

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

**Thursday, April 23rd, 2020  
Event Descriptions**



## 1. Thursday Birding & Brunch with the Festival Keynotes

**Jack Dumbacher and Katie Fallon**

**& Festival Co-Founder David Wimpfheimer**

**Thursday, April 23, 2020 | 8:30 am – 1:00 pm**

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

**Experience Levels/Ages: All Levels, Ages 15+**

**Ticket Price: \$175 | 16 participants**

Join our festival keynotes Jack Dumbacher and Katie Fallon in the field with festival co-founder and naturalist David Wimpfheimer for a special morning of birding. We will explore several habitats along the wetlands of Tomales Bay and the grasslands and oak woodlands further inland. In each habitat there will be different birds that we will learn about and identify by field marks and their vocalizations. From teals and yellowlegs to raptors, warblers, and swallows, we will enjoy a large diversity of species. We will end our outing at Audubon Canyon Ranch's Cypress Grove Research Center with a catered lunch overlooking Tomales Bay.

### **Guide Bios:**

**Jack Dumbacher (Friday Night Keynote)** is a PhD biologist, specializing in avian genetics and avian chemical defense, and dabbling in lots of other things related to birds and mammals. He received his undergraduate degree at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, and his PhD at University of Chicago, and worked for several years at the Smithsonian Institution with Rob Fleischer and others. In 2003, he became the Curator of Ornithology and Mammalogy at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. Jack is also a professor of Biology at San Francisco State University. He has been researching and studying California Barred Owls since 2006.

**Katie Fallon (Saturday Night Keynote)** is the President of the Mountaineer Chapter of the National Audubon Society of West Virginia, and one of the co-founders of the Avian Conservation Center of Appalachia, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving wild birds through research, education, and rehabilitation. She has authored two nonfiction books *Vulture: The Private Life of an Unloved Bird* and *Cerulean Blues: A Personal Search for a Vanishing Songbird*, which was a Finalist for the Reed Award for Outstanding Writing on the Southern Environment. She has also co-authored two books for children, *Look, See the Bird!* and *Look, See the Farm!*. Katie's essays and articles have appeared in a variety of journals and magazines, including Fourth Genre, River Teeth, Ecotone, Bark Magazine, Still, Appalachian Heritage, Now & Then, Isotope, Fourth River, the Minnesota Review, The Tusculum Review, and elsewhere. Katie was named 2017 Wonder Woman of

West Virginia by WV Living Magazine, for her achievements and contributions to the area. She is a 4<sup>th</sup> generation resident of Appalachia, where she resides with her family.

**David Wimpfheimer** is a biologist, naturalist, EAC board member, and co-founder of the Point Reyes Birding & Nature Festival, who has a passion for the birds and natural history of the West. He has been leading trips and expeditions for over thirty years, including classes for the Point Reyes Field Institute, Marin Agricultural Land Trust, and the California Academy of Sciences, as well as tours in Mexico, Alaska, Scotland and other regions for groups including the Smithsonian Institution, Wild Wings, and Road Scholar.

### **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 and good walking shoes, and bring water, snacks, binoculars, and rain gear. Optional items include: backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen, and sunhat.

**11<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Environmental Action Committee of West Marin's  
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**Friday, April 24th, 2020  
Event Descriptions**



## 2. Forest Birds & Ecology with Katie Fallon & David Wimpfheimer

Friday, April 24, 2020 | 7:00 am – 11:30 am

Difficulty/Length: Easy, 1-2 miles

Experience Levels/Ages: All Levels, 15+

Ticket Price: \$50 | 16 participants

Join our Saturday night keynote speaker Katie Fallon and local naturalist David Wimpfheimer for a special forest walk. The bike path near Tocoloma in Golden Gate National Recreation Area is an excellent area to observe a wide variety of land birds. Western Wood Pewee, Pacific-Slope and Olive-sided Flycatchers breed in respective microhabitats here. Orange-crowned Warblers feed in the mid-elevation while Black-headed Grosbeaks forage in the live oaks. Nuttall's and other woodpeckers are found here while it is a good place to hear the wonderful song of Swainson's Thrush. All these birds will be busy with nesting behaviors. This is an excellent time to focus on bird identification by sight and sound. Katie has spent many years observing the dynamics of forest ecology in the Appalachian mountains. There are many parallels with our own mixed forest of redwood, fir, oak, and bay. Lagunitas Creek forms a dynamic floodplain near the path adding another layer to the rich assemblage of birds here.

### Guide Bios:

**Katie Fallon** is the President of the Mountaineer Chapter of the National Audubon Society of West Virginia, and one of the co-founders of the Avian Conservation Center of Appalachia, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving wild birds through research, education, and rehabilitation. She has authored two nonfiction books *Vulture: The Private Life of an Unloved Bird* and *Cerulean Blues: A Personal Search for a Vanishing Songbird*, which was a Finalist for the Reed Award for Outstanding Writing on the Southern Environment. She has also co-authored two books for children, *Look, See the Bird!* and *Look, See the Farm!*. Katie's essays and articles have appeared in a variety of journals and magazines, including *Fourth Genre*, *River Teeth*, *Ecotone*, *Bark Magazine*, *Still*, *Appalachian Heritage*, *Now & Then*, *Isotope*, *Fourth River*, the *Minnesota Review*, *The Tusculum Review*, and elsewhere. Katie was named 2017 Wonder Woman of West Virginia by WV Living Magazine, for her achievements and contributions to the area. She is a 4<sup>th</sup> generation resident of Appalachia, where she resides with her family.

**David Wimpfheimer** is a biologist, naturalist, EAC board member, and co-founder of the Point Reyes Birding & Nature Festival, who has a passion for the birds and natural history of the West. He has been leading trips and expeditions for over thirty years, including classes for the Point Reyes Field Institute, Marin Agricultural

Land Trust, and the California Academy of Sciences, as well as tours in Mexico, Alaska, Scotland and other regions for groups including the Smithsonian Institution, Wild Wings, and Road Scholar.

### 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 and good walking shoes, and bring water, snacks, binoculars, and rain gear. Optional items include: backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen, and sunhat.

### 3. Giacomini Wetlands: A Tidal Refuge with Jason Green

Friday, April 24, 2020 | 8:00 am – 11:00 am

Difficulty/Length: Easy, 1 mile

Experience Levels/Ages: All Levels, Ages 15+

Ticket Price: \$30 | 16 participants

Join birder Jason Green to bird around the edges of the 560-acre restored wetlands Giacomini Wetlands complex just outside of Point Reyes Station. As we bird and look for wildlife, we will learn about salt marsh ecology and the 2008 restoration, which has profoundly benefited the wetland landscape – especially for wildlife. Set between the pastoral ranchlands of West Marin to the east and the protected wildlands of Point Reyes National Seashore on the western shore, Tomales Bay is recognized as one of the most intact and biologically healthy estuaries along the California coast, even prior to the restoration. As such, it has long served as an essential refueling site for migrating shorebirds and waterfowl along the Pacific Flyway. And now, by bringing back some 12 percent of the historic coastal wetlands between Cape Mendocino and Point Conception, the Giacomini Restoration project dramatically enhances the bay's ecological value to those species.

**Guide Bio: Jason Green**, born and raised on the East Coast, started watching birds at a very young age. Having the opportunity to travel the world and bird in far-off places, he landed in West Marin eight years ago to study regenerative farming and ecology. Since then he has guided school groups at the Giacomini Wetlands for the Point Reyes National Seashore Association. He specializes in native plants and gardening. Currently he works at Mostly Natives Nursery in Point Reyes Station propagating plants and he can often be found wandering the forests of the seashore in his spare time.

#### 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 and good walking shoes, and bring water, snacks, binoculars, and rain gear. Optional items include: backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen, and sunhat.

### 4. Pelagic Point Reyes: Whales, Seals & Seabirds at the Point Reyes Headlands with Dr. Sarah Allen & NOAA Educator Jennifer Stock of Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary

Friday, April 24, 2020 | 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Difficulty/Length: Easy, 2 miles

Experience Levels/Ages: All Levels, Ages 8+

Ticket Price: \$40 | 14 participants

Join guide and author, Dr. Sarah Allen and NOAA/Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary educator, Jennifer Stock for a morning trip exploring pelagic life at Point Reyes. Jutting out nearly 20 miles into 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, spouting and breaching whales are often seen. Occasionally offshore, pods of dolphins, porpoises and rarely even Orcas can be seen. We can expect to see Northern Elephant Seals dotting Drakes Beach shorelines as they molt their fur following the birthing season, as well as Harbor Seals that are birthing, and California Sea Lions as they migrate south to breeding grounds south of Point Reyes. A variety of seabirds including cormorants, Pigeon Guillemots, and Common Murres can be seen nesting on the rocky cliffs, and late migratory birds are also present. 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 tens of thousands of birds and fish, as well as whales, sharks, seals, and other marine life feed from the cold, nutrient-rich waters.

