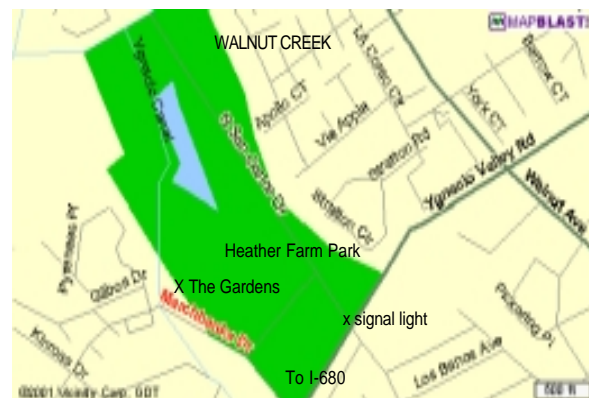


CALENDAR

MDAS holds its general meetings on the first Thursday of every month. Our next meeting is Thursday, November 7. Meetings for the rest of the 2002-03 year are Dec. 5, Jan. 2, Feb. 6, March 6, April 3, May 1, and June 5. There are no meetings in July or August.

If you are a new member or new to the area, let us know. We want to welcome you and tell you about our activities. All new members and visitors receive a free door prize ticket.

The MDAS Board meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday evening of the month at the conference room of Wild Birds Unlimited, 692 Contra Costa Blvd., PH. All members are welcome to attend.



Driving directions: Take Ygnacio Valley Rd. to signal light at N. San Carlos Dr. (Heather Farm entrance). Go 1 block and turn left on Heather. At Marchbanks Dr. turn right. The Garden Center is located about 200 ft. on the right.

Questions about membership or mailing addresses? Call Ann McGregor, Membership Chair, at (925) 968-1677. MDAS membership includes 10 issues of the Quail. A one-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, 95626. SEND ADDRESS CHANGES for both NAS and MDAS to P.O. Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94597-0053. Please end exchange bulletins for MDAS to the editor, 4801 Shavano Peak Ct., Antioch, CA 94531.

The QUAIL

a publication of the
Mt Diablo Audubon Society
Walnut Creek, CA
94597-0053



November 2002

Vol. 49, No. 3

Next Deadline: November 7

Waterbird Preserve to Be Dedicated Nov. 2

Al McNabney would be proud. On November 2, his dream will be fulfilled when a dedication ceremony will be held to mark the opening of Waterbird Regional Preserve to the public.

Please join East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) Vice President Ted Radke, other members of the EBRPD Board, and other dignitaries at the dedication ceremony on Saturday, November 2, at 11 a.m. Guided interpretative walks will follow at 12 noon.

“Completion of Waterbird Regional Preserve has been an extraordinary effort among many partnering agencies who have assisted in the restoration and rehabilitation of natural resources damaged by an environmental spill in 1988,” said Radke, who represents Ward 7. “The Park District recognizes Shell Marsh Management Advisory Committee, Mountain View Sanitary District, Muir Heritage Land Trust, Mount Diablo Audubon Society, U.S. Fish and Game, and Shell Refinery for their commitment, financial support, and numerous resources provided throughout this extensive mitigation project,” he added.

The Regional Preserve is located east of I-680 near Martinez. Focal point of the 198-acre Preserve is the rich and diverse Al McNabney Marsh, which has shared ownership—the 46 acres at the southern end of the marsh are owned by the Park District, and another 68 acres are owned by the Mountain View Sanitary District at the northern or deep end of the marsh. The marsh is part of a larger wetland complex connected by Peyton

(See Dedication on p. 5)

Tenaza to Talk on Birds of East Africa

Richard Tenaza, Ph.D., professor of Biological Sciences at the University of the Pacific, and a Fellow of the California Academy of Sciences, will take us on a journey through the savannahs, mountains, and Rift Valley lakes of East Africa in search of the birds that dwell in these diverse landscapes.

Dr. Tenaza has led over 20 trips to the region and will present an instructive photographic exploration of over 200 species of birds—their behavior, habitats, and the associated mammalian wildlife.

Dr. Tenaza wears many hats; his research and publications span penguins to golden moneys; and he is at home in many countries. At the University of the Pacific, he is known for his innovation teaching style that conveys the ecology—the interrelatedness of all life. To teach this interrelatedness in his animal behavior, vertebrate zoology, and basic biology classes, Tenaza finds himself drawing on material from psychology, religion, anthropology, climatology, geology, chemistry, geography, history, politics, economics, and international relations.

