



the Quail

Mt. Diablo Audubon Society
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www.diabloaudubon.org

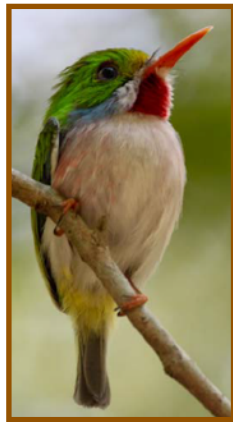
Volume 63, Number 9

June-August 2018

June Program, 8 PM: Birds of Cuba ♦ Alvaro Jaramillo

World-renowned naturalist, bird expert, and author, Alvaro Jaramillo will present a program based upon his recent trip to Cuba filled with beautiful images of birds seen.

Cuba is one of the United States' closest neighbors, but due to politics, it might as well be on the other side of the world. Few Americans have traveled to Cuba and birders have been restricted to a few legal survey trips a year or going there illegally through Canada in order to enjoy its birds. But, things are finally starting to open up and we expect that more and more birders will be able to enjoy the amazing diversity, and incredible level of endemism (species found nowhere else on earth).



A fantastic, safe, birding destination, Cuba has plentiful protected habitat and forest cover, and there is still a lot to learn there. In fact it may actually be the one place where the Ivory-billed Woodpecker still lives!



Alvaro Jaramillo has been lucky to have birded in Cuba on more than six occasions over the years. He is excited to be able to show you some of the gorgeous bird life, teach you a bit about the interesting biology of Cuban wildlife, and give you a sense for the culture and people. Cuba remains a charming, friendly, and very jovial

place even though the Cuban people have had to endure many hardships.

Born in Chile, Alvaro began birding in Toronto, Canada, where he lived as a youth. He was trained in ecology and evolution with a particular interest in bird behavior.

He is the author of three books including *Birds of Chile*, *ABA Field Guide to the Birds of California*, and the sparrow chapter for *Handbook of Birds of the World*. Alvaro also writes the "Identify Yourself" column in *Bird Watcher's Digest* and is currently writing a photo guide to the birds and wildlife of Patagonia.

Alvaro was granted the Eisenmann Medal by the Linnean Society of New York in 2011 for excellence in ornithology and encouragement of the amateur birder.

Jaramillo operates a birding and nature tour company, Alvaro's Adventures, where the focus is to have fun, learn a thing or two, and just enjoy birds and nature. He lives with his family in Half Moon Bay, California.

For information: www.alvarosadventures.com

Photos: Above L: Cuban Tody; Bottom L: Alvaro Jaramillo; Below: Western Spindalis, Alvaro Jaramillo photos



Meeting Schedule

The next meeting of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society will be **Thursday, June 7** in the Camellia Room, The Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Drive, Walnut Creek.

6:00 PM Doors open

6:30 PM Potluck Dinner

7:30 PM Announcements

8:00 PM: Program: Birds of Cuba ♦ Alvaro Jaramillo

NEXT MEETING: September 6, Birds of Belize ♦ Rich Cimino

(no July/August meetings, but join MDAS for summer field trips—see pages 5-6 for details)

Annual Potluck Dinner

Join the fun and festivities as we gather together to share favorite dishes and conversation at the June Potluck Dinner. Doors will open at 6 PM and dinner will be served at 6:30 PM. Please bring a main dish, salad, or dessert to share and be sure to label serving dishes/utensils so that they can be returned to you after the dinner. Continuing in the Audubon conservation tradition, please bring your own plate, silverware, glass, or cup. Coffee, tea, and punch will be served. You may bring your own wine if you wish.

In addition, Cathy Castillo, Sales Manager, is pleased to offer three Harry Adamson unframed prints for the silent auction (cash or checks only). Harry was a well-known professional wildlife artist, conservationist, and former MDAS President.

As the 2017-18 year comes to a close, I reflect back with much pride on a year in which the major focus of MDAS was "Why Birds Matter." This was a theme that wove its way throughout MDAS activities during the year and was never more significant than in the present political climate.

I commend the Legislative Action Committee and the dedicated volunteers who traveled to Sacramento, joined walks and meetings with legislators, scheduled speakers, wrote letters, and circulated petitions, all on behalf of birds and their habitats. Their strong commitment to "Why Birds Matter" was clearly apparent throughout the year, resulting in important positive decisions.

The scheduled monthly programs were well-planned and organized. They heightened our interest in the well-being of birds and bird habitats and encouraged our continuing proactive involvement on their behalf.

Ongoing communications and information made available through the *Quail*, the website, and social media were timely and absolutely vital in the solicitation of member involvement on behalf of birds.

At events such as the John Muir NHS Earth Day Event, "We Love Mother Nature Event" at Wild Birds Unlimited, the

Beaver Festival, and other outreach events, volunteers promoted the commitment of MDAS to the importance of birds and their habitats.

There was an ongoing commitment to connect people with birds and nature through programs such as "No Child Left Inside," "Just for Ducks," "Barn-less Owls," "Peregrine Patrol," and "The Kestrel Campaign."

During the year, the Board of Directors recognized the importance of connecting to and supporting other conservation/environmental organizations with financial donations on behalf of "Why Birds Matter" including: Native Bird Connections (\$5,000); International Bird Rescue (\$2,000); Audubon CA Tricolored Blackbird Project (\$500); San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory (\$500); Golden Gate Raptor Observatory (\$500); and Save Mount Diablo (\$1,000).

In closing, I am extremely pleased and proud to share these MDAS accomplishments on behalf of "Why Birds Matter" and I want to convey my heartfelt thanks to the volunteers who have done so much throughout the year. I encourage others to become involved as we move forward. Have a wonderful summer, recharge your batteries, and prepare to continue the "good fight" on behalf of birds.

Good News For Martinez Beavers

Local celebrities, the Martinez beavers are back in the news. The May 2018 issue of *Ranger Rick Magazine* for kids highlights the beavers in an article called "Leave it to Beavers." Along with colorful photos and basic facts about the North American Beaver species, the article focuses on the benefits of this keystone species, dams and all. In fact, the beaver makes a pretty good neighbor with wide-ranging benefits to the entire ecosystem.

