



the Quail

Mount Diablo Audubon Society

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

www.diabloaudubon.com/index.php

Volume 51, Number 10

July–August 2006

President's Corner It's Summer—Get Ready for Fall!

This is my first opportunity to write in the "President's Corner" slot for the *Quail* as your newly elected president. There are a number of items I intend to write about over the next year in this space that will include:

- My trip this past March to South Africa to see birds on John Robinson's tour. Please note John will be our program speaker at our October 5 meeting and it should be a great presentation.
- Some of our planned field trips, including the trip to Annadel State Park this past June 8 where we saw a male Northern Parula Warbler and SIX woodpecker species!
- The Burrowing Owl survey our chapter is part of for the state of California.
- And our ongoing efforts to create a large Park and Open Space at the Concord Naval Weapons Station (CNWS)

Last month outgoing president Mike Williams wrote about the "Bold Vision for Concord, create a grand park." Your board has taken the strong position that the lands that have been used by the Navy, now called the CNWS, and that are being deactivated and turned back to public ownership, should be left as open space as opposed to another 10-15,000 homes, shopping centers, traffic, etc. This is an historic opportunity that will be remembered and cherished for generations upon generations. The possibilities are unlimited.

I recently drove through Golden Gate Park with some visitors from out of town who had never seen Golden Gate Park. I found myself proudly pointing out things in the park as if it were my park. In a way it is; the entire region treasures it. The same could happen to the CNWS lands. Golden Gate has over

Continued on page 2

School's out, and the weather is perfect for vacations nearby or around the country. July is a grand time to wake in the morning at Mount Diablo's Juniper campground to the lilt of a California Thrasher. August is the best time to tick off the many species of hummingbirds in southeast Arizona. When you return, here's what awaits.

Gary Kramer is a wildlife photographer and author. [See "Seven Wonders" in *Birder's World* for April, 2006.] From 1989 to 1999, he was the manager of the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex of six wildlife preserves, largely devoted to providing wintering habitat for waterfowl. His new book *Flyways, a celebration of waterfowl and wetlands* was published in May by Ducks Unlimited. One could not ask for a more qualified person to tell us, at September's meeting, about the wildlife and wetlands from Point Barrow to Baja.

John Robinson is a good friend of Mount Diablo Audubon, and, as president of "On My Mountain," a trip leader to far-away destinations of South Africa, Argentina, Costa Rica, and other great birding spots. Jimm Edgar was privileged to go with him to Africa this spring, and said: "There was enough exposure to the real Africa in terms of people, culture, language, flora and fauna that you felt you had experienced the country." John Robinson will spotlight the birds of South Africa at our October meeting.

Stephen Joseph is the acclaimed nature photographer whose beautiful picture of Mount Diablo is seen on our web site and on our banner that we display at environmental fairs. His current project, in association with historian Bonnie Gisel, is documenting John Muir as a botanist. Our November meeting will be a winner!



Top: Snow Geese and Ross's Geese. Photo copyright Gary Kramer; Center: Burchell's Zebra of South Africa. Photo copyright John Robinson; Lower: Columbine at Yosemite. Photo copyright Stephen Joseph.

Meeting Schedule

There will be no meetings during July or August. The next general meeting of Mount Diablo Audubon Society will be

Thursday, September 7

75,000 visitors on an average weekend and is enjoyed by people from far and near. With gas prices creeping up it may not be as attractive to drive to Yosemite or Point Reyes as it once was. Why not hop on BART and get off at the North Concord station and walk onto the Concord Naval land.

The planning process for the CNWS will be long and the board talked about our willingness to hang in there for the long haul. We think it is well worth the effort. Please note the latest on this effort on this page. Updates will appear there monthly and on our web site for your information.

I look forward to serving as your president. Mike Williams has really put together a fine board. These folks are ready to serve and work hard for your chapter. I hope you will feel free to contact any of us with ideas or your thoughts. As always, we have need for volunteers, so give us a call and a hand.

