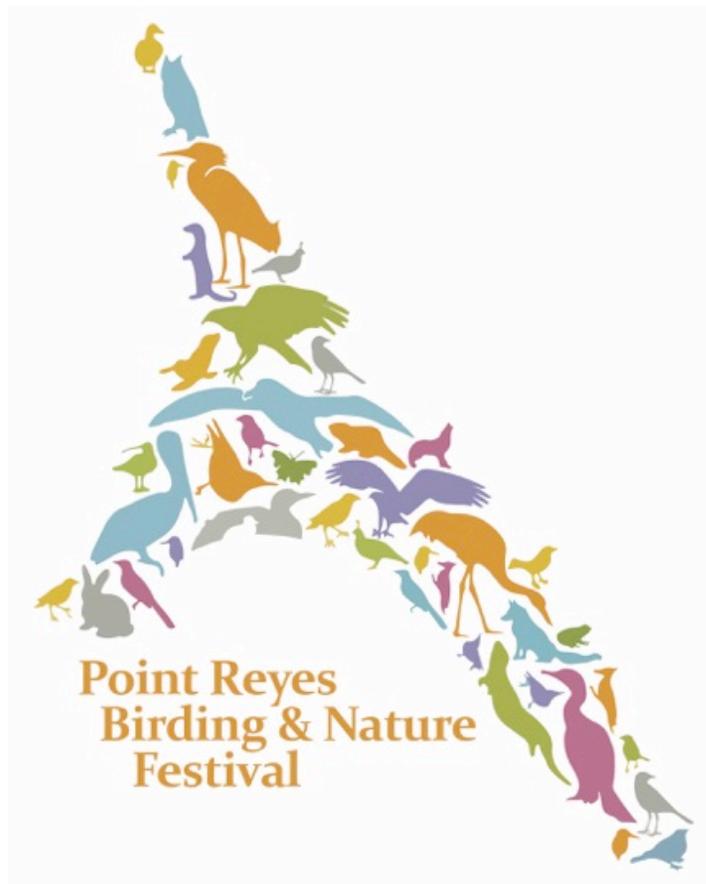


**Environmental Action Committee of West Marin's  
Point Reyes Birding and Nature Festival**

**Friday, April 27, 2018**

**Class Descriptions**



## 1. Birds of the Outer Point, Point Reyes with Dan Singer

#1: Friday, April 27, 2018 | 7:00 am – 2:00 pm

**Difficulty/Length:** Easy, 1-2 miles

**Experience Levels/Ages:** All, Ages 14+

**Ticket Price: \$70 | Limited to 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, 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.

### **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.

## 2. Bahia Wetlands to Rush Creek with Peter Colasanti

Friday, April 27, 2018 | 7:30 am – 12:00 pm

**Difficulty/Length:** Easy, 2-4 miles

**Experience Levels/Ages:** All, Ages 14+

**Ticket Price: \$45 | Limited to 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. 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.

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

**Friday, April 27, 2018 | 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, Science Program Lead for the National Park Service's Pacific West Region, 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 murrelets 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.

### **4. Coastal Birds of Audubon's Cypress Grove & Tomales Bay with John Kelly**

**Friday, April 27, 2018 | 8:00 am – 1:00 pm**

**Difficulty/Length:** Easy, 2-miles | **Experience Levels/Ages:** All

**Ticket Price: \$50 | 16 participants**

Join guide and Director of Conservation Science, John Kelly 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, where John will help spot and identify water and shorebirds. Following this session, participants will carpool to Tom's Point, a remote preserve at the northern end of the Tomales Bay.

**Guide Bio:** John Kelly 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 and for associated systems such as Tomales Bay. John's scientific interests focus on habitat relationships, foraging, and energetics of coastal and estuarine birds, and on the breeding biology of herons and egrets in the San Francisco Bay area. He also works on local and regional conservation issues and serves on the Tomales Bay Watershed Council.

**Event Location:** Audubon Canyon Ranch's 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 gate sign on the left with a white bird reading "CDP". The gate and driveway is roughly a 1/2-mile past Hog Island Oysters, and well before Nick's Cove.

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

Friday, April 27, 2018 | 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

**Difficulty/Length:** Easy, 3.5 miles | **Experience Levels/Ages:** All

**Ticket Price:** \$70, includes 2-CD set | Limited to 16 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 meet at the Dance Palace and carpool from site to site, covering forests, wetlands, grasslands, esteros, and possibly coastal areas depending on time. Participants will also receive the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin's instructional 2-CD set, *Birding by Ear* for study before or after the class. CDS can be picked up at the EAC office or shipped for a nominal shipping fee.

**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 founders of the festivals. She is currently the Secretary 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 taught classes on birdsong at an Audubon Center in Connecticut, and at past Point Reyes Birding and 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.

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

Friday, April 27, 2018 | 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.

**7. Spring Water & Shorebirds of Bodega Bay with Lisa Hug**

Friday, April 27, 2018 | 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.

**Guide Bio:** Lisa Hug, M.ED., 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. She is also an energetic co-leader for Shearwater Journeys Pelagic Tours. 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.

