



# Mt. Diablo Audubon Society

## ***The Quail***

Volume 68, Number 2

NOVEMBER 2022

---

### **Next Monthly Program Meeting: Thursday, November 3, 7 PM**

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: MDAS Conservation Goes International — Protects Diablo Birds Wherever They Fly*
- 7:25 PM** Board Announcements
- 7:30 PM** *Main Program: The Secret Perfume of Birds with Dr. Danielle Whittaker*
- 8:30 PM** Adjourn

#### **Main Program: *The Secret Perfume of Birds***

Dr. Danielle Whittaker

Smell has been called the most ancient sense, yet the myth that birds have no sense of smell has persisted for nearly 200 years. Behavioral, genomic, and neurobiological work has demonstrated that, like other animals, birds can use smell to navigate, find food, avoid predators, and even

communicate with each other. The primary source of odors in most birds is preen oil, a substance secreted by the uropygial gland and used by birds in grooming and maintaining their feathers. The compounds that make up these odors provide important information about a bird's identity, health, breeding status, aggressiveness, and more. By smelling odors from this oil, birds can recognize and assess potential mates and rivals. Dr. Danielle J Whittaker will discuss her research on dark-eyed juncos (*Junco hyemalis*), a widespread North American sparrow, investigating how these odors are produced, what they communicate, and how they relate to bird behavior. Additionally, she will draw connections to our understanding of the human sense of smell, which has similarly been underestimated.

Dr. Whittaker is the author of *The Secret Perfume of Birds*, published by Johns Hopkins University Press in 2022. Whittaker is an evolutionary biologist who has studied chemical communication in songbirds for over a decade. Formerly the Managing Director of the BEACON Center for the Study of Evolution in Action at Michigan State University, she is now the Managing Director of the COLDEX Center for Oldest Ice Exploration at Oregon State University, where she is learning about Antarctic ice cores and the study of paleoclimate.

### **Birding Info:**

#### ***MDAS Conservation Goes International — Protects Diablo Birds Wherever They Fly***

Juan Pablo Galván Martínez, *MDAS Conservation Chair*

Mt. Diablo Audubon Society is way ahead of a lot of other bird conservation groups. We help birds where they live year-round, not just where we see them around Diablo. Many of California's birds are migratory and spend half the year south of the border. We financially support conservation groups in Latin America where birds winter, but also where the species and habitats are much more numerous and diverse than around here. Juan Pablo Galván Martínez, our Conservation Chair, will share information about these special places and the groups we support, and what a difference we've made in the lives of both birds and people in the biodiversity hotspots far to the south.

---

### **Webinar Access Info:**

**Date:** Nov 3, 2022 7:00 PM Pacific Time  
**Time:** 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)  
**Location:** Zoom online meeting  
**Access:** [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82788395928?  
pwd=YVlzRUIERkRFNUI2QUw0SEZlc09sdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82788395928?pwd=YVlzRUIERkRFNUI2QUw0SEZlc09sdz09)  
**Meeting ID:** 827 8839 5928  
**Passcode:** 240549  
**Phone access:** **One tap mobile**  
+14086380968,,82788395928#,,,,\*240549# US (San Jose)  
+16694449171,,82788395928#,,,,\*240549# US

**Dial by your location**

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)  
+1 669 444 9171 US  
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)  
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)  
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)  
+1 719 359 4580 US  
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)  
+1 309 205 3325 US  
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)  
+1 360 209 5623 US  
+1 386 347 5053 US  
+1 564 217 2000 US  
+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)  
+1 646 931 3860 US

Meeting ID: 827 8839 5928  
Passcode: 240549

Find your local  
number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kes5ZROHtA>

Jerry Britten, *MDAS President*

## **Mt. Diablo Audubon meets with Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan**

Myself, Conservation Chair Juan Pablo Galvan, Publicity Chair Rosalie Howarth, and Georgette Howington (MDAS member and Asst. Director of California Bluebird Recovery Program) met with California District 16 Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan and Assembly staff members Cathy Cutler and Alisa Horiike for a walk-and-talk around the natural lake at Heather Farm Park on Wednesday, September 28, a beautiful fall morning. Assemblymember Bauer-Kahan was the sponsor of a recent bill passed by the California Legislature **banning consumer use of neonicotinoid pesticides**, a known killer of birds and especially pollinating insects. Unfortunately, for reasons that can be surmised, this bill has been vetoed by Governor Newsom. Several good birds were seen on this outing, including Common Gallinule, Pacific-Slope Flycatcher, and Yellow Warbler, but more importantly, connections were established, and common goals concerning responsible renewable energy development policy, and other conservation issues, were discussed. We look forward to working with Assemblymember RBK as she is called, and her staff, in the future.

