



# Mt. Diablo Audubon Society

## ***The Quail***

Volume 66, Number 6

MARCH 2021

### **Next Monthly Program Meeting: Thursday, March 4**

Please mark your calendar for our next virtual monthly program meeting.  
See **BELOW** for webinar access info.

- 7:00 PM** Welcome and Introductions
- 7:05 PM** Birding Info: Meet new members in Zoom breakout rooms
- 7:25 PM** Board Announcements
- 7:35 PM** Main Program: *Wildflowers of Mount Diablo* with Stephen Smith
- 8:30 PM** Adjourn

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### **Main Program: *Wildflowers of Mount Diablo***

Stephen Smith, *Mount Diablo Interpretive Association President*

Local wildflower enthusiast Stephen Smith will present *Wildflowers of Mount Diablo: Flower Lore*. Ever wonder why they are called Milk Maids or how Buttercups helped beggars garner more attention? What do lupine and poppies have to do with Cal Berkeley? This program presents a unique and quirky look at the origin of several of the common names of our wildflowers. Included are anecdotes about the historical lore behind the uses of these flowers whether it be religious, medicinal, superstition, or most often for love.



Stephen Smith is *President* of the Mount Diablo Interpretive Association, a non-profit cooperative partner which aids Mount Diablo State Park. An avid hiker and amateur naturalist Stephen most enjoys hitting the trails of the mountain in spring in order to document the more than 200 species that grow there. He helps to maintain a comprehensive bloom report each week during peak flower season and oversees the online wildflower guide on the organization's wonderful website, [mdia.org](http://mdia.org).



Globe Lily

Photos: Stephen Smith



California Poppies

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## **Birding Info:**

### **Meet new members in Zoom breakout rooms**

We are trying something new this month. Instead of a birding info speaker, we are going to spend 15 minutes socializing with other Mt. Diablo Audubon members in Zoom breakout rooms. Meet some new people, or reconnect with old birding buddies!



## Webinar Access Info:

**Date:** Thursday, March 4, 2021

**Time:** 7:00 PM–8:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

**Location:** Zoom online meeting

**Access:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82665299471?pwd=MXMyZ0ViZGUyZDZ2UHc3NHVGR01adz09>

**Meeting ID:** 826 6529 9471

**Passcode:** 846973

**Phone access:** **One tap mobile**  
+16699006833,,82665299471#,,,,\*846973# US (San Jose)  
+14086380968,,82665299471#,,,,\*846973# US (San Jose)

### Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)  
+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)  
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)  
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)  
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)  
+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)  
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 826 6529 9471

Passcode: 846973

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/ksnkRQT16>

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## President's Letter

Jerry Britten, *MDAS President*

Mt. Diablo Audubon's 2021 Photography Contest is on! It is open to all MDAS members, and all youth, regardless of membership. In this issue, please **see more info and details** about this fun contest, and submit your entries **HERE**. We know we have a lot of great bird photographers among our membership, and look forward to all of your submissions!



We have been following the legal progress of a proposed 3100-acre extension of the Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation area east of Livermore. This area is known as Tesla Park by conservation groups who have brought suit, along with Alameda County, against the state in an effort to protect it. Good news: in January a judge ruled that the state's environmental impact report is invalid. A recent **article in the East Bay Times**, featuring *MDAS Conservation Chair* Juan Pablo Galván, provides more info on this. Earlier in February, we sent out an action alert for members to write to Governor Newsom urging him to take administrative action to redesignate Tesla Park for conservation. Thank you to all who have done so, and for those who haven't yet, but want to, you'll want to read **further in this issue** of *The Quail* for guidance on how to register your support for protecting Tesla Park.

Other good news: the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has delayed implementing the latest attack on the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) that had been started by the previous administration. Taking further action to secure and improve MBTA can provide a lasting favorable impact in addressing avian biodiversity. You can send a public comment supporting restoring protections for birds **at this link on the Audubon website**.

Stay safe, and get out there for the birds!

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## Welcome, New Members!

Laurie Baker, Antioch

Joan De Vries, Clayton

John Ehrenfeld, Napa

Judy Meade-Silaj, Elk Grove

Sarah, Antioch

Linda Miller, Crocket

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## Did You Miss An MDAS Monthly Meeting? We've Got You Covered.

