



Mt. Diablo Audubon Society

The Quail

Volume 66, Number 8

MAY 2021

Next Monthly Program Meeting: Thursday, May 6

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: *Developing Strong Youth and Adult Leaders* with Eric Aaholm and Luis Pacheco
- 7:25 PM** Board Announcements
- 7:35 PM** Main Program: *Birdlife of Oaxaca* with Ivan Phillipsen
- 8:30 PM** Adjourn

Main Program: *Birdlife of Oaxaca*

Ivan Phillipsen, *Professional Naturalist Guide and Co-Owner*, Wild Latitudes

The Mexican state of Oaxaca (pronounced "wuh-HOCK-uh") is incredibly rich with biodiversity. From high-elevation interior valleys, to mountains, rainforests, and tropical coastlines, Oaxaca has a wide variety of natural habitats. This region is a great destination for birding and for enjoying cultural wonders. There are ancient pyramids and temples to explore just outside Oaxaca City. The ethnic cuisine of the city is world famous. Other cultural delights include elaborate wood carvings, pottery, and a vibrant mescal industry.

Birdlife includes neotropical migrants and charismatic resident species. Oaxaca has a few wonderful endemic species and near-endemics, including the Oaxaca Sparrow, Dwarf Jay, and Blue-capped Hummingbird. In this presentation, Ivan Phillipsen will describe the ecoregions and habitats of Oaxaca and present some birding and wildlife highlights of the state. He'll also touch on some of the cultural aspects that travelers can enjoy there.

Ivan Phillipsen is a professional naturalist guide with a background in scientific research. He's the co-owner of a small birding/nature tour company, **Wild Latitudes**, based in Portland, OR. He is also the creator and host of a podcast called ***The Science of Birds***.

Ivan has loved animals and nature his whole life. His first obsession was with amphibians and reptiles. This interest led him to graduate school, where he studied amphibians. After earning a Masters degree in Biology and a PhD in Zoology, he did postdoctoral research on aquatic insects.

Along the way, his love of nature expanded to include plants, fungi, and all animals, including birds. Birds have become Ivan's greatest passion. He's an avid birder and loves sharing in the joy of birds with his tour participants. Some places where Ivan leads natural history tours are Mexico, Iceland, Alaska, Uganda, and Fiji.



Rufous-capped Warbler, Oaxaca

Photos: Ivan Phillipsen



Ivan Phillipsen

Birding Info:

Developing Strong Youth and Adult Leaders

Eric Aaholm, *Executive Director*

Luis Pacheco, *Youth Leadership Pathways Program Manager*

YES Nature to Neighborhoods

YES Nature to Neighborhoods, based in Richmond, CA, nurtures leaders who champion the wellbeing of our community. Eric Aaholm, *Executive Director*, and Luis Pacheco, *YLP Program Manager* for YES will discuss its role in developing strong youth and adult leaders starting as young as age eight via engagement in both nearby nature and backcountry settings.



YES Nature Day Outing at a local regional park

Photo: YES N2N

Webinar Access Info:

Date: Thursday, May 6, 2021

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

Location: Zoom online meeting

Access: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88640931613?pwd=ZWhEWVB6NEY3MWhpZXR3clo2TzdUdz09>

Meeting ID: 886 4093 1613

Passcode: 404390

Phone access: **One tap mobile**
+16699006833,,88640931613#,,,,*404390# US (San Jose)
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+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 886 4093 1613
Passcode: 404390

Find your local number:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88640931613>

President's Letter

Jerry Britten, *MDAS President*

We anticipate a full reopening of all in-person chapter activities after the summer break, beginning with our monthly program meeting in early September. In light of this, it's time to fill our vacancy for chapter Sales Manager. The duties of the MDAS Sales Manager, taken from our bylaws, are as follows:



The Sales Manager shall handle sales and inventory of publications and merchandise, conduct raffles and silent auctions at membership meetings, maintain financial records of sales, and transfer all receipts to the Treasurer.

Please consider volunteering for this position, and contact one of the board members via email if you are interested. Contact info for board members can be found [HERE](#). Thank you!

In the first week of May, members will be receiving an email ballot to vote for MDAS directors for the 2021–2022 fiscal year. Please check all your email folders, and submit your ballot. We need 50 aye votes from membership to approve our slate for next year, and it's as easy as 2 or 3 clicks!

