



Mt. Diablo Audubon Society

The Quail

Volume 68, Number 4

MARCH 2023

Next Monthly Program Meeting: Thursday, March 2, 7 PM

The Mt. Diablo Audubon Society will meet Thursday, March 2, in the McHale Room of the **Pleasant Hill Community Center at 320 Civic Drive, Pleasant Hill, 94523**.

Everyone is welcome to bring a snack to share, if they wish. Parking is free at the Pleasant Hill Community Center.

- 6:30 PM** Doors open
- 7:00 PM** Welcome and Announcements
- 7:15 PM** Refreshments and Raffle
- 7:30 PM** Main Program: Native Bird Connections

*as a conservation organization we encourage you to bring your own mug for coffee or tea

Main Program: Native Bird Connections

Jenny Papka

The birds and people of Native Bird Connections offer experiences that go beyond the ordinary. From school programs tailored to the national standards to

presentations for seniors, scouts and special interest groups, they strive to immerse the audience in an intimate view of a wild bird's behavior, life choices and needs. Regardless of age, participants find themselves personally connecting with a living being through empathy and awe, emerging inspired.

Native Bird Connections are privileged to share their educational endeavors with wild birds as their partners. Their birds are victims of permanent physical or psychological damage rendering them unable to survive in the wild. They have asked them to accept captivity within a realm of respect and trust, acknowledging fully their loss of a wild life while challenging them to an active role as ambassadors and teachers.

Jenny Papka has a Bachelor's degree with honors from UC Davis in Environmental Interpretation. She has been involved with wildlife since 1988, first with Lindsay Museum for 13 years, and currently with Native Bird Connections for 23 years. NBC supports 13 non-releasable raptors as educational partners.

Jenny maintains the NBC collection, delivers all of the programs, and consults with like organizations locally and beyond. She is an advisor for the Peregrine Team and the Kestrel Campaign in the Mt Diablo region. Jenny has working experience with most California native wildlife and over 30 species of raptors. She received the William Penn Mott Jr. Environmental Award from the Orinda Association in 2009.

President's Letter

Jerry Britten, *MDAS President*

One morning last week I noticed fresh sapsucker holes in a Photinia near our driveway. I trimmed a few twigs for sightline and staked out the site, using my truck as a blind. The sapsucker that came by is, I think, a hybrid Red-Naped x Red-Breasted. Hybridization is relatively common among Red-Breasted (Pacific West), Red-Naped (Interior West) and Yellow-Bellied (Eastern) species, and the subtleties of head and breast patterns make it to tell them apart. In fact, I often have difficulty discerning the differences between Red-Naped and Yellow-Bellied, relying mostly on range to tell them apart. Furthermore, as shown in the Sibley Guide to Birds, pure Red-Breasted Sapsuckers can have varying amount of white on their faces, approaching that of the Red-Naped. However, Red-Breasted's aren't supposed to have black on their breast feathers, which my bird did. Also, the head pattern was extreme for a pure Red-

Breasted Sapsucker. Other birds partook of the spoils created by the efforts of the sapsucker while I was observing. Ruby-Crowned Kinglets were the most frequent visitors – one even defended the holes against a Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, who eventually got its drink anyway. An Acorn Woodpecker also enjoyed some sap. An eBird list with some photos of this enjoyable stakeout is [HERE](#).

In Chapter News, please read about our needs for a new Chapter Secretary, and storage space, later on in this newsletter. We hope some of you out there can help. We have scanned old issues of *The Quail* as PDF's as far back as 1971 and are making them available from this year up to the present on our website for posterity, research, and general enjoyment. We will continue to excerpt snippets from 50 years ago in this and ongoing issues. We are looking forward to our next meeting, in-person, at the Pleasant Hill Community Center on March 2. Raffle items and refreshments will be provided, as usual. We could use some help staffing our table at the Pollinator & Friends Event at Ruth Bancroft Gardens, Saturday, April 8, 10 AM-4 PM; the Lafayette Earth Day Festival Saturday, April 23, 11 AM-2 PM, and The Crockett Shoreline Festival May 20, 11 AM - 4 PM. We will be passing around sign-up sheets at the membership meeting, or you can volunteer by emailing president@mtdiabloaudubon.org. Thanks for your help!

