



the Quail

Mount Diablo Audubon Society

P.O. Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94597-0053

www.diabloaudubon.com/index.php

Volume 52, Number 3

November 2006

John Muir, Botanist • With Stephen Joseph

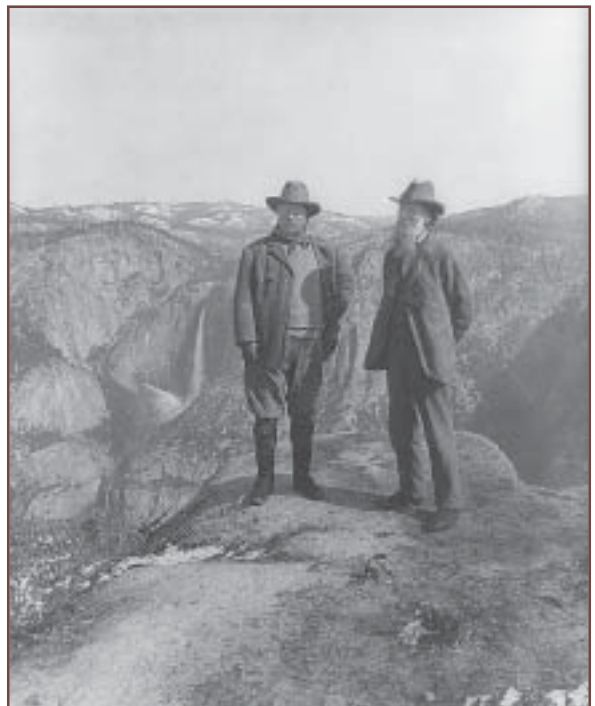
Since 1970, Stephen Joseph's career has been devoted to landscape photography, his main subject being Mount Diablo. In the past two years he has taken a different, but fascinating, path. He has teamed up with Bonnie Johanna Gisel, author of *Kindred and Related Spirits: the Letters of John Muir and Jeanne C. Carr*. Ms. Gisel is an internationally recognized Muir scholar who has devoted three years to searching the nation's leading herbaria seeking to match an entry in Muir's journal with a specimen on deposit at a distant herbarium.



She has identified hundreds of plants at the John Muir National Historic Site, the Harvard University Herbaria, the Missouri Botanical Garden, the Philadelphia Museum of Natural History and the University of California's Jepson Herbarium at Berkeley.

At the same time, Stephen Joseph has been searching out Muir's specimens in herbaria, scanning the plants and Muir's related field notes and preparing artistically composed prints of the flora Muir collected. Their book will be published in 2008 and the publisher, Malcolm Margolin of Heyday Books reports that the text is 'luminous and exciting' and that Stephen's photographs are of 'jaw-dropping beauty'. On November 2, Stephen will share his photographs and his adventure with Mount Diablo Audubon.

As John Muir (1838-1914) was such a pre-eminent nature writer and pioneer advocate for wilderness, The California Academy of Sciences is seriously considering a major exhibition based on the work of Ms. Gisel and Mr. Joseph. John Muir was, throughout his life, a devoted and highly accomplished field botanist, always studying and collecting plants wherever his wanderings took him. On his many long excursions to the Gulf of Mexico, to California's High Sierra, or to Canada and Alaska, he pressed plants, keeping them for further study or sending them to herbaria throughout the country. The book and the exhibition will be part of an effort to educate the public



Library of Congress Photo

President Theodore Roosevelt and John Muir at Glacier Point, Yosemite, ca. 1906
Above left: Self-portrait, 1887

Meeting Schedule

The next general meeting of Mount Diablo Audubon Society will be **Thursday, November 2**, in the Camellia Room of The Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Drive, Walnut Creek.

(See map on page 7).

- 6:30 PM Doors open
 - 7:00 PM Birding Information
 - 7:25 PM Announcements
 - 7:40 PM Social time, refreshments*, door prize
 - 8:05 PM Speaker: Stephen Joseph
- * Please remember to bring a cup.

Next Month:

Do You See What I See? Do You Hear What I Hear? • Diana Granados

about John Muir's work and the joys and necessity of field botany as well as to advocate for the protection of the nation's herbaria and the legacy they contain.

Evenings with Stephen always leave us gasping at the beauty of his photographs. Join us November 2 for a fascinating evening.