## 8. Mist Netting & Bird Banding at Muddy Hollow with Lishka Arata

Friday, April 27, 2018 | 9:00 am – 11:00 am

**Difficulty/Length:** Easy, 1 mile **Experience Levels/Ages:** All, Ages 8+

**Ticket Price:** \$20 | Limited to 16 participants

Come learn about birds as indicators of nature's health, observe science in action, and see songbirds up close! Join Point Blue Conservation Science's Communications Coordinator, Lishka Arata for a morning of bird banding and mist-netting along the Muddy Hollow trail at Point Reyes National Seashore. We will get up close and personal with the many resident and migratory songbirds captured in mist nests, while collecting measurements that provide long-term data that contributes to science and conservation. Don't forget to wear your rubber boots! They don't call it Muddy Hollow for nothing.

**Guide Bio:** Lishka Arata is the Communications Coordinator for Point Blue Conservation Science and is based at Point Blue's headquarters in Petaluma. Her main focus at Point Blue these days is supporting excellent and engaging science communications. She has a B.S. in Biology from Humboldt State University, and has worked as a field biologist in Point Blue's San Francisco Bay Tidal Marsh, Central Valley Riparian, and Northern Sierra Forest projects. Additionally, she led education and outreach programming at Point Blue for 10 years.

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

**Meeting Location (Rain cancels):** Muddy Hollow Trail (North) | Point Reyes National Seashore, CA Take Highway 1 south from Point Reyes Station. Cross the Green Bridge and turn right on Sir Frances Drake Boulevard. Go about a mile, and turn left on Bear Valley Road. Make your third right onto Limantour Road. Continue up and over the ridge (about 5-6 miles) then down a steep hill to an intersection w/ sign for Muddy Hollow trailhead on right (across from Point Reyes Hostel turnoff). Go right and drive down a gravel road to the parking lot on the left.

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

## 9. Birds of Olompali State Historic Park – Spring Migration in an Oak Savanna Habitat with Rich Cimino

Friday, April 27, 2018 | 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

**Difficulty/Length:** Easy, 2-miles | **Experience Levels/Ages:** All, Ages 8+

**Ticket Price:** \$30 | 16 participants

Join birder and guide Rich Cimino to discover Olompali State Historic Park's diverse avian residents. The name *olompali* comes from the Miwok language and may be translated as *southern village* or *southern people*. The park overlooks the Petaluma River and San Pablo Bay from the east-facing slopes of 1,558-foot Mount Burdell. We'll look for eagles, hawks, accipiter's, hooded oriole, woodpeckers, empidonax flycatchers, kingbirds, warblers, and any migrating species. Sharpen your bird identification skills, gain a deeper appreciation for our local ecology and have a lot of fun along the way. Families are welcome!

**Guide Bio:** Rich Cimino lives in Marin County and has been birding northern California for over 50 years. He is the owner and field guide for Yellow-billed Tours (a sponsor of our festival), which offers annual birding tours to Nome and Barrow Alaska, as well as California, Arizona, New Mexico, Wisconsin, Belize and France. In support of the Olompali State Historic Park, he leads a monthly beginning bird walk and a CBC section. He is an advocate for nature and served for eight years as the conservation chair for the Ohlone Audubon Society. He participated in the Altamont Pass Wind Turbine Area Golden Eagle & Raptor surveys. He is the compiler of the Eastern Alameda County Christmas Bird Count now in its ninth year. Conservation, bird photography and eco-sustainable tourism are his other interests. Learn more at <http://yellowbilledtours.com/>.

**Event Location:** Olompali State Historic Park, Novato, CA

**Meeting Location (Rain or Shine):**

Olompali State Historic Park | 8900 Redwood Blvd, Novato, CA 94945  
\$8 parking fee, not included in class fee. Credit cards only.

**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. How to Draw Birds: The Art & Science of Field Journaling at Marconi State Historic Park with Jack Muir Laws

Friday, April 27, 2018 | 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

**Difficulty/Length:** Classroom-based with field outing

**Experience Levels/Ages:** All levels and ages

**Ticket Price: \$50 | 20 participants**

Join wildlife biologist, acclaimed artist and Research Associate of the California Academy of Sciences, Jack Muir Laws at the Marconi State Historic Park's McCargo Hall to learn the basics of how to quickly and accurately draw birds in the field and from photo reference. Laws will help you take your field observation to a whole new level, by learning to look at bird's anatomy, shape and feather type, while providing the tools to help you develop as a naturalist. You'll learn ways to improve your observation, memory, scientific illustration, and field sketching all while having fun and falling more deeply in love with the world. Participants will learn how to master the one-minute gesture sketch, tricks on how to draw shorebirds, waterfowl and songbirds, and get to practice these skills in the field if weather permits. The hall at Marconi provides an ideal location offering shelter and comfort, but if the day is nice we will have access to the grounds overlooking Tomales Bay for viewing and sketching birds in nature. No previous drawing experience is necessary.

