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# Mount Diablo Bird Alliance

## *The Quail*

Volume 69, Number 8

September 2024

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

Mount Diablo Bird Alliance will meet Thursday, September 5th in the Camellia Room at the Gardens at Heather Farm.

**Address:**

The Camellia Room @ The Gardens at Heather Farms  
1540 Marchbanks Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94598

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

**Agenda:**

6:30 PM Doors Open

7:00 PM Announcements

7:15 PM Refreshments and Raffle

7:30 PM Main Program: Birds of Canada and North American Wood Warblers

Our Raffle table's success relies heavily on your fantastic donations! We're on the lookout for awesome bird-related items or anything similar, like books, art, collectables, feeders, bird boxes, and camera equipment. Basically, anything you think someone might be interested in buying raffle tickets for.

Feel free to bring your donations to our meetings. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

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## Birds of Canada and North American Wood Warblers

Norman Kikuchi, MD



Northern Gannets

All photos by N. Kikumchi



Blackburnian Warbler

Atlantic Puffin

Norman Kikuchi will present photos taken from a few of his favorite locations in Canada.

In a small town named Elliston, there is a lesser known breeding colony of Atlantic Puffins, that are sometimes known to nibble on visitors' shoelaces!

We will also learn about New World Wood Warblers (Parulidae) taken from migration hotspots and breeding locations in the US and Canada. Warbler addiction among birders is a common condition from which happily there seems to be no cure.

Norman's childhood interest in birds began while stalking Ring-necked Pheasants in the Mt Diablo foothills, however witnessing the impalement of a Western Fence lizard by a Loggerhead Shrike on a Joshua tree spine was his real bird epiphany. He was transfixed by the moment!

Norman graduated from UC Davis in Zoology with a minor in herpetology. He received his MD in family practice at UC Irvine. In 1997 he acquired the super telephoto Canon lenses and switched to avian photography. His current ultimate goal is photographing all the breeding birds in the US and Canada.

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## President's Letter

Jerry Britten, *MDBA President*

I'd like to share an experience I had earlier in the spring, now that the nesting season is over. Mount Diablo Bird Alliance has a permit with the East Bay Municipal Utilities District to place, maintain and monitor Wood-Duck nest boxes along both San Pablo and Upper San Leandro Reservoirs as part of the **California Wood Duck Program**.



This spring, Biologist Andrew Ford and I were doing a route at San Pablo Reservoir, where we discovered a nest with both hatchlings and unhatched eggs. Knowing that the hatched chicks spend very little time in the nest boxes, I hoped that the remaining eggs would hatch that day and that the next morning would be 'jump day' when the chicks leave the nest. So, I went back early the next morning with a chair to watch and wait. After about 3 hours of sitting, I was standing, stretching my legs, when the hen suddenly stuck her head out of the box. I remained motionless for almost 15 minutes while she looked around until, satisfied it was safe, she hopped onto a nearby branch, then to the ground. Finally, I was able to sit down and ready my camera. The hen waddled to the water and began calling, and after about 5 minutes the first chick appeared, and after a few seconds launched itself out. It was followed by 4 more over the course of the next few minutes. They all joined up with their mother, unseen, and swam off. It was something I've always wanted to witness, and am grateful to

have had the opportunity to do so.



Wood Ducklings leaving the nest, San Pablo Reservoir. Photos by J. Britten

## Chance to Secure \$10 Billion for Climate & Nature

### Vote YES on Prop 4 this November

Juan Pablo Galvan, *MDBA Conservation*

- 1. California has a historic opportunity to make the largest investment in climate action in state history.** Proposition 4, a climate bond on the upcoming ballot, proposes dedicating a substantial \$10 billion to combat the climate crisis. From preventing devastating megafires and restoring vital coastal habitat to protecting wildlife corridors in the Diablo Range and upgrading water infrastructure for recycling and efficiency, California voters have a chance to make a significant impact on both nature and the fight against climate change. This November, please vote YES on 4! Read more [HERE](#).
- 2. There's a clear choice for the environment and birds this November.** One is better for the environment, the other is much much worse. Make an impact where it counts, in swing states. Fight for birds and their habitats, and a better planet for yourselves. Take action [HERE](#).
- 3. Climate change is a pressing concern for many, but are you taking action?** The good news is that the "Alarmed," the group most concerned about climate change, is now the largest group in the US in terms of climate change attitude. The challenge? Only one-third of even this most concerned group is taking concrete steps to address the crisis. Are you one of them? The good news is that you can make a difference! Learn how to bridge the gap between concern and

action, both for yourself and others. Instead of just worrying, take meaningful steps to combat climate change. Read more [HERE](#) to find out how.