Stay safe and get out there for the Birds!

Membership Updates

Rochelle Fortier, *MDAS Membership Chair*

Welcome New Members! I want to give a warm welcome to new members who joined in January: **Steven Lane**, Clayton; **Kay Ramsdell**, Walnut Creek; **Brad Rumble**, Los Angeles; **Karen Sorenson**, Concord; **Michael Strom**, Concord; and **Teril and Chuck Swart**, Alameda. We hope to see you at our next Monthly Program meeting, which will be in-person at the Pleasant Hill Community Center on Thursday, March 2 at 7:00 pm.

Regarding our Quail newsletter, it is sent via email to your most current email address that is in our membership database. However, if you are changing your email, please contact me at membership@mtdiabloaudubon.org as soon as possible to ensure that you will continue to receive *The Quail*.

The 3rd MDAS Photo Contest is LIVE!

Jerry Britten, *MDAS President*

The 3rd MDAS Photo Contest went live on February 14. Open to MDAS members only except for the Youth category which is open to anyone under the age of 18. Dust off those photos in the categories below and send them on in now! Submissions are closed on May 14, 2023.

Surely you've got some shots that fit one or more of these 6 categories:

- **California Birds:** Photos taken in-state.
- **International Birds:** Favorites from your trips abroad.
- **Birds in Action:** flight, fight, or just having a bath, for example.
- **Birds Eating:** birds dining on seeds, berries, algae, bugs, (fish, frogs, lizards? snakes??)
- **Youth:** We'd especially like to encourage young people 8-17 to enter, and they need not be members. Any type of bird photo can be submitted in this category.
- **Worst Bird Photo EVER:** We KNOW you've got a couple of these! Losers you still didn't delete for some reason. Extra points for humor.

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

Click the "2023 Photo Contest" link at the top of the website www.mtdiablobaudubon.org to see Official Rules and entry link.

The 3rd MDAS Photo Contest - It's just for fun! (But there are modest prizes involved...)

From 50 Years Ago:

Jerry Britten, *MDAS President*

This month we present our second installment of snippets of the Quail edition of 50 years ago, from the archives of Jean Richmond. We are in the process of scanning

paper Quail editions from 1971 through 2002 to add to our website a PDF's. Here are some sections from March of 1973:

The CHRISTMAS COUNT on December 30 found 40 observers out in sunny, clear weather with variable wind and low temperature in the morning but warming before noon. By the time the day ended a total of 119 species and 36,000 individuals had been found. This compared to 115 species last year and 118 in 1970. The first MDAS count, held in 1954, turned up 89 species while the highest count, in 1963, was 123. The following species were spotted on the 1972 count:

Loon species, Eared, Western & Pied-Billed Grebe, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Common & Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, American Bittern, Canada & White-Fronted Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-Winged Teal, European & American Widgeon, Shoveler, Canvasback, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Sharp-Shinned, Cooper's & Red-Tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle (5), Marsh & Sparrow Hawk, California Quail, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Sora, Common Gallinule, American Coot, Killdeer, Common Snipe, Long-Billed Curlew, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Western Sandpiper, American Avocet, Glaucous-Winged, Herring, California, Ring-Billed, Mew & Bonaparte's Gull, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Barn, Screech, Great Horned & Short-Eared Owl, White-Throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Yellow-Shafted & Red-Shafted Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Red-Breasted Sapsucker, Hairy, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black & Say's Phoebe, Horned Lark, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Common Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Common Bush-tit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Wrentit, House, Winter, Bewick's, Long-Billed Marsh & Rock Wren, Mockingbird, California Thrasher, Robin, Varied & Hermit Thrush, Western Bluebird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Hutton's Vireo, Myrtle & Audubon's Warbler, Yellowthroat, House & European Tree Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Purple & House Finch, Pine Siskin, American & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Savannah & Rufous-Crowned Sparrow, Slate-Colored & Oregon Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, White-Throated, Fox, Lincoln's & Song Sparrow, Snow Bunting.