**Guide Bio:** Jack Muir Laws is a wildlife biologist, naturalist, educator, artist and Research Associate of the California Academy of Sciences. He has taught nature education teacher since 1984 in California, Wyoming, and Alaska. In 2009, he received the Terwilliger Environmental Award for outstanding service in Environmental Education. He is a 2010 TogetherGreen Conservation Leadership Fellow with the National Audubon Society. He was the 2011 artist for International Migratory Bird Day. He is author and illustrator of several books including, *The Laws Guide to Nature Drawing and Journaling* (2016), *The Laws Guide to Drawing Birds* (2012), *Sierra Birds: A Hiker's Guide* (2004), **The Laws Guide to the Sierra Nevada** (2007), and *The Laws Pocket Guide Set to the San Francisco Bay Area* (2009). He is a regular contributor to Bay Nature magazine with his *Naturalists Notebook* column.

### **Event & Meeting Location (Rain or Shine):**

McCargo Hall at Marconi State Historic Park | 18500 CA-1, Marshall, CA 94940

**What to Bring:** Sketch pad, drawing pencils, or colored pencils. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch.

## 11. Plovers (Charadriidae) of Point Reyes with Matt Lau

Friday, April 27, 2018 | 11:00 pm – 12:30 pm

**Difficulty/Length:** Classroom-based

**Experience Levels/Ages:** All, Ages 14+

**Ticket Price: \$15 | 20 participants**

Join wildlife biologist, and bird Matt Lau of Point Reyes National Seashore for an afternoon presentation on plovers in the park. Approximately 66 species make up the family *Charadriidae* (plovers, lapwings, and dotterels), of which seven can be found on the Pacific west coast of the U.S., including Killdeer, Semi-palmated Plovers, Black-bellied Plovers, and Snowy Plovers. They are a unique group of birds that exhibit diversity in many of their life history traits, from migration strategies to mating systems. In this talk I will cover those plover species commonly found on the west coast of North America, extending into specifics about Snowy Plover biology and conservation, and provide up-to-date information about plover conservation in Point Reyes National Seashore.

**Guide Bio:** Matt Lau is the seasonal Snowy Plover biologist at Point Reyes National Seashore. In his third consecutive breeding season in the park, Matt is excited to share his passion for plovers. He received his Master's degree in Wildlife Biology from Humboldt State University, where he also studied snowy plovers (and common ravens as nest predators). He began birding during his first year in college, when he became inspired by the diversity and biology of birds during an ornithology class, and has worked with a variety of birds, from Stellar's jays to golden eagles.

### **Event & Meeting Location (Rain or Shine):**

Dance Palace Community and Cultural Center

503 B Street Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

**What to Bring:** Pen and paper. Optional items include: water, snacks and/or lunch.

## 12. Northern Spotted Owls in Marin with Taylor Ellis

Friday, April 27, 2018 | 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

**Difficulty/Length:** Classroom-based

**Experience Levels/Ages:** All, Ages 14+

**Ticket Price:** \$15 | 20 participants

Join National Park Service wildlife technician, Taylor Ellis of Point Reyes National Seashore to learn about the life history and cycle of the federally listed Northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*) in Marin County. Because of its role as an indicator species for forest ecosystems, this owl has become one of the best-studied owls in the world. It has been listed as a threatened species since 1990, and populations continue to decline range-wide as a result of habitat loss. Competition with other species such as the larger, more aggressive Barred Owl (*Strix varia*) has become the other greatest threat to the species, but Sudden Oak Death and urbanization are also factors. In this special classroom presentation, Taylor will discuss how the National Park Service, including Point Reyes National Seashore, Golden Gate National Recreational Area, and Muir Woods National Monument are monitoring this special species in Marin, their current research and status, and how to report any sightings. Due to the sensitive nature of this species, there will be no field walk.

**Guide Bio:** Taylor Ellis is a wildlife technician at Point Reyes National Seashore, where he implements the northern spotted owl monitoring program. Taylor has been working with spotted owls for 14 breeding seasons since first interning with the U.S. Forest Service in New Mexico. Over this time has worked throughout California and the southwest with various other wildlife species including northern goshawks, snowy plovers, and desert tortoises. Taylor recently received his M.S. in Biology after studying the indirect impacts of tule elk on small mammal populations at Tomales Point.

### **Event & Meeting Location (Rain or Shine):**

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

**What to Bring:** Pen and paper. Optional items include: water, snacks and/or lunch.

## 14. Geology of Point Reyes from Mount Vision

with John Karachewski

Friday, April 27, 2018 | 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

**Difficulty/Length:** Easy, 1 mile | **Experience Levels/Ages:** All, Ages 14+

**Ticket Price:** \$50 | 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.

**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.

## 15. Spring Migration at Limantour Beach and Estero with David Wimpfheimer

Friday, April 27, 2018 | 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Difficulty/Length: Easy, 3-mile | Experience Levels/Ages: All, Ages 14+

Ticket Price: \$50 | 16 participants

Join birder 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 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 Elder hostel. Although 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 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.

## 16. Friday Night: Birds, Brews & Bites with Keynote Speaker and Local Artist Keith Hansen on the Birds of Sierra Nevada: The Art, Inspiration & Science of Illustrating Birds

Friday, April 27, 2018

Brews & Bites 5:00 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: \$55 | 100 participants

Join us for a fun evening celebrating the art, science and illustration of Sierra Nevada birdlife! Come mingle with keynote speaker Keith Hansen, our bird guides, and other enthusiasts during our 1.5-hour cocktail hour, and enjoy local brews (and wine), and appetizer bites special prepared by Bolinas native, chef Baraka Broek, while enjoying the setting sun on the lawn.

