

the Quail

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

Volume 63, Number 8

May 2018

May Program, 8 PM : Jailbirds of Alcatraz: Monitoring Nesting Seabird Colonies ♦ Heather Robinson

Alcatraz is one of the most visited National Parks in our country, yet very few people realize that this 22-acre island in the center of San Francisco Bay is home to nine species of



nesting water and seabirds. Every March - September these birds can be found on Alcatraz, with the largest colonies belonging to Western Gulls and Brandt's

Cormorants. In order to uphold the National Park Service's dual mandate to preserve resources for enjoyment of people, the bird populations on Alcatraz have been monitored for over 20 years, focusing on three main areas: population size, reproductive success, and human disturbance. Robinson will share her research observations.

Originally from Massachusetts, Heather Robinson moved to central California in 2002 to pursue a Master's degree in Marine Science from Moss Landing Marine Laboratories. After completing her degree, she moved to Africa for a two-year service in the Peace Corps in Zambia teaching villagers how to farm tilapia. Heather then returned to the San



Francisco Bay area where she began a career working with marine birds for the U.S. Geological Survey and then, Farallon Institute. Currently, Heather is a scientist with the Farallon Institute in Petaluma, CA, where for the last five years she has studied seabirds on Alcatraz and California sea lions on Año Nuevo Island.

For more information: www.faralloninstitute.org

Top left: Brandt's Cormorant;
 Bottom left: Heather Robinson;
 and Top right: Great Egret,
 all photos Heather Robinson

Meeting Schedule

The next meeting of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society will be **Thursday, May 3** in the Camellia Room, 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* & raffle
**please bring your own coffee mug*
8:00 PM Program: Jailbirds of Alcatraz ♦ Heather Robinson

NEXT MONTH: Th., June 7,
6:30 PM: Potluck Dinner
8:15 PM: Program: Birds of Cuba ♦ Alvaro Jaramillo

7 PM Birding Information

The former Concord Naval Weapons Station (CNWS) closed in September of 2005. Since that time, the East Bay Regional Park District has been working closely with the City of Concord, the U.S. Navy, the National Park Service, and others to preserve over 2,500 acres of the property for a future regional park. Brian Holt, Chief of Planning/GIS, will present on the project's history, the proposed plan, and next steps.

With the upcoming school summer vacation, I am reminded of special times that Nancy and I have shared with three of our granddaughters. During their formative younger years, we did childcare for them, and whenever their school or summer vacations allowed, we would take them into the Bay Area outdoors. The girls always took their binoculars with them, which they had received as birthday or Christmas gifts.

On one beautiful spring day, we decided to drive to the summit of Mt. Diablo to enjoy the magnificent views from there. On our way down the mountain, we stopped along the way to picnic at the Juniper Picnic area. While we sat having lunch, we had thrilling views of a Golden Eagle as it passed by very closely, a memorable sighting for all of us.

As we continued down the mountain, we stopped at the Junction Campground and Picnic Area. During our walk through the area, we encountered Jean Richmond and some of her birding friends. When Jean asked the girls what birds they had seen, they replied with very good recall, and Jean exclaimed that they were going to be better birders than their grandfather. And, I hope that will be the case.

During another outing to Heather Farm Park (in 2011) with our youngest granddaughter, Emma, we walked around the large, mostly natural pond. Emma always enjoyed listing the birds that we saw, and borrowing my camera to

photograph as many birds as possible. During our walk, we spotted a Green Heron and eight year-old Emma got a really good photo which was even published in a 2011 *Quail* newsletter. She was thrilled, of course, as were Nancy and I.

We are sad that those days have passed, but we are so happy that they happened. Now that the girls are young adults, their interests have changed. But, hopefully, later in life they will recall with fond memories, the special times that they shared with Nana and Papa, and the joy of birding. We hope that we helped instill a lifetime "spark" for them.

If you have the opportunity to share your enjoyment of birding with someone else this spring or summer, I know that you will feel as gratified as we do, and I would really enjoy hearing your stories.

Instill the spark in someone!



Green Heron, Emma Fournier (Paul and Nancy Schorr's granddaughter, taken at age 8) photo

Good News For a Rescued Hawk

When a concerned citizen spotted a Cooper's Hawk near Hayward tied up in fishing or kite wire, PG&E came to the rescue. The bird had become entangled, then trapped in a tree 50 feet off the ground. Due to high winds, the PG&E truck was used in lieu of a firetruck to carry a Department of Fish and Wildlife employee towards the hawk where he was then able to free it, capture it, and, get it checked out by a wildlife facility. From news reports, at least 10 humans from three agencies helped with the rescue. Sometimes, it takes a village.

And, *that's* good news for the rescued Cooper's Hawk. ~Maren Smith

Election of Officers

The election of officers for 2018-2019 will be held at the May 3 meeting. All members are eligible to stand for election and may submit nominations from the floor.

In accordance with the MDAS Bylaws, Brian Murphy, Nominating Committee Chair, presented the names of the nominees at the April 5 meeting. They are:

- President: Paul Schorr
- Vice-President: Kent Fickett
- Treasurer: Steve Buffi
- Secretary: Carol Pachl

Welcome New Members

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Helen Moss | Walnut Creek |
| Wayne & Sandy Narr | Danville |
| Lori Altabet | Walnut Creek |

Q

What plover is called Grey Plover in most areas of the world except for North America? Unscramble the letters or see page 7.

KOCVBDEERLILLAPBLE

MDAS on the Web

- www.diabloaudubon.org
- www.facebook.com/mtdiabloaudubon
- www.meetup.com/Mount-Diablo-Audubon-Society/

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.

The *Quail* is published monthly except in January and August by the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, P.O. Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94597-0053. **The June-August Quail deadline will be May 7.**

✓ Two Easy, No-brainer Ways to Give

1. Register at Wild Birds Unlimited in Pleasant Hill as an MDAS member, and each time you make a purchase, 5% of the sale will be donated to MDAS and Native Bird Connections. Since 2012, Mike has made a whopping donation of over \$3300 to these two bird education/conservation groups! Thanks Mike Eliot!

2. If you, anyone in your family (hello millenials!), or your friends shop online at Amazon, it's so easy to designate MDAS to receive a portion of your purchase. Simply register "MT Diablo Audubon Society" (weird caps, I know) as your favorite non-profit charity at smile.amazon.com. For every eligible purchase, MDAS receives 0.5% in their coffers. "You shop. Amazon gives."