Beaver dams help with the health of the water, helping to filter water pollution. Dams also create pools that encourage birds, fish, and wildlife to thrive, and they help with erosion control along stream banks.

Sure, those beaver teeth can do damage to landscaping and nearby trees, but human ingenuity has provided solutions. Simply wrapping the trees with wire, or painting them with a sandy surface that the beavers dislike, has proven to deter beavers from gnawing trees.

The article goes on to explain, "We found that when we helped the beavers, they helped us," says Heidi Perryman, who started the Martinez

group (Worth a Dam). "They attracted new kinds of wildlife and turned our little creek into a nature preserve."

Initially considered a menace by Martinez city leaders, the Martinez beavers are now the focus of a festival in their honor.



The 11th Annual Martinez Beaver Festival will take place on Saturday, June 30 from 11 AM-4 PM in historic downtown Martinez, at the corner of Estudillo and Susana Streets.

This family-friendly event will include beaver art and nature activities for the kids, booths by local conservation groups including Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, music, food, an author talk, and will feature a giant chalk painting by artist Amy G. Hall that will unfold throughout the day.

If you're lucky, you might even get a good look at the beaver family in the creek nearby. It should be a dam good time! And, *that's* good news for the Martinez beavers! ~Maren Smith

www.rangerick.org/martinez_rick/leave-it-to-beavers/

Welcome New and Rejoining Members

Paulette Pardi	Concord
Michelle Sheehan	Walnut Creek
Lin & Dennis Ashlock	Walnut Creek
Linda Shubin	Clayton
Joanne Dupuy	Martinez

Q Which is the only North American blackbird not named for its color? Unscramble the letters or see page 7.

DRWEEKBCSLBBRAIR

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@yahoo.com. If you report sightings to eBird, please also send them to Maury Stern.

The *Quail* is published monthly except in January, July and August by the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, P.O. Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94597-0053. **The September *Quail* deadline will be August 6.**

Observations (4/9-5/6/18) — by Maury Stern

Many Bay Area summer birds have returned: warblers, vireos, flycatchers, tanagers, and orioles. Most kinglets have headed out along with many sparrows and shorebirds. There were reports of fledgling birds as well.

The continuing Richmond Marina **Black Scoter** was seen 4/9, AL, PM; and 4/11. DL

MC saw four **Eurasian Collared-Doves** at Miller-Knox RP 4/14.

Common Poorwills were on Red Road in Mitchell Canyon 4/24. ZQ

A **Ruddy Turnstone** was with **Black Turnstones** at Miller-Knox 4/11, CM; and Ferry Point 4/17. SD

Three **Surfbirds** were also at Miller-Knox RP 4/11. CM

A questionable **Solitary Sandpiper** was at Contra Loma Regional Park 4/16. JF

AL saw a **Pigeon Guillemot** 4/9 at Miller-Knox Regional Park.

A late **Herring Gull** was at the West County Waste Water Treatment Plant in Richmond 5/1. JC

Caspian Terns were at Heather Farm 4/10, TE, HH; and Miller-Knox RP 4/17. SD

TF and HH saw an **Osprey** at Heather Farm 4/10.

A **Northern Pygmy Owl** was at Black Diamond Mines, Coal Canyon, 4/19 RB; and 4/21. KH

A **Lewis's Woodpecker** was at the southern side of Los Vaqueros Reservoir 4/21. AZ, NS, SC, VC

TF saw a roosting **Peregrine Falcon** on Castle Rock 4/11.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** (*Beth Branthaver photo, right*) was at Tilden Nature Area 4/12, PY; ZQ saw one on Red Road, MDSP 4/24.

Hammond's Flycatchers were on Globe Lily Trail and Deer Flat 4/24, DWe; and Mitchell Canyon. ZQ

Dusky Flycatchers were also at Mt. Diablo:

4/21, JC, Mitchell Canyon; 4/23, JC, and 4/24, DWe, Deer Flat.

Ash-throated Flycatcher: Pt. Pinole 4/15, SD; 4/16, Wildcat Cyn. AK

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TF saw **Western Kingbirds** at Castle Rock Park 4/11; AK saw them at Wildcat Canyon on 4/11.

PS saw a colony of several hundred **Cliff Swallows** setting up nests under an overpass in Brentwood at Sand Creek and Fairview. 4/11

A **Canyon Wren** was high up on Mitchell Canyon 4/13, JC; another was at Eagle Peak on Mt. Diablo 4/24. DWe

Ten House Wrens (*below: Pam Lorenz photo*) were at the Castle Rock/Diablo Foothills RP 4/11, TF; one at Mitchell Canyon 4/13. SL



Golden-crowned Kinglets were seen at Pt. Pinole RP 4/13 by SS, KBe, CB, CP and 4/19 by CP; and at Vollmer Peak 4/29, JG and 4/30, DW.

Late **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were at Ellis Lake Park in Concord 5/5, AL; and Mt. Diablo picnic area near the entrance 5/5. AS, PG, WH, SSt

A **Townsend's Solitaire** was at Deer Flat, Mt. Diablo SP, 4/27. TFr

A **Swainson's Thrush** was at Mitchell Canyon 4/24, JH; and at JB's Martinez home 5/4.

A large flock of **Cedar Waxwings** were in Walnut Creek 4/11. CE

E&DL had six **Pine Siskin** at their Walnut Creek home 4/10.

A **Lawrence's Goldfinch** was at the Castle Rock/Diablo Foothills area 4/9, C&TW; and 4/11, TF.

Nashville Warblers were in several locations: 4/11, KB's Lafayette home; 4/17, JS, Diablo Foothills; 4/24, DWe, Globe Lily Trail; and 4/24, FS, Mitchell Canyon in Mt. Diablo SP.

JC saw a **MacGillivray's Warbler** on White Canyon Tr., Mt. Diablo, 4/23.

A **Yellow Warbler** was in Mitchell Canyon 4/13. SL

Black-throated Grey Warblers were at Castle Rock 4/11, TF; Heather Farm 4/18, HH; Mitchell Cyn. 4/24, FS.

A **Townsend's Warbler** pair were at KB's water bath 4/11 in Lafayette. FS saw one 4/24 at Mitchell Canyon.

