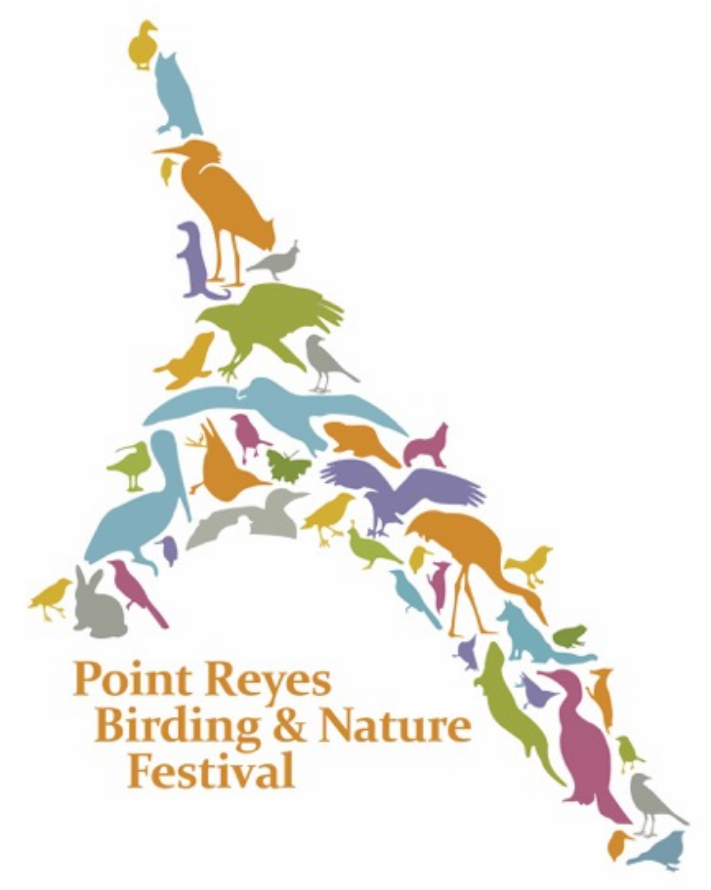
Environmental Action Committee of West Marin's
Point Reyes Birding and Nature Festival

Thursday, April 25th, 2019

Class Description



1. Special Keynote Thursday Outing & Lunch:
Birding with the Kingbird Kenn Kaufman & Signed Book

Thursday, April 25, 2019 | 8:30 am – 1:00 pm
Difficulty/Length: Easy, 2-4 miles
Experience Levels/Ages: All
Ticket Price: $175 | 16 participants

Join author and well-known birder Kenn Kaufman and popular naturalist David Wimpfheimer for this special morning of birding. We will sample several habitats as we travel from the wetlands of Tomales Bay to the interior grasslands and oak woodlands near the town of Nicasio. In each habitat there will be different birds that we will learn about and identify by field marks and their vocalizations. From teal and yellowlegs to raptors, Lazuli buntings and Lark sparrows we will enjoy a large diversity of species. With any luck we may even see a kingbird, an iconic bird for Kenn. At the end of the outing we will return to a private residence in Point Reyes Station for a catered lunch. Participants will receive a signed copy of his new book, *A Season on the Wind, Inside the World of Spring Migration*.

Guide Bio: Kenn Kaufman, a lifelong naturalist, is the originator and editor of the Kaufman Field Guides series. His fascination with birds developed at the age of six and he went on to become one of the world's best-known bird experts, but his interests extend to every area of nature. In addition to his work on the field guides, Kenn is also a Field Editor for Audubon Magazine and a regular columnist for BirdWatching and Birds and Blooms.

Kenn burst onto the North American birding scene as a teenager, hitch-hiking around the continent in pursuit of birds, an extended journey that was later chronicled in his memoir Kingbird Highway. Establishing an early reputation as an expert on bird identification and distribution, in 1984 he became associate editor of the journal American Birds, which was then published by the National Audubon Society and began teaching birding workshops throughout the United States and Canada. During the same period, he also began leading international birding and nature tours, eventually leading multiple trips to all seven continents and many oceanic islands. His first book, A Field Guide to Advanced Birding, published in the Peterson series in 1990, drew wide acclaim and in 1992 he became the youngest person ever to receive the lifetime achievement award of the American Birding Association (the award was later renamed and he received it again in 2008).

Since the late 1990s, most of his attention has gone into the Kaufman Field Guides. Countless hours in the field doing research and photography are followed up with countless hours of writing, editing, and design work, collaborating with experts in each subject to ensure the highest quality in the finished books.

Aside from the field guides, Kenn's best-known book is *Kingbird Highway*. Published by Houghton Mifflin in 1997, it has become something of a cult classic, especially among young birders. It tells the story of his adventures as a teenager in the 1970s, thumbing rides all over North America in an obsessive search for birds.

Event Location: Various location around West Marin.

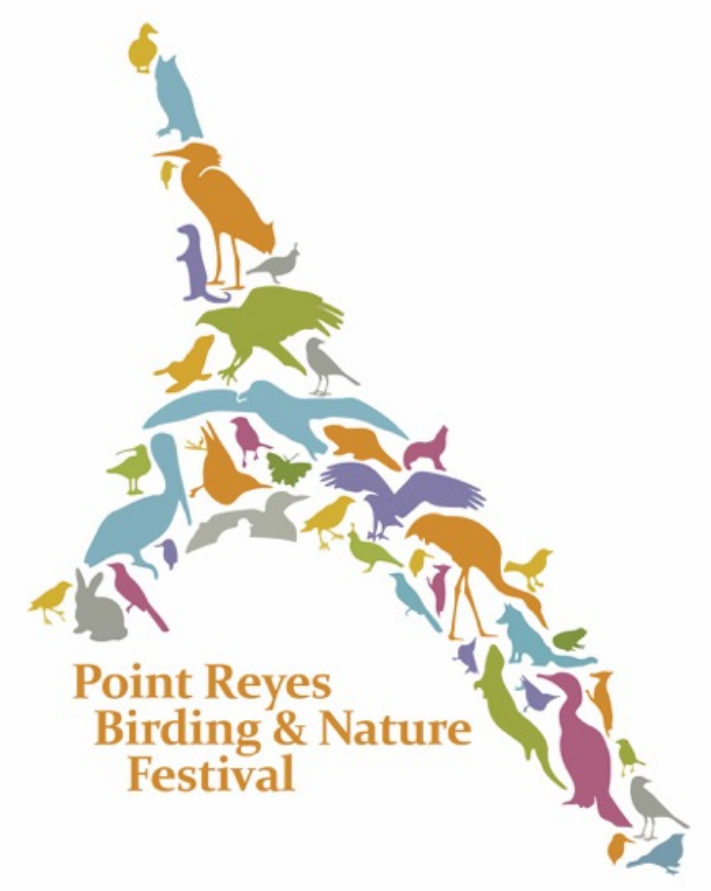
Meeting Location (Rain or Shine):
Dance Palace Community and Cultural Center
503 B Street Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear. Bring water and binoculars. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

Environmental Action Committee of West Marin's
Point Reyes Birding and Nature Festival

Friday, April 26th, 2019

Class Descriptions



2. Birds of the Outer Point with Dan Singer

Friday, April 26, 2019 | 7:00 am – 2:00 pm
Difficulty/Length: Easy, 1-2 miles | **Experience Levels/Ages:** All
Ticket Price: $70 | 16 participants

Join birder Dan Singer to explore Point Reyes National Seashore's outer point including Drakes Beach, the Point Reyes Lighthouse and some ranch sites. Dan will help identify land, sea and shorebirds, while explaining their status and distribution along the point. We'll be looking for migrant flycatchers, warblers and other passerines as well as focusing on those species that breed there. As the regional editor of eBird he will also share how you can use technology to record your findings.

Guide Bio: Dan Singer has been studying birds since childhood. His interest and expertise in difficult identification issues and the status and distribution of birds in California, North America and much of the rest of the world, led to many years as a regional editor for the journal *North American Birds*. He has served as a member of the California Bird Records Committee since the 1990s. Dan spends an inordinate amount of time watching gulls, but would rather be at sea looking for petrels. He can often be found leading pelagic trips along the central California coast. For the past several years Dan has been a regional editor for eBird in California. His latest mission is to make you an eBirder.

Event Location: Various locations on Point Reyes National Seashore's outer point, including Drakes Beach, Point Reyes Lighthouse and ranch sites.

Meeting Location (Rain or Shine):
Dance Palace Community and Cultural Center
503 B Street Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch, and binoculars. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

3. Bahia Wetlands to Rush Creek with Peter Colasanti

Friday, April 26, 2019 | 7:30 am – 12:00 pm
Difficulty/Length: Easy, 2-4 miles | **Experience Levels/Ages:** All, Ages 14+
Ticket Price: $45 | 16 participants

Join guide Peter Colasanti for an invigorating walk along the Bahia Wetland Trail at Rush Creek in Novato. Rush Creek is a 522-acre preserve adjacent to the wetlands, where thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl congregate each fall and winter and spring. Outside of the Point Reyes Peninsula, this is one of the best birding locations in the North Bay with 196 regularly occurring species. Black Oak woodlands give way to oak savannah and marsh habitats harboring the endangered Ridgway's rail, lingering ducks, shorebirds, raptors, migrants and more. This trip involves carpooling and a shuttle between Rush Creek and Bahia.

Guide Bio: Peter Colasanti graduated from the University of Massachusetts in 1974 with a degree in zoology and almost immediately came west to see more birds. Since then he's made his home and living in the North Bay, taking long birding trips to the Neotropics in the good years and most of them are good years. Peter leads surveys at Tolay Regional Park and Tolay Creek Ranch for Sonoma County agencies. He also leads field trips and monitors bird populations at Shollenberger Park for the Petaluma Wetlands Alliance.

Event Location: Bahia Wetlands, Novato, CA

Meeting Location (Rain or Shine):
Rush Creek Trailhead | 8186 Binford Road, Novato CA 94945

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch and binoculars. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

4. Giacomini Wetlands: A Tidal Refuge with Lorraine Parsons & Mary Anne Flett

Friday, April 26, 2019 | 8:00 am – 11:00 am
Difficulty/Length: Easy, 1 mile
Experience Levels/Ages: All levels, Ages 10+
Ticket Price: $30 | 12 participants

Join National Park Service Vegetation and Wetland Ecologist Lorraine Parsons, and Avocet Research Associate Mary Anne Flett to bird around the edges of the 560-acre restored wetlands Giacomini Wetlands complex just outside of Point Reyes Station. As we bird and look for wildlife, we will learn about salt marsh ecology and the 2008 restoration, which has profoundly benefited the wetland landscape– especially for wildlife.

Set between the pastoral ranchlands of West Marin to the east and the protected wildlands of Point Reyes National Seashore on the western shore, Tomales Bay is recognized as one of the most intact and biologically healthy estuaries along the California coast, even prior to the restoration. As such, it has long served as an essential refueling site for migrating shorebirds and waterfowl along the Pacific Flyway. And now, by bringing back some 12 percent of the historic coastal wetlands between Cape Mendocino and Point Conception, the Giacomini Restoration project dramatically enhances the bay's ecological value to those species.

Guide Bio: Lorraine Parsons is the lead Vegetation/Wetland Ecologist at Point Reyes National Seashore for the past 17 years. She was the project leader for the Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project, which was completed in 2008. After that, she managed the Abbotts Lagoon Coastal Dune Restoration Project, which is restoring approximately 300 acres of coastal dune north of Abbotts Lagoon. She has also worked on several other wetland and dune restoration projects in the Seashore

Mary Anne Flett is a native Californian and naturalist. She has been birding and eco-traveling for fun and working as a professional wildlife biologist for nearly 40 years. She especially loves land birds and hearing the dawn chorus. She has conducted bird research in mountain meadows and old growth forests in the Sierra Nevada for many years; her primary current focus is on studying rare marsh species and surveying birds associated with riparian and wetlands restoration projects around the San Francisco Bay and Estuary and elsewhere in Northern California. She has been working with Lorraine Parsons and Avocet Research Associates on the Giacomini Wetlands project since 2007, before the levees were breached.

Event Location: Giacomini Wetlands | Point Reyes Station, CA

Meeting Location (Rain or Shine): Dance Palace Community and Cultural Center | 503 B Street Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch and binoculars. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

5. Redwood Renewal at Muir Woods: A Look at Restoration in the Redwood Creek Watershed with Mia Monroe

Friday, April 26, 2019 | 8:00 am – 12:00 pm
Difficulty/Length: Easy, 3 miles | **Experience Levels/Ages:** All
Ticket Price: $40 | 10 participants

Join celebrated naturalist Mia Monroe for a walk in Muir Wood's old-growth redwood forest, the haunt of Northern Spotted Owls, Pileated Woodpeckers, Pacific Wrens and Wilson's Warblers. We will learn about current and upcoming work to restore a more naturally flowing stream and healthy forest ecosystem while also exploring this natural treasure. Discussion of larger efforts such as the Redwood Creek Watershed Vision and OneTam will lead us downstream to walk around Big Lagoon, Muir Beach to see the thriving wetlands at the mouth of the creek. Significant restoration projects and initiatives like Coho Jumpstart will be highlighted with plenty of time to celebrate the return of otter, coyote, fox and leopard lily!

Guide Bio: Mia Monroe is a National Park Service Ranger, currently as Marin Community Liaison. She participates on the Redwood Renewal team as well as the OneTam Steering Committee. She has worked in the Redwood Creek Watershed for years and has a particular fondness for ferns and monarch butterflies. She is a former Environmental Action Committee of West Marin (EAC) board member and the recipient of EAC's Peter Behr Steward of the Land Award in 2018 in honor of her commitment and dedication to environmental protection and education in Marin.

