

the Quail

Mount Diablo Audubon Society

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

www.diabloaudubon.com/index.php

Volume 50, Number 9

June 2005

Steve Glover and Potluck Dinner Are June Meeting Features

Steve Glover is birding! If you have ever tried to reach Steve Glover, you can be sure that he is out birding. We are all familiar with Steve's detailed monthly observations of birds seen in Contra Costa County that are printed in *The Quail*. He takes great care to confirm species identities and to research county records of the last one hundred years. His knowledge of the birds of Contra Costa County is extraordinary. His observations are often exciting, are always informative, and leave us with an understanding of the importance of the observation of the bird within our county. In July of 2002 he wrote, "Completely unexpected, particularly in terms of location, was a

Continued on page 6

Potluck Dinner

Please bring a salad, entree, or dessert to serve 10. Please mark your serving pieces. Paper plates will be available, but bring your own cups and flatware. Tea, coffee and punch will be provided. Bring your own wine if you wish.

Meeting Schedule

The next MDAS general meeting will be **Thursday, June 2**, in the Camellia Room of The Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek (see map on page 7).

6:30 PM Doors open

7:00 PM Dinner is served!

8:05 PM Program

Mark Catesby ➤
(1679-1749)

Englishman Mark Catesby came to the United States in 1712 to study the natural history of the plants and animals of the North American colonies. His volume "The natural history of Carolina, Florida, and the Bahama Islands" was published in London in 1754.

When Catesby came across the ivory-bill he named the bird the "largest White-bill Wood-pecker" and was apparently the first person to describe the species.

In Catesby's book he writes: "The bills of these Birds are much valued by the Cannola Indians, who made Coronets of 'em for their Princes and great warriors, by fixing them round a Wreath, with their points outward. The Northern Indians having none of these birds in their cold country, purchase them off the Southern People at the price of two, and sometimes three, Buckskins a bill."

German edition print "Der grosse Specht mit dem weissen Schnabel." Cecil and Mike Williams collection.



Campephilus principalis

The dramatic rediscovery of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker at the Cache River National Wildlife Refuge in Arkansas has had birders chirping in amazement since its announcement on April 28.

While the chances of adding the Ivory-billed Woodpecker to your life list are exceedingly small, there is nothing to deter you from the attempt. Just be aware that certain restrictions are in force, such as that no recordings of calls or drumming sounds are permitted for playback, and that certain areas are closed to the public, at least for now.

The Nature Conservancy and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, together with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and

Continued on page 4

President's Letter

By Mike Williams

A thank you to all our volunteers is very warranted. Hundreds and hundreds of hours are devoted each year by many of our members to everything from birdwalks to bird surveys to visiting classrooms and more. Without you, there would not be a Mt. Diablo Audubon Society.

A special thanks goes to Mike Tischler who has been MDAS's Secretary for many years. He is resigning as of the end of June. His efforts on the Board has been greatly appreciated. We hope he doesn't expect to be done with his volunteering. We have other things in mind for him!

The discovery of the Ivory-Billed Woodpecker is certainly the birding highlight of the last 60-100 years. Besides finding the bird, what is amazing is that over 50 people knew about it and kept it quiet for a year. I don't think I could have kept the secret. Could you? If you go to Arkansas to see it, you better take a camera if you expect anyone to believe you saw it.

Have a great summer and go on a birding trip somewhere.

Cheers for our Volunteers!

By Shirley Ellis



▲ Earth Day celebration at John Muir National Historic Site. Left: Bob Wisecarver and Georgette Howington display nesting boxes for Bluebirds and other cavity nesters; Right: Barbara Wiegand helps children with bird nest identification.



◀ Children inspect bird nests at the fourth annual Wildlife Festival at the Wagner Ranch Nature Area in Orinda. In addition to exhibits and activities with a focus on outdoor learning, there were student math activities, art works, and musical performances. A highlight was a special dancing and drumming performance to welcome the Native Americans called "Friendship Dance".

• Earth Day observance at Whole Foods Market, Walnut Creek, April 23.

• Earth Day observance at Wagner Ranch Nature Center, Orinda, April 24.

and scheduled for June 11: Heritage Day at Borges Ranch, Mount Diablo State Park, Walnut Creek.

