Marin Audubon Society Receives Donation of Land at Norton Pond

We are thrilled to report that MAS has received a donation of two parcels on Norton Avenue and around Norton Pond. This small pond is nestled in the Black Point hills on the south side of Highway 37 near the Petaluma River. When their adopted aunt passed away and left the properties to them, Richard and Eleanor Johns of San Francisco quickly recognized they were undevelopable. About half of the land is upland and the balance is pond and marsh bordering the pond. The Johnses searched out parties that might be interested in the property and found that Marin Audubon owns adjacent parcels. They then contacted us and offered to donate.

Historically, the four-acre Norton Pond was likely part of the tidal marsh system bordering the Petaluma River. In the way that many Marin ponds were formed, this one was probably created by excavating the marsh to obtain fill on which to build houses. The pond water is replenished by rain, runoff from the adjacent hills, and possibly a high water table, as it is close to the bay. The water level fluctuates seasonally and, as can be seen from the photo, is currently low. Pickleweed grows along the pond's edge. A pressing task is to get rid of the invasive ice plant.

Ponds are rare in our Mediterranean climate. This one provides foraging and resting habitat for long-legged wading birds such as herons, egrets and yellowlegs, and for migratory waterfowl and shorebirds in winter. Undoubtedly, there is nesting along its banks by such species as Black Phoebe.

With the donation of these two properties, Marin Audubon now owns four parcels around Norton Pond. We purchased the first parcel in 2004 and another in 2006. Both were tax-default sales. All of the parcels are small, less than an acre, but they bring us closer to our goal of acquiring all of the parcels around the pond to protect it as habitat. Landowners who donate properties to a nonprofit organization like MAS are not only relieved of paying property and special district taxes, but may be able to write off the value of their donation.

Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Johns, for your generous gift—a lasting legacy for the bay and wildlife and a fitting tribute to their late aunt.
A warm welcome to our newest Board Member and new Field Trip Chair, Vicky Van Meter. Vicky has been active with MAS for some time helping with our stewardship program on MAS properties and on her homeowners association lands which are adjacent to MAS’s Simmons Slough properties. Vicky, and her husband Dave Herrema, are frequent attendees on our field trips. During his time on the Board, Bob reorganized our Membership Program, led field trips at Las Gallinas, provided legal advice and helped in other ways. His wife Sandy is a frequent contributor of articles to The Clapper Rail. While Bob’s work commitments have increased, we hope they will continue to participate with MAS.

We have been busy this month particularly gathering the necessary costs and schedules required by the Coastal Conservancy for our grant application for funds to purchase Mira Monte as well as participating in planning the on-site event.

Our Board is also organizing for the coming year. We are working on final approval of our budget as well as on revising our Policies and Procedures that will guide us for 2010-2011. We review and revise our P&P’s and our Procedures that will guide us for 2010-2011. We are working on final approval of our budget as well as on revising our Policies and Procedures that will guide us for 2010-2011. We are working on final approval of our budget as well as on revising our Policies and Procedures that will guide us for 2010-2011. We are working on final approval of our budget as well as on revising our Policies and Procedures that will guide us for 2010-2011. We are working on final approval of our budget as well as on revising our Policies and Procedures that will guide us for 2010-2011. We are working on final approval of our budget as well as on revising our Policies and Procedures that will guide us for 2010-2011. We are working on final approval of our budget as well as on revising our Policies and Procedures that will guide us for 2010-2011.

On conservation developments, the hearing on the appeal of the wind towers will be held in late October.