Observations (3/4-4/8/18) — by Maury Stern

March was a month of returning summer breeders and departing northern and mountain breeders.

CM saw three **Tundra Swans** at Mallard Reservoir 3/17.

A **Tufted Duck** near Bethel Island was seen 3/4 by JCh, BT; 3/7 HH, JT; and 3/16, BD.

Two **Black Scoters** were present from 3/4 to 4/8 and seen by many, usually near the Richmond Marina. JT, GG, JC, MK, AK, TFr, JH, VP, JR, LP, ES, LW, FD, PM, JHo, TB, RL, JE, DWe, RB, DT, BD, DR, SD, ESt

A **Long-tailed Duck** was between Pt. Molate/Pt. San Pablo to Ferry Pt. and the Richmond Marina between 3/4 and 4/7. JT, JSt, TB LK, MSt, C&TW, GG, DP, GC, JBe, DWe, FW, RB, BD, DT, CM, VW, SH

A male **Barrow's Goldeneye** was at Contra Loma Reservoir 3/4. JCh, BT

Also, on 3/4, a **Red-necked Grebe** was at Contra Loma. AL, BT, JCh

P S had one **Rufous Hummingbird** in his Antioch backyard 3/27, and two on 4/7.

A **Calliope Hummingbird** was at the Pinole home of JEd.

One or two **Ruddy Turnstones** were with a flock of **Black Turnstones** at Miller-Knox RP 3/24, LL; 4/5, LF.

JHo saw a healthy **Common Murre** at the Richmond Marina 3/11; one was seen near the Shimada Friendship Park 3/24, LS, MaS; and JH saw a lethargic one at Ferry Point 4/4.

Glaucous Gulls were at Los Vaqueros 3/24, LK; 3/31, LK, CM; and at the Clifton Court Forebay 3/31, CM, LK.

Caspian Terns were at the Canal Blvd. viewing platform 3/4, JT; Pt. Isabel 3/19, AK; Heather Farm 4/3, HH, FS, TF; and Contra Loma 4/7, PS.

A **Pacific Loon** was off-shore of Vincent Park 3/8. BD

Brandt's Cormorants were in the Pt. San Pablo/Pt. Richmond area 3/4 to 3/27. PB, BD, LW, JR, LP, C&TW

Up to 15 **American White Pelicans** were flying around the Lafayette Reservoir 3/12. RSi, LS

SD saw two **Osprey** at the old pier in Pt. Pinole RP 3/11.

the Quail

On 3/19 a **Bald Eagle** harassed an **Osprey** at Pt. Pinole. SD

JL saw two **Golden Eagles** being bothered by 35 **Common Ravens** at Sibley Volcanic Park 3/27.

A **Northern Pygmy Owl** was in the Sibley RP parking lot 3/9. PT

The Tilden Nature Area **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** continued at least until 3/19. KD, GC, RBo, EO, SG, MK, SC, JHe, MRi, BD, SL, AR, JT

A **Peregrine Falcon** was at Pt. Pinole 3/11. SD

A first-of-season (FOS) **Western Wood- Peewee** was at the Valle Vista Staging Area on 3/20. DL

D W saw a **Hammond's Flycatcher** at Valle Vista 4/3.

An **Eastern Phoebe** was viewed by many from 3/17 to 4/8 at Miller-Knox RP in Pt. Richmond. LL, LK, GC, SD, ESo, JHo, CL, DWe, JC, HB, ES, AK, PB, JS, KP, VP, BD, JH, MR, LW, JR, RL, LP, EI, CM, KSc, BR, KS, JSt, C&TW

The Heather Farm **Tropical Kingbird** was seen as late as 4/8. AK, EK, BD, FS, JBl, TF, HH

A **Cassin's Vireo** was in Pine Canyon 4/7. MKr

JL saw two **Purple Martins** flying with a large group of **Violet-green Swallows** at Sibley 3/27.

A **Swainson's Thrush** was early at Lake Anza in Tilden 4/3. JHe

AL saw an **Orange-crowned Warbler** at LMC Lake in Pittsburg 3/7. Many have arrived in late March.

A **Nashville Warbler** was at Black Diamond Mines 4/4. DW

On 3/25, an anonymous birder saw a **Yellow Warbler** along Cerrito Creek. LK saw one in Creekside Park in El Cerrito 4/5.

AF saw a **Black-throated Gray Warbler** in Danville 3/19.

A **Rufous-crowned Sparrow** was at Wildcat Cyn., Belgum Trail 3/12. AK
The Briones **Vesper Sparrow** continued 3/4-3/19. CA, DQ, KH, OJ

A Heather Farm "first" **Savannah Sparrow** was seen 3/27. HH, FS, TF

Singing **Grasshopper Sparrow** was seen and heard at Wildcat Canyon, Belgum Trail area 4/1 and 4/4. RS, AK

BD and KH saw a **Swamp Sparrow** at the Ironhouse Sanitary District 3/7.

A **White-throated Sparrow** remained at AK's Richmond home 4/4.

A **Harris's Sparrow** was at Pt. Isabel for two days, 3/17 and 3/18. DR, LK, GC, KS, ES

AF saw a **Western Tanager** at his Walnut Creek home 3/19.

A **Black-headed Grosbeak** made a brief appearance 3/31 at SS's Lafayette home; MB saw one at the Lafayette Community Center 4/1; and 4/6 one remained as a continuing yard bird in Lafayette. MS

Hooded Orioles were seen as early as 3/3 in Concord, MW; others came at a more typical time, 3/29, JB; and 4/5, MM, both seen in Martinez.

A **Bullock's Oriole** was at Heather Farm 4/3, TF; and Contra Loma RP 4/7, PS.