Jimm Edgar

Concord Naval Weapons Station Update

A recent public survey by the City of Concord shows that 50% of the city voters want the land left as open space, parks or public use.

Meetings:

July 11, Final City Council Working Session—at the Concord Senior Center, 2727 Parkside Circle. Public comments welcome.

August 1, Presentation to Council on Framework Document—at the City Council Chambers.

What you can do:

If you live in Concord: Attend these meetings and voice your opinions. Let your neighbors know that their voices count in this effort. Write letters to the editor of the Contra Costa Times (letters@cctimes.com) and to your City Council.

If you live outside Concord: You can also

attend the meetings and voice your opinion. More importantly, let your local Mayor and City Council know you want them involved and write letters to the Times.

Key Points:

- Any new development raises taxes and increases traffic problems.
- The land is already owned by the Federal Government (the tax payers), so why should we have to "buy it".
- The Navy should pay to clean up the area (from old munitions, etc.)
- Sports fields, picnic areas, hiking and biking trails and even a community center or arts institute could be part of this grand public park.

Remember if you want better things to happen to your community, you have to make an effort to let your elected officials know your feelings.

Take Action

By Shirley Ellis
Volunteer Coordinator

Our MDAS chapter is active, interesting, and successful because of our volunteers.

We participate in several events where our goals are to increase awareness of our environment, and this goal may be reached through an interest in birds. We concentrate on getting the attention of children at these events. Alice Holmes is in need of help with setting up the table and display board for these events such as at the Borges Ranch Heritage Day or at the San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival. Also needed is assistance with maintenance and improvement to our displays and resource materials. If you believe in conservation, you have an opportunity here. Please give this some thought. Make a difference!

Gerry Argenal would appreciate support in the job of hospitality. She arrives at 6:00 PM on general meeting day to set up for refreshments for the evening and remains after the meeting to clear the area. Gerry has been doing

Our many loyal volunteers, generous of their time, include these members who helped at the Borges Ranch Heritage Day on June 10. We appreciate and thank them all.

- ☆ Alice Holmes ☆
- ☆ Ron Kline ☆
- ☆ Ann Mahler ☆
- ☆ Diane Malucelli ☆
- ☆ Pam Rogers ☆
- ☆ Rita Tischler ☆
- ☆ Denise Willis ☆

a fabulous job in this position for several years and she deserves our thanks and a helping hand.

Our new Field Trip Coordinator, Hugh Harvey, would like to have some additional qualified leaders. This does not require that you be an expert birder, only that you are reliable in taking care of the details necessary to provide an enjoyable experience for the members who attend.

The *Quail* Editor, Ellis Myers, would appreciate your contributions. Can you write a column about your favorite birding spot in California?

What are some possible benefits of volunteer work? It can be rewarding to feel you have made a contribution in the success and goals of the chapter; it can be fun; and it is a good opportunity to meet new people with similar values.

If you have been enjoying the meetings, learning many things, talking with people who share your interests, now is the time to look in the mirror, see a capable and potential volunteer, and *Take Action*.

Inform me, Shirley Ellis, at 938-3703, or any MDAS board member.

Have a nice summer and please consider joining the MDAS volunteers in the fall.



This bird derives both its common and scientific names from medieval court jesters or actors. The birds migrate east and west rather than north and south as most birds do.

Unscramble these letters, or turn to page 5 for the answer.

ACDEHIKLNQRUU

NEWS FROM WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED



Birdfeeding Tips

- Keep your peanut and suet feeders well stocked. Woodpeckers, titmice, chickadees and jays will thank you by visiting all summer long. Try safflower seed if squirrels or blackbirds are a nuisance. They do not like safflower, which is a high-energy source. Doves and titmice really appreciate it. Other birds, such as finches, chickadees and jays, will acquire a taste for it.

- Squirrels will tend to avoid bird feeders if you establish a feeding station just for them 15–20 feet away from your other feeders. Offer a variety of foods: squirrel mix (sunflower, peanuts, and corn), corn on the cob, and squirrel suet.