Rosalie Howarth, *MDAS Publicity & Social Media Chair*

Do you kick yourself when you miss one of our “First Thursday” programs? Good news: we now record them live, and there are three easy ways you can watch a speaker presentation after it airs online.

1. Click Monthly Programs at the top of the MDAS website at [www.mtdiablo-audubon.org](http://www.mtdiablo-audubon.org). All of our virtual Monthly Programs are available for viewing.
2. If you are on Facebook, search for Mt. Diablo Audubon and *Like* our page. The viewing instructions will pop up in your news feed a day or so after every program. Be sure to *Share* the post so that all your friends can watch the program for free, too. It's good exposure for MDAS, and for our speakers as well.
3. Just keep reading to the end of this and every issue of *The Quail*. Viewing links are offered at the end of the newsletter in the **Monthly Photo Gallery**.

Although the meetings are more fun live—with quizzes, sightings, updates, polls, and breakout rooms—you can watch the replay later if you have to miss out. And you can share it with anyone you think might be interested, just by copying and sending them the link.

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### **Making Things Better On Climate Change**

Juan Pablo Galván, *MDAS Conservation Chair*

#### **It Helps Everything Else You Care About**

By acting on climate change, you're taking positive action on many other issues you want to change for the better: from data privacy and taxes to cleaner water and reduced fire risk.



1. **Plant Trees Every Time You Internet Search.** Forget “*Googling*,” it’s all about “*Ecosiaing*.” Instead of using Google to search the web, **download Ecosia** from the app store to your phone or computer and make it your default web search engine. Each time someone searches with Ecosia, money is donated to organizations that plant trees in degraded areas. Reforestation helps birds and other animals, people, and fights climate change. Read more **HERE**.
2. **Here’s How to Convince Climate Deniers to Take Action.** As the last few years have clearly shown, denialism about many issues, from basic facts to the severity of the climate catastrophe facing the planet and the drastic action needed to change things, is very real. If you know someone in climate denial and you want to try and talk to them about it, try this: communicate in affirmative contexts, in the language of opportunity and positive change. Stress local concerns (ie, fire danger in Bay Area, clean air) and shared identities (homeowners, taxpayers, fathers, mothers, etc). Talk about science everyone can get on board with, like exciting new technology solutions, and explain how climate change will affect your shared community. Read more **HERE**.
3. **Inform Yourself on What’s Changing at the Upper Levels.** You’ll feel better knowing what’s going on, and might even have an opportunity to intervene and help things move in a positive direction. Check out the latest **HERE, HERE, HERE, and HERE**.
4. **Make Friends and Join the Movement.** Want to meet people that share your concerns? Want to make new friends? Want to organize and be more effective in making the change you want to see? Join a local grassroots climate change group. Start **HERE**.
5. **Quit Plastic. Waste Less, then Waste ZERO.** No one likes to make garbage, and we all know that plastic is bad and recycling doesn’t do much of anything. So what’s the solution? Make lots of little changes. Never buy plastic water bottles; use reusable ones. Don’t get plastic bags at the grocery store; bring your own cloth reusable one. Tell Amazon and other

companies to offer plastic-free packaging options. And see if you have some ideas to actually get to ZERO waste. Want some inspiration? Check this site out **HERE**.

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## Action Alert

### Contact Governor Newsom To Redesignate Tesla Park For Conservation



We need your help to contact Governor Newsom now to ask him to preserve Tesla Park. This message comes to us from our friends at **SAVE Tesla Park**.

Please contact Governor Newsom with a simple message to take administrative action to redesignate Tesla Park for conservation with no motorized recreation.

We want to get as many contacts to the Governor as possible in the next week. It can be a single sentence: redesignate Tesla Park as a nature and cultural preserve and non-motorized recreation park. Or you may draw from **THIS STATEMENT** or send any appropriate message you want asking Governor Newsom to permanently preserve Tesla Park.

Help us get as many contacts as possible to the Governor as soon as possible. Thank you very much for your help with this important call to action to Save Tesla Park.