There have been some changes to leadership at the National Audubon Society. David Yarnold, *CEO* since 2011, is stepping down effective May 14. Elizabeth Gray, recently brought on as *President and Chief Conservation Officer*, will serve as interim *CEO* while a search for a successor is conducted. Dr. Gray writes:

“Over the course of the last few months, the board and David mutually agreed that now is the time for Audubon to find new leadership to create our next

strategic plan and to address many of the culture issues that have come to light. ... I will be working closely with Jamaal Nelson, our new Chief Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Officer to continue our equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives.”

In the past year, National Audubon has been hit with allegations that it has fostered a culture of retaliation, fear, and antagonism toward women and people of color (see this **November 2020 article in *Politico***). David Ringer, *Chief Network and Communications Officer*, the main information conduit between National and local chapters, has also resigned, along with Elizabeth Sorrell, *Vice President for Audience Engagement*.

One last call—we need your favorite bird photos for Mt. Diablo Audubon’s 2021 Photography Contest. It is open to all members and to all youth regardless of membership. Find out more and submit your entries at: <https://mtdiabloaudubon.org/photo-contest-2021/>. Whether you have great photos or horrible ones, we have a category for you, and look forward to all of your submissions. The deadline to enter is Friday, May 14.

Stay safe, and get out there for the birds!

Welcome, New Members!

Bill Conaway, Pleasanton

Dan Devine, Walnut Creek

Bethi Carver Gibb, Bethel Island

Ron Harris, Livermore

Lisa Kalil, Walnut Creek

Glenn Phillips, Lafayette

Election Deadline: May 13—Email Ballot Coming!

The election for the Officers of the MDAS Board of Directors for 2021—2022 takes place the first week of May.



Please look for an email with “Ballot” or “Election” in the subject line, vote, and return it as soon as possible. Check your spam or junk folders if you don’t see it. The ballot is very simple—2 or 3 clicks—and consists of a slate of candidates and a space for write-ins. Candidates include: Jerry Britten for *President*, Ariana Rickard as *Vice-President*, Steve Buffi as *Treasurer*, and Carol Pachl for *Secretary*.

Results will be announced in the June edition of *The Quail* and at the June 3rd monthly program meeting.

Please check your email for your ballot the first week of May and return it as quickly as possible. Every vote counts!

All of us on the Board of Directors of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society thank you for your support and participation.

Rosalie Howarth
Nominating Committee Chair

Image: Manco Capac / **CC-BY-SA-3.0**

It's a Dry Spring

Juan Pablo Galván Martínez, *MDAS Conservation Chair*

Acting Now on Climate Change Will Make the Future Better.



Phoenix Lake in Marin County, April 2021

Photo: Nick Javaras

It's another dry year in California. Spring wildflowers are out, but the lack of rain has impacted them. Without massive action on climate change right now, things will get hotter and dryer. Want Concord to feel like Bakersfield in 60 years? What about Bakersfield feeling like Yuma, AZ? Mobilize your communities, all of them, to act effectively on climate and prevent a hotter, drier future.

1. **What Will Your City Be Like in 60 Years?** Think that line about Bakersfield and Yuma was a joke? Nope. Click [HERE](#) to see what your city will be like in 60 years if we keep on the same climate path we have been.
2. **Want to Take Action That's Actually a Solution?** Turning off the lights, avoiding beef, and not flying are good for the climate. They help fight rampant CO2 buildup in the atmosphere, but individual actions aren't a solution. Individuals must organize and mobilize their communities to make change that's not just helpful, but is actually a climate solution. Watch this short six-minute video [HERE](#) to start.
3. **What Will Actually Solve Climate Change?** There is no one solution, but neither are there 1,000. In reality, it's more like 80. Watch [THIS](#) and read [THIS](#) to know what solutions will actually give us a healthier, cleaner, better planet.
4. **Ever Thought About Your Food Scraps Making a Hotter, Drier California?** It's true. Wasting food, from the scraps you throw in the garbage to the perfectly edible fruits and vegetables farmers never even send to the grocery store, to the overstock that stores throw away, food waste is a major driver of climate change. Want to stop wasting food while the climate warms and millions go hungry? Watch [THIS](#) and [THIS](#).
5. **What's Your Town's Climate Scorecard?** What is your city doing about climate change? Does it allow you to purchase 100% renewable energy to power your home? Does it have a climate action plan? Check out where each Contra Costa city and town stacks up in the fight against climate change [HERE](#).

