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Mt. Diablo Audubon Society

The Quail

Volume 68, Number 6

MAY 2023

Next Monthly Program Meeting: Thursday, May 4, 7 PM

Please mark your calendar for our upcoming virtual monthly program meeting.

See **BELOW** for webinar access info.

7:00 PM Welcome and Introductions

7:05 PM Board Announcements

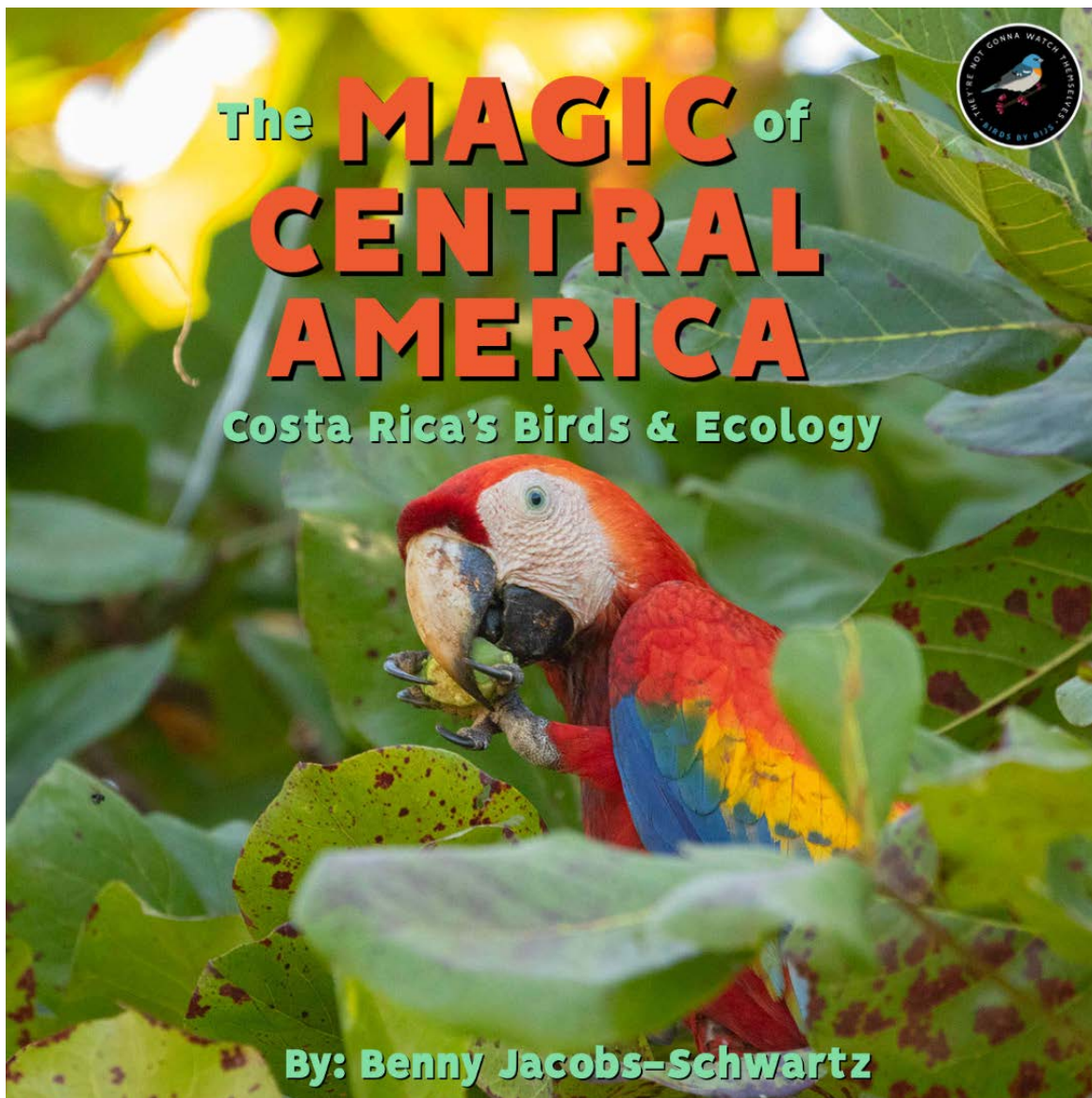
7:10 PM *Main Program: The Magic of Central America: Costa Rica's Birds and Ecology*

8:30 PM Adjourn

Main Program

The Magic of Central America: Costa Rica's Birds and Ecology

Benny Isaac Jacobs-Schwartz



Costa Rica has long been regarded as one of the top tropical birding destinations in the world and with good reason! This small Central American country is roughly the size of West Virginia yet is home to ~5% of the world's biodiversity, 900+ species of birds with 47 avian endemics to the country!

