



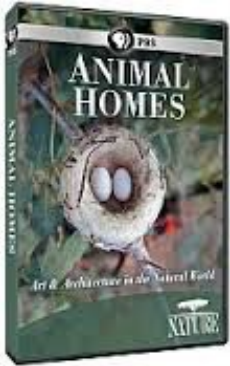
# the Quail

Mount Diablo Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94597-0053  
www.diabloaudubon.org

Volume 62, Number 9

June 2017

## June Program : PBS Documentary "Animal Homes: the Nest" DVD



Animals, like humans, need a place they can call home to provide a safe and stable place to raise a family. But, they go about building their homes in entirely different ways. Whether

it is a bird's nest, bear den, beaver lodge, or spider web, these are homes of great complexity, constructed from a wide range of natural as well as man-made materials. This documentary program investigates just how animals build their remarkable homes around the globe and the intriguing behaviors and social interactions that take place in and around them.

Hosting the series is ecologist Chris Morgan ("Siberian Tiger Quest," "Bears of the Last Frontier"), who serves as guide and real estate agent. He evaluates and deconstructs animal abodes, their materials, location, neighborhood, and aesthetics. In addition to Morgan opening the doors of animal homes in the wild, he is also in studio showing examples of the

incredible diversity of nests and their strength, even trying his hand at building a few.

The series features a blend of CGI, animation, CT scans, and signature blueprint graphics to highlight engineering principles inside the structures. A variety of cameras, including tiny HD versions, capture unprecedented views inside animal homes without disturbing natural behavior. When appropriate, filmmakers shoot behaviors in slow motion and use infrared and time lapse to reveal how animals create their structures over time and through the seasons.

The program delves into the amazing flexibility animal architects display, the clever choices they make, and the ingenious ways they deal with troublesome habitats.

Bird nests come in all shapes and sizes, crafted from an inexhaustible diversity of materials, including fur, grasses, leaves, mosses, sticks and twigs, bones, wool, mud, and spider silk. Quite a few also contain man-made materials—colorful twine, bits of wire, even plastic bags. Each one is a remarkable work of art, built with just a beak!



Ovenbird nest "blueprint" © THIRTEEN Productions LLC

We begin with a museum collection of nests and branch out to scenes in the wild all over the world, where birds arrive at diverse nesting grounds to collect, compete for, reject, steal, and begin to build with carefully selected materials, crafting homes for the all-important task of protecting their eggs and raising their young.

### Meeting Schedule

The next meeting of the Mount Diablo Audubon Society will be **Thursday, June 1** in the Camellia Room of The Gardens at Heather Farm in Walnut Creek.

**600 PM Doors open**  
**630 PM Potluck Dinner** *\*please bring a plate, silverware, and cup*  
**800 PM Announcements**  
**815 PM Program:**PBS Documentary "Animal Homes: the Nest" DVD

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, September 7 (no meetings in July or August, but please join us on a field trip—see page 5 for details)**

### Annual Potluck Dinner

Our fun and festive annual potluck dinner will be held before the regular meeting in The Gardens Camellia Room on Thursday, June 1. Doors will open early at 6 PM with dinner served at 630 PM. Please bring a main dish, salad, or dessert to share. Be sure to label serving dishes/spoons with your name so that they can be returned to you.

To continue in the Audubon conservation tradition, please bring your own plate, silverware, and a glass or cup. Coffee, tea, and punch will be served, or you may bring your own wine if you wish.

DEDICATED TO HABITAT CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

I am dedicating my first President's Corner to acknowledgements and thank yous.

First, on behalf of the members of MDAS, I want to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to Jimm Edgar for his many years of steadfast dedication and commitment as President and Board Member of MDAS.

Secondly, I want to take this opportunity to thank MDAS members for their confidence in electing me as the 2017-18 President. I am humbled by your support, and I assure you that I will work hard to continue Jimm's legacy of commitment that has resulted in MDAS being recognized as a notable and highly regarded Chapter of the National Audubon Society.

Next, I want to thank the other 2017-18 elected officers: Kent Fickett, Vice President; Steve Buffi, Treasurer; and Carol Pacht, Secretary.

In addition, thanks and appreciation to all of the Board of Directors and the Board Advisory Members. Their names and the important roles that they play are listed in each issue of the *Quail* (see page 11). Speaking of the *Quail*, a very special thank you to Editor Maren Smith who works tirelessly

each month to organize and publish the Chapter's outstanding newsletter.

The longtime, continuing success of this Chapter has been due to volunteers who graciously and unselfishly have given of their time and energy. So, whether you have led a field trip; marched for a cause; talked or wrote to a legislator(s); represented MDAS at an event; worked with children; written article(s) for the *Quail*; or donated items for the raffle, thank you so much! And of course, what would our monthly meetings be without the refreshments that Kathy Kellogg and her committee provide—talk about hospitality!!

In closing, I look forward to serving as President of MDAS, and with the ongoing support and volunteerism of members, we will continue to fulfill the Mission of MDAS: "Mt. Diablo Audubon Society is committed to the sustainable balance of our community's people, birds, other wildlife, and habitat through conservation, education, and advocacy."

Please plan to join us at the June Potluck Dinner meeting. We will be recognizing and showing our appreciation to some folks who are stepping down from their long-held volunteer positions. ~Paul Schorr

## Good News For Neotropical Birds

Your MDAS Board and the Hospitality Committee are pleased to announce the return of "bird-friendly" Birds & Beans coffee at our meetings. This coffee is not only delicious, it is organic, fairly traded, shade-grown coffee grown on small farms in Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Peru, and is certified by the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center. It is "great tasting coffee that makes a real difference for bird conservation, family farmers, and the Earth we all share."

"Bird-friendly" coffee maintains a rich habitat for the Neotropical migrant birds (tanagers, warblers, thrushes, and orioles) who fly north in spring to breed, but live otherwise in the dense tropical forests of Central and South America. These forests are typically destroyed where coffee is grown for maximum production and profit. The Birds and Beans coffee is shade-grown, so trees are not cut down to produce the crop, preserving bird habitat and wintering grounds in the tropical forests.

Between the 1970s and 1990s, 60% of Columbian coffee growing lands were cleared and sun-grown coffee varieties replaced plants typically grown beneath other forest trees. Where land is stripped

in this manner, Neotropical migrant populations decrease substantially. Deforestation destroys habitat—22 out of 42 migratory songbird species that overwinter on Columbian deforested plantations have shown significant declines in North America in spring and summer over time, a phenomenon Cornell Lab researchers are studying.

