



the Quail

Mount Diablo Audubon Society
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www.diabloaudubon.com/index.php

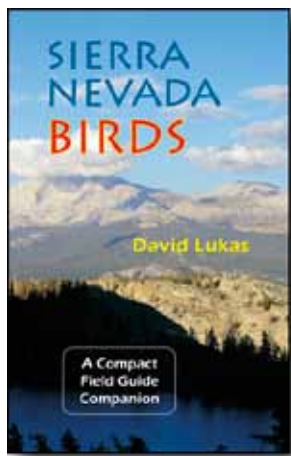
Volume 58, Number 1

September 2012

The Mystery of Bird Song ♦ David Lukas

How do birds learn to sing such beautiful songs? And why do they produce so many different types of vocalizations? David Lukas will help answer some of these questions and share his insights into the magical world of bird song—from the ways we study bird song, to the anatomy of how birds produce sounds, to some of the social behaviors that explain common bird vocalizations.

David Lukas grew up on the Oregon coast and began studying natural history at the age of five. Like other children, he had a roomful of aquariums and launched daylong collecting “expeditions” into neighborhood swamps and forests in search of everything squirmy, slimy, and scaly.



These studies continued during high school through associations with the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry and Woodland Park Zoo. David started biology studies at Reed College, but left college to spend much of the following 10 years traveling around the world working on biological research projects. These travels took him to Borneo for a year as part of a Harvard research team.

While in Borneo, David decided to become a writer and later spent several years working with the Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Gary Snyder in the Sierra Nevada. After returning to Reed College and graduating with a degree in English, David returned to the Sierra Nevada and devoted

himself to writing and teaching about the natural world. After teaching nature programs in Marin County for the past 4 years, David recently moved back to the Sierra Nevada and now lives on 10 acres just outside of Yosemite National Park.



Song Sparrow. Photo by Ethan Winning.

Meeting Schedule

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

7:00 PM Birding Information

7:25 PM Announcements

7:40 PM Refreshments,* raffle

8:05 PM Speaker: **David Lukas**

* Please remember to bring a cup.

Thursday, October 4:

Alan Krakauer. Sage-Grouse

Now the author of six books, including *Sierra Nevada Birds* and *Wild Birds of California*. His just-released book *Bay Area Birds* is the first comprehensive guide to the status, life history, and distribution of all the birds that occur in the Bay Area (www.lukasguides.com).

BIRDING INFORMATION

In June, Mount Diablo Audubon's first Jean Richmond Scholarship was awarded to Dia DeRose, allowing her to attend a summer birding program at San Francisco State University's Sierra Nevada Field Campus along the North Fork of the Yuba River. Dia will give us a report on her experience.



**Field Trip Schedule
for 2012-2013
On Page 5**

President's Corner

By Jimm Edgar

Well we are once again off to a new start for MDAS for the year. Our first fall meeting is September 6 and we have a great program lined up as well as a chance to hear from our young scholarship award recipient, Dia DeRose, on her week at the birding camp in the Sierra. And speaking of programs, one of our new members, Ariana Rickard, has stepped forward to assume the recently vacated program chair that Alice Holmes held for some 10 years. Alice will be moving to San Diego soon. You can find out more about Ariana in this issue. I would say that as we worked a bit on programs this summer we have already put together an excellent slate for the next few months. It is always a little scary to look at the year and wonder "can we find new programs?" We also have a committee of folks who will be helping with the hospitality component of our meetings. Our long time hospitality chair, Gerry Argenal, stepped down to spend some time traveling with her husband. We always need volunteers so don't be shy.

This issue also has the line-up for field trips for the year. Hugh Harvey and his crew have put together another year of great trips; some new spots and lots of our tried and true places to see birds. Should be fun.

We have gotten quite a few new members this summer which is great. Our membership chair, Bev Walker, receives these forms and sends a welcome letter under my name. I hope those of you who recently joined will



attend our meetings and field trips and be sure and introduce yourself.

I live in Oakland as most of you know. I was a member of MDAS since the early 70s and was transferred to Oakland with my job in 1986, but kept my membership in MDAS. I am not as aware of the political scene in Contra Costa County as when I lived there. I received a phone call a while back from Congressman George Miller's office. The county has been redistricted recently and Miller's influence includes almost all of Contra Costa. The call said he would like the opportunity to meet with Mount Diablo Audubon to discuss environmental issues within the county. We are working on that with his office. It would probably have to be on a Saturday in that he is in D.C. most weeks. I will keep you abreast of that. We may try and invite some other county groups with concerns for the environment.

And finally I must put my 2 cents in on Gary Bogue.

Gary Bogue (R) gave a helping hand when Bob Wisecarver (L) and Brian Murphy erected a Barn Owl nesting box at Heather Farm in January 2007.

His retirement was a shock to all of us, I think. I start most days reading his column. He has been

and will be honored by many and rightly so. We are hoping to get him to a meeting this year to speak and give us a chance to thank him. Thanks Gary!

Birds of the Sierra

By Dia DeRose

This past June, I attended the field biology course entitled *Birds of the Sierra Nevada*, presented at the Sierra Nevada Field Station of San Francisco State University. This 5-day birding excursion into the Yuba Pass wilderness wasn't a leisurely birdwalk—it was an amazing adventure. We birded day in and day out, finishing with 121 species at the end of the trip. Out of those, 47 were life birds for me. It was one of the most exciting experiences of my life, and one I'm not likely to forget soon. I would like to thank the Mount Diablo Audubon

Society for giving me this wonderful opportunity, and letting me experience what it's really like to bird in the field.

We birded from dawn until dusk, and even the darkness didn't stop us—after sunset we headed out to the marshes to listen for bitterns and winnowing snipes. There was just so much to see! My instructor, Dave Shuford, knows pretty much everything there is to know about birds. He knew the best places to find the best birds, and knew everything about the birds once we found

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Welcome New Members

Nordyn Anderson	Antioch
Kathy Bedayn	Walnut Creek
Deborah Beesley	Walnut Creek
Larkin Breed	Pleasant Hill
David and Charlotte Hartness	Concord
Michael Krieg	Oakley
Deborah Payson	Bryn Mawr, PA
Ellen Reintjes	Lafayette
Barb Tittle	Orinda

Program Chair

Stepping into the shoes of Alice Holmes as Program Chair is Ariana Rickard. She and her husband Pierre Bull relocated from New York City to Walnut Creek last October and joined Mount Diablo Audubon Society in November. They were immediately impressed by the quality of the programs and level of activity of this Audubon chapter and felt welcomed into the local birding community by the friendly and helpful members. They have participated in a number of bird walks and outreach activities.