During our presentation, we'll visit a variety of ecosystems including the cloud forest, the Caribbean lowlands, the pacific dry forest, and the ecological factors that have made Costa Rica the international birding mecca that it is!

Benny Isaac Jacobs-Schwartz owns and operates a bird-guiding business and lifestyle brand called BIRDS by BIJS (pronounced Bee-jus). Working professionally for over 10 years as a naturalist guide, expedition trip leader, and international bird guide, Benny has worked in a variety of locations coast to coast, including exotic places such as; coastal Alaska, Central America, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Ecuadorian Amazon.

Benny is a passionate educator and photographer, specializing in birds! Benny uses his ample collection of nature-based content to leverage an active social media presence. BIJS uses his passion for the natural world to inspire others to put down their phone and pick up their Binos.



Benny Isaac Jacobs-Schwartz

Webinar access info

Topic: MDAS May 2023 Membership meeting

Date: May 4, 2023

Time: 7:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Location: Zoom online meeting

Access: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81252273161?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81252273161?pwd=azR5ekpHTGZ0MXV2L0Z4ZnpMM0Qxdz09)

[pwd=azR5ekpHTGZ0MXV2L0Z4ZnpMM0Qxdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81252273161?pwd=azR5ekpHTGZ0MXV2L0Z4ZnpMM0Qxdz09)

Meeting ID: 812 5227 3161

Passcode: 798250

Phone access: One tap mobile

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Dial by your location

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+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

+1 719 359 4580 US

+1 253 205 0468 US

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 564 217 2000 US

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

+1 646 931 3860 US

+1 689 278 1000 US

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 305 224 1968 US

+1 309 205 3325 US

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 360 209 5623 US

+1 386 347 5053 US

+1 507 473 4847 US

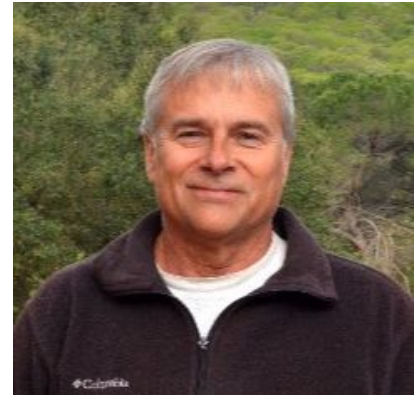
Meeting ID: 812 5227 3161

Passcode: 798250

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kt12FynL1>

President's Letter

Jerry Britten, *MDAS President*



At about the same time as the publication of this issue of the Quail, members should have received a **poll** asking for input on the subject of disassociating our chapter from the name 'Audubon'. This is in light of the fact that we wish to be an inclusive organization, in direct opposition to John James Audubon who owned, bought and sold people as slaves and was a strong proponent for the institution of slavery. The National Audubon Society has decided to keep the Audubon name, but chapters such as ours, while affiliated with the national organization, are under no mandate to follow suit and are free to decide our brand for ourselves. Several chapters around the country have already dropped 'Audubon' from their name, and many others such as our own are in the process of debating this issue. More details and background can be found in the **email** in which the **poll link** was sent. Please check your spam folder if you don't recall seeing this request. We urge you to please provide your input by the **April 30 deadline**, regardless of where you stand on this matter. We are bound by the decisions of our membership, and need guidance from you on this weighty matter.

In other Chapter news, for next year, the Board has decided to increase the number of in-person meetings and to attempt live streaming our in-person meetings. We are seeking the expertise of a member who has the know-how to do quality live streaming of events, for guidance on how we can do so. Please reply to **president@mtdiabloudubon.org** if you can help us out! We also are going to change our meeting place from the Pleasant Hill Community Center, as we felt it was a little cramped for the 60+ crowd drawn in by the hawks and owls from Native Bird Connections at our March meeting. Finally, don't forget to enter our **Photo Contest – deadline is May 14!** See more details later in this newsletter.

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 March: **John Baker**, Lafayette; **Timothy Carlson**, Danville; **Evelyn Dalton**, Danville; **Linda Garbanati**, San Ramon; **Linda Jacobs**, Oakland; **Laury Joseph**, Martinez; **Kathleen**

Maclay, Richmond; **Beata Milhano**, Oakland; **William Newton**, Pleasant Hill, and **Nancy Van House**, Berkeley.