The Birds & Beans company was formed out of concern for the rapid decline of birds that migrate between North America and the tropics. Many of you have traveled south in winter to view these beautiful birds. According to their website, "the most important single step an individual can do to help stop migratory songbird population loss is to always buy certified bird-friendly coffee."

And *that's* good news for Neotropical birds!

If interested, you may purchase the coffee online, too, using the discount code BB17 when ordering. Poke around the website [www.birdsandbeans.com](http://www.birdsandbeans.com) to learn more about the company's mission and their conservation partners. Our logo will be posted there soon. ~Elizabeth Leite, Citizen Science

For further information: [www.allaboutbirds.org/in-colombia-shade-grown-coffee-sustains-songbirds-and-people-alike/](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/in-colombia-shade-grown-coffee-sustains-songbirds-and-people-alike/)

## Welcome New Members

John Larkin	Walnut Creek
Matt Hess	Concord
Marie Delahaye	Martinez
Gail & Bruce Adair	Alamo
Joan Munch	Concord
Rosalynn Sarvi	Walnut Creek
Consuelo Inez	Martinez
Carol Arabian	Alamo

## MDAS on the Web

[www.diabloaudubon.org](http://www.diabloaudubon.org)  
[www.diabloaudubon.org/mobile](http://www.diabloaudubon.org/mobile)  
 (mobile only)  
[www.facebook.com/mtdiabloaudubon](https://www.facebook.com/mtdiabloaudubon)  
[www.meetup.com/Mount-Diablo-Audubon-Society/](https://www.meetup.com/Mount-Diablo-Audubon-Society/)

Q

What song bird actually sews its nest onto a leaf, usually a palm frond? Unscramble the letters below or look at page 7

for the answer.

**IODHEROOLDOE**

The *Quail* is published monthly except in January and August by the Mount Diablo Audubon Society, P.O. Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94597-0053. **The deadline for the July-August *Quail* will be June 11.**

## Observations ————— by Maury Stern

April was a month of returning breeding birds, migrants passing through, and some birds leaving for the mountains or farther north. Many first of season (FOS) birds were seen. Mitchell Canyon was a hot spot again during the last weeks of April, and will probably continue into May.

~

GP and BM saw eight **Brant** at Brooks Island 4/16.

There were two **Black Swifts** over Las Trampas Peak 4/29. DA

Among many sightings of **Rufous Hummingbirds**, four were seen at JC's Orinda home, 4/17; and one at P&NS's home in Antioch 4/21.

**Calliope Hummingbirds** were migrating through. DL had Yard Bird #97 when a **Calliope Hummingbird** visited his Lafayette home 4/18. All other sightings were at Mitchell Canyon side road, White Canyon, and Red Rock Trail. BD, JC 4/15; TR and SP (five) on 4/24; and MD and class 4/29.

On 4/16, a **Black Rail** was heard near the arched bridge at Martinez Regional Shoreline by BM and GP. There has been a **Black Rail** heard on and off most of the winter,

A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at Pt. Isabel Shoreline 4/14. CT

A **Wandering Tattler** was at the East Brother Lighthouse 4/29. AD

Returning **Least Terns** have been seen 4/23, BM, AS; and 4/29, RD, at the Bay Trail area in Richmond and Pt. Richmond.

**Caspian Terns**, which stayed extremely late this past winter, are returning at an appropriate time. A number were on Brooks Island 4/15. BM, GP

A **Bald Eagle** flew over the Bay Trail bike path in Richmond 4/13. LP

**Golden Eagles** were over Mitchell Canyon 4/15. BM, GP Other sightings were from Sibley Volcanic Preserve, a known breeding site by GS, 4/29; and KH, BE 4/30.

Nesting **Barn Owls** were in a palm tree near her Pleasant Hill home 4/12. DO

There was a **Lewis's Woodpecker** at the north side entrance to Los Vaqueros Reservoir 4/20. LD

There was a **Hairy Woodpecker** at Mitchell Canyon 4/15. HH

A very unusual **Pileated Woodpecker** was at Sibley Preserve 4/23, PB. This is not far from the Redwood Road-Pinehurst junction near Redwood Regional Park where they have been seen or heard occasionally.

A **Peregrine** and **Prairie Falcon** were having a territorial dispute 4/15 at Mitchell Canyon. BM, GP

**Olive-sided Flycatchers** were at Mitchell Canyon 4/24, TR, SP; and 4/29. MD

MD also saw a **Western Wood-Pee-wee** at Mitchell Canyon 4/29.

JC and JM saw **Hammond's Flycatchers** at Mitchell Canyon 4/15; and SP, TR saw them 4/24.

A **Dusky Flycatcher** was at Mitchell Canyon 4/15. JC

On 4/23, a pair of **Say's Phoebes** fledged four young at S&C's San Ramon home.

**Ash-throated Flycatchers** were abundant, seen at Black Diamond Mines 4/15, P&NS; 4/18 at JB's Morgan Territory home; 4/21 near AB and WG's Pleasant Hill home; at Mitchell Canyon on 4/18, 4/24, 4/29 by HH, TR, SP, MD; and at the Lafayette Reservoir. MS

BM and GP saw **Cassin's Vireo** at Mitchell Canyon 4/15; and JS saw one at Castle Rock Park 4/28.

A **Yellow-billed Magpie** was at Black Diamond Mines 4/25. LF

**Canyon Wrens** were seen at Black Diamond Mines 4/15, P&NS; at Morgan Territory Preserve 4/18, JB; and at Mitchell Canyon 4/21. JA

HH saw a **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** in Mitchell Canyon 4/15.

A flock of about 200 **Cedar Waxwings** were flying along Lone Tree Way in Antioch 4/13. PS

A pair of **Phainopepla** was near the ranger residences at Mitchell Canyon from 4/15 to 4/24. JM, BM, GP, HH, TR, SP

TR and SP saw a pair of **Nashville Warblers** at White Canyon 4/24.

JC saw a **Hermit Warbler** near Vollmer Peak 4/17, and several were at Mitchell Canyon 4/18 to 4/29. HH, TR, SP, MD

Two **Chipping Sparrows** were in a puddle along North Briones Road near the equestrian center 4/13. MS

On 4/24, a singing **Bell's (Sage) Sparrow** was at the summit of Black Point Trail at Mt. Diablo. SP, JC

A **White-throated Sparrow** continued at JR's Alamo home 4/10, and another reappeared at PS's Antioch home 4/19.

**Western Tanagers** were at JB's Morgan Territory home 4/18. At Mitchell Canyon, HH saw one on the same date. TR and SP saw three 4/24, and MD saw one on 4/28. JS saw one at Castle Rock Park 4/28.