~

CA Clayton Anderson, PB Pat Bacchetti, JBe Jonah Benningfield, HB Holly Bern, JBl John Blakelock, JB Jackie Bobrosky, RBo Rauri Bowie, TB Tony Brake, MB Madeline Brane, RB Russ Bright, JCh Juli Chamberlin, SC Stephen Chan, JC Jim Chiropolis, GC Graham Chisholm, SD Sheila Dickie, KD Kris Dunlap, BD Bob Dunn, FD Frances Dupont, JEd Jack Edick, JE Janet Ellis, TF Tracy Farrington, AF Andrew Ford, LF Lee Friedman, TFr Teale Fristoe, SG Susan Greef, GG George Griffeth, JH John Harris, HH Hugh Harvey, JHe Jeff Hendricks, KH Kevin Hints, JHo Jeff Hoppes, SH Steven Hunter, EI Emmett Iverson, OJ Oliver James, LK Logan Kahle, MK Michael Karpinko, AK Alan Krakauer, MKr Mary Krentz, EK Elizabeth Kroll, RL Roger Lambert, SL Seth LaRosa, DL Don Lewis, AL Albert Linkowski, LL Laura Look, CL Calvin Lou, JL John Luther, PM Pat Mahoney, MM Mike Marchiano, CM Colin Meusel, DP Donald Pendleton, LP Linda Pittman, KP Kir Pridatko, VP Vasy Pridatko, DQ Dave Quady, MR Mark Rauzon, BR Bob Richmond, MRi Matt Ricketts, AR Allison Rofe, DR Dan Roth, JR Jim Rowth, FS Fred Safier, RS Rusty Scauf, PS Paul Schorr, KSc Kevin Schwartz, JS Judi Sierra, RSi Richard Sintchak,

>>>continued on page 6
May 2018

Trip Reports

Contra Loma Regional Park, Wednesday, March 7: On a beautiful springlike day, 23 birding enthusiasts totaled 67 birds seen or heard. One of the lasting visible remnants of the

2015 fire was a charred, dead tree, but life was abundantly apparent in the Red-shouldered Hawk nest that occupied the blackened branches. This pair of hawks has nested in this tree for the past three years. There was a very nice showing of raptors with the following species seen: Osprey, White-tailed Kite, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, and Merlin. Additionally, there were good views of three owl species: Barn, Great Horned, and Burrowing. Early in the walk, the group watched in amazement as a Great Blue Heron stalked, speared, dragged ashore, and killed a large rainbow trout that was estimated to be 2-3 pounds. The



Common Gallinule,
Paul Schorr photo

drama became more interesting as the heron tried several times to orient the fish head-first for swallowing, but once in the correct position, seemed to have no trouble, as we witnessed the large swelling in its neck! (*see photo sequence and comments by Isaac Aronow, photographer, below*) In the same area as the heron were a Virginia Rail and a calling Sora. Common Gallinules were indeed "common," as they displayed their bright red, yellow-tipped bills. Lark, Fox, Song, Lincoln's, White-crowned, and Golden-crowned Sparrows constituted the six sparrow species seen. Other notable sightings included: California Quail (always good to see), Loggerhead Shrike, Hermit Thrush, and American White Pelican. ~Paul Schorr



From Isaac Aronow: It was an incredible natural wildlife experience (but not for the fish), observing the heron stand silently, then stretch its head further out than I've ever seen a heron do before, and then, with fast, lightning speed, impale the fish. It certainly was more than a mouthful! Later, we saw the Great Blue Heron on the pier, relaxed, as if nothing unusual had happened.

Lake Lagunitas, Wednesday, March 28: What a gorgeous day on the north slope of Mt. Tamalpais, walking around the highest lake in the watershed. But, while we saw or heard 40 species, it was not exactly a birdy day. In many cases we had one individual of a particular species,

such as the Band-tailed Pigeon which flew past; one Great Egret; a Cooper's Hawk; a flying-away Osprey; a single heard Red-shouldered Hawk; one heard Warbling Vireo; a single seen Pygmy Nuthatch; and a lone heard Purple Finch. But, we heard many calls of the unseen Pileated Woodpecker, and we had many sightings of Acorn Woodpecker groups. The lake had five Common Mergansers, two Pied-billed Grebes, and a single American Wigeon. For flowers, we had lots of blooming Hound's Tongue, Milk Maids, a few Shooting Stars, and one Checker Lily. We also saw many butterflies we later learned were part of a major California Tortoiseshell migration. Finishing our checklist, a Belted Kingfisher flew up the outlet creek and perched for all to see.



Above: Checker Lily, Isaac Aronow photo; Below L: Orange-crowned Warbler, and Bottom R: juvenile Allen's Hummingbird, Beth Branthaver photos

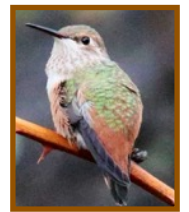
~Hugh Harvey

Orinda Connector Trail, Wed., April 4: Ten members and a guest from the UK enjoyed a nice spring walk in the mixed riparian and green field habitats of this little-known trail.



Mostly we saw and heard our resident birds, but a few migrants had just arrived, notably Orange-crowned and Wilson's Warblers, and Warbling Vireos. We heard a Virginia Rail in the mini-marsh at the base of the Briones dam, but were unable to seduce it into view. A male Hairy Woodpecker highlighted the walk back to our starting point. A big miss was not even hearing a turkey! Forty-eight species were seen or heard in all. ~Don Lewis

Garin Regional Park, Saturday, April 7: It had been raining steadily for two days, so only four members and three guests met at the Garin parking lot. However, aside from a few tiny drops, we experienced no rain and steadily clearing skies; the trails varied from acceptable, to very muddy, to totally impassible. The birds seemed grateful for the respite from the rain; we tallied a total of 47 species. We saw several remaining winter residents (both crowned sparrows, Flicker) and most of the just-arrived spring birds, with good looks at White-tailed Kites, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Black-headed Grosbeak, Wilson's Warbler, and a male Bullock's Oriole. A long muddy slog up the slope rewarded us with a very cooperative Grasshopper Sparrow. But the best was quite early, as we watched two young Selasphorus hummingbirds sitting (puzzlingly) very calmly, very close to us. The puzzle was solved when the mother hummingbird, (thus clearly an Allen's since Rufous do not breed in that park) appeared and before our eyes fed both of the youngsters. That alone, was worth the journey! ~Fred Safier



Cancelled due to rain: McNabney Marsh, 3/13; Valle Vista, 3/22; and Tomales Bay, 3/24

Field Trip Schedule

By Hugh Harvey

May 2018 (Contact Leader for ?s or rain cancellations)

