



Mt. Diablo Audubon Society

The Quail

Volume 67, Number 4

DECEMBER 2021–JANUARY 2022

Next Monthly Program Meeting: Thursday, December 2

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: *Pine Canyon's Peregrines* with the Peregrine Team
- 7:25 PM** Board Announcements
- 7:35 PM** Main Program: *From Mono Lake to Mar Chiquita* with Ryan Carle
- 8:30 PM** Adjourn

Main Program: *From Mono Lake to Mar Chiquita: A Future for Phalaropes and Saline Lakes*

Ryan Carle, *Science Manager*, Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge

Wilson's and red-necked Phalaropes are tiny but charismatic shorebirds that rely on saline lakes like Mono Lake and Owens Lake as their most critical gas stations on their epic migration to South America. Saline lakes are threatened worldwide by water diversion and climate change, and presumably phalaropes are threatened along with them.



Photo by Verónica López

However, basic questions about phalaropes remain unanswered, including: "how many are there?", "are they declining?", and "where are they?" Ryan Carle will discuss recent efforts both locally and throughout the western hemisphere to close the gaps in our understanding of phalaropes' ecology and conservation status, and conservation actions needed to ensure a future for the phalaropes and people that depend on saline lakes.

Ryan Carle is the *Science Manager and Shorebirds Program Director* for international conservation science non-profit **Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge**. Ryan currently conducts phalarope research at Mono Lake and the Atacama Desert of Chile, and coordinates with phalarope research partners around the western hemisphere. Ryan has worked for over ten years on conservation and research of seabirds and shorebirds in California and Chile, but his favorite place to work is Mono Lake, where he was born and raised.



Phalarope flock

Photo: Ryan Carle

Birding Info:

Pine Canyon's Peregrines

Peregrine Team

Members of the Peregrine Team will share a video synopsis of the Pine Canyon peregrines' historic and memorable year, taken directly from the notes and photography of the Peregrine Team.

Photo: Wallace de Young



Webinar Access Info:

Date: Thursday, December 2, 2021
Time: 7:00 PM–8:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)
Location: Zoom online meeting
Access: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86278000299?
pwd=c0JWQnJOTnJpRjRKZXE4TFV5b3d1QT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86278000299?pwd=c0JWQnJOTnJpRjRKZXE4TFV5b3d1QT09)
Meeting ID: 862 7800 0299
Passcode: 240950
Phone access: **One tap mobile**
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Meeting ID: 862 7800 0299
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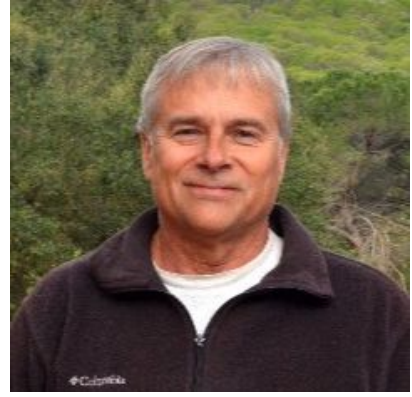
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pwd=c0JWQnJOTnJpRjRKZXE4TFV5b3d1QT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86278000299?pwd=c0JWQnJOTnJpRjRKZXE4TFV5b3d1QT09)

President's Letter

Jerry Britten, *MDAS President*

A Return to International Travel

After over two years of lockdowns and travel restrictions, my wife and I recently braved the new world of post-COVID travel to go on a vacation to one of our favorite tropical destinations, Belize.



The extra documentation and arrangement of pre-travel COVID tests (both in the US and in Belize prior to flights), and the long lines at the airport to check this added documentation, amounted to an extra travel 'tax' on our otherwise great experience. Belize is back open for business and tourism is rebounding, although it is evident that some of the resorts, especially independent locally-owned ones, have taken a hit in deferred maintenance and staffing, and will take some time to recover.

The birds, of course, are oblivious to such things and were there in force. I have found that if one wants to get close to Eastern Warblers, there is no better place than Belize in the wintertime where their numbers are concentrated, and they, in turn, are concentrating on feeding and pay little attention to humans nearby, especially on the Cays.

