people.

## ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR MINING ESTUARY SAND

The State Lands Commission (SLC) has released a "Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for Sand Mining in San Francisco Bay and Delta," analyzing applications from two marine aggregate companies, Martin Marietta Marine Operations and Lind Marine, to renew their leases for harvesting sand from San Francisco Bay and Suisun Marsh for 10 years. The application is for a project to mine 1,750,000 cubic yards of sand, a 14 percent reduction from the volume evaluated in the 2012 EIR (2,039,866 cubic yards) and extracted during the last 10 years. The SEIR reports that the sand removed is not replenished; it is lost to the estuary.

The SLC is responsible for overseeing the public interest in public trust lands, which include tidelands, submerged lands, and the beds of navigable waters, and ensuring that their uses "benefit all people of the state." Public trust purposes are defined by law and include navigation, water-related commerce and recreation, fisheries, habitat preservation, and open space. The SLC grants leases for such uses as marinas, ports, docks, wharves, dredging, and extracting resources. Clearly there is a potential for public trust purposes to conflict with each other. With this application, it's a matter of extracting sand for concrete to benefit construction/development vs. protecting substrate habitat to benefit the estuary's aquatic resources.

The applicants conduct sand mining in four lease areas in the Central San Francisco Bay (Central Bay) and two in the Suisun Bay area of the western Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The Central Bay leases cover 2,601 acres on nine parcels of submerged lands that extend from the Golden Gate Bridge to the waters between Angel Island and Tiburon. The Suisun Bay lease covers 938 acres on two parcels and a third 367-acre private lease.

The SEIR reviews biological impacts to foraging habitat for special-status fish, marine bird species, protected marine mammals, including whales, sea lions, harbor seals, and harbor porpoises, Bay-Delta food web dynamics, and benthic species and habitat. Potential impacts are compared with the project evaluated in the 2012 EIR, and the conclusion is that changes from the 2012 project would not cause any new or significant impacts, or any substantial increase in the severity of any impact.

### MARIN AUDUBON PROPERTIES

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





## HABITAT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

It is the final opportunity to remove *Dittrichia* (stinkweed) and *Salsola*. Both bloom in September, and by November many seeds might be dispersing to grow next year. Harding grass has been sending up new leaves, despite the rainless summer, for over a month, but what we dig now has no chance to re-root. This is especially important where we expect to transplant additional native plants this winter.

If you appreciate our birds or native plants, volunteer on a workday to give them a boost. The native plants are so much better for the insects that are food for the birds. Birds are declining in number and so are insects. It is also an opportunity to learn more about a native habitat of your county and be a part of improving it.

### Volunteer Workdays

#### Triangle Marsh, East Corte Madera:

First Saturdays: October 4, November 1

Meet at 10 AM on Paradise Drive between the Ring Mountain Phyllis Ellman trailhead and the Montessori School.

#### Corte Madera Ecological Reserve:

Second Saturdays: October 11, November 8

Meet at the end of Industrial Way near Trader Joe's in Greenbrae.

For up-to-date information, contact Martha Jarocki, 415/461-3592 or [marthajarocki@gmail.com](mailto:marthajarocki@gmail.com).

#### Bahia, Novato:

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

#### Thank You, Stewardship Volunteers

Annette Anzalone, Belle & Ron Guelden, Bob Hinz, Martha Jarocki, Susan Meffert, Eiden and Zadie Metcalfe, Alison Pence, Lowell Sykes, Elizabeth Zapata

## THANK YOU, DONORS

Deborah Ablin, Phyllis Barry, Holly Beckner, Kay Bolla, Priscilla & Michael Bull, Barbara Ford, Ross Flewelling, Maggie Keil, Richard Morrison, Andrew Newbold, Madeleine Provost, Mary Jo Sorenson, Jill & John Templeton, Frederick & Carolyn Wood, Jerald Young

# Habitat Stewardship

## BAHIA

Branson High School held its beginning of school Community Engagement Day at Bahia on August 22nd. The participating students were part of the school's Environmental Action Club (EAC) and others interested in community service. Marin Audubon Society's (MAS) Jude Stalker kicked off the event with a talk about the function of watersheds and the watershed that Bahia is part of.

To illustrate how watersheds work, she led the students through activities that mimicked flows from the watershed's source to the endpoint using a large bucket of water and cups for each of the students along the waterway. The activities inspired fun competition and a way of staying cool on a hot day. The following few hours were spent removing *Dittrichia graveolens* on the Western peninsula. The enthusiastic group helped pull most of this rapidly spreading invasive weed.