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## Membership Updates

Rochelle Fortier, *MDBA Membership Chair*

**Welcome New Members!** I want to give a warm welcome to the new members who joined over the Summer: **Bonnie Bilich**, San Ramon; **Annette Dale**, Lafayette and **Mignon Stapleton**, Sacramento. I hope to see you at our next program meeting in September!



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## Wood Duck Nest-Box Monitoring

**Spring 2024**

Jerry Britten, *MDBA President*



A Western Screech Owl being examined at San Pablo Reservoir. Photo by J. Britten

A few MDBA members, led by volunteer Biologists Julie Woodruff and Andrew Ford, once again repaired, prepped and monitored Wood-Duck nest boxes along San Pablo and Upper San Leandro Reservoirs. As usual, we found many of the boxes being used by squirrels, some by mice, some by bees, some by Western Screech Owls (a bonus for us!) and some actually being used by nesting Wood Duck hens!

Upper San Leandro Reservoir was relatively inactive – only 2 of the 16 boxes hatched wood ducks. We banded one adult Western Screech Owl found inside a box. San Pablo Reservoir, where we have 32 boxes installed, was more productive. In addition to 5 Western Screech Owls banded here (one adult and four nestlings), we counted 73 total hatched eggs from 7-8 nests. An additional 37 eggs did not hatch due to nest abandonment, predation of the female (one instance) or other reasons. Please see my President's report for other information on this very rewarding project. This spring, we plan to increase our scope by installing 9 boxes at Briones Reservoir. If you are

interested in helping out this coming season, starting in about February, please contact me at [President@mtdiablobirds.org](mailto:President@mtdiablobirds.org).

## From 50 Years Ago - The Quail, August 1974

Jerry Britten, *MDBA President*

The August 1974 issue of The Quail contained this good-news update on Wood Stork population status in Florida. Due in large part to decades-long conservation efforts such as this, today the Wood Stork globally is listed as a species of least-concern.

HEARTENING NEWS ABOUT WOOD STORKS. At Nat'l Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary in Florida, where no Wood Storks at all nested in 1973, some 2000 pairs nested and raised young this year. The sanctuary's new "fish farm" project to increase the amount of food available to the storks is now beginning to become effective and should mean a larger percentage of newly hatched young will live through the critical early weeks and leave their nests as fully fledged birds. However, cautions Corkscrew biologist James L. Hansen, one good season cannot bring back healthy populations of these big birds whose numbers have dwindled to the point that AMERICAN BIRDS has added them to its Blue List (the early-warning list of birds that appear to be slipping toward the endangered species list). Storks each year need the right combination of weather and water levels to nest, which means that there are sure to be more bad seasons for nesting in the future. At best it will be years before the storks can rebuild their population back to a truly healthy level.

## Announcing the Mt-Diablo-Bird-Alliance Email Group

Matthew Tarlach, *Field Trips Coordinator*

There is now a private email group for MDBA members on Groups.io! This will **not** replace the occasional email bulletins sent out to all members on important topics. The new group is "**opt-in**," which means you need to sign up for it to receive messages. A number of our members have expressed a desire for greater connectivity and we hope this provides it, without cluttering the Inboxes of folks who already get enough email. Many of us belong to other lists on Groups.io and adding this one should be easy.

It will take a while for the new group to decide what it wants to be, but potential uses include:

- Updates on field trips or volunteer opportunities.
- Rallying fellow members for advocacy, for example notification of important city planning meetings, or write-in campaigns in support of legislation.
- Alerting members to remarkable birding opportunities in our area, for example the impressive roost of egrets that manifested a few months ago near downtown Concord.
- Birding classes, festivals or field trips happening locally.
- Inviting fellow members to go birding with you!

Please limit posts to "announcements" or "invitations" (loosely defined), or replies to such, and do not overwhelm the volunteer moderator with chat. Use the list to arrange a meeting in the field! Reports of rare bird sightings within MDBA territory are welcome, and should be posted also to the wider public group EBB-Sightings.

If you already belong to other groups on Groups.io, click [here](#) and then scroll down to the link "Apply for Membership in this Group."

If you don't have an account on Groups.io yet, start [here](#). After setting up your account, click the link above and Apply for Membership in the MDBA group.

