



THE Clapper Rail

MARIN AUDUBON SOCIETY

SPEAKER SERIES

Free and Open to the public

Richardson Bay Audubon Center
376 Greenwood Beach Road
Tiburon, California 94920
Information: 415/789-0703

NOTE THE NEW DAY!

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 7:30 PM

Seeking Swifts

With Larry Schwitters

Photo: Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife



Vaux's Swift

This presentation will examine the ongoing citizen science project, Vaux's Happening, including the roost site at McNear Brick and Block. It will also cover the presenter's search for waterfalls in the Pacific Northwest which host nesting Black Swifts. Vaux's Happening was launched five years ago by the Pilchuck (Washington) Audubon Society to gather the data necessary for the preservation of what has proven to be one of the most significant Vaux's Swift communal migratory roost sites in North America. It quickly expanded into an attempt to locate, raise awareness of, and hopefully preserve the important roost sites used by this species all along its migratory path. In the last ten migrations the project has documented nearly 4 million Vaux's Swift roosting events from San Diego to the Yukon. Schwitters will also share images and information captured by chimney surveillance cameras and temperature recorders.

There is a possibility of an outing to view the swifts on Sat., Sept. 22. Check with Helen (415/789-0703) by Sept. 17.

Larry Schwitters currently works on the swift project year round, nearly full time during migrations.

Legal Comments Submitted on San Rafael Airport Recreation Facility



MAS 2011-2012 ANNUAL REPORT

Check out this year's annual report on pages 4 and 5.

MAS has joined with the Gallinas Creek Defense Council and the Marin Conservation League in hiring the law firm of Shute Mihaly & Weinberger to prepare comments for the San Rafael City Council meeting where the Council will consider final certification of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and approval of the recreation facility project. The proposed project includes two outdoor soccer fields, an 84,000-square-foot four-story building with two multi-purpose sport courts, café and other facilities, and parking lot all on the south shore of the north fork of Gallinas Creek adjacent to the San Rafael airport. The development area is a diked bayland that has never been filled.

The letter on behalf of our organizations cited numerous impacts the EIR failed to adequately address as required by the California Environmental Quality Act. These include impacts to endangered California Clapper Rails; failure to comply with San Rafael's zoning ordinance and policies of the General Plan regarding protection of baylands and public safety; increased vulnerability to sea level rise because flood protection depends on an unengineered levee; safety risks due to the location adjacent to an active runway; and increased noise and lighting impacts.

We concluded that the city cannot make the findings required by state law to approve

the project and, therefore, cannot approve this massive project.

Our letter also includes expert opinions from Dr. Peter Baye on impacts to endangered species and sea level rise, and from Jules Evens of Avocet Research Associates refuting the claim by Monk and Associates, the city's consultant, that the Clapper Rails have become acclimated to human disturbance.

The city has postponed the August 6 hearing but as of this writing has not announced a new date. The reason given for the postponement is to allow Mayor Gary Phillips to obtain legal advice on whether his lease of hangar space at the airport should bar him from participation in the Council decision. We'll list the new meeting date on our Web site as soon as we hear.

How you can help: Send your comments to Mayor Gary Phillips, San Rafael City Council Members, P.O. Box 151560, San Rafael, CA 94915-1560; or via e-mail to the San Rafael Planner at kraig.tambornini@cityofsanrafael.org for distribution to the council members. Please feel free to address any of the above issues in your comments.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

All 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 | Lowell Sykes 388-2821 |
| Secretary | Mariah Baird 456-3355 |
| Treasurer | Josephine Kreider 381-1910 |
| Finance Chair | Greg Block 479-8254 |
| Conservation | Phil Peterson 898-8400 Barbara Salzman 924-6057 |
| Earthshare | Jude Stalker 668-1242 |
| Field Trips | Vicky Van Meter 299-2514 |
| Membership | Ruth Pratt 453-2989 |
| Fundraising | Flinn Moore Rauck 892-7554 |
| Programs | Helen Lindqvist 789-0703 |
| Special Projects | Jude Stalker 668-1242 |
| Nominating | Martha Jarocki 461-3592 |
| Editor, <i>The Clapper Rail</i> | Bob Hinz, 383-8688 |
| Volunteer Coordinator | Cindy Fatura 815-8512 |
| Property Management | Ed Nute 457-9241 |
| Publicity | Martha Jarocki 461-3592 |
| BAAC Recs | Lowell Sykes 388-2821 Barbara Salzman 924-6057 |

DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Meetings open to members. If you wish to attend please call 924-6057.

