



Mt. Diablo Audubon Society

The Quail

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NOVEMBER 2019

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 7

The Mt. Diablo Audubon Society will meet **Thursday, November 7**, in the Camelia Room of **The Gardens at Heather Farm**, 1540 Marchbanks Drive, Walnut Creek.

6:30 PM Doors Open

7:00 PM Birding Info: *Introduction to the iNaturalist App and Website*

7:25 PM News

7:40 PM Snacks and Raffle

8:00 PM Main Program: *Hummingbirds*

8 PM Main Program:

Hummingbirds

Kristiina Hurme & Alejandro Rico-Guevara

"To Feed or To Fight: Energetics and Weapons" Energetically constrained animals have evolved adaptations to enhance caloric intake. On the other hand, animal competition sometimes turns into physical combat, and particular weaponry evolves. In this talk, Kristiina and Alejandro will present theoretical and empirical findings on each of these fronts, along with a case study of their intersection, namely, hummingbird bill weapons. These discoveries revive questions dating back to Darwin and Wallace about how these birds budget energy gain and expenditure to enable



hovering, the most expensive form of locomotion, establishing coevolutionary relationships with flowers. These novel perspectives of a data-rich mutualistic system, open the door to quantitative and comparative assessments of trade-offs between energy optimality and fighting proficiency.

Kristiina Hurme and **Alejandro Rico-Guevara** are two bird lovers and biologists, from Princeton and Universidad Nacional de Colombia, respectively. They earned their doctoral degrees at the University of Connecticut, are affiliated with the Flight Lab



at the Biology Department, UC Berkeley, and will start as faculty at the University of Washington, Seattle, next year. They study hummingbird feeding, fighting, communication, learning, vision and other behaviors by slowly habituating them to new feeders, cameras, etc. Our subjects participate voluntarily, they are not camera shy!

Photo credits: Kristiina Hurme

7 PM Birding Info:

Introduction to the iNaturalist App and Website

Kendall Oei



Kendall Oei will introduce you to the **iNaturalist app and website**, with a brief overview of what iNaturalist can do for you and a demonstration of how to create an entry.

He is also teaching an iNaturalist class for MDAS on Tuesday, November 12. **Click here** for details.

Photo credit: Kendall Oei

Presidents' Letter

Maren Smith & Ariana Rickard, *MDAS Co-Presidents*

The cool, crisp fall weather reminds us that Thanksgiving is just around the corner, the perfect reminder to express our gratitude for all of our wonderful members and generous donors. Our sincere thanks to all of you!



In keeping with Mt. Diablo Audubon Society's mission statement to support conservation, education and advocacy, your member dues and donations have supported MDAS programs, field trips, two Christmas Bird Counts, classes, the Young Birders Club, communications (including the new website, Mail Chimp for the eQuail and meeting reminders, MeetUp and Facebook), and other chapter activities and projects. In this issue of *The Quail*, you will find the Treasurer's Annual Report and a list of donors for the 2018–2019 year. In addition, listed below, are the non-profit organizations that the MDAS Board felt deserved our sponsorship, their goals aligning with our mission statement and MDAS goals. In 2018–2019, on behalf of the Mt. Diablo Audubon membership, \$18,850 was donated to like-minded conservation groups and partners. We strive to “support community organizations with similar goals, sponsor educational activities to promote environmental knowledge with a special focus on youth, and enhance public appreciation of the natural world with an emphasis on birds.”

To that end, we are proud to have supported and partnered with these worthy, in-the-trenches non-profits:

The Gardens at Heather Farm

Golden Gate Raptor Observatory

John Muir Land Trust

Save Mount Diablo

International Bird Rescue

Eagle Scout Bat Box Project at Big Break EBRP

Native Bird Connections

Save Tesla Park

Raptors Are The Solution (R.A.T.S.)