Submit your message to the Governor **ONLINE**, or by mail, fax, or phone:

Governor Gavin Newsom  
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: (916) 445-2841  
Fax: (916) 558-3160

**[www.gov.ca.gov](http://www.gov.ca.gov)**

### **Sample letter asking Governor Newsom to permanently preserve Tesla Park**

Dear Governor Newsom:

With the recent court ruling invalidating the Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area (CSVRA) EIR and General Plan, which included the plan to open the 3,100 plus acre Tesla Park land in eastern Alameda County to off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation, it is time to finally change the State's failed policy and redesignate Tesla for conservation as a nature and cultural preserve and non-motorized recreation park.

Renowned scientists and university professors, local governments and elected officials, Native American leaders, ranchers, conservation and preservation groups, and the overwhelming majority of the community have all called to change the ill-conceived plan by the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division of State Parks to convert the pristine, biologically diverse, and culturally significant Tesla Park land to damaging OHV recreation. Tesla Park is a biodiversity hotspot recognized by generations of scientists and confirmed by ongoing research. Tesla Park has a multitude of threatened, endangered and special status plants and animals, and sensitive vegetation habitats. Tesla Park is the choke point of a critical linkage habitat corridor connecting Mount Diablo and the Diablo Range. Tesla is the quintessential biologically diverse, culturally significant landscape that must be preserved.

Now it is confirmed by a court that the State Parks Department Plan violated CEQA and the EIR and Tesla expansion plan is illegal. After three failed attempts over 20 years to get around the CEQA law, it is time to change the failed policy and do what should have been done decades ago: permanently



preserve the Tesla Park land. Preservation of Tesla is so critically important to regional and state conservation goals that since 2015, local agencies in Alameda County have designated local funds to pay State Parks and the OHMVR Division to preserve it!

By permanently preserving Tesla, you can make good on your word to fight climate change and protect 30% of the state's wildlands by 2030. Allowing Tesla Park to be destroyed by air polluting, greenhouse-gas-emitting, environmentally destructive motorized recreation undermines your top policy objectives. Pretending that OHV recreation can be "sustainably managed" is a dangerous charade. Allowing Tesla Park to be converted to motorized recreation, would be "one of the worst public land stewardship decisions that could be made in California in terms of biodiversity and public health" according to top UC professors. Listen to the top scientists—not the OHV lobby.

Redesignating Tesla for conservation and non-motorized recreation, and working with local agencies to preserve it is the "Win". It achieves your stated policy goals. It resolves a longstanding controversy that undermines the credibility of state government and pits the state against local government. It increases access to nature for the largest segment of the population while protecting nature. It returns funds to the State Parks Department and OHMVR Division.

It is in your power to preserve the irreplaceable native landscape that is Tesla Park. Please direct your administration to work with the local community to immediately make Tesla Park a nature and cultural preserve and non-motorized recreation park.

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## **The 2nd Annual MDAS Photo Contest Is ON!**

Rosalie Howarth, *MDAS Publicity & Social Media Chair*

Krista Vossekul, *MDAS Education Chair*

Do you have hundreds, maybe thousands, of bird photos trapped in bulging folders in your computer? Well, those great shots aren't going to admire themselves sitting there in the dark, so bust out the best and enter them in our **Second Annual Mt. Diablo Audubon Photo Contest!**

Surely you've got some shots that fit these new categories:

- **Bird Families**—birds with offspring... but remember to use **ethical birding principles** regarding nests and nestlings.
- **Birds Eating**—birds dining on seeds, berries, algae, bugs, fish, frogs, lizards?, snakes??
- **Worst Bird Photo EVER**—We KNOW you've got a couple of these! Losers you still didn't delete for some reason. Extra points for humor.

Other categories include: Bird Portrait, Birds In Action, Humorous Shot, and Youth. We'd especially like to encourage young people 8–17 to enter, and they need not be members.



**2020 Photo Contest Winner**

Species: Common Merganser family

Photographer: Maren Smith

Category: Bird Families

Location: Bridgeport, California

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

This is a casual, friendly competition; no special equipment or professional skills required (but use 'em if you got 'em). Pictures can be taken anywhere in California, on any date. Deadline is May 14, 2021. Winners and runners-up will be shared at the June program meeting and in *The Quail*.