Event Location: Redwood Creek Watershed

Meeting Location (Rain or Shine): Muir Woods National Monument (parking passes and directions to be provided to registrants, carpooling encouraged)

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear and binoculars. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch. Optional items include: Backpack, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

6. Pelagic Point Reyes: Whales, Seals & Seabirds at the Point Reyes Headlands with Dr. Sarah Allen

Friday, April 26, 2019 | 8:00 am – 12:00 pm
Difficulty/Length: Easy, 2 miles | **Experience Levels/Ages:** All, Ages 8+
Ticket Price: $40 | 12 participants

Join guide and author, Dr. Sarah Allen for a morning exploring pelagic life at Point Reyes. Jutting out nearly 20-miles to the open ocean, the Point Reyes Headlands are an ideal location for spotting migrating pelagic life, including Pacific Gray Whales, Northern Elephant Seals, Pacific Harbor Seals, and thousands of nesting seabirds. At this time of year, gray whale mothers may be seen close to the cliffs as they escort their newborn young from southern California and Mexico back to their feeding grounds in Alaska. On calm days, it is not uncommon to hear spouting whales, or see whale breaching displays. Occasionally pods of dolphins, including Orcas are also seen offshore. We can expect to see Northern Elephant Seals dotting Drakes Beach shorelines in their final stages of birthing and breeding for the season, as well as variety of seabirds including pelicans, cormorants, Pigeon Guillemots and Common Murres on the rocky cliffs. If we are lucky we may get a glimpse of a Peregrine Falcon, or a Great-Horned Owl nesting in the cliffs. The area provides views of the Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries, where thousands of birds and fish, as well as whales, sharks, seals and other marine life feed from the cold, nutrient-rich waters.

Guide Bio: Sarah Allen is the Science Program Lead for the National Park Service's Pacific West Region. For over 30 years she has studied marine birds and mammals extensively in California and ranging from the Gulf of the Farallones to Antarctica. She has authored scientific papers on harbor seals and other topics and is currently working on climate issues for the National Park Service. She is the co-author of the UC Press book, *A Field Guide to the Marine Mammals of the Pacific Coast.*

Event Location: Point Reyes Headlands, including the Point Reyes Lighthouse, Chimney Rock and the Elephant Seal and California Sea Lion overlooks.

Meeting Location (Rain or Shine):
Dance Palace Community and Cultural Center
503 B Street Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes, and bring rain gear. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, binoculars, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

7. Wetlands & Waders
with Kenn Kaufman and David Wimpfheimer

Friday, April 26, 2019 | 8:00 am – 12:00 pm
Difficulty/Length: Easy, 2-4 miles | **Experience Levels/Ages:** All
Ticket Price: $75 | 16 participants

This will be a unique opportunity to bird with one of the most knowledgeable authors and birding leaders in the country, Kenn Kaufman. He will be joined by popular naturalist David Wimpfheimer. This field trip will focus on either Limantour Beach or Abbotts Lagoon, two of the most productive wetlands in the area. In this habitat we will enjoy a variety of shorebirds and waterfowl, practicing and expanding on our identification skills while gaining some new insights into bird behavior. At the beginning of the field trip we will explore a riparian habitat to learn a different group of birds.

Guide Bio: Kenn Kaufman, a lifelong naturalist, is the originator and editor of the Kaufman Field Guides series. Kenn burst onto the North American birding scene as a teenager, hitch-hiking around the continent in pursuit of birds, an extended journey that was later chronicled in his memoir Kingbird Highway. Establishing an early reputation as an expert on bird identification and distribution, in 1984 he became associate editor of the journal *American Birds*, which was then published by the National Audubon Society and began teaching birding workshops throughout the United States and Canada. During the same period, he also began leading international birding and nature tours, eventually leading multiple trips to all seven continents and many oceanic islands. His first book, *A Field Guide to Advanced Birding*, published in the Peterson series in 1990, drew wide acclaim, and in 1992 he became the youngest person ever to receive the lifetime achievement award of the American Birding Association (the award was later renamed and he received it again in 2008).

Since the late 1990s, most of his attention has gone into the Kaufman Field Guides. Countless hours in the field doing research and photography are followed up with countless hours of writing, editing and design work, collaborating with experts in each subject to ensure the highest quality in the finished books. In addition to his work on the field guides, Kenn is also a Field Editor for Audubon Magazine, and a regular columnist for BirdWatching and Birds and Blooms.

Guide Bio: David Wimpfheimer is a biologist, naturalist and EAC board member with a passion for the birds and natural history of the West. During his twenty years of expeditions, in addition to local classes for the Point Reyes Field Institute, Marin Agricultural Land Trust and the California Academy of Sciences, he has led numerous tours to Mexico, Alaska, Scotland and other regions for groups including the Smithsonian Institution, Wild Wings and Road Scholar the majority of David's field trips are geared toward teaching and interpreting the language of the avian world, he is just as experienced teaching about the rich diversity of the greater natural world. From whale watching expeditions to wildflower forays, he will make every visit to the natural world memorable and enjoyable.

Event Location: Various location around West Marin.

Meeting Location (Rain or Shine):
Dance Palace Community and Cultural Center
503 B Street Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear. Bring water and binoculars. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

8. Birdsong Extravaganza with Carolyn Longstreth + 2-CD Birding by Ear Set

Friday, April 26, 2019 | 8:00 am – 2:00 pm
Difficulty/Length: Easy, 3.5 miles | **Experience Levels/Ages:** All
Ticket Price: $70, includes 2-CD set| 14 participants

Join guide Carolyn Longstreth for a leisurely field outing exploring West Marin's diverse habitats with a focus on learning how to listen to and identify a variety of bird songs. Carolyn will point out specific features of each song to help increase participants recognition and recall. The group will meet at the Dance Palace and carpool from site to site, covering forests, wetlands, grasslands, esteros and possibly coastal areas depending on time. Participants of this class will receive the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin's instructional 2-CD set, *Birding by Ear* for study before or after the class, which was created by Carolyn. CDS can be picked up at the EAC office, shipped for a nominal shipping fee, or picked up at the event.

Guide Bio: Carolyn Longstreth served as a Director of the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin (EAC) board for nine years and is one of the co-founders of the Point Reyes Birding & Nature Festival. She is currently on the board of Marin Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. She is an avid birder and the creator of the *Birding by Ear at Point Reyes 2*-CD set. She has taught classes on birdsong at Audubon Center in Connecticut and at past Point Reyes Birding & Nature Festivals.

Event Location: Various locations around West Marin with a primary focus on Point Reyes Station and Point Reyes National Seashore.

Meeting Location (Rain or Shine):
Dance Palace Community and Cultural Center
503 B Street Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch and binoculars. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

9. Birds of Mount Tamalpais with Juan García

Friday, April 26, 2019 | 8:00 am - 2:30 pm
Difficulty/Length: Rugged in places / 5 miles | **Experience Levels/Ages:** Birder-hikers of all ages
Ticket Price: $60 | 16 participants

Join naturalist Juan García in this ramble through Mount Tamalpais State Park. Rising gracefully above the rolling hills of the coast range, Tamalpais is Marin County's tallest summit at 2,571 feet and dominates the northern skyline from almost anywhere in the Bay Area. Because of its proximity to the coast and vertical prominence, the triple peak creates numerous microclimates, featuring forested riparian, serpentine exposures, upland meadows, grassy slopes and chaparral. Within a single hike, you can experience wide extremes of temperature, moisture, wind and sun.

The group will observe how these various habitats support well-adapted flora and fauna. Our focus will be on the bird life, but we'll keep an eye on what the birds themselves are looking for: food and water, safe cover, a secure nesting site. We'll observe all that spring has to offer, resident and migratory birds, wildflowers, butterflies and much more. This is also an excellent opportunity to celebrate the conservationists – from Miwok elders to present-day activists.

Guide Bio: Juan García divides his time between the San Francisco Bay Area and the Texas Gulf Coast. An alumnus of the California Naturalist and California Academy Master Birder programs, he has participated in field surveys for numerous conservation groups, including Audubon Canyon Ranch, Point Blue, Audubon California, Golden Gate Audubon and the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory. He also teaches literature and language at the University of San Francisco.

Event Location: Mount Tamalpais State Park, CA

Meeting Location (Rain or Shine): Rock Spring Parking Area, Mount Tamalpais State Park, CA 94965. The parking area is just west of the Pantoll Ranger Station.

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch and binoculars. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

10. Migratory Waterbirds & Rails of Corte Madera Marsh with Roger Harris & Meryl Sundove

Friday, April 26, 2019 | 8:30 am – 11:30 am
Difficulty/Length: Easy, 1 mile |**Experience Levels/Ages:** All, Ages 8+
Ticket Price: $30 | 16 participants

Join certified wildlife biologist Roger Harris and environmental educator Meryl Sundove at the Corte Madera Marsh. Starting at the Channel Drive cul-de-sac, we will walk to the edge of San Francisco Bay along San Clemente Creek as we watch waves of sandpipers and other waterbirds fly from the bay mudflats to the high tide refuge of the marsh. Numbers of willet, dunlin, long-billed curlew and other shorebirds can be especially impressive here. Then after the tide has risen further, we will walk to a tidal channel to listen for and perhaps see the endangered Ridgway's rail, which is common in this marsh. The diversity of raptors and ducks is quite high here and a river otter may enhance our visit as well. In addition to observing the behavior of these species, we will also address marsh processes, wetland vegetation, and coastal ecology. No restroom facilities are available at the marsh.

Guides Bios: Roger Harris is a certified Wildlife Biologist, who has lived next to and studied the Corte Madera Marsh for over 30 years. He is the author of the Department of Fish and Wildlife's resource management plan for the Corte Madera Marsh and author of the Town of Corte Madera's wildlife management plan for the Corte Madera Shorebird Marsh. He is currently on the Marin County Parks and Open Space Commission. Roger has been privileged to work as a naturalist on eco-tours around the world for the National Audubon Society and the Oceanic Society.

Meryl Sundove is an environmental educator, formerly with the National Audubon Society at the Richardson Bay Audubon Center and now with Point Blue Conservation Science's *Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed* (STRAW) program. She is a recipient of the Terwilliger Environmental Award. Meryl has lived next to and studied the Corte Madera Marsh for over 30 years. She also teaches the popular spring *birding by ear* class for the Marin Audubon Society. Meryl has been privileged to work as a naturalist on eco-tours around the world for the National Audubon Society and for private vendors.

Event Location: Corte Madera Marsh, Corte Madera, CA

Meeting Location (Rain or Shine):
Corte Madera Marsh | Corte Madera, CA
From the 101, exit onto Paradise drive, head east on Tamalpais Drive, bear right on to San Clemente Drive, take the first left on to Harbor Drive, the next right onto Yolo Street, and the next left on to Channel Drive, where the short road dead-ends at the entrance to the marsh.

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes, and bring rain gear and binoculars. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

11. Spring Water & Shorebirds of Bodega Bay with Lisa Hug

Friday, April 26, 2019 | 8:30 am – 3:30 pm
Difficulty/Length: Easy, 2 miles | **Experience Levels/Ages:** All, Ages 14+
Ticket Price: $70 | 16 participants

Join guide Lisa Hug to bird the shoreline of Bodega Bay. This area is a premier birding site in California, featuring an abundance of shorebirds, waterfowl and migrant land birds. Late April is the best time of year to see loons and grebes in their spectacular breeding plumages. We will spend the day birding such renowned locations as Doran Beach, Bodega Harbor, Porto Bodega, Spud Point Marina and the Bodega Head for birds of all kinds and emphasis on water and shorebirds. This trip is best for experienced birders.

Guide Bio: Lisa Hug is a freelance naturalist and contract biologist. She is an experienced birder in the North Bay area whose frequent haunts include Bolinas Lagoon, Point Reyes National Seashore and Bodega Bay. She teaches bird identification classes for the Community Education Program at the College of Marin. Her latest pursuit is starting a birding program for youth that have a special interest in birds. This group has become known locally as Y.A.M.S. (Young Ancient Murrelets) and is a chapter of the Redwood Region Ornithological Society. She loves to share her knowledge of and enthusiasm for the natural world with others.

Event Location: Various locations in Bodega Bay including Bodega Harbor, Porto Bodega, Spud Point Marina, Bodega Head and possibly Doran Park.

Meeting Location (Rain or Shine):
Porto Bodega Marina Parking Lot | Bodega Bay, CA
1500 Bay Flat Road, Bodega Bay, CA 94923
There may be an additional $7 per car fee if we decide to go into Doran County Park.

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes, and bring rain gear. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch and binoculars. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

12. Geology of Point Reyes from Mount Vision with John Karachewski

Friday, April 26, 2019 | 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Difficulty/Length: Easy, 1 mile | **Experience Levels/Ages:** All, Ages 14+
Ticket Price: $40 | 16 participants

Geologically, Point Reyes National Seashore is a park on the move. Come discover life on the edge with geologist, John Karachewski, as he discusses the significance of our rocky substrate atop Mount Vision in Point Reyes National Seashore. Enjoy an educational overview of the Pacific and North American Plates, the San Andreas Fault and scenic views of Drakes Estero, the Great Beach and Tomales Bay from atop Mount Vision and Point Reyes Hill. In addition, participants will learn about the 1906 San Francisco earthquake as well as glacial cycles, worldwide sea-level changes and climate change. This easy trip will include a short walk to overlooks from the end of Mount Vision Road. No prior experience needed.