MDAS Photo Contest is Ending Soon!

Jerry Britten, *MDAS President*

Don't forget to enter your favorite photos in the 3rd MDAS Photo contest. Open to MDAS members only except for the Youth category which is open to anyone under the age of 18. This is a casual, friendly competition; no special equipment or professional skills required (but use 'em if you got 'em). **Deadline is May 14**. Winners and runners-up will be shared at the June members' meeting and in the Quail. See full categories, rules, and entry instructions [here](#).



Bullock's Orioles, Home, 2020

Photo by Jerry Britten

Call for Candidates

Rosalie Howarth, *Nominating Committee*

MDAS Board Officers Election

Ballot Coming Soon! Members will receive a simple email ballot around May 5th for the annual election of Board Officers for next term, 2023-2024. Please vote and return the ballot as soon as possible. **Deadline to vote is May 15th.** Keep an eye on your spam folder in case it shows up there.

The Nominations Committee has proposed a slate of nominees that includes: Jerry Britten serving again as President, Ariana Rickard continuing as Vice-President, and Steve Buffi staying on in the role of Treasurer.

However, we acutely need candidates for the position of Secretary, as Carol Pachl is stepping back from the role. Carol will provide training in this well-organized and highly manageable position. Also, two members can share the job, dividing the work between them.

Please step up if you would like to participate! Nominations are still open for all of these Board positions, as well as two non-Board positions: Outreach Coordinator (organizing table staffers at events we attend) and Hospitality Chair (setting out refreshments at our live meetings).

You can find out more about any of these roles, or apply via the Contact Us button under About Us, at www.mtdiablobaudubon.org. Your chapter needs your involvement, and we look forward to hearing from you!

Please return your ballot by May 15th. Results of the election will be announced in the June Quail and at the June 1st membership meeting.

All of us on the Board of Directors thank you for your ongoing support and participation.



From 50 Years Ago

Jerry Britten, *MDAS President*

A couple of Field Trip reports from the May 1973 Quail. Note the large turnout for the outing to Las Trampas. For fun, try to figure out which of the named bird species have been renamed in the last 50 years, and what the current name is! (I count 5). Issues of our newsletter from 1971 through the present day are now accessible on our website [HERE](#).

The FIELD TRIP to Las Trampas in April found 34 people out for a walk in a beautiful wilderness area. The weatherman cooperated and provided lovely weather, neither too hot nor too cold although a little windy in spots. Walter Knight discussed park management as well as the flora fauna on the hike. The birding was not very good and the following 31 species were seen:

Turkey Vulture, Sharp-Shinned, Red-Tailed & Sparrow Hawk, California Quail, Mourning Dove, hummingbird sp., Acorn Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Violet-Green & Cliffswallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Plain Titmouse, Common Bushtit, Wrentit, Rock Wren, Robin, Western Bluebird, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Orange-Crowned & Wilson's Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, Black-Headed Grosbeak, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Brown Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Oregon Junco, Chipping Sparrow.

The trip to Golden Gate Park on March 22 turned up far more birds but for far fewer people. Four fortunate people found the following 50 species:

Pied-Billed Grebe, Mallard, American Widgeon, Shoveler, Wood & Ring-Necked Duck, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, American Coot, Glaucous-Winged, California, Ring-Billed & Mew Gull, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-Shafted Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Western Flycatcher, Violet-Green & Tree Swallow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Common Bushtit, Red-Breasted & Pygmy Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Robin, Varied Thrush, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, Hutton's Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Myrtle & Audubon's Warbler, Yellowthroat, Red-Winged and Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American & Lesser Goldfinch, RED CROSSELL, Oregon Junco, White-Crowned, Fox & Song Sparrow. A beautiful Mandarin Duck drake (a released bird) was seen at Metson Lake.

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Good Climate News!