As the sun sets, we will gather in the community center, where Keith will share his latest and largest accomplishment, illustrating a 448-page book entitled, *Birds of the Sierra Nevada: Their Natural History, Status and Distribution*, authored by Ted Beedy and Ed Pandolfino. With over 250+ illustrations in the book, Keith will take us on a visual walk through the Sierra Nevada birdlife, sharing his techniques and inspirations that have guided him along a path to being a full-time bird illustrator. Whether it's the power of Yosemite Falls and the dippers that call it home or a water strider gliding across a still pond, inspiration comes to Keith in many forms. Come for a journey into the Sierra where water, rock and time have provided the backdrop and home for the birds we know and love.

### Book Signing

We will have copies of *Birds of the Sierra Nevada* on sale at the event. Keith will be onsite and happy to sign copies of the book before or after the event. This beautifully illustrated and user-friendly book presents the most up-to-date information available about the natural histories of birds of the Sierra Nevada, the origins of their names, the habitats they prefer, how they communicate and interact with one another, their relative abundance, and where they occur within the region. Each species account features original illustrations by Keith Hansen. In addition to characterizing individual species, *Birds of the Sierra Nevada* also describes ecological zones and bird habitats, recent trends in

populations and ranges, conservation efforts, and more than 160 rare species. It also includes a glossary of terms, detailed maps, and an extensive bibliography with over 500 citations.

**Guide Bio:** Keith Hansen is an internationally known birder and wildlife artist of Bolinas in Marin County, California. He specializes in bird illustrations with scientific accuracy. His childhood interest in birds developed into a lifelong passion.

His work has formed the major artistic contribution for over a dozen books, with hundreds of his illustrations appearing in various books: *Birds of the Sierra Nevada: Their Natural History, Status and Distribution*, authored by Ted Beedy and Ed Pandolfino, *Discovering Sierra Birds*, *Distributional Checklist of North American Birds*, *Birds of Yosemite and the East Slope*, *California Wild Lands*, *A Guide to the Nature Conservancy Preserves*, and *The Natural History of the Point Reyes Peninsula*; ornithological journals, magazines, and newsletters including *American Birds*, *Continental Birdlife*, and *Western Birds*. He has worked on murals, taught drawing classes, had art shows, displayed at numerous Bird Symposiums and produced private commissions. 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.

## **17. Night Owls of Point Reyes with Joe Mueller**

**Friday, April 27, 2018 | 5:30 pm – 9:00 pm**

**Difficulty/Length:** Easy-Moderate, 3-mile |

**Experience Levels/Ages:** All, Ages 14+

**Ticket Price: \$60 | 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, saw-whet, burrowing 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 protective regulations prohibit the playing of owl calls during the breeding season, with any luck participants will hear 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 25 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):** Dance Palace Community and Cultural Center | 503 B Street Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

**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  
9<sup>th</sup> Annual Point Reyes Birding and Nature Festival**

**Saturday, April 28th, 2018**

**Class Descriptions**



## 18. Birds & Microhabitats of Inner Marin with Dave MacKenzie

Saturday, April 28, 2018 | 7:00 am – 2:00 pm

**Difficulty/Length:** Easy to moderate, 2-3 miles

**Experience Levels/Ages:** All, Ages 14+

**Ticket Price:** \$100 | 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.

## 19. Birding to a Fault: The Pacific Plate

with Keynote Keith Hansen + Picnic Lunch at Five Brooks

Saturday, April 28, 2018 | 7:30 am – 2:30 pm

**Difficulty/Length:** Easy, 2 miles

**Experience Levels/Ages:** Intermediate, Ages 18+

**Ticket Price:** \$125 | 14 participants

Join internationally known birder, illustrator and our Friday night keynote speaker 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 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 Peter Pyle, plus a picnic lunch sponsored by EAC with time for 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:** 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!

## **20. Birding to a Fault: The Continental Plate with Keynote Peter Pyle + Picnic Lunch at Five Brooks**

**Saturday, April 28, 2018 | 7:30 am – 2:30 pm**

**Difficulty/Length:** Easy, 2 miles

**Experience Levels/Ages:** Intermediate, Ages 18+

**Ticket Price: \$125 | 14 participants**

Join birder extraordinaire and Saturday night keynote speaker Peter Pyle of Institute for Bird Populations for a friendly tectonic birding competition on the Continental 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 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 Keith Hansen, plus a picnic lunch sponsored by EAC with time for 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:** East-side of Continental Plate; Cliffs above Stinson Beach, Stinson Gulch, Bolinas Lagoon, Five Brooks, 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!

