



the Quail

Mount Diablo Audubon Society

P.O. Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94597-0053

www.diabloaudubon.com/index.php

Volume 57, Number 10

July/August 2012

Wind Energy News

In the 1970s and early 1980s the Altamont Pass region in eastern Alameda and Contra Costa counties was heavily developed for wind power generation, eventually including more than 5800 turbines covering a 56 square-mile area on ranch lands that provided ample habitat for birds and still serves as an important migratory corridor for Golden Eagles and other raptors. Unfortunately, the spinning blades of the wind turbines kill hundreds of birds and bats each year.

For much of the last decade, Bay Area Audubon chapters, led by Golden Gate Audubon and including Mount Diablo Audubon, Ohlone Audubon, Santa Clara Valley Audubon and Marin Audubon, have worked determinedly to require reduced impacts to birds, bats and other wildlife while still promoting renewable energy as a mandate for the future.

On May 31, NextEra Energy Resources announced completion of the first phase of a large-scale "repowering" project, which follows the settlement of a lawsuit brought by the Audubon chapters. This first step involved replacement of about 440 older turbines with 34 new turbines at the Vasco Wind Energy Center near Los Vaqueros Reservoir in Brentwood. The other two phases of the project are scheduled to be completed by 2015. Each of the new turbines generates 2.3 megawatts

of electricity—enough to power 600 to 700 homes. The project also involved removing 180 power poles and more than 6.5 miles of overhead power lines.

In California, apart from the Altamont Pass, wind turbines are located at Tehachapi near Bakersfield and the San Geronio Pass near Palm Springs. Solano County is now home to several wind projects, and there is a 50 MW plant on Indian lands in San Diego County, with others in the planning stage. California currently gets about 5 percent of its electricity from wind power, while most of the rest comes from natural gas, nuclear power and hydropower. The state has set an ambitious goal of getting 33 percent of its power from renewable sources by 2020. PG&E expects to meet this directive; it currently gets about 20 percent of its energy from renewable sources. About 25 percent of the utility's renewable energy comes from wind, but that is shrinking as more solar projects come online.

In March, the Department of the Interior released guidelines designed to avoid and minimize impacts of wind projects on wildlife and their habitats. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar said "These voluntary guidelines have been developed through an intensive public process with significant help from the wind energy industry, state agencies, and wildlife conservation groups and are designed to achieve the best outcome for wildlife and wind energy development." David Yarnold, President of National Audubon stated "By collaborating



New wind turbines near Los Vaqueros Reservoir

with conservationists instead of slugging it out, the wind power industry gains vital support to expand and create jobs, and wildlife gets the protection crucial for survival. I'm proud of the pivotal role Audubon played in developing this strong, consensus-based approach. These guidelines are based on the best available science and provide a roadmap to better bird protections across each of America's four great flyways."

Mount Diablo Audubon, in partnership with other chapters, will remain vigilant for the guardianship of wildlife.

The Siemens SWT-2.3-101 Wind Turbines installed in this repowering have three blades, each 49 meters in length, and they operate at speeds of from 6 to 16 rpm. Here's the math: with a diameter of 101 meters, the blade tips move through an orbit of 317.3 meters, or from 1904 to 5077 meters per minute; and that is equivalent to from 71 to 189 miles per hour.

The low point on the sweep of the blades is nominally 98 feet above the ground, while the high point is 430 feet above the base.

Meeting Schedule

There are no meetings during July or August. Please join one of the birding field trip; see Page 4.

The next general meeting of Mount Diablo Audubon Society will be **Thursday, September 6**, in the Camellia Room of The Gardens at Heather Farm, Walnut Creek.

President's Corner

By Jimm Edgar

I was invited on June 6 to a preview of the East Bay Regional Park District's Big Break Visitor Center near Oakley. What a wonderful facility. It is a 5,000 square-foot center that will house a number of exhibits and host students for interpretive programs. Bob Doyle, EBRPD executive director said it was the first EBRPD facility to be opened in 38 years, Tilden being that last building. The public dedication will be this fall. You must get out to see it.

