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# Mt. Diablo Audubon Society

## ***The Quail***

Volume 68, Number 9

October 2023

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### **Next Monthly Program Meeting: Thursday, October 5th, 7 PM**

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

See **BELOW** for webinar access info.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE! We will be conducting our October meeting by Zoom.** We will be holding in-person meetings starting in November.

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### **Main Program: Why Birds Flock**

Jessica Griffiths



Jessica Griffiths

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 to swoop and turn together? Learn the answers to these questions and more in this presentation, which touches on bird biology and behavior, and highlights some remarkable scientific discoveries.

Jessica Griffiths has worked as a wildlife biologist in California for 20 years, focusing on songbirds and monarch butterflies. She loves birding, and enjoys sharing her passion for birds and conservation via bird walks and public talks. She currently works as a

wildlife biologist for Colorado State University's Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands (CEMML) at Vandenberg Space Force Base.

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## Webinar Access Info:

**Topic:** MDAS October 2023 membership meeting  
**Time:** Oct 5, 2023 7:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)  
**Location:** Zoom Meeting  
**Access:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82508015432?pwd=ZnpHRWRNczR1WEdYY2k0UFUvQk5RUT09>  
**Meeting ID:** 825 0801 5432  
**Passcode:** 576366  
**Phone** **One tap mobile**  
**access:** +16694449171,,82508015432#,,,,\*576366# US  
+16699006833,,82508015432#,,,,\*576366# US (San Jose)

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## President's Letter

Jerry Britten, *MDAS President*

Back in January, I flushed a **Common Poorwill** while birding one afternoon in the chaparral on the eastern flank of North Peak in Mt. Diablo State Park. I decided to go back up to this area after dark on a monthly basis, just to satisfy myself that these birds were resident. Sure enough, I have been recording multiple birds on every outing. Common Poorwills live in chaparral environments, but have a tendency to use fire roads in this habitat during the night as they hunt for the moths and other large nocturnal insects that make up their diet. So, walking a fire road at night with a flashlight looking for eyeshine on the road is a good way to locate these birds.



This has turned out to be a reliable location to see Poorwills. Although steep, it is a relatively short hike from the parking area along Morgan Territory Road. The only other reliable place to see these birds in the area is in White Canyon off of Mitchell Canyon in the park. This is about a 3-mile round trip from the Mitchell Canyon parking area, and is accessible at night only through guided hikes with docents. Also of interest is that this new location is within the count circle for the Central Contra Costa Christmas Bird Count. It has been 30 years since a

Common Poorwill has been recorded on the Central County CBC, so we hope to put an end to the drought this year!

### **In Chapter news**

Please read about the issue of our **name change** later in this newsletter, and be on the lookout for a ballot to vote on this in the coming days. We urge everyone to please vote – let your position be known! Also, in this issue please find the schedule for **Field Trips** to our **Northern Saw-Whet Owl Banding Station**, where you have a rare chance to see one of these birds.

The remodel of Heather Farms Gardens continues to be plagued by delays, and now our **monthly meeting plans** have been derailed through December! Note that our October meeting will again be held virtually via Zoom. For November and December, we are trying to secure alternate venues to hold in-person meetings, so stay tuned!

We are delighted to welcome **CJ Lee** as new **Interim Quail Editor**, and warmly thank **Aria Capelli** for fulfilling this role for the last year. We continue to seek volunteers for a number of other vital Board positions, including **Secretary, Education Chair, and Outreach Chair**. To find out more information on these positions, please visit our website here and scroll down to 'Volunteer Openings'. To express an interest in one, please contact [president@mtdiabloaudubon.org](mailto:president@mtdiabloaudubon.org). Please consider helping in one of these areas, to keep our organization strong!

Stay safe, and get out there for the Birds!



Common Poorwill, Mt. Diablo State Park

Photo by J. Britten

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## Name Change Ballot Coming Soon

Several Audubon chapters across the country are dropping "Audubon" from their names, following a reconsideration of John James Audubon's legacy.