The Lindsay Wildlife Experience

Wildcare (Marin)
Point Blue
Audubon California's Tricolored Blackbirds Project
Monterey Audubon's Heermann Gull Habitat Project
National Audubon Society for the Christmas Bird Count
San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory
The Mono Lake Committee
Feather River Land Trust
Friends of Pleasant Hill Creeks
Northern California Bluebird Recovery Program

and three international non-profits:

Siyaj Chan

TNC Mexico

Pronatura (highlighted in the **June 2019 issue of *The Quail***, page 9).

Thank you for your continued participation in the vital work (and fun) of our Audubon chapter and for contributing to important conservation, education and advocacy work.

"There is immense power when a group of people with similar interests gets together to work toward the same goals." - Idowu Koyenikan

Together, we make a difference.

Your Co-Presidents, Ariana Rickard and Maren Smith

Welcome, New Members!

Sandra Binder, Lafayette; **Suzzette Dewan**, Martinez; **Gerald Lahr**, Danville; **Cynthia Parnell**, Walnut Creek

Upcoming Field Trips

Saturday, November 2, 8:30 AM–2:00 PM
Charleston Slough, Mountain View
Leader: Beth Branthaver

Shorebirds, gulls, and waterfowl should be plentiful and Black Skimmers, Red Knots and grebes are possible. Carpool leaves at 7:30 AM from Sycamore Valley Road Park and Ride. Meet at Terminal Road in Mountain View at 8:30 AM. Go south on I-680, take Exit 12, Mission Boulevard west. Continue through two traffic lights and take I-880 ramp south. Exit to SR 237, connect to US 101 north at Moffett Field. Exit at San Antonio Road, turn right (north) to Terminal Road, turn right and park. Entrance is on left. Other areas of interest in the South Bay are Shoreline Lake, Palo Alto Baylands, Alviso and Redwood Shores. Bring lunch and a beverage. Leader: Beth Branthaver, 510-502-4869.
Category 2

Saturday, November 9, 9:00 AM–12:00 PM

Irish Canyon, Clayton

Leaders: Jerry Britten & Maren Smith

Partnership hike with Save Mount Diablo and MDAS on private land with 320 acres of oak savannah and grassland—reservations required. Meet at 9 AM at the Park & Ride, 1000 Peacock Creek Drive off Clayton Road in Clayton. From Ygnacio Valley Road, take Clayton Road toward Clayton for about 2 miles. Turn left onto Peacock Creek Drive and park on the right. We will walk a short distance to the trailhead from there. The hike is roughly five miles round trip with 900 feet of elevation gain/loss.

Eventbrite registration required at www.savemountdiablo.org. Dress accordingly, bring liquids and snacks. Leaders: Jerry Britten, 925-321-5332, Maren Smith, 925-322-9477.

Category 3

Tuesday, November 12, 8:00 AM–2:00 PM

Shadow Cliffs Regional Park, Pleasanton

Leader: Steve Taylor

New field trip this year! Gulls, ducks, grebes, herons, and raptors are possible. Carpool leaves at 7:30 AM from Sycamore Valley Road Park & Ride. Or meet at the park at 8 AM. Go south on I-680, then east on I-580 toward Livermore. Exit at Santa Rita Road and turn right, drive about one mile to Valley Avenue and turn left. Turn left onto Stanley after half-a-mile and then turn right into the park. Entry fee required at kiosk, then turn left to parking lot. Bring lunch and liquids. Leader: Steve Taylor, 925-828-8810.

Category 2

Saturday, November 16, 8:30 AM–3:00 PM

Limantour Beach, Point Reyes Station

Leader: Fred Safier

This trip includes forest birds on the ridge and ducks, shorebirds and often loons and grebes on the ocean. Tule Elk are often seen. Carpool leaves at 7:00 AM from El Nido Ranch Road. Meet at 8:30 AM at the Bear Valley Visitor Center, Point Reyes National Seashore. Take SR 24 to Oakland, then I-580 west to Richmond and the San Rafael Bridge. From US 101 north, take the Lucas Valley Road exit. Turn left and drive toward Nicasio and continue to Pt. Reyes-Petauma Road. Turn right across the painted bridge and then left on Hwy 1 into Pt. Reyes Station. After a short stop at the Bovine Bakery, continue toward Olema, turn right onto Bear Valley Road and left to the Visitor Center. Bring lunch and a beverage. Leader: Fred Safier, 925-337-2906.