## **21. Limantour Estero: Birds of Beach, Bay & Beyond with Dave Shuford**

**Saturday, April 28, 2018 | 8:00 am - 2:00 pm**

**Difficulty/Length:** Easy, 2 miles

**Experience Levels/Ages:** Intermediate, Ages 14+

**Ticket Price: \$60 | Limited to 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.

## **22. Habitat Potential:**

### **Birding Strategy, Tactics & Placement with Josiah Clark**

**Saturday, April 28, 2018 | 8:00 am – 3:00 pm**

**Difficulty:** Easy-Moderate, 2-miles | **Experience Levels/Ages:** 18+

**Ticket Price:** \$70 | **Limited to 16 participants**

Join guide Josiah Clark to learn about birding strategy, tactics and placement. When it comes to making every moment count in birding, how one looks, is at least as important as where one looks. Drawing on strategies developed for birding Big Days and Christmas Bird Counts, this field trip aims to reveal tactics that will help birders improve their methods of coverage and ultimately find more species. Methods and topics will include: Alternating search patterns, scanning techniques, preparing for target species, counting/estimating bird numbers, managing lists, the anatomy of a flock, nest searching and habitat specific search tactics. Habitat types and resources will be a major theme. Participants will learn to match signature local plant communities and landscape compositions with their associated bird guilds. As we find birds in their preferred habitats, we will also take time to observe and learn about adaptations that make certain bird species especially well-suited to given plant communities and environmental conditions. This field trip will take note of dozens of plant species, focusing on important resources that provide for local birds.

Josiah will share conservation related information on the limiting factors of vulnerable and declining groups including cup-nesting songbirds, precocial young and birds of open habitats. This class will not only make you a better birder, but also a better-educated conservation advocate. Information shared here may be especially useful to those in the fields of habitat restoration, environmental planning, bird monitoring and wildlife consulting.

**Guide Bio:** Josiah Clark grew up steeped in the natural history of the Bay Area, where he has been birding for more than 20 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 158 species. Josiah owns Habitat Potential, an ecological consulting firm dedicated to interpreting, preserving, and creating habitat for wildlife in human settings.

**Event Locations:** Giacomini Wetlands and Bear Valley, Point Reyes National Seashore; Samuel P. Taylor State Park, Golden Gate Recreation Area

#### **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.

### **23. River Otter Ramble at Abbotts Lagoon with Megan Isadore**

**Saturday, April 28, 2018 | 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 predators' 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.

### **24. San Geronimo Valley: Birding Along the Edges**

**with Adam Donkin & Bob Battagin**

**Saturday, April 28, 2018 | 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.

## **25. Kingbirds, Sparrows & More: Birding Tomales Ranches with Jenni Benson and Heather Cameron**

**Saturday, April 28, 2018 | 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 Jenni Benson and Heather Cameron for a unique opportunity to bird riparian, woodland and grassland habitats on private ranch lands typically not open to the public. These ranches are perfect examples of how community based restoration can make a difference for wildlife. Participants will learn about Point Blue Conservation Science's STRAW (Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed) project 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:** Jenni Benson has worked with Point Blue Conservation Science's STRAW (Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed) project for almost five years 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, Jenni 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 Locations:** Private ranches in Tomales and west-Petaluma restored by STRAW.

**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.

## **26. Coast Miwok Ethnobotany Along Sky Trail with Wendy Dreskin**

**Saturday, April 28, 2018 | 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.

## 27. Birding Drakes Estero with Alan Hopkins

Saturday, April 28, 2018 | 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 Haeg'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.

## 28. Nesting Herons and Egrets of Santa Rosa with Emiko Condeso

Saturday, April 28, 2018 | 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.

## **29. Beginning Birding on Point Reyes National Seashore's Woodpecker Trail with Rich Cimino**

**Saturday, April 28, 2018 | 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 our new or novice birders! Join guide Rich Cimino, for a beginning bird class along the Woodpecker Trail at Point Reyes National Seashore's Bear Valley. We will start our trip with an introduction to birds, and a tutorial on using your field guide and binoculars. As we traverse the Woodpecker Trail, roughly a one-mile loop, we'll learn species 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 displaying several species of woodpecker, bluebirds, sparrows and other birds. We'll also explore a riparian creek where we should see Wilson's warbler, Pacific-slope and other flycatchers. Mild grades and detailed interpretive signs make this an ideal choice for families and newcomers to the 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 Bio:** Rich Cimino lives in Marin County and has been birding northern California for over 50 years. He is the owner and field guide for Yellow-billed Tours, which offers annual birding tours to Nome and Barrow Alaska, as well as California, Arizona, New Mexico, Wisconsin, Belize and France. In support of the Olompali State Historic Park, he leads a monthly beginning bird walk and a Christmas Bird Count section. He is an advocate for nature and served for eight years as the conservation chair for the Ohlone Audubon Society. He participated in the Altamont Pass Wind Turbine Area Golden Eagle & Raptor surveys. He is the compiler of the Eastern Alameda County Christmas Bird Count now in its ninth year. Conservation, bird photography and eco-sustainable tourism are his other interests. Learn more at <http://yellowbilledtours.com/>.

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

**Where to Meet:** In front of the Bear Valley Visitor Center | 70 Bear Valley Road, Point Reyes National Seashore, 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.

### **30. Birding Tomales Bay by Kayak with David Wimpfheimer and Blue Waters Kayaking**

**Saturday, April 28, 2018 | 9:30 am – 1:30 pm**

**Difficulty/Length:** All Levels |

**Experience Levels/Ages:** All levels, Ages 18+, Must be able to swim and be physically able

**Ticket Price: \$110 | 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 often see tule elk, river otter, bat rays and leopard sharks. 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 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 Elder hostel. Although 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 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.

