



the Quail

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

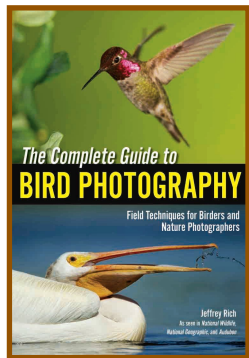
Volume 63, Number 1

September 2017

September Program : Birding Inspirations Through My Lens ♦ Jeffrey Rich

Wildlife Photographer Jeffrey Rich will be presenting his new program, "Birding Inspirations Through My Lens." Jeff has been teaching nature photo workshops and tours since February 1991. He is a knowledgeable nature photography instructor combining his extensive background as a naturalist, teacher, and professional photographer.

Based on his newest book, *The Complete Guide to Bird Photography*, Jeff will be sharing stories of birds and



Mother Nature. He will add in photography tips and how lying in the dirt helps to create his stunning photography. Via captivating stories about birds and nature, he will

weave an interesting tale through many of the photos that appear in his new book. His humor and stories are sure to inspire nature lovers, especially birders.

Jeff is a wildlife biologist and photographer, whose love of the

outdoors stems from his Northern California upbringing.

He graduated from Humboldt State University in 1983 with a BS in Wildlife Biology, in 1985 with a BS in Biology, and in 1986 with a Life Science Teaching Credential. In 2012, he completed his Masters Degree in Science Teaching and Education. He teaches science and photography at Stellar Charter School in Redding.

Jeff's enjoyment of nature, coupled with his background in biology has proven to be the perfect combination for producing stunning nature photographs. A self-taught nature photographer since 1980, Jeff considers himself more of a photo-naturalist producing artful images of Mother Nature.

His speciality is wildlife and bird photography. His photos have been published in *National Wildlife*, *National Geographic* publications, *Audubon*, and numerous other birding publications. Jeff has also written a number of articles about wildlife and birds. His



A Common Loon chick hitches a ride,
Jeffrey Rich photo

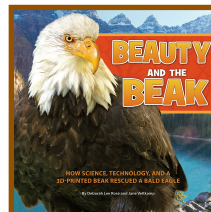
first book, *Baby Birds*, is the topic of one of his photographic passions.

He will bring copies of both books for sale (\$13/\$30 cash/check) and will autograph them after the program.

For more information:
jeffrichphoto.com

7 PM Birding Information

Walnut Creek children's author, Deborah Lee Rose, will discuss her new book *Beauty and the Beak*, about the bald eagle that made world news when she received a pioneering, 3D-printed, prosthetic beak. Deborah coauthored the book with renowned raptor biologist and rehabilitator, Jane Veltkamp, Education Chair of her Cedar Key, Florida Audubon chapter, who also has lifetime care of Beauty. Deborah will bring books for sale and will autograph them after her talk. (\$15 cash/check)



Meeting Schedule

The next meeting of the Mount Diablo Audubon Society will be **Thursday, September 7** in the Camellia Room of The Gardens at Heather Farm in Walnut Creek.

6:30 PM Doors open
7:00 PM Birding Information
7:25 PM Announcements
7:40 PM Refreshments* and raffle
**please bring your own coffee mug*
8:00 PM Program: Birding Inspirations Through My Lens ♦ Jeffrey Rich

NEXT MONTH'S PROGRAM:
Thursday, October 5
Waterbirds ♦ Max Tarjan, SFBBO

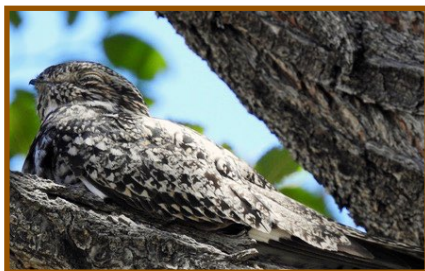
DEDICATED TO HABITAT CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Birds and birding bring people together. As members of MDAS, we know how true this is as we meet together throughout the year to focus on birds and birding during our meetings and field trips.

This connection became quite apparent during a recent cross-country driving trip to Wyoming. Nancy and I had stopped for a break at a roadside rest stop a few miles east of Winnemucca, Nevada. As we left our vehicle, we saw birds flying among the trees, so we retreated to the vehicle to get our binoculars. Soon, we identified the six to eight birds as Western Kingbirds, and subsequently, located a nest with four chicks being tended by an adult bird (photo above).



As we watched the kingbirds flying about, we located a couple of "lumps" on tree limbs. Upon closer inspection with our spotting scope, the lumps turned out to be roosting Common Nighthawks (photo L).



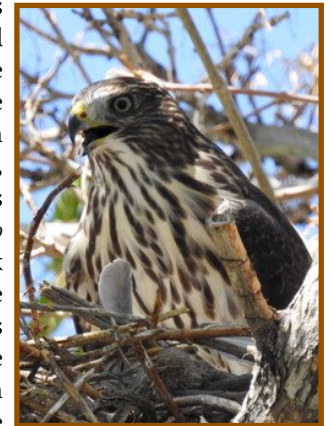
There was also a large stick nest without any signs of a bird nearby, and we pondered over whose nest it might have belonged to—perhaps a crow or raven, or even a Great Horned Owl?

Now, people with binoculars or a spotting scope at a roadside rest stop are not a common occurrence and may

even seem strange to most folks. Soon, however, several curious people approached us and asked what we were seeing and we happily shared our sightings.

Two people who approached us were Pete and Cindy, both birders who live in Martinez. As our enthusiastic discussion about the kingbirds and nighthawks continued, I shared with them that I was president of Mt. Diablo Audubon Society and after some discussion, I invited them to our upcoming September meeting. Neither Pete nor Cindy were aware of MDAS, but they were very knowledgeable of local birding areas where the Chapter's field trips often go, including Heather Farm, and they seemed interested in joining us at a meeting this fall. I hope so!

On our return trip from vacation, we stopped again at the same rest stop. The kingbirds continued to fly around as did the nighthawks, which was surprising to us. As we followed the noisy flights of the kingbirds, they led us to the large nest that we had seen during the previous stop. There, a juvenile Cooper's Hawk was consuming a small bird (photo R). The presence of the hawk also probably explained the active, seemingly agitated flights of the nighthawks during the daytime. So, the question regarding the occupants of the large nest was resolved.