Like his teaching style, Tenaza’s background is diverse and colorful. The son of a Filipino father and an Oklahoman mother who met as farm laborers in Pescadero, California. He grew up in San Francisco and earned a doctorate in zoology at the University of California at Davis. The subject of his thesis, the behavior and ecology of the gibbons and langurs of Indonesia’s Mentawai Islands, has remained a passion.

Drawing on his experiences in many countries, Tenaza tries to instill in his students a conservation ethic. He is

convinced that all students—whether first graders or graduate students—learn better and remember more from personal stories than from textbooks alone. To give them their own first-hand experiences, he takes a group of students to Africa every year. Many of them are profoundly affected by the experience, he says, both from their exposure to new and completely different cultures and to Africa’s wildlife.

His concern for the welfare of zoo animals informs his work as a member of the Executive Board of the South East Asian Zoos Association, which works to improve standards for zoos in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Taiwan, and other countries.

To learn more about our November speaker, visit <<http://www.calacademy.org/calwild/fall98/scitrack.htm>> and read the November 1998 *California Wild* article, “Richard Tenaza,” by Lisa Owens-Viani.

Birding Information

During Birding Information, Joel Summerhill will show us slides from his search for the rare forest birds of Kauai.

Meeting Schedule

The next MDAS general meeting will be **Thursday, November 7**, in the Camellia Room of The Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek (see map on p. 8).
6:30 p.m.—Doors open
7 p.m.—Birding Information
7:25 p.m.—Business meeting
7:40 p.m.—Social time, refreshments and door prize drawing
8:05 p.m.—Program
Remember your cup! We’re serving Natural Origins Tea too!

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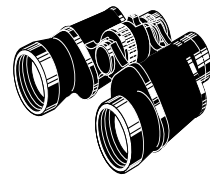
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Observations

by Steve Glover



Broad-winged Hawks are proving to be annual fall migrants in Contra Costa County and this fall two more were found. One over Inspiration Point, Tilden Park, on 9/25, and another at Pt. Pinole Regional Shoreline on 10/1 (SG).

Two separate **Lewis's Woodpeckers** on 10/2 at Inspiration Pt., Tilden Regional Park, were the first recorded this fall at that site (SG). You may recall that last fall 13 individuals were detected at this site during October.

Two Willow Flycatchers at Jewel Lake, Tilden Park, on 9/9 was a typical showing for fall (SG). Most Contra Costa Willow Flycatchers are found in East County.

Hutton's Vireos and **Oak Titmice** are nearly unknown in western Contra Costa County so several of each at Pinole Shores Parkway, Pinole, 9/28-10/1 were surprising (SG). While the Hutton's could conceivably be migrants, titmice are so sedentary it seems likely that a small disjunct population has persisted at this site.

A **Winter Wren** at Pt. Pinole Regional Shoreline 10/1 was unusual in West County (SG).

Swainson's Thrushes usually go undetected in fall so nine at Jewel Lake, Tilden Park on 9/9 was a nice tally (SG). Another at the same spot on 9/27 was on the late side (SG).

Most surprising was a migrant male **Phainopepla** flying south over Inspiration Point, Tilden Park, on 9/18 (SG). The only fall migrant records for the county were singles over Alamo on 8/30/1993 and at Piper Slough, Bethel Island, on 8/30/1996. This also appears to be the westernmost record for the county.

Migrant **Common Yellowthroats** are detected only seldomly so two at Wildcat Peak, Tilden Park, on 9/23 were noteworthy (SG).

A **Chipping Sparrow** at Pt. Pinole Regional Shoreline 10/1 was one of few ever detected in West County (SG). Six

more Chipping Sparrows were at Hidden Lakes Park, Martinez, on 10/5 (DW). Six were found at this exact location on last year's Christmas Bird Count so it will be interesting to see if this flock will attempt to winter.

Observers: Steve Glover and Denise Wight

Please send observations to Steve Glover, 6526 Conestoga Lane, Dublin 94568, or call (925) 828-7793. Please include your phone number with your observation.
Northern CA Bird Box:
(415) 681-7422

Election Day Is November 5

Vote on Tuesday, November 5!

Audubon-California has endorsed the Traffic Congestion Relief & Safe School Bus Act, or Proposition 51.