Hooded Oriole

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692 Contra Costa Blvd.
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
925-798-0303

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Welcome New Members

Jeraldine Breault	Pleasant Hill
Glenn Breslin	Lafayette
Barbara Bridwell	Martinez
Alice Burns	Pleasant Hill
Lou Anne Dibble	Rodeo
Don Fallon	San Ramon
Jayne Gallagher	Oakland
Kathleen Martin	Concord
Joseph Millner	Lafayette
Stephanie Morgan	Oakland
Anne Stackhouse	Pleasant Hill
Myume Swinford	Walnut Creek
Susan Trebino	Martinez
Patricia Willy	Alamo

June Observations By Steve Glover

Submit observations to Steve Glover at countylinelines@sbcglobal.net or 925-828-7793.

A female Wood Duck with 9 tiny ducklings was in the channel near Seven Hills School, Walnut Creek on 6/8 (FS).

Two vocalizing loons, too distant to identify, were up Upper San Leandro Reservoir near Moraga on 5/21 (LP). Common Loon is far and away the most likely candidate, a very scarce visitor to the watershed reservoirs.

A single American White Pelican was at Upper San Leandro Reservoir on 5/21 (LP).

A male Costa's Hummingbird on 6/11, just below the kiosk on South Gate Road in Mount Diablo State Park, was a great find for the county (AD). Though Costa's nest in similar habitat in southeastern Alameda County, they have never been known to do so here.

On 5/14, yet another Pileated Woodpecker was noted along the Tres Sendas Trail in Redwood Regional Park, providing further evidence that confirmation of breeding is simply waiting for someone with the necessary patience (SS).

Jewel Lake in Tilden Park has traditionally been the most productive spot in the county to find "eastern" warblers. This spring produced a singing male Northern Parula 5/22-23 (ES, PR; DQ) and a Black-and-white Warbler on 6/11 (ES, MM).

A singing male Black-chinned Sparrow was along South Gate Road in Mount Diablo State Park on 6/1 (JC).

Did You Know?

East Bay Regional Parks conducts birding field trips throughout the summer. These trips are free, but advance registration is required. More details at www.ebparke.org.

Tuesdays For the Birds is limited to ten participants, and is scheduled in July and August to visit Tilden, Arrowhead Marsh, Claremont Canyon, Point Isabel, Kennedy Grove, Lake Anza, and Miller-Knox Parks.

Thursday Birding is open to as many as 50, and will go to Ironhouse Sanitary District and Round Valley Regional Preserve in August.

Grasshopper Sparrows were reported more widely than is typical, though most were in spots where they likely occur annually. Reports include a male near the Bear Creek entrance to Briones Regional Park 5/20-6/6 (JM, m. obs.), a singing male at Carquinez Strait Regional Park on 5/27 (CA), at least four singing males on the Crest Trail at Briones on 5/29 (TR), and a singing male at the newly opened Crockett Hills Regional Park on 6/3 (BP). Eleven birds, most of them singing, were on the Mezue and Conlon trails in Wildcat Canyon Regional Park on 5/27 (BM).

A singing male Blue Grosbeak was a surprise find at Briones Regional Park on 5/28 (JP). It was not unprecedented, however, as a male was found there on 6/16/1985.

"A number" of Great-tailed Grackles were at the Shadow Lakes Golf Course in Brentwood on 20 May (WC). Though nesting has not yet been confirmed in east county, it is undoubtedly occurring.

A female Lawrence's Goldfinch was in Mitchell Canyon, Mount Diablo State Park on 14 May (TH).

Cheryl Abel, William Clark, Judi Cooper, Al DeMartini, Travis Hails, Bruce Mast, Mike McClosky, Joe Morlan, John Poole, Lory Poulson, Bob Power, Dave Quady, Ted Robertson, Phila Rogers, Fred Safier, Emilie Strauss, Sylvia Sykora.