An account on Groups.io also gives you access to other local lists, including East Bay Bird Sightings, SF Birds, North Bay Birds, and others.

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## **Friends of Tice Creek: New Rossmoor Group**

Alan Bade

Mt Diablo Bird Alliance members may be interested to learn about a new creek stewardship group focusing on Tice Creek, a tributary of Walnut Creek. Below is their announcement:

"Friends of Tice Creek is a new committee of Rossmoor's Sustainable Rossmoor Club. Recognizing the importance of the creek and its watershed and its beautiful valley as a wildlife corridor connecting Las Trampas Wilderness and Mt. Diablo is our purpose. In June, Walnut Creek vice mayor, Cindy Darling, along with Walnut Creek Watershed Council's Bob Simmons and Friends of the Creek's Lesley Hunt helped launch Friends of Tice Creek. Our effort is to connect Rossmoor clubs for hikers, birders, golfers, creek lovers and our property manager The Golden Rain Foundation with the work of the network of creeks groups in the Walnut Creek watershed for regenerating Tice Creek's wildlife biodiversity. Contact Don MacGregor at [dmacgregor3@gmail.com](mailto:dmacgregor3@gmail.com)"



Friends of Tice Creek will join five other community stewardship groups that are part of the **Walnut Creek Watershed Council**. These are Friends of the Creeks (Walnut Creek-based), Friends of San Ramon Creek, Friends of Pleasant Hill Creeks, Friends of Concord Creeks (which includes the part of the Mt. Diablo Watershed that is in the City of Concord), and the Lafayette Creeks Committee.

Our urban creeks are important to wildlife and birds, as evidenced by a joint 5-year monthly bird survey by Friends of Pleasant Hill Creeks and Mt Diablo Bird Alliance (2017-2022) that documented over 100 species on Grayson Creek. (**species list**).

Rossmoor birders and wildlife enthusiasts are encouraged to contact Friends of Tice Creeks for more information.

## **Tricolored Blackbird Breeding Colony Monitoring, 2024 Summary**

Jerry Britten



Tricolored Blackbird fledglings at colony site in east Contra Costa. Photo by J. Britten

As many of you know, the Tricolored Blackbird is considered a threatened species in California (essentially the only state where they breed) due to habitat loss and conflicts with farming practices. The Mount Diablo Bird Alliance has a permit from the Contra Costa Water District to access a restricted area at Los Vaqueros Watershed to monitor Contra Costa's only known Tricolored Blackbird nesting colony. This is a small colony (by Central Valley standards), consisting of a few hundred to a couple of thousand birds that nest in a large Himalayan blackberry bramble in the middle of a hilly, open grassland grazed by cattle.

This year, the colony faced several adverse conditions, including the major winter storm event of May 4th that dropped a lot of rain across Northern California and the presence of feral pigs taking cover in the brambles (thanks to the Water District for removing this threat). At one point in early May, we thought the colony had been abandoned, but, thanks in part to another bumper crop of grasshoppers, the birds moved back in and successfully raised a brood of young. We again placed an audio recorder at the site, which will be analyzed to study the timing of the colony's phases.

Although the number of birds was down compared to the previous couple of years, at least some nesting success was observed at our site. This is in stark contrast to what happened in the lower Sacramento Valley this spring. According to Bob Meese, Director of the Tricolored Blackbird Triennial Statewide Survey and a longtime advocate for the birds, this year had the lowest reproductive output in over 20 years in Yuba, Sutter, Yolo, and Colusa Counties. In normal years, 40,000-60,000 Tricolored Blackbirds nest in the region, but this year, there were essentially zero. Bob speculates that this failure is due to the May 4th rain event, which delayed rice planting in the region by almost a month, thus disrupting the timing of colony formation. In the valley, these birds rely exclusively on rice cultivation. Bob says: "They wade in shallow water and stick their heads under the water and their bills in the mud to search for, primarily, the larvae of water scavenger beetles. When these are abundant, the birds do well, much as your birds appear to have done this year. However, due to the late storm on May 4th, the rice paddies had not yet been flooded when the birds arrived in the lower Sacramento Valley. No water in the paddies means no insect larvae, and nothing for the birds to eat. Certainly, an oversimplification, but the broad outlines are correct, and the rice-dependence is strong."

Again, our blackbirds foraged almost exclusively on the abundant grasshoppers found in the grazed grassland of the hills in eastern Contra Costa County. Ironically, this abundance was in part due to the late rain that ruined colony success in other areas. All of this underscores the importance of a diverse agricultural mosaic to provide a buffer when events disrupt the patterns in one sector.