On one of the displays there was a quote by Al McNabney who was one the long-time champions of the Delta center. Bob Doyle talked about Al's dedication to seeing the center built. Al was our VP of conservation for many, many years and became known as one of the fiercest defenders of the environment Contra Costa County has ever had.

In one of the early years when I was president of the chapter, around 1978 or '79, we had a vacancy in the conservation position.

At that time we were meeting in the Walnut Creek Women's Club and I made an announcement at our general meeting that we needed a volunteer for the position. After the meeting Al came to talk to me. I had never met him. He said he had recently retired and

lived in Rossmoor. He said he did not know a thing about the conservation field, but would be willing to learn, so he became a part of our Board of Directors and the Conservation Chair. Well, he learned fast and well. He attended meetings of the supervisors, the cities meetings, became known by all the local politicians, wrote countless letters and put Mount Diablo Audubon on the map as a big time force for environmental issues.

In May 1998, following the death of Al McNabney, Rep. Miller read into the Congressional Record a tribute to Al, including these remarks:

Al McNabney was an outstanding citizen whose passion for the environment began with an interest in birds and later developed into active memberships with a variety of advisory councils and environmental organizations, including his service as Vice President of Conservation for the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society. Al is remembered as a respected source of information about most conservation issues, and he wrote many letters to me about his personal environmental concerns and pending legislative policy issues. His vision for the development of the Delta Science Center, a state-of-the-art facility for environmental research, education and recreation, will soon become a reality and a valuable resource for the citizens of my district.

You might remember that the marsh at EBRPD's Waterbird Regional Preserve, just off Free-way 680 in Martinez, is called McNabney Marsh. When the huge Shell Oil spill took place that wetland was almost lost forever. Al fought with Shell Oil and got them to give millions of dollars to restore the marsh. It is considered the most important wetland in all of Contra Costa County, and if not for Al it would be gone.

Rep. George Miller used to belong to the athletic club I belong to and his locker was

near mine. Though he did not come in very often, the first time I met him I introduced myself as part of Mount Diablo Audubon and he immediately said, "Oh! where Al McNabney works out of." He thought the world of Al.



Big Break Visitor Center at the Delta. East Bay Regional Park District photo..

I guess one of the reasons I bring this up is because of the new Big Break Visitor Center that Al fought so hard for, but also because Al stepped up to serve on our board. We still need a conservation person as well a program chair. I hope someone reading this might step forward as Al did years ago.

Also, be sure to see the new Big Break Visitor Center when it opens this fall. You will really be impressed.

Welcome New Members

Henry Fabian	Walnut Creek
Javier Guevara	Walnut Creek
William Kirkham	Concord
David Morris	Concord



Indigo Bunting found and photographed by Ethan Winning at Borges Ranch.

Q This is a fairly common bird of the valley oak and blue oak savannah habitats in Contra Costa County. It is not found in suburban or wetland environments. The striking pattern of the head and the white edging of the rounded tail distinguish this bird from all others.

Unscramble these letters, or turn to Page 6 to learn more.

AAKLOPRRRSW

The Quail is published monthly except January and August by Mount Diablo Audubon Society, P.O. Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94597-0053. *The Quail* is printed on 30% post-consumer waste recycled paper. **The deadline for the September issue is August 14.**

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

Three rare birds in the Contra Costa area were here during the past month. An **Indigo Bunting** at Borges Ranch was seen by dozens of birders from 5/18 until 6/10. A **Black-chinned Sparrow** was first seen 5/28 at the Big Springs area of Tilden RP and continues. A **Clark's Nutcracker** came to a grove of pines in a Martinez backyard off Reliez Valley Road near Oakmont Cemetery for two days in early June.