I hope that Pete and Cindy will be at an upcoming meeting, so that we can share with them the "rest of the story." ~Paul Schorr, column and photos

Good News For Peregrines

A multi-organizational Peregrine Team, including many MDAS members, joined forces to monitor the six-month long Castle Rock closure to ensure an optimal nesting season for the Peregrine Falcons who successfully fledged two babies this season. The team enjoyed learning about the falcons through shared observations, piloted an informative educational program at Northgate HS to encourage stewardship of nearby Pine Canyon, and engaged with the public via outreach opportunities. ~Maren Smith



Above: Adult Peregrine Falcon, Joy Shonfeld photo

"By some, bird watching is regarded as a mild paralysis of the central nervous system, which can be cured only by rising at dawn and sitting on a log." ~Joseph Hickey

Q

What bird is known to wipe the outside of its nest hole with a crushed insect, vegetation, or fur?

Unscramble the letters below or look at page 7 for the answer.
TBHCHRINDEEWTTAUSHEAT

Welcome New Members

Rachelle House	Walnut Creek
Helen Reznick	Clayton
Brenda Cho	Dublin
Wendy Roth	Martinez
Joan Hishida	Pleasant Hill

MDAS on the Web

www.diabloaudubon.org
www.diabloaudubon.org/mobile (mobile only)
www.facebook.com/mtdiabloaudubon
www.meetup.com/Mount-Diablo-Audubon-Society/

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 October issue will be October 9.