7:30 PM, First Tuesday of the month
Richardson Bay Audubon Center
376 Greenwood Beach Road
Tiburon, California 94920

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 Clapper Rail is published ten times a year by the Marin Audubon Society on 100% recycled paper; edited by Bob Hinz rbrthnz@comcast.net, 383-8688; assisted by other members of MAS; and designed by Studio NaCl (www.studioacl.com). Deadline is the first of each month.

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Web site: www.marinaudubon.org
Northern Calif. Bird Box: 681-7422
(Provided by Golden Gate AS)

Members can receive *The Clapper Rail* electronically instead of a hard copy by e-mailing joandbijou@sbcglobal.net

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 \$100 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 Clapper 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 MESSAGE

By Barbara Salzman

July marks the beginning of a new fiscal year for Marin Audubon Society. We are pleased to present our Annual Report for 2011-2012 in this issue. As you'll see, we had a busy and challenging year working on local, regional and state issues, enhancing our habitats, and providing you, our members, with opportunities to learn about and enjoy birds and native habitats.

Behind the scenes there are many people who help to keep us going, but whose names you don't see mentioned often. Some of these special volunteers are Mariah Baird, who takes minutes at our Board meetings; Jo Kreider, our Treasurer; Flinn Moore Rauck, our Fundraising Chair; Ruth Pratt, our Membership Chair; and Mark Forney, our Membership Secretary. As an example of the time contributed by our volunteers, Mark contributed 225 hours this year maintaining our membership list.

The MAS Board congratulates long-time Board Member, Ed Nute, our *Volunteer of the Year* for 2011-2012. Thank you, Ed, for your outstanding contribution to Marin Audubon.

We are saddened by the death of Janice

Steinhardt, wife of David Steinhardt, the first president of Marin Audubon Society. Janice and David were leaders in the fight to save Richardson Bay from becoming a housing development, the establishment of Marin Audubon Society and the eventual transfer of the Richardson Bay Sanctuary lands into the ownership of National Audubon Society. Janice, who had moved to the Sacramento area, died in July.

Thank you to everyone who supported our spring appeal by sending a donation. Your contributions are going directly to benefit wildlife. All contributions to this appeal are dedicated to maintaining and enhancing MAS's properties as viable and productive habitats for native wildlife.

As we begin our new year, we invite each of you to become more involved with Marin Audubon. We have volunteer opportunities for all abilities, interests and agility levels: habitat enhancement projects, outreach and publicity activities, bird surveys, computer work, and fund raising. We'd love to have your help! Just call or e-mail our volunteer coordinator, Cindy Fatura, at volunteercoordinator@marinaudubon.org.

Volunteer of the Year – Ed Nute



Photo courtesy of Jude Stalker

Volunteer of the Year Ed Nute is shown here holding sedge rhizomes to be planted along a channel at the Petaluma Marsh property

The MAS Board is pleased to recognize long-time Board Member Ed Nute as our Volunteer of the Year for 2011-2012. Ed's real love is acquiring and restoring habitats. He has been an important part of our successful habitat acquisition and management of our properties since he joined the Board 12 years ago.

Ed helps in a great many ways. His engineering expertise and background are a boon to our acquisition and habitat enhancement work. What may seem like small things – arranging for surveys, researching property ownership on assessor maps, evaluating on-the-ground conditions – are often critically important. This is but a partial list.

Ed serves on most of our committees. He is active with our Christmas Bird Counts; helps oversee construction projects; provides valuable input on grant applications; fills in to take meeting minutes; edits documents; advises on financial and land acquisition decisions; volunteers for on-the-ground habitat restoration work; and even gets pizzas when we have work parties.

Ed is in the process of retiring from the engineering consulting firm, Nute Engineering, his father founded many years ago. (But he still seems to work pretty much full time.) We hope he doesn't retire from MAS.

Thank you, Ed, for all you do for us. You are an essential part of MAS's success.

MAS FIELD TRIPS

Open to the public

No need to sign up for one day trips, just join us. Bring lunch, field guide, and binoculars. For information, accessibility and weather check: Vicky Van Meter, 415/299-2514, vicky.vanmeter@gmail.com

LAS GALLINAS STORAGE PONDS SAN RAFAEL

Thursdays, September 6,
October 4
9 AM to 12 noon (please note
new time)
With Susan Kelly

All are welcome to join Susan and friends on the first Thursday of each month for a walk around the Las Gallinas Storage Ponds at McInnis Park. There is always something interesting to see and this walk is great for all levels of birders. Fall migrants will be starting to move through in September. Hawks are frequent and we see the graceful Northern Harrier on virtually every trip. Over 100 bird species have been reported as likely to be seen over the course of a year.