Ariana grew up in San Diego but lived in a number of cities before settling in the Bay Area. She earned her bachelor's

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Q

This is a bird of California's wetlands and grasslands. Because of a falling population owing to habitat destruction, it is given First Priority on the list of California Bird Species of Special Concern. Insects, beetles, grasshoppers and dragonfly larvae are fed to nestlings, but adult birds forage on seeds and grain; and they particularly like livestock feed at dairies. Unscramble these letters, or turn to Page 6 to learn more.

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Observations

By Maury Stern

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

Summer was relatively quiet, with exciting birding in the mountains. There were a number of interesting sightings in our area.

Two **Common Merganser** females or juveniles were seen by RS at San Pablo Reservoir, 7/22. It was just last year that the first Contra Costa breeding Common Mergansers were found there.

P&NS found an unusual young **Brown Pelican** on 7/14 at Contra Loma RP in Antioch. This was during the recent influx of starving young Brown Pelicans from Southern California.

HH watched nesting **Green Herons** at Heather Farm Pond from 6/17 to 7/21 when three fledged.

Four **Osprey** were at San Pablo Reservoir 7/22, RS. A nesting pair was on the whirly crane next to the Red Oak Liberty Ship in Richmond Harbor 7/27. FD

Three **White-tailed Kites** fledged from a nest at Martinez Regional Shoreline. KT, 7/1.

RS saw four **Bald Eagles**, two young and two adults, at San Pablo Reservoir on 7/15 and 7/22.

A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** nest near the Tilden park merry-go-round was watched by PC from 7/2 to 7/28 with two fledglings maturing during that time. Sharp-shinned Hawk nests are much harder to find than Cooper's Hawks and not nearly so common.

AM found 21 **Swainson's Hawks** in East County on 8/11, with 17 at Clifton Court Forebay.

SDo watched a **Peregrine Falcon** nest on the Carquinez Bridge with two and possibly three fledglings. Reported 8/10.

Clapper Rail adult and sub-adult were at Meeker Slough in Richmond 7/14. RB.

HH found a **Killdeer** chick at Heather Farm park on 7/16.

RS found a young and an adult **Spotted Sandpiper** at San Pablo Reservoir on



Killdeer. Sketch by Meg Sandri.

7/15. There was one confirmed Contra Costa breeding Spotted Sandpiper in 1998, also at San Pablo Reservoir.

A **Red-necked Phalarope** was at Point Isabel on 8/10. AK.

DW saw a **Black Tern** at Big Break in Oakley 8/9 and AK saw one at Point Isabel the next day.

A **Barn Owl** flew across BH's Concord backyard 7/7.

DD saw **White-throated Swifts** near the Willows shopping center on three occasions. 6/13. The swifts nest in the spaces in the freeway overpasses, as well as natural caves and crevices.

A **Belted Kingfisher** family of five was seen 7/22 at San Pablo Reservoir by RS.

RS saw a number of **Olive-sided Flycatchers** at San Pablo Reservoir 7/15 and 7/22, including some in territorial disputes.

EM had **Western Wood-Pewee** at his Moraga home 6/16.

There were four bird species at Miller-Knox RP that Steve Glover thought were quite unusual compared to the past that were found by FD, SD and LL between 7/20 and 8/4. These included **Oak Titmouse, Red-Breasted Nuthatch, Western Bluebird** with young and especially **Pygmy Nuthatch**.

ER found a **California Thrasher** in her Lafayette yard 7/11.

Western Tanagers were seen in Lafayette and Walnut Creek 7/30 by JA and FS. Each sighting was one adult and one juvenile. There are a few nesting sites in Contra Costa County so it is hard to know if these were breeders or migrants.

JC found **Rufous-crowned Sparrows** in Wildcat Canyon RP on 7/9.

Grasshopper Sparrows were in Las Trampas Ridge RP 6/15, Carquinez Strait RP and Briones RP 6/22, LL, and Wildcat Canyon RP, 7/9, JC.

Many **Hooded Orioles** visited feeders in the area. MM in Martinez from 6/13 to late July; CH and HG 6/14 in Martinez and Antioch, and P&NS 6/24 in Antioch.

JA Jeff Acuff, RB Richard Broadwell, PC Phil Capitolo, JC Jim Chiropolos, DD Dia Derose, SD Sheila Dickie, SDo Shirley Doell, FD Frances Dupont, HG Harry Goforth, CH Carol Haglund, HH Hugh Harvey, BH Bob Hislop, AK Alan Kaplan, SL Steve Lombardi, LL Laura Look, MM Mike Marchiano, AM Amy McDonald, EM Ellis Myers, ER Ellen Reintjes, FS Fred Safier, RS Rusty Scalf, P&NS Paul and Nancy Schorr, KT Kate Taylor, DW Denise Wight.

Program Chair

Continued from Page 2

degree in Environmental Science and Public Policy at Harvard University, then worked for the federal government, interning with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Endangered Species Program and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Marine Mammal Division. Ariana studied Resource Ecology and Management in graduate school at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Her next adventure was as a Natural Resources volunteer in the Peace Corps in Ecuador. Based on their shared love of nature and wildlife, there was no more fitting place for romance than the Galapagos Islands. During one visit to the famed Ecuadorian Islands, Pierre proposed to her on a pier, surrounded by marine iguanas, frigate birds and diving boobies. Upon returning to the U.S., Ariana worked in environmental education for three years at the American Museum of Natural History and beautiful Old Westbury Gardens in Long Island. Ariana is planning to use the contacts she made from a four-month internship with the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture to find speakers for MDAS meetings. Pierre works for the Natural Resources Defense Council and is a policy expert on clean and renewable energy systems, his primary mission to ensure that California and the U.S. rapidly grow "green" alternative energy sources that are sited in ecologically suitable locations. Ariana and Pierre share their home with their persnickety indoor cat, Preston Bull-Rickard.