#### Guide Bios:

**Sarah Allen** is recently retired from the National Park Service as 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. She has authored and co-authored many scientific papers, including the UC Press book, *A Field Guide to the Marine Mammals of the Pacific Coast*.

**Jennifer Stock** is the education and outreach coordinator for NOAA's Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary where she works to bring the wonders of the ocean off the coast of Point Reyes in the National Marine Sanctuaries to audiences locally, nationally, and internationally through field trips, curriculum, teacher trainings, exhibits, and digital media to increase understanding and stewardship of our blue

planet.

**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 and good walking shoes, and bring water, snacks, binoculars, and rain gear. Optional items include: backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen, and sunhat.

**5. Point Reyes Raptor Ramble with Step Wilson**

**Friday, April 24, 2020 | 8:00 am – 1:00 pm**

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

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

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

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

**Guide Bio: Step Wilson** is the Hawkwatch Program Manager at the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory (GGRO), a program of the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy in cooperation with the National Park Service at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). He has monitored raptor breeding, migration, and wintering sites throughout the Great Lakes and Rocky Mountain Flyway. He also studied raptors through counting and banding efforts in Italy, Israel, Mexico, and Canada. Step's main interest is identifying raptor use of landscapes through observation, banding, and telemetry in order to focus conservation efforts on important use areas. As GGRO's Hawkwatch Manager, Step works with 200 community scientist volunteers, educators, and biologists to study the detailed movement of raptors passing through the GGNRA, and provides education opportunities for park visitors.

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

Bear Valley Visitor Center (Meet in front)  
70 Bear Valley Road, Point Reyes National Seashore, CA

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

## **6. Birds of Mount Tamalpais with Juan García**

**Friday, April 24, 2020 | 8:00 am - 2:00 pm**

**Difficulty/Length: Rugged in places / 5 miles**

**Experience Levels/Ages: All Levels, 15+**

**Ticket Price: \$60 | 16 participants**

Join naturalist Juan García in this ramble through Marin Municipal Water District land on Mount Tamalpais. At 2,571 feet in elevation, this is Marin County's tallest summit, visible in clear weather from almost anywhere in the Bay Area. Because of its proximity to the coast and vertical prominence, slopes of this natural wonder create numerous microclimates, featuring forested riparian zones, serpentine exposures, upland meadows, grassy slopes, and chaparral. Within a single hike, you can experience wide extremes of temperature, moisture, wind, and sun. Current breeders include Black-throated Grey and Hermit Warblers, Hermit Thrush, and Pileated Woodpecker.

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

**Guide Bio: Juan García** divides his time between the San Francisco Bay Area and the Texas Gulf Coast. An alumnus of the California Naturalist and California Academy Master Birder programs, he has participated in field surveys for numerous conservation groups, including Audubon Canyon Ranch, Point Blue, Audubon California, Golden Gate Audubon, Golden Gate Raptor Observatory, and Hawk Watch International. Having taught classics, English literature, and Spanish at several colleges, he is now an independent scholar and freelance writer.

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

Marin Municipal Water District, Rock Spring Parking Area (free parking). The location appears on the following map as 'Rock Spring Trailhead': <https://www.google.com/maps/place/Rock+Spring+Trailhead/@37.910698,-122.6148568,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x080859171bbdb688b:0x5672a7f0e8440151!8m2!3d37.910698!4d-122.6126681>

**What to Bring:** Please wear layers for warm and cold temperatures, as well as sturdy walking shoes. A rain layer may be needed. Pack water, snacks and/or lunch along with your binoculars. (Spotting scope provided.) Optional items include: backpack, guide books, camera, sunscreen, and sunhat.

## **7. Habitat Potential: Birding Strategy, Tactics & Placement with Josiah Clark**

**Friday, April 24, 2020 | 8:00 am – 3:00 pm**

**Difficulty: Easy-Moderate, 2 miles**

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

**Ticket Price \$70 | 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 major themes. 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.

**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 and good walking shoes, and bring water, snacks, binoculars, and rain gear. Optional items include: backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen, and sunhat.

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

**Friday, April 24, 2020 | 8:30 am – 3:30 pm**

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

**Experience Levels/Ages: Advanced/Intermediate Birders, Ages 15+**

**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 and waterfowl. 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 with an emphasis on water and shorebirds. This trip is best for experienced birders, both advanced or intermediate.

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

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

Porto Bodega Marina Parking Lot  
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 and good walking shoes, and bring water, snacks, binoculars, and rain gear. Optional items include: backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen, and sunhat.



## **9. Birding Drakes Estero Trail with Alan Hopkins**

**Friday, April 24, 2020 | 9:00 am – 2:00 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 Wilderness Area. Long considered the ecological heart of spectacular Point Reyes, Drakes Estero a 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, and 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. Alan has been leading the Estero area for the Point Reyes Christmas Bird Count for more than 30 years. 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.

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

Estero Trail | Point Reyes National Seashore, CA

From US 101 in Marin County, exit Sir Francis Drake/San Anselmo. Drive west on Sir Francis Drake about 20 miles, to the junction with CA 1, turn right, drive 0.1 mile, and then turn left onto Bear Valley Road. After about 2 miles, Bear Valley Road ends at Sir Francis Drake; turn left. Continue on Sir Francis Drake about 7.5 more miles, and turn left at the sign "Estero Trail." Drive slowly (there may be cows on this narrow road) about 1 more mile to the trailhead on the right side of the road.

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

## **10. A Walk in the Woods: Bishop Pine Forest Ecology at Tomales State Park with Tom Gaman**

**Friday, April 25, 2020 | 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm**

**Difficulty/Length: Moderate 2-3 miles**

**Experience Levels/Ages: All Levels, Ages 15+**

**Ticket Price \$30 | 14 participants**

Join Inverness forester Tom Gaman as he leads a tour of the Bishop pine forest at Tomales Bay State Park overlooking Tomales Bay. We will learn about forest ecology and biology, identification of various coastal tree species, and the threats to their well-being, including Sudden Oak Death, pitch canker, and climate change. Tom will also discuss his recent forest inventory at Tomales Bay State Park including the role of fire in shaping the landscape, and how trees are on the move in response to fire and other factors. We will also be on the lookout for birds, including the Pileated Woodpecker, Osprey, and other forest birds while identifying the flora and discussing options to restore healthy forests within the park.

**Guide Bio:** Tom Gaman is a forester, and the co-founder of East-West Forestry Associates, an environmental consulting firm dedicated to sustaining and restoring the vitality and diversity of forests and watersheds in California and communities everywhere.

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

Johnston/Jepson Trailhead, Tomales Bay State Park  
1100 Pierce Point Rd, Inverness, CA 94937

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

**11. Geology of Point Reyes from Mount Vision  
with John Karachewski**  
**Friday, April 24, 2020 | 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**  
**Difficulty/Length: Easy, 1 mile**  
**Experience Levels/Ages: All Levels, Ages 15+**  
**Ticket Price: \$40 | 16 participants**

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

**Guide Bio:** John Karachewski is a geologist for the California Environmental Protection Agency 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 entitled, *Geology of the San Francisco Bay Region*. He enjoys photographing landscapes during the magic light of sunrise and sunset.

**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 end of the road at the dirt parking lot.

**What to Bring:** Please wear layers and good walking shoes, and bring water, snacks, and rain gear. Optional items include: backpack, camera, sunscreen, and sunhat.