A **Blue Grosbeak** was on Jersey Island 4/25. KS

JA saw a **Lazuli Bunting** at Mitchell Canyon 4/21, and JS had one at Castle Rock Park 4/28.

A **Tricolored Blackbird** was on the Walnut Trail near the north part of Los Vaqueros Reservoir 4/20. ML

**Bullock's Orioles** have been seen by many since late April. JS, AH

~

JA Jeff Acuff, DA David Armstrong, PB Pat Bacchetti, AB Alan Bade, JB Jerry Britten, JC Jim Chirobolos, RD Rich DeCoster, MD Matthew Dodder, LD Lily Douglas, AD Alan Dudley, BD Bob Dunn, BE Blake Edgar, LF Lee Friedman, WG Wendy Gollop, HH Hugh Harvey, AH Anne Hoff, KH Kate Hoffman, DL Don Lewis, S&CL Steve and Carol Lombardi, ML Marty Lycan, BM Bruce Mast, JM Joe Morlan, DO Darlene Oster, LP Lewis Payne, GP George Peyton, SP Steve Powell, JR Jean Richmond, TR Ted Robertson, KS Kim Sawyer, P&NS Paul and Nancy Schorr, PS Paul Schorr, JS Judi Sierra, AS Alex Smolyanskaya, MS Maury Stern, GS George Suennen, CT Cole Talbot

*Submit Contra Costa County sightings to [mbstern2@yahoo.com](mailto:mbstern2@yahoo.com), call (925) 284-5980, or send to [EBB sightings@yahoo.com](mailto:EBB_sightings@yahoo.com). If you report sightings to *eBird*, please also send them to Maury Stern.*

## Trip Reports

**North Briones, April 13:** It wasn't the rain that was our problem, it was the mud—slippery, clinging, and wet in places, making for dangerous walking. Still, seven MDAS members started walking the road above the turnaround. We did have a few showers and a cool breeze when we were in the higher open areas, but it was a glorious day. The rain kept the birds to a minimum, though we did tally 41 species. Flowers were good, too, including two really nice ones: Owl's Clover along the road through the trees and Purple Sanicle in the higher grassland area. The latter we would not have found if we had not walked along the grassy hillside due to the road being so muddy. We saw four species of Swallow at the farthest of the Sindicich Lagoons, and a Pied-billed Grebe was there along with a pair of Gadwalls and Coots. A Golden Eagle perched on the fence at the highest ridge line, Western Meadowlarks were singing in the grasslands, and Chipping Sparrows were seen by Maury Stern as he drove back down the hill and by Fred Safier and Walt Duncan near the parked cars. ~**Hugh Harvey**

**Black Diamond Mine, April 20:** On a beautiful spring day, 20 enthusiastic, intrepid MDAS members and guests hiked the steep trails to access sightings of some of the target birds for the trip. As we began the ascent up the Chaparral Loop Trail, we were treated to a pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, one bird on the nest. Continuing up the trail beyond the Hazel Atlas Portal, to a reliable vantage point, the group enjoyed seeing and hearing the continuing beautiful song of the Canyon Wren which was likely the highlight of the trip for most. After spending time with the wren, we continued up the Chaparral Loop Trail to the Ridge Trail where we enjoyed spectacular vistas with Mt. Diablo in the background. Throughout the chaparral, in the shadow of Chamise, we had nice looks at Indian Warrior just starting to bloom, and Bush Poppy, a fire-adapted shrub, was also seen in several locations. From the Ridge Trail, we heard and saw California Thrashers and White-throated Swifts. Ash-throated Flycatchers were heard and seen in many locations, but the best view was in the upper parking lot where we also had good views of a male Bullock's Oriole. Three more flycatchers (Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, and Western Kingbird) completed a grand-slam, and we had a trifecta of wrens (Canyon, Bewick's, and House). In addition to Cliff and Barn Swallows, a probable nesting pair of Violet-green Swallows was nicely seen in the upper parking lot. After lunch, the group birded the main parking lot and visitor center area and added Phainopepla (*R: Paul Schorr photo*) and Cedar Waxwings. Interestingly, a pair of Belted Kingfishers was observed frequenting an exposed bank in the gully near the entry gate. A total of 50 species was seen or heard. ~**Paul Schorr**



**Mines Road, April 22:** Mines Road is popular for any number of reasons; the scenery for many, the twisting road for the car and motorcycle enthusiasts, and cyclists like to ride to the top of Mt. Hamilton, but for 22 participants from MDAS, we like the birds and flowers. This year was as good



as any for the numbers of species seen, though, like many places, the total number of birds seen seems to have decreased over time. As a result, we had a total of 76 species, but saw only one Bullock's Oriole, one or two Western Tanagers, and no Phainopeplas or Lawrence's Goldfinches. But, between Del Valle Reservoir, just south of the Junction, we had a Bald Eagle nest with an adult and two eaglets, three Golden Eagles, Rufous-crowned Sparrows, Western Kingbirds, White-throated Swifts, a pair of Lewis's Woodpeckers, Tricolored Blackbirds, Spotted Sandpipers, Yellow-billed Magpies, a California Thrasher, and a Greater Roadrunner (*Above: Pam Lorenz photo*). The rains have been plentiful, so the hills were bright green with tall grasses and many flowers, including Birdseye Gilia, Mariposa Tulips, white and blue Delphiniums, Goldfields, Sticky Monkeyflower, and more. ~**Hugh Harvey**

**Del Puerto Canyon, April 25:** After meeting off I-5, 12 participants headed up Del Puerto Canyon Road for a sunny spring day of birding. We didn't get far before we found a singing male Blue Grosbeak (*R: Beth Branthaver photo*) and Loggerhead Shrike. Further up the road, we found Violet-green and Northern Rough-winged Swallows. In the small canyon just before Owl Rock there were numerous Western Kingbirds vocalizing, flying from tree to tree. We heard several Ash-throated Flycatchers. At Owl Rock, a few of us saw a Greater Roadrunner, but no owls. We also saw White-throated Swifts. In the creek near an old barn we found a Spotted Sandpiper and Killdeer. We had several sightings of Yellow-billed Magpies and Golden Eagles along the road. In the canyon near mile 10.2 we found Rufous-crowned Sparrows, Rock Wrens, and a nesting Green Heron. At Deer Creek Campground we found Bullock's Orioles, Lawrence's Goldfinches, Phainopepla, and Lazuli Bunting. Tricolored Blackbirds, and baby American Coots were on the pond near the junction with Mines Road. Lewis's Woodpeckers were difficult to find, but one participant saw one flying through the trees. For the day we saw or heard 71 species. ~**Beth Branthaver**>>>*Field Trip Reports cont. on page 6*