On 4/23, JC saw 12 **Hermit Warblers** at Deer Flat; 5/4 he saw five more near Vollmer Peak; others were seen 4/24 at Mitchell Canyon. DWe, FS

A most unusual, singing **Yellow-breasted Chat** was seen near the creek at the Mitchell Canyon entrance on 4/24. JHe

Rufous-crowned Sparrows were at Diablo Foothills RP 4/9, C&TW; and Wildcat Canyon RP 4/11. AK

A **Chipping Sparrow** was singing 4/11 at Castle Rock Park. TF

JC saw a **Bell's Sparrow** 4/23 on White Canyon Trail.

Four **Grasshopper Sparrows** were at Wildcat Canyon RP 4/11. AK (*R: Beth Branthaver photo*)

SL saw a **Western Tanager** 4/13 at Mitchell Canyon in Mt. Diablo SP.

Lazuli Buntings were near the Mitchell Canyon area 4/24. FS, ZQ

Many **Tricolored Blackbirds** were with a **Red-winged Blackbird** flock in the S Los Vaqueros area 4/21. SC, NS, VC, EK, and BM saw some at the north end of Los Vaqueros 4/29; CW along Waterfront Rd./Pt. Edith Trail 5/5.

A **Brown-headed Cowbird** was at E&DL's Walnut Creek home 4/9.

GW saw a **Hooded Oriole** in El Sobrante 3/13.

Bullock's Orioles were at Castle Rock RP 4/9, C&TW; JC saw them near Vollmer Peak 5/4.

~

KB Kristen Baker, KBe Karen Berger, CB Cathy Bleier, JB Jackie Bobrowsky, RB Russ Bright, MC Mike Carnall, SC Srikant Char, VC Vijay Char, JC Jim Chiropolis, SD Sheila Dickie, CE Carol Evans, TF Tracy Farrington, TFr Teal Fristoe, JF Jessica Furtado, JG Juan Pablo Galvan, PG Pauline Grant, JH John Harris, HH Hugh Harvey, JHe Joel Herr, KH Kevin Hintsa, WH Wen Hsu, AK Alan Krakauer, EK Elizabeth Kroll, E&DL Elizabeth & Dal Leite, DL Dawn Lemoine, AL Albert Linkowski, SL Steve Lombardi, PM Pam McKown, BM Bonnie Mende, CM Colin Meusel, CP Carla Parkinson, ZQ Z. Querula, FS Fred Safier, PS Paul Schorr, NS Noshewan Sethna, JS Judi Sierra, SS Sylvie Silverstein, AS Anna Sojourner, SSt Sandi Steinman, DWe Dave Weber, GW Gina Wheat, DW Denise Wight, CW Chris Wills, C&TW Chris and Terri Wills, PY Pam Young, and AZ Ameet Zaveri

June-August 2018

Trip Reports

North Briones, Thursday, April 12:

Thirteen members spent an interesting morning on a combined wildflower and bird trip. The wildflowers were not in the profusion of some years, but

there were good displays of Chinese Houses, Bush Lupine, Owl's Clover, Sticky Monkey Flower, and Soap Plant. Birds were as expected for the area with numerous House Wrens, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, and five swallow species. Ending at Maricich Lagoon, many birds and turtles were seen, a total of 51 bird species for the trip. ~**Maury Stern**

Pine Canyon, Tuesday, April 17: A day which started with temperatures in the 40s became a wonderfully beautiful day by the time we reached Castle Rock. Wildflowers were blooming including the Mt. Diablo Fairy Lanterns. The famous Peregrine Falcons were hard to miss. Other birds seen or heard by most of the 15 participants included:

Bullock's Oriole, Western Kingbird, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, House Wren, the three western Vireos, Brown Creeper, Black-headed Grosbeak, and even a Wrentit allowed itself to be seen (*right, Isaac Aronow photo*). A total of 54 species were identified. ~**Nancy Wenninger, leader/Hugh Harvey, report**



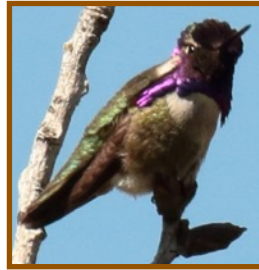
Black Diamond Mines, Thursday, April 19: On a beautiful spring day, 23 enthusiastic, intrepid MDAS members and guests hiked some of the steep trails to access sightings of chaparral and woodland birds. Near the Eureka Slope Mine Entrance, we had nice views of an Olive-sided Flycatcher, a calling Ash-throated Flycatcher, as well as Pacific-slope Flycatcher and Black Phoebe. On the Chaparral Loop Trail we had good views of a pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and a mixed flock of songbirds that included Hermit, Wilson's, Orange-crowned, Audubon's, and Myrtle Warblers. Ascending up the trail to a reliable vantage point, the group enjoyed seeing and hearing the continuing beautiful song of the Canyon Wren, likely the trip highlight for most; we also spotted Bewick's and House Wrens, providing a trifecta of wren species. Along the Pittsburg Mine Trail a Hutton's Vireo was seen and a Warbling Vireo was heard. Throughout the trip we viewed Tree, Violet-green, and Barn Swallows and many raptor species. During lunch at the Visitor Center the group had good views of a pair of Phainopeplas. A total of 57 species was seen and/or heard. ~**Paul Schorr**

Mines Road, Saturday, April 21: Seventeen members and guests enjoyed the beautiful hills and birds south of Livermore as we drove Mines Road to the Junction and beyond. Stopping at Murietta's Well, Del Valle Regional Park, several spots along the road, the Junction and parts of San Antonio Valley, we found one bird highlight after another until we had 83 species for the day. Notable sightings included: Wood Ducks, Common Mergansers, White-throated Swifts, Spotted Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Bald Eagle standing on a nest, soaring Golden Eagles, multiple Lewis's Woodpeckers, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Yellow-billed Magpie, five swallow species,

California Thrasher, one Lawrence's Goldfinch seen by only one person, a briefly glimpsed Rufous-crowned Sparrow, a singing Bell's Sparrow, and a Bullock's Oriole. With the wonderfully green hills and meadows carpeted with yellow flowers, could we have asked for a more beautiful day?