Field Trip Schedule By Hugh Harvey

July
29 Saturday San Mateo Coast

August
12 Saturday Bodega Bay

Field trips are open to members and non-members, beginners and masters. Weather or other contingencies may require changes. For updates, read the *Quail*, visit the MDAS website at www.diabloaudubon.com/index/php, or call the Audubon taped recording at (925) 283-8266. Customary carpool expense is 37½ cents per mile, plus tolls and entry fees, shared among driver and riders. Category 1: Easy, little or no walking, smooth paths; Category 2: Moderate, one mile or more, possibly rough terrain; Category 3: Difficult, extensive walking on rough terrain.

Carpool locations: Sun Valley—Southwest corner of the Sun Valley parking lot at Willow Pass Road and Contra Costa Boulevard in Concord. La Gonda—From I-680 southbound, exit on El Pintado, turn right, and right again onto LaGonda. From I-680 northbound, exit at El Cerro Blvd., Danville, turn left, then right on LaGonda, and drive about ¼ mile north to El Pintado. Acalanes—Pleasant Hill Road, just north of SR 24, at the corner of Acalanes Road.

July-August Field Trips

Saturday, July 29, San Mateo Coast. Carpool leaves at 7:15 AM, from LaGonda. Meet at 9 AM in beach parking lot off SR 1 opposite Pescadero Road. Cross the San Mateo Bridge, continue west on SR 92 to Half Moon Bay, go left on SR 1 for 15 miles to Pescadero Road, turn right into parking lot. Leader: Maury Stern, 284-5980. Category 2.

Saturday, August 12, Bodega Bay. Car-

pool leaves at 7:30 AM from Sun Valley. Meet at 9:15 AM at the Tides Restaurant in Bodega Bay. Take I-680 N across the Benicia Bridge, then I-780 W, I-80 N, Hwy 37 W, Lakeville Road, E Washington Street west through Petaluma. This becomes Bodega Ave., then Valley Ford to SR 1, to Bodega Bay. The Tides is on left. Shorebirds, waterbirds, migrants. Leader: Fred Safier, 937-2906. Category 2.

Ornithological Opportunities

Kern Valley Hummingbird Celebration. Weldon, California. August 12. The Southern Sierra's Kern River Valley is one of the premier migration routes for six species of hummingbirds, join us for a day of hummingbird appreciation at our feeders. Contact: Kern Valley Nature Festivals, PO Box 833, Weldon, CA 93283.

UC Botanical Garden Summer Bird Walk. Saturday, August 19, 9-10:30 AM. Treat yourself to the sounds of summer in the Garden. Join Dennis Wolff, expert birder and Chris Carmichael, Associate Director of Collections and Horticulture, to discover the Garden's diverse bird life. botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu.

San Francisco City College evening bird classes taught by Joe Morlan will start September 6, 7 and 12. All classes meet 7-9:15 PM in room 307, Marina Middle School, 3500 Fillmore at Bay Street. Free parking is in the school lot on the east side of the building.

The instructor is co-author of "Birds of San Francisco and the Bay Area" and "Birds of Northern California." Slides illustrate all lectures, and the text for all classes is "A Field Guide to Birds of North America," fourth edition, by the National Geographic Society. "The Sibley Guide to Birds" is recommended as an adjunct text for Ornithology II & III.

- Field Ornithology I, on Tuesdays, is an introduction to birds and birding, combining basic field skills with the study of bird ecology, biology, evolution and behavior.

- Field Ornithology II, on Wednesdays, is a continuing in-depth study of the identification and status of North American birds including ducks, vultures, and hawks.

- Field Ornithology III, on Thursdays, is a continuing study of North American land birds including flycatchers, shrikes, vireos, jays, larks and swallows.

Pre-registration is strongly advised. For further information call (415) 561-1860.