Guide Bio: John Karachewski is a geologist for the California-EPA (DTSC) in Berkeley. He has conducted geology and environmental projects throughout the western US from Colorado to Alaska to Midway Island and throughout California. He leads numerous geology field trips for the Point Reyes Field Institute and also enjoys teaching at Diablo Valley College. Doris Sloan and John collaborated on a popular book about the *Geology of the San Francisco Bay Region*. He enjoys photographing landscapes during the magic light of sunrise and sunset.

Event Location: Mount Vision, Point Reyes National Seashore, CA

Meeting Location (Rain or Shine): Top of Mount Vision Road, Point Reyes National Seashore, CA. Roughly 16500 Sir Francis Drake Road, Inverness, CA 94937. Make a left at the sign and follow to the top and end of the road.

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, binoculars, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

13. Abbotts Lagoon Amble with Michael Ellis

Friday, April 26, 2019 | 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Difficulty/Length: Easy, 3.5 mile | **Experience Levels/Ages:** All, Ages 14+
Ticket Price: $40 | 16 participants

Join Bay Area naturalist Michael Ellis for an afternoon amble at Abbotts Lagoon in search of bird, marine life and other critters. We will take an easy stroll through open grasslands and coastal scrub to a bridge crossing the short stream connecting a couple of the lagoons, with good spring wildflowers and excellent birdwatching. As we explore this habitat you'll learn to look for signs of life in these extremely productive feeding grounds. Michael will discuss seasonal changes and highlights in the area where land and water converge.

Guide Bio: Michael Ellis is the owner of Footloose Forays, an international ecotourism company. His extensive knowledge of flora, fauna, geology and culture along with his gift for storytelling, sharing wisdom and insight with humor and heart makes Michael's travel journeys rich, one-of-a kind experiences rarely found in guided trips. He is a regular KQED Perspectives commentator, Bay Nature Magazine columnist and Board Member for Land Paths. His past experience includes being the Executive Director of Frontier Arts Institute at Slide Ranch, a host/naturalist on a natural history documentary on southeast Alaska for the Discovery Cable Channel and wrote for a syndicated natural history column for 10 years that was carried in six newspapers.

Event Location: Abbotts Lagoon Trail | Point Reyes National Seashore, CA

Meeting Location (Rain or Shine):
Abbotts Lagoon Trail | Point Reyes National Seashore, CA
4101 Pierce Point Road, Inverness, CA 94937

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch and binoculars. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

14. Spring Migration at Limantour Beach and Estero with David Wimpfheimer

Friday, April 26, 2019 | 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm
Difficulty/Length: Easy, 3-mile | **Experience Levels/Ages:** All, Ages 14+
Ticket Price: $50 | 16 participants

Join naturalist and EAC board member, David Wimpfheimer to explore spring bird migration at Limantour Beach and Estero in Point Reyes National Seashore. This three mile-walk through dunes, muddy marsh edges and along the beach will focus on the identification and behavior of shorebirds, ducks, loons, grebes and raptors. Limantour's dynamic estuary is a critical feeding area for a large variety of waterbirds including Dunlin, Black-Bellied Plover and Snowy Plover, and Western and Least Sandpipers. Many of these waders will be in breeding plumage. Viewing Drakes Bay from the beach affords views of three species of loon, alcids, brant, scoters and possibly Red-Necked Grebe.

Guide Bio: David Wimpfheimer is a biologist, naturalist and EAC board member with a passion for the birds and natural history of the West. During his twenty years of expeditions, in addition to local classes for the Point Reyes Field Institute, Marin Agricultural Land Trust and the California Academy of Sciences, he has led numerous tours to Mexico, Alaska, Scotland and other regions for groups including the Smithsonian Institution, Wild Wings and Road Scholar the majority of David's field trips are geared toward teaching and interpreting the language of the avian world, he is just as experienced teaching about the rich diversity of the greater natural world. From whale watching expeditions to wildflower forays, he will make every visit to the natural world memorable and enjoyable.

Event Location: Limantour Beach & Estero, Point Reyes National Seashore, CA

Meeting Location (Rain or Shine):
Dance Palace Community and Cultural Center
503 B Street Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch and binoculars. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

14B. The Wonder of Monarchs in Crisis: the Marin Story with Mia Monroe & Friends

Friday, April 26, 2019 | 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm
Difficulty/Length: Classroom | **Experience Levels/Ages:** All
Ticket Price: $10 | 16 participants

Join Mia Monroe and a panel of citizen scientists for a classroom presentation on the State of Monarchs in Marin. Mia has extensive knowledge about local monarchs and has been monitoring and observing them for over 30 years. Mia and the panelists will share this iconic and beautiful butterfly's life cycle, the awe of overwintering sites, plus the value of breeding opportunities possible at inland sites in the county. An in-depth discussion of population trends documenting a precipitous decline will be offered including possible causes and action items. Mia will also share how EAC is playing a lead role in offering hope for this butterfly. Come be among the first to learn about this special initiative with something for everyone to do!

Guide Bio: Mia Monroe is a volunteer with the Xerces Society (an international invertebrate conservation organization). She has observed and shared the wonder of monarch butterflies in Marin for over 30 years, helped found the Western Monarch Thanksgiving Count and has especially been inspired by Rachel Carson.

Event Location: Dance Palace Community and Cultural Center
503 B Street Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

What to Bring: A notebook.

15. Friday Night: Birds, Brews & Bites: *Nests, Fifty Nests and the Birds that Built Them* with Keynote Speaker Sharon Beals

Friday, April 26, 2019
Brews & Bites 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm **| Keynote** 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Dance Palace Community and Cultural Center | Point Reyes Station, CA
Experience Levels/Ages: All Ages
Ticket Price: $65 **| 100 participants**

Join us for an evening with Sharon Beals, an award-winning San Francisco Bay photographer and author who is passionate about the survival issues facing so many avian species today. Our evening will start with an outdoor social gathering with food, drink and music. This is one of the only opportunities to gather as a group, meet Sharon, our guides, staff and other attendees. Following the social, we will gather in our seating area to hear Sharon's keynote.

The keynote will focus on Sharon's book, *Nests, Fifty Nests and the Birds that Built Them*, which was designed to invite viewers who might never pick up a pair of binoculars to learn about the challenges they face. Her gorgeous photographs of nests offer a new window onto the life and beauty of birds. Drawn from the collections of the California Academy of Sciences, the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at UC Berkeley and the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, these birds' nests from around the world offer astonishing insight into the intricate detail wrought by nature's most fastidious architects.

But survival for so many birds is tenuous in a modern world where habitat loss is as common as the next housing development and even subtle changes in climate can affect food supply. Besides showing her photographs of nests, she will lead a discussion on what we can do in our own lives to help the survival of birds, both near and far and how art can bring awareness and appreciation for birds and inspire their protection. She will also share a bit about her upcoming book focusing on nests of extinct and endangered species

Guide Bio: **Sharon Beals** is the author and photographer of *Nests: Fifty Nests and the Birds that Built Them*. The Nest Series documents nest and eggs specimens dating from the 1800's to present day from The California Academy of Sciences, the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology in Berkeley, the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology in Camarillo, CA, Cornell University Museum of Vertebrates and the National Museum of Natural History at the Smithsonian. She is currently photographing the nests of extinct and endangered birds and has just photographed specimens at the Australian National Wildlife Collection in Canberra. Besides the nests, she photographs wild native habitats and watersheds and recently, serpentine coastal fault lines. Responding to the issue of plastic ocean debris, she has created photograms of plastic fragments to make large scale, deceptively beautiful yet confrontational images.

16. Night Owls of Point Reyes with Joe Mueller

Friday, April 26, 2019 | 5:30 pm – 9:00 pm
Difficulty/Length: Easy-Moderate
Experience Levels/Ages: All, Ages 14+
Ticket Price: $50 | 12 participants

Join professor Joe Mueller for a night exploration of owls in Marin County. This class will focus on an introduction to the natural history, ecology, and biology of owl's common to Point Reyes National Seashore, including Northern Spotted, Great-Horned, Northern Saw-Whet and Barn Owls. After the talk, join Joe on a night walk through several owl habitats on the Point Reyes peninsula. Please bring a flashlight! Although park regulations prohibit the playing of owl calls, with any luck participants will hear or see several species of owls during this evening walk. Please have an early dinner or bring some food to the talk.

Guide Bio: Joe Mueller has been teaching biology at the College of Marin for 30 years. Of the 15 different courses he has taught, subjects of particular interest include ecology, marine biology, ornithology and environmental science. Taking a holistic approach to science, Joe emphasizes the inter-connective approach to understanding biology. He is the recipient of the 2008 Terwilliger Environmental Award.

Event Location: Various location around Point Reyes National Seashore, CA

Meeting Location (Rain or Shine): Point Reyes Fire House Conference Center | 101 4th Street, Point Reyes Station CA 94956. On the corner of 4th and B streets in Point Reyes Station. Go through the main entrance (double doors). Conference room is straight ahead.

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes, a flashlight and bring rain gear. Optional items include: Water and snacks.

Environmental Action Committee of West Marin's
10th Annual Point Reyes Birding and Nature Festival

Saturday, April 27th, 2019

Class Descriptions

17. Birds & Microhabitats of Inner Marin with Dave MacKenzie

Saturday, April 27, 2019 | 7:00 am – 2:00 pm
Difficulty/Length: Easy to moderate, 2-3 miles
Experience Levels/Ages: All, Ages 14+
Ticket Price: $70 | 16 participants

Join guide Dave MacKenzie for a day exploring birds by habitat. We will explore the open slopes of Big Rock Ridge, the waters and open grasslands surrounding Nicasio Reservoir and the deep redwood forest leading into the extraordinary bay-oak woodland of Loma Alta. This trip will focus on species typical of each habitat with a particular emphasis on birding by ear, breeding behaviors and the specialty birds of Big Rock Ridge. Mostly gentle walking with moderate uphill walking at Big Rock Ridge, which offers a spectacular 360-degree views of the Bay Area and beyond.

Guide Bio: Dave MacKenzie is a naturalist who has been birding since he was 12. As an engineering consultant he has traveled widely, searching out birds in many areas, although his favorite patch is near his home in Muir Beach, CA. He has done monitoring of Northern spotted owls in Marin County, developed a bird list of the Redwood Creek watershed (including Muir Woods) for the National Park Service and recently has been doing research on river otters for the River Otter Ecology Project. Dave loves everything natural and also enjoys flyfishing, kayaking, mountain biking, wildlife tracking and camping with his grandchildren. His current project, the Baccharis Institute, studies modern evolutionary biology.

Event Location: Various sites including Loma Alta, Roy's Redwoods and Nicasio Reservoir.

Where to Meet (Rain or Shine): Dance Palace Community and Cultural Center 503 B Street Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch and binoculars. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

18. Birding to a Fault: The Pacific Plate with Peter Pyle

Saturday, April 27, 2019 | 7:30 am – 2:30 pm
Difficulty/Length: Easy, 2 miles
Experience Levels/Ages: Intermediate, Ages 18+
Ticket Price: $75 | 14 participants

Join biologist and birder extraordinaire Peter Pyle of the Institute for Bird Populations for a friendly tectonic birding competition on the Pacific Plate. Peter will lead this fast-paced field outing to help identify and count as many birds on the tectonic plate, that runs along the San Andreas Fault to the west. The team will cover the west side of Bolinas Lagoon, Duxbury Reef and the Pine Gulch Creek area. Expect to see about 80 species of water, forest and grasslands birds. At 1:30 pm the outing will end at Five Brooks for a compilation meeting with the competing *Continental Plate* team lead by Keith Hansen. Bring a sack lunch to enjoy as we do some additional birding. While everyone from beginners to experts are welcome, this will be a day where we will move quickly and concentrate primarily on seeing as many species as possible.

Guide Bio: Peter Pyle has worked as an ornithologist and marine biologist throughout the Pacific. During the 1980-2000's much of his research was conducted on birds and white sharks at the Farallon Islands and he is now a species identification specialist and consultant for the Greater Farallones Association's Beach Watch Program. He is a Research Associate both at the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco and the B.P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu and is one of the world's leading experts on the science of avian molt. To date he has authored over 170 papers in scientific journals, two books, including *Identification Guide to North American Birds" Parts 1 and 2;* and coauthored 3 additional books. A feather in his cap includes describing and naming a new species of shearwater (*Puffinus bryani*), named after his grandfather, Edwin Bryan. Peter currently works as a staff biologist for the Institute for Bird Populations in Point Reyes Station.

Event Location: West side of Pacific Plate; Bolinas Lagoon, Duxbury Reef, Pine Gulch Creek delta and Five Brooks/Point Reyes National Seashore.

Meeting Location (Rain or Shine): Bolinas Elementary School, Bolinas, CA

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch and binoculars. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat. Oh and a competitive spirit and the will to crush the opposing team!

19. Birding to a Fault: The Continental Plate with Keith Hansen

Saturday, April 27, 2019 | 7:30 am – 2:30 pm
Difficulty/Length: Easy, 2 miles
Experience Levels/Ages: Intermediate, Ages 18+
Ticket Price: $75 | 14 participants

Join internationally known birder and illustrator Keith Hansen for a friendly birding competition along the Pacific Plate. Keith will lead this fast-paced field outing to help identify and count as many birds on the tectonic plate, that runs along the San Andreas Fault to the east. The team will cover the east side of the San Andreas Fault of Stinson Beach and its environs and then work north along Bolinas Lagoon. We hope to see many species of water, forest and grasslands birds. At 1:30 pm the outing will end at Five Brooks for a compilation meeting with the competing *Pacific Plate* team lead by Peter Pyle. Bring a sack lunch to enjoy as we do some additional birding. While everyone from beginners to experts are welcome, this will be a day where we will move quickly and concentrate primarily on seeing as many species as possible.

