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# Mt. Diablo Audubon Society

## *The Quail*

Volume 67, Number 2

OCTOBER 2021

### **Next Monthly Program Meeting: Thursday, October 7**

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** Board Announcements
- 7:15 PM** Main Program: *Twenty Seasons of Nest Box Monitoring* with Lee Pauser
- 8:30 PM** Adjourn

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### **Main Program: *Twenty Seasons of Nest Box Monitoring***

Lee Pauser

As a volunteer, Lee Pauser has been building, installing, and monitoring nest boxes (a nest box is an artificial cavity) for twenty nesting seasons. The presentation includes photos and videos of the eighteen species of cavity nesting birds that have graced his nest boxes. His effort have resulted in 16,858 birds fledging, of which 6,670 are Western Bluebirds.

Lee is a member of the California Bluebird Recovery Program (**CBRP**), Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society (**SCVAS**), and North American Bluebird Society (**NABS**). Data

is collected during the nesting season, and provided to the Cavity Nesters Recovery Program (CNRP) and Cornell Lab of Ornithology's **NestWatch Program**. The latter makes detailed information available for scientific research.

The goal of the presentation is to excite and induce others to participate by providing and monitoring nest boxes to aid the cavity nesters. Natural cavities do exist, but can be lost due to development or natural disasters.



Western Bluebird nest  
with four hatchlings

Photos: Lee Pauser



Western Bluebird nest  
with four nestlings

## Webinar Access Info:

**Date:** Thursday, October 7, 2021

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

**Location:** Zoom online meeting

**Access:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81253578672?pwd=RHFOOXNuSFNDczZnZDFLckViVmV2dz09>

**Meeting ID:** 812 5357 8672

**Passcode:** 827723

**Phone access:** **One tap mobile**  
 +14086380968,,81253578672#,,,,\*827723# US (San Jose)  
 +16699006833,,81253578672#,,,,\*827723# US (San Jose)

### Dial by your location

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)  
 +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)  
 +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)  
 +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)  
 +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)  
+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 812 5357 8672  
Passcode: 827723

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81253578672>

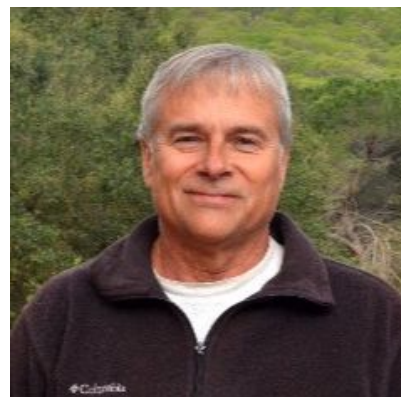
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## President's Letter

Jerry Britten, *MDAS President*

“Gull” ID challenges, fall rarities,  
and some Chapter news.

Identifying juvenile and subadult gulls is a problem for many, myself included. On Sep. 11, I saw and photographed this unusual bird at Clifton Court Forebay, in east Contra Costa County. It didn't fit any of the gull images I looked at, so for lack of anything better I assigned its ID to a juvenile melanistic California Gull (CAGU). This was largely based on the blue legs, since I have been seeing many juvenile normally-colored CAGU's out there with bluish legs. I never thought to think outside the “Gull” box—turns out it wasn't a gull at all. Some sharp-eyed observers from afar saw my eBird checklist some days later and identified this as a juvenile dark-morph Long-tailed Jaeger, a lifer for me! This is a bird that breeds in the Arctic and spends its non-breeding time on the open ocean! This is apparently the third county record of this bird, and the first away from bay waters in west Contra Costa. Myself and others have searched for this bird subsequently, to no avail. It appeared to have a wing injury, so it likely couldn't have flown away. Anyway, the moral of this story is if you see an unusual bird, if at all possible take a photo or, if not, write down as many detailed notes as you can and, unlike me, ask for help! There are a number of expert birders in the area that can help with bird identification—you can start by sending an email to [info@mtdiabloaudubon.org](mailto:info@mtdiabloaudubon.org) and we can steer you to the right experts.