Prop 51 would allocate 30% of the state share of the sales tax on new and used motor vehicles to a new trust fund for transportation improvements around the state, a fund that would generate approximately \$910 million a year. Prop 51 also promotes habitat, open space, and environmental protection by doubling the existing Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program (EEMP), originally created by the Legislature at the level of \$10 million dollars, to reduce the devastating impact that transportation development has on natural lands, parkland, and wildlife habitat. Additionally, it creates the Transportation Impacts Mitigation Trust Fund of more than \$90 million a year, which may be used for the acquisition or enhancement of resource lands, wildlife corridors and habitat linkages.

Vote YES on Prop 51 November 5!

Do You Remember?

Between 1985 and 1997, Norah Bain, then Education Chairperson, collected, organized and maintained the Chapter bird slide collection of over 400 slides. A collection of 54 bird study skins was also assembled. Both collections were used for Bird Information talks, school visits, and talks to senior and other organizations.

In 1988, Hugh Bain designed and purchased our Chapter badge patches. The patch depicts a California Quail against a background of Mount Diablo and a field of California Poppies.



The Quail is published 10 times a year by the Mt 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

President: Mike Williams, 376-1631
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753-0862
Hands-On Conservation:
Nancy Wenninger, 938-7987
Christmas Count: Jimm Edgar,
(510) 658-2330

Gloria Cannon, Editor,
(925) 753-0862, P.O. Box 8367,
Pittsburg, CA 94565
gcannon4@excite.com

My Galapagos Nature Adventure

by Martha Breed

On August 15, I flew to Quito, Ecuador, where I met the INCA tour group to begin my Galapagos trip. After flying to Guayaquil the next morning, we continued our flight the 600 miles west of the mainland to land on Baltra Island. The first birds we saw near the airport were Brown Noddy, Blue-Footed Booby, Frigatebird, and Yellow Warbler.

On our first day, we drove across Santa Cruz Island through the highland cloud forest where we saw several species of Darwin's finches: the Small Ground Finch, Woodpecker Finch, and Warbler Finch. The endemic birds kept coming! The Galapagos Ground Dove on the middle of the trail let us approach very closely, as did most all the wildlife. Fearlessness evolved in a place with few natural land predators.

We saw the beautiful Swallow-Tailed Gull on our visit to Genovesa Island. On this island, we saw both Nazca and Red-Footed Booby nesting colonies. We heard the Red-Tailed Tropicbirds as they vocalized incessantly in flight. They fly along the rugged cliffs where they nest, making repeated attempts to land on the ledges, often stalling in flight, missing the ledge landing, and plummeting down

before flying off for another attempt—they have such a "high wing loading" ratio to body weight. It is interesting to watch.

We lived aboard a boat, the Reina Silvia, visiting different islands each day with both a morning landing and an afternoon landing, with time to go snorkeling after lunch. When snorkeling, we saw sea turtles, white-tipped sharks, sting rays, and Galapagos Penguins swimming with us.

Both White-Vented and Wedge-Rumped Storm Petrels and Audubon's Shearwaters were our constant aerial companions, flying near the boat every day. Both Great and Magnificent Frigatebirds were commonly seen in the air.

Fernandina Island supports the main colony of Flightless Cormorants—which, though they cannot fly, still hang their stubby wings out to dry just like other cormorants.

On every island we visited, we saw Yellow Warblers, which hopped around our feet the day we wandered tidepooling along a rocky lava beach. Floreana Island has the only breeding colony of Waved Albatross, which we witnessed walking up the cliff edge and jumping off to take flight into the wind!

On Espanola Island we searched the wave-washed rocky beach for Four-Eyed Blenny. We found this 2-inch-long fish doing its amazing out-of-water walking and rock climbing with its pectoral fins, presumably searching for food!

We had some amazing views of Greater Flamingos filter feeding on brine shrimp; they take in shallow pond water, sift it with their tongues, and squirt out the water from the sides of their bills!

It was an amazing, wonderful birding trip with the added opportunities to walk among the giant tortoises, the land and marine iguanas, the Galapagos Sea Lions and Fur Seals as well. I highly recommend the Emeryville-based tour company INCA at 510-420-1550 or <www.inca1.com>.