**12. Abbotts Lagoon Amble with Michael Ellis**  
**Friday, April 24, 2020 | 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**  
**Difficulty/Length: Easy, 3.5 mile**  
**Experience Levels/Ages: All Levels, Ages 15+**  
**Ticket Price: \$40 | 16 participants**

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

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

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

Abbotts Lagoon Trail | Point Reyes National Seashore, CA  
4101 Pierce Point Road, Inverness, CA 94937

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

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

**Friday, April 24, 2020 | 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm**

**Difficulty/Length: Easy, 3 mile**

**Experience Levels/Ages: All Levels, Ages 15+**

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

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

**Guide Bio:** David Wimpfheimer is a biologist, naturalist, EAC board member, and co-founder of the Point Reyes Birding & Nature Festival, who has a passion for the birds and natural history of the West. He has been leading trips and expeditions for over thirty years, including classes for the Point Reyes Field Institute, Marin Agricultural Land Trust, and the California Academy of Sciences, as well as tours in Mexico, Alaska, Scotland and other regions for groups including the Smithsonian Institution, Wild Wings, and Road Scholar.

#### **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 and good walking shoes, and bring water, snacks, binoculars, and rain gear. Optional items include: backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen, and sunhat.

### **14. Friday Night's Birds, Brews & Bites:**

#### **The Spotted Owl's Barred Dilemma & Current Research**

**with Jack Dumbacher of the California Academy of Sciences**

**Friday, April 24, 2020**

**Brews & Bites 4:00 pm - 6:30 pm | Keynote 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm**

**Experience Levels/Ages: All Levels, Ages 15+**

**Ticket Price: \$65 | 100 Participants**

Join us for an evening with our Friday keynote speaker, Jack Dumbacher, Curator of Ornithology and Mammalogy at the California Academy of Sciences (CAS) in San Francisco to hear new research about the Spotted Owl's dilemma with the Eastern Barred Owl. Our evening will start with an outdoor social gathering (weather permitting) with food, drink, music, and an opportunity to view some owl specimens from the CAS collection. This is one of the only opportunities to gather as a group, to meet Jack, our guides, staff, and other attendees. Following the social, we will gather in our indoor seating area to hear Jack's keynote program.

Attendees will learn how the eastern Barred Owl has made its way to the western USA in the last 50 to 100 years. Presumably helped by human landscape alteration, they now inhabit all of the range of the endangered Northern Spotted Owl and much of that of the California Spotted Owl. In recent years, evidence is mounting to suggest that Barred Owls have become a primary threat to Spotted Owls – they are fierce competitors, aggressive territory holders, faster reproducers, and they have even been anecdotally reported to kill Spotted Owls. And they are spreading faster than ever. In this talk, Jack will discuss the natural history and conservation concerns for both species, as well as recent research and potential actions that are being considered by different management agencies.

**Keynote Bio:** Jack Dumbacher is a PhD biologist, specializing in avian genetics and avian chemical defense, and dabbling in lots of other things related to birds and mammals. He received his undergraduate degree at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, and his PhD at University of Chicago, and worked for several years at the Smithsonian Institution with Rob Fleischer and others. In 2003, he became the Curator of Ornithology and Mammalogy at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. Jack is also a professor of Biology at San Francisco State University. He has been researching and studying California Barred Owls since 2006.

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

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

**What to Wear/Bring:** We encourage you to wear your best and most comfortable causal outdoor gear, and wear flat shoes. The first half of the event is outdoors, weather permitting, followed by an indoor presentation. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own reusable cups, plates, and utensils.

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

**Friday, April 24, 2020 | 5:30 pm – 9:00 pm**

**Difficulty/Length: Easy-Moderate, 1 mile**

**Experience Levels/Ages: All Levels, Ages 15+**

**Ticket Price: \$50 | 12 participants**

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

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

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

Point Reyes Fire House Conference Center  
101 4th Street, Point Reyes Station CA 94956

On the corner of 4th and B streets in Point Reyes Station. Go through the main entrance (double doors). Conference room is straight ahead.

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

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

**Saturday, April 25th, 2020  
Event Descriptions**



## **16. Birds of the Outer Point with Dan Singer & Bob Atwood**

**Saturday, April 25, 2020 | 7:00 am – 2:00 pm**

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

**Experience Levels/Ages: All Levels, Ages 15+**

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

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

### **Guide Bios:**

**Dan Singer** has been studying ornithology 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 is the current Chair of the California Bird Records Committee, having served as a member since the 1990s. He is also a regional reviewer for eBird. 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.

**Bob Atwood** is a trip leader for the Marin Audubon Society and heads up the Sausalito section of the Southern Marin Christmas bird count. He has his M.S. in Biology and has conducted: ecological field research in Mexico, conservation genetics, and bioinformatics research. Bob is a county birder and enjoys searching out rarities and uncommon birds throughout California.

### **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 and good walking shoes, and bring water, snacks, binoculars, and rain gear. Optional items include: backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen, and sunhat.

## **17. Birds & Microhabitats of Inner Marin with Dave MacKenzie**

**Saturday, April 25, 2020 | 7:30 am – 2:00 pm**

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

**Experience Levels/Ages: All Levels, Ages 15+**

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

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

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

Nicasio Square, across from Rancho Nicasio Restaurant and next to the baseball field at 1 Old Rancheria Rd, Nicasio, CA 94946. We can carpool from this location and will return there for lunch.

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

**18. How to Observe Birds at China Camp State Park with Jerry Coe**  
**Saturday, April 25, 2020 | 8:00 am – 10:00 am**

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

**Experience Levels/Ages: All Levels, Ages 8+**

**Ticket Price: \$20 | 12 participants**

If you've always loved birds but never knew how to actually make the leap, join our beginning bird class with Jerry Coe at China Camp State Park. We will begin the morning with an audio-visual classroom presentation on how to key out species, use checklists, view breeding bird atlases, and listen to birdsongs. Attendees will also receive instruction on how to effectively use binoculars and bird identification guides to help identify common birds in the field. For the second half of the morning we will explore China Camp State Park, with views of the San Pablo Bay, to use our new skills in the field. Jerry will also share how bird population numbers and species diversity can reflect the health of the local environment. Advanced birders also welcomed.

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

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

China Camp State Park | 100 China Camp Village Road, San Rafael, CA 94901  
Meet at the Turtleback Trailhead, 2.2 miles north of the southern park entrance on San Pedro Road east of San Rafael. Jerry will pass out parking passes when you arrive.

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

**19. River Otter Ramble at Abbotts Lagoon with Megan Isadore**  
**Saturday, April 25, 2020 | 8:00 am – 11:00 am**

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

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

**Ticket Price: \$30 | 12 participants**

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

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

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

Abbotts Lagoon Trail | Point Reyes National Seashore, CA  
4101 Pierce Point Road, Inverness, CA 94937

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

## **20. Coastal Birds of Audubon's Cypress Grove & Tomales Bay with David Lumpkin**

**Saturday, April 25, 2020 | 8:00 am – 11:00 am**

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

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

**Ticket Price: \$35 | 16 participants**

Join guide David Lumpkin of Audubon Canyon Ranch's Cypress Grove Research Center in Marshall 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.

**Guide Bio:** David Lumpkin is an avian ecologist working at Audubon Canyon Ranch. He is involved in several research programs, including GPS tracking of Great Egrets, monitoring heron and egret colonies, surveying shorebirds and waterbirds, and conducting breeding bird surveys. He has worked with various bird species around North America, mostly centering around population monitoring and conservation work.

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

Audubon Canyon Ranch's Cypress Grove Research Center  
20545 State Hwy 1, Marshall, CA.

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

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

## **21. Birds & Botany of Tomales State Park with Jason Green**

**Saturday, April 25, 2020 | 8:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**Difficulty/Length: Moderate, 2-3 miles**

**Experience Levels/Ages: All Levels, Ages 15+**

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

Join Jason Green on a walk through Tomales State Park on a ecological journey about plants and birds! With a focus on native coastal plant habitat, we will be looking at the full ecology of the coastal range. Along the edge of Tomales Bay, spanning the divide of the San Andreas Fault, multiple geologies and ecologies meet. This mix creates an array of different species, from the Acorn and Downy Woodpeckers dashing through the Tan and Coast Live Oak mixed forests to the California Coyote Brush chaparral scattered with its array of spring wildflowers along the forest edge. Combine these diverse edges of ecology together and we get both birds and plants of the bay, forest, and chaparral that share the edge of the continental divide. Take a walk back through time, as we wander the Point Reyes Peninsula, that is forever pushing north.

**Guide Bio:** Jason Green, born and raised on the East Coast, started watching birds at a very young age. Having the opportunity to travel the world and bird in far-off places, he landed in West Marin eight years ago to study regenerative farming and ecology. Since then he has guided school groups at the Giacomini Wetlands for the Point Reyes National Seashore Association. He specializes in native plants and gardening. Currently he works at Mostly Natives Nursery in Point Reyes Station propagating plants and he can often be found wandering the forests of the seashore in his spare time.