Cheers, accolades and unbounded thanks go to each of these members:

- Cheryl Abel
- Ellen Beans
- Colette Cussary
- Vida Dawson
- Carolyn Erdman
- Gene Fletcher
- Joe Frank
- Harvey Green
- Hugh Harvey
- Don Holm
- Helen Holm
- Alice Holmes
- Georgette Howington
- Russ Jones
- Patrick King
- Ron Kline
- John Leggett
- Pam Leggett
- Anne Mahler
- Ellis Myers
- Mimi Myers
- Pamela Rogers
- Beverly Walker
- Barbara Wiegand
- Cecil Williams
- Denise Willis
- Bob Wisecarver

Their help is greatly appreciated. There is a constant need for volunteers in our all-volunteer-run chapter of Mt. Diablo Audubon Society. How about you? Give it some thought.

Welcome New Members

- | | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Ronald Hennig | Concord |
| Nancy McMillen | Danville |
| Cheryl Nevares | Orinda |
| Roger Prince | Danville |
| Noelle Schoellkopf | Danville |



Willow Goldfinch
Spinus tristis salicamans
Birds of Golden Gate Park
Joseph Mailliard
1930

Mount Diablo Audubon Society has participated in six nature activities this season. A table was set up and different volunteers spent from one to two hours at the table. Our goals for participation are the promotion of conservation—no habitat—no birds—or other specified wildlife; encouragement of the appreciation of birds and nature; and increasing our membership. We are especially interested in focusing on children and sparking an interest in them, which will hopefully be lasting.

We have a display board, compiled by Alice Holmes. This features our local conservation projects. Also we have an interesting bird nest display, and we offer copies of our newsletter, *The Quail*.

The six events so far this year are:

- San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival, at Mare Island, Vallejo, on January 22-23.
- Markham Nature Park and Arboretum, Concord, on March 19.
- Earth Day and John Muir birthday celebration, at John Muir National Historic Site, Martinez, on April 23.

Field Trip Schedule

By Elizabeth Dickey

June

1 Wednesday, Annadel **Cancelled**
4 Saturday Outer Point Reyes
18-19 Saturday-Sunday Yuba Pass

July

30 Saturday San Mateo Coast

August

13 or 20 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. Trip directions and meeting times will be published in the *Quail*. 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.



Here is a bird that weighs almost exactly the same as a half-dollar coin (less than half an ounce), yet he is so mean that he will destroy the eggs of blackbirds. He builds many nests within his territorial claim, and each of his several mates will line the nest she chooses as best.

Answer on Page 4

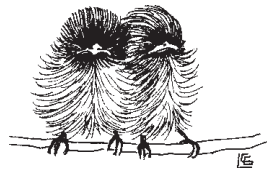
Return of the Terns Tours

Join Wildlife Biologist, Rachel Hurt, to view endangered California Least Terns tending their chicks. This population has grown from ten nesting pairs in 1976 to just under 400 last year: a fabulous success story she will share with you. Learn too, how you can protect these extraordinary birds and their habitat. To avoid disturbing the birds, this hour-long adventure takes place aboard a bus which travels to the proposed Alameda Wildlife Refuge. Binoculars and a scope will be used for viewing. Enjoy a least tern slide presentation and ongoing crafts and activities at the Crab Cove visitor center, before your trip. Parking fee may apply. Disabled accessible.

There are three separate tours on Sunday, June 12, at 11 AM, 12 noon, and 1 PM. Ages 8 years and older. Fee: \$3.00. Registration required: 510-636-1684, or at www.ebparks.org and click on WebReg, then Programs and Activities.

June Field Trips

Saturday, June 4. Outer Point Reyes. Carpool leaves at 7 AM from the southwest corner of Sun Valley parking lot. Meet at Bear Valley Visitor Center at 9:15 AM. Alternate route to San Rafael Bridge: take Camino Pablo to El Sobrante, go 1½ miles east on I-80 to Richmond Parkway exit; turn left and go straight ahead at stoplight. Cross the San Rafael Bridge. From I-101 north, take Central San Rafael exit. Go 2 blocks, turn left on 3rd Street and continue west to Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Turn right on Sir Francis Drake. At SR 1 at Olema, turn right 0.25 mile, then left onto Bear Valley Road. Visitor Center is off Bear Valley. We will carpool from Visitor Center due to limited parking along route. Fall vagrants. Be prepared for variable weather. Leader: Joel Summerhill, 925-753-0862. Category 2.



cabins. There are campgrounds at Chapman Creek and Yuba Pass. Other accommodations, including some campgrounds, are listed at www.sierracity.com/Stay/LodgingCamp.html. San Francisco State University maintains its Sierra Nevada campus six miles beyond Sierra City on Highway 49. They have a useful web link to accommodations in the area at www.sfsu.edu/~sierra/accom.htm.