Juvenile dark-morph Long-tailed Jaeger, Clifton Court Forebay, 9/11/2021

Photo: Jerry Britten

September and October are months that can bring a good variety of rare birds into our area, as young birds disperse widely after fledging. In addition to the Jaeger, I have recently seen Solitary Sandpipers as well at Clifton Court. Many birders have enjoyed sighting a Canada Warbler in Wildcat Canyon Regional Park, and a Tennessee Warbler in Creekside Park, El Cerrito. You never know what you might see, so be prepared!

Finally, in chapter news, for the first time MDAS has paid staff! With logistical help from our big sister Golden Gate Audubon, we have hired a part-time intern to help with Julie Woodruff's Northern Saw-whet Owl banding project, which will kick-off its third year in October. The intern will assist with setup, monitoring, and take-down of the mist nets, and data collection. The actual banding is done by Julie as this requires certification. The sponsorship of conservation projects such as this, and the ability to offer a paid apprenticeship to a young person in the conservation/biology field, is made possible by the generous contributions of our MDAS members. Thank you. By the way, field trips to observe the banding are being offered to guests! Look for details [HERE](#).

As always, stay safe, and get out there for the birds!

## Welcome, New Members!

**Kyle Chen**, San Ramon

**Jeff Greenberg**, Walnut Creek

**Amanda Irish**, Concord

**Auden Pfeifer**, Martinez

**Victoria Quintero**, Martinez

**Alyssa Retodo**, Castro Valley

**Bruce & Judy Moorad**, Friday Harbor, WA

## MDAS Annual Treasurer’s Report—2021

Steve Buffi, *MDAS Treasurer*

Mt. Diablo Audubon Society remains in an excellent position to serve our chapter and 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. Your generosity supports our monthly program, this newsletter, the annual Christmas Bird Count, our web site, donations to like-minded organizations, and much more. You have read about these important efforts in this and prior issues of *The Quail*. Each dollar you give is put to good use for the benefit of our community.

At the start of the 2020–2021 fiscal year, a team of board members took on the task of determining what to do with the growing General Fund balance, while maintaining the financial stability of the chapter. The board decided to split the General Fund balance into two parts—Reserve and Excess. The Reserve Fund will retain a balance of one year of expenses excluding donations and the Excess Fund balance would be used to increase donations to other like-minded organizations such as land trusts, bird rehab programs, and education programs. Many donations are announced in *The Quail*. Our goal is to donate all excess funds over a number of years, while maintaining the financial stability of the chapter. The negative net for the *Breeding Bird Atlas* is the result of writing off damaged copies that were disposed of during the fiscal year.

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

### July 2020–June 2021

Funds	Revenue	Expenses	Net	Fund Balance 7/1/2021

General	40,184.87	10,651.23	29,533.64	0
<i>Breeding Bird Atlas</i>	-1,764.33	137.09	-1,901.42	15,943.73
Reserve	0	0	0	20,000
Excess	725.02	39,656.36	-38,931.34	101,519.23
Total All Funds	39,145.56	50,444.68	-11,299.12	137,462.96

## Vacant MDAS Positions

Jerry Britten, *MDAS President*

Mt. Diablo Audubon currently has a number of vacant or soon-to-be vacant board and advisory positions that we would like to fill. Below are descriptions of these. Serving MDAS in any of these capacities is a great way to give back to the birding community and keep our chapter strong. If anyone is interested in helping out, please contact one of the current board members by clicking on their name on the MDAS website [HERE](#).

### Outreach Coordinator

Responsible for coordinating volunteers to staff MDAS booths and tables, etc. at local festivals and other public events at which MDAS has a presence. *This can be a Board or an Advisory position.*

### Sales Manager

Responsible for handling sales and inventory of publications and merchandise, conducting raffles and silent auctions at membership meetings, and maintaining financial records of sales. *This is a Board position.*

### The Quail Editor

Responsible for the publication of the monthly chapter email newsletter. Duties include setting up publication and submission schedules, reaching out to persons inside and outside of the chapter for content, and working with the MDAS *Membership Chair* to maintain the list of subscribers. MDAS publishes eight issues of *The Quail* newsletter each year. Familiarity with Mailchimp or other online newsletter platforms, and familiarity with basic HTML is desired. Training on Mailchimp will be provided. *This is a Board position.*

