



Mt. Diablo Audubon Society

The Quail

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Mt. Diablo Audubon Society 2020 Photography Contest Results Are Here!!!

Welcome to a special summer edition of *The Quail*, dedicated entirely to our first-ever MDAS Photography Contest!

As you know, the original plan was to present a slide show of all the finalists at the annual June potluck dinner, but of course, fate intervened. So we decided to publish a special July edition of *The Quail* dedicated to showcasing the winners and runners-up.

Despite very challenging circumstances, we received 124 entries representing dozens of species, submitted by 27 talented MDAS members. The photos ranged from eye-catching and breathtaking, to touching, and even flat-out funny! They were so good that it was very hard to decide on winners, so we thank our special guest judge Bob Lewis for stepping up to the plate. You can visit Bob's website [HERE](#).

Below you will see the top five shots in each of the six categories, but there were many, many more entries that deserved acclaim. We hope to highlight them in future editions of *The Quail*!

So make sure you are sitting comfortably, and immerse yourself in the beauty and inspiration of these lovely photos taken by our own Mt. Diablo Audubon Society members. First-place winners will receive gift cards to [Wild Birds Unlimited](#), and we have included judges' comments on every photo that placed.

Category: Bird Portraits



First Place



Species: Wren-tit

Photographer: Pamela Lorenz

Location: Valle Vista, Moraga

"Would have loved to make this shot myself! Great eye highlight and background coloring."

– Bob Lewis



Runners-up



Species: Cooper's Hawk
Photographer: Paul Schorr
Location: Antioch

*"That tiny foot held so daintily aloft
cracks us up!"*

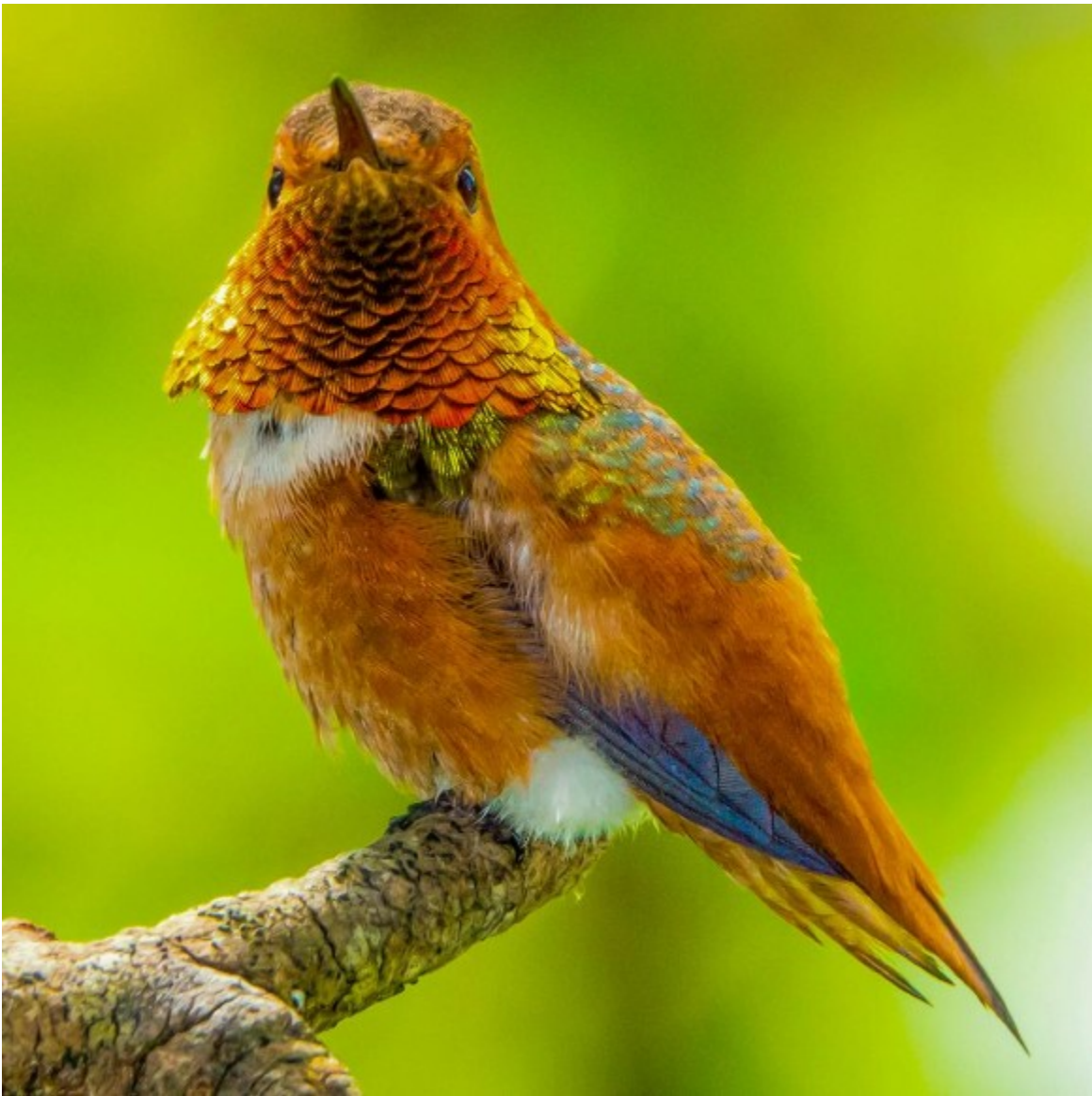


Species: Canyon Wren

Photographer: Jerry Britten

Location: Morgan Territory

"So hard to catch these guys so close, with their furtive nature."