Trip Reports

May 25, West Briones. On a clear, cool morning, eleven members and guests recorded only 36 species, including a House Wren, Orange-crowned and Wilson's Warblers, several Black-headed Grosbeaks, and a Lazuli Bunting. The bird of the day was a Grasshopper Sparrow singing near the fence line across the road from the east parking lot. We spent quite some time searching, but the bird would not show himself. *Jean Richmond*



June 3, Outer Point Reyes. It is not every day that Jean Richmond sees a new life bird, but she and others saw the Eurasian Collared-Dove in the trees at the Nunes Ranch. While it was windy at Outer Point Reyes, four members and two guests saw or heard 51 bird species. Other birds of note were the nesting Common Murres and a Rock Wren at the lighthouse, Pigeon Guillemots at the Fish Docks, an Allen's Hummingbird and a Gadwall pair at Olema Marsh. Two Great Horned Owls were also seen during the day. *Hugh Harvey*

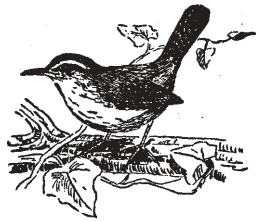
June 8, Annadel State Park. On Thursday, June 8, four members met at Annadel State Park near Santa Rosa. One of the people on the trip had heard reports of Northern Parula Warbler at Spring Lake Park which is adjacent to Annadel and normally we would cover in the afternoon, but because of the report of the warbler we went there first. Upon driving into the parking lot we heard the Parula singing in the trees in the parking lot. We were able to watch it in the scope for 5-10 minutes as it sang and gleaned insects. It was a life bird for one member. We saw 47 species during the day. We had 6 woodpecker species, which is very good. That included a Pileated Woodpecker flying in the trees near us at lunch. Hairy, Downy, Acorn, Nuttall's, and Northern Flicker rounded out the day. Good looks at juvenile Green Heron and Wood Duck with young were also worth noting.

Jimm Edgar

Strawberry Canyon *Cont'd from page 8*

Chickadee had moved in and built a nest—a perfect example of avian adaptability. The local Wrentit has been seen climbing claw over claw up the stalk of an aloe on the South African hill to feed on the upside down flowers, mimicking the behavior of an African sunbird.

The native birds and the exotic plants brought by collectors from all over the world seem to thrive together in this lovely canyon opposite the Golden Gate. Almost a hundred species of birds either pass through, fly overhead, or find a home.



Vigors Wren
Thryomanes bewickii spilurus
Birds of Golden Gate Park
Joseph Mailliard
1930

For the last several years, a pair of Hooded Orioles has built their nest in the palm collection having a mind-boggling choice—perhaps a windmill palm from China, a wine palm from Chile, or maybe a fan palm from Spain?

In the cloud forest section where we dodge the rain bird sprinklers, a Warbling Vireo sings. A Black-headed Grosbeak announces territory from the higher branches of a Chinese pagoda tree in full bloom. On the sunny south-facing slope beyond the Arid greenhouse, Chris points out the *Melianthus* whose stalks of blooming maroon flowers seem to attract more birds than any other plant in the garden.

At the upper edge of the native plant section, Chris points out a tall ceanothus that contains the torn remnants of Bushtit nests built over several seasons. Walking among the native plants, we were assailed by the strong, pungent smells of plants that for me are deeply familiar. And in the canyon below the Garden in the shade of bays and oaks, the Swainson's Thrush sings its immutable song that always brings a flood of memories of other summer canyons in California.



A new entrance and a courtyard dedicated to water-wise gardening were opened last September.

I spent two ecstatic evenings studying these articles, first deciphering the nomenclature with two childhood bird books close at hand—Ralph Hoffman's *Birds of the Pacific States* (1927) and Roger Tory Peterson's first revolutionary field guide. What, for instance, was the San Francisco Towhee, the Vigors Wren, the Willow Woodpecker, or

The canyon with its year-round stream and the following forest of alders, big-leaved maples, along with the oaks and bays, has always attracted a rich mélange of wild life. But what birds were here before the road, the Garden and the open hillsides now profoundly altered by planted trees and invading exotics?

