

Gary Bogue: Hey bird watching groups, are you out there?

By Gary Bogue
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Did anyone see that bird?!

Dear Gary:

We're new to San Ramon and were wondering if there are any bird watching clubs around the East Bay area, or anything similar?

Larry, San Ramon

Dear Larry:

The closest local group in the Diablo Valley is the Mount Diablo Audubon Society. Lots of nice members who are great birders. They also have many birding trips. Visit their website at www.diabloaudubon.com for all the details.

While we're on the subject, it's been a while since I've done a survey on bird watching groups in the Bay Area. If you belong to such a group, or know of one (or more), please send me the name, address and other particulars on the organization. I'll compile the results and publish the list and information on my blog.

Thanks!

Dear Gary:

Once again, Gary, thank you for making your readers aware of the efforts of the Muir Heritage Land Trust to preserve some of Contra Costa's open space.

Having grown up in the Santa Clara Valley, I've seen firsthand how quickly open space can disappear.

I feel we are lucky to live in such a beautiful area and that we have a responsibility to preserve as much of that beauty for future generations.

My personal thanks to you and your generous readers.

Ken Fischer, Board Member, Muir Heritage Land Trust

Dear Ken:

As I've said before, my readers are the best. They also understand the importance of preserving our last remaining open spaces before they get turned into more houses, or shopping malls, or freeways, or whatever.

It's nice to have some places where we live that are natural, beautiful, refreshing open space places where we can go to get away from it all, or just look at it anytime we want to and enjoy.

I'd appreciate it if those who understand would send a donation to the Land Trust to help them preserve some of those open spaces for us.

Please send your tax-deductible donation to: Muir Heritage Land Trust, Save Our Open Spaces, P.O. Box 2452, Martinez, CA 94553.

For the wild open spaces!

Dear Gary:

My husband and I are saddened to see Mrs. Mallard without her mate.

We have been blessed by their presence in our yard (they eat up all the fallen bird seed) but this morning my husband found the male hit by a car on Mohr Lane.

The female is now in our backyard and I am curious how this will turn out for her. Do you think she feels the same sadness we do when we lose a partner? I know sometimes it cannot be avoided, but I sure wish people would drive slower to give our beautiful feathered friends time to get out of the way!

I think we are the ones who should be getting out of THEIR way! Mournfully,

Betty in Concord

Dear Betty:

It's always important to slow down and watch for animals (and kids!) all year around ... but two times of the year, spring and fall ... are times to be especially watchful.

Adult animals are moving around a lot, looking for mates in spring. And teenagers are out on their own in the fall. Both of these seasons we see lots of animals moving back and forth across the roads, so please drive extra carefully.

Your female mallard soon will move on to find another mate/companion. I'm sure she still has a strong urge to have a family.

Animals do feel a kind of sadness when they lose a mate. Is it the same sadness we feel? Who can say?

I found a dead dove on the road. Another dove had both its wings around the body.

How would you define that?