**Web Editor**

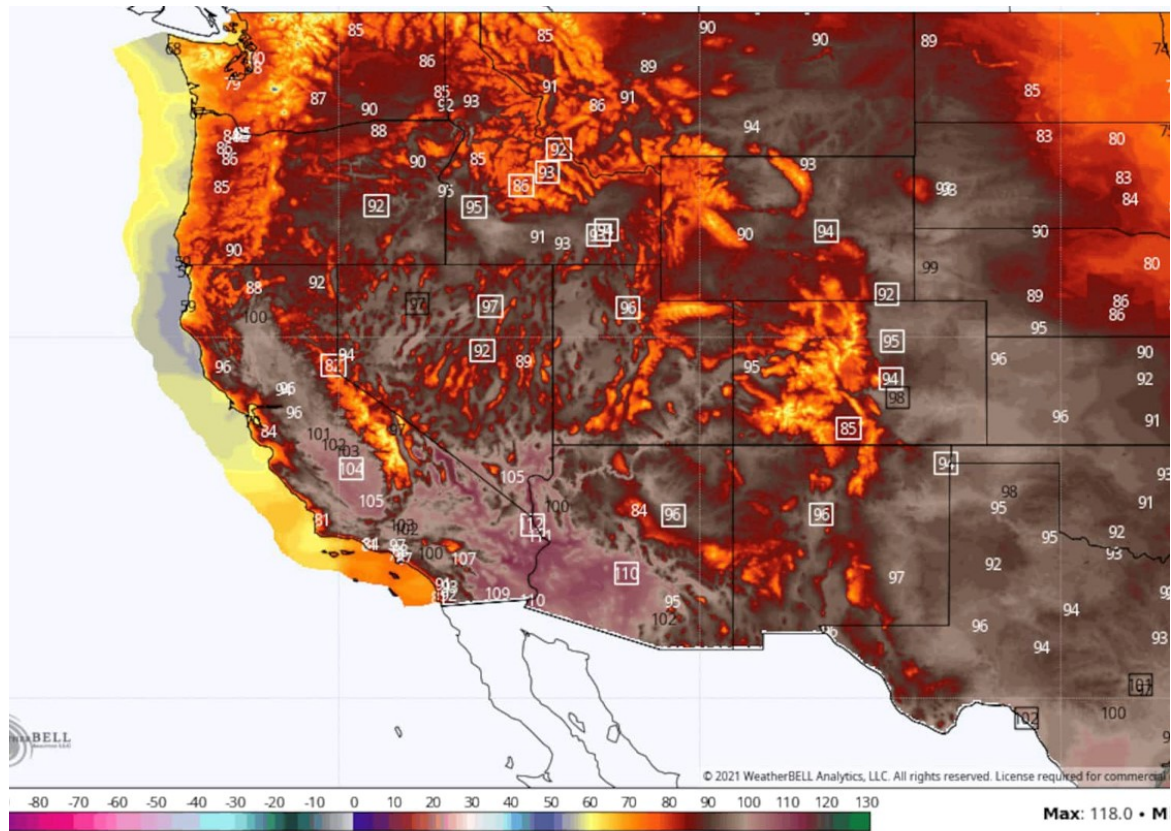
Responsible for creating and updating MDAS website content as needed. Duties include updating MDAS website content as requested by content authors, adding bird and nature-related events in the event calendar, and updating MDAS field trip information. Experience with WordPress is helpful. *This is an Advisory position.*

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**This Was the Hottest Summer Ever Recorded in the U.S.**

Juan Pablo Galván Martínez, *MDAS Conservation Chair*

**Be Part of Cooling Things Down, Now.**



# Record heat, fire danger plague West after hottest summer on record for U.S.

This summer set new records for heat and fire in the western U.S. In fact, it was the hottest summer ever recorded. Unless massive action is taken in the next 10 years, this is just a small taste of a hotter, drier planet. What do you think about that? Have you asked your family about their thoughts? New research shows it's on more people's minds than you think. Learn about that and about the solutions below.