Updates on Community Science

Alan Bade, *MDAS Community Science Advisory & Board Member-at-Large*

Global Big Day

On May 8th, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology will host **Global Big Day 2021** within their community science program, eBird. A "Big Day" is a midnight-to-midnight attempt to

record as many species (and individual birds) as possible. For a brief history of Global Big Day, see last year's article in the **May 2020 issue of *The Quail***.



Last year, 52,249 eBird participants submitted 125,627 checklists and identified 6,538 species, totaling over 2.1 million individual birds! This huge infusion of observations in a single day is more than were submitted in the first two-and-a-half years of eBird's existence, **according to eBird coordinator Ian Davies**. These data are a crucial snapshot of bird populations during migration and nesting seasons, and help researchers produce **world-class abundance maps**. But very importantly, they also celebrate global avian biodiversity, aiding conservation.

Columbia, Peru, Ecuador, and Brazil easily had the greatest number of species, with 1,453, 1,137, 1,032, and 941, respectively. The US was next with 720 species. Last year's **eBird Global Big Day May 9th, 2020 webpage** is a fun place to look at the statistics.

While MDAS currently has no field trips, it is easy to participate. A single checklist (or multiple) of even 10 minutes at home is helpful, or you can submit longer lists from your birding excursions. All lists are submitted to eBird, either online or within an eBird app. Instructions are **HERE**, scroll down to "How to participate".

Please note that our sister chapter, Golden Gate Audubon, is hosting a fundraising "**Christmas in May**" bird count on Global Big Day to help fund their programs. You can help avian science and fundraise for a great cause at the same time. Although registration will close on Saturday, April 24th, Ilana DeBare can sign folks up manually for a few days afterwards. If interested, email her at **idebare@goldengateaudubon.org**.

Climate Watch Update

In January, MDAS added Climate Watch surveys to our community science efforts. Climate Watch targets easily identifiable species considered vulnerable to climate change and has community scientists document whether range shifts are occurring. The surveys take place Jan 15th–Feb 15th and May 15th–June 15th, reflecting the species’ wintering and breeding seasons.

Surveys are done in appropriate habitat in small groups (1 or 2 people) within 10-km squares and have a minimum of 12 survey points separated by at least 200 meters. Species included in the western Climate Watch are Lesser and American Goldfinches, all 3 of our nuthatches (Pygmy, Red-breasted, White-breasted), Western Bluebirds, and Spotted Towhees. Only one survey per species is conducted in each square in each time period. We have about 20 squares in the MDAS area, so there are lots of opportunities! At this time, MDAS has several participants and we are hoping to add more.



National Audubon has a two-page project description [HERE](#) and a one-page Climate Watch Protocol Overview [HERE](#). **Peer-reviewed research** from Climate Watch data has already confirmed projections of range shift predicted in Audubon’s landmark “***Survival by Degrees: 389 Bird Species on***

the Brink.” This study shows that nearly two-thirds of North American bird species are at risk of extinction from climate change! The good news is that science also shows that if we act now, we can help improve the chances for three-quarters of the species at risk.

Golden Gate Audubon and MDAS are collaborating on Climate Watch, as our memberships and territories are adjacent and complimentary. Any GGAS member can contact David Robinson (dvdrobinson@gmail.com). MDAS members may contact me (communityscience@mtdiabloaudubon.org), and I will be happy to help you choose a square and map a route.

Get Those Photo Contest Entries In!

Rosalie Howarth, *MDAS Publicity & Social Media Chair*

Krista Vossekui, *MDAS Education Chair*

**A new category has been added to the contest
and the deadline is fast approaching**

Inspired by **Joanna Wu’s presentation** on the oft-overlooked and undercounted female bird in our last program, we’ve added a new category to the photo

competition: **Best Female Bird** photo! In dimorphic species, female birds look different from the males and are colorful and distinctive in their own right. In monomorphic species, only subtle characteristics—if any—separate the two.

You most likely have many shots of females in your files; please send us your favorite. You can also submit in any or all of the six other adult categories, and please urge any young birders in your life to enter in the Youth category.

But do it soon! The deadline is May 14, but we'd love to receive your pics earlier for processing. Winners and runners-up will be shown in a special slideshow at our final meeting of the year in June.