While the National Audubon Society has **decided to retain the name Audubon**, all chapters are free to decide what is best for them. Chapters who drop the name Audubon can still be affiliated with the National Audubon Society. **Mt. Diablo Audubon Society will still remain a chapter of the National Audubon Society, even if our membership votes to drop Audubon from our name.**

As mentioned in previous Quail articles (see **April**, **May**, and **June** issues), the Mt. Diablo Audubon Board has reached a consensus that "Audubon" should be dropped from the name, and a majority of our membership agrees (see results of our April membership poll in the **June Quail**).

On August 17, our sister chapter to the west changed their name from Golden Gate Audubon Society to **Golden Gate Bird Alliance** (GGBA). This decision was ratified by their membership after months of consideration and outreach to their community. The Mt. Diablo Audubon Board recently met with GGBA Executive Director Glenn Phillips and Deputy Director Whitney Grover to hear about the process GGBA pursued in changing their name and learn from their experience. The thoughtful and thorough process of choosing this name is described in detail in the link above.

Leveraging the excellent work done by Golden Gate Bird Alliance, and in the spirit of forging a real alliance for birds that we think will grow on local, regional and even national levels, our Board voted at its September meeting to recommend that our chapter adopt the new name **Mount Diablo Bird Alliance**.

So what's next? In early October, all chapter members will receive an email with a link to a **ballot** with two questions:

1. **Shall Mt. Diablo Audubon Society seek a new name that does not memorialize John James Audubon? Yes or No**
2. **Shall Mt. Diablo Audubon Society change its name to Mount Diablo Bird Alliance? Yes or No**

(A Yes vote authorizes the Board to change "Mt. Diablo Audubon Society" to "Mount Diablo Bird Alliance" and "MDAS" to "MDBA" in our Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, and other official documents).

When you receive this email, please take the time to vote, regardless of your position. In order for the result to be valid, we need a quorum of voters, defined in our Bylaws as 50 or more members. However, in a matter such as this, it is very important for us to know the feelings of every one of our 350+ members. We will set a deadline of two weeks after sending the email to ask people to complete the ballot, and we will send a reminder.

If a quorum is met, and a majority of voters chooses to drop the name Audubon and change our name to Mount Diablo Bird Alliance, we will begin the official process of making the name change in early 2024. If a majority of voters chooses not to change our name, it will remain Mt. Diablo Audubon Society. If a majority of voters chooses to drop the name Audubon but a majority does not vote for Mount Diablo Bird Alliance, we will initiate a search for a new name in early 2024. We will announce the results of this election at our November membership meeting.

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Here's some additional information from our April 18 email regarding the Audubon name issue:

The National Audubon Society has decided to keep Audubon in their name. Please see their

statement [here](#). As independent entities, each Audubon chapter can decide whether to retain or drop Audubon from their name. National Audubon Society **pledges** to continue "to work closely with chapter leaders to move forward as one unified community."

While John James Audubon was a talented naturalist and illustrator, and is regarded as the "founding father" of American birding, he was also an enslaver. Not only did he own slaves, but he claimed to have personally delivered people who had escaped slavery, back into bondage. He did not act out of naive ignorance: John James Audubon was a vocal defender of slavery at a time when it had already been abolished in Britain, and opposition was rising in the United States.

Seattle was the first chapter in July 2022 to drop "Audubon" from their name, followed by others including Chicago, Portland, Madison WI and Washington DC. For statements from these chapters explaining their decisions, along with more information, please see the links in the article in the [April Quail](#).

To hear the perspective of Black birders on the issue, please read or listen to an [interview](#) conducted on the podcast Science Friday with Stuart Wells, executive director of Portland Audubon, and conservation scientist Corina Newsome.

For more information, check out these op-eds, blogs from Golden Gate Audubon, and FAQ from NYC Audubon.