② Thursday, September 6
Jewel Lake, Tilden Regional Park
Leader: Maury Stern, 284-5980.

Meet 7:30 AM in Nature Center parking lot at north end of park. From Hwy 24 in Orinda, go north on Camino Pablo. Turn left on Wildcat Canyon Road. Stay right at the Brazil Building. At the next main intersection, turn right and pass Lake Anza and the Carousel. Or take Fish Ranch Road from the Caldecott Tunnel. Turn right at the top onto Grizzly Peak Road. Turn right and downhill onto South Park Drive and turn left at the bottom onto Wildcat Canyon Road. Short morning walk to look for migrants.

① Saturday, September 8
Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge

Leader: Hugh Harvey, 935-2979.

10:00-11:00 AM. Carpool from Sun Valley at 9:15 AM. This is your chance to visit the only unit of the National Wildlife Refuge system in Contra Costa County. A 1-hour docent-guided tour will introduce us to the history of the only place on earth where we can see Lange's Metalmark Butterfly. Though the butterfly requires naked-stem buckwheat, star Thistle is the predominant plant. Don't be disappointed if you don't see this butterfly. Don't expect to see flowing sand dunes. After hearing the history, you will understand. May be hot, there is no shade, may be dusty walking along graded fire trails. Bring sun protection and water. From Hwy 4 in Antioch, exit north on A Street. After about 1 mile, bend right onto Wilbur Avenue. Turn left onto Fulton Shipyard Road and cross the railroad tracks. The entry gate is on the right. We will be guided by a refuge volunteer.

① Saturday, September 15
Rio Lindo Academy, Healdsburg

Leader: Hugh Harvey, 935-2979.

We hope to see thousands of Vaux's Swifts enter a chimney on the grounds of the Rio Lindo Academy. This has been an annual occurrence since 1989, when use of the chimney ceased. Be advised that we will be returning home after dark. Carpool leaves Sun Valley at 4:30 PM. Take I-680 across the Benicia Bridge (toll). Go west on I-780 to I-80 towards Sacramento, exit to SR 37. Follow SR 37 to Lakeville Road, turn right. In Petaluma take US 101 north to Healdsburg, exit at Old Redwood Highway/Healdsburg Avenue (Exit 502). Go north to Bailhache Avenue, turn right on Bailhache, which becomes Rio Lindo Avenue. Follow it about 3 miles into the Academy's main entrance. Turn left at the first stop sign and another left just before the dormitory. In half a block turn right toward the rear of the campus, park on the right past the chimney. Bring folding chairs, a picnic supper and join many others as we enjoy the evening show. Please call leader if you want to carpool.

② Wednesday, September 26
Hayward Regional Shoreline, Winton Avenue Entrance

Leader: Bob Richmond, 510-427-9843.

Carpool leaves Sycamore Valley Road Park and Ride lot in Danville at 8:00 AM. Meet at 8:45 AM at Winton Avenue entrance. From I-880, exit Winton Avenue, drive west 4.5 miles to parking lot. Because traffic is so unpredictable, if no one is there, wait a while.

Shorebirds and possible early ducks. Time permitting, we will finish at the San Leandro Marina. Bring drinks and lunch.



*Red-necked
Phalarope
Hayward RS*

② Saturday, September 29
Outer Point Reyes

Leader: David Hutton, 938-4485.

Carpool leaves southwest corner Sun Valley parking lot at 7:00 AM. Meet 8:30 AM at Bear Valley Visitor Center in Olema. From I-80 in Vallejo, follow SR 37 19.1 miles to Atherton Avenue, exit and turn left, cross US 101 to San Marin Drive and continue about 3 miles. Turn right on Novato Blvd for 6 miles to stop sign, then turn left on Point Reyes-Petaluma Road for 7 miles to another stop sign. Turn right across the bridge, go 3 miles to SR 1. Turn left into Point Reyes Station. After a stop at the Bovine Bakery for coffee and pastries, continue out of town towards Olema, then turn right onto Bear Valley Road. Visitor Center is off Bear Valley. We are hoping for migrants and vagrants. Weather is unpredictable. Bring lunch and liquids.

② Saturday-Sunday, December 8-9
Wildlife Refuges of the Sacramento Valley

Leader: Terry Colborn, 916-705-8991.

This weekend field trip will include visits to several wonderful wildlife refuges in the Sacramento Valley. Collectively these sanctuaries are home to tens of thousands of wintering ducks, geese and swans. Featured on this trip will be visits to Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge on Saturday, followed by Colusa National Wildlife Refuge and Gray Lodge Wildlife Area on Sunday. Many other locations will be visited. This is a very popular trip and space is limited; contact the leader Terry Colborn at tlcgdc@aol.com or 916-705-8991 to assure a spot on the trip; carpooling is essential. This is a great trip for beginners and seasoned birders alike. There are several motels in Williams; early room reservations are recommended. Participants may opt to arrive on Friday night for the 7:00 AM start time on Saturday.

2012-2013 Field Trip Schedule

By Hugh Harvey

September

- 6 ThursdayJewel Lake, Tilden Park
- 8 Saturday..... Antioch Dunes NWR
- 15 Saturday.....Rio Lindo Academy, Healdsburg
- 26 Wednesday..... Hayward Regional Shoreline
- 29 Saturday..... Outer Point Reyes

October

- 6-7 Saturday-Sunday .. Monterey Bay Pelagic Birding Weekend
- 10 Wednesday.....Berkeley-Emeryville Shoreline
- 13 Saturday.....Hawk Hill
- 27 Saturday..... Abbott's Lagoon

November

- 10 Saturday..... Southeast Solano Raptors and More
- 13 Tuesday..... McNabney Marsh/Mountain View Sanitary
- 17 Saturday..... Limantour

December

- 1 Saturday..... Charleston Slough/South Bay
- 8-9 Saturday-Sunday Sacramento Refuges
- 13 Thursday..... Niles Area
- 18 Tuesday.....East County Christmas Count
- 22 Saturday.....Central County Christmas Count