Observations (5/29-8/5) ————— by Maury Stern

Fall migration has begun with shorebirds arriving by the end of June, along with heavy populations by late July, along with many Warblers in July.

~~~~~  
**Wood Duck** babies were numerous: 6/10, 12 were at Civic Park in WC; 13 at San Ramon Creek BMu; and LK had 20 at Holland Tract 6/29.

At Waterbird Park in Martinez on 6/6, LK and CL saw **Gadwalls**, a **Northern Pintail**, 16 **Cinnamon Teal** (13 young), and a **Northern Shoveler**. On 6/21, AL saw a young **Northern Shoveler** at the Pt. Edith Trail marsh.

A surprise **Canvasback** was at Meeker Slough from 6/21 to 7/16. DW, SG, MK, BD, RCo, JHa, CM, JHo

AL saw a probable escaped **African Collared Dove** along the Pt. Edith Trail 7/6.

**Vaux's Swifts** were at I-680 and Stone Valley Road in Alamo 5/28, RM; and at Brickyard Cove in Pt. Richmond 6/3. AR

A **Rufous Hummingbird** was at Sibley Regional Preserve 6/11. ML

DW heard a **Black Rail** at the dump near Parr and Richmond Parkway 6/27.

A **Virginia Rail** was at Heather Farm Pond 7/3. FS

Seven **Common Gallinules** were at Holland Tract 6/29. HH saw one at Heather Farm Pond 7/3.

A **Snowy Plover** was at Clifton Court Forebay 7/24, JB; and 7/25. DW

Summering **Long-billed Curlews** were at Meeker Slough and Point San Pablo 6/6. LK, CL Another was at Clifton Court Forebay 6/29 along with five **Marbled Godwits** there as well on 6/29. LK

LK saw an early **Least Sandpiper** and two **Western Sandpipers** at the Byron Water Treatment Plant 6/29.

C&TW saw an early **Short-billed Dowitcher**, Martinez Shoreline 6/19.

A **Willet** was at Heather Farm Pond 6/28. FS

LK and CL saw a **Pigeon Guillemot** off Miller-Knox shoreline 6/6, as well as a number of **Heermann's Gulls**.

A rare June sighting of a **Herring Gull** was at Clifton Court FB 6/27. AL  
DH saw six **Least Terns** at the Richmond Marina 6/9.

About 180 **Caspian Terns** were on Brooks Island 6/6. LK, CL

Two or three **Black Skimmers** were at Brooks Island 6/6 to 7/2. LK, CL, AL, JHa, BD, BM, DWe, C&TW, JHS, JHJ, JS, GC

A **Pacific Loon** and **Brandt's Cormorant** were seen off shore from Richmond 6/6. LK, CL

A **Great Blue Heron**, **Black-crowned Night Heron**, and a **Green Heron** were at Oak Hill Park in Danville 7/24. SH

LK saw three **White-faced Ibis** at Holland Tract 6/29.

JB had a **Turkey Vulture** chick on his Morgan Territory property 6/24.

IA saw an **Osprey** chick with a parent on a nest at Pt. Pinole 8/3.

S&CL saw three **White-tailed Kite** fledglings by a nest near their San Ramon home 6/14.

On 6/7 a nesting pair of **Bald Eagles** were seen along the Carquinez Strait near Martinez/Crockett. SR, EP

RS saw a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** on the Lafayette-Moraga Trail 7/24. They are uncommon this time of year.

Also, a **Swainson's Hawk** flew over his Antioch home 6/11. PS

The **Western Screech Owl** near the beginning of the Lafayette-Moraga Trail was seen with up to three young 6/11 to 6/17. HH, DS, RB, DWe, IA

GH saw seven **Burrowing Owls** along Minnesota Avenue in Brentwood 7/10.

MR saw an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at El Cerrito Sunset View Cemetery 5/29, and MS saw one atop a pine at Sibley RP 6/11.

S&CL saw two fledglings of the **Say's Phoebe** pair nesting in a neighbor's yard in San Ramon 6/14.

**Bank Swallows** were at Bethel Island and Holland Tract 6/29, LK; 6/30 AL at Bethel Is.; and 7/3 at Bethel Is., and Clifton Court FB 7/27. BD

A **Pacific Wren** was at Tilden Park Nature Area 6/6. CL, LK

A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was at Sibley Regional Park 6/6. CD

A **MacGillivray's Warbler** was at Mitchell Canyon 6/10. BP

A **Townsend's Warbler** was at Fernandez Ranch 6/2. KJ

JC saw a returning **Hermit Warbler** 7/28 near Vollmer Peak.

A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at the Piper Slough/Bethel Island area 5/31, HH, PS; and 6/6. LK, CL

A **Black-chinned Sparrow** was off Summit Road in MDSP 6/8-6/13 found by ARi, and seen by AM, AL, SL, BP, RC, DT, JC, BT, BB, JE, and TF.

A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was at Sibley RP 6/6. CD

A **Western Tanager** was by Seven Hills School near Heather Farm 8/3. HH; and PS saw a female **Western Tanager** at his birdbath in Antioch 8/4.

Between 6/4 and 6/24, 37 people saw the **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at Sibley Volcanic Preserve.

**Blue Grosbeaks** were near Bethel Harbor 5/31, HH, PS; and 6/6 on Bethel Island. CL, LK

**Tricolored Blackbirds** were at Byron Water Treatment Plant 6/10 and Holland Tract 6/29. LK

**Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were at Clifton Court Forebay and Holland Tract 6/29. LK

IA Isaac Aronow, RB Ralph Baker, BB Beko Binder, JB Jerry Britten, JC Jim Chiropolos, GC Graham Chisholm, RCo Robert Coon, RC Rob Cullison, CD Carla Din, BD Bob Dunn, JE Janet Ellis, TF Teale Fristoe, SG Susan Greef, JHa John Harris, HH Hugh Harvey, DH Derek Heins, JHS James Holmes, Sr., JHJ James Holmes, Jr., JHo Jeff Hoppes, GH Glenn Hori, SH Steve Hutchcraft, KJ Krista Jordan, LK Logan Kahle, MK Marilyn Kinch, AL Albert Linkowski, S&CL Steve and Carol Lombardi, CL Calvin Lou, ML Marty Lycan, AM Aaron Maizlich, BM Bruce Mast, RM Robert McNab, CM Colin Meusel, BMu Brian Murphy, EP Eric Pilotte, BP Bob Power, AR Amelia Ramm, SR Scott Restivo, MR Matt Ricketts, ARi Alex Rinkert, FS Fred Safer, RS Rusty Scalf, PS Paul Schorr, JS John Sterling, MS Maury Stern, DS Dale Swanberg, BT Bob Toleno, DT David Tomb, DWe Dave Weber, DW Denise Wight, C&TW Chris and Teri Willis

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

## Trip Reports

**Yuba Pass and Sierra Valley, June 24-25:** One of the great attributes of our Chapter is that we have many good birders and many are also very competent leaders. This paid off this year when Rosita and I had to drive

home unexpectedly from our scouting trip, just two days before this field trip was to begin. Eugenia Larson stepped up and herded 27 cats, uh, birders, in 11 cars around the Sierra Valley Saturday before Hugh returned late in the afternoon to resume his leadership role. A big thanks to Eugenia and Gary for doing this and for Donna and Scott Kramer, too. Despite the late spring and lingering snow patches, the group identified 98 species and had a great time viewing many of the special mountain species. Highlights were Green-tailed Towhee, Vesper's and Brewer's Sparrows, Sage Thrashers, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, White-faced Ibis, Wilson's Phalaropes, Redheads, stilts and avocets, both with babies, Sandhill Cranes, also with babies, Common Nighthawk and Common Poorwill sightings, Olive-sided Flycatchers, White-headed Woodpeckers, Mountain Chickadees, Cassin's Finches, Evening Grosbeaks, and Calliope and Rufous Hummingbirds. A few people saw a Mountain Quail and at least one had an American Dipper over the weekend. We also viewed an active Osprey nest and watched a Brown Creeper enter its tiny nest cavity in a giant pine. ~**Hugh Harvey**

**Lassen Volcanic NP, July 15-16:** Ten members enjoyed a very warm weekend birding. The main road into Lassen



An American Dipper, above, and a male Black-backed Woodpecker, below, Isaac Aronow photos



from the south had not yet opened due to the heavy snows this past winter, so all birding was done in the northern part of the Park. Only Manzanita Lake and Butte Lake Campgrounds were open! Despite the heat and the lateness of the date, we were able to see 39 mountain species plus some heard-only Red Crossbills. Other