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



MDAS Special Program Meeting: Wednesday, December 8

Please mark your calendar for this special virtual program meeting.
See **BELOW** for webinar access info.

Yurok Condor Restoration Program

Tiana Williams-Claussen, *Director*, Yurok Tribe Wildlife Department

The potential return of North America's largest bird to the Pacific Northwest is something to celebrate! Bringing back the California Condor isn't just an opportunity for restoration and rewilding, but also reconnection and cultural rebirth. Special guest Tiana Williams-Claussen, director of the **Yurok Tribe Wildlife Department**, provides a brief introduction to the incredible Prey-go-neesh, the California Condor, and discusses the traditional paradigm guiding the **Yurok Tribe's** efforts to bring them home to northern California and the Pacific Northwest. She will close with a summary of the current standing of the reintroduction effort, and the next steps to realizing this goal.



Adult California Condor

Photo: Yurok Condor Restoration Program

Webinar Access Info:

Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021
Time: 8:00 PM-9:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)
Location: Zoom online meeting
Access: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84710862815?
pwd=RVZXOG04bytiT2U0aG43WUhrckhxQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84710862815?pwd=RVZXOG04bytiT2U0aG43WUhrckhxQT09)
Meeting ID: 847 1086 2815
Passcode: 315637
Phone access: **One tap mobile**
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Meeting ID: 847 1086 2815

Passcode: 315637

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/keDf2Gj8nf>

MDAS Christmas Bird Counts

Jerry Britten, *MDAS President*

One last reminder, our Christmas Bird Counts are December 15 for East County and December 18 for Central County. Please contact mdaseasterncbc@gmail.com to sign up for the east-county count, and mdascentralcbc@gmail.com for the central-county count. You don't have to be out in the field, we need feederwatchers as well. Particularly if you have a more uncommon bird such as a Red-breasted Nuthatch or Townsend's Warbler coming to your feeder—we don't want to miss these, as we often get only one or two during the count. Feederwatchers—just make sure you live within the **Central County Count Circle** for the count on the 18th, or the **East-County Count Circle** for the count on the 15th.



Red-breasted Nuthatch

Photo: **Becky Matsubara** (CC BY 2.0)

January Monthly Program Meeting: Thursday, January 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: Mt. Diablo Audubon Society President Jerry Britten will report highlights of the 2021 Christmas Bird Counts
- 7:25 PM** Board Announcements
- 7:35 PM** Main Program: *Audible Mount Diablo* with Joan Hamilton
- 8:30 PM** Adjourn

Main Program: ***Audible Mount Diablo***

Joan Hamilton, *Founder* and Owner, Audio Guides to the Outdoors

Joan Hamilton is a writer, editor, and multimedia producer. She is founder and owner of Audio Guides to the Outdoors, which has created multimedia guides for Save Mount Diablo, Mount Diablo Interpretive Association, Midpeninsula Open Space District, Save the Redwoods League, and Valley of the Moon Natural History Association at Jack London Historic State Park. She's written for Bay

Nature, Sierra, Orion, Mother Jones, the Nation and other publications. She's a former editor-in-chief of Sierra and was top editor at Climbing and High Country News.

Her presentation will introduce **Audible Mount Diablo**, an important online resource for people who want to learn more about the natural and cultural history of parks in the Mount Diablo region. She'll describe the series and its history, profile the main contributors, and show clips from some of the most interesting episodes.



Photos: Joan Hamilton

Birding Info: **Highlights Of The 2021 Christmas Bird Counts**

Jerry Britten, *MDAS President*



Mt. Diablo Audubon Society President Jerry Britten will report highlights of the 2021 Christmas Bird Counts.