Grasshopper Sparrows and **Lawrence's Goldfinches** continue to be seen in larger than usual numbers.

A late **Blue-winged Teal** pair were at Heather Farm Pond on 5/26. HH, BH.

A **Bald Eagle** was flying over Kennedy Grove RP on 5/18, LL, and another at Upper San Leandro Reservoir on 5/20. HN.

Eight **Swainson's Hawks** were in a kettle in east county on 6/6. P&NS.

Two young **Peregrine Falcons** were in their aerie on the cliff face of Castle Rock on 5/31, PB. 3 young and 1 adult were there 6/4. TF.

On 6/6, P&NS saw a **Prairie Falcon** in east county.

A late **Spotted Sandpiper** was at Heather Farm Pond on 5/29. HH.

A **Caspian Tern** was flying at the Lafayette Reservoir 6/1. SS.

MM had a **Eurasian Collared-Dove** in his backyard 5/17. Collared-Doves are continuing to expand their range and compete with Mourning Doves.

On 5/19, BT saw the last reported fledgling **Northern Saw-whet Owl** at Valle Vista Staging Area near the corral.

A **Say's Phoebe** was in Pine Canyon 6/4. TE. An uncommon few have been known to nest around Mount Diablo.

A very rare **Clark's Nutcracker** was seen 6/1 and 6/2. TK. Every few years there are scattered reports of these birds in the Bay Area.

JH found a pair of **Phainopepla** in the Lime Ridge Open Space behind the

Boundary Oaks Golf Club on 6/6 in the same place he found them breeding for the Breeding Bird Atlas.

A **MacGillivray's Warbler** continued on the Inspiration Point Trail in Tilden RP on 5/24. JC.

P&NS heard a **Yellow-breasted Chat** near Piper Slough near the end of Bethel Island Road, 6/6.

Rufous-crowned Sparrows were seen in many places from 5/27 to 6/6. C&TW at Mount Diablo State Park near Stage Road; TF at Stage Road near Shell Ridge; Lime Ridge, JH; and BF and JHa in Tilden RP.

The **Black-chinned Sparrow** was found by BF at the Big Springs area at Tilden RP on 6/6. It was subsequently seen by ZB, JHo, MP, JHa and JB.

Grasshopper Sparrows were widespread. 5/20 at Fernandez Ranch, SH; 5/24 at the Inspiration Point Trail, JC; 16 at Wildcat Canyon RP 6/3, JD, WH, LH; Lime Ridge JH, 6/6.

A **Blue Grosbeak** was at the expected place along Bethel Island Road in east county. P&NS, 6/6.

Lazuli Buntings were wide-spread in the county.

One or possibly two **Indigo Buntings** were found at Borges Ranch 5/18 by EW. After the word was sent out by HH, large numbers of birders were able to easily see an **Indigo Bunting** from a high Valley Oak tree.

Lawrence's Goldfinches continued with 2 seen at Borges Ranch on 5/27. C&TW.

Up to three **European Goldfinches** continue to be seen near the corral at the Valle Vista Staging area. 5/19 BT, MR; 5/20 HN; 6/6 RT.

ZB Zach Baer, PB Peter Boffey, JB John Brennehan, JC Jim Chirobolos, JD Judith Dunham, TF Tracy Farrington, BF Brian Fitch, HH Hugh Harvey, JHa Jack Hayden, JH Joel Herr, BH Bob Hislop, WH Wendy Hoben, JHo Jeff Hoppes, LH Lydia Huang, SH Steve Hutchcraft, TK Tom Kellogg, LL Laura Look, MM Mike Marchiano, HN Harold Newman, MP Michael Park, MR Mark Rauzon, P&NS Paul and Nancy Schorr, SS Susan Stern, BT Brent Thorndason, RT Ruth Tobey, C&TW Chris and Terri Wills, EW Ethan Winning

Muir Heritage-Photographers

Muir Heritage Land Trust invites you to enter the inaugural Our Wild Lands Photography Contest. Focus your lens on the stunning landscapes and natural beauty of the Muir Heritage Land Trust properties. Explore the Acalanes Ridge, Fernandez Ranch, Sky Ranch, Dutra Ranch, and Gustin properties and submit your photographs for a chance to win prizes and recognition.