- ["Why the National Audubon Society must change its name"](#) by Christian Cooper. April 4, 2023. Washington Post
- ["Why the 'Audubon' Decision Hurts"](#) by Meghadeepa Maity. April 7, 2023. BirdNote
- Series of [blog posts](#) on this issue by our sister chapter, Golden Gate Audubon
- [FAQs on Audubon Bird Name](#), NYC Audubon

Thank you for your participation and for your continued support to help protect birds and bird habitat.

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## Membership Updates

Rochelle Fortier, *MDAS Membership Chair*

**Welcome New Members!** I want to give a warm welcome to the new



members who joined in August: **Jessica Campbell**, Piedmont and **Inger Coble**, Richmond.

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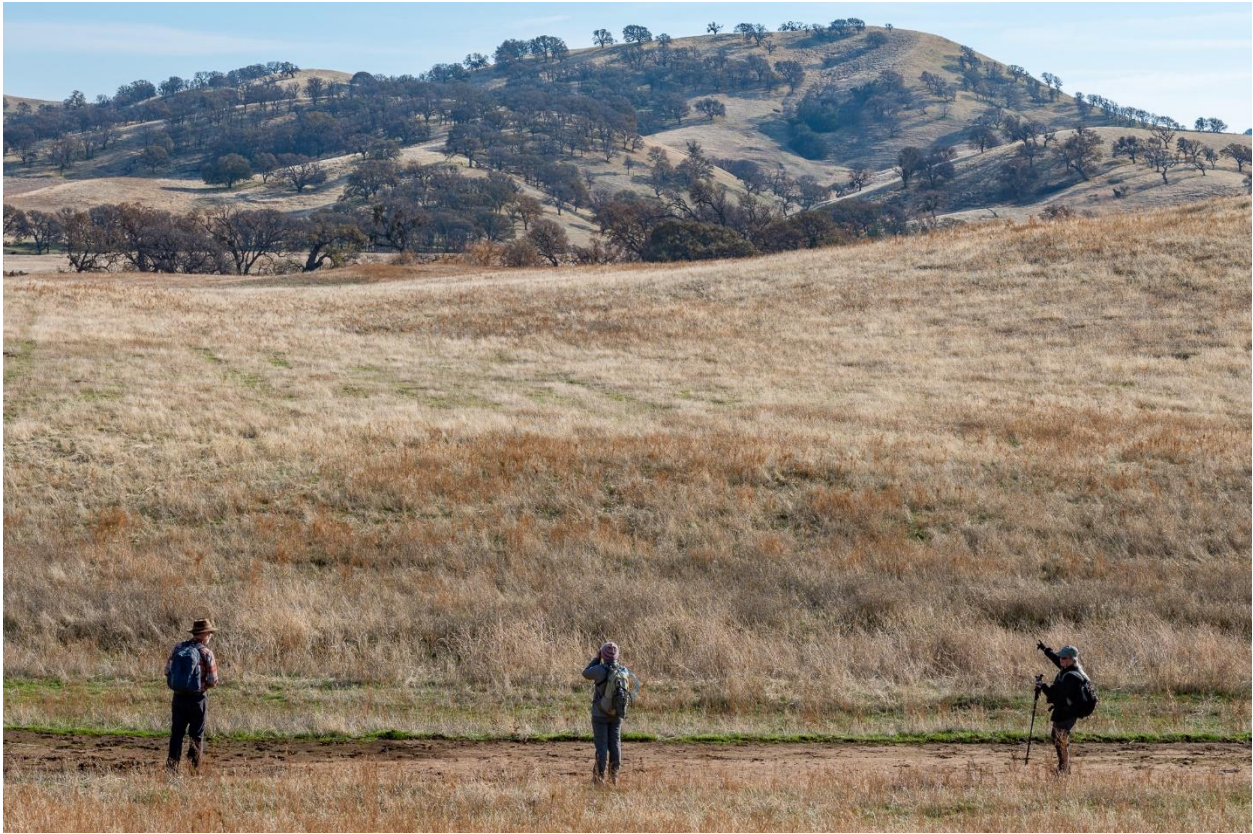
## **2023 MDAS Christmas Bird Counts Scheduled**

Jerry Britten, *CBC Compiler*

Calling all Birders! The 69th Annual Central Contra Costa Christmas Bird Count is scheduled for **Saturday December 16**. 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](mailto: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 24th Annual East-County count will be held **Wednesday December 20**. 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](mailto:mdaseasterncbc@gmail.com). The countdown event for this one is also virtual, at 7 PM on the count day and is open to all participants.





