



**Bay Area Council Meeting  
Saturday, April 9, 2016**

**Richardson Bay Audubon Center  
Tiburon, CA  
76 Greenwood Beach Road  
Tiburon, CA 94920  
<http://www.tiburonaudubon.org/>**

**NOTES**

**Attending:**

Susan Kirks, Madrone Audubon  
Barbara Salzman, Marin Audubon  
Lowell Sykes, Marin Audubon  
Hugh Harvey, Mount Diablo Audubon  
Maren Smith, Mount Diablo Audubon  
Wendy Schackwitz, Napa-Solano Audubon  
Robin Leong, Napa-Solano Audubon  
Jennifer Rycenga, Sequoia Audubon  
Mike Lynes, Audubon California (via Skype)  
Ariana Rickard, Mt. Diablo Audubon/Audubon California

**AGENDA**

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|----------------|---|
| <b>9:00 am</b> | <b>Introductions and finalization of agenda</b>   |
| <b>9:15 am</b> | <b>Campaign for Baylands Parcel Tax (Measure AA)<br/>Ariana Rickard, Audubon California</b> |
| <b>9:30 am</b> | <b>Legislative Updates<br/>Mike Lynes, Audubon California</b>                               |

California Coastal Commission bills:

AB 2022 – 18 co-authors. Would require more transparency; lobbyists need to disclose when they are meeting with commissioners.

AB 2616 – Require environmental justice representatives on CA Coastal Commission.

SB 1190 – Hannah Beth-Jackson – prohibit ex-parte communications with Commissioners

AB 2087 – Levine, Regional Conservation Frameworks assessment, no permitting tools. Would synthesize biological information on sensitive ecological areas.

Barbara – Marin Audubon has a long-standing opposition to mitigation and will oppose this bill.

AB 2148 – Audubon sponsoring regulations for drone use on land, managers and agencies can come up with rules for where people can and cannot use drones. Land managers and Audubon chapter members are reporting seeing more drone use at refuges and state park preserves. Amazon.com is a drone advocate.

Private lands would not be covered, how do you regulate that? County could pass regulations to control use on private lands.

Governor Jerry Brown vetoed every drone bill last year.

SB 1363 – Senator Monee – Audubon CA is helping to sponsor bill regarding recommendations from the Ocean Protection Council on ocean acidification on California coast caused by stormwater pollution. Eelgrass makes coastline resilient to acidification, Audubon CA is trying to educate the legislature on the value of eelgrass. Goal of no net loss of eelgrass along coast.

Tricolored Blackbird – is a candidate for listing this year.

The Fish and Game Commission has postponed decision on whether to list the Spotted Owl.

Audubon is fighting efforts to delist the California Gnatcatcher and Willow Flycatcher.

**10:00am          BirdSeasons CA**  
**Hugh Harvey, Mount Diablo Audubon**

Started collecting data in February 2015. Plan to continue until June or July 2016.

Study site is McNabney Marsh, managed by Mountain View Sanitary District. Not really tidal. First sanitary district to use ponds for filtering pollution. Two properties, across freeway from each other.

Staff biologist helped out by advising team on where to observe, when and how often and to figure out protocol.

Call for volunteers at monthly membership meetings – 20 people, 5 people each, 4 teams

Nine species studied. Volunteers go out once a week, any time of day. Observe for 15 minutes at each observation point.

One person on team has to enter info into National Phenology Network site, Nature's Notebook.

Every 3 or 4 months all volunteers meet as a group to check in and discuss study issues, like the definition of phenophases for birds.

Team leaders also check in about once a month and share interesting things they have seen like river otters.

Problems:

Volunteer burnout – indefinite timeframe of study, volunteers only signed up for one year of project.

Find local people to minimize traffic concerns.

## **10:30am Chapter Reports**

### *Marin Audubon*

Barbara Salzman appeared on IJ Forum to discuss National Park Service's proposed dog management plan for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. See video at: <http://www.marinij.com/environment-and-nature/20160408/ij-forums-leaders-square-off-on-the-ggnra-dog-controversy>

Chapter wrote to GGNRA to provide comments on plan and attended Marin meeting. Two people spoke on behalf of NPS. 90% of people in southern Marin, Oakwood spoke out against new rule.

There are five places for off-leash dogs in Marin, including Rodeo Beach. Other areas for off-leash dogs include Fort Mason, Fort Funston, Ocean Beach and Chrissy Field. Other NPS parks do not allow dogs.

The Marin Open Space District would like to open up, widen and improve trails for mountain bikers. Chapter is advocating for protection of Spotted Owls in areas near trails.

Richardson Bay Regional Agency – group that is managing boats. Anchor-outs are damaging eelgrass.

### *Sequoia*

Pati Rouzer has helped secure some small grants for the chapter. Santa Clara Valley and Sequoia are collaborating on a project with Google, leading bird walks and promoting citizen science. This is an opportunity to engage new birders and eager volunteers. They are also creating materials on using native plants to create wildlife habitat at home.