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

Johnston/Jepson Trailhead, Tomales Bay State Park  
1100 Pierce Point Rd, Inverness, CA 94937

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



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

**Saturday, April 25, 2020 | 8:00 am – 12:00 pm**

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

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

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

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

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

**Heather Cameron** studied with the late Rich Stallcup, is a long-time member of Point Blue Conservation Science, and has been birding in the Point Reyes area for over 25 years.

**Meeting Location:**

Tomales Deli & Café | 27000 Shoreline Hwy, Tomales, CA 94971

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

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

**Saturday, April 25, 2020 | 8:00 am - 12:00 pm**

**Difficulty/Length: Classroom & Easy, 1 mile**

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

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

Join avian biologist and birding guide Daniel Edelstein to learn more about birding by ear in the classroom and in the field. Your day will begin in the classroom where Daniel will share a tips, tricks, and a bird song website many birders use to enhance their knowledge and improve their *birding by ear* skills. Following the presentation, attendees will carpool down to Five Brooks pond to put their new skills to the test.

Five Brooks is a prime-time birding spot located in Point Reyes National Seashore, which features excellent avian abundance and diversity. Rich verdant habitat here hosts diverse migrants and local breeders, including vocal and visual presence of Wilson's Warbler, Pacific Wren, Pygmy Nuthatch, and Bewick's Wren. Among a dozen or more other nesting songbirds, this venue is also an excellent place to spot the majestic Wood Duck, with a chance to see and hear the Purple Martin and Allen's Hummingbird.

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

**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 and good walking shoes, and bring water, snacks, binoculars, and rain gear. Optional items include: backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen, and sunhat.

## **24. Bahia Wetlands to Rush Creek with Peter Colasanti**

**Saturday, April 25, 2020 | 8:00 am – 2:00 pm**

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

**Experience Levels/Ages: All Levels, Ages 15+**

**Ticket Price: \$60 | 16 participants**

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

**Guide Bio: Peter Colasanti** graduated from UMass in 1974 with a degree in zoology and 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. He has led surveys at Tolay Regional Park and Tolay Creek Ranch for Sonoma County agencies and spends the Yuletide doing Northbay Christmas Bird Counts.

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

Rush Creek Trailhead | 8186 Binford Road, Novato CA 94945

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

## **25. Birding Limantour Estero: Beach, Bay & Beyond with Dave Shuford**

**Saturday, April 25, 2020 | 8:00 am - 2:00 pm**

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

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

**Ticket Price: \$60 | 16 participants**

Join Dave Shuford, retired biologist 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, 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** was a senior scientist in the Wetlands Ecology Division at Point Blue Conservation Science from 1975 to 2019. 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.

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

Limantour Beach | Point Reyes National Seashore, CA  
Meet in the main parking lot to the right.

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

## **26. Beginning Birding on Point Reyes National Seashore's Woodpecker Trail with Rich Cimino & Janet Bodle**

**Saturday, April 25, 2020 | 8:30 am – 11:30 pm**

**Difficulty/Length: Easy-Moderate, 1.5 miles**

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

**Ticket Price: \$30 | 12 participants**

Calling all new or novice birders! Join guides Rich Cimino and Janet Bodle of Yellowbilled Tours, 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 raptors. We'll also explore a riparian creek where we should see Orange-Crowned, Yellow and Wilson's Warbler, Pacific-Slope Flycatcher and Warbling Vireo. Mild grades and detailed interpretive signs make this an ideal choice for newcomers to birding. Visitors will enjoy useful insights into this widespread forest community and a good chance to see other wildlife including rabbits, deer, skunk, raccoons, and maybe even a coyote.

**Rich Cimino** lives in Marin County. As a long term EAC member & volunteer he has been leading the PRBF Beginning Birding module for 6 years. As a member of The Olompali People he has been leading quarterly bird walks in Olompali State Park for 5 years. He is the owner and field guide for Yellowbilled Tours (a sponsor of the PRBF), which offers annual birding tours. Learn more at [yellowbilledtours.com](http://yellowbilledtours.com).

**Janet Bodle** has recently joined Yellowbilled Tours. She retired from 35 years as a Family Physician in Corte Madera/Larkspur and is happy to be able to devote time to the logistics of YBT. Having a BA and MA in Zoology from U.C. Davis, she has had a life-long interest in nature. She has volunteered as a docent at the California Academy of Sciences, the Marin Foothill Yellow-legged Frog Program, and the Audubon Canyon Ranch Heron and Egret Project. In 2016, she completed the Master Birder program through the California Academy of Sciences and Golden Gate Audubon Society. She volunteers for bird walks and the native garden of Olompali Historic State Park.

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

Bear Valley Visitor Center (Meet in front)

70 Bear Valley Road, Point Reyes National Seashore, CA 94956

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

**27. Young Birders Field Exploration Day**  
**with Festival Keynotes Katie Fallon & Jack Dumbacher**  
**Saturday, April 25, 2020 | 8:30 am – 12:30 pm**  
**Difficulty/Length: Easy, 2-4 miles**  
**Experience Levels/Ages: All Levels, Ages 12-18 with Chaperone**  
**Ticket Price: \$10 | 16 participants**

This is a special opportunity for young people ages 12 to 18 to improve and expand their birding skills. This will be an exciting trip covering many habitats where we will see a number of birds, and other interesting finds. Interested young people should expect to learn new identification skills using both the sights and sounds of many birds. The varied behaviors of shorebirds, raptors, woodpeckers, seabirds, warblers, and many others will be a focus of this engaging field trip as well. We encourage one chaperone per group of kids, so we can accommodate as many youths as possible. Carpooling encouraged.

**Guide Bios:**

**Jack Dumbacher (Friday Night Keynote)** is a PhD biologist, specializing in avian genetics and avian chemical defense, and dabbling in lots of other things related to birds and mammals. He received his undergraduate degree at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, and his PhD at University of Chicago, and worked for several years at the Smithsonian Institution with Rob Fleischer and others. In 2003, he became the Curator of Ornithology and Mammalogy at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. Jack is also a professor of Biology at San Francisco State University. He has been researching and studying California Barred Owls since 2006.

**Katie Fallon** is the President of the Mountaineer Chapter of the National Audubon Society of West Virginia, and one of the co-founders of the Avian Conservation Center of Appalachia, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving wild birds through research, education, and rehabilitation. She has authored two nonfiction books *Vulture: The Private Life of an Unloved Bird* and *Cerulean Blues: A Personal Search for a Vanishing Songbird*, which was a Finalist for the Reed Award for Outstanding Writing on the Southern Environment. She has also co-authored two books for children, *Look, See the Bird!* and *Look, See the Farm!*. Katie's essays and articles have appeared in a variety of journals and magazines, including *Fourth Genre*, *River Teeth*, *Ecotone*, *Bark Magazine*, *Still*, *Appalachian Heritage*, *Now & Then*, *Isotope*, *Fourth River*, the *Minnesota Review*, *The Tusculum Review*, and elsewhere. Katie was named 2017 Wonder Woman of West Virginia by WV Living

Magazine, for her achievements and contributions to the area. She is a 4<sup>th</sup> generation resident of Appalachia, where she resides with her family.

**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 and good walking shoes, and bring water, snacks, binoculars, and rain gear. Optional items include: backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen, and sunhat.

**28. Birding Tomales Bay by Kayak with David Wimpfheimer  
& Liz Wilhelm of Blue Waters Kayaking**

**Saturday, April 25, 2020 | 9:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**Difficulty/Length: 1-3 miles of paddling in ocean currents**

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

**Ticket Price: \$125 | 16 participants**

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

**Guide Bios:**

**David Wimpfheimer** is a biologist, naturalist, EAC board member, and co-founder of the Point Reyes Birding & Nature Festival, who has a passion for the birds and natural history of the West. He has been leading trips and expeditions for over thirty years, including classes for the Point Reyes Field Institute, Marin Agricultural Land Trust, and the California Academy of Sciences, as well as tours in Mexico, Alaska, Scotland and other regions for groups including the Smithsonian Institution, Wild Wings, and Road Scholar.