- 01 Tuesday Mt. Diablo State Park
- 03 Thursday West Briones Regional Park
- 05 Saturday Mount Wanda-Global Big Day 2018
- 12 Saturday East Contra Costa County
- 22 & 24 Tu/Th "No Child Left Inside" School Program

June 2018

- 02 Saturday Outer Point Reyes
- 23-24 Sat./Sun. Sierra Valley and Yuba Pass

July 2018

- 14-15 Sat./Sun. Mt. Lassen NP area
- 18 Wednesday Frank's Dump @ High Tide

2 Tuesday, May 1

Mount Diablo State Park

Leader: Steve Taylor (925) 828-8810

MDSP is a treasure trove for birders. Although every season on the mountain has its special qualities, early May adds colorful wildflowers to the vistas. **NOTE:** Carpool leaves at 8 AM from La Gonda. From I-680 southbound, exit at El Pintado, turn right and right again; park along open space on left. From I-680

northbound, exit El Cerro, turn left, then right at second light onto La Gonda; carpool point is about one-half mile north. **OR,** meet at 8:45 AM at the South Gate entrance after birding South Gate Road. (\$10 per car entry fee required) Many migrant and nesting species are possible including Sage Sparrows, California Thrashers, woodpeckers, raptors, and warblers. Usually hot! Bring snack, lunch, and liquids.



California Thrasher, Maren Smith photo

2 Thursday, May 3

West Briones Regional Park

Leader: Maury Stern (925) 284-5980

Meet at 8 AM in parking lot on the right side of the west entrance road, off Bear Creek Road. From SR 24 in Orinda, drive north on Camino Pablo 2.25 miles, turn right on Bear Creek Road, and continue for 4.5 miles to entrance. Wildflowers, (and poison oak), spring birds, and Lazuli Bunting are usually abundant.



Above: Lazuli Bunting, Isaac Aronow photo;
Top R: Trillium, Beth Branthaver photo



Bring lunch and liquids.

3 Saturday, May 5

Mount Wanda, John Muir NHS, Global Big Day 2018

Leader: Alan Bade (925) 330-1780

Join MDAS and John Muir National Historic Site staff for a collaborative Citizen Science field trip for eBird's Global Big Day! In 2017, global birder teams from 150 countries contributed over 50,000 checklists to the eBird data base. Meet at 8:30 AM in the Mount Wanda parking lot at 4202 Alhambra Avenue (Franklin Canyon Road intersection just south of Hwy. 4) in Martinez. (www.diabloaudubon.org, **Field Trips**) The initial hike up Mount Wanda is a gradual climb through blue oaks and wildflowers. The terrain flattens out atop the plateau. Plan on four hours for the loop trail, or shorten the trip according to your needs. Bring snacks, lunch, and liquids.

2 Saturday, May 12

East Contra Costa County

Leader: Gary Fregien (916) 708-0636

Carpool leaves Sun Valley at 6:15 AM. **OR,** meet the leader at 7 AM on Cypress Road at the Marsh Creek Trailhead parking lot just east of O'Reilly's Auto Parts in Oakley. Go north on I-680, exit Highway 4 toward Stockton/Pittsburg, take right Exit 30 toward CA-160/Sacramento/Rio Vista (just past Hillcrest Avenue Exit; do NOT continue straight on Hwy. 4). Take exit 1-A East 18th/Main Street, turn right at the bottom of the exit onto Main Street and drive through Oakley for about four miles, turn left onto Cypress Road. Make a U-turn at Picasso Drive, the stoplight after the railroad tracks. Target birds include: Blue Grosbeak, Hooded Oriole, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Swainson's Hawk, Yellow-billed Magpie, and Yellow-breasted Chat. Bring lunch and liquids.



Hooded Oriole, Joy Shonfeld photo

Tuesday, May 22 and Thursday, May 24 "No Child Left Inside" School Program Contra Loma Reservoir RP

Leader: Paul Schorr (925) 938-7987

Summer Weekend Field Trips, p. 6

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 field trips should have proof of liability insurance in their cars.**

1: Easy, little walking, smooth paths 2: Moderate, one mile+, rougher terrain 3: Difficult, many miles, rough terrain

Sun Valley Mall Parking Lot: SW corner of mall lot at Willow Pass Rd. and Contra Costa Blvd. in Concord

**Saturday-Sunday, June 23-24
Sierra Valley and Yuba Pass**

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

This is always a productive weekend trip to the northern Sierra which requires driving and walking, some of it over rough terrain. Saturday we will bird in the Sierra Valley for basin birds. Sunday we will bird in the Yuba Pass area for mountain birds. Meet at the parking lot at the top of the pass at 7 AM Saturday morning. **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 has some accommodations and meals. High Country Inn (530) 862-1530 or (800) 862-1530 is across Hwy. 49 from Bassett's. Also, in Calpine is Sierra Valley Lodge (530) 994-3367 or (800) 858-0322. [www.sierracity.com/ Stay/LodgingCamp](http://www.sierracity.com/Stay/LodgingCamp). Campgrounds are located at Yuba Pass and Chapman Creek downhill to the west. Sites are available first-come, first-served for three days at a time. Longer term reservations can be made at (877) 444-6777, but there is an additional \$10 charge for this service. After June 18 call Wild Birds Unlimited (925) 798-0303 for information.

**Saturday-Sunday, July 14-15
Mt. Lassen NP area**

Leaders: Eugenia K. and Gary 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. Leaders will be camping in Section D of the Manzanita Lake Campground, which is tents-only and non-reservable. If you prefer not to camp, google "motels near Lassen National Park" for options. 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 Eugenia for details or to ask any questions at (925) 806-0644 or email her at eklarson@comcast.net.

>>> Observations Abbreviations, continued from page 3

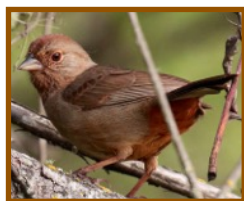
ESo Elizabeth Sojourner, ESt Elaine Stamman, MSt Michael Stanley, LS Lucas Stephenson, MaS Mark Stephenson, JSt John Sterling, MS Maury Stern, SS Susan Stern, LS Lori Stoneman, ES Emilie Strauss, KS Kirk Swenson, JT John Toldi, BT Bob Toledo, DT Davide Tomb, PT Peter Trueblood, DWe Dave Weber, FW Fred Werner, LW Liz West, DW Denise Wight, C&TW Chris and Teri Wills, MW Marilyn Wojcik, and VW Viviane Wolinsky

Citizen Science: Global Big Day 2018

Global Big Day is a data-generating event created and hosted through Cornell University's Ornithology Lab and its eBird project. We are being asked to join other birders all over the planet to provide a snapshot of where birds are being seen early in the migratory periods of spring or fall migration, depending on the hemisphere. Last year's global team was comprised of over 20,000 birders who reported 6500 species.