Swallow-tailed Gull photo taken by Dr. Fernando Ortiz-Cespo

MDAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please enroll my family and me as a member of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society for \$25 annually.
 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 annually.
 For an additional \$20 (new NAS members only) or \$35 (returning members), please enroll me in the National Audubon Society to receive the *Audubon Magazine* (4 quarterly issues).
 I'm enclosing a donation of \$_____.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone with area code: _____ Email _____

Please make your tax-deductible check payable to: MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY and mail with this application to:
Ann McGregor, Membership Chair
400 Oneida Ct.
Danville, CA 94526-6264

News from

Wild Birds Unlimited

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

Visit Our Website at
<<http://www.wbupleasanthill.com>>

In the Backyard

The Golden-crowned Sparrows have arrived. Their plaintive, whistled three-note song (“oh-dear-me”) can be heard all day long but especially in early morning. White-crowned Sparrows have also migrated in for the winter. They often flock with the Golden-crowned Sparrows. Both are ground or tray feeding birds and love white millet seed. They also will eat suet.

The Dark-eyed Juncos are also arriving. Mainly we see the “Oregon” sub-species with their dark hood. Sometimes it’s possible to find a “Slate-colored” Junco with their dark bodies and white bellies.

American Goldfinches should begin appearing in larger numbers, often accompanied by Lesser Goldfinches. Their numbers will continue increasing all through the winter. By January or February, many people see flocks of up to 100. They can be seen eating wild thistle seeds and on liquid amber and birch trees. Both will readily come to thistle seed bird feeders. If you stand outside and hold your feeder at arm’s length, the goldfinches will come and land on the feeder because they are so anxious to feed.

Looking for binoculars? Wild Birds Unlimited now offers the high-quality Eagle Optics binoculars at competitive prices! Eagle Optics uses only the best materials and manufacturing processes to create the highest quality binoculars. And all binoculars are guaranteed against defects in workmanship and materials for as long as you own them.

Birding Classes

Includes six Wednesday evening classes (7–9 p.m.) and two weekend birdwalks, starting Nov. 6. Cost is \$60. The instructor is Denise Wight, longtime member and trip leader for MDAS. She has taught birding classes at WBU for many years.

2002 CHAPTER FINANCIAL REPORT**7/1/2001–6/30/2002**

REVENUES		
National Audubon Society Dues Share	\$ 7,097.97	
Fundraising Events	15,145.00	
Interest and Investments	1,723.02	
Sales	4,792.79	
Other (Natural Origins Profit Sharing)	665.32	
Total Income		<u>\$29,424.10</u>
EXPENDITURES		
Administration	\$ 2,830.15	
Newsletter/Postage/Mailing	11,459.60	
Education Programs & Events	1,756.08	
Website, fundraising & membership	4,504.69	
Grants/Contributions to Others (Specify)	918.13	
Total Expenditures		<u>\$21,468.65</u>
NET INCOME		<u>\$ 7,955.45</u>
Beginning Balance	\$59,836	
Ending Balance	\$67,791	
ASSETS		<u>\$67,791</u>
LIABILITIES & FUNDS BALANCES		<u>\$67,791</u>

REVENUES: As expected, NAS dues share fell from its 2000-2001 level by \$1,438 to \$7,097 because of new membership policies adopted by NAS. That Dues Share will drop to about \$4,000 in the fiscal year 2002-2003. However, our net revenues held steady because of increased local fundraising (a total of \$15,145) and profit-sharing with Natural Origins’ teas (\$665).

EXPENSES: Total expenses in 2001-2002 were up \$5015 from fiscal year 2000-2001 with most of the increase stemming from web site development, membership recruitment, and fundraising costs. Cost of publishing the *Quail* showed only a slight (\$179) increase from the previous year. Administrative costs increased by \$1,000 (most of that was spent repairing the Chapter’s laser printer).

How to Purchase Natural Origins’ Tea

Our good friends at Natural Origins’ Tea have extended their generous offer to share 20% of their sales to MDAS when their customers designate MDAS as their donation recipient. Support MDAS through your purchase of their excellent India teas. Here’s how:

- Order directly from Natural Origins’. Call toll free 1-877-448-3832 and request that MDAS receive donation benefits when you order.
- Order online at <www.naturalorigins.com>. At checkout, indicate MDAS as the donation recipient.
- Purchase Natural Origins’ tea at Wild Birds Unlimited, 692 Contra Costa Blvd, Pleasant Hill (925-798-0303).
- At MDAS general meetings.