Webinar Access Info:

Date: Thursday, January 6, 2022

Time: 7:00 PM–8:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)
Location: Zoom online meeting
Access: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84054453880?
pwd=OEIWcWRJRfVqZU1oUTh1ZGh1N0NOQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84054453880?pwd=OEIWcWRJRfVqZU1oUTh1ZGh1N0NOQT09)
Meeting ID: 840 5445 3880
Passcode: 251868
Phone access: **One tap mobile**
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pwd=OEIWcWRJRfVqZU1oUTh1ZGh1N0NOQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84054453880?pwd=OEIWcWRJRfVqZU1oUTh1ZGh1N0NOQT09)

Welcome, New Members!

James Gable, Danville
Alicia Hagerty, Dublin
Beatrice Haase, Orinda
Christopher Oakes, Hayward
Julie Von Behren, Pleasant Hill

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.*

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.*

Audubon Organizations Sue Alameda County Over Wind Repowering Projects

Jerry Britten, *MDAS President*



Mt. Diablo Audubon has joined with the National Audubon Society, Golden Gate Audubon, Ohlone Audubon, and Santa Clara Valley Audubon to bring a lawsuit against Alameda County to challenge their approval of a new, 80-megawatt wind turbine facility at Altamont Pass. The lawsuit argues that the project lacked sufficient environmental review and failed to adequately assess and avoid impacts to birds and bats.

Golden Eagles are especially vulnerable to these windpower plants. In fact, both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) have recently re-confirmed that Altamont Pass is a “population sink” for golden eagles, where immigration exceeds emigration (J.D. Wiens and P. Kolar, *Golden Eagle Population Monitoring in the Vicinity of the Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area, California, 2014-2018*, USGS report prepared for Next Era Energy, July 2019). Windpower in this area will also pose a threat to the majestic and threatened California Condor, which is **in the process of reclaiming this territory**.



Golden Eagle

Photo: **Wendy Miller (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)**

In a **press release** issued by NAS, our own Vice-President Ariana Rickard states, “We at Audubon understand better than anyone that climate change presents an existential threat to people and birds, and responsible renewable energy development is essential to transitioning from fossil fuels. But the need for renewable energy is not an excuse to drive wipe out local populations of wildlife. Wind companies are making billions and can afford to ensure projects are responsibly sited and include adequate mitigations to reduce impacts to sensitive species.” Stay tuned for developments on this case.

Header photo: Wind turbine by **Scutter (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)**

The UN Climate Conference Is Over. The Verdict?

Juan Pablo Galván Martínez, *MDAS Conservation Chair*



The most important meeting for the world to take coordinated, crucial action to prevent climate disaster ended in mid-November. The UN COP 26 climate conference had the objective of making agreements between nations to limit climate change to the crucial threshold of 1.5 degree Celsius global temperature rise over the next 7-8 decades. It failed. Many Pacific island nations will literally be underwater (picture above) without a lot more action soon.

1. **The World Remains on the Path of Climate Disaster.** Even IF all the agreements made at COP 26 are actually implemented—including halting deforestation by the end of this decade and curbing methane (i.e., natural gas) emissions on a massive scale—the world is still on track for more than two degrees Celsius of warming. The one glimmer of hope is that nations are supposed to meet again in a year to take more aggressive action. That will only happen if the people of the world agitate for massive change in a MAJOR way NOW. Watch short videos summing up COP 26 [HERE](#) and [HERE](#), or read more [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

2. **It's Up To Us, Now More Than Ever.** If world leaders won't take the massive action needed to avert utter disaster, then neighborhood, community, civic leaders must do it now. This city **HERE** is a prime example of big changes that can happen at the local level that actually makes a difference. Organize your community and make change happen where you live because this affects you, and everyone else. But watch out, see how things can go sideways **HERE**.
3. **Oregon, Central America, Africa's Sahel.** What do they have in common? Climate change is exacerbating racism, violence, and chaos in all these places, and many others. Think this couldn't happen right next door in the US? Watch **HERE**. Don't believe that immigration has anything to do with what we've done to destroy our planet? Watch **THIS**? How is climate change already making crises worse in Africa? Watch **THIS**.
4. **Bird Migration — Already Struggling for a Breath.** New research (**HERE**) shows that bird migration can be massively disrupted by wildfire and the smoke it causes. A drier, hotter world means larger, more frequent, more intense fires, especially in California and the Western US. Want to help birds and curb massive wildfire? Then tell your City Council, Board of Supervisors, and neighbors to say "yes" to infill construction and no to sprawl development that expands a city's edge out into natural habitat. Also, advocate for a major change in forest management by supporting these groups **HERE** and **HERE**.
5. **Think We Need Hope? I Don't Want It. Listen to Youth, and Act.** "Adults keep saying: 'We owe it to the young people to give them hope.' But I don't want your hope. I don't want you to be hopeful. I want you to panic. I want you to feel the fear I feel every day. And then I want you to act. I want you to act as you would in a crisis. I want you to act as if our house is on fire. Because it is."—Greta Thunberg.