**Liz Wilhelm** is a lead guide and naturalist at Blue Waters Kayaking. Originally from southeast Ohio, she came to Blue Waters Kayaking to complete an internship for her studies in Eco-tourism and Adventure Travel in 2010. She is an American Canoe Association instructor for Sea Kayaking and Stand Up Paddleboarding, Wilderness First Responder, Swift Water Rescue trained, a Leave No Trace Master Educator, and on top of all that she is also the owner of West Marin Massage & Wellness in

Point Reyes Station. Her knowledge and experience always help make your time on the water memorable.

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

**What to Bring:** \$5.00 cash for state park parking fee.

Please bring/wear layers, including warm, wool or fleece hats, long underwear and/or long-sleeved shirts (no cotton) or quick dry nylon pants/shorts, shoes you don't mind getting wet, and a windbreaker or rain jacket. Wear sunscreen, or a sunhat, and bring plenty of water and/or snacks/lunch. We recommend bringing a change of clothes, including extra socks and shoes for after your paddle. Optional items include: binoculars, backpack, and camera.

## **29. Butterflies and their Host Plants Along Muddy Hollow Trail with Wendy Dreskin**

**Saturday, April 25, 2020 | 10:00 am – 1:00 pm**

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

**Experience Levels/Ages: All Levels, Ages 8+**

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

Come get introduced to the common butterflies of Marin in time for the Marin and Point Reyes Butterfly Counts! We will carpool from the Dance Palace to Muddy Hollow Trail in Point Reyes National Seashore, where we can expect 8-12 species including Red Admirals, Western Pine Elfins, Pale Swallowtails, and possibly Two-Banded Skippers. Learn to recognize host plants for various species, and favorite nectar sources. We hope to see a variety of behaviors including puddling, nectaring, courtship/mating, and possibly egg-laying. Instructor has a permit for catch and release of butterflies for educational purposes. While many species can easily be identified in the bush with binoculars, there are some where it helps to first see the field marks in the hand. Rain cancels.

**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 also leads safaris and safari/volunteer trips to Tanzania. 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 and still runs the Junior Botany Program. 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.

### **Meeting Location:**

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

**What to Bring:** Please wear layers and good walking shoes. Bring water, snacks and/or lunch. Close-focus binoculars recommended. Optional items include: backpack, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

## **30. Tule Elk & Wildflower Trek at Tomales Point with Frank Binney**

**Saturday, April 25, 2020 | 11:00 am – 3:00 pm**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tomales Point Trailhead | Point Reyes National Seashore  
Allow 35 minutes for the drive from the Point Reyes National Seashore's Bear Valley Visitor Center. From the Bear Valley Visitor Center, head north 0.2 miles to Bear Valley Road. Turn left and follow Bear Valley Road 1.75 miles northwest to Sir Francis Drake Boulevard. Turn left and follow Sir Francis Drake Boulevard 5.6 miles northwest to Pierce Point Road. Tip: Follow road signs for "Lighthouse" until you see a sign for Pierce Point Ranch. Turn right and follow Pierce Point Road 9 miles north to the Pierce Point Ranch parking lot.

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

### **31. Youth & Family Birding on Point Reyes National Seashore's Earthquake Trail with Janet Bodle & Rich Cimino**

**Saturday, April 25, 2020 | 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm**

**Difficulty/Length: Easy, 1/2 mile loop**

**Experience Levels/Ages: All Levels, Ages 5+**

**Ticket Price: \$10 | 12 participants**

Calling all families with children 5 to 12 years of age! Join guides Janet Bodle and Rich Cimino of Yellowbilled Tours, for an introductory look into the world of birds and other oak woodland creatures along Point Reyes National Seashore's Earthquake Trail. We will start our trip with a tutorial on using binoculars. This trail winds through oak woodlands, open meadows, and forested riparian areas displaying several species of birds, and a good chance to see other wildlife including rabbits, deer, skunk, raccoons, and maybe a coyote. While this trip is geared for families with children, adults who wish to participate can also join us.

#### **Guide Bios:**

**Janet Bodle** has recently joined Yellowbilled Tours. She retired from 35 years as a Family Physician in Corte Madera/Larkspur and is happy to be able to devote time to the logistics of YBT. Having a BA and MA in Zoology from U.C. Davis, she has had a life-long interest in nature. She has volunteered as a docent at the California Academy of Sciences, the Marin Foothill Yellow-legged Frog Program, and the Audubon Canyon Ranch Heron and Egret Project. In 2016, she completed the Master Birder program through the California Academy of Sciences and Golden Gate Audubon Society. She volunteers for bird walks and the native garden of Olompali Historic State Park.

**Rich Cimino** lives in Marin County. As a long term EAC member & volunteer he has been leading the PRBF Beginning Birding module for 6 years. As a member of The Olompali People he has been leading quarterly bird walks in Olompali State Park for 5 years. He is the owner and field guide for Yellowbilled Tours (a sponsor of the PRBF), which offers annual birding tours. Learn more at [yellowbilledtours.com](http://yellowbilledtours.com).

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

Bear Valley Visitor Center (Meet in front)

70 Bear Valley Road, Point Reyes National Seashore, CA 94956

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

### **32. Native Song Dogs & Stealth Cats: A Look at Predators in Point Reyes with Keli Hendricks & Sarah Killingsworth**

**Saturday, April 25, 2020 | 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm**

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

**Experience Levels/Ages: All Levels, Ages 8+**

**Ticket Price: \$25 | 16 participants**

Join Keli Hendricks, Project Coyote's Ranching With Wildlife Coordinator, and Sarah Killingsworth, Project Coyote Wildlife Educator and EAC Board Member as they share the natural history and little-known facts about coyotes, as well as other elusive residents of the park like bobcats, badgers, and more. Participants will learn to identify scat, tracks, and other signs left by local wildlife and maybe even see a predator on the hunt! If we are lucky, we might even spot one of the rare blue-eyed coyotes of Point Reyes, which National Geographic described as *one in a million*.

#### **Guide Bios:**

**Keli Hendricks** is Project Coyote's Ranching With Wildlife Coordinator, and is also a longtime volunteer with Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue where she works in the hospital and fosters orphaned wildlife. She and her husband Dean live and work on a local cattle ranch where Dean has managed the cow/calf operation for over 25 years.

**Sarah Killingsworth** is an EAC Board member, and Wildlife Educator with Project Coyote. Sarah has volunteered in the Wildcare bird room, and is a California Naturalist and a wildlife photographer (her work can be viewed at [www.sarahkillingsworth.com](http://www.sarahkillingsworth.com)). As a parent and frequent classroom volunteer, she is passionate about sharing the magic of our wilderness areas with children, both by bringing the wild into classrooms, and by getting our youth outdoors, to learn about their environment.

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

Abbotts Lagoon | Point Reyes National Seashore

4101 Pierce Point Road, Inverness, CA 94937

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

### **33. The Cooper's Hawk: Life Beyond the Forest with Craig Nikitas**

**Saturday, April 25, 2020 | 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm**

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

**Experience Levels/Ages: All Levels, Ages 8+**

**Ticket Price: \$25 | 16 participants**

Join Craig Nikitas to learn more about the characteristics, taxonomy, and field marks of the Cooper's Hawk. Our afternoon will start with a classroom presentation to look at the natural history and changing population dynamics of an intrepid and successful flying dinosaur, including ID hints to distinguish it from similar species. We will follow up our classroom instruction with a field trip out to Abbotts Lagoon in search of the Cooper's Hawk, and any other species we may come across.

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

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

Point Reyes Fire House Conference Center

101 4th Street, Point Reyes Station CA 94956

On the corner of 4th and B streets in Point Reyes Station. Go through the main entrance (double doors). Conference room is straight ahead. Craig will assist attendees with directions to Abbotts Lagoon in Point Reyes National Seashore.

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

### **34. Saturday Night Keynote:**

**Vulture: The Private Life of an Unloved Bird**

**with Katie Fallon, President of the Mountaineer Chapter of the National Audubon Society**

**Saturday, April 25, 2020**

**Social: 4:00 pm - 6:30 pm | Keynote: 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm**

**Experience Levels/Ages: All, Ages 15+**

**Tickets \$65 | 100 Participants**

Join us for an evening with Katie Fallon, President of the Mountaineer Chapter of the National Audubon Society. Our evening will start with an outdoor social gathering with drinks, food, and music. This is one of the only opportunities to gather as a group to meet Katie, our guides, staff, and other attendees. Following the social, we will gather in our seating area to hear from Katie about the private life of vultures! Vultures are often overlooked, under-appreciated, and unloved, despite the vital role they play in healthy ecosystems. Worldwide, vultures are more likely to be threatened or endangered than any other group of raptor, but in the United States Turkey and Black Vultures may be increasing in number. Based on Katie Fallon's recent book, this fun presentation will discuss the life and times of the noble Turkey Vulture, including its feeding, nesting, and roosting habits, migratory behaviors, and common misconceptions. Katie's book, *Vulture: The Private Life of an Unloved Bird* will be available for sale and signing.