AUGUST 22 FIELD TRIP

Farallones Islands

By Vicky Van Meter

On a mild, blue-skied day twelve of us joined Marin Audubon’s third annual trip to the Farallones left Sausalito at 8 am on August 22 aboard Captain Mick Menigoz’ 65-ft boat, Superfish. As in the previous two trips, David Wimpheime was our able naturalist and trip leader. The day started out under overcast skies as we passed the 390-foot Russian yacht “A” moored in the harbor and went out under the Golden Gate. We saw Common Murres and various gulls, terns and cormorants as we headed offshore. After about an hour and a half, the skies began to clear and the wind and seas picked up as the Farallones came into view. Capt. Menigoz’ fish finder detected a 100-foot deep band of krill just below the surface and suddenly all around us the ocean was alive with Humpback and Blue Whales, porpoises, sea lions and, of course, birds. Highlights included Pink-footed and Sooty Shearwaters, Black-footed Albatrosses and probably thousands of phalarope, both red and red-necked. As we reached the Farallones, David pointed out the Northern Fur Seals and California Sea Lions on the island that we could smell as well as see, since we were downwind. We circled the islands under sunny skies as David explained the interesting biology and history of the area. Several Tufted Puffins were sighted near the islands, as well as pods of hundreds of juvenile sea lions leaping into the water. By mid-afternoon we began our return trip, ending with a final turn around the Russian yacht to reach the dock by 4 pm.

Peter Colasanti kindly provided the following list of birds for the day: 1 Western Grebe, 6 Black-footed Albatross, 2 Northern Fulmar, 7 Pink-footed Shearwater, 25 Sooty Shearwater, 5 Ashy Storm-Petrel, 50 Brandt’s Cormorant, 10 Pelagic Cormorant, 30 Red-necked Phalarope, 55 Red Phalarope, 7 Sabine’s Gull, 8 Heermann’s Gull, 90 Western Gull, 33 Arctic Tern, 2 Elegant Tern, 50 Common Murre, 30 Pigeon Guillemot, 18 Cassin’s Auklet, 12 Tufted Puffin.
Mira Monte Acquisition Update

This month we have been busy working with Marin Baylands Advocates planning the Mira Monte event and gathering information to provide the Coastal Conservancy with the information they require to take our project to their Board. They need costs and a timeline for cleaning up the site, removing buildings and restoring tidal marsh and upland habitats. We have discovered that the Department of Fish and Game actually owns lands extending north to the site which could be used for access.

Unfortunately, we have had a bit of a set back in the funding arena. We were ranked 17 out of 42 projects submitted to the CELCP program, but there was only enough money to fund 14. There is still a chance we will get funded, if some projects don’t work out. We are focusing more attention on other sources. This makes your donations to the Baylands Fund at the Marin Community Foundation even more important.

VAUX’S SWIFT ROOST IN SAN RAFAEL

A roost for Vaux’s Swifts at the McNear Brick & Block facility has recently become known to local birders. A curious birder, Rusty Scalf, spotted the chimneys a while back and realized that they could be a swift roost. One evening in mid-September he returned and was overwhelmed by “clouds of Vaux’s Swifts swirling about and going down tall stacks” at the facility. The number of roosting birds has been estimated at 7,000-10,000. The decommissioned stacks are near the intersection of Point San Pedro Rd and McNear Brickyard Rd. The birds are visible from the road; access to the facility is not necessary. This seasonal phenomenon will not last long so do not delay if you plan to see the show. Check the Yahoo Group “northbaybirds” or eBird.org for updates.

MAS RESTORATION PROJECT COMPLETED (almost)

After decades of degradation, restoration of the seasonal wetland at the Olive and Atherton intersection in unincorporated Novato is at last accomplished. The concrete and asphalt debris has finally been removed from this wetland and the marsh-upland interface has been regraded to have a more gradual slope.

Our construction contractor, Hanford ARC, worked most of August to complete the job. They removed the rubble from the marsh, placed it in several holes they dug in the upland portion of the site, and covered the rubble with soil. The slight mound created by burying the rubble will be hydrosedeed and planted with native species after the first rain.