~**Hugh Harvey**

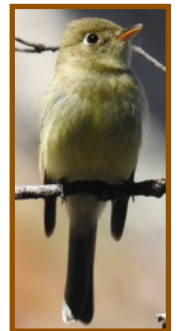
Del Puerto Canyon, Tuesday, April 24: After meeting near the Sperry Road exit off I-5, fifteen participants headed out for a sunny spring day of birding. Through the lower grasslands we had Red-winged Blackbirds, Savannah Sparrows, and a few Loggerhead Shrikes. In the small canyon just before Owl Rock there were numerous Western Kingbirds vocalizing and flying from tree to tree and a few Bullock's Orioles. We found a very cooperative Costa's Hummingbird (*below, Beth Branthaver photo*) just before Graffiti Rock. At Owl Rock we failed to find any owls, although we did have quite a few White-throated Swifts, a Rock Wren, and a Say's Phoebe. On the road to the old barn some of us saw a Greater Roadrunner, in the creek we found a Green Heron and



Killdeer, and on the fence we had a very cooperative Rock Wren. Along the road there were sightings of Yellow-billed Magpies, a Golden Eagle, and a vocal House Wren. At Deer Creek Campground we saw Bullock's Orioles, Lawrence's Goldfinches, and Phainopepla. Tricolored Blackbirds were on the pond near the junction with Mines Road. On San Antonio Valley Road we found Lewis's Woodpeckers, difficult to find last year. For the day we saw or heard 58 species. ~**Beth Branthaver**

Mitchell Canyon, Thursday, April 26:

Twenty-four members and guests had a blue sky day with temperatures ranging from 50-70 degrees and 53 species of birds were seen by the group. Highlights included Olive-sided Flycatcher, Western Wood-Pee-wee, Pacific-slope Flycatcher (*R: Susana de Trapaga photo*), Ash-throated Flycatcher, all three vireo species, Blue-grey Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Swainson's and Hermit Thrushes, Nashville and Hermit Warblers, Bell's Sparrow, and Western Tanager. ~**Maury Stern**



Mount Diablo State Park, Tuesday, May 1: Fifteen birders joined the group for a beautiful day on Mt. Diablo. As we drove up the mountain toward our lunch stop near the top we made several stops to view birds. A total of 49 species were seen. Highlights included House Wren, Bewick's Wren, California Thrasher, American Kestrel, Townsend's, Hermit and Wilson's Warblers, American Goldfinch, and Western Bluebird, most of them in breeding colors. ~**Steve Taylor**

West Briones Regional Park, Thursday, May 3: Eight members had a morning of heavy marine layer weather and consequent poor birding. Thirty species were seen and the target Lazuli Bunting was only heard. Just as we finished the bird list, the sun came out. Bad timing. ~**Maury Stern**

Field Trip Schedule

By Hugh Harvey

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

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

July 2018

14-15 Sat./Sun. Lassen Volcanic National Park Area
18 Wednesday Frank's Dump @ High Tide

August 2018

04 Saturday San Mateo Coast
18 Saturday Bodega Bay

2 Saturday, June 2

Outer Point Reyes

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

Carpool leaves Sun Valley Mall at 7 AM. **OR**, meet at 8:30 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 for three miles. Turn right on Novato Blvd for six miles to stop sign, then turn left on Point Reyes-Petaluma Road for seven miles to another stop sign. Turn right across the bridge, 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. The Visitor Center is off Bear Valley Road. We are hoping for migrants. The weather can be unpredictable, so dress in layers. Bring your sunscreen, a snack, lunch, and liquids.

2 Wednesday, July 18

Frank's Dump @ High Tide (4 PM)

Leader: Hugh Harvey (925) 935-2979

For a shorebird spectacle, we'll visit late in the day with the sun to our backs, birds congregating to avoid high tide. Many returning shorebirds will have much of their breeding plumage; some stay the winter, some will continue on a southerly migration. Leave from Sycamore Valley Road carpool location at 3 PM. **OR**, meet at the Winton Ave. entrance of Hayward Regional shoreline by 4 PM. From I-880, exit Winton Avenue, drive west 4.5 miles. Park near trailhead just before the parking lot gate. We will walk about one mile to the viewing site. Bring sunscreen, a snack, and liquids.



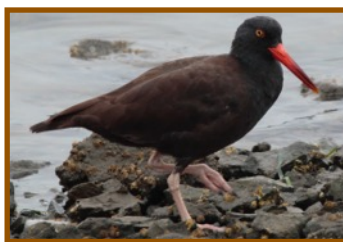
Least Sandpiper,
Isaac Aronow photo

2 Saturday, August 4

San Mateo Coast

Kent Fickett (415) 269-4277 & Bill Chilson (510) 619-6692

Carpool leaves El Nido Ranch Road at 6:30 AM. **OR**, meet at the MacDonald's parking lot in Half Moon Bay at 7:30 AM. Go west on Hwy 24, take I-980 to I-880 south, and west on SR 92. Cross the San Mateo Bridge and continue to Half Moon Bay. Turn right at the first stoplight (N. Main Street), drive one block to the next light, and cross Hwy. 1 into the parking lot. We hope to see early returning shorebirds, gulls and seabirds.



Black Oystercatcher,
Beth Branthaver photo

Low tide 10 AM. Primary stops will include Half Moon Bay Harbor, the Mavericks overlook, Pescadero Beach, and Pigeon Point Lighthouse. Bring lunch, liquids, and sunscreen—even when foggy or overcast, it's easy to get a sunburn.

 **Join us on a summer field trip!**
For two more fun, bird-filled, weekend field trips, see page 6.

1 Saturday, August 18

Bodega Bay

Leader: Fred Safer (925) 937-2906

Carpool leaves Sun Valley Mall at 7:30 AM. **OR**, meet at The Tides Restaurant on the water side of Highway 1 in Bodega Bay at 9:15 AM. Take I-680 across the Benicia Bridge. Go west on I-780 to I-80 towards Sacramento, exit to SR 37. Follow SR 37 to Lakeville Road, turn right. In Petaluma turn left on E. Washington Street, continue on Bodega Road, Valley Ford Rd., and SR 1 to Bodega Bay. Walk around the restaurant to find the group viewing the harbor birds. Possibilities at Bodega Bay include flocks of shorebirds: Black Oystercatcher, Wandering Tattler, Marbled Godwit (*Maren Smith photo*), terns, gulls, near-shore pelagics, and much more. Bring lunch, liquids, and sunscreen.