Cornell is coordinating a team of birders, Team Sapsucker, who will go about a shared day of birding in Columbia, Honduras, and California—probably some graduate students studying species on their wintering grounds, or collecting other data far from New York.

This year, MDAS members and John Muir National Historic Site staff are pairing up to identify species and count birds on Mt. Wanda, wooded land in the southwestern part of the park. We are scheduling our birding walk on Saturday, May 5 so that MDAS can contribute to this citizen science effort as an organization, the second year we are collaborating with park staff to enhance the park's inventory of known species. Please join us! (see page 5 for more details)



*California Towhee,
Beth Branthaver
photo*

You may choose to participate in Global Big Day on your own. Simply go birding and record your results on eBird. Enter complete checklists of species and numbers and initiate a new checklist if you bird more than one area. If interested, follow the progress of birders worldwide at www.ebird.org/globalbigday. ~Elizabeth Leite, Citizen Science Chair

Worth a Dam! Martinez Beaver Festival,

When John James Audubon travelled 2200 miles along the Missouri River in 1842 he famously didn't see a single beaver. He wrote that the river was "quite destitute" even though it had once abounded with the beaver, muskrats and otter. We now understand that, because of the devastating effects of fur trade, the bird life of the region was likely changing as well. Beaver wetlands increase waterfowl—even beaver chewing of trees produces a natural "coppicing" that creates ideal nesting habitat for migratory and song birds.

What was a landscape like without beavers? Fortunately for Martinez, we didn't have to find out. When a beaver family showed up in 2007, residents worked hard to convince the city to let them stay and the reward was a creek filled with new birds, fish and wildlife. Now, we celebrate the difference they made with an annual Beaver Festival—June 30, from 11 AM-4 PM will be our 11th annual event. As always, the festival will feature nature exhibits, live music, children's activities, and a wildlife-centered silent auction, all in our new location, Susana Park at Susana and Estudillo Streets in Martinez.



Special this year, Napa chalk artist, Amy G. Hall, will be creating a giant beaver pond in the central plaza. In addition, author, Ben Goldfarb, will read from his ground-breaking, new book on the ecology of beavers. MDAS will have a table there, it will be a *dam* good time, and it's free! For information: www.martinezbeavers.org ~Heidi Perryman, President of Worth a Dam



Black-bellied Plover ♦ *Pluvialis squatarola* ————— by Jean Halford

Black-bellied Plovers are common on our California mudflats, beaches, and pastures, foraging with a sedate run-and-snatch technique. They are found in coastal and Central Valley areas of Northern California from September to May, with migration peaks in April and May and again in September and October. These plovers winter on six continents. Summer is spent in the high arctic zones around the world.

This plover is a medium-sized shorebird, 10-13 inches in length. It sports a black, stout bill and relatively long legs. Its wings extend beyond its tail when they are folded. In non-breeding plumage, it is gray-brown above with a gray-speckled breast and pale belly. In breeding plumage the male has a black face, breast and belly, with a white stripe that runs from its forehead down the sides of its neck, and a brownish-black back with white spangles. In flight, the black “wing pits” are present in all plumages. The Black-bellied Plover is the only plover that has a hind toe on its foot, so small that it is difficult to see in the field.

Their winter diet consists of crustaceans, insects and mollusks, while their summer diet is mostly insects and some plant material. Their large eyes are adapted to nocturnal foraging, which is common.

The photo, above, of a breeding male Black-bellied Plover was taken by me while in Canada’s arctic tundra outside of



Cambridge Bay. The nest was so well hidden that when the parents distracted us and we took our eyes off the nest for one split second, it was impossible to find the nest again.

The nest site is on dry tundra with abundant lichens, low shrubs, and plants. The nest is a shallow scrape lined with lichens, moss, and dried grasses. Males begin the scrape and females add the lining. A typical nest contains four eggs and both adults incubate and care for the young.

Incubation lasts 26-27 days, and shortly after hatching, the chicks leave the nest and feed themselves. If a predator threatens, the adults may lure it away by using the broken-wing act, or even mob a predatory bird that comes near the nest area. The chicks fledge when 35-45 days old. Young birds do not breed until they are two years old, so they typically remain on the wintering grounds until their second summer.

The Black-bellied Plover is a long distance migrant which is facilitated by its high speed flight. It is a wary bird and quick to give alarm calls, thus, it is known as a sentinel to mixed groups of shorebirds. This trait helped them avoid market hunters in the 19th and 20th centuries, when other species were being decimated.

The oldest recorded Black-bellied Plover was at least 12 years, 8 months old when it was found in California. A group of plovers can be called a “brace,” “congregation,” “deceit,” and /or a “wing” of plovers.

Community Events

► “We Love Mother Nature Event,” Wild Birds Unlimited, Sat., May 12, 10 AM-4 PM

Bring the family to view live birds, snakes, and spiders! Learn about local nature, environmental, and animal rescue groups, where to enjoy parks, and how you can help in protecting wildlife. It’s free, educational, and fun! Volunteers needed for the MDAS table (lunch and snacks provided). Contact: b-murphy21@hotmail.com 692 Contra Costa Blvd., Pleasant Hill

► Beaver Festival, Susana Park, Martinez, Saturday, June 30, 11 AM-4 PM

The 11th annual festival, always a “dam” good time, has moved from August to June, and to its new location at Susana Park, Susana and Estudillo Streets, in downtown Martinez. (see article with details on page 6) www.martinezbeavers.org