Coast Live Oaks and other native plants, including Wild Rose, Poison Oak and Creeping Wild Rye, were saved wherever possible. This 19-acre property and the neighboring parcels are now far from San Pablo Bay, but once were at the Bay’s edge. Tidal action was cut off by the construction of Highway 37 and levees along Novato Creek. Reportedly, the rubble was dumped on the marsh during a Highway 101 improvement project.

The property will be transferred into the permanent protective ownership of the Marin County Open Space District early next year, when the planting is completed.
HABITAT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

After a summer of great progress there are still some perennial and/or late-blooming non-natives to remove. Including Harding grass, stinkwort and fennel. If you are interested in these work days please contact Bob Hinz at rbhzn2@comcast.net or 415/383-8688.

Bahia:
Thursday, September 30
Wednesday, October 6
Saturday, October 9
Thursday, October 14
Wednesday, October 20
Thursday, October 28

We will meet at 10 AM at the end of Topaz Drive near Bolero Court and the tennis courts.

Triangle Marsh:
Saturday, October 2.

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

YES ON PROPOSITION 21 FOR STATE PARKS

Last spring, we helped to qualify for the ballot this measure to assure State Parks’ funding. The real test for the State Parks initiative is coming up on November 2. Proposition 21 will enact an $18 annual license fee which will create a stable source of funding for state parks. In exchange, California vehicles will get free day-use admission to all state parks. All the fee money would be deposited in a trust fund, where by law it could be spent only on state parks and wildlife conservation. Learn more by visiting the website www.calparks.org/ takeaction.

SEED PICKUP REMINDER

For those of you who have already ordered birdseed, the pickup date is Saturday, October 9, from 10 AM to 1 PM at the Richardson Bay Audubon Center in Tiburon, 376 Greenwood Beach Road. No seed is available before or after the pickup date. Directions and a confirmation by e-mail or in the mail will be sent. For information, call Wendy at 415/453-6577, not the Richardson Bay Center.

CONSERVATION

MAS SUPPORTS MMWD DESALINATION BALLOT MEASURE S

MAS’s board has voted to support Measure S, the ballot measure adopted by the Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) to appear on the November ballot. Measure S requires a vote of MMWD customers before a desalination facility could be built. It states: “MMWD shall not approve construction, or financing for construction, of a desalination facility unless such construction is approved by a majority of the voters of MMWD voting in an election held within MMWD’s service area for that purpose.”

The MMWD ballot measure is a countermeasure to Measure T, an initiative submitted by a group of community activists. Measure T prohibits the MMWD board from taking “any steps toward approving any contract relating to the planning or construction of any such (desalination) facility without prior approval of any such actions by a majority of the electorate of the Marin Municipal Water District…” Measure T would tie the hands of MMWD, preventing it from evaluating technologies, conducting studies, environmental analyses and planning.

We believe MMWD customers have a right to vote on construction of a desalination plant and that this will be more responsibly accomplished by the MMWD measure. Marin Audubon’s support also includes endorsement of a strong water conservation program.

Both measures will be on the November 2010 ballot. The measure getting the most votes will take effect.

GNOSS FIELD AND WHITE PELICANS

American White Pelicans are large birds that soar over wide areas. They frequent ponded wetlands in the North Bay from July through September, and perhaps into October. They nest at Pyramid Lake in Nevada. They can weigh more than 16 pounds and their prehistoric forms are impressive as they soar high in the air.

Pilots using the airport at Gnoss Field are concerned about possible collisions with the pelicans. Some pilots are pointing fingers at the Bahia restoration, but the pelicans rest and fish in many bodies of water near the airport and along Highway 37 and did so before Bahia was restored.

We met with representatives of the Gnoss Field Community Association, a pilots group, to try to address this issue. They are interested in working together but some pilots have taken a confrontational approach, calling MAS names and accusing us of wanting to close down the airport. One pilot even suggested in a letter to the IJ that “removing wetlands, marshes, and any bird habitat near airport(s)...be an imperative.”