### 31. Tule Elk Trek at Tomales Point with Frank Binney

Saturday, April 28, 2018 | 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, with spectacular views of Pacific Ocean cliffs on one side and scenic panoramas of Tomales Bay on the other, enjoying the myriad colors and fragrances of spring wildflowers while we 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.

### 32. Dragon & Damselflies of Five Brooks

with Sandra Hont-von Arb

Saturday, April 28, 2018 | 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:** Dance Palace presentation, and field excursion to Five Brooks, Point Reyes National Seashore, CA

**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. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, binoculars, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

### 33. Bird Photography:

#### Tips, Tricks & Techniques with Bill Walker

Saturday, April 28, 2018 | 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. I'll show you 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 Flickr, at [birdwalker.com](http://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 and/or lunch, and a notebook, pencil your camera gear, laptop or tablet.

### 34. The Last Call for San Francisco's California Quail with Alan Hopkins

Saturday, April 28, 2018 | 3:00 am – 4:00 pm

**Difficulty/Length:** Easy, classroom presentation only

**Experience Levels/Ages:** All levels, All Ages

**Ticket Price:** \$15 | 20 participants

Join birder Alan Hopkins for a presentation on the state bird: the California quail. This adorable bird endowed with a goofy topknot, skittering gait, and famous *Chi-ca-go* call is also San Francisco's official bird, but it also on the edge of extinction in the city. Hopkins will discuss the quail's life history including range, breeding, and behaviors, as well as contributing factors to its loss, and attempts to *Save the Quail*.

**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 and 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.

### **35. Saturday Night Sea, Suds & Sup with Keynote Speaker Peter Pyle on the Ecology and Conservation of the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary**

**Saturday, April 28, 2018**

**Suds & Sup: 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm | Keynote & Wrap Up: 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm**

**Dance Palace Community and Cultural Center | Point Reyes Station, CA**

**Tickets \$55 | 100 Participants**

Join us for a fun evening celebrating the sea! Come mingle with keynote speaker Peter Pyle, our bird guides, and other enthusiasts as the sun sets over the ridge. Enjoy tasty veggie or seafood paella specially prepared by San Geronimo based chef Leslie Durkee, the raw oyster bar with Hog Island oysters, Brickmaiden breads, and salad (sup) + a selection of beer and wine (suds) during the 1.5 hour cocktail hour prior to our keynote speaker.

We will follow our Suds & Sup happy hour with a mini presentation on the marine protected areas (MPAs) surrounding West Marin and their importance with [David McGuire](#), co-chair of the Golden Gate Marine Protected Area Collaborative. This will be followed by our keynote presentation with Peter Pyle of the *Institute for Bird Populations* on the *Ecology and Conservation of the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary*.

Located offshore from West Marin's coastal communities, the Greater Farallones is a globally significant, extraordinarily diverse, and productive 3,295 square mile marine ecosystem that supports abundant wildlife and valuable fisheries. It provides breeding and feeding grounds for at least twenty-five endangered or threatened species; thirty-six marine mammal species, including blue, gray, and humpback whales, harbor seals, elephant seals, Pacific white-sided dolphins, and one of the southernmost U.S. populations of threatened Steller sea lions; over a quarter million breeding seabirds; and one of the most significant white shark populations on the planet. As a species identification specialist and consultant for the sanctuary, Peter's extensive knowledge of the area will take us to new depths in our understanding and appreciation of this underwater park.

Peter will also discuss how the *Eastern Boundary Current System*, one of five coastal upwelling zones in the world, influences the rich biodiversity of the Greater Farallones. He will help us discover the area's keystone bird, fish,

marine mammal species and highlight the excellent research that has been undertaken in the Sanctuary leading to conservation and management practices and programs to protect the habitat and species that call it home.

**Keynote 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.

**Environmental Action Committee of West Marin's  
9<sup>th</sup> Annual Point Reyes Birding and Nature Festival**

**Sunday, April 29, 2018**

**Class Descriptions**



### **36. Wildlife Photography Safari at Point Reyes with Daniel Dietrich**

**Sunday, April 29, 2018 | 7:00 am – 11:00 am**

**Difficulty/Length:** Easy, 1-2 miles, carpool to locations

**Experience Levels/Ages:** All levels, Ages 18+

**Ticket Price: \$200 | 3 participants**

Grab your camera and tripods, and join professional wildlife photographer Daniel Dietrich of Point Reyes Safaris for an unforgettable photographic wildlife safari at Point Reyes National Seashore. When home, Daniel spends nearly every day in Point Reyes National Seashore. His intimate knowledge of the park, its history, and the animal life will provide the group with a one of a kind experience. Daniel will take this intimate group to some of his favorite places to view and photograph wildlife in their natural habitat. He will share tips and tricks of the trade, and how to responsibly watch and photograph wildlife. The group will have the opportunity to see raptors, owls, shorebirds, elephant seals and tule elk. With some luck, we may even see coyotes, badgers and bobcats. And of course, there is a beautiful vista around every curve. So, don't forget your landscape lens for some dramatic scenery shots.