► The Gardens, “The Ecology of Heather Farm Pond Birds” Classes, 4:30-6 PM

This 5-part series is designed to teach participants the skills needed to identify, appreciate, and keep track of the diversity of birds around Heather Farm Pond, bringing together a range of participants from novice to avid birders, teens to adults. Classes are geared toward fostering a love of nature in young birders, launching a new generation of citizen scientists armed with the tools needed to understand and protect the environment. Led by Noelle Pipa, lead Natural Science teacher, you will also learn from experts on various topics. Completion of this series will certify you to enter data in public data bases (eBird) and on The Gardens website. The course is offered free of charge to students interested in volunteering their time (by application). **Dates:** May 3: Sketching-John Muir Laws; May 17: Journaling/Recording Data; May 24: Bird Rehab: Lindsay Wildlife Experience; June 7: HF Pond Ecology: Georgette Howington and Brian Murphy; June 21: Birdwalking Basics **Cost:** All 5 classes: \$90 members/\$100 non-members, or \$25 for each class. (MDAS receives member discount) Series is offered free of charge to students with an approved application and a promise of equal time spent in community service at the Lindsay Wildlife Experience or The Gardens at Heather Farm. The Gardens: 1540 Marchbanks Drive, Walnut Creek (925) 947-6712, education@gardenshf.org

To register: gardenshf.org/bird-series/ and for Youth Application: tinyurl.com/GardensHFCommunity

Golden-winged Reflections: California Birding

I hate flying. Flying is for birds. But I flew in from Boston in order to visit my brother “Chick” and be there for his birthday, his eightieth, but mostly I came to bird. I am blessed



to have a brother and sister-in-law who also love birding, so it was ideal. I have visited them before and birded with them before, so I was expecting things in the Bay Area to be different from Essex County, Massachusetts which is my birding patch.

Although I expected things to be different, I didn't really know how different. After all, I was exchanging an East Coast winter for a West Coast winter and soon found that the West Coast doesn't really have a winter; what they have is almost-winter. They bundle up when the morning temperature dips to the thirties and their snow is only in the high elevations, where it can't do any harm. Not only that, they have birds, lots of them. It's not that we in New England don't have any bird life in February. We do. But, not to the profusion I found here in California.

The birding experience was odd and intense. One of my target birds was the Golden-crowned Sparrow. I had chased one many years back when it was reported in central Massachusetts. To no avail. Back in 1992, on a birding trip to southern California, we had stumbled upon a single Golden-crowned Sparrow at a place known as Hi Mountain Road. I wanted to see another.

Within the first few hours that my brother took me out, the Golden-crowned Sparrow had evolved from being a target bird to being a trash bird. They were literally everywhere. Trash bird or not, I couldn't quite ween myself from the wonder of seeing one, from seeing several. It seemed that every scratching ensemble of birds that popped out beside a trail was almost exclusively Golden-crowned Sparrow. There were dull ones where I had to struggle to see even a trace of that crown and there were others in the full grandeur of their breeding plumage. It was magnificent and it never got old.

Everything here in California seemed so different, so exotic from what I was used to. The hills were high and steep and treeless. The delta was flat and flooded and reminded me more of parts of Texas than anywhere else. Roadsides were empty of the thick understory that is ubiquitous back home.

During my visit, the days were a little chilly and the forecast of heavy rain turned out to be scattered downpours and patches of blue sky. And then, there was the avian life. Back home, a report of a White-fronted Goose was an event



Golden-crowned Sparrow,
Cassie Tzur photo

for the hot lines—people proudly posted seeing the bird. Here, I witnessed a flooded field with literally hundreds of them. We have Snow Geese back home, now and again, in small discrete flocks. Here, I saw clouds of them flying in. The same is true of Black-necked Stilt, which back home, draws a crowd and is on the agenda of any self-respecting bird walk. Here, they were all over the place.

Of course, I was delighted to have many good looks at birds we would never see in Massachusetts: Black Phoebe, Steller's Jay, Bushtit, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Cinnamon Teal, Burrowing Owl, and Anna's Hummingbird. It was what I had hoped for and all were a treat to see.



Burrowing Owl, Pam Lorenz photo

Yet, I think what was most impressive was the actual bulk of the avian biomass. I walked one morning about three miles down a bike trail alongside a canal, and everywhere I looked I saw the movement of birds in the trees, the bushes and on the ground at the edge of the pathway. Some were familiar, others new and exotic. We in Massachusetts will have comparable numbers, but we will have to wait until the end of April.

My brother and his birding friends took me to many places, so many that it all runs together in my memory. But what remains clear and distinct are the various birds I saw.

To accentuate the contrasts, when I came home, the number of birds was decidedly less when I walked the road on Plum Island. However, there were plenty of Black Ducks and out in the salt marsh, I had two Snowy Owls, sitting, one on a pile of wrack and the other on a saddle (closely placed cedar stakes about a foot high). They looked menacing and regal, and I knew I was back home. ~Douglas Chickering



Editor's Note: While visiting California to celebrate Chick's 80th birthday, Doug attended the MDAS March meeting, read an essay from his book, and donated his book to be auctioned off to benefit MDAS programs. He offered to share his reflections on his California birding adventures.

From Amazon, a portion of the review for his book is as follows: “*Reflections on a Golden-winged Warbler*, was chosen by *BirdWatching* magazine as one of the Best New Bird Books of the Year (Dec. 2014). Author, Doug Chickering, is one of the most popular contributors to the New England listserve “Massbird.” His essays on birding have appeared in *Winging It*, *Bird Observer*, and the *Quail*. The reasons for Chickering's popularity are twofold. In his essays, Chickering captures again and again those moments in the birding life when an experience in the field knocks your socks off; and Chickering has for nearly three decades been one of the most frequent and passionate birders and chroniclers of the Plum Island area, one of the most famous and historic birding locations in the world.” (Upper L: Doug Chickering, Maren Smith photo)

Birding in the Fast Lane

In my career, I have had the good fortune to have work that takes me to incredible places, including Senegal, Guatemala, the Philippines, and most recently, Anchorage.

While this travel gives me opportunities to see new birds, birding must be squeezed in amongst work concerns. Often, I must return home having seen only one or two target species while missing others altogether.

In February, International Bird Rescue was called to respond to an oil spill in the remote islands of the Kodiak Archipelago. Since the spill location was hard to get to, we



Above: Glacier view selfie from Seward, AK boat tour (Dall's porpoise, orcas and nesting colony of puffins seen!); R: first ever dip in the Arctic Ocean, JD Bergeron photos

were kept in Anchorage while we prepared for the possibility of oiled birds, which could have included vulnerable species like Steller's Eider and Spectacled Eider.