In the middle of the Sierra Valley near Loyalton, the T Lazy R Ranch is a working cattle ranch with a guest house for rent. Owner Tim Rees can be reached for reservations at 530-993-1560.

Saturday and Sunday, June 19-20. Yuba Pass. This always productive and well-favored weekend trip to the northern Sierra will again be led by Hugh Harvey, 925-935-2979. Trip requires driving and walking, some of it over rough terrain. Last year the group saw 102 species, including Black-backed Woodpecker and Williamson's Sapsucker. Saturday will be spent birding in the Yuba Pass area for mountain birds. Sunday we will bird in the Sierra Valley for basin birds. Meet at the top of the pass at 7 AM Saturday morning.

Make motel reservations now. Closest motels are in Sierra City 18 miles down Highway 49. Herrington's Sierra Pines, (530-862-1151) is one of the best; Buckhorn Lodge (800-991-1170) has new

Field Trip Reports

April 13, East Briones Regional Park. Five birders enjoyed a sunny but chilly morning at the north end of the park. Many wildflowers were in bloom but only 31 species were identified as the leader is far from expert. A pair of Ring-necked Ducks on Lower Sindicich Lagoon, two pairs of Gadwall and a female Bufflehead on the Upper Lagoon were among only 39 species seen or heard.

Jean Richmond

April 27, Del Puerto Canyon. The trip started with clear and warm weather but ended with rain for 12 birders, joined part time by two others. Grasshopper Sparrows were heard and a Western Tanager seen not far from the freeway;

a male Costa's Hummingbird gave us a long and glorious close view; an adult and a young Great Horned Owl were in their nest hole on a cliff face; Golden Eagles soared overhead; a Green Heron flew up the creek; and a Canyon Wren was heard. In Raines Park were several singing Black-headed Grosbeaks and Lazuli Buntings, a female MacGillivray's Warbler and a pair of Lawrence's Goldfinches apparently building a nest. On San Antonio Valley Road, two Lewis's Woodpeckers were at their usual location and three Wood Ducks were at the marshy pond farther south. A Wild Turkey was seen along Mines Road on the way home. It was a great day with 69 species seen or heard.

Jean Richmond and Hugh Harvey

A Wandering Tattler put in a rare spring appearance at Point Isabel 4/28 (DG). A Spotted Sandpiper, likely a migrant, was an unusual find at the Blackhawk Golf Course on 5/3 (JE).

Four Forster's Terns were once again present and engaging in courtship at McNabney Marsh near Martinez on 4/16 (SG). This has occurred the past two springs but breeding has never been confirmed there or anywhere in Contra Costa County.

At least four Calliope Hummingbirds were in White Canyon, Mount Diablo State Park on 4/20 (SG, FO, TR). This has long been a reliable spot for this migrant in the county.

The highlight of the period, beyond a shadow of a doubt, was the finding of a **Pileated Woodpecker** at San Pablo Bay Regional Shoreline near Pinole on 4/15 (LL). Though a few Pileateds are resident around Redwood Regional Park,

the only previous "out-of-range" sightings have come from Mount Diablo. In fact, there are few records from California as a whole that pertain to such obvious migrants.

At least eight Hammond's Flycatchers were in Mitchell Canyon, Mount Diablo State Park on 4/20 (SG, FO, TR). Interestingly, not a single Pacific-slope Flycatcher was detected on that day. A Dusky Flycatcher was also present that morning (RS *et al.*). Best of all, a single Gray Flycatcher was in White Canyon the same day (SG, FO).

A Pygmy Nuthatch was noted entering a nest cavity at Sibley Regional Preserve on 4/16 (JL). These nuthatches have only been known to breed in the East Bay since the late 1980s.

A Yellow-breasted Chat was an unusual find in Mitchell Canyon on 4/20 (RS *et al.*). A Grasshopper Sparrow at Sibley Regional Preserve 4/16 was, despite appar-

ently suitable habitat, an unusual find for that location (JL). The first to arrive at Bishop Ranch Regional Preserve near San Ramon—a traditional location—was detected 4/30 (DB).