1. **The Kids Aren't Alright.** A new study ([HERE](#)) shows that young people aren't just worried about climate change, they're incredibly worried. Of 10,000 people ages 16–25 in 10 countries, more than half agreed with the viewpoint that “humanity is doomed.” This is not their fault. Those born between 1890 and 1980 are responsible for the catastrophic climate change the young people of today and tomorrow will pay for with, in many cases literally, their lives. From those that will be swallowed by rising seas to the millions upon millions that will live in places



becoming too hot to physically survive. If you're reading this, what are you doing to stop this catastrophe? Do you think your grandkids hold you responsible? Don't just worry about it. Make Change.

2. **Choose TP that Saves the Planet Instead of Heating it.** Early in the pandemic, toilet paper was on a lot of people's mind. It should still be on your mind, but for a different reason. The brand you buy could be clear cutting forests that birds depend on, and that play a crucial role in fighting climate change (read [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)). Those big packs of Kirkland Select, Charmin, Scott, and Quilted you buy at Costco? They're absolutely terrible. In the East Bay, you have lots of options to buy toilet paper that won't destroy forest. I buy mine at Whole Foods because it makes a difference. You can buy yours online or wherever you like, just make sure it's a good brand that helps forests.



3. **Air Pollution Shortens Lives More Than ANY OTHER External Cause.** The smoke from wildfires this summer and your gas stove have something in common. Both are terrible for air quality, and both are taking years off your life. Far more than smoking, alcohol, narcotics or any other external source. Check it

out [HERE](#). For all that people worry about them, war and terrorism have basically no impact in comparison. Climate change is THE GREATEST THREAT to global public health (see [HERE](#)). Save your life and the planet by acting to prevent a hotter, drier, more fire-and-smoke-filled world today.

4. **The Fossil Fuel Industry Tricked, and Maybe Ruined, the World.** Though, people for decades let themselves be tricked. Watch this short video [HERE](#) to know how they did it and what to do about it.
5. **Driving Isn't Just a Choice, It's a Way to Build. Ask for Change.** The U.S. is obsessed with driving. Many other countries have far superior mass transit systems, more walkable communities, and safe, reliable alternatives like biking and walking that are made possible from how and where they build. The U.S. is very much backward in this sense. Want to get it up to the times and confront the climate catastrophe? Read [HERE](#).

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## MDAS Field Trips

Hugh Harvey, *MDAS Field Trip Chair*

Jerry Britten, *MDAS President*



Mt. Diablo Audubon Society field trips are back. There are some changes from the way we used to do things, however. First, there will be a sign-up process for each field trip, accessible on our website [HERE](#). By signing up, you will be acknowledging the **MDAS Liability Waiver**. Second, some of the trips may require limited participation due to traffic/parking limitations. The sign-up process will allow us to manage this.

The biggest change to previous years is that, due to safety concerns brought about by the ongoing COVID-19 situation, MDAS will no longer organize or meet up at staging areas for carpooling. Participants are encouraged to arrange their own carpools with people they are comfortable traveling with, but must expect to provide their own transportation to meet at the trip destination. This is the main reason why participation may be limited on some excursions. Some historical destinations will be abandoned for now, as well, due to traffic/parking considerations.

As usual, the field trips will be ranked according to difficulty:

**Category 1:** Easy, little or no walking, smooth paths.

**Category 2:** Moderate, 1 mile or more, possibly rough terrain.

**Category 3:** Difficult, extensive walking on rough terrain.

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## MDAS Field Trips

You can view and print a complete list of planned MDAS field trips for the 2021–22 season [HERE](#).

Upcoming field trips include:

### Charleston Slough

**Thursday, November 6, 8:30 AM–2:30 PM**

**Leader: Beth Branthaver, 510-502-4869**

We see a variety of birds on the water on this trip. Locations might include Charleston Slough, Shoreline Lake, Palo Alto Baylands, Alviso, and Redwood Shores.

**Rating:** Category 2 - Moderate

**Distance:** We do some walking, but drive from location to location

**Elevation change:** N/A

**Leader:** Beth Branthaver, please call to confirm: 510-502-4869

**Meet:** Meet at Terminal Road in Mountain View at 8:30 AM.

**Directions:** 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. Drive time is about one hour from Walnut Creek/Danville.