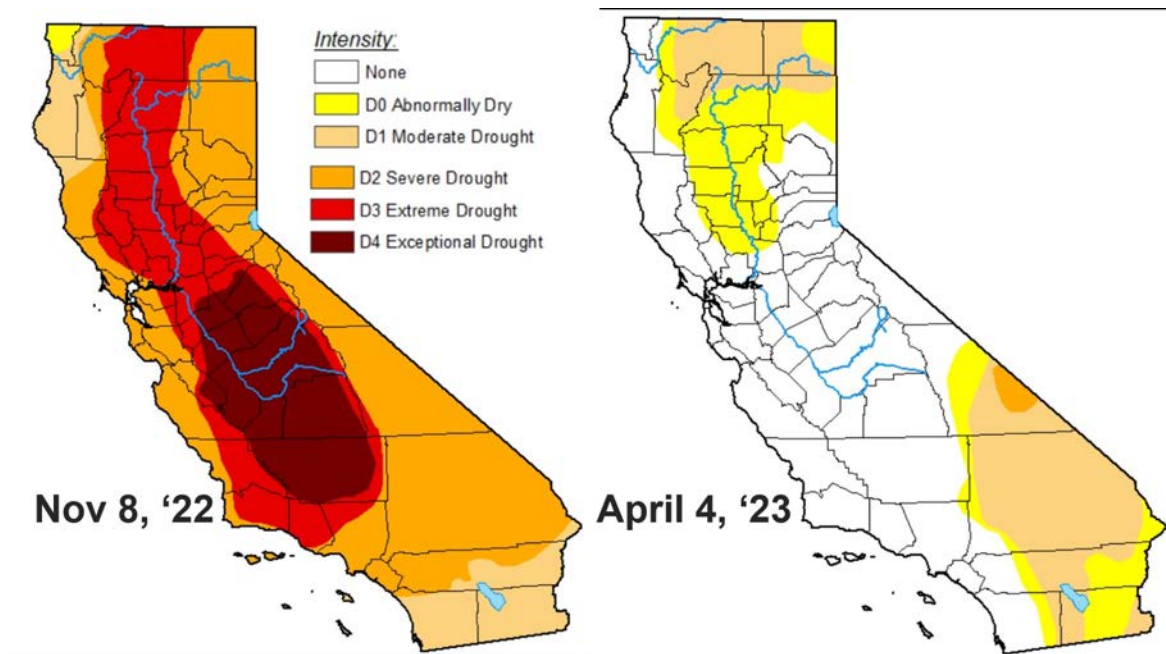
Juan Pablo Galván Martínez, *MDAS Conservation Chair*

Recognizing the positive achievements that are the result of hard work by so many people is just as important as embracing the reality of the danger we are in, and the massive action needed right now to avoid total climate catastrophe. Take the good news to heart, along with the bad, and contribute to real climate solutions ([HERE](#)). Because if you don't, why would anyone else?

1. A Climate Milestone Is in Sight, and For Once It's Good – Even as the world's demand for energy is set to increase, this year carbon pollution from the power sector (the area of the economy that is the largest source of emissions) is for the

first time actually projected to fall! That's because clean energy, like solar and wind, is growing at a faster pace than overall demand (more [HERE](#)). This is great news! Renewable energy still must be increased by a MASSIVE amount VERY quickly, and this is a positive step along the way.

2. Your Climate Actions Are Now Customizable – Project Drawdown, one of the best organizations that clearly articulates solutions to climate change, has unveiled a new feature to customize your climate action to make it as impactful as it can be. Do you want to mobilize your community? Interested in using land to protect a livable climate? Interested in what your company can do? Then go [HERE](#) and use the dropdown menus to customize your climate action today. Don't wait. There's no time.
3. CA is Almost Entirely Drought-free, For Now – Snowpack is above the record-breaking season of 1952. It's been one of the rainiest seasons on record. And now more than 90% of California is NOT in any official drought designation. This is great news (more details [HERE](#) and [HERE](#))! Remember, water conservation as a way of life is here to stay, and no matter the conditions, there is none to waste. The decades-long mega-drought in the western US is still here, and the long-term drying and warming trend we are seeing will continue as long as carbon emissions are not dramatically reduced and our natural carbon sinks (forest, grassland, ocean habitats) are not protected and restored. This season helped, so let's enjoy it and make good change happen NOW.



Community Science Projects Update

Jerry Britten, *MDAS President*

Wood Duck Nest Box Monitoring

A group of MDAS volunteers is maintaining and monitoring approximately 32 boxes at San Pablo Reservoir and 18 boxes at Upper San Leandro Reservoir, on East Bay Municipal Utility District Watershed land for which we have a permit. As of early-April, here's what we've seen:

San Pablo Reservoir: 4 active wood duck nests, for a total of 52 eggs. 1 box replaced, but 2 more needing replacement due to storm damage.

Upper San Leandro Reservoir: 2 active wood duck nests and 1 in progress, for a total of 31 eggs. 2 boxes still flooded/inaccessible.

We look forward to the successful fledging of the ducklings, although this will not be recorded, only inferred from the broken eggshells in the nests. A special Thank You to Biologists Julie Woodruff and Andrew Ford who are spearheading this project!