# Field Trip Schedule

By Hugh Harvey

## June 2017 (Call Leader for ?s or rain cancellations)

03 Saturday Outer Point Reyes  
24-25 Sat./Sun. Yuba Pass/Sierra Valley

## July 2017

15-16 Sat./Sun. Mt. Lassen NP  
27 Thursday Frank's Dump—High Tide

## August 2017

5 Saturday San Mateo Coast  
19 Saturday Bodega Bay

### 2 Saturday, June 3

#### Outer Point Reyes

Leader: Juan-Carlos Solis (925) 222-8573

Carpool leaves Sun Valley Mall at 7 AM. **OR**, meet at 830 AM at Bear Valley Visitor Center in Olema. From I-80 in Vallejo, follow SR 37 19.1 miles to Atherton Avenue, exit and turn left, cross US 101 to San Marin Drive and continue for three miles. Turn right on Novato Blvd for six miles to stop sign, then turn left on Point Reyes-Petaluma Road for seven miles to another stop sign. Turn right across the bridge and go three miles to SR 1. Turn left into Point Reyes Station. After a stop at the Bovine Bakery for coffee/pastries, continue out of town towards Olema, then turn right onto Bear Valley Road to the Visitor Center. We are hoping for migrants. Weather is unpredictable, so dress in layers. Bring lunch and liquids.

### 2 Saturday/Sunday, July 15-16

#### Mt. Lassen NP

Leader: Eugenia K. Larson (925) 806-0644

If you are planning to participate in this MDAS birding trip to Lassen Volcanic National Park, let the leader know ahead of time that you are coming. The Larsons will be camping in Section D of the Manzanita Lake Campground which is tents-only and non-reservable. If you prefer not to camp, there are several small motels and B & Bs outside the Park, but you should make your reservations soon as they fill up quickly.



Mt. Lassen from Manzanita Lake, Gary Larson photo

There are also a few sleep-only cabins at Manzanita Lake with a nearby communal bathhouse, and a private lodge in the south-central part of the Park, which serves meals and has a pool.

Please contact me for details at: [eklarson@comcast.net](mailto:eklarson@comcast.net).

### 2 Saturday-Sunday, June 24-25

#### Yuba Pass/Sierra Valley

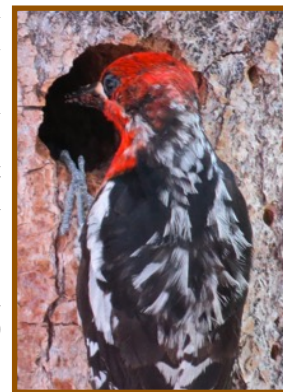
Leaders: Rosita and Hugh Harvey (925) 935-2979

This is always a productive, fun weekend trip to the northern Sierras which requires driving and walking, some of it over rough terrain. Saturday, we will meet at the parking lot at the top of the pass at 7 AM (so you should plan to arrive on Friday) and



Above: Sierra Buttes; R: Red-breasted Sapsucker, Isaac Aronow, photos

will be in the Sierra Valley that day looking for basin birds. On Sunday, we will bird in the Yuba Pass area for mountain birds. **Make motel reservations now!** Closest motels are in Sierra City, 11 miles down Highway 49 to the west. Herrington's Sierra Pines (530) 862-1151 or (800) 682-9848 is one of the most popular; or try Yuba River Inn (530) 862-1122 with cabins and kitchenettes (cash or check only). Bassett's Station (530) 862-1297 at Highway 49 and Gold Lake Road have some accommodations and meals, and High Country Inn (530) 862-1530 or (800) 862-1530 is across Hwy. 49 from Bassett's. Also, in Calpine is the Sierra Valley Lodge (530) 994-3367 or (800) 858-0322. More listings are at: [www.sierracity.com/Stay/LodgingCamp.html](http://www.sierracity.com/Stay/LodgingCamp.html).



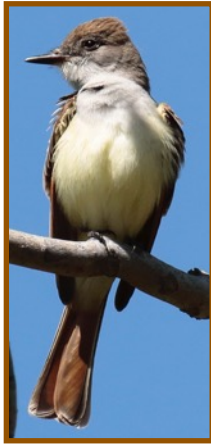
Campgrounds are located at Yuba Pass and Chapman Creek downhill to the west. Sites are available first come/first served for only three days at a time. Longer term reservations can be made at (877) 444-6777 for an additional \$10 charge. After June 19, call Wild Birds Unlimited at (925) 798-0303 for more information.

Field trips are open to members and non-members, beginners to advanced birders, but no dogs. **Contact Leader for ?s or rain cancellations.** MDAS is a conservation organization; as such, we encourage carpooling (riders help with gas, tolls, or entry fees). **Drivers who carpool for our field trips should have proof of liability insurance in their cars.**

**1**: Easy, little walking, smooth paths **2**: Moderate, one mile+, possibly rough terrain **3**: Difficult, many miles, rough terrain  
**Sun Valley Mall parking lot carpool location:** SW corner of mall lot at Willow Pass Rd. and Contra Costa Blvd. in Concord

>>>Field Trip Reports continued from page 4

**Mitchell Canyon, April 27:** Twenty-six members and guests saw 51 species on a temperate day with many birds and wildflowers. A surprise bird was a Mallard flyover 30 feet above the creek. A number of hummingbirds were present, but we missed the Calliopes that had been around the past week. Flycatchers were Hammond's, Pacific-slope, Ash-throated, (*R: Beth Branthaver, photo*) and Western Kingbird. We saw a new Titmouse nest. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were active in the chaparral near the oaks. A surprise was a Phainopepla in the Rangers' housing area. Nashville and Black-throated Gray Warblers were among the four warbler species seen. Probably one of the last Golden-crown Sparrows of the season was present. The presence of so many people was eased by a number of excellent birders who helped the leader—my thanks to them. ~**Maury Stern**



**Pine Canyon, April 29:** It was such a beautiful day for the 16 participants; it must have been equally beautiful for the birds, as they were mostly absent. Maybe they decided to go somewhere for the weekend, as we did see plenty of birds a few days previously in another Mt. Diablo canyon. But a dozen of us made the trek all the way to Pine Pond, having crossed the creek numerous times—some of us had wet feet, some had dry; but we all had a great time and nobody was whining. The best birds were at the beginning and end of this trek, meaning the Castle Rock picnic area and then the part of the trail beyond the State Park boundary. Highlights were the soaring Turkey Vultures and Red-tailed Hawks, Western Kingbirds at the picnic area, a Brown Creeper with nest material, singing Black-headed Grosbeaks, a couple of male Western Tanagers, a great male Bullock's Oriole up the hill above Pine Pond, and a pair of Acorn Woodpeckers bringing food to their chicks in a nest hole. We had 47 bird species in total and probably as many flower species. ~**Hugh Harvey**