Guide Bio: Keith Hansen is an internationally known birder and wildlife artist of Bolinas, Marin County, California. He specializes in bird illustrations with scientific accuracy. His childhood interest in birds developed into a lifelong passion. He has created illustrations for various organizations to adorn or enhance publications that have included books, scientific journals, magazines, newsletters and logos. He has worked on murals, taught drawing classes, had art shows, displayed at numerous Bird Symposiums and produced private commissions. His latest accomplishment is a 14-year project illustrating a book entitled, *Birds of the Sierra Nevada: Their Natural History, Status and Distribution*, authored by Ted Beedy and Ed Pandolfino. He leads birding tours to Guatemala, Panama, Costa Rica, Mexico and the Yucatan. His workspace, *The Wildlife Gallery* is located in Bolinas, California where people are welcome to visit the studio and view originals, prints and the various works that I have on display.

Event Location: East-side of Continental Plate; Cliffs above Stinson Beach, Stinson Gulch, Bolinas Lagoon, Five Brooks, and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Meeting Location (Rain or Shine): Bolinas-Fairfax Road, 100 yards east of its intersection with Hwy 1 and across the street from the "Y" turn-off to Bolinas.

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch and binoculars. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat. Oh, and a competitive spirit and the will to crush the opposing team!

20. River Otter Ramble at Abbotts Lagoon with Megan Isadore

Saturday, April 27, 2019 | 8:00 am – 11:00 am
Difficulty/Length: All Levels, 2-3 miles
Experience Levels/Ages: All levels, Ages 10+
Ticket Price: $30 | 12 participants

Join award-winning conservationist and naturalist Megan Isadore for a relaxed 3-hour roundtrip hike on the Abbotts Lagoon trail, seeking one of our more elusive wildlife neighbors, the river otter. River otters have made a remarkable recovery after being extirpated from the San Francisco Bay Area by mid-20th-century. Megan will guide the group in looking for signs of otters and discuss how these charismatic predator's return offers hope in restoration and conservation. Abbotts Lagoon is home to one of Point Reyes National Seashore's most robust and often-seen otter families and while we can't guarantee otters, we will certainly see other fascinating wild denizens. Coyotes and bobcats, deer and raptors are common sights and the ever-vigilant quail will likely stand guard along our path. The walk out to the dunes is gentle and flat.

Guide Bio: Megan Isadore, an award-winning conservationist and naturalist, co-founded and directs The River Otter Ecology Project. Her previous projects include work on endangered Coho salmon recovery, wildlife rehabilitation, environmental education and medical risk analysis education and publications.

Event Location: Abbotts Lagoon Trail, Point Reyes National Seashore, CA

Where to Meet (Rain or Shine):
Abbotts Lagoon Trail | Point Reyes National Seashore, CA
4101 Pierce Point Road, Inverness, CA 94937

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes, and bring rain gear. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch, and binoculars. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

21. San Geronimo Valley: Birding Along the Edges with Adam Donkin & Bob Battagin

Saturday, April 27, 2019 | 8:00 am to 11:00 pm
Difficulty/Length: Moderate, 2-miles
Experience Levels/Ages: All levels, Ages 10+
Ticket Price: $35 | 16 participants

Join us to discover the rich diversity of birds within range of a quick morning foray. This moderate hike will take us through the wide variety of ecosystems typical of the San Geronimo Valley: open grassland, riparian, oak woodland, chaparral, redwood and mixed evergreen forests and developed areas near the golf course and school grounds. We'll start along Lagunitas Creek by comparing songs of Black-headed Grosbeaks and American Robins. As we cross the open field of the schoolyard, we'll observe Western Bluebirds and Tree Swallows competing for nesting sites. Soon our group will disappear into a dense oak woodland, spring home to Pacific-Slope Flycatchers, Warbling Vireos and other western migrants. We will emerge onto a chaparral dotted with coyote brush hosting wrentits, sparrows and raptors. As we drop down into Roy's Redwoods State Park, we'll scope the golf course pond for straggling winter ducks and nesting Green herons. The redwood forest may yield Pygmy Nuthatches, Brown Creeper, and Golden-Crowned Kinglets. From here, we'll skirt the golf course and residential areas for Ash-Throated Flycatcher, Purple Finch and warblers. The last leg of our journey will traverse open grassland, where we'll scan for raptors such as American Kestrel, White-Tailed Kite, Cooper's Hawk, and the potential Merlin fly-by. We will take note of many plant species and their importance to birds and animals who depend on them. Participants will learn to recognize local bird species by sound, as well as appearance.

Guide Bios: Bob Battagin has birded West Marin and the San Francisco Bay Area for 17 years. He has led many field trips for several Bay Area Audubon Societies and has contributed monthly birding articles to the Plumas Audubon Society's newsletter for the past 13 years.

Adam Donkin grew up holding a pair of binoculars, birding the Bay Area from the age of four—Rich Stallcup was one of his many mentors. Throughout the years, he has volunteered as a naturalist and tour leader, sharing his love of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians.

Event Location: Various locations around the San Geronimo Valley and Nicasio Reservoir, CA

Meeting Location (Rain or Shine): San Geronimo Valley Community Center | 6350 Sir Francis Drake Blvd, San Geronimo, CA 94963

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch and binoculars. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

22. Beginning Birding on San Pablo Shoreline with Jerry Coe

Saturday, April 27, 2019 | 8:00 am – 12:00 pm
Difficulty/Length: 1-mile, easy |**Experience Levels/Ages:** All
Ticket Price: $40 | 12 participants

If you've always loved birds but never knew how to actually make the leap, join our beginning bird class with Jerry Coe. In this two-part beginner class, you will receive instruction on how to effectively use binoculars and bird identification guides to help identify common birds in the field. We will explore different habitats along the San Pablo shoreline with a chance to see shorebirds, egrets, herons, ducks, raptors, gulls, warblers and wrens. Our outing will close at China Camp State Park where we will conclude with an audio-visual classroom presentation on how to key out species, use of field guides, checklists, breeding bird atlases, listening to birdsongs, use of natural history books and how to invite birds to your yard. Jerry will also share how bird population numbers and species diversity can reflect the health of the local environment. Time allowing, we will walk along the beach at China Camp.

Guide Bio: Jerry Coe is a naturalist and mountaineering guide with over eight years of intensive training in ornithological field identification under Professor Joseph Morlan at San Francisco City College. He spent 15 years as a volunteer in Great Basin, Nevada doing *Point Count Surveys* using bird activities to assess the health of habitats and has led guided expeditions all over the world.

Event Location: Las Gallinas Sanitation District, Hamilton Field, CA

Meeting Location (Rain or Shine): Las Gallinas Ponds | 300 Smith Ranch Road, San Rafael, CA 94903

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch and binoculars. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

23. Kingbirds, Sparrows & More: Birding West Marin County Ranches with Jennifer Benson and Heather Cameron

Saturday, April 27, 2019 | 8:00 am – 12:00 pm
Difficulty/Length: All Levels, 2-3 miles
Experience Levels/Ages: All levels, Ages 10+
Ticket Price: $40 | 16 participants

Join Jennifer Benson and Heather Cameron for a unique opportunity to bird riparian, woodland and grassland habitats on private ranch lands. These ranches demonstrate how working lands and community-based habitat restoration can make a difference for wildlife. Participants will learn about Point Blue Conservation Science's STRAW (Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed) program that connects students to their watersheds through hands-on restoration and empowers the community. We will get a chance to see a variety of swallows, grassland sparrows, as well as herons, egrets and occasional waterfowl. Highlights may include Western Kingbird, Bullock's Oriole, and less common species such as Lazuli Bunting, Horned Lark and Loggerhead Shrike.

Guide Bios: Jennifer Benson works with Point Blue Conservation Science's STRAW (Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed) program managing habitat restoration projects around the Bay Area. She has a keen interest in birding and always has an ear out for bird song. Prior to coming to Point Blue, she held seasonal positions with The Nature Conservancy, Audubon California and Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory. These positions gave her experience with point counts, nest searches, habitat assessment and vegetation surveys and restoration ecology. Through these experiences, she has learned that collaboration and community involvement are essential in effective conservation efforts.

Heather Cameron studied with the late Rich Stallcup, is a long-time member of Point Blue Conservation Science and has been birding in the Point Reyes area for over 22 years.

Event Location: Private ranches restored by STRAW in western Marin County.

Where to Meet: Tomales Deli & Café | 27000 Shoreline Hwy, Tomales, CA 94971

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch and binoculars. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

24. Birding By Ear Along the Point Reyes Rift Zone with Mary Anne Flett and Max Brier

Saturday, April 27, 2019 | 8:00 am – 12:00 pm
Difficulty/Length: Field outing, driving from location to location - carpooling suggested. Easy to moderate walking.
Experience Levels/Ages: All levels, ages 12+
Ticket Price: $40 | 12 participants

Join bird biologists Mary Anne Flett and Max Brier for a morning of birding by ear along Point Reyes' rift zone. Learning to bird by ear is a unique and important field tool for birders and teaches enthusiasts the ability to recognize resident and migratory birds by their songs and calls and to notice vocalizations given by unexpected species. Mary Anne and Max will guide you through various woodland types, grasslands, coastal scrub and other habitats along the way while pointing out exactly what to listen for to tell one bird from another. Take your skill to the next level. All experience levels encouraged. Children 12 and up with supervision.

Guide Bios: Mary Anne Flett is a native Californian and naturalist. She has been birding and eco-traveling for fun and working as a professional wildlife biologist for nearly 40 years. She especially loves land birds and hearing the dawn chorus. She has conducted bird research in mountain meadows and old growth forests in the Sierra Nevada for many years; now she mostly studies rare marsh species and surveys birds associated with riparian and wetlands restoration projects around Marin and Sonoma, the San Francisco Bay and Estuary and elsewhere in Northern California. She has been working with Lorraine Parsons of the National Park Service and Avocet Research Associated on the Giacomini Wetlands project since 2007, before the levees were breached.

Max Brier recently graduated from UC Santa Cruz after studying environmental science, biology and surfing. He has been mucking around in marshes and mountain meadows since he could walk. He works locally conducting shore and waterbird counts and nesting bird clearance surveys; he recently completed a summer in Yosemite and Kings Canyon National Parks, backpacking into remote sites where he conducted bird point counts by identifying and counting species by sight, but almost exclusively by ear. He grew up in West Marin and his life is deeply intertwined with his natural surroundings.

Event Location: Various locations along Point Reye rift zone.

Meeting Location (Rain or Shine): Bear Valley Visitor Center, Point Reyes National Seashore | 76 Bear Valley Road, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch and binoculars. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

25. Five Brooks Birding By Ear: Easy & New Techniques Using Technology to Improve Your Skills with Daniel Edelstein

Saturday, April 27, 2019 | 8:00 am - 12:30 pm
Difficulty/Length: Easy, 1-mile
Experience Levels/Ages: All levels, Ages 10+
Ticket Price: $40 **| 16 participants**

Join avian biologist and birding guide Daniel Edelstein for a morning birding workshop that includes a brief indoor portion to complement a field trip to Five Brooks pond, a prime-time birding spot featuring excellent avian abundance and diversity resides in Point Reyes National Seashore. Rich verdant habitat here hosts diverse migrants and local breeders, including vocal and visual presence of Wilson's Warbler, Pacific Wren, Pygmy Nuthatch and Bewick's Wren. Among a dozen or more other nesting songbirds, this venue is also an excellent place to spot the majestic Wood Duck, with a chance to see and hear the Purple Martin and Allen's Hummingbird.

Our trip will begin in the classroom where Daniel will share a bird song website that many birders already use to enhance their knowledge and improve their birding skills by ear. In addition, Daniel will show attendants how to download their own bird vocalization recordings to this web site, which hosts many other excellent features that participants will see on a large screen that Daniel will employ as everyone see this excellent web site in real time online. The field trip will emphasize birding by ear. Participants will receive a handout related to the classroom session including *Top Ten Tips to Improving Your Birding by Ear.*

Guide Bio: Daniel Edelstein is a freelance Consulting Biologist (who is a Certified Wildlife Biologist Asc.) who has led birding tours for more than 25 years and presented public birding presentations in more than 20 states. Daniel's website — warblerwatch.com — hosts several birding handouts (via the "Birding Links" pulldown menu and his warbler-centric blog — warblerwatch.blogspot.com — has hosted warbler articles and photo quizzes since 2007. He has also taught diverse adult birding classes since 2007 at Merritt College in Oakland, CA.

Event Location: Dance Palace and Five Brooks Trailhead & Pond, Point Reyes National Seashore, CA

Meeting Location (Rain or Shine): Meeting Location (Rain or Shine):
Dance Palace Community and Cultural Center
503 B Street Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch and binoculars. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

26. Young Birders Big Day with Kenn Kaufman

Saturday, April 27, 2019 | 8:30 am – 12:30 pm
Difficulty/Length: Easy, 2-4 miles
Experience Levels/Ages: All, Ages 12+
Ticket Price: $10 | 16 participants

This is a special opportunity for young people ages 12 to 18 to improve and expand their birding skills with a true master, Kenn Kaufman. This will be fast paced exciting trip covering many habitats from Bear Valley to Tomales Bay, to the coastal bluffs near Chimney Rock. Interested young people should expect to learn new identification skills using both sight and sounds of many birds. The varied behaviors of shorebirds, raptors, woodpeckers, seabirds, warblers and many others will be a focus of this engaging field trip as well. We encourage one chaperone per group of kids, so we can accommodate as many youths as possible. We will carpool from the Dance Palace.