Birders on the 2022 East-County CBC at Round Valley Regional Park

Photo by Scott Hein

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## From 50 Years Ago

Jerry Britten, *MDAS President*

For your reading pleasure, a report of a Field Trip to then-new Pt. Pinole Regional Park.

Thirty-four members and guests turned out for the walk at PT. PINOLE on September 6th under clear skies with warm temperature to explore the new Regional Park. Outstanding sightings were a flock of 27 White Pelicans which flew over our heads in V-formation and a Red-Shouldered Hawk. The following 47 species were found:

White & Brown Pelican, Double-Crested & Brandt's Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, Canada Goose, Mallard, Red-Tailed, Red-Shouldered & Marsh Hawk, American Kestrel (Sparrow Hawk), California Quail, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Killdeer, Whimbrel, Willet, Western & Herring Gull, Forster's & Caspian Tern, Mourning Dove, Common (Red-Shafted Flicker), Western Flycatcher, Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Mockingbird, Robin, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Warbling Vireo, Yellow, Yellow-Rumped (Audubon's) & Wilson's Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Black-Headed Grosbeak, House Finch, American & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco, White-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

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# MDAS Annual Treasurer's Report

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.

At the start of the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the Board decided to split the General Fund into two categories: 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. The goal is to donate most of the 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 2022 – June 2023

Funds	Revenue	Expenses	Net	Fund Balance 7/1/2023
General	37,511.80	18,707.26	18,804.54	0
Reserve	0	0	0	20,000.00
Excess	271.27	50,093.00	-49,821.73	80,221.93
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>37,783.07</b>	<b>68,800.26</b>	<b>-31,017.19</b>	<b>100,211.93</b>

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## Event

Alan Bade

### Contra Costa Watershed Symposium

A reminder and update: on **Thursday, October 26, 2023** Contra Costa County Creek and Watershed Symposium will be held at the Pleasant Hill Community Center, from 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM. This event brings together state and local agencies, local nonprofits, community volunteer groups, and members of the public to discuss and plan for the health of our watersheds. More information can be found [here](#). MDAS is helping to sponsor this event and will be hosting an informational table. We get two free tickets, but the MDAS Board decided to reimburse the ticket price for up to 8 additional

volunteers if they are willing to help with tabling in between speakers. Several members have already contacted me, but there are still spaces available. Ticket holders are eligible to attend field trips the next day, signups for these are during Thursday morning's registration for the following locations;

- Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project (Brentwood, CA)
- Dutch Slough Tidal Marsh Restoration Project (Oakley, CA)
- Lower Walnut Creek Restoration Project (Martinez, CA)
- North Richmond Watershed Connections Project (North Richmond, CA)

If you'd like to attend and are willing to help, please contact **Alan Bade**.

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## Raffle Item Donations

Rosemary Nishikawa

Some of our favorite things about our in-person meetings is getting reacquainted with friends, sharing food and looking at what the raffle table is offering. We sell raffle tickets before the meeting and have the drawings prior to our speaker presentation. Our stock of raffle prizes is dwindling, and we're reaching out to our generous supporters for contributions that can add excitement to our upcoming event. If you have any enjoyable and intriguing items you'd like to contribute to our cause, please reach out to our Sales Member, Rosemary Nishikawa, to coordinate collection before our next in-person meeting on November 2nd. Your donations can encompass a wide range of items, including books, repurposed gifts, various goods, or decorative items with a bird theme. Additionally, we regularly feature a *giveaway* table, showcasing bird magazines, books, and calendars. We deeply appreciate your continued support. Contact Rosemary **HERE**.