Andrew Ford adding wood chips

Photo by Jerry Britten



A hen Wood Duck on eggs

Photo by J. Woodruff

Tricolored Blackbird Nest Colony Monitoring

Point Blue Conservation Science researcher Wendy Shackwitz is part of a team using bioacoustic recordings of Tricolored Blackbirds to determine the timing and fates of Tricolored Blackbird (TRBL) colonies as well as providing an understanding of their biology and population differences. As part of the Triennial Tricolored Blackbird statewide survey in the spring of 2022, MDAS volunteers placed an audio recorder at a colony located in the Los Vaqueros Watershed in far eastern Contra Costa County. Due to the compactness of the colony and our ability to place the recorder in an ideal position, excellent audio quality was obtained at this site. Wendy was delighted when we asked her if she would like another year's worth of data, for which we were enthusiastic to help. We renewed our permit from the Contra Costa Water District to access areas of the watershed normally off-limits to the public, and when we went back to the colony site in March we found it to be once again active. In fact, it looks like due to the exceptionally rainy winter, there may be two colonies going, one in the backcountry blackberry bramble as in 2022, and another in a publicly-accessible marsh just SW of the Walnut Staging just past the entrance to the Watershed.

The abundant rains this winter have transformed the entire area into a lush grassland that bodes well for the success of the colonies. What was last year a dry salt pan at the base of the colony, is now a 15-acre lake frequented by all kinds of waterfowl, in a beautiful setting. When we visited at the end of March, the colony at this site was in full-swing. It is quite an extraordinary thing to hear the cacophony of ~1000 blackbirds 'singing' their grating song at once! Please enjoy a compilation of videos and photos taken by MDAS lifetime member Srikant Char during one of our outings [HERE](#). For full effect, be sure to turn up the volume on the videos!



Tricolored Blackbirds in flight over nesting colonies in Los Vaqueros Watershed

Photo by Jerry Britten

New Bluebird Boxes at Heather Farm Park

Rosalie Howarth, *Nominating Committee*

The California Bluebird Recovery Program's Georgette Howington and Tom Garry, along with CBRP volunteer Tom McClintock and MDAS Publicity and Social Media Chair Rosalie Howarth, installed three Bluebird nesting boxes on March 18th at Heather Farm Park, Walnut Creek. Rosalie will monitor the boxes for any nesting activity.

If you bird around the two ponds, look for these boxes in the upper field between the Equestrian Center and the Community Gardens, in the Millennium Grove by the Casting Pond (with the fountain), and near the kiosk near the wooden railing off the N. San Carlos parking lot.

Let us know of any activity or any issues that you spot!



Bluebird Box Install

Tim McClintock, Georgette Howington



Bluebird Box Install

Tim McClintock, Rosalie and Tom Garry

Remembering Conservationist Brian Murphy

Rosalie Howarth

In March we mourned the loss of long-time MDAS Board member and avid bird photographer Brian Murphy, who chaired the Wood Duck Box program as well as serving as Volunteer Coordinator for events for several years before he retired from the chapter in 2019.

Read a wonderful article by Sam Richards in the Rossmoor News [HERE](#).

Seen here is a photo of Brian from the May 2019 Quail, which described the retrospective of his work presented by California Bluebird Recovery Program's Georgette Howington at our Members' Meeting that month, and Brian's photo of three baby Wood Ducks, which served as the cover to a set of greeting cards he gave to each board member as a gift when he retired.

Thanks for your devotion to birds and their habitats, and your service to our chapter, Brian!



Wood Ducklings
Photo by Brian Murphy



Brian Murphy

Field Trip Report

Black Diamond Mines

Jerry Britten, *MDAS President*

Five participants spend a splendid spring morning taking in the birds and scenery, mainly along the Chaparral Loop trail in the park. The birding was relatively slow – we had a very brief look at a falcon flying overhead, too brief to discern between Prairie and Peregrine. Good looks at a Black-Throated Gray Warbler, two Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers and a Phainopepla pair at the walk-in picnic area were highlights. The Canyon Wren at this location has not reported on eBird since the MDAS field trip last year, although more recent sightings have been reported in a more remote canyon farther to the west in the park. A total of 35 species were seen or heard.



Birders taking a break after the steep downhill at Black Diamond Mines

Photo by Jerry Britten

MDAS Field Trips

Matt Tarlach, *MDAS Field Trip Chair*



Leading a field trip is a fun way to serve our chapter's mission, while sharing a day out in nature with your fellow enthusiasts! If you'd like to introduce us to a new hotspot, or might be willing to take over an established trip that's in need of a new leader, please contact our Field Trip Coordinator Matt Tarlach: mtar925@gmail.com

He'll send you the one-page "Guidelines for Field Trip Leaders" and outline what's required. The most important thing is to get to the meeting point on time – the bird-spotting is a group effort!