There are no reports for the February field trips as both the Frank's Tract trip on the 11th and the Thornton trip on the 14th were washed out by the extremely wet winter weather we have been having. Take heart, however, as spring cannot be far off with the return of such birds as Allen's Hummers and the chorus of songsters tuning up these days.

* * * * *

Note: The 2023 Christmas Bird Count had around 75 participants and saw 160 species! Note also that they found a Snow Bunting!

Call for Storage Space!

Jerry Britten, *MDAS President*

For decades, Mt. Diablo Audubon has benefited from being able to store our books, loaner binoculars, tabling supplies and other items at the Wild Birds Unlimited store in Pleasant Hill, thanks to the generosity of owners Mike and Cecil Williams, then Mike Eliot, and finally the new owner Susan Pfau. However, WBU is moving to a new, smaller location and will not have space for us. We have rented storage space and have moved into it, but would like to ask our membership if

there exists rent-free, clean, dry storage space, approximately 5x10 ft, available in preferably a business or commercial setting accessible during normal business hours, in the central county locales of Walnut Creek, Pleasant Hill, Concord or immediate outlying areas, that could be made available to MDAS. If any of you have such space and would consider allowing us to use it, please contact me at president@mtdiabloaudubon.org .

Thank you for your consideration!

MDAS Secretary Position

Jerry Britten, *MDAS CBC Compiler*

After many years of exemplary service, Carol Pachl has announced she is retiring from the position of Secretary to the Mt. Diablo Audubon Board. She will be sorely missed. This opens up the position as of July 1 2023 (the start of our fiscal year) and we are soliciting MDAS members who may be interested in it. The main function of the Secretary is to record the minutes of the Board Meetings as official documents as required by our 501c3 nonprofit status, and to assure that our Bylaws are current and up-to-date. This position is one of four elected positions on the Board (the other three being President, Vice-President and Treasurer), and is a full Board position with voting rights. If you have any interest in taking on this vital responsibility to our governing Board, please contact me at president@mtdiabloaudubon.org.

Thank You!

Birding is For Everyone

Herb and Randi Long

Last year, the MDAS board formed a committee to address Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging. This committee was entrusted with the goal of cultivating and promoting environments that are inclusive, supportive and welcoming to all. The Committee's Mission Statement involves "protecting birds and preserving their habitat while connecting people of all ages and backgrounds to them." The mission statement's purpose is to help ensure the chapter is a welcoming organization to all and as such, help others in our community to experience the marvel of nature and particularly, the birds.

We believe ***Birding is for Everyone***. Some people in our community do not have the opportunities to explore the outdoors, as we have. In response, the EDIB team is reaching out to the Contra Costa community with several events over the next few months. Monthly sessions on birds for families will be offered at the Concord Library beginning in May. Also, at the library, we are making a presentation in June to adults with developmental disabilities. We are looking forward to participating in a session at a homework club at Monument Crisis Center in Concord to introduce birding. We are planning to participate at a summer day camp offered at the Monument Crisis Center.

This is just a start. Such events will encourage participation in our field trips and chapter meetings. We know anyone that comes on a trip or to a meeting will experience the friendliness and enthusiasm that is always present at Mt. Diablo Audubon events.

For guidance, we have been consulting a helpful EDIB handbook for chapters from the National Audubon Society. If you are interested in learning more, check out the handbook linked in the EDIB section of our website

<https://mtdiabloaudubon.org/about/#edib>. The manual has many great resources and ideas.