DIRECTIONS: From Highway 101, take the Smith Ranch Road exit, go east toward the McInnis Park entrance, turn left immediately after crossing the railroad tracks and go to the Las Gallinas Storage Ponds parking lot at the end of the road. Meet the group by the bridge just past the parking lot. The walk starts at 9 but late arrivals should easily be able to find the group.

ELLIS CREEK WETLANDS PETALUMA

Sunday, September 9, 2012
8:30 AM to 1 PM
With Peter Colasanti

The new Ellis Creek Water Recycling Facility (ECWRF) came on line a few years ago and now much of the area is a wildlife sanctuary accessible via a 3-mile trail system. Good birding/nature-viewing places are around the polishing ponds/wetlands, at the seasonal wetlands, in the trees lining the edges of the property, and along the tidal marsh trail to the river. Bird sightings could include Blue-winged Teal, Great-tailed Grackle, White Pelican, Common Moorhens, rails and good shorebirds like dowitchers. Also, the trip is well-timed to hit a late wave of neotropical migrants if we're lucky. The walk may be extended over to Shollenberger Park.

DIRECTIONS: Going north on Hwy 101 from Marin, take the second Petaluma exit which is Rte 116 (Lakeville Hwy). Go east about one mile to South McDowell Blvd (4th traffic light) and turn right. At the curve turn right on Cypress and drive straight to east end. Meet in the parking lot just past the gate

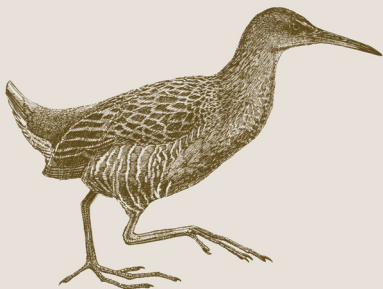
RAPTORS OF PATTERSON PASS EASTERN ALAMEDA COUNTY

Thursday, September 20, 2012
10 AM – 2:30 PM
With Rich Cimino

Rich Cimino has been birding in California for 44 years and leads tours throughout the West and Alaska. He is also the Conservation Chair for the Ohlone Audubon Society and participates in many local biological and land planning projects. Rich is the compiler for the Eastern Alameda Christmas Bird Count and volunteers with the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory.

Rich will lead us on a day of mixing Swainson's Hawk habitat conservation with raptor watching at the site of Alameda County's proposed 2200-acre solar power development on Mountain House Rd. Join us to learn about the impacts this development will have on Swainson's Hawks and other raptors. We will then raptor watch along Mountain House Rd. to Patterson Pass Rd. returning to the parking lot. We will conclude with an optional dinner at the Sweet Tomatoes Restaurant in Pleasanton. We meet in Livermore in the Union gas station parking lot

DIRECTIONS: From Marin, take the Richmond/San Rafael bridge and continue on Hwy 580 east (toward Livermore). Exit at the Greenville Rd. exit (exit 57) in eastern Livermore for Southfront Rd. Turn left on to Southfront Rd. (east). Drive past two motels then turn left into the "Union" parking lot. In case you miss the left turn, the parking lot is on the northwest corner of Greenville Rd. and Southfront Rd. Carpooling is required as parking along this route is very limited. If you get lost call Vicky Van Meter's cell phone 415/299-2514.



MARIN AUDUBON THANKS THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR DONATIONS

Phyllis V. Akers, Evie Anderson, Anonymous, Joyce & David Applen, Patricia Arrigoni, Jeanne Ballesterio, Keith Bancroft, Carnell & Robert Betette, Mark & Beverly Birnbaum, Joan Boessenecker, Andrew Bollen, Ben & Frances Borok, Neil Brandt, Michael Branton, Priscilla & Michael H. Bull, Robert Bundy, Loren & Rachel Carpenter, Samuel & Ingrid Chase, James Cleaves, Rosalind Colver, Mary Connors, Vera Cook, Carol Moeller Costa, Carroll Covey, Mary Anne & James Cowperthwaite, John Crawford, Carol & Donald Davis, Jim & Drusie Davis, Genevieve & Rudolph De May, Heinz Dreier, Barbara Dwyer, Mary Ann Feldman, Mark H. Forney, Lewis Fredrickson, Richard Gale, Raymond & Margot Gergus, Google Matching Gifts Program, Maureen Groper, Madelon & Gerald Halpern, Susan Hamstra, Michael & Valerie Hancock, Margaret Harrington, Erika W. Harris, Harry & Elaine Hicks, Bob Hinz, Elizabeth Huning, Martha & Gerry Jarocki, Peter & Bonnie Jensen, Marcine Johnson, Kaiser Community Giving Match Gift, John Kane, Terry & Patricia Keehn, Forrester Kennedy, Patricia Kriegler-Dols, Nancy Lappen, William Lary, William Legge, Richard Leonards, Alberta M. Lesko, Mark Lindberg, Christine Lindner, Thomas & Irene Lopez, Robin Mabrey, Ron & Amanda Mallory, Philip J. Marcus, Allan & Eleanor Martini, Ken Minkoff, Gene Moore, Linda Nicoletto, Warren & Marcia Nute, Diane Ongaro, Sam & Mandy Parke, Kathleen & Chin-Tzu Peng, PG&E Corporation Foundation Matching Gifts, Ruth & William Pratt, Jeanne Price, Janette & John Quinley, Alison Quoyeser, Jean V. Rhodes, Jordan Rinker, Susan & John Ristow, David & Hannah Rose, Barbara & Jay Salzman, Donald Samson, Hans Schmid, Susan Shargel, Joanne Shaw, Joanne Sobel, Jean Starkweather, Todd Steiner & Lynette McLamb, Pamela & Brewer Stone, Betty Stott, Dwight & Elaine Straub, Meryl Sundove, Thomas & Barbara Teixeira, Rufus Thayer, Sheila M. Tuffanelli, Terrence & Lorraine Vall, Ronald L. Vestal, Susan & Arthur Walenta, Julia Weber, Marion Weeks, Arlin Weinberger, Everett Witzel, Periann Wood, Suzanne Zimmerman