good birds included American Dipper, Williamson's Sapsucker, Black-backed Woodpecker, Clark's Nutcracker, White-headed Woodpeckers, Western Tanagers, Common Nighthawks, and a magnificent adult Bald Eagle perched at the end of Manzanita Lake. ~**Eugenia K. Larson**

**Frank's Dump at High Tide, July 27:** Yes, it is unusual to start a field trip with a 3 PM carpool, but the leader wanted to share an event he has enjoyed annually for many years. By timing this trip with a late high tide,

and with the sun behind one's back, it is possible to see many shorebirds clearly. Yes, it can be windy at this time of day, but the 18 members and guests enjoyed the opportunity to see this shorebird spectacle. Thousands of Western Sandpipers were present, but only a handful of their cousins, the Least Sandpipers. The several hundred Black-bellied Plovers were in all phases of plumage from near-breeding to near-winter. Red Knots were abundant and good views were had by all of the participants. At the northwestern corner of the flat area, some Snowy Plovers chased through insect clouds while others loafed practically right in front of us. Wilson's Phalaropes were feeding at the southern end of the shallow ponds. One dry mudflat had many California Gulls and a couple of Caspian Terns. Two Least Terns were also present



Caspian Terns, an adult L and a juvenile R, Isaac Aronow photo

in another location. While we were at the northern end of the viewing area, many of the thousands of birds lifted, circled, and resettled. We looked in vain for an avian predator; possibly, the birds moved due to an internal sense of timing for the changing tide. Though we tallied only 31 species, the sheer numbers of birds made this evening a sight to behold.

~**Hugh Harvey**

**San Mateo Coast, August 5:** For the 17 participants, the day started out cool, humid, and foggy. We began at Pillar Point Harbor where we walked out to the point and had somewhat distant looks at all three cormorant species: Double-crested, Pelagic, and Brandt's. We also saw Red-breasted Mergansers and Black Oystercatchers in the harbor and in the distance, a Wandering Tattler. Lines of Brandt's



Heermann's Gull, Beth Branthaver photo

Cormorants kept flying by as we looked out into the ocean off the point. There were Black-crowned Night-Herons and two species of goldfinches in the trees and open areas near the shoreline. As the sky began to clear, we moved on to the Pescadero Marsh overlook, south of the Pescadero Creek mouth. Here, we found lots of Heermann's Gulls, four Black Oystercatchers, a Black Turnstone, a Surf-bird, and two Wandering Tattlers. In the distance, we had great views of large groups of Common Murres and found a Pacific Loon. Several Caspian Terns flew by. On Pescadero Beach we could see a group of Whimbrels. At our last stop, Pigeon Point Lighthouse, we found several Pigeon Guillemots. The day ended with a spectacular marine mammal display with Humpback Whales, dolphins, and seals (acting like dolphins) swimming and diving right off the point. For the day we had 48 species total (not including the mammals). ~**Beth Branthaver**



# Field Trip Schedule

By Hugh Harvey

## September 2017 (Contact Leader for ?s or rain cancellations)

|             |                                     |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| 07 Thursday | Jewel Lake at Tilden Park, Berkeley |
| 09 Saturday | Antioch Dunes NWR                   |
| 16 Saturday | Vaux's Swifts, Healdsburg           |
| 18 Monday   | Hayward Regional Shoreline          |
| 30 Saturday | Outer Point Reyes                   |

## October 2017

|              |                               |
|--------------|-------------------------------|
| 14 Saturday  | Hawk Hill                     |
| 25 Wednesday | Berkeley-Emeryville Shoreline |
| 28 Saturday  | Abbotts Lagoon                |

### 2 Thursday, September 7

#### Jewel Lake at Tilden Park, Berkeley

Leader: Maury Stern (925) 284-5980

Meet at 730 AM in the Nature Center parking lot at the north end of Tilden Park. From Hwy. 24 in Orinda, go north on Camino Pablo, turn L on Wildcat Canyon Rd., stay R at the Brazil Building. At the next main intersection, turn R and pass Lake Anza and the Carousel. Or, take Fish Ranch Road, turn R at the top onto Grizzly Peak Rd., turn R and downhill onto South Park Dr., and L at the bottom onto Wildcat Canyon Rd. Short morning walk looking for migrants. Bring a snack and water.

### 2 Saturday, September 9

#### Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge

Leader: Hugh Harvey (925) 935-2979

Carpool from Sun Valley Mall at 9 AM. **OR**, from Hwy 4 in Antioch, exit north on A Street. After about one mile, follow Wilbur Avenue to the right. Turn left onto Fulton Shipyard Road and cross the railroad tracks. Entry gate is on the right. This is your chance to visit the only NWR in Contra Costa County. We will be guided by a refuge volunteer on a one-hour, docent-led tour from 10-11 AM who will introduce you to the history of the only place on earth where one can see Lang's Metalmark Butterfly, a butterfly that requires Naked-stem Buckwheat for its entire life-cycle. Don't be disappointed if we don't see this butterfly, and don't expect to see flowing sand dunes. After hearing the history, you will understand. It may be hot and dusty on the graded fire trails, and there is no shade. Bring sunscreen, a hat, a snack, and water.

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  
**Sycamore Valley Road Park and Ride location:** Exit I-680 @ Sycamore Valley Rd. and park in lot one block east of freeway.

### 1 Saturday, September 16

#### Vaux's Swifts, Rio Lindo Academy, Healdsburg

Leader: Hugh Harvey (925) 935-2979

We hope to see thousands of swifts enter a chimney on the grounds of the Rio Lindo Academy. This has been an annual occurrence since 1989 when human use of the chimney ceased. Be advised that we will be returning home after dark. Carpool leaves Sun Valley Mall at 4 PM. **OR**, take I-680 across the Benicia Bridge (toll). Go west on I-780 to I-80 towards Sacramento, exit to SR 37. Follow SR 37 to Lakeville Road, turn right. In Petaluma take US 101 north to Healdsburg, exit at Old Redwood Highway/Healdsburg Avenue (Exit 502). Go north to Bailhache Avenue, turn right on Bailhache, which becomes Rio Lindo Avenue. Follow it about three miles into the Academy's main entrance. Turn left at the first stop sign and another left just before the dormitory. In half a block turn right toward the rear of the campus and park on the right just past the chimney. Bring folding chairs, a picnic supper, and join many others as we enjoy the evening show. Alcohol, including wine, is not permitted on any school property in the state. The carpool will first stop in downtown Healdsburg for a bathroom/coffee/food stop. Please call the leader if you want to carpool.

### 2 Monday, September 18

#### Hayward Regional Shoreline at Winton Avenue entrance

Leader: Bob Richmond (510) 427-9843

Carpool leaves Sycamore Valley Road Park and Ride lot in Danville at 745 AM. **OR**, meet at 830 AM at the Winton Avenue entrance. From I-880, exit Winton Avenue and drive west for 4.5 miles. Park near the trailhead just before the parking lot gate. Because traffic is so unpredictable, if no one is there, wait a while. We hope to see passerines, shorebirds, and possible early ducks. Time permitting, we will finish at the San Leandro Marina. Bring water and your lunch.