Climate Watch

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

In January 2021, MDAS added National Audubon's Climate Watch to our community science efforts. **Climate Watch** targets easily identifiable bird species that are considered vulnerable to climate change. These include American and Lesser Goldfinches, Spotted Towhee, all three of our nuthatches (Pygmy, Red-breasted, White-breasted), and Western Bluebirds. Volunteers document whether abundance changes are occurring on surveys anytime between Jan 15th-Feb 15th and May 15th-

June 15th, reflecting the species' wintering and breeding seasons.

Surveys are conducted in appropriate habitats in small groups (one or two people) within 10km squares and have a minimum of 12 survey points separated by at least 200 meters. A participant counts birds heard or seen in 5 minutes at each of the 12 survey points. Data is recorded in eBird or the Audubon phone app, or you can take written notes and enter it into Climate Watch's data portal later.

The Climate Watch program was introduced in 2016 and is designed to test whether projections of range shift are accurate in Audubon's landmark study "***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 by acting now, we can help improve the chances for 3/4 of the species at risk. **Peer-reviewed research** has already confirmed projections of the range shift.



Audubon has a 2021 Climate Watch update **HERE**, a two-page project description **HERE**, and a one-page Climate Watch Protocol Overview **HERE**.

MDAS serves a coordination role in Climate Watch. Our involvement is to help find a route that works for you and help you learn the protocols. National Audubon has a mapping tool to aid in route planning. As MDAS's volunteer community science coordinator, I help members set up their routes for their chosen species.

Golden Gate Audubon and MDAS are once again collaborating on Climate Watch, as our memberships and territories are adjacent and complementary to one another. GGAS members and MDAS members can contact me, and I will be happy to help you choose a square and map a route or get you in touch with GGAS's team. Send me an email at **communityscience@mtdiabloaudubon.org**.

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.

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:

Mt. View Sanitary/McNabney Marsh

Tuesday, 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).

Lake Merritt and Arrowhead Marsh—High Tide

Monday January 3, 8:30 AM-1 PM

Leader: Sandy Ritchie, 925-685-8048

Winter ducks on Lake Merritt and other birds usually means easy viewing from the sidewalk. The lake is one of the few places in the Bay Area where Barrow's Goldeneyes can be seen. An entry fee past the gate at Children's Fairyland is usually required.

We will move to Arrowhead in time for the high tide, which will be around 11:15. Ridgeway's Rails are one of the highlights here, though we will see many other birds. A visit to Garretson Point will follow, bring lunch and drinks.

Rating: Category 1 - Easy

Elevation change: N/A

Leader: Sandy Ritchie, please call to confirm, 925-685-8048

Meet: Lake Merritt parking lot off Bellevue Avenue, 8:30 AM

Directions: Take SR 24 to Oakland and I-980, take 27th Street exit and turn left. Cross Broadway and Harrison, then join Grand Avenue. Turn into park at Children's Fairyland (fee possible) and follow around to parking lot entrance on right between

boathouse and aviary.

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

Putah Creek

Wednesday, January 5, 8:45AM-2 PM

Leader: Maren Smith, 925-322-9477, Susana de Trapaga

A great trip to see birds along the creek, including Solano Lake and Lake Berryessa from Monticello Dam. Possible Osprey, Lewis's Woodpecker, Phainopepla, Barrow's Goldeneye and Hooded Merganser. Dress warmly; this is a cold, windy area. Bring lunch. Exact itinerary to be determined the day of the trip. Rain cancels.