---

## **Membership Updates**

Rochelle Fortier, *MDAS Membership Chair*

I want to give a warm welcome to the new members who joined in September: **Janna Layton** of Walnut Creek and **James Ulrick** of Orinda. I hope to see you on a field trip soon or at our next in-person meeting in December!

And for new and current members, please note that the Christmas Bird Count will be held on Wednesday, December 14 for East County, and Saturday, December 17 for Central County. Last year I volunteered for the first time, though I was hesitant to do so because I considered myself a novice birder. I had a great time and will volunteer again this year. I encourage you to consider volunteering because this is a great way to meet new people, learn more about birds, collect scientific data, and just have fun!

---

### **MDAS Christmas Bird Counts Scheduled**

Jerry Britten, *CBC Compiler*

The 68th Annual Central Contra Costa Christmas Bird Count is scheduled for Saturday, December 17, and participants are needed! You can participate by being part of a group in the field, or by doing a count at your property if it is within the **Central-County Count Circle**. We have many routes to cover with varied habitats and varying degrees of walking involved, so there will be something suitable for everyone. If you'd like to help us find the birds on that day, please send an email to **mdascentralcbc@gmail.com**. The countdown event, where we get together to find out how many species were tallied, will again be held virtually this year at 7 PM on the same day and is open to all participants.

The 23rd Annual East-County count will be held Wednesday, December 14. Again, you can participate by being part of a group in the field, or by doing a count at your property if it is within the **East-County Count Circle**. If you'd like to participate, please send an email to **mdaseasterncbc@gmail.com**. The countdown event for this one is again virtual, at 7 PM on the count day and is open to all participants.

---

## **MDAS Annual Treasurer's Report – 2022**

Steve Buffi, *MDAS Treasurer*

Mount 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 website, 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.

During the fiscal year 2021 - 2022, the Board decided to consolidate the Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA) Fund into the General and Excess Funds. The BBA Fund's purpose was to fund the cost of the atlas and return any excess to the General Fund. The Board felt that it was time to consolidate the fund given so few atlases are being held for sale.

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 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. These donations are announced in *The Quail*. The goal is to donate all excess funds over a number of years while maintaining the financial stability of the chapter.

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

**July 2021 – June 2022**

Funds	Revenue	Expenses	Net	Fund Balance 7/1/2022
General	33,702.01	11,633.60	22,068.41	0
Reserve	0	0	0	20,000.00
Excess	530.73	30,010.98	-29,480.25	110,226.12
Total All Funds	34,232.74	41,644.58	-7,411.84	130,226.12

**Thank You to Everyone Who Gave So Generously in the 2022 Fiscal Year**

Steve Buffi, *MDAS Treasurer*

**California Condor (\$1000+)**

Sarah Cahill, William D. Chilson, Lenora and Michael Robertson

**California Gnatcatcher (\$250 - \$999)**

Hanako and Paul R. Andrews, Emily Berk, Jerald Britten, Steve Buffi and Anne Waters, Tim and Angelita Carlson, Ariane Habets, Rosalie Howarth, Ann and Donald Hughes, Bruce and Judy Kronmiller, Norman and Christy Lundberg, Bruce Muirhead and Denise Pare-Muirhead, Judith Olson, Lorraine Osborn, Paul and Nancy Schorr, Joel Summerhill, Nancy Wenninger