If you have any interest in joining the EDIB Committee and attending a meeting (we meet via Zoom from noon to 1 pm on the second Tuesday of each month), please contact Ariana Rickard at vicepresident@mtdiabloaudubon.org.

The members of the EDIB committee are: Karin Deas, Dan Devine, Juan Pablo Galvan, Herb and Randi Long, Ariana Rickard and Krista Vossekuil.

2022 Summary for the California Bluebird Recovery Program and We Have TWO Trails Up for Adoption!

Georgette Howington

Rarely do we have established bluebird trails up for adoption! New trails can take a couple of years to attract the secondary-cavity nesters. Here are brief descriptions of the two we have available. If you are interested please, contact me

because I will be glad to take you on a preview of either trail!

“Hanna Grove” nest box trail, in Walnut Creek, has 17 nest boxes located in Shell Ridge Open Space monitored by MDAS member Lana Rocha. Lana says, “The trail is by Borges Ranch with picnic tables and restrooms. Two miles with grades and great views of Mount Diablo.” The trail is highly productive with mostly Western Bluebirds using the boxes. It takes about two hours to monitor.

According to Bob Brittain it is, “It is the shortest and least strenuous trail in the Shell Ridge Open Space”. In 2005 Bob took the trail over from Nancy Hanna who installed a couple of boxes. More nest boxes were added over the following years. Hanna Grove is one of the Walnut Creek Bluebird Team trails originally led by Bob Brittain. Ian and Karin Deas now lead the team.

“Fernandez Ranch” nest box trail, in Martinez, has 10 nest boxes originally installed in 2014. The land is managed by John Muir Land Trust and located off Highway 4 about 20 minutes from downtown Martinez. It is an easy walk, mostly on flat paths and takes about an hour total to monitor. The nest boxes attract a mix of mostly bluebirds, some Tree Swallows, Chestnut-backed Chickadees and Ash-throated Flycatchers.

2022 was a busy and productive year for us at CBRP. We are proud to say that our numbers, once again, reflected the overall success of the nest box program and the inspiring dedication of the monitors statewide. Monitors reported 15,087 successful fledges (the annual average from 1996 – 2022 is 16,229) that include Western and Mountain Bluebirds and the other secondary-cavity nesters we support. If you would like to see the details of the summary, please, go to www.cbrp.org.

Sponsoring scout projects, mentoring students, supporting monitors by repairing and replacing nest boxes plus offering personal coaching statewide keep us busy. We held three training sessions early 2022 for California that are available on our website. The website was updated with detailed information about the secondary-cavity nesters habitats, monitoring and nest boxes.

We gave tailored presentations to 6 of the Audubon Chapters and participated in community events such as the Beaver Festival in Martinez and the Butterfly Bird Festival at Coyote Hills to name a few.

We thank all the people and monitors who supported the nest box program. Mike

and Rita Tischler, for instance, made about 40 nest boxes for us and gave various groups of scout's personal lessons on how-to-assemble nest boxes safely. Ian and Karin Deas lead the Walnut Creek Team who have managed their trails and helped hundreds and hundreds of baby birds fledge. AND thank you MDAS!

Feel free to contact me for more information at ghbirdscape@gmail.com

If Rains Bring Floods, Is Drought Still a Problem?

Juan Pablo Galván Martínez, *MDAS Conservation Chair*

Every week new information about how best to motivate action on climate change is coming out. We're also learning more about who's most responsible for global warming, which is anecessary step toward holding them to account.

1. Choosing Your Words Makes a Difference – Some words resonate with and are more easily understood by an audience, while others leave people confused or unmotivated. Most of us have heard about how greenhouse gas emissions are causing global warming by making carbon, especially CO₂, build up in the atmosphere and trap more heat. Turns out, we want to use a different term to refer to these warming gases. Research hot off the presses ([HERE](#)) tells us that the terms “carbon pollution” and “carbon emissions” are more strongly associated than the term “greenhouse gas emissions” with harm to human health, the environment, and poor air quality. That means they're better at conveying the causes and impacts of climate change. If everyone that reads this sentence actually discussed climate change more with their family, friends and coworkers, using simple helpers to motivate action ([HERE](#)), you'd help the planet a lot.