### 2 Saturday, September 30

#### Outer Point Reyes

Leaders: Hugh Harvey (925) 935-2979  
and David Hutton (925) 451-2962

Carpool from Sun Valley Mall at 7 AM. **OR**, meet at 830 AM at the 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 about 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, go three miles to SR 1. Turn left into Point Reyes Station. After a stop at the Bovine Bakery for coffee and pastries, continue out of town towards Olema, then turn right onto Bear Valley Road to the Visitor Center. We are hoping for migrants and vagrants. Weather is unpredictable. Dress in layers and bring lunch and water.

# Mt. Diablo Audubon Society

## 2017-2018 Field Trip Schedule by Hugh Harvey

### September 2017

|             |                            |       |
|-------------|----------------------------|-------|
| 07 Thursday | Jewel Lake in Tilden Park  | MS    |
| 09 Saturday | Antioch Dunes              | HH    |
| 16 Saturday | Vaux's Swifts, Healdsburg  | HH    |
| 18 Monday   | Hayward Regional Shoreline | BR    |
| 30 Saturday | Outer Point Reyes          | HH/DH |

### October 2017

|              |                               |      |
|--------------|-------------------------------|------|
| 14 Saturday  | Hawk Hill                     | FS   |
| 25 Wednesday | Berkeley-Emeryville Shoreline | EL   |
| 28 Saturday  | Abbotts Lagoon                | J-CS |

### November 2017

|             |                             |    |
|-------------|-----------------------------|----|
| 04 Saturday | Charleston Slough/South Bay | EL |
| 14 Tuesday  | McNabney Marsh/Mt. View SD  | ST |
| 18 Saturday | Limantour                   | MS |

### December 2017

|              |                        |     |
|--------------|------------------------|-----|
| 02 Saturday  | Sacramento/Colusa NWRs | BB  |
| 09 Saturday  | Solano County Raptors  | GF  |
| 16 Saturday  | CBC/Central CC County  | EL2 |
| 20 Wednesday | CBC/East CC County     | EL2 |

### January 2018

|              |                                          |    |
|--------------|------------------------------------------|----|
| 06 Saturday  | Putah Creek                              | FS |
| 18 Thursday  | East Contra Costa County                 | PS |
| 27 Saturday  | Las Gallinas/Rush Ck./S'berger Pk.       | EL |
| 31 Wednesday | Lake Merritt/Arrowhead Marsh @ High Tide | SR |

### February 2018

|                |                                                   |       |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------|
| 08 Thursday    | Grizzly Island                                    | MS    |
| 10 Saturday    | Thornton/Cosumnes Preserve                        | CC    |
| 17 Saturday    | Bodega Bay                                        | HH    |
| 17 Saturday    | John Muir House NHS:<br>Great Backyard Bird Count | EL2   |
| 21 Wednesday   | Sunol Regional Park                               | EL    |
| 24-25 Sat/Sun. | Los Banos/Panoche Valley                          | BB/HH |
| 28 Wednesday   | Walnut Creek Parks                                | HH    |

### March 2018

|              |                            |    |
|--------------|----------------------------|----|
| 07 Wednesday | Contra Loma Reservoir      | PS |
| 13 Tuesday   | McNabney Marsh/Mt. View SD | ST |
| 22 Thursday  | Valle Vista, Moraga        | DL |
| 24 Saturday  | Tomales Bay State Park     | MS |
| 28 Wednesday | Lake Lagunitas             | HH |

### April 2018

|              |                        |    |
|--------------|------------------------|----|
| 04 Wednesday | Orinda Connector Trail | DL |
| 07 Saturday  | Garin Regional Park    | FS |
| 12 Thursday  | North Briones RP       | MS |
| 17 Tuesday   | Pine Canyon            | NW |
| 19 Thursday  | Black Diamond Mines    | PS |
| 21 Saturday  | Mines Road             | HH |
| 24 Tuesday   | Del Puerto Canyon      | BB |
| 26 Thursday  | Mitchell Canyon        | MS |

### May 2018

|             |                                                                     |    |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 01 Tuesday  | Mt. Diablo State Park                                               | ST |
| 03 Thursday | West Briones Regional Park                                          | MS |
| 12 Saturday | East Contra Costa County                                            | GF |
| 12 Saturday | Mt. Wanda, John Muir House NHS:<br>International Migratory Bird Day | TF |
| 22 Tuesday  | "No Child Left Inside"                                              | PS |
| 24 Thursday | "No Child Left Inside"                                              | PS |

### June 2018

|             |                         |      |
|-------------|-------------------------|------|
| 02 Saturday | Outer Point Reyes       | J-CS |
| TBD Sat/Sun | Yuba Pass/Sierra Valley | TBD  |

### July 2018

|              |                               |    |
|--------------|-------------------------------|----|
| TBD Sat/Sun  | Lassen Volcanic National Park | EL |
| 18 Wednesday | Frank's Dump @ High Tide      | HH |

### August 2018

|             |                 |     |
|-------------|-----------------|-----|
| 04 Saturday | San Mateo Coast | TBD |
| 18 Saturday | Bodega Bay      | FS  |

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**Sun Valley Mall parking lot carpool location:** SW corner of mall lot at Willow Pass Road and Contra Costa Blvd. in Concord

**Sycamore Valley Road Park and Ride location:** Exit I-680 at Sycamore Valley Road and drive east. Turn L at the stoplight one block east of the freeway and park in the lot.

### MDAS Field Trip Leaders

|                                               |                |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Hugh B. Harvey, Field Trip Chair (HH)         | (925) 935-2979 |
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| Ethan "Chick" Chickering (CC)                 | (925) 686-9231 |
| Tracy Farrington (TF)                         | (925) 788-6223 |
| Gary Fregien (GF)                             | (916) 708-0636 |
| David Hutton (DH)                             | (925) 451-2962 |
| Eugenia K. Larson (EL)                        | (925) 806-0644 |
| Elizabeth Leite, CBC/Cit. Science Chair (EL2) | (925) 939-4911 |
| Don Lewis (DL)                                | (925) 284-5480 |
| Bob Richmond (BR)                             | (510) 427-9843 |
| Sandy Ritchie (SR)                            | (925) 685-8048 |
| Fred Safier (FS)                              | (925) 937-2906 |
| Paul Schorr (PS)                              | (925) 998-0070 |
| Jean-Carlos Solis (J-CS)                      | (925) 222-8573 |
| Maury Stern (MS)                              | (925) 284-5980 |
| Steve Taylor (ST)                             | (925) 828-8810 |
| Nancy Wenninger (NW)                          | (925) 938-7987 |





## White-breasted Nuthatch ♦ *Sitta carolinensis*

I had not heard any White-breasted Nuthatches recently, but I had seen them at my suet and peanut feeders. I did not realize until I started researching information for this article, that White-breasted Nuthatches are mostly silent in the summer and during the breeding season. But during the rest of the year, they are quite vocal, with up to 13 different calls. Their nasal calls of *quank* or *yank-yank* are often heard, and the male sings a series of 6-8 whistled notes in late winter and spring.