MAS and Branson's EAC will continue to work together throughout the school year at our sites. Students will help us with seasonal tasks such as invasives removal and plantings, while learning about wetlands habitats and the plants and wildlife that live there. We look forward to this ongoing collaboration.

## TRIANGLE MARSH

On the First Saturday Workday volunteers performed quite a few important tasks to benefit the habitat. They took out the non-native pine tree, removed fennel and bristly ox-tongue, and picked up trash that lands on the property mostly thrown by people from passing cars. We were delighted to see how well the native rose is spreading. It's a species that often is difficult to grown. Here we seem to have reached the right mix of sun, shade, and soil characteristics.

We've reported that the Complete Streets Project the Town of Corte Madera has been planning along Paradise Drive, extends along our Triangle Marsh property. The plan is to



Branson students removing invasive *Dittrichia* plants at Bahia

create an eight-foot wide multi-use path and parking spaces on the south side of Paradise Drive, relocate the road further north toward our property and remove all of the parking along our property. We thought we had worked out that the Town would create a few parking places on our property for our habitat-workday volunteers and erect a fence. Unfortunately, the Town did not inform us until many weeks later that the plan also includes raising the road three to four feet to accommodate sea level rise on the eastern end of our property. To avoid a sharp drop off, the Town would also construct a slope down from the raised road by placing dirt fill that would extend seven to eight feet onto our property. We will lose access to our property on the east end, which will make management more difficult, and we have concerns about our property rights. In the meantime, BCDC issued a permit for the project even though we had not given permission for the Town to do any work on our property. We felt we needed to seek legal advice.

Currently we are communicating with the Town and hope to begin negotiations to resolve the problems in some way.

# Cattail Removal at Las Gallinas Ponds Delayed

Originally scheduled to begin on September 15, the cattail removal will be delayed and won't start until after October 15. The contractor that the Sanitary District awarded the contract to, Wetland Construction, is tied up on another job and can't begin until after October 15.

Waterfowl should have finished migrating by November, so the later start date will bring the removal closer to the time when more birds will be needing a place to rest and refuel. Too bad the Sanitary District didn't put a firm start date in their bid document.



# Marin Birdlog: August 2025

By Noah Arthur

August in Marin kicks off with shorebird migration in full swing, but the highlights this time around were mostly passerines and other non-shorebird rarities. A **Bell's Sparrow** was on Pine Mountain Fire Rd. on the 1st (LS), subsequently enjoyed by other birders. Two exceptionally early eastern warblers occurred on the 4th, a **Northern Waterthrush** at Abbotts Lagoon and an adult **Blackpoll** at Drakes Beach (CC).

The recent incursion of **Purple Martins** on Outer Pt. Reyes continued this month, with several sightings of multiple birds, beginning with 4 at Hall Ranch on the 5th (EW), and with a high count of 8 at Drakes Beach on the 13th (CC).

The first rare shorebird of the month finally showed up on the 6th, a **Solitary Sandpiper** at Valley Ford Wetlands (CC). On the 8th, a **Red Phalarope** flushed off a path at the Fish Docks (EL).

Also on the 8th, a '**Red-winged**' **Red-winged Blackbird** (not our typical Bicolored) was at Nunes Ranch (CC). A **White-faced Ibis** at Valley Ford Wetlands on the 9th (SC) may or may not have been the same one seen off and on earlier in the summer.



Scaly-breasted Munia

Vicki Nunn, public domain

Still very rare in Marin, a lone adult **Scaly-breasted Munia** was found in San Anselmo on the 12th (CC). These semitropical finches, introduced to Southern California, can stray long distances northward and are gradually spreading their range toward our area.

Rare in Marin though regular in the East Bay, a **Ruddy Turnstone** was at Abbotts on the 13th (CC). Rare for the Outer Point only, a **Downy Woodpecker** was at Drakes on the 16th (MK).

**Pink-footed Shearwaters**, rarely close enough to see from shore in Marin, were seen from the Lighthouse a few times this month with a high count of 8 were seen from the Lighthouse on the 19th (CC). An exceptional Pt. Reyes bird, a **Loggerhead Shrike** was found at Abbotts on the 21st (LS).

Two **Northern Waterthrushes** showed up on the 21st, one banded by Palomarin staff near Muir Beach and another at Kehoe Willows on north Pt. Reyes (LS), the latter location being possibly the most reliable spot for the species in Marin.