As many as eight pairs of Great-tailed Grackles were at McNabney Marsh near Martinez on 4/16 (SG).

Dennis Braddy, Jimm Edgar, Steve Glover, Doug Greenberg, Laura Look, John Luther, Frances Oliver, Ted Robertson, Rich Stallcup

Ornithology Opportunities

Santa Cruz Island for the Island Scrub-Jay. June 5. Los Angeles Audubon Society. (323) 876-0202 (Tues.–Sat.); www.LAAudubon.org. Cost: \$85. Leaves Island Packers dock in Oxnard at 8 AM on the *M/V Vanguard*. See the *May Quail* for more information.

Woodpecker Wonderland Weekend. June 9–12 or June 23–26. Paradise Birding with Steve Shunk. Central Oregon's Cascade Mountains offer an abundance of woodpeckers, with eleven species nesting in the area, as well as 180 other species. Steve Shunk told this story of woodpecker diversity at our January meeting. \$745. www.paradisebirding.com.

Summer Birding in Tuolumne Meadows. July 3. Tuolumne Meadows. Yosemite Outdoor Adventures. \$80. 209-379-2321. www.yosemite.org/seminars. Early summer is a birder's paradise in the high meadows and forests of the Tuolumne region. During this nesting time there are many opportunities to listen to songs of the breeding season, such as the haunting tune of the Hermit Warbler. You'll also see some of Tuolumne's other summer birds: Mountain Bluebird, Red Crossbill, and Clark's Nutcracker.

4th Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua. June 17–19. Lee Vining. Partnership with Eastern Sierra Audubon, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, California State Parks. www.birdchautauqua.org. Music, art, workshops, field trips, presentations, kayak trips, children's activities. Leaders include Jon Dunn, Rich Stallcup, David Wimpfheimer, Ane Rovetta.

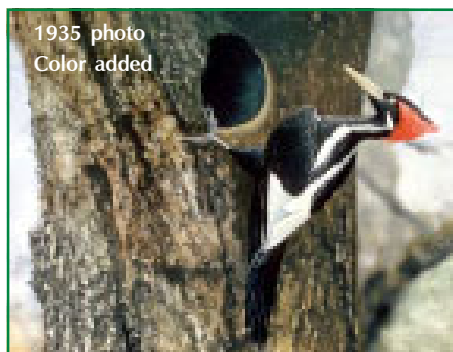
Ivory-billed Woodpecker *Cont'd from page 1*

the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, lead The Big Woods Conservation Partnership, formed in April 2004 to conserve forest habitat and rivers in the Big Woods. This "Corridor of Hope" is about 120 miles long and 20 miles wide in eastern Arkansas where the Ivory-billed woodpecker has been sighted—now on numerous occasions. Of perhaps 200,000 acres of potential habitat in the Big Woods, only 5000 acres are in the closed management areas.

Realizing that there would be an influx of birders and others into Arkansas to the site of discovery, the Partnership decided to create interpretive areas at the Cache River and White River National Wildlife Refuges and to post directions to these interpretive areas in a direct effort to minimize impact on the woodpecker's prime habitat. The wildlife refuges are also habitat for duck hunters, as well as for black bears and snakes.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has established five access points for refuge

visitors hoping to catch a glimpse of the woodpecker. Viewing towers to make viewing easier are planned. In addition, the Fish and Wildlife Service has increased its law enforcement presence in the area to ensure protection of the refuge's resources, including the Ivory-billed Woodpecker.



The Fish and Wildlife Service expects a large number of birders from across the country and beyond to come to look for the bird. Headquarters for Cache River NWR is on Highway 33, 16 miles south of

Highway 64, midway between Little Rock and Memphis. The best opportunity for birders to add this bird to their life list is on the adjacent Dagmar Wildlife Management Area, managed by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Good viewing areas are designated on the map at <http://www.fws.gov/cacheriver/index.html>.

American Airlines has round-trip fares between Oakland and Little Rock starting at \$333.

NEWS FROM WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED



• Birdseed & Suet Sale

(June 1–19). Stock up for the summer!

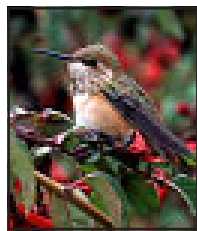
• Saturday, June 4

Native Bird Connections will present programs with a Great Horned Owl.