Beginner’s Guide to Shorebirds

Donald and Lillian Stokes have published a new, little pocket guide to shorebirds called *Beginner’s Guide to Shorebirds*. Covering all North American shorebirds, the guide is factually, visually, and organizationally superior to any other beginner’s guide. Special features include coverage of more than 45 of the most common shorebirds; unique, helpful organization by the silhouette and size of the shorebird; innovative range and spring and fall migration maps; tips on where to look for shorebirds; and details about their migratory patterns—some shorebirds travel over 9,000 miles twice a year between their breeding and wintering grounds. For more information, visit <<http://www.stokesbooks.com>>.

2002–2003 MDAS Field Trip Schedule*Elizabeth Dickey, Field Trip Chair*

This is a **tentative** schedule of MDAS field trips in 2002–2003. Trips are open to members and non-members alike. Weather or the availability of leaders may require changes. Read the *Quail* for details or call the Audubon tape at (925) 283-8266. Weekday trips are often switched between Wednesday and Thursday to take advantage of tides or other opportunities. Two-day or three-day trips may be done either day or any day alone. We are planning two or three more weekend trips with details to be announced in future *Quail* issues.

November

2, Saturday—Palo Alto/Charleston Slough
7, Thursday—Arrowhead Marsh
16, Saturday —Limentour
13, Wednesday—SF Bay Refuge
21, Thursday —Mountain View Sanitary District

December

5, Thursday—Hidden Lakes Park
7–8, Saturday & Sunday—Sacramento Refuges & Gray Lodge Refuges
11, Wednesday—Niles Canyon
14, Saturday, and 21, Saturday—Christmas Count days

January

8, Wednesday—San Pablo Creek Trail
11, Saturday—Putah Creek
16, Thursday—Bolinas
22, Wednesday—Lake Merritt
25, Saturday —Santa Cruz
30, Thursday—Sunol

February

6, Thursday—Grizzley Island
8, Saturday—Thornton
12, Wednesday—City Parks
20, Thursday—Davis Wetlands and Vic Fazio Refuge
22, Saturday—Tomales Bay
26, Wednesday—Lafayette Reservoir

March

6, Thursday —Berkeley Waterfront
8, Saturday—Capay Valley
12, Wednesday—San Leandro Reservoir
20, Thursday—Shadow Cliffs
22, Saturday—Black Diamond
26, Wednesday—Huckleberry Preserve

April

3, Thursday—Borges Ranch
5, Saturday—Garin
9, Wednesday—Laurel Canyon
16, Wednesday—Redwood Regional Park
19, Saturday—Pine Canyon
23, Wednesday—Ida Clayton Road

May

1, Thursday—Del Puerto Canyon

May (continued)

3, Saturday—Mines Road
7, Wednesday—Mitchell Canyon
15, Thursday—South Gate, Mt Diablo
17, Saturday—East Contra Costa County
22, Thursday—West Briones
31, Saturday—Outer Point Reyes

June

4, Wednesday—Caswell State Park
12, Thursday—Annadale Sate Park
21-22, Sat & Sun.—Yuba Pass

August

2, Saturday—San Mateo Coast
16, Saturday—Bodega Bay

Adamson Exhibit Set for Oakland Museum

The Oakland Museum is honoring longtime MDAS member and past officer, Harry Adamson, with an exhibition of some of his beautiful paintings. The exhibit is from November 9 through March 30. Harry is a well-known bird and wildlife painter, and he and his wife Betty were among the founding members of MDAS.

African Trip Announced

Do lions light up your life, elephants elate you and zebras make your heart zing?

Join Golden Gate Audubon past president Steve Margolin for a GGAS-sponsored two-week trip to Kenya, departing on January 18, 2003, and visiting Mt. Kenya, Samburu, the Rift Valley lakes, and the Maasai Mara.

We will see ostriches, turacos, hornbills, rollers, waxbills, widowbirds, and whydahs, just for starters. And there will be plenty of time to look at lions, hippos, zebras, rhinos, gazelles, and wildebeests.

The cost is \$4,495 per person, double occupancy (including airfare from San Francisco). A one-week extension (\$2,695 per person) will take the group to Amboseli, then over the border into Tanzania to visit the Serengeti (during the zebra and wildebeest migration), Oldupai Gorge, and Ngorongoro Crater. For more information or a detailed itinerary, call Steve Margolin at (530) 342-6476.

MDAS Enoyed Its Anniversary Celebration!