To ensure field trips are not overcrowded, pre-registration through Eventbrite is required. Signups generally open when the trips are announced to MDAS members in the *Quail*. Depending on capacity and other factors, some trips may be opened for non-member registration a week before the trip date. Registration for everyone closes 48 hours before the trip, so leaders can know how many to expect.

If you won't be able to attend a trip that you've signed up for, please cancel as early as possible via Eventbrite to open that spot up for someone else!

Our chapter now has an account on the **eBird** app for collecting and reporting our field trip observations. This allows us to share sightings, photos and notes more easily, and to have our sightings contribute to research that's important for conservation. *Take a look* at our field trip checklists, [HERE](#).

Out of respect for our members and community, we continue to ask trip participants to take

sensible health precautions. MDAS events do not require carpooling — though participants are of course free to make their own arrangements.

Field trips are ranked according to difficulty:

Trail Rating 1: Easy, little or no walking, smooth paths.

Trail Rating 2: Moderate, 1 mile or more, possibly some rough terrain.

Trail Rating 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 2023 season [HERE](#).

Upcoming field trips include:

Mines Road

Saturday, April 29, All-day

This is an all-day trip, and can get hot by mid-day! If Del Valle park is open (it has been closed due to storm damage) we'll stop there to look for water-loving birds. Then drive south on Mines Road from Livermore toward the remote San Antonio Valley, birding from turnouts along the route. Phainopepla, Lewis's Woodpecker and Lawrence's Goldfinch are targets, and many spring migrants are possible - plus great spring wild flowers!

Bring lunch, snacks, and plenty of liquids, as this trip takes us further from conveniences than most. *Be advised that bathrooms may be far between!* Our old pit stop at the Junction Cafe in the San Antonio Valley has been closed. Entry fee required if we go to Del Valle Regional Park.

Due to the extremely limited parking at several stops along our route this trip is limited to 6 cars, maximum. If we have over 6 people signed up, plan to share a vehicle. MDAS does not arrange carpools but the meeting place (TBD) will allow for people to share cars.

Leader: Matt Tarlach: 925-482-6129 mtar925@gmail.com

Trail Rating: 1 - we will drive from one spot to the next.

Meet: In the Livermore area, to be determined after scouting. Watch for an email from the leader a day or two before.

Check the [Eventbrite](#) registration page for updates.

All participants must acknowledge the MDAS liability waiver, available upon registration. Register [HERE](#).

Mount Diablo State Park

Tuesday, May 2, 8 AM to 1 PM

MDSP is a treasure trove for birders. Although every season in the park has its special qualities, late spring on the mountain has its own beauty, as wildflowers add color to the vistas. Usually hot! Bring lunch and drinks. Many migrant and nesting species are possible including Sage Sparrows, California Thrashers, woodpeckers, raptors and warblers.

Trail Rating: 1– Easy walking, mostly driving on mountain roads.

Elevation change: minimal

Leader: Steve Taylor, 925-828-8810

Directions: From I-680 southbound, exit at El Pintado, turn right and right again; park along the open space on left. From I-680 northbound, exit El Cerro, turn left, then right at second light onto La Gonda. Continue 1/2 mile north on La Gonda from El Cerro to the wide section where there's free parking.

Meet at 8AM on La Gonda, as described above. If you miss us there we'll be passing through the Southgate entrance into the park at about 8:45AM, after birding Southgate Road.

Park entry fee is required.

Due to extremely tight parking at several stops along the mountain roads this field trip is limited to 12 participants. If there's someone you're comfortable sharing a car with, that's highly encouraged.

Participants must acknowledge the MDAS Liability Waiver (available during registration). Register [HERE](#).

West Briones Regional Park

Thursday, May 11, 8 AM to 1 PM

A visit to the west entrance of Briones Regional Park in the spring offers views of spring wildflowers and spring birds. Lazuli Buntings are usually present; many years this trip provides the first viewings of these beautiful birds for most of us.

Bring water and snacks.

Rating: Category 2--moderate hiking

Elevation change: 200 feet

Leader: Chick Chickering

Meet: Bear Creek Staging Area parking lot

Directions: From SR 24 in Orinda, drive north on Camino Pablo about 2.25 miles, turn right on Bear Creek Road, continue for 4.5 miles to park entrance. Drive to farthest parking lot on the right.