**California Thrasher (\$100 - \$249)**

Isaac Aronow, Jeanne Boyd, Heather Converse, Yolanda and Robert Cronin, Ian and Karin Deas, Mike Eliot, Kent Fickett and Rebecca Beemer, Dana Gallo, Pam Giarrizzo, Anna Gil, Carol and John Harkin, Ms. Deanna Hauser, Claudia and Scott Hein, Elizabeth Hoople, Richard Kleker, Steve and Susan Loftin, Herb and Randi Long, Mike Loper, Pamela Alves Lorenz, David and Linda Loveall, Linda Madden, Diane and Bob Malucelli, Ian McNeill, Patricia Najarian, Philip and Mary Neff, Donna Preece, Jannifer Lee Puyans, Dennis Randall, Sandra S. Ritchie, Ronald Rogness, Robert G. Slyker, Julia M. Starr, Gary Stevens, Del Stipe, Winifred Stribling, Patricia Sullivan, Will and Kate Taylor, Gary Thompson and Carol Arnold, Dean Williams, Erin M. Wilson

**California Quail (\$25 - \$99)**

Carlene and Stephen Abbors, Cheryl Abel, Gus and Gerry Argenal, Alan Bade, Karel Baloun, Gerard Baril, Nancy Beckus, Barbara Beno, Yvonne Bishop, Jackie Bobrosky, Emmanuel Caluya, Daniel Campos, Karen Case, Margaret Clark, R. N. Compton, Don and Susan Couch, Nahide Craig, Regina Dakin, Nancy J. Flood, Rochelle Fortier, Jim and Sharon Gallagher, Janet M. Goodman, John S. Gravell, Carol Haglund, Robert and Wanella Harvey, Vera Henry, Eric and Debbie Hinzal, David Hutton and Valerie Ventre-Hutton, Donna and Richard Immel, Kenny and Akemi Ina, Mary Jankowski, Jana Johnson, Renate Johnson, Diana Karkiewicz, Susan Dee and Edwin F. Katibah, Sandra and Fred King, Ronald Kline, Donna Kramer and Scott Kramer, Maureen Lahiff, Mona Lange, Glen Lewis and Martha E. Joseph, Charlotte Liniger, Shirlee J. Loret, Mrs Suzanne Lutz, Renette MacIntyre, Kathryn Martinsen, Bryan McElderry, Glenne McElhinney, Carrol Mills, Barbara Minneman, Rosemary Nishikawa, William O'Neil and Phyllis Kay O'Neil, Margaret and Christopher Panton, Susan Peters, Susan and

Clinton Phalen, Roberto M. Pombo, Austin and Marjorie Prindle, Al Renker, William and Lana Rocha, Deanna Rose, Eric Schroeder, David and Linda Shinn, Dana Slauson, Caroline Stephens, Raymond and Jerilyn Strong, Martin and Sandra Stuart, Fred W. Sullivan, Z. Rose Towery, Catherine R. Tzur, Bev Walker, Michael Watson, Kate Westbrook, Jeanine Williamson, Blake Wu

**California Towhee (to \$24)**

Jon Elam, Rachelle Hanson, John Masek and Margaret Elgin Masek, Louis and Yolanda Pilastro, Barbara Steck, Dr. and Ms. Howard Sturtz

**Action Alert: Roddy Ranch**

Carol Pachi, *MDAS Board Secretary*

The East Bay Regional Park District is currently finalizing plans to open the newly-acquired Roddy Ranch near Antioch, which will be the first step in opening up thousands of new acres of parklands to the public in eastern Contra Costa and Alameda counties. However, the Park District must consider some important adjustments to its current plans before the Board of Directors approves it.

The Park District's current plans for Roddy Ranch has all park users — hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians, and others — using the same narrow trails, raising the threat of conflict between trail users as we have seen throughout the region.

**Click here to Take Action by signing the petition, and join the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, Sierra Club, California Native Plant Society, California State Horsemen's Association, and other partners in supporting common-sense revisions to the trail plan to ensure a safe and welcoming experience for all at Roddy Ranch:**

<https://act.sierraclub.org/actions/California?actionId=AR0369760>



## Fake Spiderwebs Are a Real Fright for Birds

Rosemary Nishikawa, *MDAS Sales Manager*

Halloween is right around the corner and it can be a dangerous time for birds and wildlife to get caught up in decorations like fake outdoor spider webs. Birds cannot disentangle themselves and can die if not rescued from it. Butterflies can also get caught up in the webs and have the same disastrous outcome.