Rating: Category 1 - Easy

Elevation change: N/A

Leader: Maren Smith, 925-322-9477, Susana de Trapaga

Meet: Intersection of Cherry Glen and Pleasants Valley Roads, approximately 1 mile north from I-680, 8:45 AM.

Directions: When driving from Bay Area to Vacaville, take Exit 51A at Cherry Glen and Lagoon Valley Roads. Cross freeway and drive approximately 1 mile to stop sign at Pleasants Valley Road. We will meet at this location for birding before heading out.

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

East Contra Costa County

Wednesday, January 12, 9 AM-1 PM

Leader: Paul Schorr, 925-988-0070

We will be birding at Big Break/Delta Science Center, Iron House Sanitary, and possibly other places in the East Contra Costa. Usually good for waterfowl, raptors and some passerines. Dress warmly, bring lunch and drinks.

Rating: Category 1 - Easy

Elevation change: N/A

Leader: Paul Schorr, 925-998-0070

Meet: Big Break parking lot in Oakley at 9 AM

Directions: Take Highway 4 east toward Stockton/Pittsburg, after Antioch take right Exit 30 toward CA-160/Sacramento/Rio Vista. Take Exit 1A, East 18th/Main Street, turn

right at the bottom of the exit onto Main Street, proceed east a little over 1 mile, then turn left onto Big Break Road. Turn into Big Break Regional Shoreline/Delta Science Center just past the last houses on the right.

This field trip is limited to 12 participants. Register for this event [HERE](#). Participants must acknowledge the [MDAS Liability Waiver](#) (available during registration).

Shollenberger Park/Ellis Creek

Saturday, January 15, 8:30-2 PM

Leader: Sandy Ritchie, 925-685-8048

Both of these locations are great for wintering waders, shorebirds, waterfowl and a few raptors. Bring lunch and a beverage.

Rating: Category 1-Easy

Elevation change: N/A

Leader: Sandy Ritchie, 925-685-8048

Meet: Point Blue parking lot at 8:30 AM

Directions: Take I-680 across the Benicia Bridge. Go west on I-780 to I-80 towards Sacramento, exit to SR 37. Follow SR 37 16 miles to Lakeville Road, then turn right. Before reaching Petaluma, look for the water recycling facility on the left and turn left on South McDowell Blvd. After a short distance, turn left onto Cypress Dr. The Shollenberger access is behind the Point Blue offices on the right, Ellis Creek is farther along.

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

Martinez Waterfront Birds

Tuesday, January 25, 9 AM-2 PM

Leader: Tracy Farrington, 925-788-6223

We will be birding waterfront areas in the Martinez area, looking for shorebirds, waders, waterfowl, gulls, raptors and others. Dress warmly, bring a lunch and drinks. These areas may include Waterbird Preserve, TransMontaigne Pipeline, Mococo Marsh and Martinez Regional Shoreline.

Rating: Category 1 - Easy

Elevation change: N/A

Leader: Tracy Farrington, 925-788-6223

Meet: Waterbird Regional Preserve parking lot at 9 AM

Directions: From I-680, exit Waterfront Road; when driving north this is the last exit before the Benicia Bridge. Go east about 1/2 mile and turn right onto Waterbird Way. Go around the bend to the left and then turn right into the parking lot.

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

More Field Trip Destinations

In the winter there are many opportunities to see birds along the edges of San Francisco Bay. Many wintering waterfowl, grebes, gulls and shorebirds crowd the edges of the water. A handful of locations to check are described here. In addition to your binoculars, a scope may be helpful.

Hayward

[Hayward Regional Shoreline](#) 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.