Female Belted Kingfisher

Photo: Maren Smith



Female Common Merganser

Photo: Maren Smith

Our guest judges include: Bob Lewis of **Wingbeats** and **Golden Gate Audubon**, and husband/wife team Kitty O'Neil and Bill Pelletier of **Santa Clara Valley Audubon**. But don't worry, they won't be looking for *National Geographic* quality. It's all in the spirit of fun, with gift cards for the winners.

So show us what you got! Click **HERE** to enter the Second Annual Mt. Diablo Audubon Photography Competition.

East Contra Costa County Birding Spots

Jerry Britten, *MDAS President*

Clifton Court Forebay

This is one of the most productive birding hotspots in the entire county, with over 200 species recorded on eBird. This can easily be an all-day birding expedition. During the fall, winter, and spring, thousands of gulls, scaup, and coots, along with myriad other waterfowl are present here. During the summer months uncommon birds and rarities

such as Western Sandpiper, White-faced Ibis, and Bank Swallow can be found. Good numbers of raptors are always present, including resident Bald Eagles. Great Horned Owls are often seen. Otters and even sea lions can frequently be observed. The parking area is at the end of Clifton Court Road off of Highway J4 a few miles southeast of Byron. It's an out-and-back trip, as the paved levee road goes 90% of the way around the reservoir, leaving an open stretch of water between you and your car. Going to the end of this road and back is an approximately 16-mile roundtrip, so it is best explored with a bicycle, electric scooter, or other mode of transportation. A 5–6-mile roundtrip takes you to out to Eucalyptus Island, where there are large rookeries of Double-crested Cormorants, egrets, and herons in-season. Out here are also good-quality dirt levee roads, connected to the paved road, that overlook very productive marshland, slough, and brush habitat along Italian Slough and Old River. The entire route is exposed with no shade, and can be windy at times.



Great Horned Owl

Photo: Rosita Harvey

Round Valley Regional Park

This 2,191-acre preserve contains non-native grassland, oak woodland/savannah, shrubland, and riparian woodland plant communities. The park entrance is off of Marsh Creek Road between Deer Valley Road and Camino Diablo intersections. The park has become very popular with local residents, so the large parking lot often fills up on weekends. According to eBird, 145 species have been recorded here. Typical woodland birds can be found, as well as grassland birds in the open valley that makes up a large fraction of the park. Sometimes, large flocks of Long-billed Curlews forage in the valley during the fall and winter. The best birding is at the back of the park, along its southwestern edge that abuts Morgan Territory Regional Preserve and Los Vaqueros

Watershed land. This is about 3 miles from the trailhead, so a mountain bike trip is a good way to explore it along the mostly gently sloping Miwok Trail. Back in this area Lewis's Woodpeckers have been reliable for several years. As many as a dozen at one time have been recorded. There are a couple of stock tanks in this area, which are good for loitering near to watch several species of birds come to take a drink. The steep ridgeline at the park's southwestern border was scorched, and, in some areas, burned to bare dirt by the August 2020 wildfires. It will be interesting to see how this impacts local birdlife during the next several years.



Long-billed Curlew

Photo: Maren Smith

Creekside Park (including Creek Road), Brentwood

This is the birding hotspot for fall, winter, and spring rarities in East County. Several species are regularly seen here that are uncommon though findable farther west, but very scarce in East County. Such birds include Golden-crowned Kinglets, Red-breasted Nuthatches, and Chestnut-backed Chickadees. Often, scarce winter warblers such as Townsend's, Black-throated Gray, and Orange-crowned are recorded. Over-wintering Western Tanagers as well as vagrant Hammond's Flycatchers, Red-naped Sapsuckers, and Scaly-breasted Munias have also been seen. The southern terminus of the Marsh Creek Regional Trail begins at the trailhead at the intersection of Concord Ave. and Creek Road in south Brentwood. A walk north from the trailhead up Creek Road along the riparian corridor of Marsh Creek is quite productive. Less than ½ mile north of the trailhead, looking through a fence onto a golf-course pond can provide views of several waterfowl species. A few yards north from here, there is usually water in the creek that

many birds come to for bathing and drinking. Continue along Creek Road, looking over the field to the left for raptors and other fly-bys. Following this is a section of the road with a lot of toyon and other berry-bearing shrubs where Purple Finches, Cedar Waxwings, Hermit Thrushes, and other frugivorous birds can be found. Past this, continue along Marsh Creek Trail over the pedestrian bridge spanning the canal, and enter Creekside Park. This park, especially the riparian habitat along the eastern edge, continues to be productive. Continue along this edge of the park to its end at Crescent Drive. In the fall and winter of 2020–2021, many observers saw the vagrant Plumbeous Vireo along this section. This is about a 3 mile, flat, out-and-back roundtrip, and is the southern end of the Marsh Creek Regional Trail System that extends another 8–10 miles all the way to Big Break Regional Shoreline in Oakley.