Birding Information

Cheryl Abel, long time MDAS member and Ranger with the John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez, will share the wildlife, spectacular scenery and wildflowers of the Red Rock Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Last July,

Continued on page 2

Welcome New Members

Susan Dannenfeler Lafayette
Cevina Targum Walnut Creek

President's Corner

I would like to take this spot this month to say a word or two about the MDAS Christmas Bird Counts that happen every year between December 14–January 5. This will be the 107th year of the Audubon Christmas Bird Count from that first one in 1900 that protested the shooting of every bird seen on Christmas Day by local hunters. Audubon members decided to count the birds, not shoot them. In 2006 there were over 1800 counts and over 52,000 people who participated in a count with their Audubon chapter. It is, by far, the largest volunteer data collection effort in the world. In addition to my role as president of our chapter I am the co-compiler with Maury Stern of our central Contra Costa count on Saturday, December 16 and our eastern Contra Costa count on Wednesday, December 20. Our central count is now in its 53rd year and it is year 5 of our eastern count. We have surveyed the same basic areas for 53 years and 5 years respectively. Patterns develop, habitats change, species decline or increase in some cases, but all in all we have a record that has merit and credibility. As development continues to be a factor in the county we are glad we have some record of what was there, wherever “there” is and can use this to influence decisions.

I hope all of you will consider participating in one of the counts this year. Join a team for the day or part of the day. Monitor your feeder at home if you have one and if you are in the count circle. This is a worthy chapter effort but is also a lot of fun. We always end the day with a time together for dinner to hear the countdown of what was seen during the day. It never fails to be a time of anticipating what we found or what we missed that day. More information will follow in the *Quail*. We hope to see you on the MDAS Christmas Counts.

BIRDING INFORMATION *From page 1*

Cheryl and her husband visited this refuge located in the remote Centennial Valley of southwest Montana to see the nesting territory of the Trumpeter Swan. This largest of North American waterfowl breeds in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, including Red Rock Lakes, and has been rescued from near extinction. A low of 69 birds in 1932 has grown in recent years to a population of 500 birds. Each winter an additional 2000 Trumpeters from Canada arrive to form the Rocky Mountain population of Trumpeter Swans.

What You Can Do

- ✓ Help preserve open space on our namesake Mount Diablo by sending a tax-deductible donation to Save Mount Diablo/Mangini, 1901 Olympic Blvd., Suite 220, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.
- ✓ Keep informed on policy issues that are important to the preservation of our environment, and vote.
- ✓ Help reduce the cost of printing and mailing the *Quail*. Each copy in your mailbox means about one dollar that Mount Diablo Audubon could otherwise assign to our conservation efforts such as helping make children aware of nature. Just send an e-mail to annmcg@pacbell.net and write “e-mail Quail.” Also include your correct e-mail address, as some systems do not display it automatically. We will notify you by e-mail when each new issue has been posted to the MDAS web site. Read the issue on the Internet, or print it from your computer.
- ✓ Sign up for eScrip. Register at www.eScrip.com using Mount Diablo Audubon Society Group Number 500003063. Then, when you shop normally at participating local merchants, they will donate as much as 4 percent of your purchase value to Mount Diablo Audubon. Call John Leggett at 685-1959 if you have questions.
- ✓ Call Shirley Ellis at (925) 938-3703 and volunteer to help with an activity that meets your interests, skills and schedule. In particular, there is a need for someone to oversee the display materials that are vital to our educational efforts.

NEWS FROM WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED



In the Backyard:

The Golden-crowned Sparrows have arrived. Their plaintive, whistled three-note song (“oh-dear-me”) can be heard all day long, but especially early in the morning. White-crowned Sparrows have also migrated in for the winter. They often flock with the Golden-crowned Sparrows. Both are ground or tray feeding birds and love white millet seed. They also will eat suet.

The Dark-eyed Juncos are also arriving. Mainly we see the “Oregon” sub-species with their dark hood. Sometimes it’s possible to find a “Slate-colored” Junco with their dark bodies and white bellies. Look for the white outer tail feathers on both of these when in flight.

American Goldfinches should begin appearing in larger numbers, often accompanied by Lesser Goldfinches. Their numbers will continue increasing all through the winter. By January or February many people see flocks of up to 100. They can be seen eating wild thistle seeds and on liquidambar and birch trees. Both will readily come to thistle seed bird feeders. If you stand outside and hold your feeder at arm’s length, the goldfinches will come and land on the feeder because they are so anxious to feed.

It’s not too early to put out birdhouses. Many birds such as wrens, chickadees, titmice, woodpeckers, and bluebirds will use the houses to roost in during cool fall and winter nights. If you already have birdhouses in your yard, this is the perfect time to clean them out. Wear gloves, remove the old nests and clean with a 10% bleach solution. Rinse well, allow to dry, then rehang the house.

Looking for binoculars?

Wild Birds Unlimited now offers the high quality **Eagle Optics** binoculars at competitive prices! Eagle Optics uses only the best materials and manufacturing processes to create the highest quality binoculars. And, all binoculars are guaranteed against defects in workmanship and materials for as long as you own them.