**East Contra Costa County, May 6:** A windy, overcast day greeted 12 hardy birders. Throughout the day, we saw several Swainson's Hawks, in a variety of plumages, which made identification more challenging. The Marsh Creek trail was also good for White-tailed Kite, Northern Harrier, and Red-tailed Hawk. For the second year in a row, Marsh Creek did not produce any Blue Grosbeaks, nor did we find any along Jersey Island Road. A small flock of distant shorebirds stirred debate among the group. Some of us argued that the bill size was shorter and straighter than Long-billed Curlew, while others maintained that Whimbrel is rare inland. A quick check of the literature shows Whimbrel can occur in grasslands during migration. These birds got recorded as Whimbrel on our checklist. Sightings, and sounds, improved when we got to Piper Slough at Bethel Island. Yellow-breasted Chat and Black-headed Grosbeak were heard. Both Bullock's and Hooded Oriole were seen, as were Western Tanager, Western Kingbird, Downy Woodpecker and Loggerhead

Shrike. The group tally was 56 species for the day. ~**Gary Fregien**

## Some Musings on Citizen Science

As our annual Audubon year reaches a close, I have been thinking about the position I assumed last September as Citizen Science Chairperson. It seems like the concept of *citizen science* has become more and more important as this year progressed, given the recent explosion of climate change- and science-deniers. Suddenly, the counting that citizens like you and I do is important and necessary. We are helping amass the data that research scientists need to prove that global warming is a reality. Reporting to eBird and FeederWatch supports this work as do our annual Christmas Bird Counts. Add these dates to your calendar: December 16 (Central County) and December 20 (East County).

The Christmas Bird Count has produced over one hundred years of records which reflect what happens as habitats change, and this data is being actively studied. The more recent records additionally provide insight into how species are responding to climate variation and changes. This is true of FeederWatch records as well. Running from 1987 to the present, they show where populations are expanding or contracting, and how birds may be responding to seasonal shifts in flowering time, weather patterns, human intervention through feeding, and habitat loss.

I was pleased to connect with staff at John Muir NHS and Big Break Regional Park this past spring. Both facilities initiated eBird accounts and are reporting data after their bird walks. MDAS participated in two shared walks with John Muir House, providing the expert birders to identify what the staff might miss. Hopefully, more public agencies will contribute data next year as they become sensitive to its value to science.

And here are a few puzzles from my eleventh FeederWatch season which concluded in April. Why didn't I see even one Purple Finch from November to April when the species has been present in flocks as large as eight every year since I began counting? And, American Goldfinches (*R: Maren Smith, photo*) showed up predictably this year, but not in the kinds of numbers I've seen in previous winters. One day in January 2012, I counted 21; this season, my highest count was six. Perhaps these two finch species found food further north so, like irruptive species, they didn't need to move. Or perhaps they succumbed to House Finch Eye Disease, a sickness of epidemic proportions that has wiped out various finch populations across the continent and is being studied by FeederWatch. Only time will tell. ~**Elizabeth Leite, Citizen Science Chairperson**





## Hooded Oriole ♦ *Icterus cucullatus*

I was in Baja California in Mexico at the end of March and saw lots of Hooded Orioles (*photo R*). I returned home to find “my” Hooded Orioles back from their winter quarters and enjoying my hummingbird feeders. This got me wondering about the migration and permanent homes of these orioles.



I found that there are five subspecies of Hooded Orioles. The subspecies *nelsoni* is found in California, Arizona, and Nevada and migrates down to Mexico; the subspecies *trochiloides* is a permanent resident of Baja. The other subspecies are *sennetti*, *igneus*, and *cucullatus*—these subspecies are found in Mexico and Southern Texas. All of these subspecies vary in bill length and in the color of the male’s plumage. They overlap extensively in appearance and geographical distribution.

A common nickname for Hooded Orioles is “palm-leaf oriole” due to their tendency to build nests in palm trees. Our local subspecies was only found in Southern California until the 1930s when they began colonizing farther north following the planting of fan palms in parks and gardens. Their preferred palm is the California Fan Palm (*Washingtonia filifera*), a California native, but they will occasionally use other non-native palms as nest sites, as well as other trees. They can now be found as far north as Arcata, CA. Their love for sugar water in hummingbird feeders has also helped expand their range (*photo far R taken in Jean’s backyard*).

In Contra Costa County, March seems to be the earliest month to see a Hooded Oriole. They pair up in April, and may have 2-3 broods a year. During courtship, the male postures toward the female with deep bows and then points

his bill straight up while singing softly. The female may respond with similar posturing. The female builds the nest, poking holes in a leaf, most often in a palm frond, then pushing palm frond fibers through the holes, sewing the nest to the leaf or frond, forming a hanging basket. The nest consists of grass and plant fibers, lined with feathers, plant down, and hair. The female then lays 3-5 eggs that are whitish and blotched with brown, lavender, and gray coloring. The female incubates the eggs for 12-14 days. The young are fed by both parents and fledge around 14 days after hatching.

Their nests can be parasitized by Brown-headed and Bronzed Cowbirds. Jays, Ravens and Crows prey upon the eggs and nestlings.

Hooded Orioles eat insects, fruit and nectar. Nectar is obtained by piercing the base of tubular flowers with its sharp bill. They have an 8-inch slender body with a slim, slightly curved bill. The male has a beautiful orange-yellow body.

They have a black back, tail, throat, and wings. Their black wings have white wing bars. The black throat extends up to their eyes and down the



breast to create a bib. Females are pale olive-yellow with grayer backs and thin white wing bars.

