

Safeguarding Native Birds is Imperative

Dear Editor:

As Contra Costa County welcomes Beth Ward, the new Director of Animal Services, it is extremely important that concerned citizens and citizen groups convey to Director Ward the importance of balancing humane treatment of domestic animals with the safeguarding of native birds and other wildlife in Contra Costa County.

Director Ward is going to be pressured by certain groups and individuals to incorporate a TNR (trap-neuter-return) policy regarding feral cats in Contra Costa County. Cat predation is an increasingly persistent threat to Contra Costa's wildlife, and neutering or spaying a trapped cat does absolutely nothing to change its predatory instincts. Cats are hardwired to hunt. Consequently, cats that are trapped on public lands where native birds and other wildlife live should never be returned to those locations to hunt again.

With climate change, drought and loss of habitat, all birds need our protection, and a message of concern and alarm from citizens and citizen organizations needs to be communicated to Director Ward and the Board of Supervisors.

Jimm Edgar
President, Mt. Diablo Audubon Society

Paul Schorr
Vice-President, Mt. Diablo Audubon Society

Nancy Wenninger
Conservation Chairperson, Mt. Diablo Audubon Society

This letter to the editor was published in the December 3, 2015 issue of The Contra Costa Times. If you would like to communicate your own concerns, please use the following email addresses:

Director of Animal Services for Contra Costa County:

- **Beth Ward**

beth.ward@asd.cccounty.us

Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors:

- **Mary Nejedly Piepho** (Antioch, Oakley, Brentwood)
- **Karen Mitchoff** (Concord, Clayton, Pleasant Hill, Walnut Creek East of I-680)
- **Federal Glover** (Pittsburg, Martinez, Hercules)
- **Candace Anderson** (Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda, Danville, San Ramon, Walnut Creek West of I-680)

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