HABITAT STEWARDSHIP

BAHIA AND TRIANGLE MARSH

This summer volunteers have removed Harding grass, fennel, thistle and broom from Bahia and Triangle Marsh. Thanks to a grant from National Audubon, MAS was able to hire the Conservation Corps North Bay to remove Harding grass at Triangle. We have had youngsters from the Conservation Corps North Bay's Project ReGeneration working at both Triangle and Bahia. Project Regen provides middle school students with funding for college for the hours they work, and also benefits the environment. ReGen youth work on government and non-profit-owned properties at no cost to the property owner.

First Saturday workdays at Triangle Marsh and second Saturday workdays at Bahia have continued. We encourage you to join us for volunteer workdays in September. You'll learn

about habitats and about native and non-native plants, and have the great satisfaction of being a part of restoring habitat for native wildlife.

WETLAND ENHANCEMENT AT SIMMONS SLOUGH BEGINS

The wetland enhancement project at our property on Simmons Slough at Atherton Avenue began in August. We hired construction contractors, Hanford ARC, to remove about an acre of Harding grass that has invaded the site and to place mulch to deter the growth of weeds in areas opened up by the removal. The project will excavate one foot of soil to deepen areas where water ponds and sow seeds of native plants. This will increase habitat diversity and lengthen the time the seasonal wetlands will be available for wildlife. The excavation began on August 23 and will continue for two to three weeks.

HABITAT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

It has been a warm, California dry summer. Harding grass and *Dittrichia* (stinkwort) are among the few non-native plants are still green. *Dittrichia* begins to bloom in September. Before a winter of planting natives at both Triangle and Bahia, we have just a few workdays to get those competitors. Join us on a workday. We are making progress. You would make a difference.

We have the tools, gloves and snacks. We generally work until about 1 PM, but even an hour is valuable help. Everyone is welcome.

VOLUNTEER WORK DAYS

Triangle Marsh, Corte Madera:

First Saturdays: September 1, October 6

Meet at 10 AM on Paradise Drive directly across from the main Ring Mountain trailhead.

Bahia, Novato:

Second Saturdays: September 8

Meet at 10 AM at the end of Topaz Dr. near Bolero Court and the tennis courts.

If you would like to help, please contact Bob Hinz at rbthnz@comcast.net or 415/383-8688.



Junior Bird Watchers

By Wendy Dreskin

Congratulations to Alison Quoyeser's 4th grade class at Ross School who became Junior Bird Watchers in June.

Back, l to r: Olivia Brekhus-Lavinsky, Oscar Nikolic, Kallen Aley, Pierce Ashworth, Lillian Coan, Emma Haggett, Skyler Carey. **Middle:** Abby Hjelmstad, Audrey Dickinson, Kelsey Matsik, Elaina Sherman, Lola Torresi, Jordan Price, Tyler Slaugh, Ellie Abramson.

Front: Jacob Grujic, Luc Burkhart, Will Burkhart, Stanley Gaither, Paris Royo, Nicolas Kenney

If you would like more information, please visit "Junior Birdwatchers" under the "Birds" tab on our Web site at marinaudubon.org, or contact Wendy Dreskin at 415/457-3949.

Annual Report for 2011-2012

Marin Audubon carries out its mission by acquiring, restoring and enhancing habitats; through our educational activities, field trips, speaker series, birding classes, citizen science/bird surveys (primarily the Christmas Bird Counts) and by our advocacy work on behalf of wildlife and habitat protection.