January

- 11 Friday.....Lake Merritt/Arrowhead Marsh
- 12 Saturday..... Putah Creek
- 26 Saturday..... Las Gallinas/Rush Creek/Shollenberger

February

- 2 Saturday.....Thornton Area/Cosumnes Preserve
- 14 Thursday.....Grizzly Island Wildlife Area
- 16-17 Saturday-Sunday..... Los Banos/Panoche Valley
- 20 Wednesday.....Sunol Regional Park
- 23 Saturday.....Tomales Bay State Park

March

- 6 Wednesday..... Walnut Creek City Parks
- 12 Tuesday..... McNabney Marsh/ Mountain View Sanitary
- 21 Thursday..... Valle Vista
- 27 Wednesday..... Lake Lagunitas

April

- 6 Saturday..... Garin Regional Park
- 10 Wednesday..... Orinda Connector Trail
- 13 Saturday..... Pine Canyon
- 16 Tuesday.....North Briones Regional Park
- 20 Saturday..... Mines Road
- 24 Wednesday..... Del Puerto Canyon
- 30 Tuesday.....Black Diamond Mines

May

- 2 Thursday..... Mitchell Canyon
- 9 Thursday..... Mount Diablo State Park
- 16 Thursday..... West Briones Regional Park
- 18 Saturday..... East Contra Costa County

June

- 1 Saturday..... Outer Point Reyes
- 22-23 Saturday-Sunday..... Yuba Pass/Sierra Valley

July

- 20 Saturday..... San Mateo Coast

August

- 17 Saturday..... Bodega Bay

Field Trip Leaders (Area code 925 unless specified)

- Hugh B. Harvey, Chair 935-2979
- Ethan (Chick) Chickering..... 686-9231
- Terry Colborn..... 916-705-8991
- Jimm Edgar 510-658-2330
- Bingham Gibbs..... 838-9257
- David Hutton 938-4485
- Don Lewis..... 284-5480
- Eugenia Larson..... 806-0644
- Bob Richmond 510-427-9843
- Jean Richmond..... 837-2843
- Sandy Ritchie 685-8048
- Fred Safer 937-2906
- Paul Schorr 757-5107
- Maury Stern 284-5980
- Steve Taylor..... 828-8810
- Nancy Wenninger 938-7987
- Denise Wight 330-3893

Come birding with us!

Field trips are open to members and non-members, beginners and advanced birders, but not dogs. Weather or other contingencies may require changes. For updates, visit the MDAS website at www.diabloaudubon.com/index.php. Phone area codes are 925 unless specified otherwise. Because most trips do not return until late afternoon, bring a lunch and drink and join us during our midday break.

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

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

Category ❸: Difficult, extensive walking on rough terrain.



Our Mount Diablo Audubon Chapter is a conservation organization. As such, we encourage members to consider meeting at the carpool point to pick up or ride with others. It is important that given the cost of gasoline, those who ride with others offer to pay some of this cost. Don't forget about any bridge tolls or park entry fees on some of our longer trips. Carpool locations: **El Nido Ranch Road**—Exit SR 24 at St. Stephens Drive east of Orinda. El Nido Ranch Road is parallel to and north of the freeway. Park just east of the intersection with St. Stephens Drive. **La Gonda**. From I-680 southbound, exit at El Pintado, turn right and right again; park along open space on left. From I-680 northbound, exit El Cerro, turn left, then right at second light onto La Gonda; carpool point is about one-half mile north. **Sun Valley**—Southwest corner of the Sun Valley Mall parking lot at Willow Pass Road and Contra Costa Boulevard in Concord. **Sycamore Valley Road Park and Ride Lot**—Just south of Danville, exit I-680 at Sycamore Valley Road to the east; the Park and Ride lot is on the left.

Art and Photography Show

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

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

You may also enter the Delta Science Center calendar competition by submitting art relating to the California Delta. Submissions are due by September 4. E-mail the Delta Science Center info@deltasciencecenter.org for rules and requirements.

The art exhibit is free and open to the public. The event will be publicized in the local newspapers, ACFA electronic newsletter and website. You may enter the exhibit by notifying Diane Gibson-Gray, ACFA Executive Director at Diane@Art4Antioch.org or (925) 325-9897. The exhibit will be held at the Lynn House Gallery, located at 809 West First Street, in Antioch, across from Amtrak.

No Child Left Inside

The 2012-13 *No Child Left Inside* program will focus on classroom activities in March and April, and field trips to Contra Loma Regional Park in May. This program, initiated in 2008, has benefitted hundreds of elementary school children, and MDAS remains strongly committed to providing these meaningful activities. Please consider joining us as a volunteer in this personally rewarding activity.

After the conclusion of the *No Child Left Inside* field trips to Contra Loma Regional Park and Reservoir in April, I received thank-you letters from the 5th grade students at Jack London Elementary School in Antioch. The letters were addressed to me and the MDAS volunteers, and I thought that you would enjoy reading some selected comments from those letters. Please note that although Contra Loma Regional Park and Reservoir is a suburban park in the students' "backyards" so to speak, many of them had never been there.

"Thank you for the field trip to Contra Loma. I learned a lot of cool stuff about birds. My favorite part was when we went on the hike. My favorite bird was a Common Yellowthroat."

"I loved the field trip. My favorite part was the sleeping Barn Owl. My favorite bird was the Turkey Vulture, but it made me feel small because of its wingspan."

"I really thank you for letting us use the binoculars and getting the bus. You guys were amazing because it was free."

By Paul Schorr

"It was awesome to see the (fledgling) Great Horned Owl in the tree."

"Thank you for taking us to Contra Loma to go bird watching. I also appreciate the book you gave to us. Ever since I got that book I've been learning about other birds. My favorite bird is the California Quail. I love the sound it makes and the color of the feathers."

"One thing I learned is that a Great Horned Owl will eat almost anything. My favorite bird was the House Finch because of its beautiful colors."

"Thank you for organizing this field trip and letting us go. I hope that I can go some other time, but by myself and family instead of the class. Thank you for this amazing adventure of discovering different types of birds, like the Common Yellowthroat that I never knew about."