Category 2

To view all upcoming trips, see "Field Trips" under Birding at <http://www.mtdiabloudubon.org>.

Field trips open to members and non-members, beginners to advanced birders. No dogs. Contact leader with questions. MDAS encourages carpooling (riders help with gas, tolls, or entry fees). Drivers who carpool should carry proof of liability insurance in their vehicles.

Category 1: Easy; little walking, smooth paths.

Category 2: Moderate; more than one mile, possibly rougher terrain.

Category 3: Difficult; extensive walking on rough terrain.

2018-2019 MDAS Field Trips by the Numbers

45	Number of field trips scheduled
265	Number of species identified by sight
4	Field trips cancelled by rain
1	Field trips cancelled by smoke
1	Number of species identified by sound only

New MDAS Board Members

Krista Vossekuil — *Board Member-at-Large*



Krista Vossekuil was born and raised in Contra Costa County and feels a special connection to the land, people, wildlife, and of course birds! Her diverse career working for Bay Area nonprofits spans over fifteen years and she has served many causes including human health, animal welfare, and conservation. She currently serves as Director of Philanthropy for John Muir Land Trust where she strives to connect people to the important cause of permanently preserving the East Bay's most special places. Krista graduated from University of California, Davis with Bachelor Degrees in English and Political Science, and a minor in Women and Gender Studies. She found birding just seven years ago and describes it as “one of the loves of her life.” In 2015, she took the Master Birding course through the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. Krista lives in Martinez with her (indoor) cat Beans and, in her free time, enjoys birding (of course), volunteer work, and spending time with family and friends.

Marc Desin — *The Quail Editor*

Marc Desin is a long-time resident of Walnut Creek who appreciates the countless opportunities to enjoy nature in the San Francisco Bay Area. His career started in Berkeley where he owned and managed a medical laboratory for 10 years. As the personal computer era dawned, Marc went back to school to obtain a Computer Science and Mathematics degree which led to a 25-year career in tech, primarily at Autodesk, Inc. At present, he works at Wild Birds Unlimited in Pleasant Hill, and enjoys his long-time hobby of backyard bird feeding with his wife Andrea.



MDAS Annual Treasurer's Report – 2019

Steve Buffi, *MDAS Treasurer*

Mount Diablo Audubon Society remains in an excellent position to serve our community. We had another successful year. The annual fundraising drive continues to be strong, and our total chapter membership is strong, too.

The financial health of MDAS, due to the generosity of our members, allows us to actively pursue our mission. During the year, we funded important habitat preservation projects and continued our community education outreach efforts for young people such as the “No Child Left Inside Program” and the Young Birders Club. Your generosity supports our monthly presentation program, this newsletter, the annual Christmas Bird Count, our web site, and much more. You have read about these important community efforts in this and prior issues of *The Quail*. Each dollar you give is put to good use for the benefit of our community.

The General Fund balance covers operations and reserves, the Conservation and Education balance is used towards these efforts, and the Breeding Bird Atlas reflects the books held for sale and the results of book sales. During the past fiscal year, conservation and education activities were funded through the General Fund and Conservation and Education Fund.

Fund balances are held in checking, money market, and certificate of deposit accounts.

Funds	Revenue	Expenses	Net	Fund Balance 7/1/2019
General	34,811.78	34,820.85	(9.07)	128,123.50
Conservation and Education	84.95	4,500.00	(4,415.05)	17,946.37
Breeding Bird Atlas	(72.28)	33.26	(105.54)	17,946.37
Total All Funds	34,824.45	39,354.11	(4,529.66)	157,813.81

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE
WHO GAVE SO GENEROUSLY IN 2018–19**

California Condor (\$1000+)

William D. Chilson, Hugh B. and Rosita O. Harvey

California Gnatcatcher (\$250–\$999)