The male White-breasted Nuthatch has a black cap while the female's cap is grayer and duller in color. Upper parts of the female are also duller and paler than the male, along with a duller face. They are the largest of our nuthatches at about 5 to 5.5 inches long. A group of nuthatches is a "jar" of nuthatches.

Males sing to attract females and may display the plumage on the back of their head and body to attract a mate. The males may also spread their tail, droop their wings, sway back and forth, and bow deeply in courtship displays along with courtship feeding of females. Pairs stay together in their nesting territory throughout the year, and may mate for life.

These nuthatches nest in natural cavities of old, large trees, preferring deciduous trees, and may use the same nest site year after year. They are also known to use woodpecker holes, but unlike most other species of nuthatches, do not excavate their own holes.

The female builds the nest, a cup made up of grasses, twigs, bark fibers, and feathers. The parents sweep around the

nest hole, inside and out, with a crushed insect in their bills. The chemical secretions of the crushed insect may help repel predators. They are also known to wipe around the nest holes with a bit of fur or vegetation to help cover up their own scent.

Females lay 5-9 white eggs, spotted with reddish-brown, one brood per year, incubating the eggs for 12 to 14 days. The male will feed her while she is on the nest. Both parents feed the nestlings who will fledge at around 18-26 days. The young will stay with the parents for several weeks before they go out on their own.

White-breasted Nuthatches forage down, up, and sideways over tree trunks or large branches. They can do this because of a long claw-like hind toe on each foot which they use to cling to branches and tree trunks.

Their common name, nuthatch, comes from their habit of jamming large nuts or acorns into a crevice, then whacking them with their bill to "hatch" out the seed from within.

In summer, their diet consists mostly of insects and spiders. In fall and winter, they switch to a more vegetarian diet of seeds, acorns, and corn. They will store large quantities of this food in bark crevices, called "scatter hoarding."

The White-breasted Nuthatch has been proposed to be split into 2-4 species, but more research into this proposal is needed. Estimated at 10 million total in population, 85% of them live in the U.S. The oldest known White-breasted Nuthatch was at least 9 years, 9 months old when it was found in Colorado.

~Jean Halford article and photos



### Community Events

#### ► 2nd Annual Lake Almanor Grebe Festival, Chester, CA, August 18-20

The Plumas Audubon Society invites everyone to join them for the extraordinary "dancing" grebes who nest at Lake Almanor. Enjoy birding, boating, hiking, field trips, and family fun. **For information:** [plumasaudubon.org/grebe-festival](http://plumasaudubon.org/grebe-festival)

#### ► California Coast Cleanup Day, Saturday, September 16, 830 AM-Noon

Your planet needs you. Join East Bay Regional Park District to pick up litter and recyclables from shoreline parks, lakes, and creeks. The Park District will provide snacks, water, and trash bags. Bring gloves, friends, and your enthusiasm. Volunteers who are 15 years or younger must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required. **For information:** (510) 544-2515

#### ► "Mountain Talk," From the Pleistocene to the Present: The Cultural History of the East Bay Native Peoples, Wednesday, September 20, 7-9 PM

One of the best-known wildlife biologists in the Bay Area, "Doc" Hale, will present an informative talk on the rich and diverse Native American cultural history of the East Bay, including the use of medicinal, edible, and useful plants, important to man and birds. Don't miss this wise, deeply observant, and very witty expert's talk. No reservations required. Location: Ygnacio Valley Library, 2661 Oak Grove Road, Walnut Creek. **For information:** [roejenn@aol.com](mailto:roejenn@aol.com)

# Florence Merriam Bailey

## Ornithologist ♦ Author

by Ellis Myers

### PART II

In 1885, Florence Merriam's brother, C. Hart Merriam, had been appointed to head the new Office of Economic Ornithology, which would become the Biological Survey in 1905 and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1940. Two years later, Hart hired a young naturalist, Vernon Bailey, to make biological field studies and to collect birds and mammals in the West. Bailey was a protégé of C. Hart Merriam from 1885, when the twenty-one-year-old had begun sending specimens from his collections. He lived at the Merriam home, and so it followed that Florence Merriam and Vernon Bailey were married in December 1899. They made their home in Washington, D.C.

Vernon Bailey's field trips for the Biological Survey were to continue for many years, frequently accompanied by Mrs. Bailey. Vernon collected and studied birds, mammals, reptiles, and plants—and Florence observed the birds—in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California, the Pacific Northwest, and the Dakotas. Mrs. Bailey wrote up her ornithological observations from all these trips, and they appeared for the most part in *The Auk*, *Bird-Lore*, and *The Condor*.

Frank M. Chapman's *Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America* had been published in 1895. Florence Merriam Bailey wrote a companion volume for the West, *Handbook of Birds of the Western United States*. Her book appeared in 1902, with 600 pages and as many illustrations. Delightful informal stories of the birds follow the scholarly descriptions for field identification. Vernon Bailey wrote some of these sketches, but Florence also drew from the first-hand experiences of Dr. Edward W. Nelson, on the Alaska tundra, or of other ornithologists.

Florence Merriam was one of the founders of the



The Mountain Chickadee, *Poecile gambeli baileyae*, named in honor of Bailey for her contributions to ornithology, Megan Sandri sketch

Audubon Society of the District of Columbia when it was organized in 1897; and she worked tirelessly for the Society when she was in Washington, giving lectures, teaching bird classes, and developing basic instruction in both field and laboratory ornithology at the normal-school level for teachers of nature study.

Florence Bailey was honored in 1908 by Joseph Grinnell

when he named a subspecies of Mountain Chickadee as *Poecile gambeli baileyae*.

The research that Vernon Bailey had been commissioned to do on the birds of New Mexico was to have been collated and published by Prof. Wells W. Cooke, known for his expertise on bird migration, but he died suddenly in 1916, the work unfinished.

Dr. E. W. Nelson, then Chief of the Biological Survey, asked Mrs. Bailey to complete the volume for publication. She was a logical choice, for she had been with her

husband during the years beginning in 1903 when he was in the field making the Survey's thorough biological studies in New Mexico, and she knew the western birds as well as anyone did. She evaluated Professor Cooke's records and data, filled in any gaps, then produced a manuscript as prescribed by Dr. Nelson. This work became the 807-page tome, *Birds of New Mexico*, which was published by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish in 1928. In 1931, Mrs. Bailey was awarded the Brewster Medal of the A.O.U. for this, her magnum opus. She was the first woman ever to receive this honor. Florence Bailey also was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of New Mexico. Vernon Bailey's companion work on *Mammals of New Mexico* was published by the Biological Survey in 1931.