I now have in my possession two articles from early 20th-century issues of *The Condor: The Second List of the Birds of The Berkeley Campus*, 1914, by Joseph Grinnell, a member of the UC Zoology faculty, and *Birds of a Berkeley Hillside*, by Amelia Allen, who lived in Strawberry beginning in 1911.

the Intermediate Sparrow? Sometimes even the Latin designations had been changed. The story is one of gains and losses—mostly losses.

For this incurable nostalgic, who when looking over the Bay performs a mental erasure removing buildings, bridges, tankers and the two or three million people, replacing them with an imagined image of a broad plain sloping toward the Bay crossed by meandering streams, populated by herds of grazing elk, patrolled by wolf packs and overflowed by Condors, these publications with their descriptions of 'the way things were' was grist for the imagination.

Harlequin Duck • *Histrionicus histrionicus*



Harlequin Ducks winter along the Pacific Coast from the Aleutians to Northern California. A reliable location where you can find them is at Glass Beach in Fort Bragg. They breed in the mountain ranges as far inland as Glacier National Park in Montana, where this photo was taken in late May. Another population

breeds in the maritime provinces of Canada and spends the winters on the New England coast. Harlequins are also found in Greenland and Iceland.

Harlequin Ducks breed on fast-moving, clear mountain streams, primarily within old-growth forest. They like places where mid-stream rocks or logs are available for loafing. They dive into the swift water to find larvae of aquatic insects such as caddisflies. Only American Dippers are competitors in this foraging activity. Males depart in June, while the females remain to brood the nest and raise their young. Hens and ducklings leave in August. The pair will come together on their winter grounds, and return to their favored breeding streams the following year.

Harlequin Ducks are beautiful, but secretive, birds, and much further study is needed to help protect them from decline. A "species of concern," they are at risk to hunting, oil spills, and changes to their traditional breeding waters.

Native Plants for Native Birds

By Pat Bacchetti

Gardening with Oaks

Quercus species

The oak trees of California are a keystone species: they provide food, shelter, and home to a wide variety of plants and animals. Oak habitats provide homes for up to 100 species of birds during the breeding season. They attract both resident and migrant species throughout the year. If you are one of the lucky gardeners who already have a resident oak, or if you are considering putting an oak or two in, you will greatly enhance your yard's ability to attract birds.

The dry side of the hills has five species of oak trees that are native. The two evergreen oaks are the coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) and the interior live oak (*Q.*

wislizenii). The coast live oak prefers canyons and areas with some fog, while the interior live oak is more drought-tolerant, but prefers north-facing slopes. The leaves are thick and waxy to protect against water loss in the hot summers.

Valley oak (*Q. lobata*), black oak (*Q. kelloggii*), and blue oak (*Q. douglassi*) are deciduous, but their branches provide sculptural beauty in the winter. These species lose their leaves to conserve water in the fall.

Culturally, oaks require little to no summer water after they are established. The mistake often made with oak trees in yards is too much water around the roots, which results in the tree rotting and falling after several years. Lawns are often deadly, and are sterile environments for critters. More drought-tolerant native understory plants also happen to provide good bird habitat. These include Pink-flowering Currant (discussed last month), gooseberries, toyon, snowberry, cream bush, and manzanita. Bunchgrasses, sword fern and wood fern, Heuchera, and California fuchsia

are also satisfactory understory plants. I will discuss these in more detail in future articles. Another consideration is pruning. A licensed arborist is often necessary to prune for the health and beauty of the tree. Don't scrimp on a good pruning, only to ultimately lose the tree.