"Thank you for the birdie field trip. When the Great Blue Heron was drowning the gopher, that was awesome to see. That was very nice when you gave us the free books about birds."

"Thank you for showing us all of the birds. I really liked seeing the owl. That was my favorite. Also thank you for the bird book."

These children's reflections and impressions clearly indicate that the MDAS Education Outreach Programs such as *No Child Left Inside* are having a positive influence on the views of children regarding their natural environment. MDAS should take much pride in the success of these programs.

Sierra Birds

Continued from Page 2



Wilson's Snipe. Photo by Dia DeRose

them. And he taught me the monumental difference between field and picture identifying. Before the trip, my knowledge on birds was just from books. Show me a picture of a Lazuli Bunting, and I can identify it in a second. But when I was shown a shy bird half-hidden on a shadowy branch, I was stumped. Mr. Shuford and the rest of the class showed me the finer points of field birding, and how to identify by silhouette when the lighting just doesn't cooperate. I also learned a lot of behavioral keys, identifying difficult birds simply by how they behave. And aside from everything else, the social environment was like nothing I had ever experienced. I was completely immersed in the birding world. Every person within the group was just as crazy about birds as I was—it was a common thing for us to be eating our lunch when someone would shout, "*Brown Creeper!*" And we'd all abandon our food and run over to look. No bird was too common or too ordinary to us—every single one was interesting and worth seeing.

West Nile Virus

West Nile virus is a mosquito-borne disease, first detected in the eastern United States in 1990; since then the virus has spread and is now well established in most states, including California. In the week prior to publication of this issue of the *Quail*, one dead bird testing positive for the virus was reported from Contra Costa County, along with 68 others throughout the state.

Mosquitoes are carriers ("vectors") of West Nile virus that become infected when they feed on infected birds. Infected

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Trip Reports

Yuba Pass, June 23-24. After leading this trip for close to 20 years, it should come as no surprise that we finally had a trip which started with rain. The rain was not so bad for us because we were leaving for the Sierra Valley which was dry, but there we found the wind. Such is the world of birding and field trips.

While we gathered early Saturday morning in the rain, which was really more of a mist, a beautiful rainbow formed to the west, high above the Yuba Pass meadow. As if on cue and living up to their motto of "through rain, sleet, snow and hail," the US Postal Service delivered their mascot Bald Eagle, which flew right over the meadow and through the rainbow. What a way to start the day!

We visited Mountain Quail Road, the famous "sparrow corner" and the marshes of the northern part of the Sierra Valley. Highlights of the morning were a Gray Flycatcher, Green-tailed Towhees, Vesper and Brewer's Sparrows, a large flock of soaring American White Pelicans, White-faced Ibis, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Wilson's Phalaropes, an active Swainson's Hawk nest, and a very distant Short-eared Owl.



During lunch we had additional flyovers of Swainson's Hawks. We then visited the Rotary Picnic Area south of Loyalton where we had amazing close-up views of Lewis's Woodpeckers visiting their nest in a nearby power pole, and Mountain Bluebirds.

That evening, as the temperatures dipped into the 30s, we searched fruitlessly for Common Nighthawks above the campground. We were rewarded for our perseverance with a Common Poorwill, which landed on the slope below us and showed its tail with prominent white outer feathers.

Sunday morning was much more pleasant and we spent time wandering the logging road across the highway.

Yuba Pass has been much quieter with fewer birds seen the last few years; this year being no exception. Woodpeckers were hard to find, though we did observe a Red-breasted Sapsucker nest just off the parking lot. Mountain Chickadees were feeding young in another hole in a nearby tree. Other birds seen in the morning were a Wilson's Warbler, Dusky Flycatcher, Cassin's Finches, Pine Siskins, and more than 20 Evening Grosbeaks.

The American Dippers, which had nested under the bridge at the SF State Field Campus, had their chicks fledge on Friday according to Dia DeRose, our MDAS scholarship student for the week. Indeed, we could not find them, so we continued downhill to the roadside waterfall below Bassett's. Just as we finished parking, an adult Dipper arrived at the base of the falls, moved around a bit and then fed its young in the nest behind the water.

We finished the day with lunch at the tables in front of Bassett's Station, where we saw Rufous, Calliope, Anna's and Black-chinned Hummingbirds. After lunch we did our checklist. For the two days, though we were not always together as a group, the 26 participants identified a total of 103 species. *Hugh Harvey*

San Mateo Coast, July 21. Twenty members and guests saw 72 species along the San Mateo Coast from Pescadero Beach and Marsh to Pigeon Point Lighthouse area with an interior trip to Phipps Ranch in Pescadero. Highlight birds were: young Brant, Common Mergansers, Pacific Loons, Sooty Shearwater, Osprey, Peregrine Falcon, Wandering Tattler, Black Turnstone, Surfbird, Caspian Tern, Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Marbled Murrelet, Mike Hearell and Taylor Abbott, Swainson's Thrush, Wilson's Warbler, Pine Siskins, and Rhinoceros Auklet spotted by two guests from Utah. The weather was perfect after the early morning fog cleared. *Maury Stern*

Buy Duck Stamps

Anyone who cares about migratory birds should help to conserve the habitat critical to the welfare of birds and other wildlife. One of the easiest ways to do this is to purchase Duck Stamps each year.

Many are not aware that, while the stamps are required for hunting, the acquisition and protection of vital wetlands afforded by the Duck Stamp program supports hundreds of species of migratory birds, wildlife and plants, not just ducks. To facilitate your participation, each year since 2008 Mount Diablo Audubon has arranged to make available the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps at our September meeting. The stamps are also available at National Wildlife Refuges, many post offices and sporting goods stores, and can also be purchased online.

Since the program's inception in 1934, Federal Duck Stamp sales have raised more than \$1.1 billion to acquire and protect more than 5.5 million acres of habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System in all 50 states and U.S. territories. Acquisitions announced earlier this year in California include 508 acres added to the Tulare Basin Wildlife Management Area in Tulare and Kern Counties, and 275 acres added to Grasslands WMA in Merced County. These properties were secured for \$971,233 and \$570,000, respectively.