Of course, such actions would violate many federal and state laws that were enacted to protect our nation’s wetlands and wildlife, which are an important part of our natural heritage and ecosystems that support all life. In our area, removing wetlands would require filling most of the bay, as most of our airports are on or very close to the bay.

MAS provided the pilots with information about American White Pelicans and about reducing the risks. One way would be developing an alert system with help from an expert in bird strikes. Russ DeFusco, a leading authority on bird strikes, was the subject of a recent article “Clearing the Air” in Audubon Magazine and has advised many airports around the country on ways to reduce the collision risks, including systems to alert pilots to the presence of wildlife in their area.

We hope to continue to work with the pilots group.

WIND ENERGY

The latest chapter on wind energy in Marin is the County Zoning Administrator’s approval of permit applications by NextEra Energy Resources for 197.7-foot tall meteorological research towers on two West Marin ranches. The towers would be in place for up to five years. Their purpose is to collect data on wind power in the vicinity, or, in other words, to determine if there is enough wind in the area to make wind turbines profitable.

NextEra is one of the largest wind power companies in the country. It currently has an application to continue its current wind turbine farm that covers approximately 8,950 acres at Altamont Pass.

MAS has joined with Marin Conservation League, the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin and many individuals in appealing the Zoning Administrator’s approval of the meteorological tower permit. In our appeal, we raised concerns about a number of issues that have not been adequately addressed. Essentially, there has been no environmental review. MAS’s most critical concern is about the impact of the guy wires used to stabilize the towers. Guy wires are lethal to birds because birds can’t see them at night, when most birds migrate, or during inclement weather. It is vital that a design not using guy wires, or using measures that will deter birds from the guy wires and tower, be evaluated for feasibility and effectiveness, and that data on bird strikes be collected and made public. So far these issues have not been adequately addressed.

continued on page 6
Guess Who?

Bird of the Month

By Meryl Sundove and Roger D. Harris

The bird of this month is a highly sociable, widespread species in western North America about which remarkably little is known of its life history due to its extreme aerial life style. It eats, drinks, bathes, and perhaps even mates in the air. A Eurasian relative is even thought to sleep on the wing.

Among the most accomplished of fliers, this bird can move forward at high speeds, changing direction in a split second. Built for speed, an aerodynamic body shape and long narrow wings help it sail through the air. Its ability to fly fast and maneuver well enables it to feed on "aerial plankton" — flying insects and other arthropods carried aloft by air currents.

As our bird pursues insects, it sweeps through concentrations, twisting and turning to capture prey in its mouth. Its beak is very small but its gape is wide. It sometimes catches ballooning spiders. As young spiders move away from the place they hatch, they send out strands of silk lines that the wind lifts along with the tiny spider, floating them off to new areas.

The bird of the month forages in groups or sometimes singly. The majority of feeding flocks are from five to 50 individuals although bigger flocks are seen at times. They spend their entire day on the wing foraging insects and chasing one another.

To drink our bird approaches the water surface in flight, pulls its wings back horizontal, and dips its beak in the water. It batters in flight, hitting the water surface with its belly, and then preens in flight afterwards. Our bird approaches a water surface to be an avoidance response to aerial predators flies quickly away from the site. This is thought to be an avoidance response to aerial predators.

This species does not stop and perch on a wire or branch to rest between feeding bouts as do swallows, which feed on airborne insects like our bird and sometimes forage in mixed species flocks with our species. The only time one sees our bird perching is inside a rocky crevice or a nest. It is not a perching bird and sometimes forage in mixed species flocks. The remoteness of areas in which our bird nests and roosts, whether human-made or natural, has made it difficult to study many breeding behaviors of this species. What is known is mostly observed during aerial displays and flights.