The National Park Service published her final work, *Among the Birds in the Grand Canyon National Park*, in 1939, when Florence was 76 years of age.

When Vernon Bailey retired from the Biological Survey in 1933, the couple maintained their home in Washington D.C. Vernon died in 1942 and Florence passed away in 1948.

Florence Merriam Bailey deserves recognition as an unequalled American nature writer and woman of science who made significant contributions to ornithology through her work with the National Audubon Society, the American Ornithologists' Union, and more.



**Editors Note: Part I of this series appeared in the July/August 2017 Quail. Sadly, Ellis passed away in May of this year, but his legacy lives on through his fascinating naturalist articles. In addition, Mimi Myers wishes to thank the many Audubon members who sent condolence cards to her and her family. They were greatly appreciated.**



Florence Merriam Bailey in 1904, Google Images photo



## The 2017-18 Duck Stamp is Here!

At a highly anticipated June ceremony, the 2017-2018 Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (aka the "duck stamp") was released.

This year's design features three Canada Geese in flight, painted by five-time winner, James Hautman, a talented wildlife artist from Minnesota. His work was chosen from amongst 152 submissions judged by a panel of five. James tied his brother, Joseph, also a five-time winner of this competition. A third brother, Robert, has also been a winner, giving the Hautman brothers 12 collective wins, a talented family, for sure.

Once again, thanks to MDAS member Don Lewis's efforts, MDAS has purchased twenty-five, \$25 duck stamps that will be available for sale at cost at our monthly meetings beginning in September. **To purchase your \$25 stamp, please see Diane Malucelli at the sales table at the September meeting.**

The stamps are good for recreation, allowing the purchaser free admission to National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs) and are very popular with birders, nature photographers, outdoor enthusiasts, and conservationists.

One of the oldest Federal conservation efforts, initiated by President Roosevelt through the 1934 Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act, The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service produces the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation ("duck") Stamp. Sales amounting to nearly \$42 million dollars annually are used to purchase and manage wetlands, bottomlands, and grassland habitats for the NWR system benefitting waterfowl, other birds, and wildlife.

More than \$950 million dollars has been raised since the first duck stamps were sold. Proceeds have helped secure habitat at 253 different NWRs and have helped preserve some three million acres in Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs). Funds also support flood control, reduced soil erosion, and have helped enhance outdoor recreation opportunities. ~Maren Smith

### **\*\*NEW CLASS\*\* Field Identification of Raptors**

**by Bob Power**

*Two 1.5 hour classes and two 4-hour field trips*

*Class: TU, October 24 and 31, 615-745 PM, and two field trips on SUN, October 29 and November 5  
Lafayette Library and Learning Center, Oak Room (maximum of 15 participants)*

**Cost: \$45 MDAS members, \$50 non-members**

**Class Description:** Raptors hold everyone's attention. Their grace as they dominate the airways and their confidence as they survey the landscape are mesmerizing. The beauty and majesty of a raptor on a distant perch always makes a lasting impression. Identification challenges in the field will be the focus of this class including two morning field trips to some of the Bay Area's most productive raptor resource areas. Through observation and discussion, Bob will help you improve your raptor identification skills while observing these thrilling birds in the wild.

**Author Bio:** Bob Power was the lead field seminar leader for the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society for ten years, leading and co-leading both domestic and international birding eco-tours. Bob has been a day-leader for the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory's Hawkwatch program for the past thirteen years, taught Introduction to Birding at Palo Alto Adult School for seven years, and has been teaching raptor identification classes and leading raptor field seminars since 2004.

**To register, contact Dolores Butkus at [doloresbutkus73@yahoo.com](mailto:doloresbutkus73@yahoo.com). (checks payable to MDAS)**

### **Fall Bird Sounds Workshops: Birding By Ear**

**by Denise Wight**

*Class #1: TH, September 14 and 21, 615-745 PM, and field trip SUN, September 24, 8-11 AM (FULL)  
Class #2: W, October 11 and 18, 615-745 PM, and field trip SUN, October 22, 8-11 AM (2 SPACES LEFT)  
Lafayette Library and Learning Center, Oak Room (maximum of 20 participants)*

**Cost: \$30 MDAS members, \$35 non-members**

**ClassDescription:** Fall is a great time to begin learning about bird sounds. We will start with learning the songs and calls of some of the birds that live in our area all year, as well returning winter species. This workshop will offer a wide range of tricks and hints on how to learn and connect the birds to the sounds they make.

**Author Bio:** An Orinda native, since 1996 Denise has taught birding classes at the Orinda Community Center, Wild Birds Unlimited in PH, was a co-leader on Shearwater Journeys pelagic boat trips, and has led classes and field trips for the Lindsay Museum, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Mount Diablo Interpretive Association, Golden Gate Audubon Society, and Mount Diablo Audubon Society, as well as for private groups. Denise has taught Birding by Ear at Albany Adult School for seven years and continues to teach BBE classes for Golden Gate Audubon at the Ed Roberts Campus in Berkeley. She was Program Chair for Mount Diablo Audubon Society from 1992 to 2000. [www.denisewightbirds.com](http://www.denisewightbirds.com)

**To register, contact Maren Smith at [marensmithbkk@yahoo.com](mailto:marensmithbkk@yahoo.com). (checks payable to MDAS)**

**For more Education Committee information and area classes: [diabloaudubon.org/education.php](http://diabloaudubon.org/education.php)**

## A Visit with Rep. Mark DeSaulnier

Mount Diablo Audubon's Legislative Action Committee has been energized by the Trump administration's drive to cut agency funding and federal protection for migratory birds, wildlife and wetlands, and its push for policies that jeopardize water and land conservation.

In that regard, the Committee was pleased that Rep. Mark DeSaulnier, whose 11th Congressional District covers most of Contra Costa, met with seven of its members on August 1 (*photo below*) to hear our concerns and share his views about what's happening in Washington.



The Committee's greatest concern is that the current administration and Republican-controlled Congress will nibble the Endangered Species Act to death from the edges. Committee members noted that there are currently five bills pending in Congress to reduce the Act's effectiveness.

A discussion of one of the measures Rep. DeSaulnier opposed, HR-23, a so-called "drought relief bill" that threatens birds and fish that rely on Central Valley wetlands by diverting water to agricultural use, prompted him to note that a third of California's farms now use drip irrigation systems. "We learned that we can be good stewards and still have a good quality of life," he said of California's response to the most recent drought.