Emeryville

Several places are worth checking in Emeryville. [Point Emery](#) is located on the bay north of Powell Street. Take W Frontage Road north past Chevy's Restaurant and turn left into the small parking at the stop sign. A short path leads out and often Black Oystercatchers and other birds may be seen along the edge. Scan the water for ducks and grebes, check the edges for shorebirds.

Going west on Powell Street takes one out to the [Emeryville Marina](#). After passing the police/fire station, one will see the Emery Cove Yacht Harbor on the right. Park where possible and check the shoreline on the left, looking toward the Bay Bridge. Many shorebirds perch on the rip-rap here during high tide. Ducks and grebes may be on the water. Driving farther past the Chinese restaurant brings one to the marina parking area. A public bathroom is located here. Search the trees and surrounding area for passerines and more shorebirds.

Berkeley

At the west end of University Avenue is the **Berkeley Marina**. There are actually several places to check here, including behind the **Sea Breeze Cafe**, **McLaughlin Eastshore State Seashore**, **Cesar Chavez Park**, and the bay beyond **Skate's Restaurant**. The restaurant is located at the foot of the long Berkeley Pier, originally built for ferries to San Francisco. The pier started at the end of University Avenue before the building of the freeway and the filled areas where the marina is now located. A public bathroom is located near the Adventure Playground.

Oakland

Judge John Sutter Regional Shoreline is a fairly new area located on the south side of the Bay Bridge toll plaza. Birds may be spotted in the basin facing towards the containership terminals. This is also the jumping-off point for the bicycle trail across the bridge.

Richmond Marina

Located at the site of the WWII shipyards, the marina and bay side of the park offers excellent viewing of winter ducks, shorebirds and gulls. Look closely to find a Spotted Sandpiper along the rip-rap. Exit I-580 in Richmond at Marina Bay Parkway. Drive past houses all the way to the parking lot for **Barbara and Jay Vincent Park**. Public bathrooms are available. The Bay Trail passes around the park. A portion of Meeker Slough is accessible at the end of Bayside Drive. A long section of the Bay Trail here has excellent birding opportunities.

Events

Be sure to check the **MDAS website** for the most up-to-date listing of events.

Birdwalk Along the Bay

November 27, 2021

Feast your eyes on a variety of shorebirds! With close observation and a few tricks and tips you can begin to distinguish between the puzzling grays and browns of these amazing birds! This birdwalk will take place at the Elsie Roemer Bird Sanctuary at Crown Memorial State Beach.



Bring your own binoculars. Beginners welcomed and encouraged. Heavy rain cancels. No registration required.

Date: November 27, 2021

Time: 11:30 AM–1:00 PM
Location: Crown Beach: Elsie Roemer Bird Sanctuary
Sponsor: **East Bay Regional Park District**
Cost: Free
Registration: **No registration required. [Click here for more information.](#)**

Recent Tech Advancements and Bird in Flight Photography – The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly

December 1, 2021

This presentation will focus on recent advancements in camera and lens technology. From sensors, to IBIS, to AF, advancements have made at getting great birds-in-flight images easier than ever before. However, with advancements come potential pitfalls. Speaker Rob Bielefeld will discuss both sides of the technological coin: how tech has made bird photography easier, but also how all these advancements may lead some bird/wildlife photographers astray.



Burrowing owl flight with dove

Photo: Rob Bielefeld

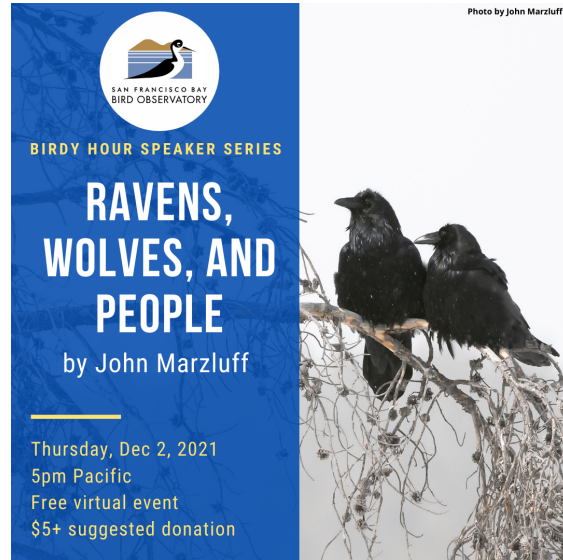
Date: December 1, 2021
Time: 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM
Location: Zoom online meeting
Presenter: Rob Bielefeld