This field trip is limited to 15 participants. Register for this event [HERE](#). Participants must acknowledge the [MDAS Liability Waiver](#) (available during registration).

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### **Mt. View Sanitary/McNabney Marsh**

**Monday, November 23, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM**

**Leader: Randy Huey, 925-518-8439**

We expect to see a variety of water birds here, from grebes and ducks, to waders and peeps. Marsh passerines and raptors might also be present.

**Rating:** Category 2 - Moderate

**Elevation change:** N/A

**Leader:** Randy Huey, please call to confirm: 925-518-8439

**Meet:** Meet at Mt. View Sanitary Visitor Center at 10:00 AM.

**Directions:** Exit from I-680 southbound at Arthur Road, turn left and go under the freeway. Exit I-680 northbound at Pacheco Blvd, turn right onto Arthur Road and go under the freeway. Arthur Road will turn left. At 0.4 miles turn sharp left onto Mt. View Sanitary's private road. Follow the road through the entry gate, alongside the freeway and through the tunnel under I-680. Park and sign in at the Visitor Center.

This field trip is limited to 20 participants. Register for this event [HERE](#). Participants must acknowledge the [MDAS Liability Waiver](#) (available during registration).

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### **More Field Trip Destinations**

In addition to the scheduled MDAS Field Trips, you may want to consider birding on your own at the following birding destinations.

#### **Hayward Regional Shoreline, Hayward**

This is a very popular location for walkers, anglers, and birders. Parking at the Winton Avenue parking lot is best at the first area before entering through the open gate. One can walk to the low, elevated mound known as "Mt. Trashmore." Can you guess what is below the dirt and short grass vegetation? It is about a half-mile out to the edge of San Francisco Bay along the flood control channel. Going north past another landfill area brings one to a large, mostly dry mudflat known as "Frank's Dump." This can be shorebird heaven in late

summer and fall, as they either gather for the winter or use the area as a stopping point during their southerly migration. One can see Willets, Marbled Godwits, Red Knots, Short-billed Dowitchers, Ruddy Turnstones, Black-bellied Plovers, and the occasional Pacific Golden-Plover. Migrant passerines may be seen in the trees and weedy areas near the parking lot; raptors can be anywhere.

### **Outer Point Reyes**, Point Reyes

The Outer Point Reyes area is a wonderful place to find fall migrants, many of them Eastern passerine vagrants. The best places to check are the trees around the visitor center and monument at Drake's Beach, the trees at the Mendoza Ranch, the trees at the Nunes Ranch, the trees around the residence at the Fish Docks, and the trees near the residence above the lighthouse. Some of the specialty migrants have included Blackburnian, Blackpoll, Chestnut-sided, Connecticut, Black-and-white, Magnolia, Prothonotary, Yellow-throated, and Black-throated Blue Warblers. We have seen Yellow-green, Red-eyed and White-eyed Vireos, Orchard Orioles, Ovenbirds, American Redstarts, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Peregrine Falcons, and Broad-winged Hawks. Look on the water for Common Murres, Pigeon Guillemots, Cormorants, and Loons. The chance to see migrants is very much dependent on the weather; the absence of winds from the northwest and an overcast night sky will help trap these land birds at the Outer Point. Be sure to check the **National Park Service Point Reyes website** for road closure information.

### **Hawk Hill**, Marin Headlands

The fall southward migration of raptors can be quite spectacular if one is in a particularly good location. As birds fly south along the California coast, they eventually arrive at the Golden Gate, the one-mile-wide opening to our bay. They don't quite know what to do, as birds don't like flying over the water. As a consequence, raptors congregate at what is now known as Hawk Hill above the Golden Gate Bridge, before finally making the jump across the gap. The **Golden Gate Raptor Observatory** conducts a count every fall of all the raptors. This year, the area where the counters stand is closed to the public, but anyone can stand nearby at Battery 129, where in normal times public demonstrations occur on Saturdays. Parking should be easier on a weekday. Before going, check the **GGRO website**.