An interesting early occurrence that could suggest nearby breeding, a **Red-breasted Sapsucker** returned to a known wintering location in Bolinas on the 22nd (GG). A pelagic trip on the 24th picked out a **Short-tailed Shearwater** in Marin Waters.

A wave of eastern migrants hit Pt. Reyes on the 26th, with a **Least Flycatcher** at Mendoza Ranch (CC), **Chestnut-sided Warbler** at the Lighthouse (CC), **American Redstart** at New Willows (LC & CC). Rare on the coast but probably underreported, a '**pileolata**' **Wilson's Warbler** was also at the New Willows (LC & CC). Off the Point, an **Eastern Kingbird** was at Pacheco Pond in Bel Marin Keys (MK).

The rarest bird of the month came on the 27th from the Southwest, a **Lucy's Warbler** at the Lighthouse (CC), one of a very few records in Marin and the first for August.

On the 28th, a **Hooded Oriole** turned up at the Lighthouse (EC), very rare on the Point. Two **Black Skimmers** were seen in flight off Sausalito on the 30th (MC), possibly increasing in Marin in recent years. And the last rare find of the month, a juvenile **Western Cattle-egret** was at Abbotts Lagoon on the 31st (DW).



Northern Waterthrush

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FIELD TRIPS, continued from page 5

## LAS GALLINAS AND HAMILTON WETLANDS

### Birding in Marin, Season 10 – Trip 11

Saturday, November 1, 2025

8:30 AM to mid afternoon

With Jim White and Bob Battagin

Registration is required and opens on October 22 at 8 AM on the MAS website's Field Trips page.

Join Jim and Bob on an easy, birdy walk of 1.5 miles around the Las Gallinas ponds where we are likely to see 10 species of ducks, five of herons, five of raptors, five of sparrows and some rails like **Ridgway's**, **Sora**, and **Virginia** with **Gallinules**, coots, swans and geese!

Bring lunch, we'll eat here before we visit the Hamilton Wetlands, restored by the Army Corp. of Engineers in the last 5 to 10 years to the San Francisco Bay ecosystem, which have become the winter home of some ten thousand birds. We will try to find 10 species of shorebirds here while staying alert to many other possibilities.

**DIRECTIONS:** From 101 North in San Rafael take the Lucas Valley/Smith Ranch Road exit east. In about 0.5 miles, immediately after crossing the RR tracks, turn left and follow the road another 0.5 mile to the Las Gallinas parking lot at the end.

To the Hamilton Wetlands, return to 101 North, take the second exit, Nave Dr toward Hamilton. Stay on Nave Dr, heading north, to Main Gate Road and turn right. Stay on Main Gate until South Palm Dr and go to the end at Hanger Ave and Hamilton Landing. Park along the levee behind Hanger 7.

## You're Invited to a Party!

Santa Clara Valley Bird Alliance is turning 100

Join the celebration of the Santa Clara Valley Bird Alliance's Centennial Year on Saturday, October 4, 2025 at West Valley College from 10 AM to 3:30 PM

The event will feature noteworthy speakers including Brian Sullivan, Andrea Mackenzie, Ryan Phillips and others. There will be vendors from around the Bay Area, and Kenn Kaufman will be signing books and answering questions.

A link to more information, visit <https://scvbirdalliance.org/centennial-celebration>.

**OBSERVERS AND ACRONYMS:** LS: Lucas Stephenson, EW: Eliza Wein, CC: Connor Cochrane, EL: Elizabeth Lewis, SC: Scott Carey, MK: Marcus Kazmierczak, LS: Lucas Stephenson, GG: Geoffrey Geupel, MK: Matt Keller, LC: Lucas Corneliussen, EC: Everett Clark, MC: Michael Courts, DW: Dan Williams



# The Rail

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## SAVE THE DATE

November 1 **Field Trip:** Las Gallinas  
8:30 AM and Hamilton Wetlands  
*With Jim White and Bob Battagin*

November 6 **Field Trip:** Las Gallinas  
8:30 AM *With Mark Clark*

November 13 **Speaker Series:** Motus – Bird  
7 PM Tracking System  
*With Kianna Leung*

November 26 **Field Trip:** Rodeo Lagoon  
7:30 AM *With William Legge and  
David Wiechers*

Check website for updates and details

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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**.

- ☐ 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
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