Eagle Optics has just released a great, high-end binocular—the **Stokes DLS** series. It is available in 8×42 and 10×42, with a close focus of 4½ feet, phase corrected lens for true color, extremely sharp and crisp images, waterproof and fogproof, and unconditional lifetime warranty. Equal to Leica, Zeiss, and Elite, the DLS sells for hundreds of dollars less.



Interesting hummingbird statistics:



- They can consume up to half their weight each day, feeding 8–10 times each hour.
- Weighing less than a penny, some migrate up to 2000 miles, twice each year.

- They can also fly upside down and backwards.
- Their heart is larger in proportion to body size than any other warm blooded animal.
- If an average sized man had the rapid metabolism of a hummer, he would have to eat 250 pounds of ground beef each day.

Birdfeeding tips:

- Rinse out and change the nectar in hummingbird and oriole feeders every 3–5 days to prevent mold. Make 2–3 quarts of nectar at one time. Keep the rest of the nectar in the refrigerator. You will then have minimal problems with mold. A ratio of 4–5 parts water to one part sugar is suitable if you are feeding both species.
- Please report all backyard sightings of Hooded and Bullock's Orioles and Black-headed Grosbeaks to us (925) 798-0303.

Mike & Cecil Williams
Wild Birds Unlimited
692 Contra Costa Blvd.
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
925-798-0303

Visit us at www.wbupleasanthill.com

Park District Scores “Hat Trick”

This month East Bay Regional Park District will cap twenty years of work to protect nearly 1,000 acres of the most significant remaining undeveloped land in central Contra Costa County. The purchase of three separate properties will expand Las Trampas Regional Wilderness to 5100 acres and extend the Calaveras Ridge Trail 1½ miles to the north.

The new parkland stretches from Bollinger Canyon Road in Lamorinda to Rossmoor's boundary and contains the ridgeline which is the most dominant feature on the west side of the Diablo Valley. Together with Rossmoor's open space buffers and adjacent watershed lands under the stewardship of EBMUD, there are now more than 17,000 contiguous acres of protected habitat in this area of central Contra Costa.



In December 2003, EBRPD purchased the 674-acre Gleason property. With this month's purchase of both the 269-acre Hansen Ranch and the 12-acre Carpenter Trust parcel, the park district has delivered on its commitment to conserve open space on the urban edge.

All three properties were under threat of development until the park district was able to purchase them at a total cost of more than \$5.8 million. Funds used to complete these acquisitions came from a number of sources, including Measure AA bonds, the Coastal Conservancy's Bay Area Program, Habitat Conservation Fund, and Roberti-Z'berg Harris and Proposition 40 Per Capita state park bonds.

Historically agricultural lands located in unincorporated Contra Costa, the properties were at risk of being converted to low-density residential use. This type of development often fragments wildlife habitat and impacts watersheds. District

staff worked hard to reach agreement with the various owners so that the critical habitat, open space and recreational opportunities will be preserved forever.

The properties contain rolling grasslands, oak/bay woodlands, chaparral and riparian corridors which support a wide variety of wildlife, including mountain lion, golden eagle, Alameda whipsnake, red-legged frog, tiger salamander and rare plants. Several tributaries of both Grizzly Creek and Las

Trampas Creek meander through the properties for more than two miles.

Riparian habitats in general are threatened throughout California. Often reported to be among the most valuable to wildlife, they also enhance adjacent habitats such as grasslands. Riparian corridors connect larger protected habitat areas, expanding the available range for wildlife foraging and breeding and ensuring the species' health and productivity.

Las Trampas Regional Wilderness features an expansive trail system for hikers, bikers and equestrians and provides excellent opportunities for wildlife-viewing. In the future, the Madrone Trail and Bollinger Canyon Trail will be extended into the new properties on a network of existing fire roads to provide access to spectacular ridge top views and secluded shady canyons. In the interim, the new acquisitions will be land-banked until they can be made safe for public access.

By Nancy Wenninger



Burney Falls

Continued from page 8

gion is surrounded by mountain peaks and is covered by black volcanic rock, or basalt. Created over a million years ago, the layered, porous basalt retains rainwater and snow melt, which forms a large underground reservoir.