**2020 Photo Contest Winner**

Species: Cooper's Hawk

Photographer: Wayne Narr

Category: Humorous

Location: Danville

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



Click [HERE](#) to see official rules and entry link.

**Purchasing Duck Stamps Helps Support California's Wetlands—  
Backbone of the Pacific Flyway**

A **recent article by Audubon California** reminds us of the importance of protecting the Pacific Flyway, which supports 60% of California's migratory birds. One way you can help support this effort is by **purchasing Duck Stamps**. MDAS President Jerry Britten wrote about the value of purchasing Duck Stamps to protect birds and wildlife in the November edition of *The Quail*, which you can read **HERE**.

## 2020-2021 Federal Duck Stamp Habitat Conservation Benefits All Species



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## The North American Bird Banding Program

Marc Desin, *The Quail* Editor

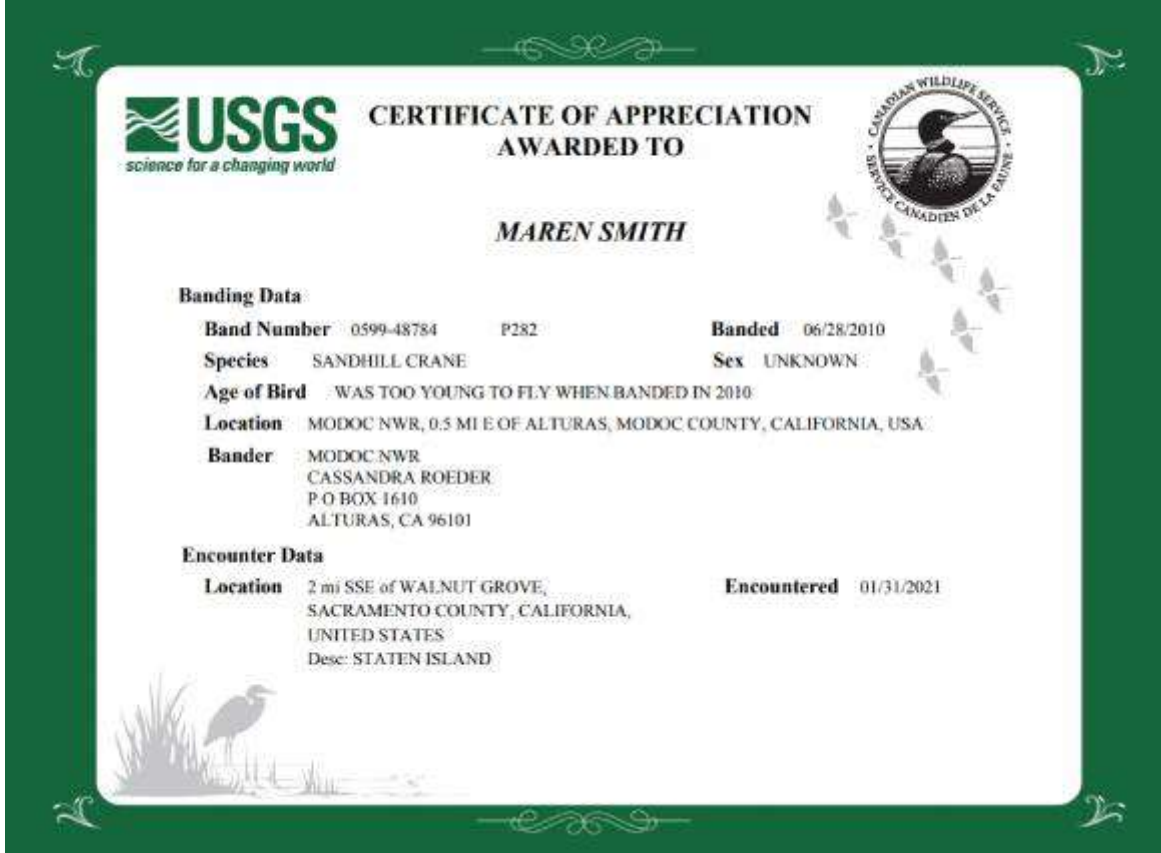
On a recent trip to the delta, Maren Smith photographed a Sandhill Crane on Staten Island. The island, part of the Sacramento–San Joaquin River Delta, is a wintering destination for these cranes. Maren, MDAS member and past MDAS board member, noticed that the photo showed the crane had silver metal and colored bands on its leg.