Sponsor: Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society
Cost: Free
Registration: [Click here to register online](#)

Ravens, Wolves, and People

December 2, 2021

Ravens are known to scavenge from wolves and people, but the degree to which they exploit these and other sources of food has not been studied in detail. In 2019, Matthias Loretto and John Marzluff began tagging ravens in Yellowstone National Park with long-lasting GSM transmitters. After tagging over 60 ravens and relating their movements to those of people and wolves, we are gaining an appreciation of their reliance on both providers.



Dr. Marzluff will describe the movements of territorial and non-breeding ravens and relate these to wolf and human-provisioned foods. He will focus on the exploits of individual birds to emphasize variability. They observed ravens using wolf kills, but their discovery appears more incidental than a result of following or purposeful search.

Date: December 2, 2021
Time: 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Location: Zoom online meeting
Presenter: John Marzluff
Sponsor: San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory
Cost: \$5+ suggested donation
Registration: [Click here to register online](#)

Soundscapes to Landscapes – Audio Bird Monitoring

December 9, 2021



The earth's biodiversity and associated ecosystem services are in a severe state of decline due to human pressure. However, our knowledge of these changes and impacts on human society is often incomplete. Join us to learn how Soundscapes to Landscapes is using a combination of multiple technologies and the power of citizen/community scientists to fill this data gap—starting with a focus on Sonoma County bird diversity. In this special presentation, we will hear from a panel of Soundscapes to Landscapes team members about their innovative approach and some of their findings thus far.

- Date:** December 9, 2021
- Time:** 10:00 AM–11:30 AM
- Location:** Zoom online meeting
- Sponsor:** **Pepperwood Preserve**
- Cost:** Free
- Registration:** [Click here to register online](#)

Down For the Count: Exploring Bird Diversity at Point Reyes

December 19, 2021

For fifty years the Point Reyes Christmas Bird Count (CBC) has been an annual tradition monitoring the winter populations of over two hundred species of birds here. Point Reyes National Seashore and adjoining areas rank in the top ten of over two thousand counts nationwide in terms of species diversity. This remarkable accomplishment is mostly the result of the wide variety of habitats here.

The day after the 2021 count we will enjoy some of this amazing avian diversity in a number of short walks. This will be a moderately fast paced outing with the focus of seeing a lot of birds, but allowing time to learn bird identification by sight and sound.



Date: December 19, 2021
Time: 9:30 AM–3:30 PM
Location: Bear Valley Picnic Area
Presenter: David Wimpfheimer
Sponsor: **Point Reyes National Seashore Association**
Cost: \$70-80
Registration: [Click here to register online](#)

November Gallery



MDAS November 4 Monthly Program Meeting:
Jerry Britten presents Cabin Lake Bird Blinds Photos

View the virtual meeting [HERE](#).



"Birds In The Amazon Rainforest Are Shrinking As Temperatures Rise"
Climate change may be fueling big changes to small birds deep in the forest.
Learn more about this [HERE](#).



Grasshopper Sparrow

Photo: Garrett Lau/Macaulay Library at the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology \(ML234800371\)](#)



Long-eared Owl

Photo: Matt Brady/Macaulay Library at the **Cornell Lab of Ornithology (ML45715401)**



California Condor

Photo: Jeff Culler/Macaulay Library at the **Cornell Lab of Ornithology (ML35970611)**



Nuttall's Woodpecker

Photo: Steve Tucker/Macaulay Library at the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology \(ML265293941\)](#)

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Mailing address:

P.O. Box 53
Walnut Creek, CA 94597-0053

Email address:

info@mtdiabloaudubon.org

Mt. Diablo Audubon Society Leadership

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