If you see a bird caught up in the fake webs, it is best to cut the web around the bird, put it in a box for safety, and take it to the nearest rehab center, so it can be professionally extracted without harm. Better yet, refrain from using this particular decor outside and let others know the harmful dangers it can cause to all kinds of wildlife including bucks who can get their antlers entangled in it.

Have a safe Halloween!

---

## Elections Are Here – Make Your Vote Count for the Climate

Juan Pablo Galván Martínez, *MDAS Conservation Chair*

As this excellent article [HERE](#) makes clear, “there is an established gap between what voters say they want — action on climate change — and what they’re willing to do to achieve that.” Don’t just talk, take action that makes a difference. What, and how? Read below.

1. **Politics is About Getting to Make Decisions** – what have you done to help get people who take the climate catastrophe seriously to get into positions where they can do something about it? Check [HERE](#) to see which candidates in your area want to act on climate change. To make an impact at a higher level, start [HERE](#).
2. **The Appliances in Your House May Be Impacting Your Health and the Climate** – you can help nature, and your own health, by changing your indoor home environment ([HERE](#)). Want to save money and make your house better for the climate? Think you have to pay a ton of

money to save energy at home? Nope, a lot of services are free, and you can get money to buy new energy-saving appliances, and even electrify your house. Learn how [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

3. **Want Your ENTIRE City to go Completely Renewable?** – Think that’s never gonna happen? A town in Germany did it, so it can happen where you live too! Click [HERE](#) to see what they did and how it’s working, then talk to your neighbors and city leaders, and tell them that if they can do it there it can happen here!
4. **Eating Right for Your Health Means Eating Right for the Planet** – We can all probably improve our diet to make it healthier. Now, research shows that what is good for our bodies is also good for the planet, but it can be difficult to know how good or bad for the planet the specific foods we buy are. As you can see [HERE](#), that’s starting to change. Now you can check on specifics, the science is improving. A good rule of thumb is, vegetables, grains, and fruit always beat out meat like beef or pork, even if it’s “local” beef. And all else being equal, buying things produced closer to you means fewer emissions were needed to transport it. So if one carton of blueberries is from the US and another from Peru, go with the US ones (Peru is far away, so just get US strawberries instead). But don’t just stop at yourself, ask your kids’ schools, your job, and the restaurants you like if they consider climate impacts in what they stock and serve. Work in and on your own communities to improve things.
5. **Young People Are Not Ok, And They Have Something to Say** – listen to them [HERE](#), and take responsibility for the world you are partly responsible for shaping. Talk to your family, church, school, colleagues, etc, using the tips [HERE](#). Whether we like it, or recognize it, or not, climate change is the most important issue of this age. It’s time to talk about it like it is.

---

## MDAS Field Trips

Matt Tarlach, *MDAS Field Trip Chair*

**The 2022-2023 field trip season continues!** We'll be revisiting many of our traditional destinations, as well as exploring a few new ones. Descriptions of upcoming trips may be found on the [Calendar on the MDAS website](#), along with links for registration.

Our chapter now has an account on the **eBird app** for collecting and reporting our field trip observations. This will allow us to share sightings, photos and notes more easily, and to have our sightings contribute to research that's important for conservation. If you've submitted checklists to eBird while on past MDAS outings, please "**Share**" them with the eBird account "**MDAS Fieldtrips.**"

Take a look at the checklists already submitted, here:

<https://ebird.org/profile/MzMzMDExMQ/world>

Learn more about eBird here: <https://ebird.org/about>

Out of respect for the health of our members and community, we continue to ask trip participants to take sensible precautions. Pre-registration, currently handled online through Eventbrite, is **required** to ensure groups are not overcrowded. At present, MDAS events do not require carpooling — though participants are of course free to make their own arrangements. As the need for safe spacing limits group size, be aware of the need to sign up early to make sure you get a spot! And if you discover that you won't be able to attend a trip you've signed up for, **please cancel via Eventbrite** to open that spot up for someone else.

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.