As a side benefit to our monitoring, we were able to watch the development of a colony of Burrowing Owls nearby. At one time, we counted 15 of these, including 8 juveniles.

Thanks to colleagues Susana de Trapaga, Elisa Fernandez-McDade, and Julie Van Vemden, who made up the rest of the team. If you are interested in becoming involved next spring, please email me at [president@mtdiablobirds.org](mailto:president@mtdiablobirds.org).

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## **MDBA Field Trips**

Matt Tarlach, *MDBA Field Trip Chair*



### **Update from the Field Trips Coordinator**

MDBA mounts dozens of Field Trips throughout the year, ranging from easy, accessible strolls around our local parks to longer expeditions to more distant sites, and including some vigorous hikes. On each field trip, one or more leaders guides our group to the best hotspots, in the best season... but the bird-spotting is really a team effort.

*Come birding with us!*

You can see the field trip checklists we've recorded since transitioning to electronic records [here](#).

To ensure that trips are not overcrowded, pre-registration through Eventbrite is required. MDBA members have priority, with member sign ups opening as soon as the trip is announced in our newsletter. Non-members are welcome too! Registration opens to the

public a week before the trip. All registration closes 2 days 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 walking, under 1 mile, on smooth paths.

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

Trail Rating 3: Challenging. Extensive walking and climbing on rough terrain!

Out of respect for our members and community, we ask participants to take sensible precautions for everyone's health when carpooling and sharing spaces.

*We always need new trip leaders!* It's fun, and a meaningful contribution to our chapter's mission of education and outreach. Please contact our Field Trip Coordinator, Matt Tarlach, at [mdbafieldtrips@gmail.com](mailto:mdbafieldtrips@gmail.com)

If you have a favorite birding spot you'd like to share with your fellow members but would like some help leading the trip, Matt can probably pair you up with an experienced trip leader.

If you're looking for still more bird-related outings in our area, the East Bay Regional Park District holds a variety of events. Go to their Birding page [here](#) and click View Activities.

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## Outer Point Reyes

Saturday, September 7, 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM



Prairie Warbler

Photo by Beth Branthaver

Sign up [HERE](#)

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 above (image by Beth Branthaver). Our exact itinerary will depend on weather, but we'll probably visit the lighthouse overlook and the "fish docks" area. After lunch we may walk down the "Avenue of Cypresses" to the old RCA building. Bring water and lunch as this area is remote.

**Hike rating:** Category 2 -- about 2 miles total walking, mostly on paved roads though with some incline.

**Elevation change:** 100 ft

**Leader:** Matt Tarlach, 925-482-6129, [mdbafieldtrips@gmail.com](mailto:mdbafieldtrips@gmail.com)

**Meet:** Kenneth C. Patrick Visitor Center, Drake's Beach

1 Drakes Beach Road

Inverness, CA 94937

GPS: 38.027828257127936, -122.96201741318059

**Directions:** Depending on your starting point, take the best route to highway 101 north of San Rafael. From 101, take Lucas Valley Road to Nicasio. At the reservoir turn left. Follow signs to Point Reyes Station, and when you get to town turn left onto US-1. After passing through town (the Bovine Bakery is a traditional stop for breakfast pastries), turn right from US-1 onto Sir Francis Drake Blvd and follow it for 15 miles to Drakes Beach Road. Turn left and continue down Drakes beach Road to the parking lot at the end. Leader will be parked near the visitor center.

Due to limited parking at our stops on the Outer Point, this field trip is limited to 12 participants. Sharing a car is very helpful! There's room to leave extra cars at the Drakes Beach meeting point.

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## **Tilden Nature Area & Jewel Lake**

**Monday, September 9, 7:30 AM - 11 AM**



Hutton's Vireo

Photo by Isaac Aronow

Sign up [HERE](#)

A walk along Wildcat Creek and around Jewel Lake in Tilden Park. We'll get started early, as it can get hot by mid-day at this time of year. Target birds include Brown Creeper, Red-Breasted and Pygmy Nuthatch, and with luck Pacific Wren. Migrating birds are a possibility.

This trip is suitable for beginners! Bring binoculars if you have them, or if you need to borrow a pair contact the leader beforehand so he knows to bring them.