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+, possibly rougher terrain **3**: Difficult, many miles, rough terrain

• **El Nido Road carpool location:** Exit SR 24 at St. Stephens Drive, east of Orinda. El Nido Ranch Road is parallel to and north of freeway. Park just east of the intersection with St. Stephens Drive.

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

• **Sycamore Valley Road Park and Ride Lot:** Exit I-680 S at Sycamore Valley Road (East) in Danville, or from I-680 N, exit at Sycamore Valley Road and turn right. Park and Ride lot is on the left, one block east of the freeway.

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.** 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 at (925) 798-0303 for information.

Saturday-Sunday, July 14-15

Lassen Volcanic National Park 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 will be coming. Leaders will be



American Dipper,
Beth Branthaver photo

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 her any questions in advance at (925) 806-0644 or email Eugenia at eklarson@comcast.net.

Save The Date! A Field Trip planning meeting will be held on **Thursday, July 19 at 7 PM.** Anyone interested in shaping the 2018-2019 calendar is invited. Former and future leaders are welcome, as well as any MDAS member with field trip ideas or suggestions. Light refreshments will be served. (1052 Sheppard Road, Walnut Creek) **Call Hugh for details (925)935-2979.**

The Bird
Wide Web

This is the first of what will be a regular series of monthly columns by the MDAS Webmaster presenting computer/mobile applications, websites, and other online resources that could be useful to MDAS members. Further details about specific topics discussed and ways to access the resources described will be available on the new "The Bird Wide Web" page on our MDAS website. (www.diabloaudubon.org)

First up: "WhatBird" (www.whatbird.com)

As the name suggests, WhatBird is primarily a bird identification website. But it bears almost no resemblance to a typical photo-and-description field guide that you leaf through looking for a familiar face. Developed by the same group that produces iBird Lite (a remarkable, free mobile app that will be discussed in the next "The Bird Wide Web" column), WhatBird brings the full power of computer intelligent search to the process of identifying an unrecognized sighting.

If the initial step-by-step choices of multiple attributes (location, color, size, wing shape, flight pattern, or any of many dozens more) is too daunting, you can start with the "Bird Expert" function (whatbird.com/Expert/Expert.aspx),

which gently guides you through features which might be more apparent. At each choice, the possible matches narrow. You can use your memory, a photo, or even a description by someone else to provide the input, likely finding your bird.

And then there's the "Browser" view (whatbird.com/browse/attributes.aspx), which allows you to choose almost any characteristic of a bird and then be given an illustrated list, as though a custom field guide had been created to your specifications. You can scroll through all the California birds, or all the hawks of North America, or even all the brown birds. It's your call.

When you've finally settled on a species, clicking on its name or icon brings you to a page with more information on that bird in one place than you would imagine—photos, song, range, fieldmarks, and more, with additional tabs for identification clues and behavior.

With all these features, it's hard to believe that there's also a "WhatBird Community Forum" (www.whatbird.com/forum/) for help with bird ID, photo comparisons, and discussion topics from feeders to books. It's a whole world of birding from one website.

Be forewarned that nearly every page of the WhatBird website except for the Forum has ads for the iBird paid app, which is, after all, what funds the entire site.

For complete directions for accessing WhatBird, with full clickable web links, go to www.diabloaudubon.org/bird-wide-web.php for the online version of this. -Dal Leite, MDAS Webmaster



Brewer's Blackbird ♦ *Euphagus cyanocephalus* ————— by Jean Halford

The Brewer's Blackbird is a common bird of the West and is one of the most common species in Contra Costa County. John James Audubon named the bird for his friend Dr. Thomas Mayo Brewer, an ornithologist and Boston physician, who probably never saw a live Brewer's Blackbird!

This adaptable bird is found in agricultural fields, towns, marshes, chaparral, sagebrush, meadows, woodland, coastal scrub, beaches, city parks and parking lots, giving it its other name, the parking lot bird. They live year-round in most of California and in the summer they are found as high as 8000 feet in the Sierras, Cascades, and the Rocky Mountains.

Male Brewer's Blackbirds are 8-10 inches in length, with a round head, straight bill, and a piercing yellow eye (R, Jean Halford photo). He is glossy black with a purple sheen on the head and greenish iridescence on the body. The female is plain brown with dark wings, tail, and a dark or pale eye.



The Brewer's Blackbird's diet consists mostly of seeds and grains, and insects, when available. They have also been known to eat snails, tiny crustaceans, young voles, small frogs, and even young bird nestlings.

They are colony nesters of up to 100 pairs, but more commonly 20-30 pairs. The female chooses the nest site

building the cup-like nest in tree tops, low shrubs, on the ground, or in tree cavities. They also like to nest near water, so they may nest in cattails or reeds as well.

Male Brewer's guard the colonies and will attack predators, diving at hawks, owls, or gulls, sometimes striking them to get them to leave the area. This has even happened to people who have wandered too close to the birds' nest site!

The female lays 3-7 pale gray to greenish-white eggs, that are splotched with a variety of colors—brown, violet, gray, pink, or yellow. The eggs are incubated for approximately 12-14 days. Both parents feed the nestlings, and the young leave the nest about 13-14 days after hatching.

Brewer's Blackbirds commonly feed on the ground, but like to perch higher, often on telephone or power lines. They will flock with other species including starlings, cowbirds, and Red-winged Blackbirds.

Before 1914, Brewer's Blackbirds were not recorded east of western Minnesota. Over the next four decades, these birds expanded eastward averaging 10 miles per year. They also moved north in Canada, about 200 miles per year. This expansion is attributable to the blackbirds taking advantage of humans who changed the landscape by clearing land, and building highways, railroad tracks, and utility corridors.

According to the *North American Breeding Bird Survey*, Brewer's Blackbird populations have declined over 2% a year from 1966-2014 amounting to a cumulative decline of 69%. This decline is partially attributed to shooting, trapping, poisoning, and collisions with windows and other structures.