Cedar Waxwing

Photo: Maren Smith

Spring Birding During COVID-19

Hugh Harvey, *MDAS Field Trips Chair*

In our continuing pandemic situation, everyone wants to know when the chapter might start having public field trips. Our field trip leaders have responded with their thoughts, and the MDAS Board of Directors had a discussion at our March meeting. This is a very fluid and delicate situation. Many parameters must be met before it will be safe for everyone to participate in these types of activities. Some of the parameters are

mandated by the CDC, the state, and the county. Because things change so fast and nobody knows what might happen next, the board made a unanimous decision that we should wait until September before trying to offer these popular events to the public. It is disappointing, I am sure, because we all want to see our friends after what has already been a long year. In light of this, using our collective decades of experience as birders and field trip leaders, my team and I have come up with the following guide to seeing some of the best Spring birding our local area has to offer.

Thank you for your continued patience, Hugh Harvey

As we move into May, we see some continuing migration, but more nesting activity. By this time the Downy Woodpecker nest in Heather Farm Park will have babies looking out their nest hole at a big, wide world. The Bald Eagles, Ospreys, and Peregrine Falcons in the webcam sites have chicks and are feeding them. The frozen pond behind the Sapsucker Woods feeders at Cornell in New York thawed, and Red-winged Blackbirds are flocking to the feeders.

Locally, our Chapter would be going to Mines Road south of Livermore, the Orinda side of Briones Regional Park, and **East Contra Costa County**.

WEBCAM SITES

For those who want to enjoy local and non-local birding from the comfort of their homes, there are many interesting bird webcams available including the following:

- **Decorah, Iowa Bald Eagle**
- **SF Bay Osprey cam** from Richmond, CA
- **UC Berkeley Campanile Peregrine Falcon nest** (3 newly hatched chicks!)
- **PG&E Peregrine Falcon nest** in San Francisco
- **Cornell Sapsucker Woods feeder cam** in New York
- **Panama fruit feeders** at Canopy Lodge at El Valle de Antón, Panama

BIRDING INFORMATION

These may all be done alone or with family quite easily. **Birding is recommended during the week to avoid crowds.**

MINES ROAD leaves Tesla Road two miles from downtown Livermore. Following Arroyo Mocho to its source in extreme northeast Santa Clara County, Mines Road becomes San Antonio Valley Road at the intersection with Del Puerto Canyon Road 31 miles from Livermore. Nineteen miles farther is the peak of Mt. Hamilton, 4,209 ft., and Lick Observatory.

Many birds may be seen anywhere along the way including raptors, Yellow-billed Magpies, woodpeckers (Acorn, Nuttall's, and Downy), Bullock's Orioles, Roadrunners, Western Tanagers, Western Kingbirds, and Phainopeplas. South of The Junction, located appropriately at the intersection with Del Puerto Canyon Road, Lewis's Woodpeckers may be found.

Fire has swept the area and it may be very different than in the past. The Junction, which is the only business out there, may have limited hours of operation, if they are open at all. On our field trip, we take advantage of the bathrooms in Del Valle Regional Park, entry fee required. Remember to take food and water. Cell phones will probably not work.



Bullock's Oriole

Photo: Isaac Aronow



Western Tanager

Photo: Jerry Britten

BRIONES REGIONAL PARK from the west entrance off Bear Creek Road is also local and easy to reach. We often see the newly arrived Lazuli Buntings here, singing from the top of a tree. Many other spring birds may be found on a walk toward Homestead Valley. Look and listen for Orange-crowned and Wilson's Warblers, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Western Wood-Pewee, and maybe Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Bring water.

Check the website [HERE](#).



Lazuli Bunting

Photo: Joy Shonfeld



Wilson's Warbler

Photo: Maren Smith

MOUNT DIABLO STATE PARK is our most spectacular local natural feature with many opportunities for outdoor activities. In addition to Mitchell and Pine Canyons, we would normally have a field trip driving up South Gate Road. On the grassy slopes before the entry kiosk it is possible to find Lazuli Buntings, Bewick's Wrens, and we used to find Black-chinned Sparrows here. Walk around the Rock City area and listen for Ash-throated Flycatcher, Black-headed Grosbeak, and maybe Western Wood-Pewee. Look below the Junction kiosk in the campground and see what passerines are there; maybe you'll find a Hermit or Black-throated Gray Warbler. Bring water and food.