Burney Falls was named after pioneer settler Samuel Burney who lived in the area in the 1850s. The McArthurs were pioneer settlers who arrived in the late 1800s. Descendants were responsible for saving the waterfall and nearby land from development. They bought the property and gave it to the state as a gift in the 1920s.

Nests of Black Swifts have been found only on cliffs behind or adjacent to waterfalls or steep coastal cliffs. There are only 15 known nesting locations throughout California, and Burney Falls is one of these places. This species has been documented to make use of the same nest sites each of as many as 20 consecutive years. So if you visit Burney Falls in June or July, you will likely be able to observe one or more Black Swifts. American Dippers also nest near the falls. Also in summer, you may expect to find Cassin's Vireo, Western Woodpecker, Western Tanager, and Hermit, MacGillivray's and Black-throated Gray Warblers.

The campground at McArthur-Burney Falls is very popular in summer, and advance reservations are necessary.

Marsh Wren *Cistothorus palustris*

The Marsh Wren is more often heard than seen, heckling you from within the cattails, though they'll occasionally pop up for a better look around. When not defending their territory against other males—or birders—the male wrens show off their virtuosity with one of the songs from their repertoire of over 200 selections. (In the eastern United States, Marsh Wrens know only 50 or so songs, and some ornithologists think this marks them as a separate species).

Male marsh wrens are polygamous, and they build as many as several dozen nests, each about the size of a coconut and with entrances on the side. These globular nests are woven from leaves of marsh plants and suspended from the stems of cattails or bulrushes. After some inspection, a female picks her favored nest and finishes it by insulating it with a layer of cattail fuzz. Any unused, partially finished nests may be used as roosts, and may also serve as a protection against predation by making it more difficult to find the active nests.

This species was formerly known as Long-billed Marsh Wren, distinguishing it from the Short-billed Marsh Wren, which is now called the Sedge Wren. The two species have similar streaks on back, but



Watercolor exclusively for The Quail by Tuck Hayward, Mobile, Alabama

Sedge Wrens are paler, have a paler, streaked crown, and a less distinct eyestripe. Their range is throughout the southern states, and Sedge Wrens qualify for RBA status when found in California.

Steve Glover

Continued from page 1

breeding confirmation of Cedar Waxwing. On 6/4 an adult and a still-fuzzy fledgling were found in suburban Concord at Markham Nature Area on Cowell Rd. (SG) Though there are two nest records from Alameda County, this is the first for Contra Costa."

In the fall of 2003, Steve completed five years of observations in the initial phase of development of the Contra Costa County Breeding Bird Atlas. Since that time he has completed an index map showing atlas blocks of the county and illustrating the breeding status of each breeding species in each block. In addition, he has written individual profiles of each of the breeding species observed in Contra Costa County and has devoted a great deal of time to raising funds to publish the Atlas. This has been a complete labor of love. Steve's profiles invite you to read further. Of the Anna's

Hummingbird he says: "Truly one of the marvels of our local birds, Anna's Hummingbirds are models of toughness and resourcefulness. At only four inches in length, Anna's are only one inch larger than Allen's and Black-chinned Hummingbirds, our two smallest breeding birds. Observers can only be astonished the first time they see a territorial male Anna's zip up into the sky to harass passing Red-tailed Hawks and Golden Eagles." ... (Breeding) Anna's were confirmed in 60 blocks (of Contra Costa County)—nearly every block in which they were detected. In the Richmond area, in Central County, and in the Diablo Range, they are far and away the most common hummingbird and, except in rare instances, the only species present in winter. Join us on June 2 when Steve will update the progress of the Contra Costa Breeding Bird Atlas as we comfortably consume our potluck dinner.

MDAS MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION

____ Please enroll my family and me as a member of the Mount Diablo Audubon Society for \$25 for the year 2005.

____ 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 the year 2005.

____ 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 _____

City, State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ Email _____

Card Number: _____

____ 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

the Quail

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Mount Diablo Audubon Society

• a nonprofit organization dedicated to habitat conservation and environmental education •
P.O. Box 53 • Walnut Creek, CA 94597-0053
(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 in the conference room of Wild Birds Unlimited, 692 Contra Costa Boulevard, Pleasant Hill. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

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. Please send exchange bulletins for MDAS to the editor, 215 Calle La Mesa, Moraga, CA 94556.