One hundred fifty members and guests attended MDAS' 50th Anniversary celebration on October 3. Seated around tables, celebrants quaffed champagne and punch, munched cookies and cake, and enjoyed speakers and slides. Diana Granadas and Jenny Papka from Native Bird Connections brought an awesome Bald Eagle. Special guest Gary Bogue said that it was like spending an evening with old friends.

Many thanks to our wonderful volunteers who helped organize, host, and entertain us at our splendid anniversary. Pictured (right to left) is the Celebration Committee: Cecil Williams, Barbara Wendroff, Maury Stern, Jimm Edgar, Shirley Ellis, and Alice Holmes (chair). Not pictured are volunteers Mike Williams, Steve Glover, Gary Bogue, Rosita and Hugh Harvey, Gary Wendorff, Barbara Vaughn, Beverly Hawley, Cheryl Abel, Althea Soldano, Britta Cascio, Harry and Betty Adamson, Jean Richmond, Jim Lomax, Brian Murphy, Denise Wight, Joel Summerhill, Bob Wisecarver, Don Yoder, and everyone who brought delicious desserts. Special thanks goes to Nancy Wenninger, who concluded the program with a meaningful presentation, "Al McNabey and His Legacy." What an evening to remember!



MDAS Salutes Alice Holmes

The Board wishes to express its deep appreciation to Alice Holmes, the chairwoman of our Celebration Committee.

Alice is an extraordinarily gifted person of great commitment and energy. She is our Hospitality Chair, faithfully organizing the coffee, tea, and those tasty treats that enhance our socializing at meetings, and she is a frequent volunteer at MDAS booths at various events. Alice was the organizing force behind the planning of our 50th Anniversary. The fact that our celebration was as joyful and beautiful as it was was due, in large part, to her behind-the-scene efforts. She is so modest and unassuming about her efforts that she will quickly point out the hard work of others. Our Chapter is fortunate to have Alice Holmes.



Field Trip Reports

Jewel Lake, September 11—Seven birders enjoyed a warm early fall walk around Tilden Park. Fall migrants were abundant, especially Warbling Vireos. Yellow and Wilson's Warblers and Western Tanagers were also present. A total of 24 species were seen or heard. —*Elizabeth Dickey*

Moss Landing, September 13—Only the leader showed up. It was a very quiet day both in number of birds and birders; I spent two hours at Moonglow and saw only one group of four people. There was a large flock of Tri-colored Blackbirds at Moonglow and many Brown Pelicans along Elkhorn Slough. 29 species were seen.—*Elizabeth Dickey*

Hayward Regional Shoreline, September 19—The trails at the Environmental Center were closed, so the party of three birders went to the Winton Avenue entrance. It was a clear day with little wind. The best sighting was an Osprey perched on a low piling in the Bay. Both species of Turnstones and most of the large waders were among the 27 species seen.—*Elizabeth Dickey*

Point Pinole Regional Shoreline, September 25—Offshore fog greeted six birders on arrival although the sky above the Point was clear. The most surprising sight was that of nine Black Oystercatchers in row along the west side of the Point. There was a large flock of Scaup on the east side. 32 species were seen.—*Elizabeth Dickey*

Outer Point Reyes, September 28—Nine birders enjoyed a beautiful, sunny fall day at Outer Pt. Reyes. The place was crawling with birders, and their tales of rare birds sent us chasing first a Golden-winged Warbler at the Nunez Ranch and then a Magnolia Warbler at the Fish Docks. Most of us had good looks at both. They were both among 60 species seen that day.—*Joel Summerhill*

Hawk Hill, October 12—Fog in the morning made birding at the lagoon difficult, but we observed several pairs of Wrentits very closely. Up on the mountain the views and the hawks were spectacular, and we saw many accipiters, two Broad-winged Hawks, and a Merlin. The count: 4 birders, 37 species.—*Fred Safier*

November Field Trips

Elizabeth Dickey, Field Trip Chair

Field trips are open to MDAS members and nonmembers alike. You do not have to be a birding expert; only one who enjoys nature. Bring binoculars, field guides, and lunch. We have a limited number of loaner binoculars available by calling the trip leader at least 7 days in advance. Weather or the availability of leaders may require changes. Trips go in light rain or drizzle. If in doubt, call leader up to 1/2 hour before departure. Carpool time is the departure time. Carpool expense: 20 cents per mile shared among driver and riders; tolls and entry fees are shared equally by driver and riders.