**Hike Rating:** 2, Moderate. Up to 2 miles walking on mostly flat, paved and gravel trails.

**Elevation change:** N/A

**Leader:** Matt Tarlach, 925-482-6129, [mdbafieldtrips@gmail.com](mailto:mdbafieldtrips@gmail.com)

**Meet:** Parking lot at the end of Central Park Drive in Tilden Regional Park.

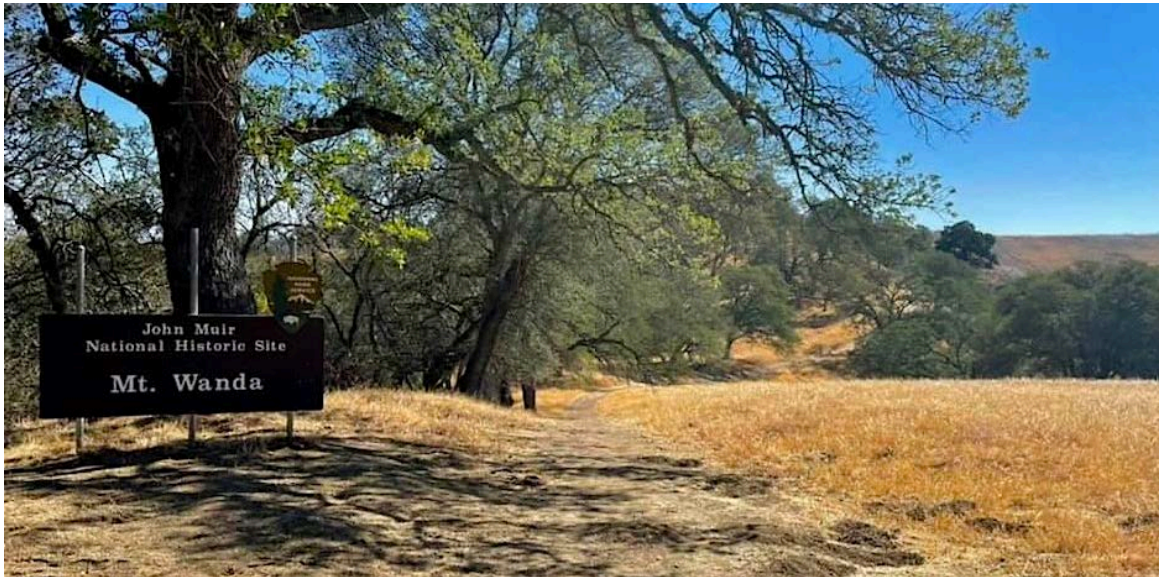
**Directions:** Take Highway 24 to exit at Fish Ranch Road. Turn right and go up the hill 0.7mi. Turn Right on Grizzly Peak Blvd. Follow Grizzly Peak for 4.1mi. Turn Right on Muir Way, then Left on Park Hills Road. Shortly after this turn, the road forks. Bear right at the fork to stay on Park Hills Road. Watch for signs to "Little Farm" which is near the meeting point. Park Hills Road ends at Wildcat Canyon Road, with an odd intersection to the right. Turn Right on Wildcat Canyon, then IMMEDIATELY Left onto Central Park Drive. Continue about 1 mile on Central Park to the parking lot at the end, which is the meeting point.

This hike is limited to 15 participants.

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## Mt. Wanda

Saturday, September 14, 8:30 - 11:30 AM



Sign up [HERE](#)

This hike is especially good for beginning birders!

We'll walk through oak woodlands and oak savannah habitats, climbing uphill on a rugged fire road with one steep section. Then we'll walk a single track trail back to the fire road, about 2.5 miles total. We should have excellent views of Acorn Woodpeckers, likely also Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks, Towhees, and Oak Titmouse.

Mt. Wanda is part of the John Muir National Historic Site, and this walk is hosted jointly by Mt. Diablo Bird Alliance and the National Park Service.

MDBA has binoculars to loan for use on our trips! If you need binos just tell the trip leaders beforehand, so they know to bring an extra pair.

**Hike Rating:** 3, Vigorous (by birding standards). About 2.5 miles walking on fire roads and single track trails, with 475' elevation gain.

**Leader:** Cheryl Abel, 925-957-6229

**Meet:** Parking lot at the Mt. Wanda Trailhead, intersection of Alhambra Ave and Franklin Canyon Rd in Martinez.

**Directions:** From Hwy 4 westbound take the Alhambra Ave. exit in Martinez. Turn left back under Hwy 4. Franklin Canyon Rd. is the next right, parking lot immediately on the left side of

Franklin Canyon Rd. Bring water and binoculars.