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## Track Bird Migration Over San Francisco Bay Area

Fall bird migration is now in full swing and a fun way to see what's going on over in our sky is to jump onto BirdCast, a migration Dashboard. "This dashboard provides summaries of radar based measurements of nocturnal bird migration for the contiguous United States, including estimates for the total number of birds migrating as well as their directions, speeds, and altitudes." You can watch migration patterns in real time or see the summary for the whole night the next morning. The website, by Cornell Lab, also

keeps track of species of birds that might be migrating in the night skies in your region. Check it out [HERE](#).

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## MDAS Trip Report

Matt Tarlach, *MDAS Field Trip Chair*

### Bodega Bay Trip Report

Report by trip leader *Hugh Harvey*

It happens every year, but I am always pleased to see so many Naked Ladies on this trip. The bright pink Amaryllis bloom along the road starting after Petaluma, but are especially abundant around the harbor at Bodega Bay. Fifteen members and guests enjoyed the flowers and forty-six bird species. After meeting at the Tides Restaurant, we made our way to Bodega Head and also stopped at several spots in between. Though waterfowl were scarce, the American Wigeons we did see made the **eBird** rarity list. Nine shorebird species were seen; the best were probably a single Lesser Yellowlegs and a Ruddy Turnstone. We saw the three expected Cormorants, both Pelicans and it was a five-Heron day. A single Osprey was seen several times. At Campbell Cove we enjoyed the sight of a Hummingbird Moth---*Hyles lineata*---lunching on the nectar of flowers all around the picnic area. A most impressive insect!



Brown Pelican

Photo by Isaac Aronow



Brandt's Cormorants

Photo by Matt Tarlach



Ruddy Turnstone

Photo by Isaac Aronow



Black Turnstone

Photo by Isaac Aronow



Brown Pelicans

Photo by Cheryl Abel

### **Mt. Wanda Trip Report**

On Saturday September 16, MDAS joined with the rangers from John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez to mount a beginner's bird hike at Mt. Wanda. The location is part of John Muir's former estate, named for his eldest daughter. Sixteen birders of varied experience including visitors to our area from as far away as Ireland! Came out on a cloudy-but-pleasant morning to see what we'd see.

From the trailhead near Hwy 4 the trail climbs fairly steeply for almost 500', through mixed

oak woodland opening into oak-studded grassland near the top. On the climb we saw and heard many of our typical local species, such as Steller's Jay, Cal Towhee, Band-tailed Pigeon and plentiful, noisy Acorn Woodpecker. There were several White-breasted Nuthatch, and a Hutton's Vireo. Nearer the top of the trail we added Nuttall's and Hairy Woodpecker along with other species, before the highlight of the day: an impressive Great Horned Owl glimpsed between the branches of the oak forest. Red-breasted Nuthatch were also heard near the summit, an unusual bird for the area. In the category of "other taxa," a Monarch Butterfly caterpillar was seen munching happily on some Narrow-leaf Milkweed. The park service has been working hard to help this plant recover here and it was good to see the butterflies have found it!

We tallied 26 avian species on our 3 hour, 2.5 mile hike, and participants reported a grand time. More than one beginner expressed incredulity at the diversity of bird life so close to their homes. Thanks to Cheryl Abel for conceiving and leading this trip, and to the rangers from the NPS for their support.

EBird checklist: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S150041184>



ACWO

Photo by Cheryl Abel



Monarch Caterpillar

Photo by Judy Roberts

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## **MDAS Field Trips**

Matt Tarlach, *MDAS Field Trip Chair*



MDAS mounts dozens of Field Trips throughout the year, ranging from strolls in our local parks to all-day expeditions to premier habitats around Northern California, on excursions that vary in physical challenge from car-based outings to vigorous hikes. On each field trip, one or more leaders strives to guide us to the best locations, in the best season...but the actual bird-spotting is really a team effort. *Come birding with us!*

You can see the birds we've recorded on our field trips since transitioning to electronic records, [HERE](#).