### **Abbotts Lagoon**, Point Reyes National Seashore

We generally visit this location later in the month of October, but any time would be good. It requires driving to Point Reyes and turning onto Pierce Point Road. A one-and-a-half mile walk through the coastal habitat brings one to a bridge over the upper lagoon. Another ½ mile walk across sand and along the edge of the outer lagoon will bring one to the beach. A more rigorous 5,100 mile swim will take one to Japan. Birds we often see on this trip include sparrows, shorebirds, and raptors. The outer lagoon frequently has a good selection of shorebirds that will stay most of the winter. Snowy Plovers nest along the beach and south of

the outer lagoon—they are often easy to find. American Pipit flocks need to be checked for possible Red-throated Pipits. Later in October, we often have a good selection of raptors including Red-tailed and Ferruginous Hawks, Northern Harriers, and White-tailed Kites. Check the **Point Reyes National Seashore website** for access updates. While some Point Reyes sites are closed as of this writing, Abbotts Lagoon is open.

### **Bodega Bay**

Not only is Bodega Bay famous for its role in the Hitchcock movie *The Birds*, but it is also famous for the many birds that can be found there. Starting in early fall and continuing through the winter, many shorebirds and waterfowl make Bodega Harbor their winter home. Any number of locations around the harbor can be visited for birding opportunities: The Tides Restaurant, Porto Bodega, the Rail Pond, Gaffney Point, Owl Canyon, Campbell Cove, and Bodega Head, among others. Food is available at The Tides, Lucas Wharf and Terrapin Creek restaurants, the crab shack at the Spud Point Marina, and some items at Diekmann's Store. A detailed description of bird-watching spots may be seen at **this website**.

Other bayside locations to try are:

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

Within Contra Costa County, you might try:

- **McNabney Marsh**
- **Martinez Regional Shoreline**
- **Valle Vista south of Moraga** (EBMUD pass required)
- **Contra Loma Reservoir**

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## **East Contra Costa County Birding Spots**

### **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 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 it can be windy at times.

### **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.

### **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.

## Northern Saw-whet Owl Banding

Julie Woodruff, *Biologist, Northern Saw-whet Owl Banding Project*

Join *Master Owl Bander* Julie Woodruff for an evening under the stars to observe Northern Saw-whet Owls! Learn all about how these tiny, enigmatic owls are captured and studied with a local owl bander and get an opportunity to see them (and other night creatures such as coyotes, Great Horned Owls, or bats) close-up as you get a personal experience to learn about a local research project. Visitors must be able to hike up a short, steep hill on uneven terrain, sometimes in the cold. Due to the nature of the program, guests are limited to five or fewer visitors. Please reach out to [juliewoodruff15@gmail.com](mailto:juliewoodruff15@gmail.com) to reserve your night! The following dates and times are available:

### 2021 Schedule

#### Date of Field Trip

Saturday, October 9

Sunday, October 10

Friday, October 15

Sunday, October 17

Saturday, October 23

Sunday, October 24

Thursday, October 28

Saturday, October 30 (OWL-O-WEEN)

Thursday, November 4

Saturday, November 6

#### Approximate Field Trip Times\*

18:30–23:15

18:30–23:15

18:30–23:15

18:30–23:15

18:15–23:00

18:15–23:00

18:15–23:00

18:00–22:45

18:00–22:30

18:00–23:30

\*Note: guests are not required to stay through station closing.





Northern Saw-whet Owl

Photo: Julie Woodruff

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## Events

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

### **Feathered Hunters—Identifying Raptors with Bob Lewis**

September 28, 2021

Raptors include Hawks, Falcons, Eagles, Vultures, and Owls. They are efficient hunters, catching a variety of prey from small mammals and birds to snakes and large insects, using razor-sharp talons. Although identification may seem a bit difficult at first, with a little experience it is possible to identify many raptors in flight as well as when they are perched. We'll look at raptor taxonomy to understand differences between the various families and learn identifying characteristics of Bay Area species. The talk will be illustrated with many interesting images of these birds.