Guide Bio: Kenn Kaufman, a lifelong naturalist, is the originator and editor of the Kaufman Field Guides series. Kenn burst onto the North American birding scene as a teenager, hitch-hiking around the continent in pursuit of birds, an extended journey that was later chronicled in his memoir Kingbird Highway. Establishing an early reputation as an expert on bird identification and distribution, in 1984 he became associate editor of the journal *American Birds*, which was then published by the National Audubon Society and began teaching birding workshops throughout the United States and Canada. During the same period, he also began leading international birding and nature tours, eventually leading multiple trips to all seven continents and many oceanic islands. His first book, *A Field Guide to Advanced Birding*, published in the Peterson series in 1990, drew wide acclaim, and in 1992 he became the youngest person ever to receive the lifetime achievement award of the American Birding Association (the award was later renamed and he received it again in 2008).

Since the late 1990s, most of his attention has gone into the Kaufman Field Guides. Countless hours in the field doing research and photography are followed up with countless hours of writing, editing and design work, collaborating with experts in each subject to ensure the highest quality in the finished books. In addition to his work on the field guides, Kenn is also a Field Editor for Audubon Magazine, and a regular columnist for BirdWatching and Birds and Blooms.

Event Location: Various location around West Marin.

Meeting Location (Rain or Shine):
Dance Palace Community and Cultural Center
503 B Street Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear. Bring water, snacks/or lunch and binoculars. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

27. Coastal Birds of Audubon's Cypress Grove & Tomales Bay with Nils Warnock

Saturday, April 27, 2019 | 8:00 am – 1:00 pm
Difficulty/Length: Easy, 2-miles | **Experience Levels/Ages:** All
Ticket Price: $50 | 16 participants

Join guide Nils Warnock of Audubon Canyon Ranch's Cypress Grove Research Center for a stellar birding excursion and field discussion related to the identification, conservation and ecology of Tomales Bay birds. Participants will meet at the research center along Tomales Bay. Following this session, participants will carpool to Tom's Point, a remote preserve at the northern end of the Tomales Bay.

Guide Bio: Nils Warnock is the Director of Conservation Science for Audubon Canyon Ranch. He develops scientific programs and conservation activities for ACR's system of wildlife sanctuaries in Marin and Sonoma counties. Nils is a Fellow of the American Ornithological Society and has over 30 years of experience pertaining to the ecology and conservation of Pacific Flyway birds, especially shorebirds. Nils started his ornithological career in West Marin at what was then the Point Reyes Bird Observatory (now Point Blue). Most recently, he served as the Executive Director of Audubon Alaska and a Vice President of the National Audubon Society (2010-2018).

Event Location: Audubon Canyon Ranch's spectacular Cypress Grove grounds overlooking Tomales Bay, Point Reyes National Seashore.

Meeting Location (Rain or Shine): Audubon Canyon Ranch's Cypress Grove Research Center | 20545 State Hwy 1, Marshall, CA. Going north on Hwy 1, look for a green metal gate (will be left open) on the Tomales Bay side and a Cypress Grove sign. The gate is roughly a 1/2-mile north of Hog Island Oysters in Marshall (and the turnoff to the Marshall-Petaluma Rd.) and well before Nick's Cove. Drive down the dirt road to where it splits, bear left and park at the visitor parking lot.

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch and binoculars. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

28. Limantour Estero: Birds of Beach, Bay & Beyond with Dave Shuford

Saturday, April 27, 2019 | 8:00 am - 2:00 pm
Difficulty/Length: Easy, 2 miles
Experience Levels/Ages: Intermediate, Ages 14+
Ticket Price: $60 | 16 participants

Join Dave Shuford of Point Blue Conservation Science for a day of birdwatching at Point Reyes National Seashore's Limantour Beach and Estero. Dave will share his extensive knowledge of the varied birdlife of the Estero's tidal flats, salt marsh and fringing dunes, beach, coastal scrub and freshwater ponds. In addition, we'll scope the nearshore zone for waterbirds foraging just beyond the breakers and any that may be passing well offshore. Finally, we'll discuss habitat changes that have occurred over the years and changes in birdlife from these or other factors.

Guide Bio: Dave Shuford has been a senior scientist in the Wetlands Ecology Division at Point Blue Conservation Science since 1975. Primary interests include the status, distribution, trends and conservation of birds in California and the West. Major research projects have focused on: shorebird distribution and abundance throughout the Pacific Flyway; colonial breeding waterbirds in California; reconnaissance surveys at the Salton Sea and Klamath Basin; and long-term trends and reproductive success of California Gulls at Mono Lake relative to concerns over water diversions.

Event Location: Limantour Beach, Point Reyes National Seashore

Where to Meet (Rain or Shine): Limantour Beach parking lot, Point Reyes National Seashore, CA

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch and binoculars. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

29. Birding Drakes Estero with Alan Hopkins

Saturday, April 27, 2019 | 8:30 am – 1:00 pm
Difficulty/Length: Easy, 3-miles | **Experience Levels/Ages:** All levels, Ages 10+
Ticket Price: $45 | 16 participants

Join birder Alan Hopkins for a day exploring birds and wildlife at Drakes Estero. Long considered the ecological heart of spectacular Point Reyes, Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness area on the West Coast comprised of five branching bays, that includes 2300 acres of underwater wilderness—or twice the size of Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. Alan will guide participants along the trail through open grasslands, a small forest, and out to cliffs that offer outstanding views of Drakes and Limantour esteros. The area offers a number of quality habitats for waterfowl, shorebirds and raptors as well as resident and migratory land birds. We will be on the lookout for migrant shorebirds and songbirds; Tule elk, coyote and maybe even a bobcat!

Guide Bio: Alan Hopkins is a California native, who obtained a BFA in painting from the San Francisco Art Institute in 1976. Natural history observation and scientific processes are important elements that inform his art work. He has worked for NOAA's Cordell Bank Ocean Monitoring Program and is the co-founder and compiler of the San Francisco Bird Count. In 2008, he gave a slide presentation and wrote the text on the California Quail for Fritz Haege's Animal Estates at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. He was the Shipyard Trust for the Arts Naturalist in Residence from 2002 to 2007 and was awarded the Shipyard Trust for the Arts Artist in Residence from 2010 to 2012. Alan currently works in his studio at the Hunters Point Shipyard in San Francisco.

Event Location: Estero Trail, Point Reyes National Seashore, CA

Meeting Location (Rain or Shine): Estero Trail| 16500 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, Point Reyes National Seashore, CA

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch and binoculars. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

30. Nesting Herons and Egrets of Santa Rosa with Emiko Condeso

Saturday, April 27, 2019 | 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Difficulty/Length: Easy, No Hike, Observation Only
Experience Levels/Ages: All levels, Ages 5+
Ticket Price: $25 | 16 participants

Enjoy visiting one of the largest, wonderfully dramatic and most unexpected heron and egret nesting sites in the North Bay with Emiko Condeso of Audubon Canyon Ranch. We will spend time observing the nesting behaviors of four species of *Ardeids:* Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Cattle Egret, and Black-Crowned Night Heron. This nesting site is located along Santa Rosa Creek and is next door to Abraham Lincoln Elementary School. We will likely have excellent views of courtship behavior and small downy chicks--a great opportunity for nature photographers. In previous years, we have seen over 300 nests! Great for families.

Guide Bio: Emiko Condeso is an ecologist and GIS specialist for Audubon Canyon Ranch. At the Cypress Grove Research Center, she manages ACR's long-term biological monitoring projects and collaborates with staff and partners in conservation research. Her own research interests include understanding how spatial patterns, particularly in human-altered landscapes, influence biological communities.

Event and Meeting Location (Rain or Shine): Abraham Lincoln Elementary, Santa Rosa. Meet at intersection of West 9th Street and Simpson Street. Parking available on Simpson.

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch and binoculars. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

31. Beginning Birding on Point Reyes National Seashore's Woodpecker Trail with Teresa & Miles Tuffli

Saturday, April 27, 2019 | 9:00 am – 12:30 pm
Difficulty/Length: Easy-Moderate, 1.5 miles, not wheelchair accessible
Experience Levels/Ages: All levels, Ages 10+
Ticket Price: $30 | 12 participants

Calling all new or novice birders! Join guides Teresa and Miles Tuffli of *I'm Birding Right Now* for a beginner's birding class along the Woodpecker Trail at Point Reyes National Seashore's Bear Valley. We will start our walk with an introduction to birds and a tutorial on using your binoculars and field guide. As we traverse the Woodpecker Trail (roughly a one-mile loop), we'll learn species identification, bird song identification, bird behavior, and how to find and explain bird locations to other birders. This trail winds through varied habitats of open meadow and Douglas-Fir forest, where we could see several species of woodpeckers, swallows, sparrows and other birds. We'll also explore a riparian creek where we should see Wilson's Warbler, Pacific-Slope Flycatcher, and other flycatchers. Mild grades and detailed interpretive signs make this an ideal choice for families and newcomers to birding. Visitors will enjoy useful insights into this widespread forest community and a good chance to see other wildlife, including rabbits, deer, skunk, raccoons, and maybe even a coyote.

Guide Bios: Teresa and Miles Tuffli are avid birders who enjoy volunteering their time with nature-based organizations within their community of Sonoma County. They run an active blog called I'm Birding Right Now. They lead beginner's birding walks for LandPaths at Bohemia Ecological Preserve. As members of the Petaluma Wetlands Alliance, they participate in monthly bird surveys and publish in-the-field recaps on the PWA website. They are also day leaders for the Jenner Headlands Hawk Migration Project during fall migration raptor counts.

Event Location: Woodpecker Trail, Point Reyes National Seashore, CA.

Where to Meet: In front of the Bear Valley Visitor Center, 1 Bear Valley Visitor Center Access Road, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956.

What to Bring: Binoculars, water, snacks and/or lunch. Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear in case. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

32. Birding Tomales Bay by Kayak with David Wimpfheimer and Blue Waters Kayaking

Saturday, April 27, 2019 | 9:30 am – 1:30 pm
Difficulty/Length: 1-3 miles of rowing in ocean currents
Experience Levels/Ages: All levels, Ages 18+, Must be able to swim and be physically able
Ticket Price: $125 | 16 participants

Tomales Bay is one of the most productive and dramatically beautiful estuaries in California. In the winter over 25,000 ducks, loons, grebes and other waterbirds feed in its rich waters. Spring is an excellent time to see these and other species that are migrating along the coast. Marbled Godwits, Willets and other shorebirds feed while Red-Throated Loon, Horned Grebe, Brant and Scoters linger. Rather than just viewing these birds from the shore, on this special trip we travel by stable, double kayaks to get close views of dozens of cormorants that breed on Hog Island, Osprey nesting sites along the bay, and maybe even a chance to see a Bald Eagle. In addition to the rich birdlife, we usually see Tule Elk, otter, and bat rays. It is always a treat to paddle around the wild, lower part of the bay starting from Nick's Cove, exploring the mouth of Walker Creek and continuing along the eastern shoreline of Point Reyes National Seashore. No previous kayaking experience is necessary to join us for this unique way to enjoy the fantastic wildlife of Tomales Bay. Fee includes kayak rental, paddling jackets and any other equipment. Blue Waters Kayaking, the oldest kayaking outfitter in Point Reyes, is the co-sponsor of this field trip. This kay portion of the trip is weather/wind dependent. If cancelled, we will regroup for a land-based exploration.

Guide Bio: David Wimpfheimer is a biologist, naturalist and EAC board member with a passion for the birds and natural history of the West. During his twenty years of expeditions, in addition to local classes for the Point Reyes Field Institute, Marin Agricultural Land Trust and the California Academy of Sciences, he has led numerous tours to Mexico, Alaska, Scotland and other regions for groups including the Smithsonian Institution, Wild Wings and Road Scholar the majority of David's field trips are geared toward teaching and interpreting the language of the avian world, he is just as experienced teaching about the rich diversity of the greater natural world. From whale watching expeditions to wildflower forays, he will make every visit to the natural world memorable and enjoyable.

Event Location: Tomales Bay, CA

Meeting Location: Miller Boat Launch | 23240 California 1, Marshall, CA 94940

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch and binoculars. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

33. Meandering the Mayacamas Mountains with David Herlocker

Saturday, April 27, 2019 | 9:30 am – 2:00 pm
Difficulty/Length: Slow and easy, elevation gain 800ft. 4.0 miles
Experience Levels/Ages: All levels, ages
Ticket Price: $45 | 14 participants

Join naturalist David Herlocker for a leisurely walk in the Mayacamas Mountains of Sonoma County. Even though this park is just a short distance from Marin, you'll be amazed at just how different the flora and fauna are. We will visit a variety of habitats from lush riparian corridors (which host a thriving population of foothill yellow-legged frogs) to serpentine chaparral. Our route will take us through areas that were burned during the 2017 Adobe Fire and we will see the remarkable resurgence of life including some beautiful wildflowers that only appear after fires, last seen here in 1965. Bird life includes a few species that are much less common in Marin such as Cassin's Vireo and Western Tanager; in fact, we should be able to compare the voices of Black-Headed Grosbeak, American Robin and Western Tanager singing simultaneously! Entry fee waived for participants.

Guide Bio: David Herlocker has been enthusiastically involved in nature education for nearly 40 years, working with the California Academy of Sciences, the San Francisco Zoological Society and most recently as the Interpretive Naturalist for Marin County Parks. He is an avid birder and is equally passionate about wildflowers, reptiles, insects and pretty much every living thing encountered outdoors.