Observers have noted some interesting behaviors involving chasing and contact — V Displays and Courtship Falls. During a V Display, the bird being chased briefly brings both wings 45 degrees above horizontal and glides. Sometimes this behavior is proceeded by a Courtship Fall. Two birds cling together and tumble downward, separating before hitting the ground. It is unknown that mating takes place during a Courtship Fall or at other times on the wing. It is known that mating does occur in the roost or nesting crevice.

The bird of this month is often heard before it is seen. Its vocalizations consist of a drawn out rattling screee and a shrill twittering. Individuals are constantly calling to each other in the air and in the roost. One behavior observed is the formation of "Screaming Parties" where a large group passes together back and forth near the roost or nesting crevice, all making high pitched vocalizations that sounds like they are screaming.

In another behavior, termed the Silent Dread, the whole flying flock stops calling and silently flies quickly away from the site. This is thought to be an avoidance response to aerial predators like a Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii) or a Peregrine Falcon (Falco peregrinus).

Guessed Who?

PHOTO BY PETER LATTOURRE/BIRDPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

THANKS TO OUR STEWARDSHIP VOLUNTEERS:
Debbie Ablin, Bob Bundy, Lance Carnes, Robert Hinz, Jerry Jarocki, Martha Jarocki, Jo Kreider, Premi McMurdo, Flinn Moore Rauck, Linda Nicoletto, Barbara Salzman, Jude Stalker, Lowell Sykes

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:
Corinne Abell, Cindy Andersen, James Baird, Dorelle Ball, Dhiraj Bamola, Rosemary Barlow, Pamela Becker, Cathy V. Benediktsson, Carneill Y. Bérété, Henri Blok, Debra Butler, Mary L. Byrnes, Carla Cariveau, Monika Carver, Jeanne Castro, Jim Coda, Michellene Cote, Christiane Crnicich, William Crocker, Arianne Dar, Robert Evans, David Ferguson, Manuel Ferreira, Marsha Fine, Jerome Freedman, Gordon Gellner, Richard & Susan Goldwasser, Sallie Griffith, Juanita Hagemann, Lillian Hanahan, Mayme Harris, Elliott A. Hayne, Ron Henderson, Kimiko Higashi, Hazel Hill, Charlene Hollandier, Brett Hopper, Imogene Ilberton, Mercedes Irwin, Wendy Kähn, Mary Kent Scott, M. Key, Kristin Klein, Olivia Koeppel, Lewis Likover, Libby Lill, Patricia J. Lowrie, Cameron Maddux, Irene Mariani, Mary Miller, Patricia Murphy, George Nilsen, Carrie O'Neill, Lissa Ochoa, Catherine Orman, Jean Pacelli, David Perotti, Sarah & Michael Petrik, Susan Plotnick, Joanne Pugh, Audrey Puls, Melissa Purcell, Graham Quinn, Silvia N. Ramos, Shaikli Rose, Anne Sagendorph, Patricia R. Salber, Dan Schlager, Mary F. Schmale, Barbara Schnell, John Sergeant, M. K. Stanton, Martha Stettmer, Joanne Trifuso, Mike & B.J. Vanhorn, Max VIBERT, Yvonne Vicino, Jean Victor, Kristen Vyas, Gertrude West, Sally Wynhoff, John & Catherine Yee, Vivian H. Young, Freda Zuckerman, Lesley Zwillinger

MARIN AUDUBON THANKS THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR DONATIONS:
Joyce and David Applen, Keith Bancroft, Roger and Phyllis Duba, Harry and Elaine Hick’s, Colleen Lenihan, Warren and Marcia Nute, Elisabeth Rothenberger, Barbara and Jay Salzman, Marion Weeks

continued on page 7
We accomplished a lot this summer with the help of our dedicated volunteers including the Project ReGeneration program kids from the Conservation Corps North Bay. We took a brief break by not scheduling other work during August, however, when stinkweed or stinkwort began appearing, we couldn’t delay. We scheduled a few mid-week workdays, hired Watershed Nursery workers and cleaned it out of the Sanitary District property and off of the west peninsula at Bahia. Stinkweed (*Dittrichia graveolens*) is a highly invasive plant that just began to show up in the Bay Area several years ago. It has unusual patterns of growing when most plants are in their decline, the late summer/ fall, and if pulled when there is an immature seedhead, the seed will continue to mature.