Jerry Britten, Steve Buffi and Anne Waters, Marta Bulaich, Kent Fickett, Ann and Donald Hughes, Bruce and Judy Kronmiller, Lynn and Gordon Lakso, Tom and Pam Lee, Donald W. and Susan E. Lewis, Bruce Muirhead and Denise Pare-Muirhead, George and Audrey Rasmussen Family Foundation, Lenora Robertson, Paul and Nancy Schorr, Sigrid Spieler, Joel Summerhill, Nancy Wenninger

California Thrasher (\$100–\$249)

Hanako and Paul R. Andrews, Gus and Gerry Argenal, Isaac Aronow, Kathleen Bain, Darrell Cannon, Cathy Castillo, R. N. Compton, Don and Susan Couch, Jacqueline Dever, Maybelle M. Dore, Marilyn Dorsey, Jimm Edgar, Tracy Farrington, Valerie Glass, Carol and John Harkin, Claudia and Scott Hein, Michael Larkin, Jane and Michael Larkin, Carol Livingston, Steve and Susan Loftin, Mike Loper, Pamela Alves Lorenz, Norman and Christy Lundberg, Diane and Bob Malucelli, Michael Marchiano, Thomas McWilliams, Carol Pacht, Sharon and Dennis Randall, Susanne Revutsky, Sandra S. Ritchie, Judy Secor, Dana Slauson, Maury and Susan Stern, Martin and Sandra Stuart, Patricia Sullivan, Gary Thompson, Michael and Rita Tischler

California Quail (\$25–\$99)

Cheryl Abel, Phillip Araki, Nancy Arkwright, Karel Baloun, Althea Bates, Deborah Beesley, Ruth Beeve, Bennett Berke, Emily Blanck and Daniel Weiss, Stephen Bonn, Beth Branthaver, Jennifer Braun, James and Barbara Brunell, Barbara Burek, Daniel Campos, Ethan and Ruth Chickering, Margaret Clark, Carolyn E. Cogan and Diana D. Herold, Amy Cole and Adam Peters, Dr. Guy and Mrs. Elizabeth Corynen, Regina Dakin, Ted Dang and Iriani Sutanto-Dang, Joy Dardin, William E. Davis, Jr., Michael Day, Sherry Derda, Peggy and Fred Dias, Carol Evans, Don Fallon, Benjamin Fong, Dana Gallo, Betsy and David Gifford, Janet M. Goodman, Bill and Diana Granados, Erik Granberg, John S. Gravell, Melissa Grupp, Carol Haglund, Dick Hansen and Kristen Yanker-Hansen, Robert and Wanella Harvey, Bryan Hix, Elizabeth Hoople, David Hutton and Valerie Ventre-Hutton, Stephen Imialek, Donna and Richard Immel, Susan Dee and Edwin F. Katibah, Kathryn and Thomas Kellogg, Hilary Sacks Kennedy, Sandra and Fred King, Sally King, Ronald Kline, Donna Kramer and Scott Kramer, Manoj Kumar, Mona Lange, Eugenia and Gary Larson, Sue Littlehale, J. Mann, Darrell Murray, Antonio B. Nafarrate, Philip Nelson, Cindy and Hank Nigro, Sharon Noteboom, Lorraine Osborn, Lori Patel, Jeanine Perasso-Kaczmarczyk, Clinton Phalen and Susan Phalen, Roger A. Prince and Noelle B. Schoellkopf, Austin and Marjorie Prindle, Charleen Raines, Donald and Daisy Ray, Suzan and Dave Requa, Rosalie Rhodes, Jean Richmond, William and Lana Rocha, Janet and Richard Saillard, Megan Sandri, Lucy Selman, Jody Sherrard, David and Linda Shinn, Sylvia Simon, Robert G. Slyker, Ann Spaulding, Julia M. Starr, Ann-Charlott Stenberg, Caroline Stephens, Gary Stevens, Fred W. Sullivan, Kathleen Usher, Krista Vossekul, Maxine and Richard Vrmeer, Bev Walker, Idell Weydemeyer, Betty Ann Williams, Elsie Witt, Blake Wu, Charlotte York