Mount Diablo Audubon is a co-sponsor of this event.

The Land Trust's properties are rich with wildlife and wildflowers, as Mount Diablo helianthella, mountain lions, American badgers, Golden Eagles, and Red-legged frogs highlight an extensive list of the flora and fauna. More information about the contest and the properties can be found by visiting the Muir Heritage website at www.muirheritagelandtrust.org.



Western Bluebird at Fernandez Ranch. Photo by Steve Hutchcraft, Muir Heritage Land Trust.

The Our Wild Lands photo contest is now open and images may be submitted through July 15th.

Winning images will be showcased at Muir Heritage's *Fresh Aire Affaire Gala* in August and the top images will be featured on both the contest and MHLT's websites. A presentation of winning images will be made at a MDAS meeting in the fall as well.

Good luck and thanks for your support of the Muir Heritage Land Trust's efforts to protect and preserve open space for all the inhabitants of Contra Costa County.

Field Trip Schedule

By Hugh Harvey

July

21 Saturday..... San Mateo Coast

August

18 Saturday..... Bodega Bay

①②③ Saturday, July 21 San Mateo Coast

Leader: Maury Stern, 284-5980.

Carpool leaves at 7:30 AM from Sycamore Valley Road Park and Ride. Meet at 9 AM at overlook at Pescadero Beach on Highway 1 across from Pescadero Road. Go south on I-680, turn west on I-580 to I-238, follow to I-880, then south to SR 92. Cross the San Mateo Bridge (toll) and continue to Half Moon Bay. Turn south on SR 1, go 15 miles to Pescadero Road, turn right into parking lot. Bring lunch and sunscreen—one can get badly burned on a foggy day at the seashore. Early returning shorebirds, gulls, possibly Bank Swallows. Category 1 or 2, with optional Category 3 extension to Año Nuevo Beach.



Western Gulls at the mouth of Pescadero Creek.

① Saturday, August 18 Bodega Bay

Leader: Fred Safier, 937-2906.

Carpool leaves Sun Valley at 7:30 AM. Meet in parking lot of Tides Restaurant on water side of Highway 1 in Bodega at 9:15 AM. Take I-680 across the Benicia Bridge (toll). Go west on I-780 to I-80 towards Sacramento, exit to SR 37. Follow SR 37 to Lakeville Road, turn right. In Petaluma turn left on E Washington Street and continue on Bodega Road, Valley Ford Road and SR 1 to Bodega Bay. Possibilities at Bodega Bay include flocks of shorebirds including Black Oystercatcher, Wandering Tattler, Marbled Godwit, as well as terns, gulls, cormorants and much more. Bring lunch, liquids and sunscreen.

Field trip planning.

The Chapter has supported 17 leaders on 40 trips so far this year, two others have been cancelled due to rain. In addition, we have had over 350 participants, with two trips still to come.

Because these are really your trips, if you would like to go somewhere new, let us know. If you would like to help by leading a trip, let us know. If we are doing something incorrectly, let us know that, too.

The chance to do this is Wednesday, July 11. We will meet at Jean Richmond's house in Alamo at 7 PM to discuss next year's calendar. Our meeting will be less than two hours, light refreshment will be offered. For more details, please contact Hugh Harvey at 935-2979 or Jean Richmond at 837-2843.

Come birding with us.

Field trips are open to members and non-members, beginners and advanced birders. Weather or other contingencies may require changes. For updates, visit the MDAS website at www.diabloaudubon.com/index.php.

Because most trips do not return until late afternoon, bring a lunch and drink and join us during our midday break.