Event Location: Sugarloaf Ridge State Park, Kenwood, CA

Meeting Location: Sugarloaf Ridge State Park, 2605 Adobe Canyon Rd, Kenwood, CA 95452
From downtown Sonoma, go north on highway 12 W 10.5 miles, turn right on Adobe Canyon Road and follow (slowly!) for 3.5 miles to the park entrance. Show your event confirmation to the person at the gate and follow the main road to the White Barn parking area where we will meet up.

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch and binoculars. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

34. Tule Elk & Wildflower Trek at Tomales Point with Frank Binney

Saturday, April 27, 2019 | 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Difficulty/Length: Easy to moderate, 2-4 miles
Experience Levels/Ages: All levels, Ages 10+
Ticket Price: $40 | 16 participants

Spring brings stunning displays of wildflowers and a new generation of elk calves to the wilderness landscape of the Tomales Point Tule Elk Preserve. We'll spend a day hiking along granite mesas, enjoying spectacular views of Pacific Ocean cliffs on one side and scenic panoramas of Tomales Bay on the other, while enjoying the myriad colors and fragrances of spring wildflowers. We will scan groups of Tule Elk cows for glimpses of spotted, nursing babies. During our journey, we'll explore the role Tule Elk played in California ecology for thousands of years, the reasons they nearly vanished forever and what we can do to help them continue to thrive. The scenery will also likely spark your curiosity about other secrets of the Tomales Point peninsula: Coast Miwok heritage, Gold Rush-era ranching, San Andreas fault geology, raptors, coyotes, native plants and more.

Guide Bio: Frank Binney is a professional interpretive planner who has helped enhance visitor experiences at Yosemite, Grand Canyon, Mount St. Helens, the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest and numerous California State Parks. He is the author of *Point Reyes and the San Andreas Fault Zone: The Aerial Photography of Robert Campbell*. In 2004, he was named Volunteer of the Year, Pacific West Region of the National Park Service, for his pro bono help assisting National Seashore biologists with Tule Elk and Snowy Plover studies.

Event Location: Tomales Point/Pierce Point Ranch, Point Reyes National Seashore, CA

Meeting Location (Rain or Shine): Tomales Point Trailhead, ad Pierce Point Ranch at the end of Pierce Point Road, Inverness, CA 94937 within Point Reyes National Seashore, CA

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch and binoculars. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

35. Dragonflies & Damselflies of Five Brooks with Sandra Hunt-von Arb

Saturday, April 27, 2019 | 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Difficulty/Length: Easy, some classroom, and > 2 miles
Experience Levels/Ages: All levels, Ages 10+
Ticket Price: $40 | 16 participants

Join dragonfly biologist Sandra Hunt-von Arb to learn more about the fascinating world of dragonflies and damselflies. The program will begin with an indoor presentation on the area's dragonflies, followed by field exploration at Five Brooks Pond in Point Reyes National Seashore to look for spring sampling of colorful and fascinating dragonflies and damselflies. If the day is warm, the group will see such wonderful creatures as the blue-eyed darner, Pacific fork-tail, Western pond-hawk and the cardinal meadow hawk! Learn the difference between dragonflies and damselflies, where to go see them, and how to identify individual species. Find out why dragonflies are the next big thing!

Guide Bio: Sandra Hunt-von Arb has been a wildlife biologist in Northern California specializing in sensitive and endangered species since the mid 1990's. More recently she has found her true passion, dragonflies and damselflies. She surveys for the endangered Hine's Emerald Dragonfly in Illinois. She started and manages the Facebook page *Western Odonata*, participates in CalOdes for reporting dragonfly sightings, and organized the last CalOdes Dragonfly Blitz (VI) in Del Norte County. She has also presented and/or led field trips on dragonflies for Godwit Days, Redwood Region Audubon Society, and Redwood Parks Association and Tolowa Dunes Stewards, among others.

Event Location: Point Reyes Firehouse presentation, and field excursion to Five Brooks, Point Reyes National Seashore, CA

Where to Meet (Rain or Shine): Point Reyes Fire House Conference Center | Point Reyes Station, CA | 101 4th Street, Point Reyes Station CA 94956
On the corner of 4th and B streets in Point Reyes Station. Go through the main entrance (double doors). Conference room is straight ahead.

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, binoculars, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

36. Bird Photography: Classroom Tips, Tricks & Techniques with Bill Walker

Saturday, April 27, 2019 | 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm
Difficulty/Length: Classroom
Experience Levels/Ages: All levels, Ages 10+
Ticket Price: $35 | 16 participants

Join photographer Bill Walker for a classroom session to aimed at the fundamentals of wildlife photography as it pertains to birds. We'll start by talking about field techniques and how to approach birds while respecting their health and safety. Bill will demonstrate how to control exposure for different lighting conditions, how to compose pleasing images by attending to both the foreground and background, some tips for processing your photos on the computer and some ideas about how to organize your library of images. The class is aimed primarily at photographers using DSLR cameras. However, much of the material is pertinent to folks doing digiscoping or using fixed-lens cameras. We will head outside briefly to put some of these techniques in action.

Guide Bio: Bill Walker is a Bay Area wildlife photographer who has been photographing wild birds and their environment since 2003. He has taught photography for Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and the Coastside Land Trust. His work is published on Flicker, at birdwalker.com and in his annual BirdWalker wall calendar.

Event and Meeting Location: Dance Palace Community and Cultural Center 503 B Street Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

What to Bring: Bring, water, snacks, a notebook, pencil and your camera gear.

37. Saturday Night's *A Season on the Wind* with Keynote Speaker Kenn Kaufman

Saturday, April 27, 2019
Social: 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm **| Keynote:** 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Dance Palace Community & Cultural Center | Point Reyes Station, CA
Tickets $65 | 100 Participants

Join us for an evening with KENN KAUFMAN, originator of the Kaufman Field Guide series and one of the world's foremost naturalists. Our evening will start with an outdoor social gathering with food, drink and music. This is one of the only opportunities to gather as a group, meet Kenn, our guides, staff and other attendees.

Following the social, we will gather in our seating area to hear from Kenn on his new book, A Season on the Wind, Inside the World of Spring Migration. A close look at one season in one key site that reveals the amazing science and magic of spring bird migration and the perils of human encroachment.

Every spring, billions of birds sweep north, driven by ancient instincts to return to their breeding grounds. This vast parade often goes unnoticed, except in a few places where these small travelers concentrate in large numbers. One such place is along Lake Erie in northwestern Ohio. There, the peak of spring migration is so spectacular that it attracts bird watchers from around the globe, culminating in one of the world's biggest birding festivals.

Millions of winged migrants pass through the region, some traveling thousands of miles, performing epic feats of endurance and navigating with stunning accuracy. Now climate change threatens to disrupt patterns of migration and the delicate balance between birds, seasons and habitats. But in a bitter paradox, wind farms—often proposed as green energy sources to combat this climate change—can be disastrous for birds if they're built in the wrong places.

In this presentation Kenn Kaufman will explore the science and magic of the spring passage of birds, including how local observations can reveal global patterns and will look at the complex issues that are likely to affect this migration in the near future.

Kenn Kaufman, a lifelong naturalist, is the originator and editor of the Kaufman Field Guides series. Kenn burst onto the North American birding scene as a teenager, hitch-hiking around the continent in pursuit of birds, an extended journey that was later chronicled in his memoir Kingbird Highway. Establishing an early reputation as an expert on bird identification and distribution, in 1984 he became associate editor of the journal *American Birds*, which was then published by the National Audubon Society and began teaching birding workshops throughout the United States and Canada. During the same period, he also began leading international birding and nature tours, eventually leading multiple trips to all seven continents and many oceanic islands. His first book, *A Field Guide to Advanced Birding*, published in the Peterson series in 1990, drew wide acclaim, and in 1992 he became the youngest person ever to receive the lifetime achievement award of the American Birding Association (the award was later renamed and he received it again in 2008).

Since the late 1990s, most of his attention has gone into the Kaufman Field Guides. Countless hours in the field doing research and photography are followed up with countless hours of writing, editing and design work, collaborating with experts in each subject to ensure the highest quality in the finished books. In addition to his work on the field guides, Kenn is also a Field Editor for Audubon Magazine, and a regular columnist for BirdWatching and Birds and Blooms.

Environmental Action Committee of West Marin's
10th Annual Point Reyes Birding and Nature Festival

Sunday, April 28th, 2019

Class Descriptions

38. Walking Big Day at Point Reyes with David Wimpfheimer

Sunday, April 28, 2019 | 7:00 am – 4:30 pm
Difficulty/Length: Moderate-Strenuous, 11-miles, must be physically able to hike long distance
Experience Levels/Ages: Intermediate to Expert, Ages 18+
Ticket Price: $75 | 16 participants

Join naturalist and expert birder David Wimpfheimer for a walking Big Day in Point Reyes National Seashore. Like regular *Big Days*, we will spend a full day counting as many species as possible, but being on foot will allow us to appreciate these habitats more fully. **Since this is fast-paced, this is not an ideal trip for beginners**: the goal is to see and hear as many birds as possible during a challenging, but wonderfully rich day. Although the pace will be fast, a main focus will be on bird identification by sight and sound. Participants will carpool out to Limantour Beach, view birds in the estero there and then walk back to Point Reyes Station. This hike is roughly 11-miles, over a 1,000-foot elevation gain/loss. Our walk will take us through a variety of habitats including beach, marshlands, grasslands, oak woodlands, Douglas-Fir forests and salt marshes. Most years we find 90-100 species of birds on this excursion. This is a great way to discover Point Reyes habitats, the national seashore and see many kinds of birds.

Guide Bio: David Wimpfheimer is a biologist, naturalist and EAC board member with a passion for the birds and natural history of the West. During his twenty years of expeditions, in addition to local classes for the Point Reyes Field Institute, Marin Agricultural Land Trust and the California Academy of Sciences, he has led numerous tours to Mexico, Alaska, Scotland and other regions for groups including the Smithsonian Institution, Wild Wings and Road Scholar the majority of David's field trips are geared toward teaching and interpreting the language of the avian world, he is just as experienced teaching about the rich diversity of the greater natural world. From whale watching expeditions to wildflower forays, he will make every visit to the natural world memorable and enjoyable.

Event Location: Limantour Beach and spit, over the Wittenberg ridgeline, to Olema Marsh, down to the Giacomini Wetlands (GGNRA).

Where to Meet: Dance Palace Community and Cultural Center |
503 B Street Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

The group will carpool to Limantour Beach and walk back to Point Reyes Station, where we can carpool people back to their car.

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch and binoculars. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

39. Birding the Ranchlands of Chileno Valley with Todd Plummer

Sunday, April 28, 2019 | 7:30 am – 2:00 pm
Difficulty/Length: Easy, 3-6 miles
Experience Levels/Ages: Intermediate, Ages 12+
Ticket Price: $75 | 16 participants

Join naturalist Todd Plummer for a day of birdwatching on the MALT-protected Thacher Ranch in Chileno Valley. The valley is tucked in the rolling hills of coastal Marin where thousands of acres unfold into grasslands, chaparral and riparian habitat. Near the Marin-Sonoma border, Thacher Ranch lies at the end of a scenic road, winding past whitewashed fences and oak hillsides dappled in wildflowers. This three-mile walk along a creek into the heart of the ranch (typically not open to the public) will give us a chance to see Allen's Hummingbirds, Ash-Throated Flycatchers, Lark Sparrows, Rufous-Crowned Sparrows, Bullock's Oriole, Lazuli Buntings, raptors and more. Todd will emphasize birding-by-ear and observations of breeding behavior and will point out blooming wildflowers along the way.

Guide Bio: Todd Plummer is a former wildlife biologist, a certified California Naturalist and serves as Development Director for the Point Reyes National Seashore Association. He has 30 years' experience as a birder and conservationist. He studied bird population dynamics and endangered species management at the University of Georgia. His motto: Every day is a treasure hunt.

Event Location: Chileno Valley Ranch. (Don't try to drive to this remote location: use the carpool)

Meeting Location (Rain or Shine):
Dance Palace Community and Cultural Center
503 B Street Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch and binoculars. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

40. Sebastopol Birding at Laguna de la Santa Rosa with Scott Carey

Sunday, April 29, 2018 | 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
Difficulty/Length: Easy, 2 miles
Experience Levels/Ages: All, Ages 8+
Ticket Price: $40 | 16 participants

Join guide Scott Carey to discover the Laguna de la Santa Rosa, an under-appreciated and biologically diverse landscape of Sonoma County's largest freshwater wetland near Sebastopol, CA. Internationally recognized for its ecological importance, the Laguna's marshes, vernal pools, riparian woodland and valley oak savannah are rich habitat for wildlife and plants, including the special-status California Tiger Salamander, Sebastopol Meadow Foam and Lobb's Aquatic Buttercup. We will walk a couple of miles of the preserve trails that provide good birding as well as dramatic views of Mount St. Helena to the northeast. Resident birds found here include Bewick's Wren, Red-Winged Blackbird, Bushtit, Lesser Goldfinch, White-Tailed Kite, Red-Shouldered Hawk and many others. Nesting species often seen include Bullock's Oriole, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Western Kingbird, Common Yellowthroat, Orange-Crowned Warbler and five species of swallow. During wet years the pastures and small ponds attract Mallard, Common Merganser, Sora, Cattle Egret, Great Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, and migratory shorebirds such as Marbled Godwit, Long-Billed Curlew and Greater Yellowlegs.

Guide Bio: Scott Carey is an avid birder and works for Wild Birds Unlimited in Sebastopol, CA. He has guided local bird watching trips in Marin and Sonoma counties, as well some further afield in Humboldt County and Arizona. When Scott is not out bird watching, he has participated in a number of bird surveys, as well as volunteered for the Marin Breeding Bird Atlas.