The oldest recorded Hooded Oriole was at least 6 years old when he was found in California in 1972, the same state where he had been banded in 1967. ~**Jean Halford article and photos**

## Community Events

### ► California Audubon Bird Advocacy Day, Sacramento, Thursday, June 8

Join Audubon chapters from across the state for an all-day event in Sacramento as we meet with legislative staff to lobby for upcoming bills with a focus on: funding for state wildlife protection, parks and open space, water, and ensuring that California remains at the forefront in fighting and adapting to climate change. Join us in Sacramento! **For information:** [arickard@audubon.org](mailto:arickard@audubon.org) or (347) 754-0143 (**more details on page 9**)

### ► Water-Wise Wednesday, Ruth Bancroft Garden, Wed., June 14, 10 AM- 4 PM

Bring the kids or grandkids for a free visit to the beautiful gardens to learn more about the theme: "How to Attract Pollinators to Your Garden." Mt. Diablo Audubon will team up with Wild Birds Unlimited, Native Bird Connections, the Gardens at Heather Farm, Master Gardeners of Contra Costa County, and the Contra Costa County Library’s "Discover and Go" STEAM program for kids, for a day that features free tours of the world-famous cactus and succulent gardens, children’s activities, a live raptor show, and strategies to attract birds, bees, and butterflies to your garden. **For information or to volunteer at the MDAS table, contact Rosalie Howarth at:** [barhowarth@msn.com](mailto:barhowarth@msn.com).

# Edward William Nelson

## Naturalist ♦ Anthropologist

### PART II



E. W. Nelson, *The Auk*, April 1935 photo

In 1876, Edward William Nelson was 21 years old and anxious to begin a career as a field ornithologist. He traveled to Washington, D.C., to the Smithsonian Institution where Spencer Baird, Assistant Secretary, was involved in nominating naturalists for government expeditions collecting specimens for the National Museum, as he had previously selected James Cooper (*Quail*, May 2013) and

János Xántus (*Quail*, May 2014). Professor Baird, impressed by

Nelson's background, arranged for him to go to Alaska with the Army Signal Corps to study the weather and to collect specimens of natural history in this little-known area that had been purchased from Russia just ten years previously. Nelson was stationed at St. Michael, where the Russians had established a trading post in 1833. During a four-year stay from 1877 to 1881, Nelson collected the birds, animals, plants, fish, and insects that he saw. He became quite interested in the native peoples and he traveled by dog sled throughout the region to record their customs and rituals and to collect their arts and crafts. His interest in collecting everyday items used by the various tribes earned him the name "the man who collected good-for-nothing things." Nelson published his findings in the *Report upon Natural History Collections Made in Alaska between the Years 1877-1881*. He also published his ethnological findings in *The Eskimo about Bering Strait*.

In July 1879, the steamboat USS Jeannette set out from San Francisco on an ill-advised expedition to reach the North Pole. In September, however, the boat was held fast by ice near Wrangell Island in the Arctic Ocean, and it drifted without direction for nearly two years. In 1881, a rescue ship, the USRC Corwin, was sent in search of the lost party. Nelson was aboard, as was John Muir, who wrote of the voyage in his book *The Cruise of the Corwin*.

On Nelson's return from this arctic episode, he found himself in Washington, D. C. preparing a report on his collections. Long hours of sedentary work contributed to the development of pulmonary tuberculosis. The malady developed so rapidly that he was not expected to live and he went with his mother to the dry climate of the White Mountains of Arizona, where at that time Apache Indian raids were still a menace. They lived in a tent, and Nelson always attributed his final recovery to his mother's care and the curative skill she had acquired as a Civil War nurse. With slowly returning strength he began to walk a few steps and would shoot and prepare one or two bird specimens each day.

Eventually he was free from tuberculosis but later developed a heart ailment which remained evident for the rest of his life. Because of his uncertain health Nelson never married, asserting that such a relationship would be unfair.

During this period he served a term as County Clerk of Apache County, Arizona.

By 1890, however, he had recovered sufficiently to engage in general field work and received an appointment as Special Field Agent on the Death Valley Expedition under Dr. C. Hart Merriam, Chief of the Division of Ornithology and Mammalogy, U. S. Department of Agriculture. On this expedition the emphasis was on plants, but birds, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals also were collected. Nelson began work at Keeler, California, on November 29, 1890. The expedition spent some months in the desert region to the east, where, in 1933, President Hoover would designate Death Valley National Monument. They then crossed the Sierra Nevada with a pack outfit over a route on which there was no trail, coming into the Yosemite Valley and proceeding to Visalia, California, where the Death Valley Expedition was disbanded in September, 1891. Nelson, however, was directed to continue field work.

In need of an assistant, he chanced to meet Edward A. Goldman, then 18 years of age, and the two began a series of field studies in Mexico, where they worked in every Mexican State and in Central America. The pair collected nearly 30,000 mammals and birds, and amassed an enormous wealth of information on the natural history of Mexico. In 1911, Nelson described a new genus of hummingbird native to Panama. He named it *Goldmania voliceps* in honor of his colleague. It is now known as Violet-capped Hummingbird. Nelson and Goldman continued their studies until 1929 when Nelson retired.

Among the species named for Edward Nelson are Nelson's Bighorn Sheep, Nelson's Sparrow, Nelson's Antelope



Nelson's Bighorn Sheep peer over a ridge in Sand to Snow NM, David Clendenen photo, courtesy of The Wildlands Conservancy.

Squirrel, Nelson's Spiny Pocket Mouse, Nelson's Small-eared Shrew, and Nelson's Milk Snake.

Nelson received an honorary M. A. from Yale University in 1920,

and an honorary Doctor of Science from The George Washington University, also in 1920. He was a prolific author with more than 200 publications.

From 1908 to 1911 Nelson was President of the American Ornithologists Union. During his later years, he became increasingly involved in the administration of the Biological Survey, and was named Assistant Chief in 1914 and Chief in 1916; he served until 1927. Nelson was also a Research Associate of the Smithsonian Institution from 1930 until his death. After his retirement, he owned and managed fruit orchards in California and Arizona, but died in Washington, D.C. in May 1934. ~Ellis Myers



## Young Birders in Mitchell Canyon

The day's birding began at the gate of Mitchell Canyon around 8 AM on April 22. Our group, lead by Tracy Farrington, included Kai Mills, Michael Pang, Erica Kawata, my mom, Mariah, and me. I am 13 years old and have been a member of the MDAS Young Birders Club since I was 9—it is the only place I know where I can actually go birding with people near my own age. We also had two new members join us, Jack Davis and his daughter, Avery, who is about 8 years old. It was funny for me to listen to Avery because she is just as enthusiastic and curious about birds as I was at her age.

The air is beginning to warm after a long winter, bringing numerous species of birds to Mount Diablo. Not only has the air changed, but also, after four years of drought, water is flowing through the streams. The drought has brought down the populations of most birds in the area drastically, so although there is now a good source of water, the birds don't have the same numbers as they have had in past years.