Bob trained as a chemist and worked in the energy industry for 33 years. He's taught birding classes in the San Francisco Bay Area for over 25 years and is the past chair of Golden Gate Audubon's Adult Education Committee. His life bird list is over 5,000 species, and he loves to travel. He's an award-winning photographer, focusing on birds. Bob was honored with American Birding Association's Chandler Robbins Award for Education and Conservation in 2016 and GGAS's Paul Covel Award for Education in 2017.

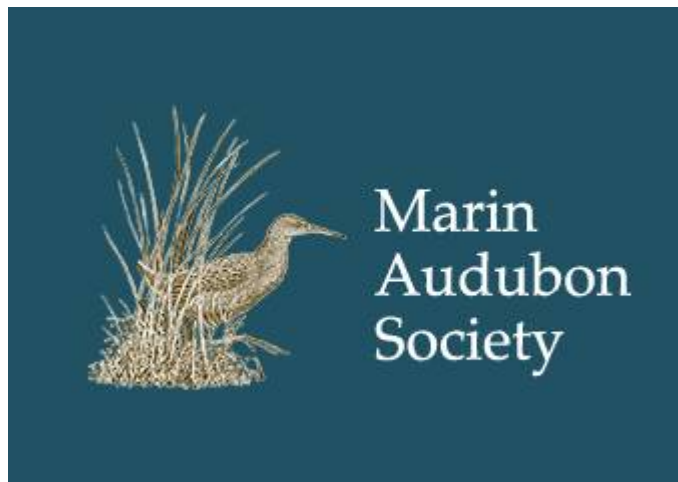


**Date:** September 28, 2021  
**Time:** 6:00 PM–7:00 PM  
**Location:** Zoom online meeting  
**Presenter:** Bob Lewis  
**Sponsor:** **Contra Costa County Library**  
**Cost:** Free  
**Registration:** **[Click here to register online](#)**

**Birding In Marin—Abbotts Lagoon and the Inverness Tennis Area**

October 2, 2021

Abbott’s Lagoon on the Pacific Coast in the Point Reyes National Seashore is one of Marin’s premier birding locations sporting an eBird sum of 283 species. Fall migration south along the coast brings many birds to this area. Some that we hope to see include Ferruginous Hawk, Baird’s and Pectoral Sandpipers, Red-necked Phalaropes, Lapland Longspur, Horned Lark, and pipits. Hundreds of ducks of a dozen species, geese, herons, Peregrine Falcons, and Ospreys are also likely visitors. Pack a lunch for a picnic on the beach and bring a couple of layers for the fresh ocean air.



**Date:** October 2, 2021

<b>Time:</b>	8:30 AM–Mid Afternoon
<b>Location:</b>	Abbott's Lagoon
<b>Trip leaders:</b>	Jim White and Bob Battagin
<b>Sponsor:</b>	<b>Marin Audubon Society</b>
<b>Cost:</b>	Free
<b>Registration:</b>	<b><a href="#">Click here to register online</a></b>

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## **Shorebird Identification with Bob Lewis**

October 12, 2021

Shorebirds flock to the Bay Area in the fall. Many are coming from their breeding sites in the Arctic, others from the prairies. They take advantage of the rich food resources in the Bay to recover from their migration, to molt their feathers, and to prepare for their trip back to their nesting grounds. A few shorebirds breed here and so are here throughout the year. Shorebirds include sandpipers, oystercatchers, stilts, avocets, and plovers. We will study their behaviors and identifying characteristics to enable us to identify them as they gather along our shorelines.

Bob trained as a chemist and worked in the energy industry for 33 years. He's taught birding classes in the San Francisco Bay Area for over 25 years and is the past chair of Golden Gate Audubon's Adult Education Committee. His life bird list is over 5,000 species, and he loves to travel. He's an award-winning photographer, focusing on birds. Bob was honored with American Birding Association's Chandler Robbins Award for Education and Conservation in 2016 and GGAS's Paul Covel Award for Education in 2017.