Now we’re gearing up for fall and winter planting and weeding. We’ve scheduled mid-week work days for alternate Wednesdays and Thursdays at Bahia and will continue the first Saturday of the month work day at Triangle.

Implementation of any educational programs would be left to the owners of the launch sites. We cannot see how this would comply with the CEQA requirement that mitigation be “feasible and effective.” The DEIR admits that the lead agency, the Coastal Conservancy, can’t control the property owners. Rather, the approach seems to be one of hoping and trusting.

Some examples of DEIR statements: “it is likely educational benefits…would counteract potential impacts to rafting water birds” and “public outreach is expected to sensitize users to disturbance issues”. In reality, people ignore signs. Closing trails is mentioned as a general possibility, but not in relation to protecting any special status species like the endangered Clapper Rail.

Nowhere in the draft report is the need for enforcement addressed.

While undoubtedly there would be benefits to having signs and educational programs, these measures are simply insufficient to ensure that the potential impacts of increased public use would be effectively mitigated. It only takes a few boaters, for example, to disturb overwintering or migrating waterfowl that are resting on the bay or to destroy vegetative habitat for Clapper Rails by hauling small crafts onto a marsh.

We have urged the Conservancy to ensure the proposed mitigation measures are implemented and that an enforcement program also be developed and implemented.
Marin Birdlog – August 2010

By Rich Stallcup

With just three exceptions, bird sightings reported this August in Marin were within the range of normal rarity or annual predictability.

Three alternate (breeding) plumaged Red-necked Grebes on Drake’s Bay 8/20 (AD,RS) had recently arrived and the timing was as usual. A female Black Scoter with Surf Scoters on Drake’s Bay 8/19 (NB) had summered there as had a mated pair of Harlequin Ducks at Mirounga Beach the same day (NB,RS) and 8/21 (MS). Both species are very rare here during the summer. The Harlequins were no doubt the same ones I mentioned in the last issue in courtship display 6/1. It appears they did not leave for nesting along some wild river. Other unseasonable ducks were three female Buffleheads and a basic Hooded Merganser at lower Abbott’s Lagoon 8/21 (MS).

A young American Golden Plover at Nicasio Reservoir 8/27 (TB) was flushed out later in the day. Always a nice surprise, this is the third record for that lake. What do they find appealing at that lake? It would be alarming if there were no Semipalmated Sandpipers seen in Marin in August and 2010 produced three: one at Rush Creek 8/8 (RS), one at Corte Madera 8/10 (DM,JC), and one at Abbott’s 8/21 (MR,MB). All these were youngsters. A juvenile Pectoral Sandpiper 8/21 at the Teal Pond, Tomales Point (MB,MR) was on the early side, but an adult at Bolinas mid-month (fide KH) was timely for its age group. Only two Baird’s Sandpipers were found, one at Abbott’s and one at Rodeo Beach 8/15 (WL). Habitat preferred by this species has degraded in recent years especially at Point Reyes National Seashore. A Solitary Sandpiper at Nicasio 8/19 (BB) could not be refound 8/20. Ten Lesser Yellowlegs with 50 Greater Yellowlegs were at the Rush Creek Wetlands 8/8 (RS) reaffirming their strong (but brief) presence here in the fall. Like Pectoral and Baird’s Sandpipers, Lesser Yellowlegs are very scarce here during spring migration.