This hike is limited to 15 participants.

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**Birding by Bike at Clifton Court Forebay**  
**Saturday, September 21, 7:30 AM - 1:30 PM**



Photo by J. Britten

Sign up [HERE](#)

Have a bicycle, e-bike or scooter, and like to bird? Join MDBA 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. Participant limit 15.

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

**Leader:** Jerry Britten

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## **Vaux's Swifts at McNear Brickyard, San Rafael**

**Wednesday, September 25, 5:30 – 7:30 pm**



Sign up [HERE](#)

Vaux's Swifts migrate south along the Pacific Americas Flyway each fall, and one of their few known stopping points in Northern California is McNear Brick and Block in San Rafael. At sunset on many September and October evenings as many as 20,000 swifts mass and fly into the decommissioned brickyard chimneys to spend the night. It's an unforgettable sight!

Although this trip is timed for the height of the swifts' migration, based on past years' counts the number of swifts can vary greatly from night to night, and can range from a few hundred to thousands. Like everything else in birding, there are no guarantees!

Spotting scopes are helpful, to better view the action around the chimney mouths.

Photographers will be challenged as sunset nears (7:01 pm on the night of our field trip.)

Given the time of day, it is OK to bring snacks as well as water. However, this is a birding event, not a picnic, so please don't bring an elaborate spread. Those who find a portable stool or lawn chair helpful are welcome to bring one. There are no restroom facilities on site. There is a shopping center on N San Pedro Road en route.

**Hike Rating:** 1. This is essentially stationary observing, so there is very little walking, but a lot of standing.

Carpooling is strongly encouraged since there is very little parking. To respect both the swifts and the McNear property owners, this trip is limited to 20 people.

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

Maureen will send driving directions and parking instructions by email about a week before the trip.

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## A Bird Walk especially for Beginners

Monday, September 16, 7:30 - 10:30 AM



The Natural Area at Heather Farm is an underrated birding site. It is possible to see five species of heron one day, and on the next five species of sparrow. Common Gallinule and Sora are frequently reported, along with wintering ducks and migrating passerines. All told, over 200 species have been recorded at Heather Farm over the years. The Natural Area is also in need of conservation advocacy, as it is under constant pressure from park users who are more interested in sports and recreation than wildlife or habitat.

"Introducing the Birds of Heather Farm" is a series of bird walks intended to promote

appreciation of birds and of the Natural Area, and to help new birders improve their skills. In addition to this announcement in the *Quail* it will be promoted via flyers in the park and at local businesses. If you are new to birding, or would enjoy an introduction to Heather Farm, please sign up via **Eventbrite**! If you know anyone who's getting their start in birding invite them to sign up too.

If you're a somewhat more experienced birder---not necessarily an "expert"---your assistance in this program is invited! MDBA members who can turn out to help with this "Introduction" bird walk, spotting birds and sharing experience with new birders, do **not** need to sign up via Eventbrite. The low number of signup spots is intended to limit the number of beginners so that each may receive some personal attention.

If you can join us to help spot birds, or would like copies of the flyer to post somewhere in the area---your office? your favorite coffee shop? the bulletin board at a library or city facility?---please email Matt: **[mdbafieldtrips@gmail.com](mailto:mdbafieldtrips@gmail.com)**

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## Monterey Bay Festival of Birds

Bird School Project is thrilled to have the Monterey Bay Festival of Birds happening for the third year this fall! It lines up with World Migratory Bird Day and is a great time to be out observing birds in new places with an amazing community of birders.

We have moved back to the "a la carte" option, so you can choose your trips each day and cost will be determined based on what you select. Trips with exclusive festival access and workshops will cost a little extra, but are worth the price for the unique experiences.

You can look through the listings before registering **here** to get an idea of what field trips are being offered. Events are listed by date and location, so you can use the outline on the side to help sort by when and where you are interested in birding.

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## September Gallery & Media



### American's Arctic: Dunlin

See the full video [HERE](#)

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### Big Pink Bird Makes a Splash in the Hamptons

Read the article [HERE](#)

Photo: Rob Nagtegaal / [Macaulay Library ML 622501734](#)

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Varied Bunting/ Pima, Arizona, United States  
Photo: **Thomas Carlile / Macaulay Library ML 622460643**

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Wood Duck / Orange, California, United States  
Photo: **Dorian Anderson / Macaulay Library ML 622555135**

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**Mount Diablo Bird Alliance**

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