Category ①: Easy, little or no walking, smooth paths

Category ②: Moderate, one mile +, possibly rough terrain

Category ③: Difficult, extensive walking on rough terrain.

Carpool locations: **Sycamore Valley Road Park and Ride Lot**—Just south of Danville, exit I-680 at Sycamore Valley Road to the east; the Park and Ride lot is on the left. **Sun Valley**—Southwest corner of the Sun Valley Mall parking lot at Willow Pass Road and Contra Costa Boulevard in Concord.

Our Mount Diablo Audubon Chapter is a conservation organization. As such, we encourage members to consider meeting at the carpool point to pick up or ride with others. It is important that given the cost of gasoline, those who ride with others offer to pay some of this cost. Don't forget about any bridge tolls or park entry fees on some of our longer trips.

Beaver Festival

This year's Beaver Festival will be August 4 from 11-4 and will provide fun, free family entertainment that celebrates the beavers while teaching a broad audience about the benefits of beavers and how to solve beaver conflicts. Several scientific research studies have shown that beaver dams increase populations of migratory and song birds. Mount Diablo Audubon will again participate in this event and you are encouraged to come to the party.

The Beaver Festival is held in Beaver Park at Alhambra Avenue and Marina Vista Avenue in Martinez. Find more information about the festival and about its sponsoring organization, *Worth A Dam*, at the website www.martinezbeavers.org.

Hugh Harvey, his sisters and his brother are inviting you to help celebrate their Dad's 89th birthday. Feel free to drop in from 1-4 PM Saturday, July 14, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1924 Trinity Avenue, Walnut Creek. We will be in the parish hall, parking is across the street. Light refreshment will be offered. RSVP to Hugh Harvey at 935-2979 by July 8. No presents.

Trip Reports

West Briones Regional Park, May 17. Ten people spent the morning at Briones Regional Park. The mild overcast lifted quickly and we had 60-degree weather. The Lazuli Bunting, the main target bird, was in the trees at the parking lot. We heard many birds, but saw fewer. We had good listens to Ash-throated Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, Bewick's Wren, Swainson's Thrush, Wren-tit, Orange-crowned Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, and Grasshopper Sparrow.

Maury Stern

East Contra Costa County, May 19. On a clear and warm spring day, eleven MDAS members and guests went afield to bird the rural areas of eastern Contra Costa County including a portion of the Marsh Creek Trail, Piper Slough on Bethel Island, Jersey Island Road and areas around the community of Knightsen. The target species seen included Blue Grosbeak, Swainson's Hawk, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Yellow-billed Magpie and Burrowing Owl. Target species not observed were Great-tailed Grackle and Yellow-breasted Chat.

Other birds anticipated but not observed included Osprey, Long-billed Curlew, Say's Phoebe, Loggerhead Shrike and Western Tanager, because each of these species were seen on the scouting trip two days earlier. However, other birds of note—either because they occur in this area only seasonally, because they hold special appeal or because they are not seen regularly even though residing year-around in the area—included American White Pelican, Green Heron, White-faced Ibis, Caspian Tern, Great Horned Owl, Western Wood Pewee, Western Kingbird, Swainson's Thrush, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Hooded and Bullock's Oriole. Some of these species represented "lifers" for some participants. Also of note, although not a positive sign, was the group's inability to detect any kind of warbler (climate change, perhaps?). By day's end, the group tallied 62 species.

Gary Fregien

Outer Point Reyes, June 2. Weather did not cooperate for the annual late spring MDAS field trip out to Outer Pt Reyes. The day was overcast with foggy conditions prevailing most of the time, especially on the higher hills. Nevertheless 16 members and guests turned out for the event. The first stop at Drakes Beach yielded several singing Swainson's

Thrushes; off the beach good views were obtained of Surf Scoters together with Common and Pacific Loons. At Mendoza Ranch we were able to see two Great Horned Owls, as always well hidden, with two Gadwall on the pond. Nunes Ranch proved disappointing - the Townsend's Solitaire seen two days earlier, was not found. Nothing of note was seen at the Lighthouse trees near the park residence.