Sandhill Crane with bands, Staten Island, January 2021

Photo: Maren Smith

She reported the sighting to the United States Geological Survey (USGS), who bands and keeps track of band IDs. Part of the USGS mission is to manage biological resources. Working with the **Bird Banding Office** (BBO) of the Canadian Wildlife Service, the **USGS Bird Banding Laboratory** (BBL) collects data from banded birds that are used in monitoring populations, setting hunting regulations, restoring endangered species, studying effects of environmental contaminants, and addressing such issues as Avian Influenza, bird hazards at airports, and crop depredations. The BBL manages more than 77 million archived banding records and more than 5 million records of encounters. "Banding" is the attachment of a small aluminum band, stamped with a unique number, to the leg or neck of a wild bird. It allows scientists to track behavior, migration, lifespan, populations, and disease.



USGS Certificate of Appreciation recognizing Maren Smith's band spotting and photo

Maren recognized that "...it's very cool to learn the 'back story' of a bird and to marvel at how far they fly from nesting to feeding grounds in our area, or, in the case of a Brown Pelican, zipping up and down the West Coast." She has helped identify and band birds for several years, as seen in the photos below.



Tundra Swan with neck band  
Marysville  
Photo: Maren Smith



Brown Pelican with leg band  
Half Moon Bay Harbor  
Photo: Maren Smith

Results from banding studies support national and international bird conservation programs such as **Partners in Flight**, the **North American Waterfowl Management Plan**, and **Wetlands for the Americas**. To find out more information about bird banding and how to participate in, or report banded birds click **HERE**.



Maren Smith observing San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory project of banding newborn Snowy Plovers in 2017

Photo: Karine Tokatlian

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## Winter Birding During COVID-19

Hugh Harvey, *MDAS Field Trips Chair*

Due to the continuing coronavirus threat, Mt. Diablo Audubon Society (MDAS) is not offering field trips at this time. It is uncertain when field trips will resume, so please check the [MDAS website](#) and/or the [MDAS Facebook page](#) for information about the resumption of field trips.



Sandhill Crane

Photo: Liam Wolff/Macaulay Library at the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology \(ML91690991\)](#)

It is always a good time to go birding on your own. If you choose to stay close to home, the National Audubon Society has great information on [backyard birding and photographing birds at home](#).

And getting out into nature is a proven way to improve your physical and mental health. Just be sure to keep in mind local laws and social distancing best practices. See the [National Audubon Society's suggestions for socially distant birding](#).

MDAS has compiled the following list of suggested birding destinations where you will likely see a variety of birds in winter. This list will be updated on the [MDAS website](#) as destinations open up. Click on each destination link for more information including possible COVID-19 restrictions.

### **Visit A Refuge**

Winter is always a great time to visit any or all of three great wildlife refuges in Northern California. [Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge](#) and [Colusa National Wildlife Refuge](#) are filled with Snow, Ross's, and Greater White-fronted Geese. Raptors are

visible in the leafless trees, and ducks are plentiful. Both refuges have wonderful self-guided auto tour routes.

Another choice is the **Grizzly Island Wildlife Area**. If there are flooded fields, many wintering ducks will be visible from the road. The wide-open spaces may have raptors, including Red-tailed and Ferruginous Hawks. Tule Elk may also be seen. The site **Suisun Marsh Natural History Association** has links to additional information at the bottom the page. A **California Department of Fish and Wildlife Lands Pass** must be purchased ahead of time. The passes are not available at the wildlife area, but may be purchased at Big 5 Sporting Goods or other places where hunting and fishing licenses are available.

**Cosumnes Preserve** includes seven land-owning partners, which include **The Nature Conservancy, Bureau of Land Management, and California Department of Fish & Wildlife**. Cosumnes is yet another of the great Northern California habitats for wintering waterfowl and Sandhill Cranes. Another nearby hot spot for Sandhill Cranes is **Woodbridge Road**. Drive the length of this east-west road for views of Tundra Swans, Snow Geese, Greater-white Fronted Geese, and Sandhill Cranes. If one visits later in the afternoon, the sunset offers spectacular colors and the sounds and sights of the birds flying in and settling for the night. No Lands Pass is needed to drive the road.