**Note** that some excursions to great hotspots we had planned to repeat this year are at risk of being skipped for want of leaders. **New leaders are always needed!** This is a fun way to serve our chapter's mission, while sharing a day out in nature with your fellow enthusiasts. We need leaders to take over trips to familiar places, and are always interested too in exploring new hotspots. If you're interested in serving as a trip leader please contact Matt Tarlach, our Field Trip Coordinator: [mtar925@gmail.com](mailto:mtar925@gmail.com). He will send you the one-page "Guidelines for Field Trip Leaders" and outline what's required. The bird-spotting is a group effort.

## **MDAS Field Trips**

You can view and print a complete list of planned MDAS field trips for the 2022 season **HERE**.

**Upcoming field trips include:**

## **Palo Alto Baylands/Charleston Slough**

**Saturday, November 5, 8:30 AM - 2 PM**

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.

**Hike Rating:** 2 - Moderate. We do some walking but drive from one location to the next.

**Elevation change:** Minor

**Leaders:** Herb and Randi Long at [herblong7@gmail.com](mailto:herblong7@gmail.com), (925) 948 - 5113

**Meet:** Meet at the entrance to Palo Alto Baylands on Terminal Boulevard in Mountain View at 8:30 AM.

**Directions:** If using Google maps, enter "Terminal Boulevard Mountain View, CA."

Take I-680 South 24 miles to Exit 12 for Mission Boulevard/State Route 262 (second Mission Blvd exit so that you head west on Mission Blvd). Keep right at the fork; follow signs for Mission Blvd West and merge onto CA-262 South/Mission Blvd. Continue through two traffic lights and take the I-880 ramp South. In 3 miles, use the right two lanes to take CA-237 toward Mountain View. Connect to US-101 North toward San Francisco. Once on US-101 North, take Exit 400C for San Antonio Road. Turn right on San Antonio. Continue for about 0.4 miles and turn right onto Terminal Road and park. The entrance to Palo Alto Baylands is on left. There is a bathroom at the entrance. Drive time is about one hour, 5 minutes from Walnut Creek/Danville.

Bring lunch!

This hike is limited to 15 participants. All field trips require registration and may have a limit on the total number of participants. Participants must acknowledge the **MDAS Liability Waiver** (available during registration). **Register for this event [HERE](#)** (registration is available two weeks before the event and closes two nights before).

---

## Shadow Cliffs Regional Park

**Tuesday, November 15, 8:15 AM - 12 PM**

Expect to see a good variety of different birds. In years past Bald Eagles, Osprey, Herons, Kingfishers, various ducks, owls, hawks, Grackle, and many smaller birds have all been seen here.

**Hike rating:** 1 - Easy

**Elevation change:** Minor

**Leader:** Steve Taylor, (925) 828 - 8810

**Meet:** at the park at 8:15 AM, in the parking lot to the left side after passing the Kiosk. There is an entrance fee, currently \$6, or you can use your East Bay Regional Park pass.

**Directions:** To reach Shadow Cliffs drive South on Highway 680 and then East on Highway 580. Take the Santa Rita Exit and go right. Drive about a mile South to Valley Ave. make a left on Valley Ave and in less than a half mile make a left on Stanley The park entrance will be on your right about a mile on Stanley.

This hike is limited to 20 participants. All field trips require registration and participants must acknowledge the **MDAS Liability Waiver** (available during registration). **Register for this event [HERE](#)** (registration is available two weeks before the event and closes two nights before).

---

## MVSD - McNabney and Moorhen Marshes

**Tuesday, November 22, 9 AM - 12 PM**

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.

**Hike rating:** 2 - Moderate. Almost entirely flat, but over half a mile of walking around the ponds.

**Elevation change:** N/A

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

**Meet:** Meet at Mt. View Sanitary Visitor Center at 9:00 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 .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 hike is limited to 15 participants. All field trips require registration and participants must acknowledge the **MDAS Liability Waiver** (available during registration). **Register for this event HERE** (registration is available two weeks before the event and closes two nights before).

---

## **Sacramento & Colusa National Wildlife Refuges**

**Saturday, December 3, all day. [Details Tentative]**

This will be a full-day trip up north into the Sacramento Valley. The wetland refuges there are the winter home for all manner of migratory birds, and we expect to see plenty of waterfowl, raptors, other birds, and perhaps Sandhill Cranes. In past years we've driven the auto tour routes at both of these refuges and visited a couple of other nearby locations.