MDAS Board of Directors

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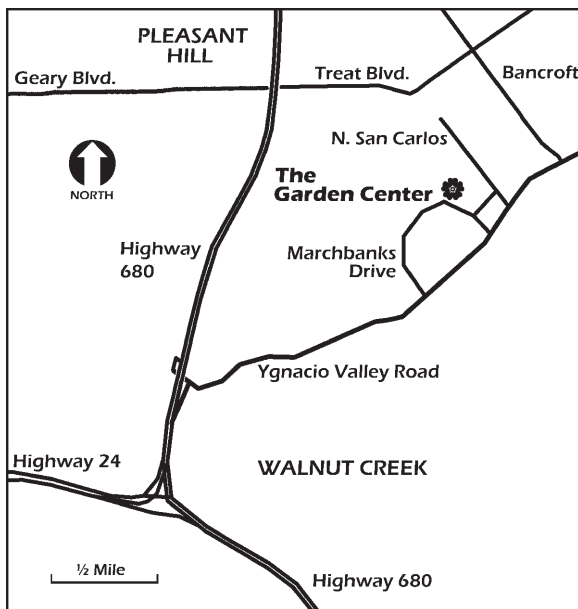
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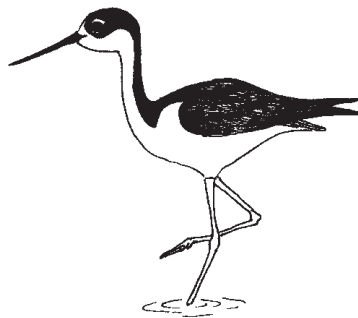
Member-at-Large: Jean Richmond

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ellis.myers@earthlink.net

Deadline for the July-August issue is June 17.



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



Mount Diablo Audubon Society
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Walnut Creek, CA 94597-0053

TIME VALUE MAIL



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Ahjumawi Lava Springs State Park

Quickies

Weekend birding in California

The Fall River Valley and McArthur-Burney Falls

The habitat diversity in this little-known region east of Redding is notable, and so also is the diversity of bird species that may be found there. During the most recent Christmas Bird Count at Fall River Mills, just 15 participants recorded 130 species. This count included 141 Cackling Geese along with 3065 Canada Geese, more than 5000 Mallards and 2000 American Wigeon. Along with this high concentration of breeding ducks and shorebirds—including Long-billed Curlew, Willet and Wilson's Phalarope, there are quite a number of breeding Sandhill Cranes. The area also hosts one of the few Purple Martin colonies in Northern California.

Bank Swallows nest along the Pit River, and one colony is easily found just past the bridge as you enter the village of Fall River Mills on Highway 299.

Continue northeast on Highway 299 to the tiny town of McArthur. At Main Street, turn left and pass the fairgrounds, take the right fork across a canal on a graded dirt road for three miles. Here, at road's end, you will find a launching ramp from which your boat may take you across Big Lake to Ahjumawi Lava Springs State Park.

If you do have a boat (there is no other access to the park), you will find oak, pine, and juniper forests and slopes of rabbit brush and sagebrush. A great variety of birds including Bald Eagles, Ospreys, and Great Blue Herons nest or travel through the park. Herds of mule deer forage through much of the park.

If you do not have a canoe or kayak, you can instead follow a hiking trail along water's edge, where you will listen to Marsh Wrens sing from the cattails. Spring through fall offers a wide assortment of nesting and resident waterfowl and shorebirds.

The California Department of Fish and Game manages the Ash Creek Wildlife Area, one of the most remote, least im-

proved, and most pristine of all of DFG's wildlife areas. White Pelicans, many types of waterfowl and shore birds, muskrats, river otters, Sandhill Cranes and Bald Eagles are among the many animals found here, where 3,000 acres of natural wetlands are created by the seasonal flow of six streams. Watch for mule deer, pronghorn, and birds of prey in the uplands. This preserve is on Highway 299, 18 miles north of McArthur, then four miles northeast of Bieber at Ash Creek. Views of Mount Lassen and Mount Shasta are spectacular.

Not to be missed is McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park. Teddy Roosevelt called Burney Falls one of the wonders of the world. Although 129-foot Burney Falls is not the highest or largest waterfall in the state, it can surely rival any other for its beauty. Burney Creek originates from the park's underground springs and flows to Lake Britton.

The park's landscape was created by volcanic activity as well as erosion from weather and streams. This volcanic re-

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