HABITAT ACQUISITION

MAS currently owns and manages more than 500 acres on 25 parcels in Corte Madera, Mill Valley, City of Novato, unincorporated Novato and San Rafael.

This year we were pleased to accept the donation of three parcels at Norton Pond in the Black Point area. One of the parcels was the pond itself. We also began negotiations with owners of property in Corte Madera and are in discussion with owners of several other parcels in the Novato area. Our partnership with Marin Baylands Advocates helps with these acquisition efforts.

HABITAT RESTORATION

Working with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), we began work to enhance seasonal wetlands on 60 acres we own at Olive and Atherton Avenues over which NRCS holds an easement. At the Corte Madera Ecological Reserve we continued to work to establish high tide refuge habitat and to close and relocate trails that intrude into the marsh.

SCIENCE

Volunteers Susan Kelly and Mark Forney organized the Southern Marin Christmas Bird Count and the newly reestablished Cheep

Thrills Count in northeast Marin County. John Longstreth and Tom Gaman ably managed the Point Reyes Count. Rich Stallcup's Birdlog, that presents unusual birds found in Marin during the previous month, is a special feature in most issues of *The Clapper Rail*.

EDUCATION/OUTREACH

Our public education/outreach program includes *The Clapper Rail*; field trips; monthly speaker series; our Web site; Junior Bird Watchers; birding classes conducted by Meryl Sundove and Roger Harris; and fairs and festivals. This year we again hosted a trip to the Farallones, toured Alcatraz Island and conducted trips to the Delta and to National Wildlife Refuges.

COLLABORATION/PARTNERSHIPS

We continued our successful partnership with Marin Baylands Advocates to acquire habitats. Board members also serve on other Boards: San Francisco Bay Joint Venture, San Francisco Estuary Institute, Audubon Canyon Ranch, Friends of the San Francisco Estuary, San Francisco Bay Water Trail Advisory Committee, Highway 37 Stakeholder Committee, and the San Francisco Estuary Partnership. Participation with other organizations and regional issues opens opportunities, increases our effectiveness, and strengthens advocacy to protect natural resources of regional importance. MAS representatives also regularly attend meetings of the Bay Area Audubon Council (an informal alliance of Bay Area Audubon chapters) on a regular basis.

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Annual Report

continued from page 4

ADVOCACY

Our advocacy efforts this year were many and varied.

Developments, Project Proposals

Lawson's Landing Testified before the Coastal Commission to protect dunes and wetlands.

Hanna Ranch Submitted recommendations to protect the pond, wetland and native oak woodland habitats on and adjacent to this hilly property at the northeast corner of Highways 101 and 37.

Marin General Hospital Submitted comments (called scoping comments) listing issues to be addressed in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for expansion of the hospital.

Larkspur Ferry Connection Project Raised issues about adverse impacts to tidal marsh and endangered species.

America's Cup 34 Submitted scoping comments for the EIR listing potential impacts of this major race on water quality, pelagic birds using the bay and Alcatraz, and upland birds and habitat along Marin's shoreline. The size of the race area has been reduced, potentially resulting in reduced impacts to Marin's shoreline habitats.

Air Tour Management Plan Commented on Environmental Assessment on impacts to birds and habitats at Alcatraz and National Parks.

Stafford Lake Bike Park Commented on the draft and final environmental documents about potential adverse impacts to wildlife habitats and water quality.

Drakes Estero Continued to support restoring Drakes Estero to wilderness by submitting comments on the Federal environmental document (DEIS), to Secretary Salazar on the special use permit and to the Science Review Committee.

Grady Ranch Submitted several letters and testified on the Draft and Final EIR Supplement to the Master Plan specifically objecting to filling one and one-half miles of creek in the name of restoration and to other potential habitat impacts.

College of Marin Child Study Center Submitted comments on the Draft EIR about the inadequate transition zone for Clapper Rails.

San Quentin Designation as a Priority Use Objected to this designation, which would have given it eligibility for ABAG funding, a first step toward development.

Aramburu Island Supported funding from state sources for this restoration which is being implemented by the National Audubon Society's Richardson Bay Audubon Center.

Doherty Drive and Bon Air Bridges Commented on the environmental documents regarding impacts and mitigations for impacts to the

endangered California Clapper Rail which will lose habitat from both of these bridge expansions.

San Francisco Bay and Delta Sand Mining Project Commented on impacts of removing massive quantities of sand from the Bay ecosystem, particularly near Angel Island, in response to the Revised Draft EIR.

Binford Road Presented issues to the Marin County Community Development Agency about the owner's application for a temporary use permit to establish a storage lot on this property which is on Black John Slough.