<b>Date:</b>	October 12, 2021
<b>Time:</b>	6:00 PM–7:00 PM
<b>Location:</b>	Zoom online meeting
<b>Presenter:</b>	Bob Lewis
<b>Sponsor:</b>	<b>Contra Costa County Library</b>

**Cost:**

Free

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

## Birding For Fledglings

Six sessions in October and November

If you're ready to dip your wingtips into the world of birds, the Birding for Fledglings class is for you! No experience is necessary. The class will focus on birding tools, keys to bird identification, and finding and identifying the Bay Area's fall birds. As a bonus, you will learn the difference between Birdwatching and Birding!

**Date:**

October 13, 20, 27 and November 3, 10, 17

**Time:**

7:00 PM–9:00 PM

**Location:**

Zoom online meetings and field trips

**Instructor:**

Dawn Lemoine

**Sponsor:****Golden Gate Audubon Society****Cost:**

\$150 (MDAS members get the GGAS rate)

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

## Virtual Field Trip to the Farallon Islands

October 16, 2021

Join the Environmental Volunteers for a special guest speaker program—a virtual tour of the Farallones Marine Sanctuary presented by the naturalists that work there.

Get Into Your Sanctuary with Greater Farallones naturalists for an adventure in San Francisco's ocean wilderness. Traveling under the Golden Gate Bridge we will journey 27 miles offshore to the intriguing Farallon Islands and beyond! During our virtual field trip we will see humpback and blue whales, seals, sea lions, porpoises, sharks, seabirds, and other ocean wildlife! Learn about this amazing wildlife through photos, videos, and stories.



# ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERS

Inspiring a love of science and nature

About the speaker:

**Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary** protects the wildlife, habitats, and cultural resources of one of the most diverse and bountiful marine environments in the world, an area of 3,295 square miles off the northern and central California coast.

<b>Date:</b>	October 16, 2021
<b>Time:</b>	10:30 AM–11:30 AM
<b>Location:</b>	Zoom online meeting
<b>Presenter:</b>	Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary
<b>Sponsor:</b>	<b>Environmental Volunteers</b>
<b>Cost:</b>	Free
<b>Registration:</b>	<a href="#">Click here to register online</a>

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## Bringing Back the Burrowing Owl

October 21, 2021

Once thriving in the East Bay, the Burrowing Owl has been forced to move inland and the consequences for many have been fatal. Conducting long-term research on these colonies, Shawn Smallwood and Doug Bell have observed the rate of mortality for Burrowing Owls living within the Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area, as wind turbines within the area continue to contribute to avian bird deaths. During this presentation they will speak on their findings and the management efforts being conducted on East Bay Regional Park District lands, including volunteer-based habitat restoration programs.



Shawn Smallwood earned his Ph.D. in Ecology at U.C. Davis and has studied wildlife impact from wind turbines for 20 years. Doug Bell serves as the Wildlife Program Manager for the East Bay Regional Park District and has engaged in long-term studies of Golden Eagles, Prairie Falcons, and other raptors with an emphasis on assessing and lessening impacts from renewable energy development.

<b>Date:</b>	October 21, 2021
<b>Time:</b>	7:00 PM–8:30 PM
<b>Location:</b>	Zoom online webinar
<b>Presenter:</b>	Doug Bell and Shawn Smallwood
<b>Sponsor:</b>	<b>Golden Gate Audubon Society</b>
<b>Cost:</b>	Free
<b>Registration:</b>	<b><a href="#">Click here to register online</a></b>

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## October Gallery



MDAS September 2 Monthly Program Meeting:  
Hugh Harvey talks about the resumption of MDAS field trips and Marc Desin demonstrates  
the new field trip reservation system.  
View the virtual meeting **[HERE](#)**.



MDAS September 2 Monthly Program Meeting:  
Jerry Britten presents his bird (and more!) photos and shares his experiences from his travels to Zambia  
View the virtual meeting [HERE](#).



Dusky Flycatcher

Photo: Garrett Lau/Macaulay Library at the **Cornell Lab of Ornithology (ML284753661)**



Bewick's Wren at Lake Merritt

Photo: Beth Branthaver





Spotted Sandpiper

Photo: jerald britten/Macaulay Library at the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology \(ML371633991\)](#)



Wilson's Warbler

Photo: Cassie Tzur

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