Thanks to the weather and the nature of the oil, there were no reports of oiled wildlife, so we had some free time for wildlife surveys—a practice of seeking out native animals and birds

in their natural habitat because: 1. it prepares us for the next spill, and 2. we're all animal lovers.

Since I love the *Fringillidae* family of finches, my main birding target was to see a Common Redpoll, a small, pale finch with a bright red spot on the forehead. I learned that chasing redpolls is not unlike chasing goldfinches: while they're quite abundant, they are harder to find when you're actually looking for them! (Below: Common Redpolls, NAS website photo)

I failed to find them at a few hotspots around Anchorage and also at a colleague's backyard feeders where they had been seen that very morning. Hope was fading when we decided to try one more backyard feeder. We watched chickadees and nuthatches taking turns on the tray feeder until a lifelister arrived: a female Pine Grosbeak.



She ate her fill before singing out a song that must have said, "the good stuff is here!" Almost immediately, the trees filled with a mixed flock of Pine Grosbeaks, and *at last*—my target birds—Common Redpolls. In size and mannerisms, they reminded me of Pine Siskins. It was a superb hour watching them

thereafter. Finding the redpolls felt like a major triumph, the day before I was meant to return home, and then, the very next day on my last visit to my colleague's home, we found a large flock in the tree we had checked that entire week without success! Funny how that works out sometimes.

And so goes birding in the fast lane.

Some other specialty findings from Anchorage:



(exceedingly) Common Ravens, Red-Breasted Nuthatches, Black-capped and B o r e a l Chickadees (great for comparison), a very cooperative Short-Eared Owl, and a Northern Shrike.



Above: Short-eared Owl through scope, JD Bergeron photo; R: close-up view of Short-eared Owl, (Klamath Falls, OR) Maren Smith photo

When I return for a training in July, I'll be looking for my next target: Bohemian Waxwings, and I'll keep you posted on how that goes. ~JD Bergeron, Executive Director of International Bird Rescue

For more information on this spill, please check my blog post at www.blog.bird-rescue.org.

In 2017-18, the MDAS Board approved a \$1000 donation to International Bird Rescue (IBR), so, in March, several MDAS members were given a behind-the-scenes tour of the IBR facility in Fairfield set up by Cheryl Reynolds, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator. JD Bergeron, Executive Director, welcomed the group with a thorough, informative



presentation about IBR's outreach, and then, the group toured the facility with an explanation of the process from intake, to using Dawn soap to de-oil any birds, to

their recovery in special pools and aviaries.

After the tour, the group had the unexpected privilege of being able to release a fully recovered, male Bufflehead at Heather Farm Pond. It was magical watching the duck immediately preen and dive as we watched from shore.



Check the IBR website for daily updates, to volunteer, to donate, or to participate in their fall open house to view the remarkable work being done to benefit a wide variety of waterbirds, locally, nationally, and around the world. JD and Cheryl are both MDAS members. (Maren Smith photos) www.bird-rescue.org

Proposition 68, the California Clean Water & Safe Parks Act

Mt. Diablo Audubon Society is joining Audubon California and a broad coalition of conservation organizations in supporting Proposition 68 on the June 5 California ballot. These groups have cited numerous potential benefits to California's birds and other natural treasures, as well as the state's residents. Called the California Clean Water & Safe Parks Act, Proposition 68 is a \$4 billion bond measure that will fund a number of important priorities for Californians, including local, regional and state parks, clean drinking water projects, flood protection, and habitat projects that are vital to the state's diverse wildlife.

Audubon California was part of a broad coalition of organizations working closely with lawmakers during the 2017 legislative session to put Prop. 68 on the ballot. This critical opportunity comes at a time when millions of Californians don't have access to safe parks, trails, and recreation areas. Moreover, the cycle of drought and extreme weather is already taking a toll on California's natural treasures, and threatens our communities with flooding and ecological degradation.

These same forces have also exposed our state's antiquated water infrastructure, bringing into doubt our ability to provide clean, safe, and reliable drinking water to our residents. Lastly, with most of the bond funding for vital conservation programs running out in the last few years, it is time for Californians to make the next investment in the protection of the natural resources that make California's parks and open spaces destinations for millions of visitors every year.

Prop. 68 includes \$285 million for cities, counties and local park and open space districts (such as East Bay Regional Park District) to make local parks safer and improve facilities, including \$218 million to repair and improve state parks.

"Audubon California has long fought to protect California's birds and natural landscapes—and make it possible for more people to experience these treasures—and that is why our organization emphatically supports Prop. 68," said Sarah Rose, Executive Director of Audubon California. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to invest in safe parks, clean water, and the vibrant wildlife that are so important for Californians' quality of life."

For the birds of the Pacific Flyway, and the roughly one million people living around the Salton Sea, Prop. 68 has profound importance. The bond measure includes \$200 million for vitally important dust mitigation and habitat restoration at the Salton Sea, where water diversions are creating a public health disaster and destroying habitat. ~Ariana Rickard, Legislative Action Committee Chair and Nancy Wenninger, Conservation Chair

Proposition 68 includes funding for a broad array of conservation priorities:

\$2.83 billion for parks and natural resources funding:

- Investments in park-poor neighborhoods
- Much-needed maintenance for state parks
- Trails and creek restoration
- Funding for critical restoration at the Salton Sea \$1.27 billion for water reliability
- Clean drinking water projects
- Groundwater clean-up and sustainability
- Flood protection, including multi-benefit flood projects

\$767 million for state conservancies:

- Vital landscape-scale conservation work
- Ocean, bay, and coastal protection

\$442 million for climate adaptation:

- Projects to ensure habitat connectivity
- Collaborations on climate-smart farm practices
- Rivers and waterways restoration

For more information: ca.audubon.org/conservation/conservation/bird-friendly-communities/vote-prop-68

Save the Date: Audubon California's Annual Advocacy Day, June 20

Birds of a feather will flock together on Wednesday, June 20, for Audubon Advocacy Day where we will speak up for the birds. Our focus this year will be on state wildlife protection, funding for parks and open space, water, and ensuring that California remains at the forefront in fighting and adapting to climate change.