Event Location: Laguna de la Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, CA

Where to Meet (Rain or Shine):
Sebastopol Community Center | 425 Morris Street, Sebastopol, CA 95472

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch and binoculars. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

41. *Birding By Ear* at Muddy Hollow with Luanna Helfman

Sunday, April 28, 2019 | 8:00 am – 12:00 pm
Difficulty/Length: Easy, 2-3 miles
Experience Levels/Ages: All
Ticket Price: $40 | 12 participants

Join birder Luanna Helfman for a gentle two to three mile hike through meadows and riparian areas of Point Reyes restored Muddy Hollow area. Emphasis is on learning to identify migratory and resident birds by their spring breeding songs and calls. Expect to be familiar with 20 species on the walk including Wrentit, Hutton's Vireo, Pacific-Slope Flycatcher, Wilson's and Orange Crowned Warblers, Brown Creeper, Oak Titmouse, Black-Headed Grosbeak, and Dark-Eyed Junco. Participants can purchase EAC's *Birding By Ear* 2-cd set in advance of the class to learn more.

Guide Bio: Luanna Helfman is a long-time festival volunteer and Marin County birder who has studied birdsong with mentors Bob Stewart, Howard Williams and Rich Stallcup. She has led birdsong walks for Marin Audubon for over 5 years and enjoys helping others discover birds by sound. She has over 30 years of experience working in local nurseries and is knowledgeable about flora of the area.

Event Location: Muddy Hollow Trail, Point Reyes National Seashore, CA

Meeting Location (Rain or Shine):
Dance Palace Community and Cultural Center
503 B Street Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch and binoculars. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

42. Sonoma Birding Along King Ridge Road & the Russian River with Ken Wilson

Sunday, April 28, 2019 | 8:00 am – 1:00 pm
Difficulty/Length: Easy, 2-miles
Experience Levels/Ages: All levels, Ages 10+
Ticket Price: $50 | 16 participants

Join tour leader Ken Wilson for a day exploring birds around the Russian River and Cazadero in Sonoma county. We will visit sites around the town of Duncan's Mills, Austin Creek Redwoods and King Ridge Road, which is popular for viewing the American Dipper. We will carpool from site to site in search of birds. Ken will point out and help identify resident and migrant species along the way. Numerous uncommon species may be found here, including Sooty Grouse, Mountain Quail, American Bald Eagle, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Pileated Woodpecker, Northern Pygmy-Owl and White-Throated Swift, not to mention Lazuli Bunting, Black-Throated Gray Warbler and Lark Sparrow.

Guide Bios: Ken Wilson, owner of Talon Tours, is a native New Zealander and has been leading nature and bird watching tours worldwide since 1995. Ken has also led focused tours in many national and state parks in the western United States, as well as key birding sites during migration. He is a long time Sonoma county resident and has taught many popular classes in the county.

Event Location: King Ridge Road & Russian River, Sonoma County, CA

Meeting Location (Rain or Shine):
Duncan Mills Coffee Shop | 23577 Steelhead Blvd, Duncan Mills, CA 95430

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch and binoculars. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

43. Birding Golden Gate's Kirby Cove at the Marin Headlands with Alan Hopkins

Sunday, April 29, 2018 | 8:00 am – 1:00 pm
Difficulty/Length: Moderate-Strenuous, 2 - 4miles
Experience Levels/Ages: All levels, Ages 14+
Ticket Price: $50 | 16 participants

Join birder Alan Hopkins for a day exploring birds at Golden Gate National Recreation Area's Kirby Cove. No beach in the world has a view like this. An infrequently birded site at the extreme southern end of Marin County. Kirby Cove offers spectacular views of the north end of the Golden Gate Bridge and the city. We will take a casual walk down the 1.8 mile moderately steep trail down to the beach. Along the way we will watch for common birds of coastal scrub: Wentit, Bewick's Wren and Spotted Towhee. Rufous-Crowned Sparrow is a possibility. As we head into the woodlands we should find Olive-Sided Flycatcher, Pacific-Slope Flycatcher, Western Bluebird and migrants. We should find cormorants, grebes, pelicans and oystercatchers along the shoreline. If there is time we will finish at nearby Rodeo Lagoon.

Guide Bio: Alan Hopkins is a California native, who obtained a BFA in painting from the San Francisco Art Institute in 1976. Natural history observation and scientific processes are important elements that inform his art work. He has worked for NOAA's Cordell Bank Ocean Monitoring Program and is the co-founder and compiler of the San Francisco Bird Count. In 2008, he gave a slide presentation and wrote the text on the California Quail for Fritz Haege's Animal Estates at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. He was the Shipyard Trust for the Arts Naturalist in Residence from 2002 to 2007 and was awarded the Shipyard Trust for the Arts Artist in Residence from 2010 to 2012. Alan currently works in his studio at the Hunters Point Shipyard in San Francisco.

Event Location: Kirby Cove, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, CA

Meeting Location (Rain or Shine): At Battery Spencer Parking Lot, above Kirby Cove. From Point Reyes Station, take Lucas Valley Road to Highway 101 head south 14.5 miles toward Sausalito and the Golden Gate Bridge. Exit at Alexander Avenue (Exit 442) and continue southwest up the hill on Conzelman Road to the Battery Spencer lookout and parking lot. From San Francisco after crossing the bridge take the Alexander Avenue exit. At the stop sign, turn left onto Alexander Avenue and go back under the freeway and continue southwest up the hill on Conzelman Road. Park at the Battery Spencer Lookout, or if that lot is full there is more parking .02 mile further along Conzelman Road.

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch and binoculars. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

44. Raptor Ramble at Bear Valley with Joe DiDonato and Allen Fish

Sunday, April 28, 2019 | 8:00 am – 1:30 pm
Difficulty/Length: Easy, 3-miles |**Experience Levels/Ages:** All Levels, Ages 10+
Ticket Price: $55 | 16 participants

Join raptor biologists Joe DiDonato and director of the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory Allen Fish, for a raptor ramble at Point Reyes National Seashore. We'll start at Bear Valley and head to several spots in the park in search of a variety of species. Raptors often puzzle birders because of their similar plumage and the difficulty of identifying them when they are flying far away or even overhead. In this field class, participants will learn how to identify raptors by plumage and silhouette, their habits and by their interesting displays. This trip will help beginning or expert birders refine their skills. We will look for Red-Tailed and Red-Shouldered Hawks, Osprey, White-Tailed Kite, Northern Harrier, American Kestrel and other raptors.

Guide Bios: Joe DiDonato owns Wildlife Consulting and Photography, an East Bay biological services firm that focuses on endangered species, raptor studies and Conservation Banking. He formerly worked as the Wildlife Manager for the East Bay Regional Park District. He has worked on the issue of raptor and wind turbine collisions and is a very experienced birder.

Allen Fish, director of the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory, has been a staff member with the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy since 1985. Allen has a background in evolutionary ecology and conservation biology from UC Davis. He has a particular interest in animal migrations and in bird population responses to urban development, climate change and other human pressures. He has recently been sucked in by the allure of dragonflies. From 2003–2011, Allen taught *Raptor Biology* at the University of California at Davis. Allen has also led raptor classes and birding trips for the California Academy of Sciences, the National Park Service, RapTours, the World Wildlife Fund and many Audubon chapters.

Event Location: Bear Valley, Point Reyes National Seashore, CA

Meeting Location (Rise or Shine): Bear Valley Visitor Center| 1 Bear Valley Road, Point Reyes National Seashore, CA

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch and binoculars. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

45. Birding by Bike at Las Gallinas, Hamilton Field Area with Josiah Clark

Sunday, April 28, 2019 | 8:00 am – 2:00 pm
Difficulty/Length: Moderate-Strenuous, 12 miles
Experience Levels/Ages: Intermediate, Ages 14+
Ticket Price: $60 | 12 participants

Freshwater wetlands have become even more imperiled than old growth forests by some measures and Marin has almost none left. Thank goodness for sewage ponds! Las Gallinas is the best place to view freshwater bird species in the county. It is especially noteworthy for breeding ducks, with more species breeding here than anywhere else in the county in recent history.

Waterfowl are just the beginning of what this area has to offer. It is an excellent place to study grassland birds, swallows and raptors. After looking at the ponds we will ride along bayside trails skirting vast expanses of ancient pickle weed marsh and arrive at Hamilton Field. Here we hope to study migrating shorebirds, which will be at the end of their peak abundance window for San Francisco Bay. To round out the species list for the day we will visit some remnant valley oak woodlands, looking for oak specialists typical of the central and eastern portions of the county like titmouse and nuthatch. Away from traffic and during the peak of spring, we will take time to study the many bird vocalizations that should surround us. This is a great opportunity to view other wildlife; butterflies, mammals and reptiles we encounter along the way. We will also learn a bit more about the history of this vastly altered landscape and its habitats.

With its numerous ponds and its extensive, flat levee and trail system the Las Gallinas area is ideal for even novice bike riders. Bikes allow birders to move quickly across large expanses, which lets birders spend more time in remote parts of the wetlands that can be too far to walk to. The terrain is flat and generally level, so even beginners on nearly any kind of bicycle should suffice. The trails are dirt however and one portion we will have to ride single file for about 1.5 miles to reach Hamilton field. Participants can expect to observe around 80 species during this biking birding safari of sorts.

Guide Bio: Josiah Clark grew up steeped in the natural history of the Bay Area, where he has been birding for more than 25 years. Defining moments of birding experiences include: observation and mist-netting on Southeast Farallon Island; extensive travel, study, and tour-leading in Latin America; and a 24-hour birding and bicycling marathon in Marin County during which he spotted 163 species. Josiah owns Habitat Potential, an ecological consulting firm, is a licensed landscape contractor and has associated native plant nursery. The mission of Josiah Clark and Habitat Potential is dedicated to interpreting, preserving, and creating native plant communities for wildlife in human settings.

Event Location: Las Gallinas Sanitation District, Hamilton Field, CA

Meeting Location (Rain or Shine): Las Gallinas Ponds | 300 Smith Ranch Road, San Rafael, CA 94903

What to Bring: Your personal bike and spare tire tools. Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch and binoculars. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

46. Coast Miwok Ethnobotany Along Sky Trail with Wendy Dreskin

Sunday, April 28, 2019 | 8:30 am – 11:00 am
Difficulty/Length: Easy-Moderate, 2-3 miles
Experience Levels/Ages: All levels, Ages 10+
Ticket Price: $25 | 16 participants

Join award-winning naturalist Wendy Dreskin to learn about Point Reyes' first inhabitants, the Coast Miwoks. There were over 100 Coast Miwok village sites at Point Reyes, 39 between Inverness Park and the Tomales Bluffs. Wendy will help us explore and discover the how this bountiful land provided for the Miwoks for thousands of years and how life on the peninsula was intricately woven into the changing seasons. On this hike, Wendy will focus on the plants the Miwoks and other Native American tribes utilized for food, medicine, basketry, dye, cordage, musical instruments and more. She will also point out birds, butterflies and other interesting plants and animals as we hike through the forest.

Guide Bio: Wendy Dreskin is a naturalist who loves and teaches about everything from birds and butterflies to wildflowers, mushrooms, lichens and galls. She has been teaching the popular Community Education class Meandering in Marin at College of Marin since 1998. She teaches nature education classes for children at various schools in Marin County. She leads an annual safari to Tanzania which in 2017 was a trip for The Branson School and in 2018 will be an adult trip. As a volunteer, she has coordinated the Marin Butterfly Count since 2005. She was Education Chair of the Marin Chapter of the California Native Plant Society for ten years. In recognition of her work inspiring both children and adults, she was awarded the Terwilliger Environmental Award and in 2018 was inducted into the Marin Women's Hall of Fame.

Event Location: Sky Trail and surrounding forest trails, Point Reyes National Seashore, CA

Where to Meet (Rain or Shine): Sky Trailhead, Point Reyes National Seashore, CA. First trailhead and parking lot off Limantour Road.

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch and binoculars. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

47. Birding Stinson Beach & Bolinas Lagoon with Keith Hansen

Sunday, April 28, 2019 | 8:30 am – 2:00 pm
Difficulty/Length: Easy, 2 miles | **Experience Levels/Ages:** All levels, Ages 10+
Ticket Price: $70 | 16 participants

Join internationally known birder and illustrator Keith Hansen for a day exploring birds and wildlife at the southern end of West Marin. Keith will guide the group around to some of his favorite birding locations around Bolinas Lagoon and Stinson Beach pointing out and identifying birds along the way. This tour will cover forested and coastline habitats as well as the very productive mudflats in Bolinas Lagoon. The lagoon is one of the most important stopover points for birds that migrate along the Pacific Flyway with thousands of shorebirds and other waterfowl visiting each year. The lagoon is also home to a thriving population of harbor seals that can always be seen at low tide when they haul out to rest. Depending on time, the group is welcome to visit Keith's art studio in Bolinas afterwards.

Guide Bio: Keith Hansen is an internationally known birder and wildlife artist of Bolinas, Marin County, California. He specializes in bird illustrations with scientific accuracy. His childhood interest in birds developed into a lifelong passion. He has created illustrations for various organizations to adorn or enhance publications that have included books, scientific journals, magazines, newsletters and logos. He has worked on murals, taught drawing classes, had art shows, displayed at numerous Bird Symposiums and produced private commissions. His latest accomplishment is a 14-year project illustrating a book entitled, *Birds of the Sierra Nevada: Their Natural History, Status and Distribution*, authored by Ted Beedy and Ed Pandolfino. He leads birding tours to Guatemala, Panama, Costa Rica, Mexico and the Yucatan. His workspace, *The Wildlife Gallery* is located in Bolinas, California where people are welcome to visit the studio and view originals, prints and the various works that I have on display.