A final thought for wintering waterfowl and cranes is to travel farther south in the Central Valley. MDAS has offered a field trip to Santa Fe Grade Road and **Merced National Wildlife Refuge** for many years. By visiting later in February after hunting season has ended, thousands of birds are still present.

### **Bodega Bay**

Remembered as the location of Alfred Hitchcock's famous movie, *The Birds*, Bodega Bay really is famous for all the birds hosted during the winter. Brant, Common Loons, Red-necked Grebes, waterfowl, and shorebirds visit the harbor at Bodega Bay. Other more pelagic birds may be visible on the ocean from Bodega Head. One may drive around the harbor on Bay Flat and Westshore Roads. Numerous places to pull over are readily available for viewing birds on the harbor waters. Bodega Bay is an active fishing community, but there are limited opportunities for dining during the COVID-19 pandemic. **Doran Beach Park** is operated by Sonoma County Regional Parks and has an entry fee.

### **Martinez Area**

A number of locations for birding are in Martinez. **McNabney Marsh**, named after the late MDAS Conservation Vice-President, Al McNabney, is a premier site. Birds can be seen from the entry road to the Mt. View Sanitary District facility, reached from Arthur Rd. The north end of McNabney Marsh is off Waterfront Rd and Waterbird Way. The TransMontaigne Pipeline trail is farther east on Waterfront Road. **Viewing of the Mococo Ponds** is done by parking underneath I-680 north of the RR tracks. A trail



across the Benicia Bridge starts here. In downtown Martinez, drive across the tracks at the Amtrak station to reach parking for the **Martinez Regional Shoreline**. Some parking is available at the end of Court St and some is at the foot of Berrelessa St. By driving west on Carquinez Scenic Dr, it is possible to walk beyond the drivable section and look down on the Carquinez Strait. We once saw a Long-tailed Duck near the oil pier at Ozol.

Other bayside locations to try are:

- **Sunol Regional Park**
- **Coyote Hills Regional Park**
- **San Leandro Marina**
- **Oakland Middle Harbor Shoreline**
- **Emeryville Marina**

Within Contra Costa County, one might try:

- **Valle Vista south of Moraga (EBMUD pass required)**
- **Contra Loma Reservoir**

Before going anywhere, make sure to check the pertinent web sites for access information and directions.

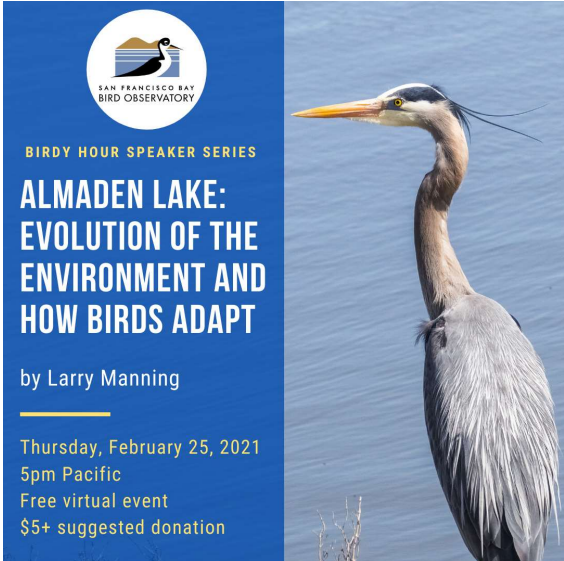
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## Events

### **Almaden Lake—Evolution of the Environment and How Birds Adapt**

February 25, 2021

Through the San Francisco Bay Bird-Observatory's (SFBBO) *Colonial Waterbird Program*, our biologists and community science volunteers have monitored populations of colony nesting waterbirds during the breeding season at more than 70 sites throughout the Bay Area. Join us to hear Larry Manning, who has been a colonial waterbird monitoring volunteer for nearly 20 years, as he discusses the history of Almaden Lake in San Jose and the birds that nest there.