National Wildlife Refuges and Wildlife Management Areas benefit the public by providing access to outdoor recreational activities including hunting, fishing, birding, photography and environmental education. The Duck Stamp provides free access to any of the units of the Refuge System where admission fees are charged. Each year's stamp costs \$15 and is valid for one year, starting July 1.

Stamp collectors, in particular, prize Federal Duck Stamps as miniature works of art. This year's Federal Duck Stamp features a Wood Duck painted by Joseph Hautman of Plymouth, Minn.

There may not be a better or easier way for everyone to make a difference for wildlife conservation. Mount Diablo Audubon, as an incentive for your support of wetlands, includes an optional plastic key chain to display your stamp and to use as an identification tag for your binoculars.

Thomas Nuttall

» Continued from Page 10

the Ornithology of the United States and of Canada was published in 1832.

In 1834 he resigned in order to join an trading expedition to the Oregon coast, led by Nathaniel Wyeth. On this trip Nuttall was accompanied by his young friend John Townsend. The two naturalists collected both plants and birds, including Mountain Plover, Vaux's Swift, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Townsend's Warbler and Sage Thrasher. The specimens they brought back were later the resource that enabled John Audubon to include western birds in his *Birds of America*.

Following this trek Nuttall and Townsend sailed to the Sandwich Islands, now Hawai'i. Townsend collected native birds, many of which are now extinct, while Nuttall collected not only plants, but seashells and marine crustaceans. The two returned to the Pacific Northwest, but Nuttall soon sailed again to the Islands; this time he collected geologic specimens as well, including lava from the Big Island.

In early 1836, Nuttall decided to return to Boston, with a sojourn in Alta California.

In Monterey he found a plethora of plants new to him, and he was delighted with such plants as the ceanothus, California buckeye, coast live oak, and white alder. His next stop was at Santa Barbara, where he collected sixty-five species of plants. In a coast live oak, Nuttall heard the chatter of a magpie, which he found to differ from the magpies of his native England. Audubon later named the Yellow-billed Magpie for its discoverer, christening it *Pica nuttalli*. Also at Santa Barbara, Nuttall noticed blackbirds that were unlike the common Red-winged Blackbirds. He collected this new species, later named Tricolored Blackbird by Audubon.

After his uncle died, Nuttall inherited the Nutgrove estate near Liverpool. He did not want to accept this property, because his real home and his friends were in America, but he finally decided, even though the will required him to live in England nine months of the year, he owed it to his family to accept.

Thomas Nuttall spent the last seventeen years of his life at Nutgrove, caring for the property and its gardens. His nephew, Jonas

Thomas Booth, was interested in botany and longed to travel. Nuttall financed a trip to India and Assam for the young man. Booth sent back seeds and specimens of rhododendrons and orchids, his uncle's latest interests. Nuttall died in 1859

In those early years of searching for new plants along the Missouri River Thomas Nuttall, completely absorbed by his quest, frequently got lost and had to be rescued. One time his companions checked his rifle before a threatened Indian raid and found it filled with dirt; he had used it to dig plants. Later, in 1836 when he was in San Diego, awaiting a ship to return him from Hawai'i to Boston via Cape Horn, one of the deckhands noticed the old man walking along the beach picking up shells and stones. The sailor was Richard Henry Dana, who had been one of Nuttall's students at Harvard. Dana recorded the meeting in his memoir *Two Years Before the Mast*.

Today this somewhat eccentric pioneer is remembered by Nuttall's Woodpecker. It's curious, though, that Nuttall never saw his namesake, for this California endemic was first found by William Gambel in 1843, after Nuttall had returned to England.

Tricolored Blackbird ♦ *Agelaius tricolor*

a

The Tricolored Blackbird is often confused with the similar Red-winged Blackbird. The major visual difference is that the male

Tricolored's red epaulet is edged in pure white, not yellow as is the Red-winged Blackbird's. He also exhibits a darker red and a darker, shinier black. Females of the two species are gray and strongly streaked.

In 1923, William Dawson wrote "Every major act of [Tricolored Blackbird's] life is performed in close association with its fellows. Not only does it roost, or ravage grain fields, or forgather for nesting, in hundreds and thousands, but the very day of its nesting is agreed upon in concert."

A century has passed since Carolina Parakeet flocks colored the sky like an "atmosphere of gems," as one pioneer wrote. Daylight-obstructing, miles-long Passenger Pigeon flocks "marked the sky as the buffalo marked the plains," wrote an early bird conservationist.

We know how the story ended for the Carolina Parakeet and Passenger Pigeon—they're extinct. Of the three North American birds that have bred and lived in



Tricolored Blackbird. Audubon California photo.

huge colonies, there's just one left. It lives almost entirely in California and its fate is dependent on us: the Tricolored Blackbird.

It's a race against the clock. Most Tricoloreds do a mini-migration to the Sacramento Valley near the middle to end of May and settle in Solano, Yolo, Sacramento, and Colusa Counties for a second round of nesting.

A farmer with a field or weedy patch full of Tricolored Blackbirds faces a tremendous dilemma—to harvest or cut means the loss of life for the young birds not mature enough to fly away. To delay harvest or cutting till the birds are out means the loss of income, the loss of all the hard work in the fields—and times are tough already.

The *Five Dollars for Five Birds* campaign of the Tricolored Blackbird Conservation Project gives you a direct opportunity to save the last great colony-flocking bird. The Project travels the valley, looking for flocks, and contacting landowners. Cooperative farmers are compensated for delaying harvest. This is where you come in. Each dollar you donate directly supports this mission. After years of doing this, it comes out to about a dollar per bird saved.

The evolutionary adaptation to breed and live in vast colonies is what makes these birds remarkable—and also vulnerable. Let's not let the last of the great bird colonies follow the Passenger Pigeon and Carolina Parakeet into oblivion.

Please consider sending a donation to Audubon California, 4225 Hollis Street, Emeryville, CA 94608.

Brown Pelicans in Peril

Record numbers of young, starving California Brown Pelicans are being reported by concerned beachgoers all along the coast this summer.