California Towhee (to \$24)

Mimi Foord, Ron Fraenkel, Rennette MacIntyre, Christina Madlener, Denise Mauldin, Lou and Yolanda Pilastro, Emma and John Popek, William Stephenson, Barbara M. Stevens and Bradley C. Mitchell, Dr. and Ms. Howard Sturtz, Betty Thomas

Helping Birds In Your Garden

Mike Eliot, *Member-at-Large*

Many of us enjoy the outdoors and marvel at what we see on trails, in fields, and forests. Yet we often seem to want our gardens to be perfectly manicured with lots of undisturbed plants and flowers. To accomplish this, we often spray plants with insecticides and spray unwanted plants with herbicides. We may also buy seeds to grow plants that have been treated with pesticides.



But what does this do to the environment in which birds and other animals exist? Backyard birds' food sources are widely diverse. The foods we provide for them in feeders may only represent 10 to 20% of their diets. Most of the birds we see in our yards consume large quantities of insects, worms, and plant materials. Because of this, we need to be careful about what we use to keep our gardens looking nice and neat.



Recent studies have shown that glyphosate, the most popular grass and weed killer, as well as some other herbicides, have some toxicity to birds, including negative effects on reproduction and immunity. Also, a secondary effect from intended destruction of grasses and weeds is elimination of insect and plant habitat in which

birds forage.

Migrating birds especially sparrow and finch populations have been decreasing over the last 50 years by as much as one-third. Some of the more prominent reasons for this have been studied. Outdoor and feral cats kill billions of backyard birds. Keeping pet cats indoors and avoiding feeding ferals would help. Birds can be killed by hitting glass windows, which can also be mitigated with reflective stickers and window coatings, screens, or glass that does not reflect sky and plants.

One recent study has linked decreases in migrating bird populations to neonicotinoid pesticides (the most common types used today) and their effects on the migratory activity of birds (see article ***Neonics and Birds***). Even in small doses, as little as two seeds containing this poison can cause birds to stop migrating for days and stop eating. Even when they recover, they are weak and often unable to continue their migration. Some die due to cold while others

reproductive cycles are interrupted, lessening the production of offspring. One solution may be to allow our yards to become a little more like wildland habitats that don't necessarily look perfect, but provide a more secure and inviting environment for birds and the things on which they live.



New Audubon Report: Two-thirds of North American Bird Species At Risk of Extinction from Climate Change — ACT NOW!

Juan Pablo Galván, *Young Birders Club Leader*

Audubon's **new climate report** shows that 389 bird species in North America are vulnerable to extinction because of climate change. But there's still hope—if we act on climate today, we can improve the chances for a majority of these species. By stabilizing carbon emissions and holding warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, 76% of vulnerable species will be better off, and nearly 150 species would no longer be vulnerable to extinction from climate change.



Otherwise, we can expect to lose Western Tanagers, Yellow Warblers and many other species as breeding populations in Contra Costa. Even MDAS's symbol, the California Quail, will lose three-quarters of its range in California in the winter months. We're not talking in some far away future. We're talking in 60 years. These are conservative estimates, since the report's modeled business-as-usual (ie, humans keep on emitting greenhouse gases along their current trajectory) scenario is only a 3°C increase from pre-industrial levels. In reality, if we keep going as we are, it could be as bad as 4.8°C (8.6°F). That's the difference between a 72.0°F day and a 81.0°F day. But it's not the averages that are the most important impacts. It's the increased intensity, extent, and frequency of the extremes: fire, flood, and drought.

Think this is scary? It is. Are you afraid? If you're not, you should be. But don't just worry or get depressed. **ACT NOW!** Ask your elected officials to support the **Better Energy Storage Technology Act of 2019** to create a brighter future for birds and people, and ask them to stop subsidies to fossil fuel companies. Eat less beef; replace it with chicken. Power your home with 100% renewable energy through **MCE's Deep Green** program. Make sure you're not supporting fossil fuel companies with your retirement accounts: read about divestment and programs like this one from **Vanguard** that tie your retirement funds to environmentally responsible companies. Audubon's new report lists many things you can do, and you can learn more than 100 simple things that you can do to stop climate change **HERE**.