Lunch was enjoyed in the lee of the lifeboat station at Chimney Rock/Fish Docks where we were treated to exceptional views of a very cooperative male Harlequin Duck. Two additional Great Horned Owls were found in the large cypress trees behind the park residence at the Fish Docks. Several Pigeon Guillemots were observed around and beneath the pier at the Fish Docks. A



Lunch time at Fish Docks. David Hutton Photo.

brief stop at the Oyster Farm yielded great views of a Common Yellowthroat. After tallying our list for the day at the RCA Station we found we'd seen or heard a total of 59 species. A few participants stopped by the Visitor Center to bird the Earthquake Trail - an additional 8 species were found including Sharp-shinned Hawk, Wilson's Warbler and several prominently singing Warbling Vireos.

David Hutton

MDAS Art Show Reprise

The Art Exhibit for Mount Diablo Audubon Society members at the Lynn House Gallery in Antioch last year was very successful. Sponsored by the Arts and Cultural Foundation of Antioch, this year the exhibit will share the gallery with photographers who enter the Delta Science Center Calendar competition. The exhibit will begin with an artist reception on September 8 and continue Wednesdays and Saturdays, from 1-4 PM through September 29.

You are invited to submit your work within the broad theme of Nature, in any media for the Mount Diablo portion of the exhibit. This is a nonjuried exhibit and you may enter two pieces. There will be awards given for \$100 Best of Show, \$75 1st Place, \$50 2nd Place, \$25 3rd Place and two honorable mention ribbons. The website for this exhibit is: <http://art4antioch.org/Mt.Diablo-Audubon-Exhibit2012.asp>

The art exhibit is free and open to the public. The event will be publicized in the local newspapers, ACFA electronic newsletter and website. You may enter the exhibit by notifying Diane Gibson-Gray, ACFA

Executive Director at Diane@Art4Antioch.org or (925) 325-9897. The exhibit will be held at the Lynn House Gallery, located at 809 West First Street, in Antioch, across from Amtrak.

Last year Best of Show was awarded to Julia Starr for her painting "Hunters." Scott Hein took First Place honor with his photograph "Ocean Sunfish."



Bewick's Wren.. Sketch by Meg Sandri.



Thomas Say, Portrait by Charles Willson Peale. Prior to their departure for the 1819-1820 Long Expedition, the well-known artist Charles Willson Peale painted Long's and Say's portraits. Peale commented that "... if they did honour to themselves in that hazardly expedition that they might have the honour of being placed in the Museum and if they lost their scalps, their friends would be glad to have their portraits."

Say returned to Philadelphia, and in the following year published the first part of his *American Entomology*, which he planned to complement Wilson's *American Ornithology*. Many of the colored plates for this work were done by Titian Peale. Ultimately, three volumes were published, but this was far short of the proposed extent of the work.

In 1825, Say's friend William Maclure, at the time President of the Academy of Natural Sciences, persuaded him to join



Plate 1 from Say's *American Entomology* showing *Papilio philenor*, Pipevine Swallowtail.

the New Harmony utopian experiment in Indiana, and with a number of other scholars and educators descended the Ohio River from Pittsburgh destined for the frontier of Indiana. While the socialist project foun-dered, the scientific efforts were of some success. Thomas Say made New Harmony the base for his research, lectures and publications until his death in 1834, although he was not whole-heartedly supportive of the utopian movement..

Lark Sparrow ♦ *Chondestes grammacus*

a The Lark Sparrow gets its name from its melodious song, which resembles those of the lark family. Even so, Ralph Hoffmann, in his wonderful book *Birds of the Pacific States*, writes "The song just lacks considerable beauty, but it is never free and flowing; trills and sweet notes are interrupted by a rather unmelodic *churr*. In the breeding season the Lark Sparrow sings on the wing and then gives its finest performance."