Event Location: Stinson Beach and Bolinas Lagoon, CA

Meeting Location (Rain or Shine): Stinson Beach Post Office |15 Calle Del Mar, Stinson Beach, CA

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch and binoculars. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

48. Birding Las Gallinas Ponds & Hamilton Wetlands with Jim White and Bob Atwood

Sunday, April 28, 2019 | 8:30 am – 3:00 pm
Difficulty/Length: Easy, 2 – 4 miles | **Experience Levels/Ages:** All, Ages 14+
Ticket Price: $65 | 16 participants

Join guides Jim White and Bob Atwood for a birding adventure at two dynamic habitats. Our first stop will be to the Las Gallinas reclamation ponds, which host a wide variety of wading, shore and water birds. The area has become a favorite destination for local birders given the number of common and more rare species sighted. Expect to see Green Heron, Common Gallinule, and Cinnamon Teal on this leisurely two mile walk out to the salt marsh. In addition to recording over fifty species of birds here, mammal diversity is high, where River Otters, Black-Tailed Deer, coyote and Black-Tailed Jackrabbits often sighted.

After lunch, we will head over to the newly restored Hamilton Wetlands in Novato in search of birds. This is one of the largest restored wetlands in the North Bay and has quickly become one of the best sites to see large numbers of shorebirds. Your guides will share the story of how this area was transformed from a busy air force runway to a functioning salt marsh that fosters tremendous avian and sea life. In late April, many shorebirds will be preparing for their trip to arctic breeding grounds. In addition to Black-Necked Stilts, Marbled Godwits and Long-Billed Curlew the number of avocets here can be truly astounding. This is also a great location and time to identify Short-Billed from Long-Billed Dowitchers. The adjacent oak woodlands here support a diverse range of warblers, flycatchers and other land birds.

Guide Bios: Jim White is an avid birder. He graduated as a chemical engineer from Iowa State University in 1962 and has worked in the field of general contracting. He also enjoys hiking, camping, biking and skiing.

Bob Atwood is a member of the Marin Audubon Society and led the most recent Sausalito Christmas Bird Count. He has his M.S. in Biology and has conducted ecological field research in Mexico. Bob is a long-term resident of Marin and enjoys finding rarities and uncommon birds in California

Event Locations: Las Gallinas Ponds, San Rafael and Hamilton Wetlands, Novato, CA

Meeting Location (Rain or Shine): Las Gallinas Ponds | 300 Smith Ranch Road, San Rafael, CA 94903

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch and binoculars. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

49. Corvids of California with Craig Nikitas

Sunday April 28, 2019 | 9:00 am – 11:00 am
Difficulty/Length: Classroom-based with some field exploration afterward
Experience Levels/Ages: All, Ages 7+
Ticket Price: $15 | 25 participants

Join Craig Nikitas, operator of Bay Raptor Rescue, for a multimedia classroom-based presentation about the Corvid family (crows, jays & their kin). The class will explore the characteristics of this family, with a specific focus on the four Bay Area resident species. Craig will share guidelines for distinguishing the local American Crow from its larger cousin, the Northern Raven. A brief review of other California species will precede a look at the Corvids' most amazing adaptation: their remarkable intelligence. We will follow our classroom discussion with a brief field outing around Point Reyes Station to put our new skills to use.

Guide Bio: Craig Nikitas is a retired urban planner and multi-decade raptor bander and docent with the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory, who currently operates Bay Raptor Rescue, a free service to assist birds of prey trapped in buildings, injured or in other distress.

Event Location: Point Reyes Firehouse Conference Room and habitat around Giacomini Wetlands

Meeting Location (Rain or Shine): Point Reyes Fire House Conference Center | Point Reyes Station, CA | 101 4th Street, Point Reyes Station CA 94956. On the corner of 4th and B streets in Point Reyes Station. Go through the main entrance (double doors). Conference room is straight ahead.

What to Bring: Pen, paper, rain coat and binoculars. Optional items include: water and snacks.

50. Birds, Botany & Butterflies of Lake Lagunitas with Andrea Freeman

Sunday, April 28, 2019 | 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Difficulty/Length: Easy, 2 – 4 miles
Experience Levels/Ages: All, Ages 14+
Ticket Price: $30 | 16 participants

Come enjoy a wonderful, naturalist-led walk exploring the environs of Lake Lagunitas. Lake Lagunitas is a gorgeous lake located in the hills of the Mt. Tamalpais watershed above Fairfax. The scenic trail that loops around the lake leads one through oak and madrone woodland, grassland, chaparral and redwood and mixed evergreen riparian habitat. It's a birding and wildflower paradise! A wonderful diversity of birds and other wildlife can be seen here including Black-Tailed Deer, River Otter, Western Pond Turtle, Rough-Skinned Newt, Common and Hooded Mergansers, Osprey, Red-Tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Great Blue Heron, Red-Winged Blackbird, Belted Kingfisher, Pied-Billed Grebe, Acorn Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, California Towhee, Spotted Towhee, Dark-Eyed Junco, Western Bluebird, Black Phoebe, Anna's Hummingbird, American Goldfinch, and Warbling Vireo. American Bald Eagles are also seen on occasion too! Wildflowers will be abloom in all their spring glory! Butterflies and dragonflies will also be present. We'll be admiring and identifying all the native plants and all the birds, butterflies and other wildlife we see along the way.

Guide Bio: Andrea Freeman has been working as a naturalist and environmental educator for the past 20 years. She has extensive experience teaching in the outdoors and has comprehensive knowledge of the natural sciences, with special expertise in botany, ecology, marine biology and phycology (the study of seaweed). She has been a board member of the California Native Plant Society and has led botany and ethnobotany walks as well as marine biology/tidepool outings for many years. She is a member of the San Francisco Amateur Astronomers Association, loves star-gazing and sharing her knowledge of the night sky with others. She is familiar with the wildlife of Point Reyes and can identify them by sight and sound. She has a Master's Degree in Natural History and Environmental Studies and is an enthusiastic interpreter of the marvels of the natural world. She's also an author, poet and storyteller and plays the Celtic harp.

Event Location: Lake Lagunitas, Fairfax, CA

Meeting Location (Rain or Shine): Sky Oaks Ranger Station -
49 Sky Oaks Road Fairfax, CA 94930 (Note: There's an $8.00 entrance fee per vehicle. Carpooling is encouraged.)

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch and binoculars. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

51. Wildflowers of Chimney Rock & More with Susan Cochrane-Levitsky

Sunday, April 28, 2019| 9:30 am – 1:30 pm
Difficulty/Length: Easy, 2-miles | **Experience Levels/Ages:** All levels, Ages 10+
Ticket Price: $40 | 16 participants

Spring is a wonderful time to visit Point Reyes National Seashore and one of the highest density areas of wildflowers is found at Chimney Rock. Join Susan Cochrane Levitsky for a wildflower walk around this incredibly scenic area. The diversity and number of wildflowers is dependent on a number of factors, including the amount and frequency of rains, soil types, exposure to the sun and temperature variables. Point Reyes blooms typically peak February – June and most years we have happily seen over 70 different plants including several local rarities. Susan will guide you on a casual walk through wildflower fields, focusing on appreciation and identification of plants and natural communities. Most years we get an added bonus of sighting Peregrine Falcons, Great Horned Owls, California Sea Lions, migrating whales, and a variety of sea, shore and song birds.

Guide Bio: Susan Cochrane Levitsky is a botanist who has dedicated her career to conservation leading California's programs to understand and protect endangered plants and overseeing conservation policy to protect our state's natural diversity as the Chief of the California Department of Fish and Game's Wildlife Natural Heritage Division. She also oversaw the production of several educational books on California's unique plants and wildlife. Now a landscape artist, she shares her love of nature through her paintings and by leading botanical tours in beautiful natural areas of California.

Event Location: Chimney Rock, Point Reyes National Seashore, CA

Meeting Location (Rain or Shine): Chimney Rock Trail | Chimney Rock Road, Point Reyes National Seashore, Inverness, CA 94937 Take First Left onto Chimney Rock Road after A Ranch (27000 Sir Francis Drake) in the Seashore, follow to parking lot and meet at the trailhead.

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear, sunscreen and sunhat. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch (we often eat lunch overlooking California Sea Lion basking in the sun!) and binoculars. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

52. Birds & Dunes of Abbotts Lagoon, A Family Walk with Sharon "Heron" Barnett

Sunday, April 28, 2019 | 11:00 am – 2:00 pm
Difficulty/Length: Easy, 3-miles |**Experience Levels/Ages:** All levels, Ages 6+
Tickets: $25 | 16 participants

Calling all families with fledglings! Join Sharon *Heron* on an easy walk to Abbotts Lagoon looking for birds and other wildlife along the way. Sharon will help everyone get good looks at many types of birds that live in the coastal scrub, on the fresh water pond, on the brackish water lagoon, amidst the sand dunes and on the open ocean. Sharon will discuss dune ecology, ongoing dune restoration projects and the challenges of life on the beach for the threatened Western Snowy Plovers. We'll learn about scat, stink beetles, river otters- anything that catches our eye! This is a family-friendly outing, with special focus on kids ages 6-12. With its rich variety of habitats, Abbotts Lagoon is a favorite birding and nature destination at Point Reyes. Be sure to pack a lunch to enjoy at the water's edge. Individuals without children can attend, but children must be supervised by an adult.

Guide Bio: Sharon Barnett is co-owner of Marin Nature Adventures, science teacher at Marin Country Day School, a hiking instructor for the College of Marin and one of Marin's most dynamic interpretive naturalists. Known as Sharon Heron, she gets children and adults excited about nature. She is the 2011 Terwilliger Environmental Award winner for excellence in environmental education.

Event Location: Abbotts Lagoon Trailhead, Pierce Point Road, Point Reyes National Seashore

Where to Meet: Abbotts Lagoon Trail | Point Reyes National Seashore, CA 4101 Pierce Point Road, Inverness, CA 94937

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch and binoculars. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat. Sharon will have a spotting scope, binoculars and field guides to share.

53. Badgers of Point Reyes National Seashore with Susan Kirks

Sunday, April 28, 2019 | 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Difficulty/Length: Easy, 1-1.5 miles
Experience/Level: All ages, 14+
Price: $15 | 7 Participants

Join naturalist Susan Kirks to discover the life history of the America Badger. This class will be a combination of classroom and field education. We will learn about identifying signs of badger activity, seasonal observations and what these mean and share stories and information to help us better understand this awesome mammal. Depending on current badger activity, we will also visit Point Reyes National Seashore that provides protected grassland habitat for a small sustaining American Badger population, including potentially 1-2 adult females with natal territories. Susan will have a spotting scope, binoculars and field guides to share.

Guide Bio: Susan Kirks is a naturalist and expert in American Badger (Taxidea taxus). California's leading naturalist on badgers, Susan has 19 years of field study and observation experience in the Bay Area, including Marin and Sonoma Counties. Susan developed a natural survey method for American Badger documentation, so habitat areas are protected and humans and badgers can co-exist. Her approach is one of deep respect and appreciation for the species. Susan has presented on American Badger, its life cycle and habitat needs, for multiple organizations and agencies. She serves as President of Madrone Audubon Society in Sonoma County and Chairs the Board of the conservation nonprofit, Paula Lane Action Network, protecting sensitive badger habitat on Paula Lane Nature Preserve in West Petaluma. Susan identified and documented three wildlife corridors in South Sonoma County, important for American Badger access and movement.

Event Location: TBA, Pt. Reyes National Seashore

Meeting Location (Rain or Shine): Point Reyes Fire House Conference Center | Point Reyes Station, CA | 101 4th Street, Point Reyes Station CA 94956
On the corner of 4th and B streets in Point Reyes Station. Go through the main entrance (double doors). Conference room is straight ahead.

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear. Bring water, snacks, and binoculars. Optional items include: Backpack, scope,

guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat. Sunscreen, sunhat, depending on the Shine. An inquisitive and observing interest to look for and discover badger activity.

54. Night Owls of Point Reyes with Joe Mueller

Sunday, April 28, 2019 | 5:30 pm – 9:00 pm
Difficulty/Length: Easy-Moderate | **Experience Levels/Ages:** All, Ages 14+
Ticket Price: $50 | 12 participants

Join professor Joe Mueller for a night exploration of owls in Marin County. This class will focus on an introduction to the natural history, ecology, and biology of owl's common to Point Reyes National Seashore, including Northern Spotted, Great-Horned, Northern Saw-Whet and Barn Owls. After the talk, join Joe on a night walk through several owl habitats on the Point Reyes peninsula. Please bring a flashlight! Although park regulations prohibit the playing of owl calls, with any luck participants will hear or see several species of owls during this evening walk. Please have an early dinner or bring some food to the talk.

Guide Bio: Joe Mueller has been teaching biology at the College of Marin for 30 years. Of the 15 different courses he has taught, subjects of particular interest include ecology, marine biology, ornithology and environmental science. Taking a holistic approach to science, Joe emphasizes the inter-connective approach to understanding biology. He is the recipient of the 2008 Terwilliger Environmental Award.

Event Location: Various location around Point Reyes National Seashore, CA

Meeting Location (Rain or Shine): Point Reyes Fire House Conference Center | 101 4th Street, Point Reyes Station CA 94956. On the corner of 4th and B streets in Point Reyes Station. Go through the main entrance (double doors). Conference room is straight ahead.

What to Bring: Please wear layers, good walking shoes, a flashlight and bring rain gear. Optional items include: Water and snacks.