Mike & Cecil Williams
Wild Birds Unlimited
692 Contra Costa Blvd.
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
925-798-0303

Visit us at www.wbupleasanthill.com

Trip Reports

Outer Point Reyes, September 30. The Mt. Diablo Audubon Society had one of the most exciting field trips ever. Twelve members and guests saw about 85 species and missed several others. Jean Richmond had us start at Drake's Beach where we found Townsend's Warblers and one of us heard a Winter Wren. At the Mendoza Ranch we had a Blackpoll and Blackburnian Warbler in the same trees as a Great Horned Owl. A Red-necked Phalarope was on the pond below. At the Nunes Ranch we found former Chapter President Jim Lomax



Northern Phalarope
Lobipes lobatus

Birds of Golden Gate Park
Joseph Mailliard
1930

and about 50 other birders. The Yellow-throated Warbler was *not* found by anyone, but we had White-throated Sparrow, Magnolia Warbler, Nashville Warbler, both Yellow-rumped Warblers, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Black-throated Green Warbler, more Townsend's Warblers, a Hermit Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler and a Lincoln's Sparrow. One observer had a Black-chinned Hummingbird near the houses. Some of us saw the Barn Owl hiding high in the foliage.

At the Fish Docks we found two Loon sp, a Willow Flycatcher and two more Great Horned Owls. A Yellow-green Vireo was seen at the Road Forks. We missed the Peregrine Falcons performing, almost on cue, at the Lighthouse, but did find another Willow Flycatcher and Swainson's Thrushes. We also missed the Painted Bunting.

Returning to Nunes Ranch we had most of the same warblers and then across the road most of the group saw a Clay-colored Sparrow. Back at the Mendoza Ranch we found the Blackburnian Warbler again, missed the Orchard Oriole,

September Observations — By Steve Glover

Submit Contra Costa County sightings to: Steve Glover at countylines@sbcglobal.net or 925 997 1112.

· Twenty Wood Ducks at Upper San Leandro Reservoir 9/13 was a nice tally (PG).

The American White Pelican continued at Upper San Leandro Reservoir 9/13 (PG) and 9/17 (DW). Another pelican was at McNabney Marsh near Martinez on 9/16 (M & EM).

A Green Heron was an uncommon find at Jewel Lake, Tilden Park 9/15-16 (JP).

An adult Bald Eagle, in the company of a possible subadult, was near San Pablo Reservoir 9/9 (DA).

Thirty-eight Sandhill Cranes had returned to Holland Tract east of Knightsen on 10/9 (DW); this continues to be the most reliable spot in the county for this species.

A single Red-necked Phalarope was at McNabney Marsh near Martinez on 9/16 (M & EM).

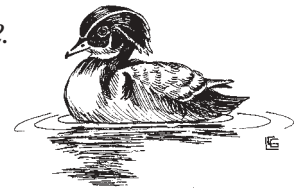
Up to 20 Elegant Terns were at Point Pinole Regional Shoreline on 9/26; this is as far east as this species is normally noted in the county (LL).

Single Common Murres were north of Point Isabel 9/30 (DQ) and 10/8 (AH).

and had an unusual Vireo, either Red-eyed, Philadelphia or Warbling. Various observers had various opinions.

Lastly, in late afternoon we missed the Canada Warbler back at Drake's Beach. Instead, we had two Greater White-fronted Geese silently glide into the pond behind the parking lot and splash down at the far end. It was a fitting way to close the day. *Hugh Harvey*

Hawk Hill, October 7. An exciting day at Rodeo Lagoon and Hawk Hill. 47 species, including 12 diurnal raptors—Broad-winged Hawk, Merlin, Peregrine and Prairie Falcons the stars there—as well as Townsend's Warbler and very cooperative Wrentits at the lagoon. But wait, there's more! On the path up to Hawk Hill, on a branch level with the path, very visible and hardly 6 feet away, a dozing Spotted Owl! Only one other member joined the leader, but the raptors and the owl were seen by many, many people on the beautiful, warm Saturday of Fleet Week. *Fred Safier*



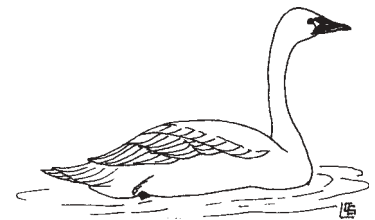
The bird on 10/8 appeared to be close to death.

An Olive-sided Flycatcher 9/17 at Upper San Leandro Reservoir was noteworthy as this species is rarely detected in the county in fall (DW). Single Willow Flycatchers were at Heather Farm Park in Walnut Creek on 9/11 (HH) and at Upper San Leandro Reservoir on 9/17 (DW).

A flock of 12 Western Bluebirds 10/3 at urban El Cerrito was an unusual find on the bay plain (AK).

The bird of the period was a singing male Summer Tanager on 9/14 at Hap Magee Ranch Park near Danville (PG). Several years can pass without a sighting of this species in the county.