October 31, Thursday, Big Break—Please note the change in date from the October *Quail*. Carpool leaves from the southwest corner of the Sun Valley parking lot at 8 a.m. Meet on Jordon Lane in Oakley at 8:30 a.m. Hike along Big Break Trail between the river and Iron House Sanitary property. Take SR 4 east to Vintage Parkway in Oakley. Turn left, then right onto Walnut Meadows, and left onto Jordon Lane. Parking is on a residential cul-de-sac so carpooling is important! Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486 Category 2

November 2, Saturday, Palo Alto/Charleston Slough—Carpool leaves at 8 a.m. from LaGonda Way in Danville. 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 1/4 m north to El Pintado. Meet at 9:30 a.m. on Terminal Rd. in Mountain View. Take Dumbarton Bridge and drive south on US 101 to Embarcadero exit. Go east. Continue toward the Yacht Harbor and park in lot near the Environmental Center. With a high tide, we hope for rails. In the afternoon, we will go to Charleston Slough for Black Skimmers. Levees may be muddy. Bring lunch. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486. Category 1

November 7, Thursday—Arrowhead Marsh. Carpool leaves at 8 a.m. from Acalanes Ave., off Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of SR 24. Meet in Alameda at 8:45 a.m. From I-880 south, take 23rd St. exit and cross Park St. Bridge. Continue on Park St. to Southshore Dr., and left to Broadway. We will visit several marsh and pond areas and reach Arrowhead near high tide. Rails possible. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486 Category 1.

November 13, Wednesday—San Francisco Bay Wildlife Refuge. Carpool leaves at 8 a.m. from LaGonda

Way in Danville. 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 1/4 m north to El Pintado. Meet at 9 a.m. at parking lot at refuge entrance. Take I-680 to I-580 west, south on I-880, to Thornton Ave. exit. Go right on Thornton and turn left at refuge entrance. We will bird the marshes east of the entrance road first. Mostly levee walking. Bring lunch. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486 Category 2

November 16, Saturday—Limentour. Carpool leaves at 7:30 a.m. from Acalanes Ave., off Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of SR 24. Or meet at 9 a.m. at the Bear Valley Visitor's Center, Pt. Reyes National Park. Cross the San Rafael Bridge. From I-101 north, take Central San Rafael exit. Go 2 blocks, turn left on 3rd St. and continue west to Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Turn right on Sir Francis Drake. At SR 1 in Olema, turn right 0.25 miles, then left on Bear Valley Rd. Turn left into Visitor's Center off Bear Valley. We expect shorebirds, waterfowl, and land birds on the ridge. Trails may be

muddy. Leader: Pat MacEachern, 934-3041 Category 2

November 21, Thursday—Mountain View Sanitary District /McNabney Marsh. Meet at 9 a.m. at the plant's parking lot. Take Pacheco Blvd. exit from I-680, turn right onto Arthur Rd., and go under the freeway. Arthur Rd. turns left, then right; at the second turn, turn sharp left onto a non-county-maintained road. Follow the road into the sanitary plant. Trails may be muddy. Close-up looks at dabbling ducks; possibly bitterns and heron. Bring a lunch, and we will visit the new Waterbird Regional Preserve for lunch. Leader: Barbara Vaughn, 376-8732 Category 1

Difficulty of field trip:
Category 1: Easy, little or no walking, smooth paths.
Category 2: Moderate, 1 mile or more, possibly rough terrain.
Category 3: Difficult, extensive walking on rough terrain.

Dedication of Waterbird Preserve

Continued from p. 1

Slough, which empties into Suisun Bay. This marshland complex is part of the Pacific Flyway for migratory birds and also home to many species of native waterfowl.

On the eastern side of the marsh, also within the Preserve, is an open upland area composed almost entirely of annual grassland. The upland ridge line has excellent 360-degree views of Contra Costa County and beyond, including the Franklin Hills, Suisun Bay, Solano County, and Mount Diablo.

Look forward to birding this newest regional preserve!

MDAS has volunteered to sponsor an informational booth and to provide guides for the nature walks. If you are available to participate, please call Nancy Wenninger at 925-938-7987 by Oct. 29.

Directions: From I-680, Martinez, take the Marina Vista/Waterfront Road exit. At the end of the off-ramp, turn right onto Waterfront Road, go under the freeway, and watch for the right turn into the Preserve.