Please start a convo today!

2. Register Now to Save Money, Have a Healthier More Sustainable Home, and Help the Planet – The East Bay Green Home Tour ([HERE](#)) is coming back this May! This great virtual tour of East Bay homes lets you talk with homeowners and renters that have been paid to recycle water, remove unhealthy methane-powered (natural gas) appliances and replace them with efficient electric ones, and turn their homes into happy green planet-friendly machines. Sign up, spread the word, and improve your home and health today.

3. Watch and Learn... How Fossil Fuel Companies Lied to Us All – Over the

past few years, more and more evidence has been revealed that confirms that fossil fuel companies knew about the globally severe impacts their carbon pollution products would have on people's health, homes, and the whole planet, and lied to the public, those in power, and their own families, so that they could keep on making huge amounts of money. This great short video [HERE](#) tells that story in a brief, interesting, easy-to-understand way. Watch it, absorb the message, share it with your family, friends, and other community members, and most importantly, take action to stop and reverse the harm that's been done (look [HERE](#)). There IS still time, and if YOU act, there IS a chance.

MDAS Field Trips

Matt Tarlach, *MDAS Field Trip Chair*

The 2023 field trip season is in high gear! Descriptions of upcoming trips may be found on the [Calendar](#) along with links for registration.

Pre-registration, currently handled online through Eventbrite, is required to ensure that groups are not overcrowded. As group size is limited, be aware of the need to sign up early to make sure you get a spot! If you won't be able to attend a trip that you've signed up for please cancel via Eventbrite to open that spot up for someone else. And please note that registration will close two days before the trip date, so the leader can know how many to expect.

Out of respect for the health of our members and community, we continue to ask trip participants to take sensible precautions. MDAS events do not require carpooling — though participants are of course free to make their own arrangements. And 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.

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](#).

New trip 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. If you're interested in serving as a trip leader please contact Matt Tarlach, our Field Trip Coordinator: mtar925@gmail.com. He will send you the one-page "Guidelines for Field Trip Leaders" and outline what's required. The most important thing is to get there on time — bird-spotting is a group effort!

MDAS Field Trips

You can view and print a complete list of planned MDAS field trips for the 2023 season [HERE](#).

Upcoming field trips include:

Grizzly Island Refuge - Rescheduled!

Tuesday, February 28th, 9 AM to 1 PM

Grizzly Island provides habitat for more than 200 species of birds and is home to a variety of threatened or endangered wildlife and plants. Our trip will begin at the Refuge Headquarters and continue for about 7 ½ miles along Grizzly Island Road, which is unpaved and runs through the middle of the Wildlife Area. Some things you may need for our outing at Grizzly Island: binoculars, drinking water, sunblock, insect repellent, a warm jacket, and appropriate footwear. Also, bring lunch and drinks.

Hike Rating: Category 1-Easy

Elevation change: N/A

Leader: Randy Huey, 925-518-8439

Meet: Wildlife Refuge Headquarters, 2548 Grizzly Island Road, Suisun, CA 94585

Directions: From Central Contra Costa County, take I-680 N toward Sacramento. Take Highway 12 off-ramp east toward Rio Vista. Turn onto Grizzly Island Road, at the stoplight at Sunset Shopping Center. Hill Slough Wildlife Area is on both sides of Grizzly Island Road from Highway 12 to the first one-lane bridge. The Grizzly Island Complex Headquarters is 9.5 miles further on Grizzly Island Road.

This field trip is limited to 20 participants. All Participants in MDAS field trips are required to accept a liability waiver, available at registration. Register for this event [HERE](#).