**Keynote Bio: Katie Fallon** is the President of the Mountaineer Chapter of the National Audubon Society of West Virginia, and one of the co-founders of the Avian Conservation Center of Appalachia, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving wild birds through research, education, and rehabilitation. She has authored two nonfiction books *Vulture: The Private Life of an Unloved Bird* and *Cerulean Blues: A Personal Search for a Vanishing Songbird*, which was a Finalist for the Reed Award for Outstanding Writing on the Southern Environment. She has also co-authored two books for children, *Look, See the Bird!* and *Look, See the Farm!*. Katie's essays and articles have appeared in a variety of journals and magazines, including Fourth Genre, River Teeth, Ecotone, Bark Magazine, Still, Appalachian Heritage, Now & Then, Isotope, Fourth River, the Minnesota Review, The Tusculum Review, and elsewhere. Katie was named 2017 Wonder Woman of West Virginia by WV Living Magazine, for her achievements and contributions to the area. She is a 4<sup>th</sup> generation resident of Appalachia, where she resides with her family.



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

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

**What to Wear/Bring:** We encourage you to wear your best, and most comfortable causal outdoor gear, and wear flat shoes. The first half of the event is outdoors, weather permitting, followed by an indoor presentation. Attendees can bring their own reusable cups, plates and utensils if inclined.

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

**Sunday, April 26th, 2020  
Event Descriptions**



### 35. Walking Big Day at Point Reyes National Seashore with David Wimpfheimer

Sunday, April 26, 2020 | 7:00 am – 4:30 pm

Difficulty/Length: Moderate-Strenuous, 11 miles

Must be physically able to hike long distances

Experience Levels/Ages: Intermediate-Advanced, Level, Ages 18+

Ticket Price: \$75 | 16 participants

Join naturalist and expert birder David Wimpfheimer for a Walking Big Day in Point Reyes National Seashore. Like regular Big Days, we will spend a full day counting as many species as possible, but being on foot will allow us to appreciate these habitats more fully. **Since this is fast-paced, this is not an ideal trip for beginners:** the goal is to see and hear as many birds as possible during a challenging, but wonderfully rich day. Although the pace will be fast, a main focus will be on bird identification by sight and sound. Participants will carpool out to Limantour Beach, view birds in the estero there and then walk back to Point Reyes Station. This hike is roughly 11 miles, with 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. The group will carpool to Limantour Beach and walk back to Point Reyes Station, where we can carpool people back to their car. There is a possibility that this hike may be done in reverse, but the group will still visit many and possibly more diverse sites. This is a great way to discover Point Reyes National Seashore's habitats and wildlife.

**Guide Bio:** David Wimpfheimer is a biologist, naturalist, EAC board member, and co-founder of the Point Reyes Birding & Nature Festival, who has a passion for the birds and natural history of the West. He has been leading trips and expeditions for over thirty years, including classes for the Point Reyes Field Institute, Marin Agricultural Land Trust, and the California Academy of Sciences, as well as tours in Mexico, Alaska, Scotland and other regions for groups including the Smithsonian Institution, Wild Wings, and Road Scholar.

#### 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 and good walking shoes, and bring plenty of water and snacks. Bring binoculars, and rain gear. Optional items include: backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen, and sunhat.

### 36. Birds & Natural History of the Point Reyes Peninsula with Jules Evens

Sunday, April 26, 2020 | 7:30 am – 2:00 pm

Difficulty/Length: Easy, 2-4 miles

Experience Levels/Ages: Intermediate Level, Ages 18+

Ticket Price: \$75 | 16 participants

Join author and naturalist Jules Evens to explore the birds and natural history of Point Reyes Peninsula. Spring on the peninsula can bring variable weather—calm and warm to blustery and chilly. We will choose our outing accordingly, and carpooling will be encouraged. If conditions are favorable, we will search out the best sites to see the most species of birds and mammals on the outer point. If it's blustery, we'll visit some of the peninsula's more protected habitats. In the early morning we will focus on bird song and locally breeding species. As the day progresses and if conditions cooperate, we will seek out migrants as well as locally nesting species of seabirds, raptors, and songbirds. We will focus on behavior, identification, and regional status of species we encounter. Point Reyes is full of surprises and natural beauty — bring an open mind and a keen interest.

**Guide Bio:** Jules Evens, born and raised in New England, lived and worked as a wildlife biologist in West Marin for over four decades. He served on the EAC board for several years, and has led a number of trips for our spring fundraiser, the Point Reyes Birding and Nature Festival. He is the principal of an environmental consulting group, Avocet Research Associates, founded in 1984, and has been a Research Associate with Point Blue Conservation Science (formerly PRBO), and Audubon Canyon Ranch since the 1970s. Since 1981, Evens has acted as the Principal Investigator and Senior Field Biologist with a focus on the San Francisco Bay Area tidal wetlands and riparian systems. His primary research focuses on tidal wetlands, avian population trends, and at-risk species. He has written or co-authored three books in the University of California Press Natural History Series: *The Natural History of the Point Reyes Peninsula* (3rd edition, 2008), *An Introduction to California Birdlife* (2005), and *Birds of the Northern California Coast* (2014), as well as various scientific papers and natural history articles.

#### 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 and good walking shoes, and bring water, snacks, binoculars, and rain gear. Optional items include: backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen, and sunhat.

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

**Sunday, April 26, 2020 | 7:30 am – 2:00 pm**

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

**Experience Levels/Ages: Intermediate Level, Ages 15+**

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

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

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

#### **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 and good walking shoes, and bring water, snacks, binoculars, and rain gear. Optional items include: backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen, and sunhat.

### **38. Sebastopol Birding at Laguna de la Santa Rosa with Scott Carey**

**Sunday, April 26, 2020 | 8:00 am - 12:00 pm**

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

**Experience Levels/Ages: All Levels, 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. 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 Saint 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 he has guided local birdwatching trips in Marin and Sonoma counties, as well some further afield in Humboldt County and Arizona. When Scott is not out birdwatching, he has participated in a number of bird surveys, as well as volunteered for the Marin Breeding Bird Atlas. He currently conducts shorebird and Marbled Murrelet surveys for Avocet Research.

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

Sebastopol Community Center | 425 Morris Street, Sebastopol, CA 95472

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

### **39. *Birding By Ear* at Muddy Hollow with Luanna Helfman**

**Sunday, April 26, 2020 | 8:00 am – 1:00 pm**

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

**Experience Levels/Ages: All Levels, Ages 8+**

**Ticket Price: \$40 | 12 participants**

Join birder Luanna Helfman for a gentle 2-3 mile hike through meadows and riparian areas of Point Reyes National Seashore's restored Muddy Hollow Trail, a 15-minute drive by car from downtown Point Reyes Station. Emphasis is on learning to identify migratory and resident birds by their spring breeding songs and calls. Expect to be familiar with 20 species on the walk including Wrentit, Purple Finch, Hutton's Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Pacific-Slope Flycatcher, Wilson's Warbler, Orange-Crowned Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler, Brown Creeper, Oak Titmouse, Black-Headed Grosbeak, and Dark-Eyed Junco. Participants can purchase EAC's *Birding By Ear* audio set in advance of the class to learn more.

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

#### **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 and good walking shoes, and bring water, snacks, binoculars, and rain gear. Optional items include: backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen, and sunhat.

### **40. Sonoma Birding Along King Ridge Road & the Russian River with Ken Wilson**

**Sunday, April 26, 2020 | 8:00 am – 1:00 pm**

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

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

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

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

**Guide Bios: Ken Wilson**, owner of Talon Tours, is a native New Zealander and has been leading nature and bird watching tours worldwide since 1995. Ken has also led focused tours in many national and state parks in the western United States, as well as key birding sites during migration. He is a long-time Sonoma County resident and has led many field trips. Ken is currently leading tours to Uganda, Guyana, and Panama.