I can't tell you how strange the sound of water was for me. In my past four years of birding in the Mount Diablo Area, I've witnessed the bird population's drop lower and lower. All the while, the air became quieter and quieter. Since the creek beds were bone dry, there were days where the air was utterly silent. No birdsong, no trickling water, no wind in the trees. It really was quite eerie. Now, with the sound of water and returning birds filling the air, it's like the area has risen from the dead.

Our general goal was to see a Calliope Hummingbird, but we failed to find one. We did find our other target bird, a Black-headed Grosbeak, however. It was perched only about 15-20 feet away from us up in a tree and stayed for a long time giving us all great views. We saw six Ash-throated Flycatchers, a Pacific-slope Flycatcher, and both Hutton's and Warbling Vireos, and four warbler species: Orange-crowned, Nashville, Yellow-rumped, and Townsend, for a total count of 42 species.

I am hopeful that the populations of birds will gradually return, bringing life back to the area that has remained dry and empty for so long. As for the insect-eating birds, they're going to have *plenty* of food. While birding, I could not believe the amount of insects that had accumulated. The birders and I were practically choking on the mass of mosquitoes and gnats that hung in the air. ~Dagny Bradford-Urban, YBC

## CA Audubon Bird Advocacy Day 6/8

Join Audubon chapter members from across the state at Audubon California's annual Advocacy Day in Sacramento. Our chapter usually has the largest contingent, and we want to maintain that title!

After a morning of lobbying training, we will head to the Capitol for meetings with our representatives and their staff members. If you have never lobbied before, here's your chance to have your voice heard! The day is super fun and energizing.

Audubon California will provide you with talking points on priority bills and we will bring up other bills that are

important to our chapter. This year, our focus will be on funding for state wildlife protection, parks and open space, water, and ensuring that California remains at the forefront in fighting and adapting to climate change.

Let us know if you are interested in joining us or in carpooling, and please RSVP through the Audubon California website: [www.ca.audubon.org](http://www.ca.audubon.org). California's birds need you. See you in Sacramento! ~Ariana Rickard, Legis. Action

## Fernandez Ranch Gets Nest Boxes

We all turned our heads when Krista Jordan, from John Muir Land Trust (JLMT), yelled out, "I see Tree Swallows on the box already!" And sure enough, there they were. Within five minutes of installing a nest box, a pair took it upon themselves to do some examining—standing on top, popping into the box itself, and flying around the perimeter of it. Considering how much work it takes to set up a new trail, the whole project does have an element of guesswork and luck involved. Just because you may think that *this* is the perfect spot for a bird house, doesn't mean that **THEY** will!

Glen Lewis, the Open Space Ranger for JMLT, and Steve Harvey, a volunteer, were key to installing the ten nest boxes (R: Georgette Howington, photo). Tom Garry, nest box monitor, Krista Jordan, and Georgette Howington had selected the nest box locations for them some months prior. Since the rains had softened up the otherwise hard clay ground, pushing the metal poles was bearable, but still a real challenge. It took most of an afternoon to install them. Georgette brought lunch—all in all, everyone thought it was a successful day.

Setting up a trail is a process that includes finding a dedicated monitor to adopt it. Going to your trail once every 7-10 days to monitor and record your findings is a big commitment during the nesting season. It's a big responsibility and takes skill to do this effectively without harming the birds when they are nesting. You can accidentally fledge birds that are not ready, or open the box and frighten an adult bird to the extent it hits the side of the interior so hard it injures itself. And, what do you do if nestlings are being threatened by an ant invasion? How do you change a wet nest with live hatchlings in it while the parents dive toward your head over and over again? What do you do about blowflies? (For nest box info: [jmlt.org](http://jmlt.org))

On the other hand, it's a joyful hobby that can bring rewarding satisfaction knowing that you have played a hand in helping nesting birds successfully raise a family! There is nothing more touching than the sight of baby birds with little hungry mouths and hard working parents feeding them.

James Simons, a retired oncologist, volunteered to adopt the trail and Tom Garry, who has 15 years of experience as a monitor, trained him. To their delight, they found FIVE nests: one House Wren, three Tree Swallows, and one Western Bluebird! Not bad for a first nesting season. ~Georgette Howington, Assistant Director CBRP



## Tomorrow We Bird, But Today We March—Birders Take to the Streets in Historic March for Science

On Saturday, April 22, Audubon members across the country joined fellow protesters to show their support for science and oppose cuts to research funding. My husband and our two sons marched in San Francisco (second march in three months for our little guys!) with our local chapter, the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society (MDAS).



Members of MDAS join the March for Science in San Francisco, Ariana Rickard photo

The main march was in Washington, D.C., with 600 satellite marches on all seven continents. Audubon California and MDAS co-sponsored the March for Science in San Francisco. The Bay Area had seven other marches in San Jose, Santa Cruz, Walnut Creek, Livermore, Berkeley, Pacifica, and Hayward.

Birders made their presence known with signs expressing their enthusiasm for birds and nature. *The East Bay Times* described the demonstrators as “physicians, bird-watchers, chemists, teachers, students, engineers and others.”

One of the best parts of these protests is spotting all the clever, funny signs. Some of our



Above: Tiffany Erickson and Ariana Rickard show their love for birds, Pierre Bull photo; L: a beautiful sign that Tiffany created for the march, Tiffany Erickson photo



favorites from yesterday include: “Defiance...for Science” and “At the start of every disaster movie, there’s a scientist being ignored.”

Rosalie Howarth helped carry our eight-foot Audubon banner two miles during the march: “My arms are aching today but my heart feels a little lighter. Marching is just one tool in the opposition toolbox, but it’s

one that provides the most encouragement and positive reinforcement.”

Along the march route, we ran into old friends and met up with others who share our passion for science and the natural world. It was heartening and inspiring to be surrounded by thousands of people who believe public policy should be informed by scientific studies.

All the advances we have made in conserving wildlife and habitat have been informed by science and defended through science. We hope that April’s march will just be the start of a movement to elevate science, protect research funding, and allow us to push forward our mission of preserving birds and habitat for future generations. As one sign said, “There is no Planet B!” ~**Ariana Rickard, Legislative Action** (Editor’s note: this Audublog first appeared in April on the Audubon California website at: [ca.audubon.org](http://ca.audubon.org))

In addition, MDAS was highlighted in a National Audubon article at: [www.audubon.org/news/from-coast-coast-audubon-stood-birds-march-science](http://www.audubon.org/news/from-coast-coast-audubon-stood-birds-march-science).