Ash-throated Flycatcher

Photo: Isaac Aronow



Bewick's Wren

Photo: Beth Branthaver

MORE LOCAL BIRDING

In addition to the locations we might visit on our Chapter field trips, members might try some of these other locations close to home.

- **Clayton Community Park**
- **Heather Farm Park, Walnut Creek**

- Lafayette Community Park
- Lafayette Reservoir
- McNabney Marsh and/or Martinez Regional Shoreline

Events

Be sure to check the [MDAS website](#) for the most up-to-date listing of events.

Magic of Mitchell Canyon

April 27, 2021

Since riparian habitat is scarce in the San Francisco Bay Area, Mitchell Canyon, on the north side of Mount Diablo, is a magnet for migrating birds seeking a refueling stop. In addition to migrants, we'll also see and hear a number of permanent residents and summer nesting birds. We'll look for warblers and flycatchers and enjoy early wildflowers and butterflies while walking along Mitchell Creek, traversing chaparral, and spending some time under a variety of mature trees.



Maureen Lahiff was part of the first cohort of the Golden Gate Audubon Society/Cal Academy of Sciences Master Birder Program in 2013 and is a California Naturalist. She is a Lake Merritt docent and leads field trips and teaches classes for GGAS adult ed. She's been leading trips at Mitchell Canyon for GGAS and for Birdathon for several years.

This event will take place online via Zoom and last approximately 60–75 minutes. Registrants will be sent a link and password to access the Zoom meeting. The session will be recorded, and registrants will have access to the recording on the web for two weeks after the event, regardless of whether they attend the live presentation.

Date:	April 27, 2021
Time:	7:00 PM–8:30 PM
Location:	Zoom online meeting
Presenter:	Maureen Lahiff
Cost:	\$15

Sponsor: Golden Gate Audubon Society

Registration: [Click here to register online](#)

Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour

May 2nd, 16th, and 23rd, 2021

In a series of live garden visits passionate garden owners and the talented designers of the Bay Area's most beautiful and inspiring landscapes will show us what's happening in the garden now, feature their favorite natives, describe their great native plant gardening resources, and more.

Tour of Showcase Native Plant Gardens

Sundays in 2021
April 25
May 2, 16, 23
10am-3pm

Bringing Back
the
Natives
Garden Tour

Companion Event
The Green Home Tour
Sundays
June 6 and 13
10am-3pm

A virtual tour of 25 Alameda and Contra Costa county gardens

Date: May 2nd, 16th, and 23rd, 2021

Time: 10:00 AM–3:00 PM

Location: Zoom online meeting

Cost: Free

Sponsor: Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour

Registration: [Click here to register online](#)

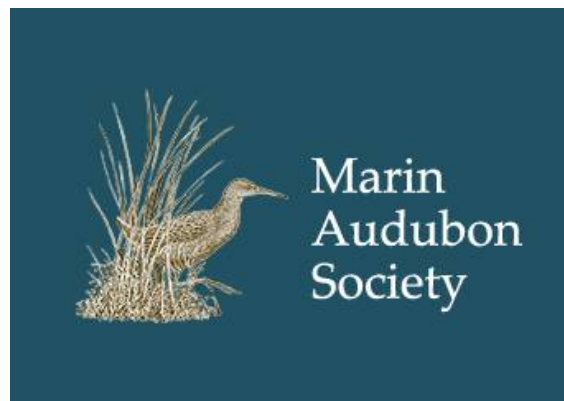
A Worldwide Collaboration to Track Bird Migration

May 13, 2021

The Motus Wildlife Tracking System, is an international collaborative research network that uses automated radio telemetry to track birds, bats, and insects. This presentation will include an overview of the Motus system, which consists of a large number of receiving towers strategically placed all over the world. When a tagged bird (or butterfly) passes within range of a tower, its presence is recorded and incorporated into a database accessible to interested investigators wherever they may be. (And, yes, the system has also been used to track butterfly migration.)

The network is rapidly expanding as more and more ornithologists and researchers seek to determine what can be done to conserve and enhance survival for these beautiful animals.