Plans/Regulation

Community Marin Continued to meet with Marin Conservation League, Sierra Club and others on the update for this planning document which is designed to influence Countywide and local plan updates.

Bay Conservation and Development Commission's (BCDC) Climate Change Policies

Participated in meetings with environmental organizations, spoke at various commission hearings and wrote many letters in support of strengthening the BCDC climate change policies in order to protect people, the Bay, wetland and wildlife.

Long-Term Management Strategy Attended Long-Term Management Strategy 10-year anniversary meeting to assess the progress of the regional effort to reduce the amount of dredged material dumped in San Francisco Bay.

Mosquito Abatement and Vector Control

District General Permit Submitted scoping comments for the EIR raising management and habitat impact issues that need to be addressed.

Local Coastal Plan Attended many meetings and hearings attempting to get stronger protections for wetlands and streams in West Marin.

Friends of Mt. Tamalpais Commented to MMWD on a plan to establish a friends group.

DeSilva Island Tree Management Plan Commented on inadequacies in the plan.

Revision to the Marin County Tree Ordinance Supported a stronger ordinance to protect native trees.

Federal Standards for Vessel Discharges Supported stronger standards for discharges from ships to prevent more invasive species entering the Bay.

Regulatory Improvements Committee

Commented to Supervisors that this was not necessary and a waste of resources.

REPORT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

We are pleased to report that MAS's financial position is sound. Our net income this year is due largely to grants, the donation of three parcels at Norton Avenue, and sound investments thanks to the guidance of our Finance Committee (Ed Nute, Jo Kreider, Lowell Sykes, Barbara Salzman) and its Chair, Greg Block

Marin Audubon Society Statement of Financial Position as of June 30, 2012

ASSETS

Current Assets – Checking Accounts

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| General (Unrestricted) | 20,839 |
| Marin Baylands Advocates (Restricted) | 4,482 |
| Property (Restricted) | 157,489 |
| Special Projects (Restricted) | 6,080 |
| Total Current Assets | \$188,890 |

Fixed Assets – Real Estate

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Arroyo CM del Presidio Mill Valley | 2,600 |
| Arroyo San Jose | 4,800 |
| Atherton (Chang) | 315,000 |
| Atherton (Sheridan) | 370,000 |
| Bahia | 1,600,471 |
| Black Point | 18,100 |
| Corte Madera Tide Lot 1 | 3,200 |
| Channel Drive | 2,800 |
| Murphy's Rock | 9,719 |
| Norton Avenue | 32,908 |
| Olive (Mission) | 315,000 |
| Petaluma Marsh | 276,526 |
| Tiscornia Marsh | 11,026 |
| Triangle Marsh Tidelands | 3,800 |
| Triangle Marsh | 750,000 |
| Total Fixed Assets | \$3,715,950 |

Other Assets

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Endowment (Designated) | 820,621 |
| Total Other Assets | \$820,621 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$4,725,460 |

Marin Audubon Society Statement of Financial Income and Expense July 2011 through June 2012

INCOME

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Donations (cash) | 49,538 |
| Donations (land) | 18,808 |
| Endowment Income | 23,743 |
| Events & Activities | 11,744 |
| Grants | 72,909 |
| Interest Earned | 165 |
| Marin Baylands Advocates Income | 102 |
| Membership | 18,294 |
| Total Income | \$195,303 |

EXPENSE

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Bank Charges & Credit Card Fees | 725 |
| Contributions | 450 |
| Copy & Printing Services | 23,119 |
| Endowment Advisory Fees | 4,991 |
| Insurance | 9,205 |
| Marin Baylands Advocates Expense | 1,006 |
| Miscellaneous | 616 |
| Office Supplies & Expenses | 1,369 |
| Permits & Fees | 3,634 |
| Postage & Shipping | 3,784 |
| Professional Services | 12,675 |
| Program Expenses | 9,167 |
| Property Management Expenses | 10,476 |
| Property & Sales Taxes | 7,271 |
| Rent | 1,479 |
| Web site | 902 |
| Wetlands Restoration Construction* | 76,580 |
| Total Expense | \$167,450 |
| NET INCOME | \$27,853 |

*Paid from Restricted Property Funds

CONSERVATION

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

OPEN SPACE MEASURE TO BE ON NOVEMBER BALLOT

After seven public hearings and months of behind-the-scenes work, the Board of Supervisors gave final approval to place a quarter-cent sales tax for parks, open space and farmlands on the November 2012 ballot. MAS has consistently advocated for including a fixed percentage of the funding to be dedicated to acquiring natural lands, streams, baylands and native ecosystems, and that is in the final wording of the measure. Look for more about the ballot measure in the next issue of *The Clapper Rail*.