**BIRDY HOUR SPEAKER SERIES**

**ALMADEN LAKE:  
EVOLUTION OF THE  
ENVIRONMENT AND  
HOW BIRDS ADAPT**

by Larry Manning

Thursday, February 25, 2021  
5pm Pacific  
Free virtual event  
\$5+ suggested donation

Larry Manning was introduced to birding about 40 years ago by Lou Young, who was his boss at NASA Ames Research Center and an SFBBO board member. Lou and his wife Jean and Larry and his wife Judie participated in a lot of the SFBBO Fall Birding Challenges. As Larry

started thinking about retirement, he decided that he wanted to be involved in environmental conservation activities and started doing easement monitoring and trail patrol for Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, invasive species eradication for Peninsula Open Space Trust, and Snowy Plover monitoring for San Mateo County Parks at Kelly Beach in Half Moon Bay. He started with SFBBO about 20 years ago doing nesting surveys in the tidal marshes behind Moffett Field and Snowy Plover surveys in the San Mateo Bridge area. About 18 years ago he moved his participation to monitoring the nesting site at Almaden Lake and then added monitoring at the Llagas Creek site in Morgan Hill and the Los Gatos Creek Park. He has also participated in the SFBBO Birds in your Neighborhood Program and given presentations to the national Well Connected Program.



This program is family-friendly. Please register—the Zoom meeting link will be sent in the confirmation. If you have trouble registering or have any questions, please contact Sirena Lao, *Environmental Education and Outreach Specialist*, at [slao@sfbbo.org](mailto:slao@sfbbo.org).

**Date:** February 25, 2021  
**Time:** 5:00 PM–6:00 PM  
**Location:** Zoom online meeting  
**Speaker:** Larry Manning  
**Cost:** \$5 suggested donation  
**Registration:** [Click here to register online](#)

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### **Lindsay at Home: Hospital Behind the Scenes**

February 27, 2021

Get an exclusive behind the scenes look at our wildlife hospital as our expert veterinary staff treats a wildlife patient! Join us on Zoom for “Lindsay at Home: Hospital Behind The Scenes” and explore the fascinating world of wildlife rehabilitation. This half-hour online program is perfect for all ages and gives you unparalleled access to a working wildlife hospital. Be sure to bring your questions!



**Date:** February 27, 2021  
**Time:** 11:00 AM–11:30 PM  
**Location:** Zoom online meeting  
**Presenters:** Lindsay Wildlife Rehabilitation Hospital staff  
**Cost:** \$5 for families with a Lindsay membership.  
\$10 for non-member families.  
**Registration:** [Click here to register online](#)

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### **Virtual Elephant Seal Tour at Año Nuevo**

February 27, 2021

Año Nuevo Reserve Director, Patrick W. Robinson will lead us on a virtual elephant seal tour at Año Nuevo. His tour will include an introduction to the site, a walk through the colony, some show-and-tell of the electronic tags used on the seals, and a summary of some of the research projects that are being done. We will follow this tour with a Q and A session. Because this park is currently closed to the public due to COVID-19 restrictions, this is quite an opportunity to view these animals without the presence of crowds.



- Date:** February 27, 2021  
**Time:** 10:00 AM–12:00 PM  
**Location:** Zoom online meeting  
**Leader:** *Año Nuevo Reserve Director, Patrick W. Robinson*  
**Cost:** Free  
**Registration:** [Click here to register online](#)

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## A Walk Through a Bay Area Birder's Garden

March 11, 2021

Join Barbara Coll as she walks through her garden live! As she walks around her yard, she will point out the feeders, plants, and water elements that attract the 63 species she has recorded in 30+ years of living in Menlo Park on the San Francisquito Creek. She will also discuss feeder/birdbath maintenance, the current Pine Siskin irruption and subsequent Salmonella outbreak, seed types, and which plants the birds love. Barbara will share many videos and photos of the birds that she sees from her home windows. She is also a fanatic eBird user and will introduce you to the Yard tracking feature.

A promotional graphic for a virtual event. The background is a blue-tinted image of a bird feeder with a small bird perched on it. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image. At the top left is the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory logo. Below it, the text reads: "BIRDY HOUR SPEAKER SERIES", "A WALK THROUGH A BAY AREA BIRDER'S GARDEN", "by Barbara Coll", "Thursday, March 11, 2021", "5pm Pacific", "Free virtual event", and "\$5+ suggested donation".