While Pelican parents feed their naked, helpless chicks over a period of two to two-and-a-half months, by regurgitation, they provide little or no care after the young leave the nest. Very quickly, pelican fledglings must learn to sight prey from the air and plunge into water head-first, trap fish in their extended pouch, drain the water out the sides of the bill, and then swallow the fish. When they aren't initially successful, and grow desperately hungry, many exhibit unusual behavior like begging humans for food or foraging in unlikely locations far from the ocean.

Storms in Mexico and warmer water can drive fish favored by the birds into deeper, cooler waters, where only more skilled hunters can scoop them up. As we are seeing now, young pelicans are struggling to eat. Many chase fishermen's catch, and often sustain fractured wings or other injuries when hooks damage their bodies

and bills, or when they become entangled in fishing line.

International Bird Rescue maintains aquatic bird rescue centers in Solano County and in Los Angeles County, and are doing their best, along with other organizations, to stretch limited resources to care for the multitude of Brown Pelicans in need of help. Each pelican consumes half its body weight in food each day: about 4–5 pounds of fish per bird per day—at up to \$2.05 a pound. With rehabilitation periods of several weeks to a month or more, the expenses—not including medicines and surgeries—multiply quickly. International Bird Rescue's San Francisco Bay Center alone is spending nearly \$700 a day on fish.

As a member of Mount Diablo Audubon, you have made a small donation to this rescue effort with a \$500 contribution sent to International Bird Rescue, autho-



Photo courtesy of Ron LeValley. You can tell this is a young bird by the uniformly brown head and back. They also have white underparts. This photograph was taken from the Little River Headlands, Mendocino County, California on June 30, 2012.

rized at the Board meeting in July. You can do more, on a personal level, by donating online at <https://secure.commonground.convio.com/IntBirdRescue/donate/> or by sending your check to International Bird Rescue Research Center, 4369 Cordelia Road, Fairfield, CA 94534.

Your Field Guide Is Out of Date!

The American Ornithologists' Union has published its 53rd Supplement to the *Check-list of North American Birds*, so again it's time for birders to exclaim "What were they thinking! Falcons come after Woodpeckers?"

The most drastic shakeup this year stems from recent genetic studies that show falcons to be much more closely related to songbirds than to other "hawks". According to this research, falcons' closest relatives are a group (or "clade") consisting of the parrots and the passerines. As a result, the new *Check-list* sequence moves caracaras and falcons (*Falconiformes*) and parrots (*Psittaciformes*) between the woodpeckers (*Piciformes*) and flycatchers and other songbirds (*Passeriformes*).

The bird known until now as Xantus's Murrelet has been split in two. Its former *scrippsi* and *hypoleucus* subspecies have been elevated by the AOU to full-species status, to be called Scripps's Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus scrippsi*) and Guadalupe Murrelet (*S. hypoleucus*). Both species breed on islands off southern California and western Baja California. Sibley's Guides

have called these Northern and Southern Xantus's Murrelets. The split is based on differences in facial pattern and bill shape, vocalizations, and genetics.

- ♦ Gray Hawk, a bird of southern Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas south through Central America, has been split from *Buteo nitidus* and named *B. plagiatus*; while the name Gray-lined Hawk is given to the species *B. nitidus* found from Costa Rica south through much of South America.

- ♦ Galapagos Shearwater (*Puffinus subalaris*) is classified as a species separate from Audubon's Shearwater.

Scientific name changes, based on genetic research, include:

- ♦ The *Selasphorus* hummingbirds—Broad-tailed, Rufous, and Allen's—welcome a new member to the genus, as Calliope Hummingbird becomes *Selasphorus calliope* instead of *Stellula calliope*.

- ♦ Sage Sparrow becomes *Artemisipiza belli* rather than *Amphispiza belli*.

- ♦ Purple Finch, Cassin's Finch, and House Finch, formerly called *Carpodacus purpureus*, *C. cassinii*, and *C. mexicanus*,



House Finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*)

Photo by Ethan Winning.

respectively, are now given the new genus title *Haemorhous*, the resurrected name of an old finch genus.

- ♦ Other genus grouping changes revert Chuck-will's-widow, Buff-collared Nightjar, Eastern Whip-poor-will, and Mexican Whip-poor-will from *Caprimulgus* back to their pre-1944 genus name *Antrostomus*.

What will they think of next?

Wait! One more thing: Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinicus*, is now *Porphyrio martinica*.

California Coastal Cleanup Day



Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge at San Joaquin River

California Coastal Cleanup Day is the state's largest volunteer event. In 2010, over 82,500 volunteers removed more than 1.2 million pounds of trash and recyclables from our beaches, lakes, and waterways.

California's coast and waterways have historically been collecting spots for accumulations of trash and debris. This debris, if not removed, can be harmful and even fatal to all manners of marine wildlife, can damage our state's economy, and can even become a human health hazard. Coastal Cleanup Day is a great way for families, students, service groups, and neighbors to join together, take care of our fragile marine environment, show community support for our shared natural resources, and to have fun!

Be part of the quest for cleaner shores! Join on Saturday, September 15, 2012, from 9 AM to noon for the 28th Annual California Coastal Cleanup Day.

Antioch Dunes NWR, on the San Joaquin River, is the only National Wildlife Refuge in Contra Costa County. It is the first NWR established for the protection of an endangered insect and endangered plants. Because the Lange's Metalmark butterfly, Antioch Dunes evening primrose and Contra Costa wallflower are sensitive to disturbance, the refuge is normally closed to the public. Mount Diablo Audubon members will have the opportunity, however, to visit on September 15 as we participate in Coastal Cleanup Day and enjoy the setting, which may include Belted Kingfishers and any of 78 other species on the bird list.

Meet at 9 AM sharp at the refuge entrance on Fulton Shipyard Road. From Highway 4, take Exit 28, Lone Tree Way/A Street; left (north) on A street to Wilbur; right on Wilbur to Fulton Shipyard Road; then across the railroad tracks to the refuge.

After you finish your service at noon, stop and see the MDAS members' Art Show at the Lynn House Gallery, from 1 to 4 PM, opposite the AMTRAK station in Antioch.