Community Events

▶ June 5 Primary, Please Vote Yes on Proposition 68

Audubon California and MDAS endorse Proposition 68, the California Clean Water & Safe Parks Act, a \$4 billion bond that will provide funding for a broad array of conservation priorities (see *May Quail* for a detailed article) www.ca.audubon.org

▶ 16th Annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua, Lee Vining, CA, June 15-17

Enhance your appreciation and understanding of the Mono Basin's diverse and abundant bird life through 90 field trips, workshops, and presentations with renowned bird guides, naturalists, and artists. **Information:** birdchautauqua.org

▶ Audubon California's Advocacy Day, Sacramento, Wednesday, June 20

Birds of a feather flock together to meet with legislators to advocate for the birds, wildlife, funding for parks, open space, and water, and climate change legislation. Get involved! **For information, contact Ariana at** rickard@post.harvard.edu.

▶ Mt. Diablo Interpretive Association (MDIA) Common Poorwill Hikes, 7-10 PM

Join Denise Wight for Friday night summer hikes to look for Common Poorwills and owls, June 22, July 20, and August 24 in Mitchell Canyon. **Reservations required/15 people max:** blkittwake@yahoo.com, **Information:** www.mdia.org

▶ 11th Annual "Beaver Festival," Martinez, Saturday, June 30, 11 AM-4 PM

New date, new location: Susana Park in historic downtown Martinez. See page 2 for more details. ****Volunteers needed for MDAS table.** Please contact Brian at brian-murphy21@hotmail.com to sign up. **Information:** www.martinezbeavers.org

▶ Fundamentals of Ornithology, Merritt College, Oakland, Sept. 18-Oct. 20, 2018

Daniel Edelstein, M.S., Avian Biologist/Certified Wildlife Biologist with 25+ years of birding experience, presents a slide show lecture Sept. 18 (7-9:50 PM) and four field trips Sept. 30 and Oct. 6, 13, and 20, 2018 (9 AM-2:50 PM). **To register:** peralta.edu, or call (510) 208-7225: BIOL 80C (code 44361, 1.5 units), dedelstein@peralta.edu, www.warblerwatch.com

Global Big Day 2018 on Mt. Wanda

MDAS members, John Muir National Historic Site staff, and guests enjoyed a great day of birding on Mt. Wanda, a 326-acre oak woodland and grassland named after one of John Muir's daughters. Fifteen adults and two children hiked under overcast skies and mild spring temperatures. MDAS Citizen Science collaborated with Park staff to identify and count birds to include in their inventory of species. We scheduled this to be part of Global Big Day, an event created by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology to identify and count birds in a worldwide citizen science effort. This is the 2nd year MDAS has partnered with JMHS staff and we look forward to making this an annual event. We counted 49 species. Highlights included Nashville Warblers and Lazuli Buntings, but we also saw (and heard) House Wrens, Western Bluebirds, Warbling Vireos, Acorn Woodpeckers, and many others. Mt Wanda is often overlooked as a birding spot, but this small gem is located just south of John Muir's historic home in Martinez, off Highway 4. An eBird list was recorded by the JMHS staff at www.ebird.org/view/checklist/S45312526. ~ Alan Bade



In a collaboration between MDAS and JMNHHS, citizen scientists gathered data on Mt. Wanda for Global Big Day 2018 where 49 species were seen or heard by the group, Alan Bade photo

Meet Member-at-Large, Bill Chilson

Bill Chilson has had a lifelong interest in nature which began as a boy camping in the Sierras with his family. He has been an avid birder and member of MDAS for more than 35 years. For the past three years, he has been the Chapter's EBB Sightings monitor working with Chick Chickering who he replaces on the Board. Bill has also been active in the chapter's two Christmas Bird Counts for many years. Bill's interest in joining the Board is to help advance Audubon goals to achieve sustainable communities with strong connections to the environment for our children and grandchildren.

Hospitality Committee Needs You!

Kathy Kellogg, Hospitality Chair, needs a few volunteers to help with refreshment set-up and clean-up at member meetings. In addition, she needs helpers for the June Potluck. And, a big thanks to Christina Lopez faithful volunteer, for her help these last two years. Best wishes, Christina, in your new job. Please volunteer! ggollekyhtak@gmail.com

Citizen Science Report 2017-2018

Last year MDAS members participated in several citizen science events and ongoing projects. During the Central County Christmas Bird Count (CBC), 70 observers collectively contributed 126 "party" hours for their group identifying 147 species, and in East County, 50 observers found 148 species over 147 "party" hours. Party hours are the combined effort of all the smaller search groups out looking for birds to count. (www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count, ID codes: CACC and CAEC)

A dedicated group of citizen scientists collaborated with "Friends of Grayson Creek" to complete monthly and now, bi-monthly, surveys of soon-to-be-developed target areas. We first consulted relevant data collected during the Central CBC and have been adding to that. The hope is that by presenting an impressive inventory of species, where few might be expected, the data might help influence any decision making.

We collaborated again this year with John Muir NHS staff to determine the avian life on Mt. Wanda. As reported by Alan Bade, we had a very successful event and plan to make this an annual MDAS bird walk for our members and guests. This year, 17 birders identified 49 species, 11 more than last year, data reported to eBird, Cornell Lab's immense worldwide avian data depository. We hope to have a Young Birder's event for Backyard Bird Count in 2019.

At least two MDAS members were involved in an April "bioblitz" sponsored by Save Mount Diablo (SMD). Their task was to identify bird species. A bioblitz is an event where individuals comb an area for biodiversity during a set amount of time. It is a unique opportunity to spend time on lands not open to the public and during unusual hours as well.

Finally, several MDAS members participated in "Hawk Walks" sponsored by East Bay Regional Parks in East County throughout the year. Birders helped a Park ranger-naturalist identify and count individual raptors at a monthly event while increasing their own identification skills.