What do oaks provide that makes them such an attractive tree for birds? The first thing is food. It's thought that 5000 insect species are associated with oak trees, from moths to leafhoppers to



Black Oak
Quercus kelloggii



Valley Oak
Quercus lobata

wasps. Insectivores like Oak Titmice, Bushtits, wrens, and warblers pick insects directly from the tree itself. Flycatchers like Black Phoebes and kingbirds use the trees for perches as they watch for flying insects. Woodpeck-

ers, flickers, and creepers probe the bark for food. Ground-foragers like the towhees, thrashers, and thrushes look through the leaf-litter for insects. Black-headed Grosbeaks and Acorn Woodpeckers eat oak catkins in the spring.

Then there are the acorns, consumed by at least 30 species of birds. Acorn woodpeckers, Western Scrub Jays, Steller's Jays, Wood Ducks, and Band-tailed Pigeons use acorns as up to 50% of their diet. Flickers, Lewis's Woodpeckers, and White-breasted Nuthatches also eat acorns. The birds benefit the trees, as well. Scrub jays, Stellar's Jays, and Yellow-billed Magpies all "plant" new oak trees by caching acorns in the ground. This is how acorns get planted up-hill.

Oaks also provide shelter for nesting birds. Cavity nesters include 6 species of woodpeckers, swallows, nuthatches, titmice, chickadees, bluebirds, and wrens. The canopy provides shelter and nesting sites for Great Horned Owls, Ash-throated Flycatchers, and Violet-green Swallows. Another interesting species of the oaks is the arboreal salamander, which uses oak cavities up to 30 feet off of the ground in which to breed.

Oaks are often overlooked as a tree to put into the garden. But if you are a birder (or a bird), an oak tree should be

at the top of your list. Resources on Oaks:

Oaks of California. Pavlik, Muick, Johnson, and Popper. Cachuma Press and the California Oak Foundation. 1991.

The California Oak Foundation. www.californiaoaks.org.

Across California: A look at the dry side of Bay Area vegetation. Glenn Keator. Manzanita, Friends of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden. Winter 2004-5.

You may also be interested in attending a class at the UC Botanical Garden with horticulturalist Nathan Smith titled "Gardening Under Oaks." It will be on Sunday, July 16. Call (510) 643-2755 for further information.

McNabney Marsh Update

By Bob Wisecarver

Dam or damn, a beaver has seen fit to homestead at the mouth of the entry/exit pipe to the marsh. Inasmuch as this is not part of the official plans for the marsh, and further, since the beavers have failed to file any Environmental Impact Report, the edifice will be removed. Hopefully this will discourage any rebuild in this area. If this fails to impress the critters, California Fish and Game will be called in to trap and remove the violators to some remote location. Stay tuned for further development in this ongoing saga.

With regard to officially sanctioned projects, Kinder-Morgan Pipeline Co. will be lowering their pipelines on the north side of the railroad and on Waterfront Road this summer to facilitate better flow in the channel. Also, the two 48-inch excess outflow tubes under the railroad lines will be put in place by a Chevron contractor. This work will be done as mitigation for the Chevron pipeline project now being started along the southern part of the marsh.

As for the water level in the marsh this summer, it will be a little lower than normal, but not dry like the last two summers. Don't clap yet, as the marsh will be dry next summer when the long awaited channel deepening will finally take place.

MDAS MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION

____ Please enroll my family and me as a member of the Mount Diablo Audubon Society for \$25 for one year.

____ Please enroll me as a lifetime member for \$500. Payment can be made in two annual payments of \$250 each.

____ Please enroll the individual/family listed below as a gift membership for \$25 for one year.

____ For an additional \$20 (new NAS members only) or \$35 (returning members), please enroll me in the National Audubon Society to receive four quarterly issues of the *Audubon Magazine*.

____ I'm enclosing an additional donation of \$_____.

Name _____

Address _____

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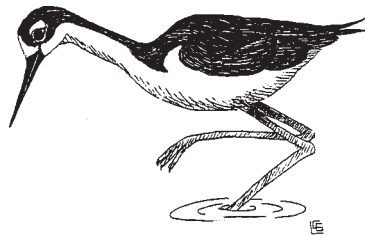
____ Visa ____ MasterCard _____ Expiration Date: _____

Name on Card: _____

Please make your tax-deductible check payable to:

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

Membership Chair, 400 Oneida Court, Danville, CA 94526



Mount Diablo Audubon Society meets on the first Thursday of each month, except July and August. Everyone is invited.