LOCAL COASTAL PLAN HEARINGS SCHEDULED

The Marin Board of Supervisors has delayed its first hearing on the LCP until October 2 reportedly because there is a new staff person at the Coastal Commission who needs to get up to speed. The Marin LCP governs development and resource protection in West Marin. The Coastal Commission has oversight and final approval authority over LCPs.

MAS, Marin Conservation League, and the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin have met with county staff to discuss our

differences with the County over certain policies. Many of MAS's concerns have been addressed, but we are still dissatisfied with some wetland policies, specifically those policies that would allow trails in wetland buffer zones and allow flood and water supply projects in streams.

The October 2 hearing will be held at 1:30 p.m. in the Supervisors chambers. Biological resources and agriculture will be discussed.

DRAKES ESTERO UPDATE

The California Coastal Commission has sent a letter to the Drakes Bay Oyster Company (DBOC) citing violations of state and National Park permits. The July 30 enforcement letter cites DBOC's failure to comply with boat use restrictions to channels to protect harbor seals during breeding season; failure to remove mariculture debris originating from the DBOC operations (e.g., plastic spacers, mesh bags and polystyrene flotation blocks) that now litters Point Reyes beaches; and various unpermitted development since 2005, in disregard of repeated written warnings from the Commission. The Commission is issuing a new enforcement action through a new Cease and Desist Order to address these violations.



MARIN AUDUBON PROPERTIES

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Petaluma Marsh | 180 acres |
| 2. Bahía | 60 acres |
| 3. Simmons Slough | 162 acres |
| 4. Norton Avenue Pond | 4 parcels |
| 5. Black Point Parcels | 2 parcels |
| 6. Arroyo San Jose | 2 parcels |
| 7. Tidelands at Murphy's Rock | 34 acres |
| 8. Corte Madera Marsh | 1.8 acres |
| 9. Triangle Marsh | 31 acres |
| 10. San Clemente Creek | 4.34 acres |
| 11. Tiscornia Marsh | 20 acres |
| 12. Arroyo Corte Madera del Presidio | 2 acres |

Marin Audubon Society Sponsors Three Christmas Bird Counts in 2012

Marin Audubon is sponsoring three local CBCs this December: the Point Reyes CBC, the Cheep Thrills CBC, and the Southern Marin CBC. As components of National Audubon Society's 113th annual Christmas Bird Count, the data from these counts will be incorporated by NAS into the longest running unbroken bird survey in the world, and is important as a means to monitor the status of resident and migratory bird populations.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2012

Point Reyes CBC (CAPR)

Questions? Contact compilers John Longstreth and Tom Gaman, with "CBC Response" in the subject line: ptreyesCBC@gmail.com

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2012

Cheep Thrills CBC (CACT)

Questions? Contact compilers Susan Kelly and Mark Forney: cbc@marinaudubon.org

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2012

Southern Marin County CBC (CAMC)

Starting in early October, register online for the count and compilation dinner at Marin Audubon's Web site, www.marinaudubon.org/christmas-bird-count.php. Registration will close on December 19, 2012.

Questions? Contact compilers Susan Kelly and Mark Forney: cbc@marinaudubon.org

MARIN BIRDLOG – MAY, JUNE, JULY 2012

By Rich Stallcup

This *Birdlog* talks about rarities and trends documented in May, June and July. All of the out-of-place songbirds are disoriented *spring* migrants, even if they have appeared in July.

WATER BIRDS Two male **Harlequin Ducks** spent the entire period on western Drakes Bay (m.ob) after five were there at least through May (RS, m.ob). Just offshore from Rodeo Beach a male **Long-tailed Duck** was loafing with scoters 4/19 and a female was there with 500 scoters 5/26 (both WL, DW). A mated pair of **Blue-winged Teal** 5/27 were at Mendoza on the O.P. where they are rare (MR, MB, HC).

The **Northern Gannet** seen occasionally and documented at Southeast Farallon throughout the period (PRBO) has been accepted by the CBRC. It is the first of its kind for California and the entire Pacific Ocean.

Brown Pelican, a graduate of the Endangered Species Act, had an unusually productive spring with many-more-than-ever youngsters (2012 models) moving up the California coast beginning in June. So many birds combined with crashes in some forage fish caused aberrant behaviors and starvation in inexperienced pelican chicks.

Forster's Terns nested for the first time on the island in the pond east of the Vintage Oaks Mall, Novato with 17 scrapes in May that fledged at least 14 chicks by the end of July (RS, HC). The species only other breeding site is at Shorebird Marsh, Corte Madera that was first established about ten years ago.