**Guide Bio:** Daniel Dietrich is a professional wildlife photographer, a certified California Naturalist, and owner and guide of Point Reyes Safaris. His travels have taken him and his camera to every continent on the planet to photograph wildlife. He is on board of directors for the Environmental Action Committee and is on the ethics committee for the North America Nature Photography Association (NANPA).

**Event Location:** Various Locations, Point Reyes National Seashore

**Where to Meet:** Chicken Ranch Beach | Inverness, CA  
13000 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, Inverness, CA 94937

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

### **37. Walking Big Day at Point Reyes with David Wimpfheimer**

**Sunday, April 29, 2018 | 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 allows us to appreciate these habitats more fully. This is not a 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 Elder hostel. Although 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 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.

### **38. Birding the Ranchlands of Chileno Valley with Todd Plummer**

**Sunday, April 29, 2018 | 7:30 am – 2:00 pm**

**Difficulty/Length:** Easy, 3-6 miles

**Experience Levels/Ages:** Intermediate, Ages 18+

**Ticket Price: \$75 | 16 participants**

Join birder 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. Up near the Marin-Sonoma border, the Thacher Ranch lies at the end of a dry and dusty dirt road, winding past whitewashed wooden fences, coast live oak, red-winged blackbirds, singing meadowlarks and savannah sparrows, and dozens of heifers who pause momentarily from their grazing to stare at passing cars with mild curiosity. This three-mile walk into the heart of the ranch (typically not open to the public) will give us a chance at Allen's hummingbird, ash-throated flycatcher, lark sparrow, rufous-crowned sparrow, Bullock's oriole, raptors and more. There will be an emphasis on birding-by-ear and observation of breeding behavior.

**Guide Bio:** Todd Plummer has almost 30 years' experience as a birder and conservationist. He became a Certified California Naturalist through the UC Davis program in 2014 and spends a lot of time uploading observations to iNaturalist. He studied bird population dynamics and endangered species management at the University of Georgia and currently works in an aging research lab. He has led many bird hikes on both coasts of the U.S., and worked as a wildlife biologist in the Sierra Nevada. His motto: Every day, 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

### **39. Giacomini Wetlands: A Tidal Refuge with Lorraine Parsons & Mary Anne Flett**

**Sunday, April 29, 2018 | 8:00 am – 11:00 am**

**Difficulty/Length:** Easy, 1 miles,

**Experience Levels/Ages:** All levels, Ages 10+

**Ticket Price: \$40 | 16 participants**

Join National Park Service Vegetation and Wetland Ecologist Lorraine Parsons, and Avocet Research Associate Mary Anne Flett to bird and explore 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 as well as home for large numbers of overwintering and resident species. 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

#### **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 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 Five Brooks with Daniel Edelstein**

**Sunday, April 29, 2018 | 8:00 am - 12:30 pm**

**Difficulty/Length:** Easy, 1-mile | **Experience Levels/Ages:** All levels, Ages 10+

**Ticket Price: \$40 | 16 participants**

Join birder Daniel Edelstein for a morning birding class at Five Brooks pond, at Point Reyes National Seashore. The trail and pond host beautiful riparian habitat, great for both migrants and local breeders. We'll be listening for Wilson's warblers who vigorously stake out their territories, as we stealthily search for wary wood ducks. Purple martins are occasionally in the area and there should be a nice diversity of songbirds. This walk will emphasize birding by ear -- we'll take the time to appreciate and learn the songs and calls of many flycatchers, vireos, warblers and other species. Participants will receive a handout related to spring nesting and migration in Marin County, including one entitled *Top Ten Tips to Improving Your Birding by Ear*, as we discuss the ecology of bird songs and their functions. Time permitting, we may briefly explore other nearby habitats.

**Guide Bio:** Daniel Edelstein is a consulting biologist who has led birding tours for more than 25 years and presented public birding presentations in more than 20 states. Daniel has several blogs and a website about northern California birds, and is currently conducting songbird and raptor surveys for two projects. Check out his wood-warbler blog, or more on his classes at Merritt College in Oakland, CA.

**Event Location:** Five Brooks, Point Reyes National Seashore, CA

**Meeting Location (Rain or Shine):** Five Brooks Parking Lot | Point Reyes National Seashore, CA | 8001 Shoreline Hwy 1, Olema, CA 94950

**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 and Becky Olsen**

**Sunday, April 29, 2018 | 8:00 am – 1:00 pm**

**Difficulty/Length:** Easy, 2-miles

**Experience Levels/Ages:** All levels, Ages 10+

**Ticket Price: \$50 | 16 participants**

Join birders Ken Wilson and Becky Olsen 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 and Becky 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, 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.

Becky Olsen is an avid birder, who has been volunteering for the Golden Gate Raptor program for about 25 years. She has participated in many bird surveys, and been a bander for Audubon Canyon Ranch on Tomales Bay and The Modini Ranch property.

**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 West Marin 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. Off-shore 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 Haeger'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**

**Sunday, April 29, 2018 | 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 biologist Joe DiDonato for a raptor ramble at Point Reyes National Seashore's Bear Valley. 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 courtship 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 Bio:** Joe DiDonato owns Wildlife Consulting and Photography, an East Bay biological services firm. He formerly worked as the Wildlife Manager for the East Bay Regional Park District. He specializes in raptor biology, and is a very experienced birder.