**Hike rating:** 1 - Easy short walks, with 250-300 miles of driving

**Elevation change:** N/A

**Leader:** Jerry Britten

The exact itinerary for this year's trip is still being worked out. **Check the registration link in mid-November** for details, which may change from what's posted when this note first appears but will be finalized before registration opens on 11/19. All field trips require registration and participants must acknowledge the **MDAS Liability Waiver** (available during registration).

---

## **American Canyon Wetlands**

**Thursday, December 8, 8 AM - 12 PM**

A walk out to the wetlands, ponds, and sloughs along the Napa River produces many exciting birding opportunities. We expect plenty of waterfowl, raptors, waders, shorebirds, and passerines. It can be quite cold in this area, so bring appropriate warm layers. The availability of restrooms is uncertain.

**Hike rating:** 2 - Moderate.

**Elevation change:** None

**Distance:** We may walk 2-3 miles depending on the route decided.

**Leader:** Chris & Teri Wills: (925) 408-5364

**Meet:** Meet at the parking lot at the end of Eucalyptus Drive at 8 AM.

**Directions:** Go north on I-680 to Benicia, merge left onto I-780 west to Vallejo, exit to I-80 East, and merge to Hwy 37 west (Exit 33). Exit at CA 29/Sonoma Blvd toward Napa. After 1.5 miles turn left on W American Canyon Road, and at the end turn right on Wetlands Edge Road. Turn left on Eucalyptus Drive and into the parking lot.

This hike is limited to 20 participants. All field trips require registration and participants must acknowledge the **MDAS Liability Waiver** (available during registration). **Register for this event HERE** (registration is available two weeks before the event and closes two nights before).

---

## **Solano County Raptors**

**Saturday, December 10, 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM**

This trip features wintering birds on the edge of the Central Valley. Ferruginous Hawks and Rough-legged Hawks are special targets, and Prairie Falcon and Burrowing Owls are possible. Grassland birds and blackbirds, and ducks and shorebirds at Jepson Prairie (if there is water), where we will stop for a late lunch.

**Hike rating:** 1 - Easy. The trip has little walking; lots of driving and stopping.

**Elevation change:** None

**Leader:** Maureen Lahiff, MLahiff@aol.com (510) 484 - 65294

**Meet:** at the McDonald's in the Sunset Shopping Center at the intersection of Highway 12 and Sunset Ave in Suisun City. (There are other eateries and coffee shops close by; these are the last amenities on our trip.) At our meeting point participants may consolidate into fewer cars for safety when stopping at the side of the road. We'll drive a loop of about 45 miles, some on unpaved roads, and stop for lunch at Jepson Prairie.

**Directions:** From the SF Bay Area, take I-80 east and then merge onto CA highway 12 east toward Rio Vista. In about 4 ½ miles, take a left at the light on Sunset Ave and enter the shopping center. The McDonald's sign, where we'll

meet, is visible from Highway 12.

Bring liquids, snacks, lunch, and layers of clothing for varying temperatures and windy conditions. Please bring "walkie talkie" two-way radios if you have them. Spotting scopes are welcome and very useful!

This hike is limited to 20 participants. All field trips require registration and participants must acknowledge the **MDAS Liability Waiver** (available during registration). **Register for this event HERE** (registration is available two weeks before the event and closes two nights before).

---

## **Field Trip Reports**

### **Outer Point Reyes. *Matt Tarlach***

On the 1st of October, a dozen hearty souls braved breezy, overcast conditions to seek out migrating birds on Outer Point Reyes. The weather held down the bird count but on the water of Drakes Bay, we managed to spot Red-throated and Pacific Loons, in addition to their Common cousins. Also Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorants, Surf Scoter, and on the rocks a very nice view of a Wandering Tattler. In the trees, we found Blackburnian and Black-throated Gray Warblers, along with Yellows and Townsend's.

The "Additional Taxa" category also did very well on the day, with sightings of Tule Elk, Coyote, American Badger, Harbor Seal, and an extended, very-close-range view of two Elephant Seals frolicking noisily near the rocky shore.