Authored by Rep. David Valadao of Fresno, HR-23 "weakens the Endangered Species Act," Rep. DeSaulnier said. It passed the House in July and awaits action in the Senate.

Committee members also voiced concern about efforts by the Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke to aid the oil and gas industry and agriculture by reducing habitat protection for birds. One well known example is the Sage Grouse, a threatened species that has seen its numbers plummet from an estimated 16 million when the frontier opened, to a few hundred thousand today.

Similarly, the current administration's drive to resume oil drilling off California's coast and weaken wildlife protection in Marine Sanctuaries has drawn the Committee's attention, as has their review of National Monuments created by the Obama administration. Rep. DeSaulnier acknowledged his uncertainty about how well Secretary Zinke will succeed, but told Committee members to persist. "Pushing back works," he says.

"We'll do that!" he said to an invitation to join MDAS members on a bird walk and — schedule permitting — speak at one of our monthly meetings. Right now, Committee members are hoping for a walk, possibly in Mitchell Canyon, in September. Stay tuned. ~Mike Mecham, LAC member

## Powerful Checklist Tool at eBird

Simply stated, eBird is amazing. Birders record what they have seen at a geographic location on a specific day and this information is validated by an expert birder and banked for future research by ornithologists. In addition, this data can have wonderful applications for birders as well as concerned citizens because data collection can be a powerful tool.

In the PBS documentary *The Cloud and The Crowd*, citizen scientist groups were shown utilizing data they had gathered to effect some form of favorable change for a healthier environment or other ecological consideration. Accordingly, when a member of our Legislative Action Committee expressed concern about a potentially polluting business moving into the Grayson Creek drainage, I turned to data from both eBird and two of our Christmas Bird Count surveys from that area to help develop a relevant localized bird inventory. The goal is to alert the Pleasant Hill City Council to potential conflicts between a healthy, bird-friendly Grayson Creek and a nearby CarMax development.

One of the menu tabs on the eBird website is "Explore Data" and from that page, one of the choices is "Explore Hotspots." I typed in "Hidden Lakes Park" and a list of choices came up with my park at the top. When I clicked on that choice I was given the option to choose details of the hotspot, which included 120 species submitted in 40 checklists over many years, mostly by our own members. In addition, I was offered the opportunity to print a checklist specifically for that site with those 120 species on it.

Because Hidden Lakes Park is initially shown on a local map with other sites where people bird, such as the Concord Iron Horse Trail and the DVC campus, I then followed the links for these two sites as well. Ultimately, I was able to generate three site-specific checklists which could be submitted as evidence of birdlife of that direct area.

For birders without a cause, this function is still very useful. You can check what birds are likely to be present at the site you are going to visit and you can print a site-specific checklist in advance. Anywhere people have birded and reported, there will be data available.

If you don't yet report to eBird, consider developing the habit. Sightings are particularly needed for East County birding sites throughout the year. ~Elizabeth Leite, Citizen Science Chairperson

## Urban Wood Duck Success



Brian Murphy, "Just For Ducks" Wood Duck monitor, shared that 84 Wood Duck ducklings have hatched—36 near Civic Park, 36 on San Ramon Creek, and 12 at Heather Farm Park. The ducklings are born, feathered, and ready to leave the nest box within 12 hours of hatching, taking a leap-of-faith jump to join their mother who calls and coaxes from the creek below. **For more photos and information:** [diabloaudubon.org](http://diabloaudubon.org) (Brian Murphy photo)



## Hummers "Humming Along"

Migration has begun. Hummingbirds are moving on to their winter feeding and nesting grounds, in a season that lasts from August through October. Many of the migration routes include the Bay Area, so we may see Black-chinned, Calliope, Rufous (*photo below*), and Allen's Hummingbirds visiting our yards and feeders.



Some research indicates that migration in the Western United States begins when flowers and insects are plentiful along the routes. Before leaving, birds will gain up to 40% of their weight, filling up on insects. They fly during the day, skimming the tops of trees, and make frequent stops for nectar at plants and feeders. They follow the same routes from year to year and can recall locations of feeders they have previously visited

Hummers fly solo, probably to prevent easy detection by predators. Their #1 predator is the house cat, but they may be attacked by hawks, frogs, lizards, snakes, and even fish, as they stop to feed or bathe.

The longest migration, from Alaska to Central America, is some 2500 miles. However, many birds travel much shorter distances from Oregon or Northern California to Southern California or Mexico. Migration can take from two weeks to a month, depending upon distance and weather, with some birds traveling up to 200 miles per day.

In most cases, the males are the first to leave, usually arriving 2-3 weeks ahead of females in the wintering area. It is thought that they do this in order to establish their territories before winter nesting begins.

During the warm weather, you can help migrating hummers by providing fresh nectar in clean feeders, and places to bathe or shower away from cats and other backyard predators. Then sit back and enjoy the show. ~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.

### MDAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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| Legislative Action:     | Ariana Rickard   | .....rickard@post.harvard.edu..(347) 754-0143 |
| Email Meeting Reminder: | Barbara Vaughan  | .....(925) 376-8732                           |
| Honorary Advisor:       | Jean Richmond    | .....(925) 837-2843                           |

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

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 Acorn Woodpecker peeks out from its nest cavity at Fernandez Ranch, a John Muir Land Trust property off Highway 4 near Martinez. Isaac Aronow photo*



*It may have been a summer meeting hiatus for MDAS, but volunteers were active in the community. In June, MDAS participated in the Ruth Bancroft Garden's "Water-wise Wednesday" event (above L); in July, Legislative Action Committee members met with U.S. Representative Mark DeSaulnier (bottom L and story on page 10); and in August, MDAS and the California Bluebird Recovery Program joined 40 other conservation organizations at the 10th Annual Beaver Festival in Martinez. Thank you volunteers: Carol Pachl, Rosalie Howarth, Rosemary Nishikawa, Maren Smith, Melissa Grupp, Javier Guevara, Kathy Kellogg, Christina Lopez, Paul and Nancy Schorr, Mike Eliot, Georgette Howington, and Tom Garry. Together, we shared our love of birds and conservation message to hundreds of people in our community. (MDAS member photos)*