Consider participating in MDAS Citizen Science events next year. Birding and reporting to eBird is a simple way to contribute. ~Elizabeth Leite, Citizen Science Chair
Information: www.diabloaudubon.org/citizen-science.php

Election of Officers for 2018-2019

At the May meeting, Mt. Diablo Audubon Society officers were elected to serve for the 2018-2019 year. They are:

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

Education Committee News

Look for fall class sign-ups in August. We expect to offer Raptors, Avian Treasures, and Birding by Ear this fall, Seabirds and Gulls in the winter, and a Beginning Birding and native plants class next spring. Welcome new committee members Winny Lin, Susana de Trapaga, and Karen Case, and thanks to David Hutton and Carol Pacht for your continued participation. ~Maren Smith, Education Chair

John Muir Earth Day Birthday

Attendees at the John Muir National Historic Site April 21 event enjoyed a dramatic, opening parade procession led by a Scottish bagpiper, a nod to John Muir's heritage, Park staff, and "John Muir" himself. Visitors were invited to celebrate Muir's April birthday and Earth Day. Participants enjoyed the springlike weather, Muir House tours, birthday cake, a recycled clothing style-show, and numerous booths showcasing local conservation groups including MDAS, where the highlight was the nest game and subsequent bird whistle prizes, a big hit.



Thanks to volunteers Brian Murphy, Dave Kent, Susana de Trapaga, Maren Smith, Mike Mecham, and Kent Fickett for sharing the MDAS message.



Another highlight of the event was the presentation of Conservation Awards. One of the recipients, 10 year-old Matthew, stopped by the MDAS table with his father, Peter Gladstone.



They traveled all the way from Arlington, MA near Boston to accept the "Youth Conservation Initiative Award" from the John Muir NHS. They also gave me a pair of sky blue, Blue-footed Booby socks and shared their story.

Matty's older brother Will had learned about birds from his 5th grade science teacher. When he found out that the Galapagos Islands' Blue-Footed Booby population was threatened due to habitat loss and egg collection, that the species had decreased by 60% in the last 50 years, he decided to try and find a way to help.

The brothers, with a little help and support from their parents, decided to create blue socks with the bird emblem to raise money to help with conservation efforts. When you buy a pair of the Blue-footed Booby socks, the proceeds benefit the birds. The duo is partnering with The Galapagos Conservancy, a charity that oversees conservation efforts in the Galapagos, and The Charles Darwin Foundation that helps support these threatened birds.

Will (13), and his brother Matty (10), started The Blue Feet Foundation to sell blue socks to raise money for the blue-footed bird. Blue-footed Boobies use their vibrant blue feet in a showy mating dance ritual, so the socks were an



Blue-footed Booby,
Megan Sandri sketch

obvious tie-in. They have been running The Blue Feet Foundation for 18 months. To date, they have raised over \$35,000 and shipped over 3,000 pairs of socks around the world (they have had orders from all 50 states and 27 countries).

People from around the world have sent in their "blue sock" photos including images from the Grand Canyon to the Great Wall of China. You can view the photos on their Instagram account (TheBlueFeetFoundation) where they currently have over 12,500 followers.

The boys' father, Peter, said, "When asked for advice the consistent thing I've heard them say is not to give up. It took them three months to get their first order and if they had stopped they never would have made it this far. They have also mentioned they think its great that other kids around the world (South Africa and Indonesia) have reached out and said that they were inspired to help the environment because of what Will and Matty are doing."

According to Peter, "The most impressive accomplishment is that they are making a difference. Since they give all the money to charity, they were able to co-sponsor an unplanned expedition to the Galapagos this past summer for the world expert on the Blue-footed Booby, Professor Dave Anderson of Wake Forest University, who is conducting a population decline study through the Galapagos Conservancy. This study would not have happened if the boys hadn't raised so much money. They are having a demonstrable positive impact on the environment. The global feedback they are receiving is overwhelming."

The brothers have not received any other formal awards, but they have been recognized by many national organizations, have been featured on Fox News, in *The Boston Globe*, on a National Audubon Society blog post: (www.audubon.org/news/two-brothers-want-save-boobies-turning-your-feet-bright-blue), and National Geographic included them in a book for kids entitled "100 Ways to Make the World a Better Place." On World Wildlife Day 2017, their story was featured at the United Nations during a panel discussion, "The Role of the Youth in Protecting Wildlife." Peter added, "Will wants you to know that he has over 200 birds on his life list." Impressive, inspiring—good job guys. ~Maren Smith article and photos



The "Youth Conservation Initiative Award" was presented to Matty, pictured here, and his brother, Will, at the John Muir House event, Peter Gladstone photo

To purchase your very own stylish and colorful pair of socks (mine arrived with a hand written thank-you note!) go to: www.bluefeetfoundation.com.

JMLT Campaign to Save Almond Ranch Property in Martinez

On April 18, John Muir Land Trust (JMLT) announced the "Campaign To Save Almond Ranch," an effort to protect a stunning 281-acre property south of downtown Martinez that has been a top priority of land conservationists for decades. JMLT has the privately owned cattle ranch under contract and is seeking to raise \$4 million by the end of 2019. Saving Almond Ranch from development—the alternative outcome—would preserve an intact habitat corridor for wildlife, connect important major trails for the very first time, link large conserved landscapes, and open the property's rolling hills along the Franklin Ridge to hikers, dog walkers, cyclists, birders, equestrians, and nature lovers of all ages.

"Almond Ranch is the proverbial 'missing piece,'" says Linus Eukel, Executive Director of John Muir Land Trust. "All of the benefits of conservation literally intersect here. The ranch protects habitat and clean water, offers close-to-home outdoor recreation, and makes critical trail connections that have been on everyone's wish list for decades."

The Campaign to Save Almond Ranch is launched with a first commitment of \$1 million from the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) using funds made available by voters' approval of measure WW in 2008 for high priority community park projects. "EBRPD's contribution is both extraordinarily generous and it demonstrates the importance of this unique place to filling the gaps in the mosaic of the East Bay's preserved landscapes," says Eukel.

"Adding Almond Ranch to the places already acquired on Franklin Ridge by JMLT would be the perfect outcome," said Colin Coffey, EBRPD's Board Member representing Ward 7 in northern Contra Costa County. "We're excited to make the lead contribution."