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

Duncan Mills Coffee Shop | 23577 Steelhead Blvd, Duncan Mills, CA 95430

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

#### **41. Coast Miwok Ethnobotany at Tomales State Park with Wendy Dreskin**

**Sunday, April 26, 2020 | 8:30 am – 11:30 am**

**Difficulty/Length: Easy-Moderate, 2-3 miles**

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

**Ticket Price: \$30 | 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 utilize 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 also leads safaris and safari/volunteer trips to Tanzania. 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 and still runs the Junior Botany Program. 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.

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

Johnston/Jepson Trailhead, Tomales Bay State Park  
1100 Pierce Point Road, Inverness, CA 94937

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

#### **42. Birding for Beginners at Ellis Creek Water Recycling Facility with Teresa & Miles Tuffli**

**Sunday, April 26, 2020 | 8:30 am – 12:30 pm**

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

**Experience Levels/Ages: All Levels, Ages 15+**

**Ticket Price: \$40 | 12 participants**

Are you new to birding or just curious to try it out? Then join guides Miles & Teresa Tuffli for a beginners birding class at Ellis Creek Water Recycling Facility in Petaluma. Come meander the marsh with us! Learn about a variety of birds, as well as the important role wetlands play in our ecosystem.

Don't be shy if you've never birded before — that's what we're here for! We want to help and inspire bird-curious beginners to get out and appreciate the bird world. We'll begin with tips on using binoculars and an introductory talk on "why birds?" As we explore, stopping frequently to observe the birds we encounter, we'll discuss techniques for locating birds, what sorts of details to notice about a bird, bird vocalizations, and bird behavior and habitats.

The polishing ponds and wetlands of Ellis Creek provide habitat to a large number of bird species. We'll have the opportunity to observe a wide array of birds, including raptors, herons and egrets, waterfowl, shorebirds, woodpeckers, warblers, sparrows, and other songbirds. Here's just a sampling of the species we could see: Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Black-Crowned Night-Heron, American Bittern, Green Heron, Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, Common Gallinule, Killdeer, Least Sandpiper, Great-Tailed Grackle, Red-Winged Blackbird, Common Yellowthroat, Tree Swallow, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Marsh Wren, Western Kingbird... and many more!

Note: Though we'll be walking slowly, for those with mobility issues, please be aware that we will be on unpaved trails and some slight inclines. Depending on recent rainfall, the trail may be muddy.

**Guide Bios: Teresa and Miles Tuffli** are avid birders from Sonoma County who enjoy volunteering their time with local nature-based organizations. They especially love helping fellow nature-lovers and "bird-curious" folks take the next step of getting into the field to enjoy the bird world! They've led guided bird walks for Point Reyes National Seashore Association's Field Institute, Marin Audubon Society, and LandPaths. Teresa and Miles participate in bi-monthly bird surveys at Ellis Creek to

help the Petaluma Wetlands Alliance monitor the health of the wetlands habitat. Learn more about them at their website and blog, *I'm Birding Right Now*.

**Meeting Location:**

Ellis Creek Water Recycling Facility  
3890 Cypress Drive, Petaluma, CA 94954

When you turn onto Cypress Drive from S. McDowell Boulevard, follow Cypress Drive straight until you drive through the black gates into the Ellis Creek facility. The road veers left into a large parking lot area with a bathroom on the left. We will meet here by the bathroom.

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

**43. Birding Along Chimney Rock Trail with Bill Yeates**

**Sunday, April 26, 2020 | 8:30 am – 1:00 pm**

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

**Experience Levels/Ages: All Levels, Ages 15+**

**Ticket Price: \$45 | 16 participants**

Come saunter along an open peninsula that 15 to 60 million years ago was adjacent to Monterey Bay and is on its way to Alaska. You can enjoy watching bay birds from above Drakes Bay and pelagic sea birds above the Pacific Ocean. This is a rare opportunity to view these birds from above rather than from the beach view. We will most likely see and hear Savannah Sparrows, a grassland species, in addition to the ocean birds along our walk. A Great Horned Owl may be roosting or nesting in the Cypress windbreaks. Peregrine Falcons and Common Ravens often provide an aerial display riding up and around on the updrafts from the Pacific Ocean side of this tiny finger of land that separates the Pacific Ocean from the more quiet Drakes Bay. We may see the Western, Clark's, Red-Necked, Horned and Eared Grebes, as well as Pigeon Guillemots, and several species of loons or scoters. Double-crested Cormorants in full plumage are likely resting on the Boatworks' piers on the Bay, and Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorants are on the ocean side. A Rock Wren may surprise us on the walk along the Pacific side. Also a look north toward the Point Reyes Lighthouse will expose a large Common Murre colony. When looking out toward the ocean or while walking along the ocean side keep an eye out for the spout of a migrating Gray Whale. We will also have a chance to see and hear the Northern Elephant Seal colony within Drakes Bay. There are always surprises on this walk, keep your eyes and ears peeled.

**Guide Bio: Bill Yeates** has been a recreational birder for over 50 years. After he moved to California and graduated from law school, he worked for the California Coastal Commission before starting his private environmental law practice representing many environmental organizations, including National Audubon and several California Audubon chapters. When he and his family lived in Monterey, he was the President of the Monterey Audubon Chapter. He was one of the principal proponents of the Mountain Lion Initiative in 1990 that stopped the trophy hunting of mountain lions and provided an \$800 million fund for wildlife habitat restoration and acquisition. He is retired from his law practice, and is now the current Chair of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), the bi-state agency that was established by the states of Nevada and California and Congress to protect Lake Tahoe. TRPA is celebrating the 50th year since the Bi-State Tahoe Compact was enacted.

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

Chimney Rock Trail | Point Reyes National Seashore

Meet at Chimney Rock Trailhead within Point Reyes National Seashore. Take Sir Francis Drake Highway through Inverness and continue to the junction with Pierce Point Road (2.5 miles past Inverness). Bear left to stay on Sir Francis Drake. After 11.5 miles turn left onto a narrow road signed to Chimney Rock. Parking, toilets, and wind shelter at the trailhead.

**What to Bring:** Please wear layers, good walking shoes and bring rain gear. Be prepared for wind and possibly rain. You are going to be fully exposed to Mother Nature on most of this walk. Bring water, snacks, or a light lunch, as we will sit at the end of the trail overlooking Chimney Rock and enjoy the view of this extraordinary meeting of land and sea. Optional items include: backpack, scope, guide books, camera, sunscreen and sunhat.

**44. Birding Las Gallinas Ponds & Hamilton Wetlands with Bob Atwood**

**Sunday, April 26, 2020 | 8:30 am – 1:30 pm**

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

**Experience Levels/Ages: All Levels, Ages 15+**

**Ticket Price: \$55 | 16 participants**

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

After birding Las Gallinas, we will then head over to the newly restored Hamilton Wetlands in Novato. 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 guide 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 Curlews, the number of Avocets here can be truly astounding.

**Guide Bio: Bob Atwood** is a trip leader for the Marin Audubon Society and heads up the Sausalito section of the Southern Marin Christmas bird count. He has his M.S. in Biology and has conducted: ecological field research in Mexico, conservation genetics and bioinformatics research. Bob is a county birder and enjoys searching out rarities and uncommon birds throughout California.

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

Las Gallinas Ponds | 300 Smith Ranch Road, San Rafael, CA 94903

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



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

**Sunday, April 26, 2020 | 9:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**Difficulty/Length: Easy, No Hike, Observation Only**

**Experience Levels/Ages: All Levels, Ages 5+**

**Ticket Price: \$20 | 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 (ACR). 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.

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

Abraham Lincoln Elementary | 850 West 9th Street, Santa Rosa, CA 95401  
Meet at intersection of West 9th Street and Simpson Street. Parking available on West 9<sup>th</sup> Street.

**What to Bring:** Please wear layers and a sunhat. Bring water, snacks, binoculars, and rain gear just in case. Optional items include: scope, camera, and sunscreen.

#### **46. Wildflowers of Chimney Rock & More**

**with Susan Cochran-Levitsky**

**Sunday, April 26, 2020 | 9:30 am – 1:30 pm**

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

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

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

Chimney Rock boasts one of the best wildflower displays to be found in Point Reyes National Seashore. Join botanist Susan Cochran-Levitsky for a rambling wildflower walk around this incredibly scenic area which overlooks both the ocean and Drakes Bay. The diversity and number of wildflowers are 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 to June and most years we have 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. We usually 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 Cochran-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 Wildlife'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.