To ensure trips are not overcrowded, pre-registration through Eventbrite is required. Signups generally open when the trips are announced in our newsletter, the *Quail*, but are open to non-members too. Registration 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 via Eventbrite *as early as possible* to open that spot up for someone else!

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.

Out of respect for our members and community, we continue to ask participants to take sensible precautions for everyone's health. MDAS events do not require carpooling,

though participants are of course free to make their own arrangements. Carpooling is a fun way to share the day with a fellow birder, and is helpful in reducing the burden our travel puts on the environment—and often helps with parking, too.

Leading a field trip is a fun way to serve our chapter's mission, while sharing a day out in nature with other enthusiasts! If you'd like to introduce us to a new hotspot, or take over a trip to one of our regular spots that's in need of a new leader, please contact our Field Trip Coordinator: Matt Tarlach, [mdasfieldtrips@gmail.com](mailto:mdasfieldtrips@gmail.com). He might be able to pair you up with an experienced leader who can show you the ropes.

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**Upcoming field trips include:**

### **Northern Saw-whet Owl Banding Field Trips**

**Various Dates**



One of our Las Trampas Northern Saw-Whet Owls recaptured at Blue Lake CA in 2022

Photo by Maycee Hash



Join Master Owl Bander Julie Woodruff and other members of the team for an evening under the stars to observe Northern Saw-whet Owls! Learn all about how these tiny, enigmatic owls are captured and studied with a local owl bander and hopefully get an opportunity to see them (and other night creatures such as coyotes, Great Horned Owls, feral pigs, Western Screech Owls, and bats) close-up as you get a personal experience to learn about a local research project. Visitors must be able to hike up a short, steep hill on uneven terrain, sometimes in the cold. Due to the nature of the program, guests are limited to maximum of five per outing. Bring layers, snacks and water, a flashlight and a portable chair. Please reach out to **Julie** to reserve your night! The following dates and times are available (although subject to change). Rain or windy conditions cancel: 2023 Northern Saw-Whet Owl Banding Field Trip Schedule. Maximum 5 Participants per date.

Date	Time
Friday, 10/20	18:30 - 22:00
Saturday, 10/21	18:30 - 22:00
Friday, 10/27	18:30 - 22:00
Thursday, 11/2	18:30 - 22:00
Sunday, 11/5	17:00 - 21:00

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### **Birding by Bike at Clifton Court Forebay**

**Saturday, October 7, 7:30 AM - 1:30 PM**



Photo by Jerry Britten

Have a bicycle, e-bike or scooter, and like to bird? Join MDAS at Clifton Court Reservoir in eastern Contra Costa County, where we will do an out-and-back biking/birding trip of approximately 10 miles on a flat, paved levee road, to see a myriad of bird species. Those who are equipped for it can also navigate a series of well-maintained gravel levee roads to avoid taking the same route back.

Clifton Court Forebay is an enormous reservoir that collects Delta water and sends it south through the Delta-Mendota canal. The reservoir itself can hold staggering numbers of waterfowl and gulls, and the surrounding habitat of slough, marshland, grassland, scrub and riparian woods is very productive. It is not uncommon to record 60-80 species of birds in a single outing, and the place is a magnet for rarities, especially in fall. There are also excellent chances to see river otters, coyotes, resident sea lions and even a beaver if we're lucky.

Trip is approximately 5 hours, although participants can turn back at any time. There is plenty of free parking at the Forebay, but no restroom facilities or potable water. Must be able to transport your bike/scooter to the site. It can be windy out there, but is pleasant most of the time. We will monitor the forecast, gale-force winds will cancel.

Meet at the parking lot at the end of Clifton Court Road (left turn from highway J4 approximately 2 miles southeast of Byron) at 7:30 AM. Bring layers, sunscreen, water and a snack or lunch for when we get back to the cars.