Almond Ranch adds one of the most important missing segments to the visionary 550-mile Bay Area Ridge Trail that seeks to encircle the entire Bay Area. "This is a critical missing link of the Bay Area Ridge Trails and a beautiful scenic property," adds Bob Doyle, EBRPD General Manager and a founding board member of the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council. Other trail systems benefit as well. Almond is one of the only two remaining acquisitions needed to complete the 50-mile Carquinez Strait Scenic Loop Trail around the waters and atop the rolling hills of two counties. Almond Ranch connects for the first time three large landscapes in Contra Costa County that comprise fully 18,000 acres of protected open space: the combined Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline and Radke Martinez



Regional Shoreline (1,758 acres to the north), Briones Regional Park (6,255 acres to the south), and the 10,000-acre area to the west known as the Franklin Ridge Wildlife and Trail Corridor that JMLT defined for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife fifteen years ago.

JMLT has been acquiring properties along Franklin Ridge since its founding in 1989. Almond Ranch is described as the "missing heart" at the intersection of six of these: Dutra, Gustin, Sky, Stonehurst, Mt. Wanda, and West Hills Farm. Adding Almond Ranch would create a 1,380-acre integrated landscape offering recreation visitors and an unbroken wildlife corridor for the myriad species who thrive here.

"The benefits to the public will be far-reaching," adds Tom Leatherman, General Superintendent of the adjacent John Muir National Historic Site and three other parks. "It allows trail users on Mt. Wanda to explore nearby open lands and experience them in new ways. That's what people tell us they want—new kinds of trails, and new connection."

Easily accessed from Highway 4, the ranch's highest peak rises 800 feet, some 300 feet higher than nearby Mt. Wanda providing sweeping panoramic views of the entire Bay Area. The land's varied terrain includes hilly grasslands, forested valleys of oak-bay woodlands, scrub plant communities, and riparian corridors.

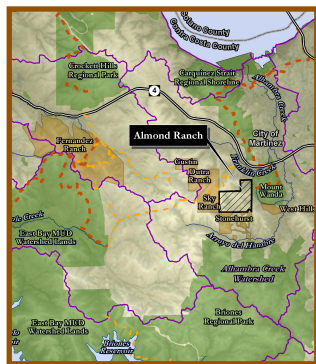
The property provides rich habitat for a variety of native, rare, and special-status species including the Alameda whipsnake and the California red-legged frog, federally threatened species. An intact corridor along Franklin Ridge better supports predators such as mountain lions, American badgers, and gray foxes. Patrolling overhead are Golden Eagles, White-tailed Kites and various species of hawks.

As part of the Alhambra Creek Watershed, Almond Ranch protects the quality of water and stability of the ecosystem. The headwaters of Strentzel Creek, named for Dr. John Strentzel, John Muir's father-in-law, is situated here.

Jake Schweitzer, Senior Ecologist for Vollmar Natural Lands Consulting, will be conducting a detailed resource assessment when plants are blooming and animals are active. "We will have cameras to capture charismatic megafauna," he says. "Mountain lions, bobcats, foxes, badgers and coyotes are vital to a balanced ecosystem."

In a generation, JMLT has become one of the leading forces for conservation in northern California, with 3,100 acres protected and permanently preserved in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties. JMLT believes that the vitality of our open spaces is essential to the health of our earth, air, water, native plants and animals—and all of us.

"A year ago we completed the successful Campaign to Save Carr Ranch with the support of thousands of families," says Eukel. "Almond Ranch will be just as important to people across the regions. We're optimistic about reaching the \$4 million goal, but obviously, we need every single donation, small and large!" ~JMLT press release and photos, jmlt.org



Sweet Sippers

Hummingbirds are some of the most beloved backyard birds. They're not only fun to watch, but they can do things most birds can only dream about. Flying upside down, backwards, and drinking nectar while in flight are only a few remarkable feats.

Customers often wonder if it's appropriate to provide nectar. Because of hummers' high metabolism they require lots of quick energy. Sugars in nectar are quickly converted to energy. The rest of their diet consists of small insects which provide protein, fat, and vitamins.



Position nectar feeders to be easily visible, away from predator hiding places. The birds will learn how to drink from feeders that have top, side, and tube openings at the bottom. Their tongues are substantially longer than their beaks, so they can reach to the bottoms of long flowers or deep hummingbird feeders. Hummers' tongues also split at the ends to envelop a drop of nectar and move in and out of the nectar at over 12 times per second.

Nectar in feeders may last up to a week in cool weather or go bad in as little as three days in hot weather. Clean feeders often and use new nectar after cleaning. If moldy, use brushes to clean with a 10% bleach solution, vinegar, or hydrogen peroxide. Wash with warm soapy water, rinse thoroughly, and dry. Use fine brushes and don't forget to use a port brush to clean the tiny ports.

To make nectar, use plain, white sugar (no minerals, brown sugars, honey, or syrups). The recipe is one part sugar to four parts water. Put only enough nectar in the feeder to feed the birds for 3-4 days. Keep extra nectar in a sealed bottle in the refrigerator for up to two weeks. There are new additives available that can make nectar last about twice as long in the feeder and about a month in the refrigerator.

If you notice discoloration or bugs in the nectar, discard it and clean the container. Happy hummer viewing!
~Mike Eliot, Wild Birds Unlimited

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.

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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:
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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:
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Spring has sprung and nesting season is upon us. A Dark-eyed Junco gathers nesting material, Maren Smith photo



Snapshots: In case you missed it, the May monthly meeting, attended by over 100 people (below), featured:
~**Birding Information:** L: Brian Holt, EBRPD Chief of Planning/GIS gave an update on land that will become a 2540-acre East Bay Regional Park on the former Concord Naval Weapon Station. (Maren Smith photos)
~**Program:** Middle L: Heather Robinson, Farallon Institute scientist, discussed her work monitoring breeding colonies of Brandt's Cormorants and Western Gulls on Alcatraz. For information about the Alcatraz Waterbird Docent Program, contact Ed Ryken, Docent Coordinator, at: edwbear@earthlink.net.
~Paul Schorr thanked Diane Malucelli (below L) and Chick Chickering (below R) retiring MDAS Board members.

"Look! Look! Look deep into nature and you will understand everything." ~Albert Einstein



To track the wildflowers on Mt. Diablo, check out the Mt. Diablo Interpretive Association (MDIA) bloom report at:
www.drive.google.com/open



Audubon

the Quail



Lori Patel will take over the reins as Quail Editor in September! Thank you, Lori! ~Maren Smith