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

East Contra Costa County

Monday, May 15, 7 AM to 12PM

Note starting time: we start this trip early as the location can be very hot by mid-day. We will walk part of the Marsh Creek Trail, and then visit Piper Slough north of Bethel Island. Other locations are possible. Target birds include: Blue Grosbeak, Hooded Oriole, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Swainson's Hawk, Yellow-billed Magpie and Yellow-breasted Chat.

Bring lunch, snacks and water.

Rating: Category 2--moderate hiking

Elevation change: N/A

Leader: Randy Huey, 925-518-8439

Meet: Marsh Creek Trailhead on Cypress Road, Oakley

Directions: Go north on I-680, exit Highway 4 toward Stockton/Pittsburg, take right Exit 30 toward CA-160/Sacramento/Rio Vista (just past Hillcrest Avenue exit; do NOT continue straight on Highway 4). Take exit 1-A East 18th/Main Street, turn right at the bottom of the exit onto Main Street and drive through Oakley for about 4 miles, turn left onto Cypress Road. Make a U-turn at Picasso Drive, the stoplight after the railroad tracks.

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

Outer Point Reyes

Saturday, June 3, 8:30 AM to 3 PM

Point Reyes is one of the premiere birding locations in Northern California, a great spot to find rarities during migration---like the Prairie Warbler pictured on the registration page (image by Beth Branthaver). MDAS tries to visit at least twice a year. On this trip we hope to see northbound migrants, as well as resident birds in their spring plumage. We will stop at the lighthouse overlook and spend some time above the fish docks. Bring water and lunch, as the area is remote.

Rating: Category 1 -- some walking through grass under trees and on paved roads

Elevation change: N/A

Leader: Matt Tarlach 925 482 6129

Meet: Bear Valley Visitor Center, Olema

Directions: From US 101 north of San Rafael, take Lucas Valley Road to Nicasio. At the reservoir turn left. Follow signs to Point Reyes Station. Traditionally we've stopped for coffee and pastries at the Bovine Bakery. Next, drive to Olema and the Visitor Center.

From the Concord/Pleasant Hill area it may be advantageous to cross the top of the Bay on SR 37, exit at Atherton Avenue, turn left and cross US 101 to San Marin Drive. Turn right at the high school and drive about 6 miles to stop sign, turn left on Point Reyes-Petaluma Road for 7 miles to another stop sign. Turn right at the painted bridge, drive 3 miles to SR 1 and turn left into Point Reyes Station.

Due to limited parking at several stops on the Outer Point, this field trip is limited to 10 participants. Sharing a car is helpful. Participants must acknowledge the MDAS Liability Waiver (available during registration). Register [HERE](#).

Half Moon Bay Birding Trip

Saturday, August 26, All-day

Join fellow members of MDAS on a day-long cruise out of Half Moon Bay! We'll be looking for pelagic birds like migrant Arctic Terns and Long-tailed Jaegers, Scripps's and Craveri's Murrelets, various Petrels and perhaps Laysan Albatross.



Alvaro Jaramillo is one of the most well-reputed birding guides based out of Northern California. He's set aside fourteen seats for MDAS on one of the pelagic cruises he organizes, in the heart of the prime season, so we can be ensured of sharing the experience with some of our fellow members.

Booking is directly through Alvaro's Adventures. If we fill most of the seats, he'll donate a portion of our fees back to MDAS. Look for details [HERE](#) and keep in mind that seats are limited.

Events

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

Earth Day 2023 -- Free, Fun, Family friendly, Educational
Saturday, April 22, 2023

Earth Day Celebration

Free Garden Tour, Exhibits, Talks, Fun for Everyone!

Saturday, April 22, 2023—12:30-4:30 PM



During California Native Plant Week

Learn About, How to—

- . Test Water Quality
- . Use Drought-tolerant and Native Plants
- . Compost
- . Provide for pollinators
- . Supply wildlife habitat
- . Use Solar Power in garden

Garden Tour 2:00 PM—Limited —pre-register <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/earth-day-2023-free-fun-family-friendly-educational-tickets->

Pleasant Hill Instructional Garden

Living Landscape: A California Habitats Garden

<http://phig.webs.com> – email: phigarden@gmail.com

P.O. Box 23454, Pleasant Hill, CA. 94523; Voicemail (925) 482-6670

At Pleasant Hill Education Center

1 Santa Barbara Road, Pleasant Hill

Across from Pleasant Hill Middle School



Donations are greatly appreciated—PHIG is a NonProfit 501(c)(3)organization

Hear from Pollinator Posse on how to support monarch butterflies and native pollinators; hear from CNPS on gardening with keystone native plants to improve habitat; hear from renowned wildlife biologist James "Doc" Hale on living with nature and in tune with your environment; and hear from Master Gardeners on easy home composting to reduce your carbon footprint.