**Leader:** Jerry Britten

**Meeting Point GPS:** 37.8378308046695, -121.59322207166935

This trip is limited to 15 participants. All Field Trips are first-registered, first-served. Participants acknowledge the MDAS Liability Waiver (available during registration).

Register [HERE](#).

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**Elsie Roemer Bird Sanctuary/Crab Cove, Alameda**

**Saturday, October 21, 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM**



Long-billed Curlew and American Godwits

Photo by Maren Smith

The millions of shorebirds that winter on San Francisco Bay make it a state and global Important Bird Area. It is part of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network and is also designated as a Wetland of International Importance under UNESCO's Ramsar Convention.

We'll start at the viewing platform at Elsie Roemer Bird Sanctuary, which is at the southeast end of Shoreline Drive in Alameda, walk along the shoreline to another viewing platform, and then drive to the Crab Cove Visitor Center area. We'll be walking short distances on level, mostly paved paths, so this trip is accessible for birders with mobility limitations. Bring water and sun protection. Spotting scopes welcome and appreciated.

Restrooms and water are available at the intersection of Shoreline Drive and Park Street (about 0.2 miles walk from the Elsie Roemer viewing platform) and at the Crab Cove Visitors Center.

**Hike Rating:** 1, Easy. Short walks on level paths. (This trip is Accessible.)

**Elevation change:** N/A

**Leader:** Maureen Lahiff, [MLahiff@aol.com](mailto:MLahiff@aol.com), 510.484.6529

**Meet:** Elsie Roemer Bird Sanctuary viewing platform near intersection of Broadway and Shore Line Drive in Alameda. Parking on Broadway and streets off Broadway is the best bet.

This trip is limited to 18 participants. All Field Trips are first-registered, first-served. Participants acknowledge the MDAS Liability Waiver (available during registration).

Register [HERE](#).

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## Lodi Lake & Woodbridge Preserve

Wednesday, November 1, 9:00 AM - 1:30 PM



Great Blue Heron

Photo by Maren Smith

We'll bird first at Lodi Lake and its riparian area alongside the Mokelumne River. Plan to see waterfowl and many bird species including Woodpeckers, White-breasted Nuthatch, Cedar Waxwing, Herons, Warblers and Wood Duck. (We've had Varied Thrush in the past but cannot guarantee!) From Lodi Lake we'll move on to Woodbridge Ecological Preserve, where we'll see waterfowl and other birds, including hopefully some early-arriving Sandhill Cranes. Dress in layers. Bring water, snacks and lunch if you choose. This trip is limited to 12 participants. Rain cancels. NOTE: Date of this trip is subject to change. Registration will open on October 10, and the date should be certain by then. Check the date on Eventbrite before registering, on or after October 10.

**Hike Rating:** 2 - Easy to moderate loop of 1.5 - 2 miles on level ground with some paved areas. A few very short off-trail lookouts with easy to moderate slope access. There are a few benches to rest on as well.

**Elevation change:** N/A

**Leader:** Mona Lange 510-414-2959

**Meet:** Lodi Lake parking lot (1101 W. Turner Rd) (bathroom at parking lot). Parking fee \$5/car or \$3/car for seniors. CASH only.

**Directions:** Hwy 4 East toward Antioch/Rio Vista. Go over Antioch bridge (toll). At stop light make RIGHT onto Hwy 12 toward Lodi. Stay on 12 East past interstate 5. About 2 miles past I-5 make a LEFT on DeVries Rd (the light after the RR tracks.) Carefully and safely watch for Yellow-billed Magpies in the area. At the second stop sign make a RIGHT onto W. Turner Rd. When in town, stay in the left lane. After crossing the RR tracks start looking for the Lake entrance on your LEFT. (On the other side of the Do Not Enter Sign).

Register [HERE](#).