  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY BIRD OBSERVATORY

BIRDY HOUR SPEAKER SERIES

**A WALK THROUGH  
A BAY AREA  
BIRDER'S GARDEN**

by Barbara Coll

Thursday, March 11, 2021  
5pm Pacific  
Free virtual event  
\$5+ suggested donation

Barbara Coll is a regular volunteer with San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory (SFBBO). She took her birding to a new level a few years ago by starting to photograph the birds she sees. When she retired from the insanity of Silicon Valley and the digital marketing world, she found birding a wonderful mix of nature, challenge and statistics. Barb's website with all her photography can be found at [www.barbsbirds.me](http://www.barbsbirds.me).

This program is family-friendly. Please register—the Zoom meeting link will be sent in the confirmation. If you have trouble registering or have any questions,



SAN FRANCISCO BAY  
BIRD OBSERVATORY

please contact Sirena Lao, *Environmental Education and Outreach Specialist*, at [slao@sfbbo.org](mailto:slao@sfbbo.org).

**Date:** March 11, 2021  
**Time:** 5:00 PM–6:00 PM  
**Location:** Zoom online meeting  
**Speaker:** Barbara Coll  
**Cost:** \$5 suggested donation  
**Registration:** [Click here to register online](#)

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### **Virtual Bird ID Seminar with Jon Dunn**

Three Classes beginning April 1, 2021



In an effort to promote bird knowledge and interest, Ohlone Audubon Society (OAS) has partnered with author and bird expert Jon Dunn for a 3-part set of one-and-a-half hour sessions on three consecutive Thursday's from April 1 to April 15, 2021 starting at 7:00 PM each night.

Jon Dunn is one of the top birders in the world, a leading expert on the identification and distribution of North American birds, consultant for *Birding* magazine, author of many books including *National Geographic's Field Guide to the Birds of North America*, and current president of Western Field Ornithologists.

The seminar is targeted for intermediate to advanced birders. Topics include: waterfowl, gulls, and sparrows.

Please make sure to provide your email address for contact on the online seminar registration. Details regarding seminar registration information will be sent starting March 13, 2021.

**Date:** Thursdays, April 1 to April 15, 2021  
**Time:** 7:00 PM–8:30 PM  
**Location:** Zoom online meeting  
**Presenter:** Jon Dunn  
**Cost:** Members \$30, Non-members \$45  
**Registration:** [Click here to register online](#)

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## Birding By Ear

Six Classes beginning April 8, 2021



Spring! The best time to throw yourself into the cacophony of bird songs! We will virtually explore (via Zoom) various East Bay locations and the birds we're most likely to hear. We will compare similar songs of local birds as well as go over tips and hints on how to get the most out of your spring listening experience.

Although we cannot meet as a group due to COVID, we will cover six recommended locations for bird listening.

Six Thursday evening Zoom presentations, April 8 to May 13, 7:00 PM–8:30 PM. Additionally, six suggested field trips (on your own)—mornings are best.

Registration opens on Monday, March 1 at 9:00 AM and closes on Wednesday, March 31 at 9:00 AM. Limited to 20 participants. Waitlist available for this class.

<b>Date:</b>	Thursdays, April 8 to May 13, 2021
<b>Time:</b>	7:00 PM–8:30 PM
<b>Location:</b>	Zoom online meeting
<b>Instructor:</b>	Denise Wight
<b>Cost:</b>	\$125.00
<b>Registration:</b>	<a href="#">Click here to register online</a>

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## March Gallery



MDAS February 4 Monthly Program Meeting:

Frank Ruiz provides an update on recent breakthroughs for conserving the Salton Sea.

View the entire virtual meeting [HERE](#).



MDAS February 4 Monthly Program Meeting:

Eddie Bartley shares photography and natural history stories about the unique biodiversity, regional specialty birds, and his favorite wildlifing spots.

View the entire virtual meeting [HERE](#).



Hammond's Flycatcher—Creek Road, Brentwood

Photo: Paul Schorr



Yellow-crowned Night Heron—Sausalito

Photo: Paul Schorr



Sandhill Cranes—Staten Island Wildlife Refuge  
Photo: Paul Schorr



American White Pelican—Contra Loma Regional Park  
Photo: Paul Schorr



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