Visit the interactive website for the Audubon report; see the maps and learn how your favorite birds, and the places where you and they live, will be impacted. You can select specific states and even counties. Most importantly, learn what you can do and ACT NOW.

[**CLICK HERE TO VIEW NAS CLIMATE REPORT**](#)

Grayson Creek Birding Survey Update

Alan Bade, *Community Science*

For the last two years, MDAS and Friends of Pleasant Hill Creeks (FPHC) have been conducting a monthly community science bird survey in two locations on Grayson Creek in Pleasant Hill. To date, we have documented 85 species between the two sites: 70 at the Grayson Creek (Oak Park) site, and 67 at the Grayson Creek site near Diablo Valley College (Chilpancingo). Our goal is to document avian biodiversity along Grayson Creek and call attention to Grayson Creek's importance as habitat for resident and migratory birds. And to have fun! We've enjoyed seeing some great birds, such as five species of raptors, Hooded Mergansers, orioles, Western Tanagers, and many others. In July, we also saw a River Otter fishing at the Chilpancingo site!



Both sites are areas of significant development and one is on public land. MDAS members with significant expertise in habitat assessment and bird identification helped FPHC design the study, modeling it after the Christmas Bird Count. Based on the data we collected, a new public eBird hotspot was established at the **Oak Park site**. The "Chilpancingo" site data was folded into an **existing eBird hotspot**. Two years of our checklists with photos are available on these sites.

On October 15th, FPHC and MDAS submitted these data as comments on a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the **Oak Park Project**, a large public project to build a new library and park. Our hope is that decision makers will consider the area's habitat value when they decide how to proceed with the project.

We warmly welcome anyone interested to join us! Surveys usually go out the 3rd or 4th Sunday of the month, starting at the Pleasant Hill library parking lot at 8:00 AM. Please confirm with Leader Alan Bade at alanbade@jps.net or (925-330-1780).

For information on birds found in this area, please see the [Grayson Creek Birders Check List](#).

MDAS Christmas Bird Counts Coming Soon

Elizabeth Leite, *Christmas Bird Count (CBC) Chair*

The MDAS CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS will be held this year on Saturday December 14th (Central County) and Wednesday December 18th (East County).

Last year our combined Christmas Bird Counts were comprised of 28 individual surveys. Survey parties of one to six birders (depending on the leader's wishes, number of volunteers, and nature of terrain) covered surveys that may have necessitated special permission for access on public and private lands and up to 12 hours in the field. At the end of the survey day we reconvened to share a meal together and report on what was seen during the day. We will do so again this year.

MDAS has held a Christmas Bird Count every year since shortly after our chapter's founding. Over the years, set routes have been established that have yielded the greatest number of individual birds and diversity of species. We as a chapter have unique habitats ranging from the Oak woodlands of Central County to montane on Mt. Diablo and a riparian piece of the Delta. Each habitat hosts its own species and, accordingly, over the years wintering songbirds as well as waterfowl and shorebirds have appeared in our lists. We have the good fortune of being able to access some private, privately managed, and off-limits public lands in our counts. Such access is due to the goodwill that our chapter leaders have established over the years. We can be proud of that!

If you participated previously and plan on counting again this year, you can contact your leader from last year directly and let me know, too. If you are new to the Christmas Bird Count and want to join a survey party, contact Elizabeth Leite: cbc@mtdiabloaudubon.org

Desperately Needed — MOTOR BOAT for Suisun Bay
Survey, December 14th Christmas Bird Count

One of our survey parties counts waterfowl and shorebirds in Suisun Bay.