**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: Point Reyes Station to Coast Trail with Josiah Clark

Sunday, April 29, 2018 | 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

**Difficulty/Length:** Moderate-Strenuous, 12 miles

**Experience Levels/Ages:** Intermediate, Ages 18+

**Ticket Price: \$60 | 9 participants**

There are few places in Marin with a richer avifauna than the terrain around Point Reyes Station. We can make great head way in our search for the wild by using our own two legs and a bike. Biking is quiet, and we will take the opportunity to bird by ear and take in new vocalizations along the way. All along the way we will be on the lookout for other wildlife including butterflies, mammals and reptiles. There are great opportunities to acknowledge and recognize the gradual transition of native plant communities as can best be done by bicycle. While in town we will visit the Giacomini Wetlands, then head off to the Olema Marsh, crossing over to Limantour Road, and onward to the Bear Valley trail. As we coast down Bear Valley Trail, we will wind our way through the enchanted, fern laden old growth Douglas Fir forests, to Glen Trail, where we will **lock up our bikes and finish the last mile on foot**. From Coast Trail, we will search out and add the marine bird guilds to our list, in our quest to see as many species as possible. Once back to our bikes, we will make the ride back to Point Reyes Station as a group. **Must have own bike that handle road and dirt terrain.**

**Guide Bio:** Josiah Clark grew up steeped in the natural history of the Bay Area, where he has been birding for more than 20 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 158 species. Josiah owns Habitat Potential, an ecological consulting firm dedicated to interpreting, preserving, and creating habitat for wildlife in human settings.

**Event Location:** Point Reyes Station, Giacomini Wetlands, Olema Marsh, Bear Valley Trail and Coast Trail, Point Reyes National Seashore, CA

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

**What to Bring:** Bike, bike lock, 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. Birds, Beasts & Wildflowers of Chimney Rock with Burr Heneman

Sunday, April 29, 2018 | 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

**Difficulty/Length:** Easy, 2-4-mile | **Experience Levels/Ages:** All levels, Ages 10+

**Ticket Price: \$40 | 16 participants**

Where can you see birds, beasts and wildflowers overlooking the Pacific Ocean? If you're lucky, you can see all of them — including migrating whales, and breeding at Point Reyes National Seashore's Chimney Rock and Elephant Seal Overlook on the Point Reyes Headlands. Join marine naturalist and native plant buff Burr Heneman for a morning exploring these themes. Extending 20 miles out from the mainland, this is the perfect resting location along the Pacific Flyway where we can see an interesting mix of terrestrial and marine bird species. We will have a chance to see common murre, pigeon guillemot, Brandt's and pelagic cormorant, black oystercatcher, peregrine falcon, great horned owl, rock wren, northern harrier, savannah sparrow, and a variety of loons and grebes. The wildflower displays are also terrific, and we can expect to see Franciscan paintbrush, hairy star-tulip, Point Reyes chocolate lily, coastal larkspur, coast wallflower, seaside daisy, various owl's clovers, goldfields, and angelica. This area is also an ideal spot to observe elephant seal colonies and seasonal whale migrations, with the enclosed Bay on one side and the open ocean on the other side. Panoramic views extend across Drakes Beach, Drakes Estero, Limantour Beach and out to the Farallon Islands, so don't forget your camera.

**Guide Bio:** Burr Heneman has been involved in marine issues at state, national and international levels for 45 years. He also has a long-time interest in native plants. He has participated in seabird and white shark research on the Farallon Islands and other field work in Galapagos, Mexico, Shetland, the Lesser Antilles, and Belize. Burr designed the Packard Foundation's global seabird conservation program. His past marine conservation emphases have included fisheries management reform, oil-spill prevention and response (including the 1989 Exxon Valdez and 1991 Gulf War oil spills), and marine debris. He is a former Executive Director of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory (now Point Blue Conservation Science).

**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. 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 Keynote Keith Hansen**

**Sunday, April 29, 2018 | 8:30 am – 2:00 pm**

**Difficulty/Length:** Easy, 2 miles | **Experience Levels/Ages:** All levels, Ages 10+  
**Ticket Price: \$100 | 16 participants**

Join internationally known birder, illustrator, and our Friday keynote speaker 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 millions 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 & Bob Atwood**

**Sunday, April 29, 2018 | 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 the Las Gallinas Ponds in San Rafael and Hamilton Wetlands in Novato. 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 a this leisurely 2-mile walk out to the salt marsh. In addition to recording over 50 species of birds here, mammal diversity is high, where river otters, black-tailed deer, coyote and black-tailed jackrabbits are 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:** 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.

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.

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

**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. Botany, Birds & Butterflies of Lake Lagunitas**

**with Andrea Freeman**

**Sunday, April 29, 2018 | 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 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. 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.

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

Saturday, April 29, 2018 | 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 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 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. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch, and binoculars. Optional items include: Backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

## 51. Birds & Dunes of Abbotts Lagoon, A Family Walk with Sharon “Heron” Barnett

Sunday, April 29, 2018 | 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

**Difficulty/Length:** Easy, 2-miles | **Experience Levels/Ages:** All levels, Ages 6+

**Tickets: \$ 30 | 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 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.