---

### **Trip Report: Curry Canyon, 10/8/22. *Jerry Britten***

16 Birders participated in this joint Save Mount Diablo / Mt. Diablo Audubon birding hike of 3.5 miles through the riparian habitat of Curry Canyon on a beautiful fall morning that got a bit warm towards noon. A total of 32 species were recorded, with highlights being an immature Golden Eagle soaring over the backcountry (a lifer for a couple of folks), a first-of-season Red-Breasted Sapsucker, and a couple of Brown Creepers.

---



## Events

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

### Walnut Creek Sustainability Week

October 22 - 28, 2022

Join Sustainable Walnut Creek for a week of environmental action. A series of events, including over 25 in-person or virtual sessions, will run from October 22nd to 28th. This week will bring together professional organizations, environmental entertainers, and committed volunteer activists to educate, inspire, and foster opportunities for future collaboration. We will learn how to increase our personal efforts and to energize our communities to become healthier and more sustainable.

**Schedule:** Saturday, October 22 "Kick-Off and Ecofest"  
Sunday, October 23 "Climate Advocacy"  
Monday, October 24 "Planet Friendly Eating"  
Tuesday, October 25 "Nature's Gifts"  
Wednesday, October 26 "Plastic-free"  
Thursday, October 27 "Electrification"  
Friday, October 28 "Youth Activism and Appreciation"

**Location:** Virtual or in-person depending on the event

**Sponsors:** [Sustainable Walnut Creek](#)

**Cost:** Free

**Registration:** [Registration is required for some events, click here for the full schedule](#)

---

### Lodi Sandhill Crane 2022 Festival

November 5 - 6, 2022

Each year thousands of visitors make their way to Lodi area wildlife refuges and farmlands to experience firsthand one of nature's spectacles. The abundance of crane habitat continues to nourish our agricultural roots, with water, soil, and climate that sustains the birds, enriches our lives, and benefits our local economy.

For 24 years, Lodi's Sandhill Crane Association has celebrated the return of the cranes. In partnership with the City of Lodi, we continue this tradition, welcoming an ever-growing circle of friends to our community to share the wonder of the Sandhill Crane . . . and so much more.

**Date:** Saturday, November 5th, to Sunday, November 6th  
**Time:** 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM  
**Location:** Hutchins Street Square - 125 S. Hutchins St., Lodi, 95240  
**Sponsor:** **Lodis Sandhill Crane Association**  
**Cost:** Free  
**Registration:** **[Click here to register online](#)**

---

### **Light at Night Symposium: A Glowing Hazard**

November 16, 2022

The use of LED lighting technology is causing an unintended, yet pervasive and harmful effect: the over-lighting of our nights. Learn about the biological and physical effects of light at night and strategies that can guard our health and environment while providing safe and practical lighting solutions.

**Date:** Wednesday, November 16, 2022  
**Time:** 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
**Location:** Zoom, Virtual Presentation  
**Sponsor:** **Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society**  
**Presenter:** Travis Longcore, Ph.D., John Barentine, Ph.D., Christine Sheppard, Ph.D., and Mary Coolidge  
**Cost:** Free  
**Registration:** **[Click here for more information](#)**

---

### **Why Birds Flock**

November 17, 2022

You may have heard the old saying that birds of a feather flock together. But have you ever stopped to wonder why? Join Jessica Griffiths for a fascinating look at bird flocks and flocking behavior. Why do some species of birds form flocks, while others do not? Why do geese and ducks fly in a “V” formation? How do birds flying in large flocks synchronize their movements? Learn the answers to these questions and more in this presentation, which touches on bird biology and behavior, and highlights some remarkable scientific discoveries.

**Date:** Thursday, November 17, 2022  
**Time:** 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
**Location:** Zoom, Virtual Presentation  
**Sponsor:** **Golden Gate Audubon Society**  
**Presenter:** Jessica Griffiths  
**Cost:** Free  
**Registration:** **[Click here for more information](#)**

---

*Copyright © 2021 Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, All rights reserved.*

**Mailing address:**  
P.O. Box 53  
Walnut Creek, CA 94597-0053

**Email address:**  
**[info@mtdiabloaudubon.org](mailto:info@mtdiabloaudubon.org)**

**[Mt. Diablo Audubon Society Leadership](#)**

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can **[update your preferences](#)** or **[unsubscribe from this list](#)**.