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

Chimney Rock Trail | Point Reyes National Seashore  
Meet at Chimney Rock Trailhead within Point Reyes National Seashore. Take Sir Francis Drake Highway through Inverness and continue to the junction with Pierce Point Road (2.5 miles past Inverness). Bear left to stay on Sir Francis Drake. After 11.5 miles turn left onto a narrow road signed to Chimney Rock. Parking, toilets, and wind shelter at the trailhead.

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

**47. Better Birding Through Nature Journaling  
at Marconi State Historic Park with Marley Peifer**  
**Sunday, April 26, 2020 | 10:00 am – 2:00 pm**  
**Difficulty/Length: Classroom-based**  
**Experience Levels/Ages: All Levels, Ages 10+**  
**Ticket Price: \$40 | 16 participants**

Do you want to take your birding to the next level? Do you want to better remember the species, patterns, and behaviors that you see in the field? If so, a new pair of fancy binoculars might be nice, but there is another much more important tool that every birder should know about.

Join Marley Peifer at Marconi State Historic Park and Conference Center's Pine Lodge for this fun class where we will explore the powerful ways that nature journaling can make you a better birder and naturalist, while deepening your connection to the natural world. Newbies and experienced participants alike will leave this class empowered with tricks, techniques, and the mental mindset to accelerate their learning and enjoyment in nature. This class will contain a motivating and engaging in-class talk and slideshow with opportunities for drawing exercises and field-sketching out in the park, weather permitting.

**Guide Bio:** Marley Peifer has been leading nature journaling groups at least once a month in the North Bay for the last three years. In addition to his excursions in California, he has also nature journaled in the Ecuadorean Amazon and cloud forest, the Serengeti, and the seasonally dry tropical forests of Guanacaste, Costa Rica. Marley lives in Sebastopol, California where he practices gardening, wildlife tracking, birding, and painting. He strives for a reintegration of art with science, a synthesis that he develops in his journaling and teaching. Nature journaling has been a fundamental practice for Marley ever since he discovered how it improved his observation and learning.

**Meeting Location (Rain or Shine):**  
Marconi State Historic Park & Conference Center's Pine Lodge  
18500 CA-1, Marshall, CA 94940

**What to Bring:** Sketchbook or journal, pens, pencils or other nature journaling supplies if you have them.

**48. Birds & Dunes of Abbotts Lagoon:  
A Family Walk with Sharon "Heron" Barnett**  
**Sunday, April 26, 2020 | 11:00 am – 2:00 pm**  
**Difficulty/Length: Easy-Moderate, 3-4 miles**  
**Experience Levels/Ages: All Levels, Ages 6+**  
**Tickets: \$25 | 16 participants**

Calling all families with fledglings 6 and up! Join Sharon *Heron* on an easy walk at Abbotts Lagoon looking for birds and other wildlife along the way. With its rich variety of habitats, Abbotts Lagoon is a favorite birding and nature destination at Point Reyes. Sharon will help everyone get good looks at many types of birds that live in the coastal scrub, on the fresh water pond, on the brackish water lagoon, amidst the sand dunes, and on the open ocean. Sharon will discuss dune ecology, ongoing dune restoration projects, and the challenges of life on the beach for the threatened Western Snowy Plovers. We'll learn about scat, stink beetles, river otters – anything that catches our eye! Be sure to pack a lunch to enjoy at the water's edge. Please note this is a family-friendly outing, with a special focus on youth ages 6-12, but adults who are interested can also join. Children must be supervised by an adult. Sharon will have a spotting scope, binoculars and field guides to share.

**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.

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

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

#### **49. Going Cuckoo for Collections:**

**A Private, Behind-the-Scenes Tour of the California Academy of Science's Museum Collection with Jack Dumbacher**

**Sunday, April 26, 2020 | 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm**

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

**Ticket Price: \$65 | 12 participants**

Enjoy a private tour of the world-renowned bird collection at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco! Jack Dumbacher, Curator of Ornithology and Mammalogy, will guide up to 12 lucky people through the museum's collection of 100,000 bird specimens and 10,000 eggs and nests from over 120 countries. We will start the tour with a brief presentation and overview of why collections are important for science, then we will explore the museum's collection of bird skins, skeletons, eggs, and nests that date back to the late 1800s and contain specimens from around the world. Don't miss this rare opportunity to go cuckoo for one of the best science collections on the West Coast.

**Guide Bio:** Jack Dumbacher is a PhD biologist, specializing in avian genetics and avian chemical defense, and dabbling in lots of other things related to birds and mammals. He received his undergraduate degree at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, and his PhD at University of Chicago, and worked for several years at the Smithsonian Institution with Rob Fleischer and others. In 2003, he became the Curator of Ornithology and Mammalogy at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. Jack is also a professor of Biology at San Francisco State University. He has been researching and studying California Barred Owls since 2006.

#### **Meeting Location:**

California Academy of Sciences Business Entrance

75 Nancy Pelosi Drive, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA

Participants will need to make their way to the business entrance of the California Academy of Sciences (opposite side of the main public entrance) at least 10 minutes before the tour begins. Parking is available on the street in Golden Gate Park or in the paid garage at the Music Concourse.

**What to Bring:** Your identification card.

#### **50. Bird Photography:**

**Classroom Tips, Tricks & Techniques with Bill Walker**

**Sunday, April 26, 2020 | 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm**

**Difficulty/Length: Classroom**

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

**Ticket Price: \$35 | 10 participants**

Join photographer Bill Walker for a classroom session aimed at the fundamentals of wildlife photography as it pertains to birds. We'll start by talking about field techniques and how to approach birds while respecting their health and safety. Bill will demonstrate how to control exposure for different lighting conditions, and how to compose pleasing images by attending to both the foreground and background. He will also share 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 at [www.birdwalker.com](http://www.birdwalker.com) and in his annual BirdWalker wall calendar.

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

Point Reyes Fire House Conference Center

101 4th Street, Point Reyes Station CA 94956

On the corner of 4th and B streets in Point Reyes Station. Go through the main entrance (double doors). Conference room is straight ahead.

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

**51. San Francisco Bay Waterbirds  
with Roger Harris & Meryl Sundove  
Sunday, April 26, 2020 | 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
Difficulty/Length: Easy, 1 mile  
Experience Levels/Ages: All Levels, Ages 8+  
Ticket Price: \$40 | 16 participants**

Join certified wildlife biologist Roger Harris and environmental educator Meryl Sundove at three excellent places to see waterbirds up close along the Marin shore of the San Francisco Bay: Loch Lomond Marina in San Rafael and Shorebird and Marta's marshes in Corte Madera.

We'll start with a walk out on the marina levee for open water birds and perhaps Black Oystercatchers, then we'll move to Corte Madera Marsh. An incoming tide should drive sandpipers and other waterbirds from the bay mudflats to the high tide refuge of Corte Madera Shorebird Marsh. Finally, we will walk to the edge of San Francisco Bay along San Clemente Creek at Marta's Marsh. Depending on the timing of migration, we should see Willet, Dunlin, Long-Billed Curlew, and other shorebirds. 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. 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 marshes though there is facility at the marina and along the way when we reposition.

**Guides Bios:**

**Roger Harris** is a certified Wildlife Biologist and the author of the Department of Fish and Wildlife's resource management plan for the Corte Madera Marsh and the Town of Corte Madera's wildlife management plan for the Corte Madera Shorebird Marsh. He is on the Marin County Parks and Open Space Commission.

**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 and Roger have lived next to and studied the Corte Madera Marsh for over 30 years. They have been privileged to work as naturalists on eco-tours around the world for the National Audubon Society and the Oceanic Society.

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

Loch Lomond Marina | 110 Loch Lomond Drive, San Rafael, CA 94901

From the 101, take the Central San Rafael exit east for 6.4 miles; 2nd Street merges into 3rd Street, which becomes Loch Lomond Drive. Turn right at 110 Loch Lomond Drive into the marina and proceed to the far eastern corner near the restroom. If you don't see the restroom at the east end of the parking lot, you have not gone far enough to the very end.

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

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

**Sunday, April 26, 2020 | 5:30 pm – 9:00 pm**

**Difficulty/Length: Easy-Moderate**

**Experience Levels/Ages: All Levels, Ages 15+**

**Ticket Price: \$50 | 12 participants**

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

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

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

Point Reyes Fire House Conference Center  
101 4th Street, Point Reyes Station CA 94956

On the corner of 4th and B streets in Point Reyes Station. Go through the main entrance (double doors). Conference room is straight ahead.

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