Ongoing expert talks, informative displays, activities, a garden tour and hands-on demonstrations help us to understand how small efforts can make a difference to help the Earth, reduce our impact on climate change, and improve sustainable practices in

your garden and community. **Mt. Diablo Audubon will be tabling at the event.**
Register in advance for garden tour, limited number.

Date: Saturday, April 22, 2023
Time: 12:30 - 4:30 PM
Location: **Pleasant Hill Instructional Garden**
1 Santa Barbara Rd. Hawthorne Road Pleasant Hill, CA
94523
Cost: Free
Registration: [Click here to register](#)

Lafayette Earth Day Festival

Sunday, April 23, 11AM - 2 PM

Sustainable Lafayette Presents

Lafayette EARTH DAY FESTIVAL

Sunday April 23

Free

11am - 2pm @ Lafayette Plaza Park

Live Music ✦ Kids & Family Activities ✦ Petting Zoo

Jim
Ocean
Band



Bike Tune-ups

Thanks to
Our Sponsor



Date: Sunday, April 23, 2023
Time: 11 AM - 2 PM
Location: Lafayette Plaza (across from Sideboard)
Cost: Free

Mt. Diablo Audubon will be tabling at the event.

Candlestick Point Bird Walk with SFBBO

Saturday, May 6, 2023



Come join California State Parks and the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory for a leisurely 1-mile bird walk through Candlestick Point SRA. Come experience spring!

We will be looking for birds found throughout the park, along the bay shoreline, and in the waters of the bay. We'll learn about the importance of Candlestick Point to migratory birds, and just how complex and unique the SF Bay is!

Meet at the main parking lot at 500 Hunter's Point Expressway, San Francisco, CA 94124.

Bring your own binoculars and bird ID guides; a limited amount will be provided for use. Dress in layers; comfortable, closed toe walking shoes recommended. Bring sun protection, water, and snacks. Walk is wheelchair accessible on flat paved or packed dirt trail. Plenty of restrooms and places to sit along the route.

Date: Saturday, May 6, 2023
Time: 8 - 10:30 AM
Location: **Candlestick Point State Recreation Area**
500 Hunters Point Expressway San Francisco, CA 94124
Cost: Free
Registration: [Click here to register online](#)

Global Big Day

Saturday, May 13, 2023



On May 13, help celebrate World Migratory Bird Day by participating in the **Global Big Day!**

Participation is easy—you can even be part of Global Big Day from home. For details click [HERE](#). Your fellow members would enjoy hearing about any exciting sightings or experiences, via the MDAS Facebook page or in a note to the *Quail*.

Pushing Back Plants: The Invasive Spartina Project

Thursday, May 18, 2023

San Francisco Bay is more than just the geographic feature that defines our region, it is a major global biodiversity hotspot. The largest estuary on the west coast of North America, it is a critical stopover along the Pacific Flyway migration route for millions of shorebirds and waterfowl. At a time when the world's biodiversity is under increasing pressure, we have a golden opportunity to protect the treasure at the heart of the Bay Area.

Speakers:

- *Tobias Rohmer, Monitoring Program Manager for the San Francisco Estuary Invasive Spartina Project*
- *Lindsay Faye Domecus, Environmental Biologist at Olofson Environmental Inc*

Date: Thursday, May 18, 2023
Time: 7 PM
Location: Zoom, Virtual Presentation
Sponsor: **Golden Gate Audubon Society**
Cost: Free
Zoom link: **[Click here](#)**
Passcode: 713241

May Gallery & Media



Cornell Lab Bird Cam

Bright Red Northern Cardinal Joins Crowd at Cornell Feeders



What Does a Black Vulture Over Manhattan Mean for Climate Change?

"Milder winters, shrinking habitats and new migratory patterns have changed the birds of the city."

Read the article [HERE](#).

Photo: [Tim Frye](#) / [Macaulay Library ML558717541](#)



Rainbow Lorikeet / Lower Plenty, Banyule, Victoria, Australia

Photo: **Peter Bennet / Macaulay Library ML551850421**



Prothonotary Warbler / Soundside Foundation Preserve, Santa Rosa, Florida,
United States

Photo: **Todd Fibus / Macaulay Library ML557475301**

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Mt. Diablo Audubon Society Leadership

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