Contra Loma Regional Park

Wednesday, March 8, 8:30 AM to 1 PM

Leader: Paul Schorr, 925-998-0070

We will be birding the reservoir, Loma Island and surrounding grassland areas. Expected species include waterfowl, woodland, riparian/marsh, shore and grassland birds. Dress appropriately, bring lunch and drinks.

Rating: Category 1-Easy

Elevation change: N/A

Leader: Paul Schorr, 925-998-0070

Meet: Contra Loma Regional Park--Channel Point Parking Lot

Directions: From Hwy. 4 in Antioch, go south on Lone Tree Way. Continue south to Golf Course Road and turn right. Continue on Golf Course Road to Frederickson Lane, turn right and continue into the park and the entry kiosk. Fee required at kiosk. Turn left and park in the first lot on the right, Channel Point Parking Lot.

This field trip is limited to 12 participants. All Participants in MDAS field trips are required to accept a liability waiver, available at registration. Register [HERE](#).

Mt. View Sanitary and McNabney Marsh

Tuesday, March 14, 9 AM to 1 PM

Starting at the Mt. View Sanitation District Administration Building, we will spend most of our outing walking around the several large ponds that make up Moorhen Marsh. Parking is free, and there are restrooms at the beginning of the walk. Winter birding at the Marsh has been excellent so far this year, and hopefully, March will be no exception. Some of the types of birds we should see include: swans, pelicans, ducks, egrets, herons, coots, grackle, gulls, and hawks. Following our walk around Moorhen, we will drive the short distance to the other side of I-680 to the birding platform at McNabney Marsh, look for ducks and waterbirds there. Depending on how much fun we're having, we may extend the trip across the marsh at Waterbird Regional Preserve.

This trip is well-suited for beginners. If you'd like to borrow a pair of binoculars to use while on the trip contact leader Matt Tarlach, after you register.

Rating: Category 1-Easy. Flat walking on smooth paths.

Elevation change: N/A

Leaders: Matt Tarlach (925 482 6129) and Sandy Ritchie

Meet: Mt. View Sanitary Administration Building

Directions: From I-680 southbound exit at Arthur Road, turn left and go under the freeway. From I-680 northbound exit at Pacheco Blvd, turn right onto Arthur Road and go under the freeway. Arthur Road will eventually 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 one-lane tunnel under I-680. Park and meet at the Administration Building, which will be on the right.

MVSD limits groups to 20 participants, and requires a **MDAS liability waiver**. All Participants in MDAS field trips are required to accept a liability waiver, available at registration. Register for this trip **HERE**.

Valle Vista

Friday, March 17, 8 AM to Noon

A walk through various habitats at the EBMUD property will allow us to see 50-60 species. If you have one, bring your EBMUD pass. This property is at the upstream end of the Upper San Leandro Reservoir. If it has been raining, the first part could be a bit muddy but most of the route is on a gravel trail or a road.

Rating: Category 2, Moderate

Elevation change: Some moderate changes

Leader: Don Lewis, 925-284-5480

Meet: Valle Vista Staging Area, Canyon Road

Directions: From SR 24 in Orinda, take Moraga Way to Moraga. From Mt. Diablo Blvd in Lafayette, take Moraga Road south to Moraga. At the Chevron station, go south 1 mile on Canyon Road to Valle Vista Staging Area.

This field trip has no participant limit, but pre-registration and acceptance of **MDAS liability waiver** is required. Register **HERE**.

North Briones

Tuesday, April 4, 8:30 - Noon

This walk begins in oak woodlands with lots of spring wildflowers and birds. We then continue through grasslands ending at Sincich Lagoons. We return the way we came,

making about a 3 miles round trip with some climbing. Bring liquids & a snack if you wish.

Rating: Category 3 - uphill climb

Elevation change: 300+ feet

Leader: Cheryl Abel, 925-957-6229

Meet: Top of Briones Rd.

Directions: Meet 8:30 AM in the parking area at the north entrance of Briones Regional Park. Take Briones Road off Alhambra Valley Road and drive up this narrow, winding road, park at the end.