Driving directions:

From Walnut Creek, take Ygnacio Valley Road to the signal at Marchbanks Drive. Go left and follow Marchbanks to the Garden Center, opposite the Greenery Restaurant. Turn left into the parking lot.

From Highway 680 south, take Treat Blvd. to Bancroft. Go right to Ygnacio Valley Road, turn right and go one block past signal at N. San Carlos Dr. (Heather Farm entrance). At Marchbanks Drive turn right. The Garden Center is located on the right in the second block.

the Quail

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(925) AUD-UBON • (925) 283-8266

Mount Diablo Audubon Society general meetings are on the first Thursday of every month except July and August in the Camellia Room of the Garden Center at Heather Farms, 1540 Marchbanks Drive, Walnut Creek. Board of Directors meets at 7 PM on the second Thursday of every month. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Call for location.

Questions about membership or mailing addresses? Call Ann McGregor, Membership Chair, at (925) 968-1677. MDAS membership includes 10 issues of the Quail. A 1-year family membership in MDAS is \$25/year or \$500 for lifetime membership (payable in two \$250 annual payments). National Audubon Society membership includes the Audubon magazine. Introductory 1-year membership is \$20 or \$30 for 2 years; membership renewal is \$35/year. To join MDAS or NAS, send a check payable to MDAS to Ann McGregor, Membership Chair, 400 Oneida Ct., Danville, 94526. SEND ADDRESS CHANGES for both NAS and MDAS to P.O. Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94597-0053.

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Quickies

Weekend Birding in California

Strawberry Canyon and the UC Botanical Garden

By Phila Rogers

I remember my parents telling me how when they first lived in Berkeley in the early 1920s they would take Sunday walks up Strawberry Canyon. That was in the days when the Botanical Garden was still on the campus adjacent to the Life Sciences building. The University owned the land up to near the crest of the hills but it was undeveloped except for a dairy and newly-planted groves of eucalyptus and pine.

My parents weren't bird watchers, but they both loved the out-of-doors. My mother, as long as I can remember, would always kneel before a wildflower to admire even the most modest species.

By the time I came to Berkeley in the late

1940s as a student, I had been a birdwatcher for 10 years. My litmus test for a prospective boyfriend was whether he was willing to meet me at sunrise for a bird walk up that same canyon.

Now sixty years later I'm still drawn to the Strawberry Canyon though it has continued to change. The University moved their botanical garden up to the top of the canyon in the late 1920s, Lawrence Berkeley Lab built their complex in the 1940s and in the 1950s. The canyon road (now known as Centennial Drive) was extended to Grizzly Peak Boulevard when Lawrence Hall of Science and Space Sciences built their buildings.

These days I most likely head for the Botanical Garden. Recently I had the chance to take a walk through the garden with the Associate Director, Chris Carmichael, who is a self-avowed "avid birder."

What a splendid place to spend the morning. The surrounding hills create a natural amphitheater that seems to

amplify bird song. On this morning in late May, birds were singing all around us—Olive-sided Flycatchers, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Hutton's and Warbling Vireos, a Lazuli Bunting just over the fence line on the grass hillside. And in the trees, a pair of recently-arrived Hooded Orioles chattered.

Chris can't remember a time when he wasn't watching birds—first as a boy in New England and later in Michigan where he was a grad student and then for fourteen years the curator of Michigan State's collection of mammals and birds before coming to the Garden eight years ago.

From the Garden entrance we head down the path toward the bridge crossing Strawberry Creek. Somehow the sound of running water always draws us as if the ancestral memory of the need for water will always be a part of who we are. Along the way, Chris points out a still-furled agave leaf where, spying a narrow opening, a pair of Chestnut-backed

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