Avocets are migrants on Marin’s ocean coast whereas many are permanent residents on the bay side. Except for a winter flock at Bolinas Lagoon that doesn’t arrive until the last week of September, the species is seldom seen. One at Rodeo Lagoon on 8/15 (WL) and four at Horseshoe Bay side. Except for a winter flock at Bolinas Lagoon that doesn’t arrive until the last week of September, the species is seldom seen. One at Rodeo Lagoon on 8/15 (WL) and four at Horseshoe Bay side. Exceptional records came on 8/8 (RS) reaffirming their strong (but brief) presence here in the fall. Two Pectoral and Baird’s Sandpipers were found, one at Abbott’s and one at Rodeo Beach 8/15 (WL). Habitat preferred by this species has degraded in recent years especially at Point Reyes National Seashore. A Solitary Sandpiper at Nicasio 8/19 (BB) could not be refound 8/20. Ten Lesser Yellowlegs with 50 Greater Yellowlegs were at the Rush Creek Wetlands 8/8 (RS) reaffirming their strong (but brief) presence here in the fall. Like Pectoral and Baird’s Sandpipers, Lesser Yellowlegs are very scarce here during spring migration.

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Recently, a hummingbird enigma hovered over coastal Marin. An adult female Ruby-throated Hummingbird was identified at a Bolinas feeder 8/9 (KH) and was seen by many for a few days. It was the third at Keith’s gallery. There are only about 12 for all of California ever. Astoundingly, a juvenile was attending the same feeder 8/24 (KH, m.ob) and was present the next day until the fog cleared. A third individual this August showed-up on nearby Southeast Farallon Island 8/29 (PRBO). YES, they are hard to identify without close scrutiny, but where is the closest population source? Conjecture on this whole matter swirls.

Orioles are generally early to depart after nesting here. The last members of a Hooded Oriole family left east Novato 8/11 … only one migrant from somewhere else was seen later.

A Northern Waterthrush was at Muir Beach mid-August (JW) and another in Bolinas 8/23 (KH).

Here comes September, THE most exciting month for birders (and possibly birds) at our latitudes! Bring it on!


Junior Bird Watchers

By Wendy Dreskin

Junior Bird Watchers is an in-school program designed to teach elementary school children to identify birds in their neighborhoods. The program was developed by National Audubon Society (NAS). When NAS discontinued the program, Marin Audubon assumed sponsorship and Wendy Dreskin continues as the instructor, conducting the program in classrooms at several elementary schools. If you would like more information, please visit “Junior Birdwatchers” under the “Birds” tab on our website at marinaudubon.org, or contact Wendy Dreskin at 415/457-3949.
The success of Marin Audubon Society’s work depends greatly on its chapter members. We work collaboratively with the National Audubon Society on issues of mutual concern, but very little of our funding comes from the NAS. MAS relies on local support for our habitat protection efforts, conservation advocacy, birding field trips, educational Speakers Series, and publication of *The Clapper Rail*. Chapter members also have the opportunity to support and participate in the acquisition, restoration and enhancement of wildlife habitat which will be protected in perpetuity. Our members help us shape our agenda and carry out our goals and mission.

If you are not already a local chapter member, please consider joining MAS, and urge your friends, neighbors and 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 marinaudubon.org.

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**NEW DAY AND TIME**

**Oct. 07** Speaker Series
Note: Lecture is now on Thursday nights at 7:30 p.m.

**Nov. 18 – 21** Central Valley Birding Symposium in Stockton
See www.cvbs.org or contact Frances Oliver at hummer52@sbcglobal.net

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**Save the Date**

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**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 Local Chapter Member
- Renewal
- New Member
- $1,000 Benefactor
- $500 Patron
- $100 Sustaining
- $50 Sponsor
- $25 Basic
- Please accept my donation in the amount of
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Marin Audubon Society
P.O. Box 599
Mill Valley, CA 94942

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**National Audubon Society Membership**

Membership in Marin Audubon Society does not include membership in National Audubon Society. For more information about and/or to join the NAS, visit to audubon.org or contact National Audubon Society, 700 Broadway, New York, NY 10003, 212/979-3000.