The day will include advocacy training, briefings about the issues relevant to birds, meetings with your legislators, and the opportunity to get involved in shaping public policy. Attendees will also have a chance to speak with their representatives about their own priorities from their districts. California's birds need you. We hope you will join us!

Register to join us at chapternetworkca@audubon.org or contact Legislative Action Committee Chair, Ariana Rickard, at rickard@post.harvard.edu.

MDAS Board Endorses Measure I

The Mt. Diablo Audubon Society Board voted to endorse Measure I, The Martinez Open Space and Park Protection Initiative which will be on the June 5 primary ballot.

"We are extremely proud to join the Sierra Club and Thousand Friends of Martinez with our endorsement of Measure I," said Paul Schorr, President of Mt. Diablo Audubon. "We feel that the City of Martinez needs to try and do more to protect the City's existing local open spaces in order to maintain the quality of life for Martinez citizens and the local wildlife."

For questions contact Kent Fickett, MDAS Vice President, at k.fickett@comcast.net, and for more information check www.diabloaudubon.org.



Don't Grease That Pole!

I often hear from customers that they prevent ants, rodents, rats, and other unwanted creatures from climbing up to bird and hummingbird feeders by putting some sort of grease, oil, or sticky stuff on their feeder poles, cables hooks, or other devices. These practices create dangers for birds.

Birds have a wonderful protective coat of feathers and down that keep heat in during nights and cold weather. They work together to form an insulation barrier over their entire bodies. But, even the smallest opening in this barrier can be a death sentence. Because they expend a lot of energy producing needed heat, they often lose 10% of their body weight overnight. With an opening in their insulation, they cannot produce enough heat to stay warm and can suffer or die in a single night.

It doesn't take much, just a drop or so of oil, grease, or sticky substance to create an opening in that barrier. Just the slightest brush by a wing or body on the oiled surface can deposit enough oil to kill the bird. This is true for motor oil, salad oil, grease, Vaseline, WD40, or any of the bird deterrents that are sticky.

At WBU, we have several solutions to prevent creatures from crawling up poles that won't hurt birds. Please call or drop by and let one of our specialists advise you. If you hear about any of your friends or neighbors using those dangerous methods, please have them contact us as well.

Also, we want to remind you that we are holding our annual "We Love Mother Nature Event" on Saturday, May 12 from 10 AM-4 PM at Wild Birds Unlimited (WBU) in Pleasant Hill (details page 7). Lots of nature, environmental, and animal rescue groups will be there, some with live birds, snakes, and spiders. This is great family education and fun. Learn how to live with nature, where to enjoy our parks and wild spaces, and how you can help or participate in their fine work protecting our wildlife. ~Mike Eliot, WBU



the Quail

Mt. Diablo Audubon Society (MDAS)

Mt. 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

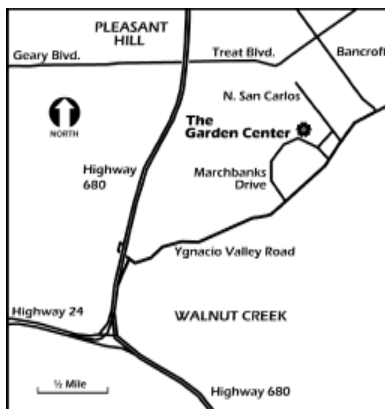
President:	Paul Schorr	.....pkschorr@comcast.net..(925) 757-5107
Vice President:	Kent Fickett	.....k.fickett@comcast.net..(415) 269-4277
Secretary:	Carol Pachl	.....carolpachl@comcast.net..(925) 253-0675
Treasurer:	Steve Buffi	.....(925) 938-0929
Programs:	Ariana Rickard	.....rickard@post.harvard.edu..(347) 754-0143
Field Trips:	Hugh Harvey	.....(925) 935-2979
Conservation:	Nancy Wenninger	.....nwenninger@aol.com..(925) 938-7987
Education:	Maren Smith	.....marensmithbkk@yahoo.com..(925) 322-9477
Sales Manager:	Cathy Castillo	.....artscastillo@gmail.com..(925) 209-6665
Membership:	Virginia Hamrick	.....vhamrick8@gmail.com..(925)-945-7761
Young Birders Liaison:	Tracy Farrington	.....tracy_farrington@yahoo.com..(925) 788-6223
Volunteer Coordinator:	Brian Murphy	.....b-murphy21@hotmail.com..(925) 937-8835
Publicity & Social Media:	Rosalie Howarth	.....barhowarth@msn.com
Member-at-Large:	Mike Eliot	.....mikeyeliot@gmail.com..(925) 798-0303
Member-at-Large:	Bill Chilson	.....billchil@comcast.net..(510) 619-6692
Quail Editor:	Maren Smith	.....marensmithbkk@yahoo.com..(925) 322-9477

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Webmaster & Calendar:	Dal Leite	.....updates@diabloaudubon.org
Observations Editor:	Maurly Stern	.....mbstern2@yahoo.com..(925) 284-5980
Hospitality:	Kathy Kellogg	.....ggollekyhtak@hotmail.com..(925) 228-2690
EBB Sightings Monitor:	Bill Chilson	.....billchil@comcast.net..(510) 619-6692
Citizen Science & CBC:	Elizabeth Leite	.....eleite@diabloaudubon.org
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 6:45 PM at WBU on the 2nd Thursday except for July and August. Please check the MDAS website diabloaudubon.org for cancelled or rescheduled Board meetings.



Mt. 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 Mt. 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

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

Address Service Requested



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 66
Concord, CA



Male and female American Kestrels copulating, Pam Lorenz photo



In case you missed it, the April monthly meeting featured:

~Birding Information: Assemblymember Tim Grayson shared his environmental priorities and views with the MDAS membership and talked about natural resource bills he is authoring or supporting.

~Program: Jill Hedgecock shared a program about Asian Elephant conservation concerns based upon her travels in Thailand and Cambodia, coupled with a positive ecotourism experience at The Elephant Nature Park (ENP), a 250-acre rescue and rehabilitation center that provides an ethical ecotourism alternative for tourists (beyond taking elephant rides) and humane treatment of these gentle giants. For more information on the ENP: elephantnaturepark.org (Maren Smith photos)

“People do not decide to become extraordinary. They decide to accomplish extraordinary things.” ~Sir Edmund Hillary