These birds feed on insects, grains and grasses. They especially like grasshoppers. The scientific name means "grain eater with striped head".



Lark Sparrow, at Shell Ridge. Photo by Ethan Winning.

NEWS FROM WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED



Farewell to Alice Holmes

As you may know, one of our favorite people is moving away. We would like to thank Alice Holmes for her years of dedication and service to the community, MDAS, and to our store. Alice has been one of the most pleasant and knowledgeable birders in the area. People have come to rely on her for solutions to their birdwatching problems and in identifying the birds they've seen. The MDAS has come to rely on her for arranging all of its fantastic presentations and lectures for many years.



In our store, she has been invaluable in helping us, as new owners, get started in the business. Customers often come in specifically to talk only to Alice. She also helps in every facet of our business from planning new products to training employees. She will be sorely missed.

We hope you will take the time to come in and visit Alice before she moves on to her new life in San Diego. I'm sure she would love to chat with many of you about the wonderful years she has spent with you.

We want to wish Alice the best in her future. We know she will be happy not having to travel 500 miles every other week to see her grandchildren. We also know that she will continue to be a fan of birding wherever she is and will become an asset to her local Audubon Society.

We also wish to thank those customers who have helped us donate to MDAS and Native Bird Connections through their purchases. In a short time, we have collected over \$150. This will grow as more of you let us know you are members when you come in. You can call or email as well.



Mike and Anne Eliot
Wild Birds Unlimited
692 Contra Costa Blvd.

Pleasant Hill, CA 94523, 925-798-0303
Visit us at www.wbupleasanthill.com

Ornithology Opportunities

14th Annual Kern River Valley Hummingbird Celebration, August 11, 8 AM–2 PM. Audubon California Kern River Preserve. Bird walks, bird feeding workshops, T-shirt sales, information booth. Very low-key event. This event is free although \$10.00 donation per adult is suggested to help defray the cost of feeding all of the birds at the Kern River Preserve.

Hummingbird numbers increase steadily at the Kern River Preserve hummingbird feeders from June until late-August. Six hummingbird species are possible at the Kern River Preserve feeders in July, August, and early September with over one thousand hummingbirds present some days: Black-chinned (numbers decrease from July through early September), Anna's, Costa's (low numbers), Calliope (rarely), Rufous (peak numbers in late August and early September), and Allen's (virtually impossible to separate from Rufous, even adult males, except during banding sessions).

Weather in the Kern River Valley in mid August is usually very hot (sunny, 60–105° F daytime temperature range), but it can be variable. For your comfort, we suggest bringing water, snacks, a hat, sun screen, insect repellent, and sturdy shoes. There are no food vendors at the preserve so participants should bring lunch and drinks for the day.

The **Monterey Bay Birding Festival** is home of one of the most spectacular birding and wildlife venues in North America. From soaring Golden Eagles to effortlessly glid-

ing California Condors, cheeky Bushtits to gorgeous Townsend's Warblers, scampering Snowy Plovers to wheeling flocks of thousands of Sooty Shearwaters, few places can match the diversity of habitats as Monterey Bay. The eighth annual festival is September 13-16, at the Watsonville Civic Plaza. Designed for both seasoned and beginning birders, the festival offers a unique opportunity to explore, learn and appreciate world class habitats such as the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Elkhorn Slough National Marine Estuary, and Pinnacles National Monument. Specially designed field trips will take participants to Big Sur and the Ventana Wildlife Society to witness the return of the California Condors. Join a pelagic trip by Shearwater Journeys to one of the world's most productive regions for albatrosses, shearwaters, storm-petrels and more. Jump into a kayak at Elkhorn Slough Safari. All field trips are led by top quality, friendly leaders. To register online, go to www.montereybaybirding.org. For more information, call 831-726-8052.