The field trip is limited to 15 participants. All Participants in MDAS field trips are required to accept a liability waiver, available at registration. Register [HERE](#).

Orinda Connector Trail

Wednesday, April 5, 2023, 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM

A walk through an EBMUD property, requires a trail permit. If you have one bring it with you. We walk downhill to San Pablo Creek, then toward the face of Briones Dam. Wood Ducks are hard to find but some spring birds will have arrived.

Rating: Category 2-Moderate

Elevation change: Moderate

Leader: Don Lewis, 925-284-2906

Meet: Trail head at Camino Pablo and Bear Creek Road

Directions: Exit SR-24 at Orinda and turn north on Camino Pablo. Drive just over 2 miles to the intersection with Bear Creek Road. The trail head parking is on the right, near the northeast corner of the intersection.

Due to limited space along the trail this field trip is limited to 10 participants. All Participants in MDAS field trips are required to accept a liability waiver, available at registration. Register [HERE](#).

Events

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

Least Tern Spring Habitat Enhancement Event 2023

Saturday, March 4, 2023

Join SFBBO biologists on Saturday, March 4th from 8:45am-1:00pm to help enhance habitat for California Least Terns! Volunteers will join SFBBO staff at pond E14 in Eden Landing Ecological Reserve, which supports one of only six Least Tern breeding colonies in the San Francisco Bay estuary. To help improve the breeding success of this endangered species, we will remove predator perches and thin overgrown vegetation at the colony site that reduce the quality of Least Tern breeding habitat. We will also enhance the habitat by installing chick shelters, which provide cover for vulnerable chicks from avian predators, stomp on the pond to increase pond texture to help Least Terns blend into the pond, and install Least Tern decoys to attract them to the enhanced areas. The depressions left by footprints have the added bonus of providing a nest “scrape” for Least Terns to lay their eggs in!

Date:	Saturday, March 4, 2023
Time:	8:45 AM - 1:00 PM
Location:	Pond E14 in Eden Landing Ecological Reserve, Hayward
Cost:	Free
Registration:	Click here for more information

Birding is for Everyone

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

John C. Robinson is a wildlife biologist and birdwatching advocate whose book: *Birdwatching is for Everyone* is meant to inspire more people of color to pursue their own interests in the fascinating fields of biology and ornithology. Come hear him talk about his experiences, and get motivated to be a birdwatcher too!

Date:	Tuesday, March 7, 2023
Time:	4:00PM – 5:00PM
Location:	Zoom, Virtual Presentation
Sponsor:	Contra Costa County Library
Cost:	Free
Registration:	Click here to register online

14th Annual Point Reyes Birding & Nature Festival

April 21st - 23rd, 2023

This annual fundraising event celebrates spring bird and wildlife migrations along the Pacific Flyway in Marin and Sonoma counties with proceeds benefiting our nonprofit mission to protect and sustain the unique lands, waters, and biodiversity of West Marin (coastal Marin County). There is something for everyone in your *brood*, with trips and activities for various ages and experience levels.

Point Reyes National Seashore provides the main backdrop for our festival, where the Pacific Flyway, Pacific Ocean, and other influences provide an ideal location for birding and wildlife viewing. In fact, Point Reyes and the surrounding area have been **named the National Audubon Society's #1 birding hotspot for multiple years, where 54%+ of all North American bird species have been seen and recorded.** In addition, during April, California's Mediterranean climate allows us to see wintering and breeding birds overlapping along this coastal hotspot. However, birds are not the only thing you'll see. Whether you are at a field event discovering whales, elk, or wildflowers, your time in between may have you come across a plethora of wildlife including deer, fox, skunk, raccoons, otters, river otters, and more! Be sure to keep an eye out, and drive slowly!

Date:	April 21st - 23rd, 2023
Time:	7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Location:	Zoom, Virtual Presentation
Sponsor:	Point Reyes Birding & Nature Festival
Cost:	Free
Registration:	Click here to register online

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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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