## Education Committee News

Forty-one participants completed the MDAS Education program survey. This is about 9% of our membership. For those who completed the survey, education, especially for members and children, was considered to be very important. Ten members indicated a willingness to deliver educational programs especially to children. The top four priorities for member education were raptors, bird song, ID challenges (vireos, flycatchers, etc.) and shorebirds. Two respondents were willing to teach classes, one for sketching birds and one on how to design a bird-friendly garden using native plants.

Next steps include setting up a Birding by Ear workshop and classes for Bird Sketching in the fall and Bird Friendly Gardening next spring. As classes from other organizations become available, information will be shared with MDAS members. Golden Gate Audubon and Point Reyes Field Seminars offer a range of classes on their websites. Cornell Lab also has online programs at [www.allaboutbirds.org](http://www.allaboutbirds.org) under “Lifelong Learning”. ~**Beth Branthaver, Educ. Comm.**

## MDIA Wildflower Guide Online

Mount Diablo is in bloom! MDIA’s new online wildflower photo guide is intended to help you identify the wildflowers that you may see while hiking or birding in Mount Diablo SP throughout the blooming season. The wildflowers are categorized by color and are listed in alphabetical order by common name of the plant. **For info: [mdia.org](http://mdia.org) (L side: Wildflower Identification Guide)**



Thousands marched on Market Street in SF for the March for Science, Brent Firestone photo

## Take Responsibility For Rats

Did you stop feeding the birds due to rats, heeding an “old wives tale” that suggests bird feeders are a major rat attractant? Actually, rats are probably attracted to yards by smelly food sources such as pet foods (*photo L*), pet waste, compost piles, barbecues, open garbage containers, and other food debris. Providing rats with places to nest along with easy sources of water also increase this nuisance. Eliminating the source may solve any rat problem.

Basic maintenance is a good defense against rat infestations. Wood and brush piles, thick hedges or ivy, or access to attics and basements provide easy nesting spots. Since rats generally eat within 100 feet of their nests, removing this access helps prevent them from eating in your yard.

There are several practices that will help remove access to bird food for rodents. Putting feeders on poles with baffles (*photo R*) will prevent rodents from reaching bird food. Overhead baffles prevent rodents from climbing down onto feeders. Avoiding ground feeding may eliminate some bird feeding, but will also eliminate food sources for rats. Using trays on feeders will catch seed that normally falls to the ground. Only feeding enough for birds for one day also helps keep seed off the ground. “Tidy Feeding,” using seed or suet cylinders, cakes, or Bark Butter, instead of loose seed, is another way to prevent food from going to the ground.

Finally, select appropriate bird food, including high quality foods that present a no-mess option, such as seeds and nuts with shells removed. Cheap bird foods are often full of filler seeds such as milo, wheat, and corn, that birds won't eat and can end up on the ground. Freshness matters—avoid old seed.

Trust advice from your local bird feeding experts who only want you to have the best experience possible. Then go ahead and enjoy your backyard birds.

~Mike Eliot, WBU  
the Quail



## Mount Diablo Audubon Society (MDAS)

*Mount Diablo Audubon Society, a Chapter of National Audubon, is committed to the sustainable balance of our community's people, birds, other wildlife, and habitat through conservation, education, and advocacy.*

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**The MDAS Board meets at 645 PM at WBU on the second Thursday except for July and August.**



Mount Diablo Audubon Society thanks our Business Partners:  
**AlphaGraphics, Walnut Creek**  
**Galaxy Press, Concord**  
**Native Bird Connections**  
**Rakestraw Books, Danville**  
**Wild Birds Unlimited, Pleasant Hill**

*The Mount Diablo Audubon Society meets at 7 PM the first Thursday of each month except in July and August in the Camellia Room of The Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94598.*

### MDAS MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION

- Please enroll me/my family in the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society for \$25 for one year. (MDAS dues are tax-deductible)
- For an additional \$20 please enroll me as a first-time member in the National Audubon Society (NAS). (includes 6 bi-monthly issues of Audubon Magazine)
- Please enroll me as a lifetime member for \$500. (or 2 annual \$250 payments)
- I am enclosing an additional tax-deductible donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

**Please send the Quail by  “Go Green” email  US Mail**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Send check payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society with this application to:  
 Membership Chair, P.O.B. 2094, Walnut Creek, CA 94595

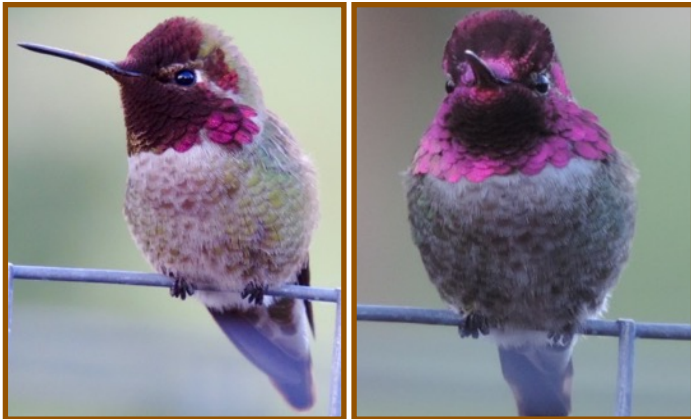
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An Anna's Hummingbird shows its true colors—two views of the same bird! The angle of light on the iridescent feathers, not the feathers themselves, determines the colors seen by the human eye. Birds can also tighten certain muscles to produce the color shifts. Males use this costume change to impress and attract a mate!  
Cassie Tzur photos.



Above: Paul Schorr, President, received congratulations from outgoing President, Jimm Edgar, Maren Smith photo



the Quail

At the May meeting, MDAS elected 2017-2018 officers. They are: President, Paul Schorr; Vice President, Kent Fickett; Treasurer, Steve Buffi; Secretary, Carol Pachl.

For Birding Information, MDAS Webmaster, Dal Leite, shared favorite apps including BirdsEye and took members on a virtual tour of the MDAS mobile website. Explore the website menus for loads of detail information at: [www.diabloaudubon.org](http://www.diabloaudubon.org).

The main program featured author, Jonathan White (L: Maren Smith photo) who shared photographs, a video, and captivating excerpts from his book, *Tides: The Science and Spirit of the Ocean*.

Many thanks to our volunteers who staffed MDAS tables. Top R: Kent Fickett and Isaac Aronow at the Wild Birds Unlimited May 6 event, Rosalie Howarth photo; Middle R: Christine Kass, Nancy Schorr, Virginia Hamrick at WBU and R: Maria Genovia, Nancy Schorr, and Mike Meacham at the John Muir House event, Paul Schorr photos. We appreciate our volunteers!