Southwest Wings Birding and Nature Festival, Arizona's oldest and best Birding and Nature Festival. Sierra Vista, AZ, August 1–4. The 2012 Southwest Wings Birding and Nature Festival will be held at Cochise College at the foot of the Huachuca Mountains, just a few minutes away from most of SE Arizona's most famous birding areas. <http://swwings.org>.

Tucson Bird & Wildlife Festival, August 15–19. Experience Southeast Arizona birding at its best: exciting monsoon birding, peak hummingbird diversity, Sonoran Desert and Sky Islands specialty birds. <http://www.tucsonaudubon.org/festival>.

"Not all is doom and gloom. We are beginning to understand the natural world and are gaining a reverence for life—all life."

Roger Tory Peterson

Mount Diablo Audubon Society meets on the first Thursday of each month, except July and August, in the Camellia Room of The Gardens at Heather Farms, 1540 Marchbanks Drive, Walnut Creek. Everyone is invited.



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MDAS MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION

- Please enroll my family and me as a member of Mount Diablo Audubon Society for \$25 for one year. Your membership dues are tax deductible.
 I'm enclosing an additional tax-deductible donation of \$_____.
 For an additional \$20 (new NAS members only), please enroll me in the National Audubon Society.

Please send The Quail by: US mail E-mail _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ E-mail _____

Please make your check payable to:

MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY and mail with this application to:

Membership Chair 1932 Golden Rain Road #4 Walnut Creek, CA 94595

Mount Diablo Audubon Society,
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Say's Phoebe at Mount Diablo. Photo by Albert Linkowski.

Thomas Say The Father of American Entomology

As the nineteenth century began, the Westward Expansion was also beginning, and America, under President Thomas Jefferson, was eager to learn what they actually had. A number of explorations were mounted, perhaps chiefly that of Lewis and Clark in 1805-1806. In 1819, now under President Monroe, Major Stephen H. Long was sent to thoroughly examine the country through what is now Kansas, Oklahoma, and on to the Rocky Mountains. Thomas Say was the zoologist on this journey, and made the first observations of Band-tailed Pigeon, Western Kingbird, Rock Wren, Lesser Goldfinch, Lark Sparrow, Lazuli Bunting and Orange-crowned Warbler. Also on this list is the flycatcher that would be named for him, Say's Phoebe.

Thomas Say was born June 27, 1787, in Philadelphia, son of a physician and great-grandson of America's first botanist, John Bartram. He was a grandnephew of William Bartram, and nurtured his interest in natural history at Bartram's Gardens. He met

Alexander Wilson there, and, also in Philadelphia, at Peale's Museum, he met Thomas Nuttall and Charles Willson Peale's son Titian. Titian Peale, twelve years younger than Thomas, was also a collector of insects and butterflies, as well as a capable artist in the shadow of his famous father.

In 1812, seven gentlemen met to discuss their varied interests as amateur scientists. These included two physicians, a dentist, an apothecary, a distiller, and Thomas Say, "a young man with a passion for natural history." They named the group Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia and after a short while obtained a place for their collections. The Academy grew and began to sponsor collecting trips. In 1817, Say, together with George Ord, an ornithologist, William McClure, a geologist and mineralogist, and Titian Peale, went to the islands off Georgia and to Spanish-controlled Florida. While they collected many insects and shells, their success was limited by threat of attack by hostile native tribes in Florida.



Chesapeake jeffersonius, the state fossil of Virginia, was named by Thomas Say in honor of Thomas Jefferson.

Say's career as a druggist was short-lived, and he worked at the Academy and at the Museum along with Nuttall organizing the collections.

Say accompanied Major Long on a second expedition, this time to the headwaters of the Mississippi River (then called St. Peter's River), Minnesota, Canada and the Great Lakes in the Summer of 1823. Say recorded a number of new shells and insects.

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