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

**Saturday, November 4, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM**



American Avocets

Photo by Maren Smith

We see a variety of birds on the water on this trip, that is only about a 55 minute drive from Walnut Creek. It is exciting to be on the largest tract of undisturbed marshland remaining in the San Francisco Bay. Locations include Charleston Slough, Shoreline Lake, Palo Alto Baylands, and Redwood Shores.

**Hike Rating:** Category 2 – Moderate. We do some walking on flat terrain 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 entrance to Palo Alto Baylands on Terminal Boulevard in Mountain View at 9:00 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 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 mile and turn right onto Terminal Road and park. Entrance to Palo Alto Baylands is on the 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. Participants must acknowledge the MDAS Liability Waiver.

Register [HERE](#).

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## Other Birding Opportunities

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

### **Nature Walk 9: Birds, Butterflies and Blooms**

**Wednesday, September 27, 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM**



Join naturalist Dan Fitzgerald for a nature walk in the Mitchell Canyon area. We will be looking for birds, butterflies, and some seasonal blooms. Bring water, snacks, and binoculars if you have them. The walk is about 3 miles with some elevation gain. We ask participants who are not vaccinated against COVID-19 to please wear a mask. Limited to 15 participants.

**Date:** Wednesday, September 27  
**Time:** 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM  
**Location:** Mitchell Canyon Visitor Center, 96 Mitchell Canyon Road, Clayton, CA  
**Cost:** \$6 per vehicle/Seniors \$5 (exact change required)  
**Registration:** [Click here to register](#)

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### **Birds of Fall Walk**

**Sunday, October 15, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM**



It is time to say goodbye to summer and hello to fall and also welcome in our feathery migratory friends at Del Valle. Discover the diversity of birds migrating through Del Valle and learn why the lake is so important to them. This will be an easy hike (approximately 2 miles).

**Date:** Sunday, October 15, 2023  
**Time:** 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM  
**Location:** **East Shore - Dog Run Trail**  
**Cost:** Free  
**Registration:** Drop In

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**Conservation, Climate Change, and Action with Dr. Madhavi Colton**

Thursday, October 19, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM





Community  
Education  
Series



## An evening with Dr. Madhavi Colton '94

Thursday, October 19, 6:30-8:00 PM  
Kate & Dyke Brown Hall

Scan code to register



HOSTED BY THE ATHENIAN PARENT ASSOCIATION

Dr. Madhavi Colton is an accomplished conservation scientist whose career has focused on helping the world's ecosystems cope with the effects of climate change. As the new Vice President and Executive Director of Audubon California, she leads California's efforts to protect critical habitats for California's birds and people. Throughout her career, Madhavi has worked at the intersection of science, conservation, management, and policy. For the past decade, she has partnered with communities in Indonesia, Fiji, Hawai'i, Honduras, and Mexico to preserve the world's coral reefs, from improving water quality to restoring native plants. Most recently, Madhavi served as Executive Director of the Coral Reef Alliance.

Join us to hear Dr. Madhavi discuss the most critical conservation priorities for California and offer data-driven actions we can all take against climate change.

- Date:** Thursday, October 19, 2023
- Time:** 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
- Location:** The Athenian School, 2100 Mount Diablo Scenic Boulevard
- Cost:** Free
- Registration:** [Click here to register](#)

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## October Gallery & Media



### Shedding Light on Protecting Birds: Research and Recommendations

See the full video [HERE](#)

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### **Planting a garden for the birds**

"Emulate the layers found in a local, natural ecosystem."

Read the article [HERE](#).

Photo: Daniel Irons / [Macaulay Library ML 176765451](#)

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White-faced Ibis / Flood Pools North of Indiana, Sullivan, Indiana, United States

Photo: **Michael Brown / Macaulay Library ML59836511**

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Roseate Spoonbill / Fort De Soto Park, Pinellas, Florida, United States

Photo: **Brett Hoffman / Macaulay Library ML608792854**

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**Mt. Diablo Audubon Society Leadership**

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