Global Big Day – Saturday, May 14. \$50 donation. Big Sit – fall fundraiser.

New Field Trips chair – promoting field trips. Get second person to do sign ups so field trip leader can focus on other things.

Cal Academy of Sciences and San Mateo County park – Wednesday and Thursday, June 8 and 9 Bioblitz. One day event. Bioblitz – can discover new species and subspecies. Chart things with sonic and photo documentation.

Chapter is also assisting with the Brown Pelican Survey, recruiting and coordinating volunteers.

Massive board turnover – 4-6 open positions, mostly due to burnout. President, Secretary and Treasurer are leaving their positions. VP will continue, but does not want to be President.

### *Mount Diablo*

Trying to figure out insurance questions for our Young Birders Club.

For chapter field trips, use a sign-up sheet, but do not have liability waivers.

MDAS is now assisting with Peregrine Patrol at Castle Rocks, managed by East Bay Regional Park District. Peregrine falcon pair nesting. Signs posted about falcons, but need extra set of eyes to report people who violate rules, like rock climbers near nest and then call EBRPD police. \$485 fine per person and per dog. Volunteers are also good ambassadors and educators to the public.

Attendance high at monthly meetings – 115 at April meeting, where main speaker was Joan Morris.

Chapter also has a Legislative Committee that has developed a relationship with Assemblywoman Catharine Baker, who spoke at February meeting. MDAS sponsored a Walk and Talk with Baker's office in February, and two board members serve on her Environmental Advisory Council.

### *Madrone*

Betty Burrige passed away recently. She created Breeding Bird Atlas for county. Memorial service in late May.

Cliff swallows press conference on March 17, coordinated by Assemblymember Marc Levine. Representatives from Native Songbird Care and Conservation – Veronica Bowers, Center for Biological Diversity - Jeff Miller, Golden Gate Audubon – Bill Hudson, Marin Audubon – Barbara Salzman, Madrone Audubon – Gordon Beebe and Susan Kirks and Audubon CA – Ariana Rickard. Covered by ABC local news and local paper.

CalTrans – do something proactive in 3<sup>rd</sup> year. Bridge construction almost complete. Removed platform last month and bridge is now clear. Cliff Swallows have returned in hundreds this week. Settlement agreement ends in August.

Chapter is updating Breeding Bird Atlas update.

Currently considering endorsing Tree Care group. Rookery at West 9<sup>th</sup> street in Santa Rosa. Straw used under trees and fencing put up under tree, from now until the end of August. Santa Rosa Bird Rescue and International Bird Rescue. Birds are released in lagunas in May on Saturdays. 275 birds released. 400 birds taken in from rookery after falling or other injuries. Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets, Cattle Egrets, and Black-crowned Night Herons, and Green Herons.

Phenology project starting. Article in newsletter and ask for volunteers. Long term commitment to document changes due to climate change. 6-8 bird species, 2 plant species, 2 mammals, deer mule and American Badger. 10 women volunteers.

Sponsor Messenger showing last month. For full description of event, see [http://www.madroneaudubon.org/pdf/newsletter/Leaves\\_Apr-May16.pdf](http://www.madroneaudubon.org/pdf/newsletter/Leaves_Apr-May16.pdf)

### *Napa-Solano*

Wine Growers – Very interested in bluebird boxes, which leads to a reduction of glassy wing sharpshooters, a type of damaging insect. Leafhoppers in Bluebird stomachs – documentation and papers on topic.

Alex – Education Chair. Reached out to 700 kids in 30 schools to create Junior Audubon group. Small group, 4-5 kids, go out twice a month. Napa River Restoration monitoring. Data analysis and report.

Tricolored Blackbird – Rush Ranch restoration. Monitoring of how Trikes are responding to that. 3<sup>rd</sup> visit, three volunteers will help with those areas.

Google grant – creating a database on native plants that are useful to birds.

Creating a climate grant booklet – 40 pages. Four habitats, three ambassador birds. Using Creative Commons – good place to get photos. Use Flickr, left side to find Creative Commons.

Monitoring heron rookeries through Audubon Canyon Ranch. Volunteers for four different rookeries.

Messenger movie – program for next meeting. 90 minute film.

First time birdathon, silent auction gala.

Lagoon Valley – proposed housing and golf course development. Trumpeter Swan. Seasonal wetlands. Golden Eagle and Swainson's Hawk nesting.

BirdSeasons – second volunteer training. 3 volunteers, one location at American Canyon wetlands. 6 species. Pilot for now.

Scholarships in Napa and Solano. Two \$2000 scholarships. Next year, might change to two \$1000 scholarships.

Eric Mackey – new Education Chair

**11:45 am      Hanging Chads – new and unresolved issues to put a button on  
Brown Pelican survey - May 7, 2016 (5:00-7:00 PM)  
Audubon Assembly – November 4-6, Tenaya Lodge, Yosemite**

Meeting adjourned at 12pm.