If you can't come to Antioch for this event, please consider joining one of the organized cleanup groups nearby. See The Watershed Project, www.thewatershedproject.org; City of Berkeley, Shorebird Park Nature Center, www.cityofberkeley.info/marina; or East Bay Regional Park District, www.ebparks.org.

Beaver Festival



Cecil Williams talks to a young beaver-tailed visitor at Mount Diablo Audubon's table at the Martinez Beaver Festival on August 4. Other volunteers deserving our thanks are Cevina Targum and Ariana Rickard.

NEWS FROM WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED



● Providing Water

Bird baths are very effective in attracting birds and are important for hydration and cooling in hot weather. Also, water misters or sprays on hot days bring hummingbirds, who love to wet their wings in mid-air.

All sizes of birds should be able to stand in a bath or parts of a pond, with maximum depth of 1-2 inches where they bathe. Some birds will completely immerse in water while others just preen from the edges of rocks.



Baths should have the water changed at least every other day to help prevent dirt and feces buildup. Ponds and water features should be filtered and aerated. Fountains, waterfalls, recycling pumps and sprayers also help keep the water fresh and aerated.

Water should also be kept moving to prevent mosquitos, which may carry West Nile Virus, from breeding. Water wigglers or drippers work well in baths. Moving water also reduces algae and helps birds see baths from above.

Watch for build-up of algae or leaves and cleanse with a brush. Avoid bleach or strong household cleaners that do not completely wash away.

Baths and ponds should be in open areas, away from shrubs and trees where cats can hide and pounce. Baths should also be high enough to help deter rats and squirrels. Sturdy or well mounted baths may also be necessary to prevent tipping by larger animals, such as raccoons.

Bird baths come in many sizes, shapes, and materials, with cement the most popular. Ceramic, glass, metal, and plastic also provide many choices to suit nearly all tastes.

Birds always need water, so providing water sources should help keep them coming for your enjoyment year round.



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

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

Ornithology Opportunities

Monterey Bay Birding Festival, Watsonville, September 13-16. The Monterey Bay Birding Festival is honored to present 'The Big Year' birder Greg Miller as the keynote speaker September 15 at the Watsonville Civic Plaza. Joe Morlan, a long-time California birder and teacher and winner of the American Birding Association's Ludlow Griscom Award for 2010, has been added as the Friday speaker and will discuss the recent expansion of the California list and the contributions by active birders in detecting new species for the state. Come for this entertaining and informative presentation. <http://montereybaybirding.org>.

WildCare is a wildlife rehabilitation and nature education center located in San Rafael. Each year nearly 4,000 ill, injured and orphaned wild animals are treated in the wildlife hospital, and over 40,000 kids and adults are reached through education programs. WildCare's annual photography contest offers photographers the opportunity to share their best wildlife photos with the wider community of nature-lovers. The \$15 per photo entry fees and the photographs themselves work to help care for sick and injured animals, and to teach children to love and appreciate the natural world.

The deadline for photography contest entries is September 14. The judged Best in Show photo will win \$500 and there are cash prizes for first-place winners in each category. Visit www.wildcarebayarea.org/photocontest for details, rules, online entry and a printable entry form.

16th Annual Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival, Lodi. November 2-4. <http://www.cranefestival.com/>

The Central Valley Bird Club will host the **16th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium** in Stockton November 15-18. www.cvbs.org.

Wet Nile Virus

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mosquitoes can then spread the virus to humans and other animals when they bite. People typically develop symptoms from 3 to 14 days after they are bitten by an infected mosquito. Fewer than one percent of individuals infected will develop severe illness. Severe symptoms may last several weeks, and neurological effects may be permanent. West Nile virus infection can be fatal; one fatality was reported in August, in Kern County. An infected mosquito can bite any animal, but wild birds serve as the main source of virus for mosquitoes. Infection has been reported in more than 225 bird species. The most severe illnesses are seen among the corvid birds, which include crows, jays, ravens, and magpies.

This year, the California Department of Public Health and local vector control agencies will emphasize collecting and testing many susceptible species, but monitoring dead birds is extremely important. The public can report dead birds by calling the toll-free hotline, 1-877-WNV-BIRD (968- 2473), or by submitting a report online at www.westnile.ca.gov. The website also features a short video on how to handle and submit a dead bird for testing.

"Birds have wings; they're free; they can fly where they want when they want. They have the kind of mobility many people envy."

— Roger Tory Peterson (1908 - 1996)

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



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MDAS MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION

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

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

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Address _____

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Yellow-billed Magpie (*Pica nuttalli*) at Mount Diablo.
Photo by Albert Linkowski.

Thomas Nuttall Father of Western American Botany

In memory of Thomas Nuttall, an obelisk at the Missouri Botanical Garden proclaims "Honor to Him the Zealous and Successful Naturalist, the Father of Western American Botany."

Thomas Nuttall was born in 1786 in the village of Long Preston in Northern England, on the edge of what is now Yorkshire Dales National Park. He became a journeyman printer for his uncle, but at the age of 22 he came to America to study botany. In Philadelphia he met Benjamin Barton, Professor of Natural History and Botany at the University of Pennsylvania.

Barton engaged Nuttall in collecting plants, first from Delaware and Chesapeake Bay, and later from the Great Lakes region. In 1811 Nuttall joined an exploratory trip on the Missouri River, during which he col-



Segoe Lily, *Calochortus nuttalli*

lected many plants new to him. Many of these may have been previously collected on the Lewis and Clark expedition of 1805 but had been lost when the collection was destroyed by floodwater. One of the plants Nuttall collected on this journey was the sego lily, now the state flower of Utah.

On returning to Saint Louis, Nuttall judged it prudent to return to England, acknowledging the threat of imminent war between the United States and England. Without heading back to Philadelphia, he sailed from New Orleans, taking with him his seeds and specimens.

After the war, Nuttall returned to Philadelphia and worked at the Academy of Natural Sciences. By 1818, Nuttall had published a two-volume work *Genera of North American*



Plants. He set much of the type for this work himself. In 1823 he was invited to become Curator of the Harvard Botanical Garden and Instructor of Natural History. Within a decade, however, he tired of the monotony and turned his efforts to writing the first field guide to American birds. *Manual of*
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