Species: Allen's Hummingbird

Photographer: Arnold Joe

Location: Golden Gate Park

*"The rainbow of color makes this
another frameable entry."*



Species: Bald Eagle

Photographer: Douglas Smith

Location: Sacramento Wildlife Refuge

"You could wait a lifetime for a composition like this. Good catch!"

Category: Bird Action Shot



First Place



Species: Green Heron

Photographer: Sharon Anderson

Location: Walnut Creek

"The colors are spectacular, the framing is beautiful and there is ACTION!"



Runners-up



Species: American Kestrels
Photographer: Pamela Lorenz
Location: Danville

"This picture is clear and it definitely tells a story! Points for innuendo."



Species: Western Kingbirds
Photographer: Maren Smith
Location: Martinez

"This lighting is so luminous, and to see four at once!"



Species: Great Blue Heron

Photographer: Isaac Aronow

Location: Contra Loma Regional Park,
Antioch

*"More gustatory action. Looks like a
wide load!"*



Species: Black Phoebe

Photographer: Dan Fitzgerald

Location: Diablo Foothills Regional
Park, Pine Canyon

*"WOW! Great action; sharp and well
framed."*

Category: Humorous Shots



First Place



Species: Cooper's Hawk
Photographer: Wayne Narr
Location: Danville

*"It made us laugh - typical feisty
accipiter personality!"*



Runners-up



Species: Black-crowned Night Heron

Photographer: Sharon Anderson

Location: Fairfield

"Feather detail in all the blacks and whites. Composition is great - the eyes have it."



Species: Surf Scoter

Photographer: Daniel Sandri

Location: Limantour Beach, Pt. Reyes

"That's why they're called surf scoters! A peekaboo moment from the underside of the bird."



Species: Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Photographer: Joy Dardin

Location: Concord

"That feisty crest, so thrilling to see, perfectly captured."



Species: Burrowing Owl

Photographer: Beth Branthaver

Location: East Contra Costa County

"Who needs a guard dog if you've got a Burrowing Owl?"

Category: Groups Of Birds



First Place



Species: Common Merganser family

Photographer: Maren Smith

Location: Bridgeport, California

"Nice facial angles between mother and young. A tender moment."



Runners-up



Species: Osprey family
Photographer: Sharon Anderson
Location: Burson, California

"A breathtaking moment of perfect symmetry."



Species: Gull family
Photographer: Lisa Gorrell
Location: San Luis Obispo

"Great visual diagonal from the lower left up to the chicks. Parents so attentive."



Species: Marbled Godwits, Willets,
shorebirds

Photographer: Alan Krakauer

Location: Arrowhead Marsh, Oakland

*"Having tried this kind of shot, we're
impressed by the sharp focus and
urgent motion."*



Species: Black-necked Stilts
Photographer: Hema Shah
Location: Martinez Marina

"The balanced but syncopated composition make this one worthy of wall art!"

Category: Birds And Native Plants



First Place



Species: Cedar Waxwing on Toyon

Photographer: Lisa Gorrell

Location: Martinez

*"So clearly illustrates the balance
between bird and berry."*



Runners-up



Species: Common Yellowthroat on
Coyote Brush

Photographer: Daniel Sandri

Location: MLK Regional Shoreline,
Oakland

*"Nice composition and bright color.
Both bird and plant are well
presented."*



Species: Western Bluebird on

"Neat posture on the bird and

Elderberry

presentation of the berries."

Photographer: Jerry Britten

Location: Contra Costa County



Species: Anna's Hummingbird on Manzanita

Photographer: Sharon Anderson

Location: Clayton

"Sharp; difficult to catch the wing unblurred. Flower tint remarkable."



Species: Lazuli Bunting on Poison

"A favorite pairing: of both the

Hemlock

photographer, and the bunting!"

Photographer: Arnold Joe

Location: Tilden Regional Park,
Orinda

Category: Youth



First Place



Species: Green-winged Teals

Photographer: Sava Liev

Location: Charleston Slough

"Good focus; perfectly captures the signature green swoosh."



Runners-up



Species: Yellow-breasted Chat
Photographer: Eleanor Soulette
Location: Clayton

"What an attitude! No doubt who's boss here!"



Species: Red-tailed Hawk

"Illustrates the sharp-eyed spirit of the

Photographer: Alex Cho
Location: Consumnes River Preserve

raptor closeup."

We hope you enjoyed these wonderful shots by our talented MDAS members! Heartfelt congratulations to all of our winners and runners-up. We are grateful for your enthusiastic participation during a difficult time, and for sharing your joy in the beauty of birds that bring us comfort and inspiration when we need it most.

Please feel free to forward this email to friends who may enjoy the pictures and spread appreciation for our fine photographers.

Thanks also to our guest judge, professional photographer Bob Lewis, and to *The Quail* Editor Marc Desin for offering to publish an extra issue this year to highlight the contest.

We hope to do this again next year, so as you take bird photos going forward, remember to save your best California shots in a special folder to earmark for the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society 2021 Photography Contest!

Rosalie Howarth, *Social Media & Publicity Chair*

Krista Vossekuil, *Social Media Committee & Board Member-at-Large*

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