Amie MacDonald works as the Western Motus Coordinator for Birds Canada, and is currently working to expand the Motus Wildlife Tracking System in British Columbia. Previously, she studied Red Knots during migratory stopover on the James Bay coast, and has also spent several years working as a field technician, primarily with shorebirds in



James Bay and the Bay of Fundy, but also with seabirds, passerines, and small mammals on various projects. She loves being in the field and is interested in migration, population ecology, and the conservation of highly mobile species.

- Date:** May 13, 2021
- Time:** 7:30 PM–9:30 PM
- Location:** Zoom online meeting
- Speaker:** Amie MacDonald
- Cost:** Free
- Sponsor:** Marin Audubon Society
- Registration:** [Click here to register online](#)

The Breeding Seabirds of Alcatraz Island and Climate Change

May 20, 2021

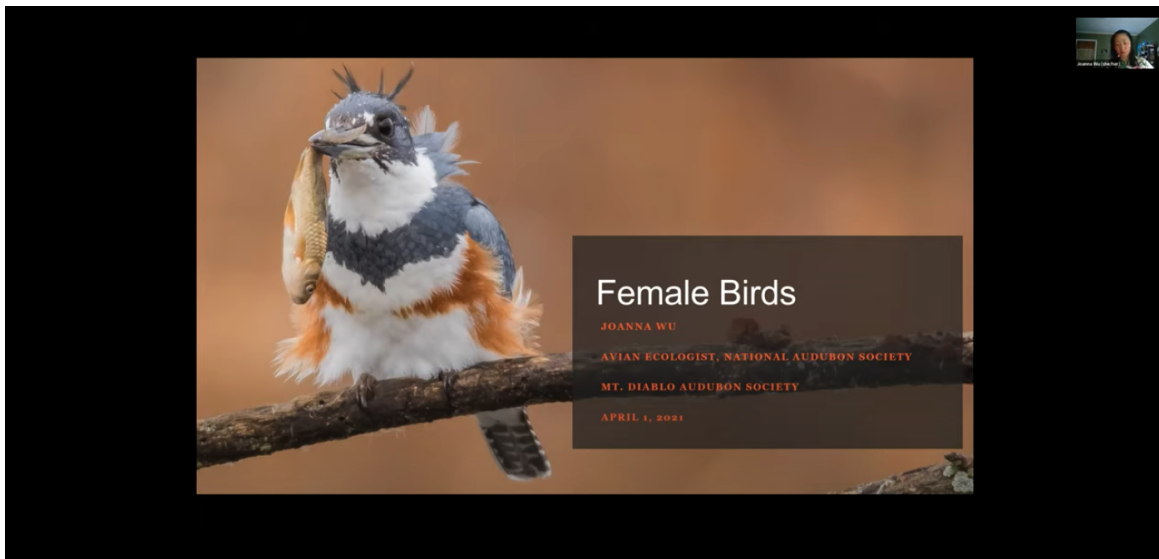
In this event, Lidia D'Amico, *National Park Service Alcatraz Biologist*, and Zoe Burr, *Farallon Institute Seabird Biologist*, will dive into the world of Alcatraz seabirds. They will tell you about several species that typically breed on the island

every spring and summer, and the threats these birds are facing from climate change and living in an urban environment. Alcatraz Island sits in a unique position within the San Francisco Bay and as a result is one of only two estuarine breeding colonies for Brandt's cormorants.



Date: May 20, 2021
Time: 7:00 PM–8:30 PM
Location: Zoom online meeting
Presenters: Lidia D'Amico and Zoe Burr
Cost: Free
Sponsor: Golden Gate Audubon Society
Registration: [Click here to register online](#)

May Gallery



MDAS April 1 Monthly Program Meeting:
Joanna Wu from the National Audubon Society honors oft-overlooked female birds.
View the entire virtual meeting [HERE](#).



MDAS April 1 Monthly Program Meeting:
Adélie penguins in Antarctica with Annie Schmidt, Point Blue Conservation Science
View the entire virtual meeting [HERE](#).



Pelagic Cormorants at Bodega Head

Photo: Paul Schorr



Downy Woodpecker
Photo: Paul Schorr



Singing Ash-throated Flycatcher, Black Diamond Mines Regional Park
Photo: Paul Schorr



Fairy Lanterns on Mount Diablo

Photo: Rosita Harvey

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Mt. Diablo Audubon Society Leadership

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