RAPTORS When we think of hawk watching, most of us think of autumn but for a few years now some intrepid GGRO members have been gathering spring migration data in the Marin Headlands. The most startling report was that of a young **Gray Hawk** 5/10 now under scrutiny of the CBRC. (Marin's other "record" was of an adult I saw very well at Fort Baker in June 1998.) The team also recorded four **Swainson's** and one **Broad-winged Hawks** 5/6. The total for **Swainson's Hawks** spring 2012 was sixteen (all TB, HB, m.ob). At Kent Lake, twenty-five Osprey nests was about the "recent average" and a pair of **Bald Eagles** raised a single eaglet for the fifth year in a row (both JE).

WADERS A late **Spotted Sandpiper** was at the Mendoza stock pond 5/27 (RS, MB). **Red-necked Phalaropes** were thick 5/10 on every stock pond on Point Reyes totaling over six hundred birds (RS). On 5/11, an alternate plumage **Red Phalarope** was observed in Mill Valley (JD). Thirty-three fall migrant **Wilson's Phalaropes** stayed at the Rush Creek wetlands 7/20 to 7/31 (RS).

LAND BIRDS While not found by humans each spring here, **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** may be regular in tiny numbers. On 6/1 one was seen flying across the road at the Bolinas "Y" (PP). Before 1960, **Purple Martins** seemed to nest in every fir and Bishop Pine snag in the county. The first **European Starlings** appeared in Marin in 1956 and soon outcompeted martins for every suitable cavity. During spring of 2012 the 12 birds at snags in Kent Lake 5/11 (JE) were the only breeders found. Each year post-breeding dispersants gather over Olema Marsh and roost at Bear Valley where 34 have been seen together. A **Varied Thrush** in the "oven" of the Point Reyes Lighthouse trees 5/20 (JD) may seem very late, but when the weather is right this species is often in the wave-mix on the O.P. late May through June.

Two **Black-and-White Warblers** were detected, one at the PRBO Palomarin Field Station (RD, m.ob) and one at the lighthouse trees 6/23 (MB, MR). **Northern Parulas** are regularly territorial in west Marin and have fledged young on at least four occasions. One to four singing males are found each spring so one at Bear Valley and one at Tocaloma were average. Second-rarest wood warbler of this spring was the **Worm-eating Warbler** briefly detained at Palomarin 6/10 (PRBO).

A singing **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was at Road Forks Pool 6/24 (RS). Some birders always seem surprised but it is normal to see individual **Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warblers** beginning mid-July bouncing around the lowlands having dropped from highest ridge nest sites. Twelve singing **Hermit Warblers** heard along a hike to "Firtop" from Bear Valley 5/12 (JE) was thought to be high but may just reveal how large a part of our breeding avifauna they really are.

Two **Ovenbirds** were present, one at the Bolinas "Y" 6/1 (PP) and one rescued in San Rafael 6/16 that was rehabilitated by VB in Sebastopol and finally released into appropriate habitat on Sonoma Mountain 6/24 (RS). Amazingly a **Kentucky Warbler** was heard singing at Muir Beach 5/11 (DH) for the second-ever Marin record!

Two **Indigo Buntings** (HC, NW) and four **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** (DH, KH, NW, RS) were average for spring. A **Blue Grosbeak** at Muir Beach 5/14 (DM) was a good rare bird anytime here but especially in May and similarly, a 10-month-old male **Summer Tanager** at Point Reyes Station 7/22 (JR, DS) presumably of the eastern race *P. r. rubra* is more frequent in the autumn.

Finally, a male **Great-tailed Grackle** at the Mendoza Pond, 5/26 (MR, MB) was an overdue first for the O.P. and on the "bay side", documentation of the species nesting in the marsh east of the Vintage Oaks Mall was a county first.

Observers David Adams, Bob Battagin, Tim Behr, Veronica Bowers, Herb Brant, Mark Butler, Heather Cameron, CBRC – California Bird Records Committee, Renee Cormier, Ryan DiGuadio, Jack Dineen, Adam Donkin, Jules Evens, GGRO – Golden Gate Raptor Observatory, Keith Hansen, Diana Humple, William Legge, Dave McKenzie, m.ob – many observers, Devon Nuno, O.P. – outer Point Reyes, PRBO Conservation Science, Peter Pyle, Mary Anne Rotella, Jennifer Roth, Dave Shuford, Rich Stallcup, Nick Whelan, Jim White, Dave Wiechers.

Wilson's Phalarope



Photo courtesy of naturepiconline.com

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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If you are not already a chapter supporting member, we urge you to join MAS and urge your friends, neighbors, relatives to join us, too.

You can also join or make a donation on our Web site using your credit card or PayPal. Please go to www.marinaudubon.org.

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