If you have a boat to share for a few hours on December 14th, please contact Elizabeth Leite, cbc@mtdiablobaudubon.org

How to Report Illegal Fishing Violators at Heather Farm Natural Pond

Maren Smith, *MDAS Co-President*

There are two ponds at Heather Farm Park: the concrete pond with the large fountain that is stocked with fish where fishing IS allowed, and the natural pond, north of the concrete pond/fountain where fishing is NOT allowed. It is illegal to fish in the natural pond.

There are numerous signs around the pond that clearly state that fishing is illegal, and yet, many regular Heather Farm birders have observed illegal fishing. Fishing line gets caught in the trees and bushes and is often cut and left behind as trash. Mallards have been found with fishing line around their legs, a Great Egret was found recently entangled in fishing line and a large lure, and not long ago, a cormorant was hung up in line in the large oak tree, the latter examples resulting in death.

If you are visiting Heather Farm Park and see someone fishing illegally, please do not engage in a conversation with violators as many regular birders have noted that most are uncooperative and rude. Note their location and description and call the Walnut Creek Police Non-emergency phone number: (925) 935-6400. Please put this phone number in your contacts so that you are prepared to make the call.

MDAS is working with the Parks and Recreation Department and the Walnut Creek Police to press for enforcement of the no-fishing regulations, asking for violators to be cited and fined, asking for clearer signs situated in known fishing spots that clearly state "no fishing", and signs with the non-emergency number posted.

Events

"Feathers & Flora: Portrait of a Scavenger"
Friday, October 25, 2019 10:00 AM–5:00 PM

See another side of vultures in "Feathers & Flora: Portrait of a Scavenger," an exhibit of paintings by artist Heather Wagenbach opening Oct. 25 at **Lindsay Wildlife Experience**.

Presented in association with Redbubble, this display of 12 lush watercolors is the artist's attempt to shine a light on these essential but highly vulnerable scavengers.

Depicting an array of vultures species including the regal Egyptian Vulture and the imperiled California Condor, Wagenbach's paintings offer viewers a fresh look at these often misunderstood birds while creating a deeper awareness of their plight.

"Feathers & Flora: Portrait of a Scavenger" will be on display in the Buckeye Room at the Lindsay Wildlife Experience through November 30, 2019.

Project FeederWatch
Saturday, November 9, 2019

Consider joining the Cornell Lab's Project FeederWatch this year. You'll probably get hooked. This year's season begins soon, on Nov. 9, and runs for 21 weeks to April 3, 2020. To receive your kit in time, sign up now at feederwatch.org.

Central County Christmas Bird Count
Saturday, December 14, 2019

East County Christmas Bird Count
Wednesday, December 18, 2019

Mark your calendars: This year's Central County Christmas Bird Count will take place Sat., Dec. 14. The East County Christmas Bird Count will follow on Wed., Dec. 18. Previous participants who plan to come out again this year should contact CBC Chair Elizabeth Leite: cbc@mtdiabloaudubon.org. If you are new to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society and interested in participating, start by checking out **National Audubon's Christmas Bird Count**.

November Birding Classes

iNaturalist, a Tutorial for Citizen Scientists by Kendall Oei
November 12, 2019 7:00 PM–9:00 PM

To register for this, or other upcoming classes, see “Birding Classes” under Education at <http://www.mtdiabloaudubon.org>.

November Gallery



Above — The MDAS Young Birders Club visits Palomarin Field Station in Bolinas to learn how birds are carefully netted and measured to help biologists understand and protect their populations. Photos: Juan Pablo Galván



Above — The October MDAS members-meeting: Mark Rauzon and Meredith Elliott show how Double-crested Cormorants use the SF Bay Bridge and Richmond–San Rafael Bridge as nesting habitats (above left). MDAS member Cassie Tzur presented a slide show of nature/wildlife through the seasons in Rossmoor, based on her book "The Nature of Rossmoor" (above right). Photos: Marc Desin



Above — From Wild Birds Unlimited's October Nature Event: MDAS table — (from left to right): Maren Smith, Jean Halford, Nahide Craig, Carol Pachl (top). Organization tables (bottom left and right). Photos: Maren Smith (top) and Marc Desin.

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Mt. Diablo Audubon Society Leadership

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