Dave Abercrombie, Phil Gordon, Hugh Harvey, Alan Howe, Alan Kaplan, Laura Look, Mimi and Ellis Myers, John Poole, Dave Quady, Denise Wight



Q This bird, with a bright blue face and scarlet neck, is a favorite in autumn and winter. It's found in all states except Alaska, although it was introduced in Hawaii. In 1511, the King of Spain asked every Spanish ship returning from the New World to bring ten of these birds with them. These birds forage on the ground in chaparral or forests for acorns, nuts, seeds, insects or salamanders.

Unscramble these letters, or turn to page 6 for the answer to this bird's identity.

DEIKLRTUWY

Field Trip Schedule

By Hugh Harvey

November

- 4 Saturday Limantour
18 Saturday Charleston Slough/South Bay
20 Monday Mountain View Sanitary/McNabney Marsh

December

- 9-10 Saturday/Sunday Gray Lodge/Sacramento NWR
12 Tuesday Niles Area
16 Saturday Central Contra Costa Christmas Count
20 Wednesday East Contra Costa Christmas Count

January

- 3 Wednesday Arrowhead Marsh/Lake Merritt
6 Saturday Putah Creek
TBA Sunol Regional Park
27 Saturday Las Gallinas/Rush Creek/Shollenberger Park

Field trips are open to members and non-members, beginners and advanced birders. Weather or other contingencies may require changes. For updates, visit the MDAS website at www.diabloaudubon.com/index/php.

Because most trips do not return until late afternoon, bring a lunch and join us during our midday break.

Category ❶: Easy, little or no walking, smooth paths

Category ❷: Moderate, one mile or more, possibly rough terrain

Category ❸: Difficult, extensive walking on rough terrain.

Carpool locations: **Sun Valley**—Southwest corner of the Sun Valley Mall parking lot at Willow Pass Road and Contra Costa Boulevard in Concord.

Sycamore Valley Road Park and Ride Lot—Just south of Danville, exit I-680 at Sycamore Valley Road to the east; the Park and Ride lot is on the left.

El Nido Ranch Road—Take the Acalanes Road/Upper Happy Valley Road exit of SR 24, west of Lafayette. El Nido Ranch Road is parallel to and north of the freeway. Park just east of the intersection with Acalanes Road and on the north side of El Nido Ranch Road.

Customary carpool expense is \$3-5 for short trips, \$5-10 for longer trips, plus tolls and entry fees shared among driver and riders.

❷ Saturday, November 4 Limantour

Leader: Maury Stern, 284-5980.

Carpool leaves at 7:00 AM from El Nido Ranch Road. Meet at 8:30 AM at the Bear Valley Visitor Center, Point Reyes National Seashore. Take SR 24 to Oakland, then I-580 west to Richmond and the San Rafael Bridge. From US-101 north, take Central San Rafael exit. Go 2 blocks, turn left on 3rd Street and continue west to Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Turn right on Sir Francis Drake. At SR 1 at Olema, turn right for 0.25 miles, then turn left on Bear Valley Road. Visitor Center is off Bear Valley. This trip includes forest birds on the ridge and ducks, shorebirds and often loons and grebes on the bay.

❷ Saturday, November 18 Charleston Slough/South Bay

Leader: Eugenia Larson, 806-0644.

Carpool leaves at 7:30 AM from Sycamore Valley Road. Meet at Terminal Road in Mountain View at 8:30 AM. Take I-680 south to SR 237, exit Calaveras Boulevard to west. Pass Alviso, connect to US-101 north at Moffett Field. Exit at San Antonio Road, turn right (north) to Terminal Road, turn right and park. Entrance is on left. Other areas of interest in the South Bay are Palo Alto Baylands and Alviso. Shorebirds and waterfowl should be plentiful. Bring lunch.

❷ Monday, November 20

Mountain View Sanitary and McNabney Marsh

Leader: Cheryl Abel, 335-0176.

Meet at 9 AM at the Mountain View Sanitary Visitor Center. Exit from I-680 southbound at Arthur Road, turn left and go under the freeway. Exit I-680 northbound at Pacheco Blvd., turn right onto Arthur Road and go under the freeway. Arthur Road will turn left. At 0.4 miles turn sharp left onto Mountain View Sanitary's private road. Follow the road through the entry gate, alongside the freeway and through the tunnel under I-680. Park and sign in at the Visitor Center. Trails may be muddy. Close-up looks at dabbling ducks; possibly bitterns and herons. If you wish, bring a lunch and explore Martinez shoreline in the afternoon.

Audubon California Recommends

Mount Diablo Audubon Society's Board of Directors supports the policies of Audubon California with respect to three measures on the California November ballot: Yes on Propositions 84 and 87; No on Proposition 90.

California is estimated to double in population by 2035. We must make the investments needed to ensure that all Californians will have access to safe drinking water, better protection from floods, and that our parks, natural landscapes—our rivers, lakes, beaches, bays and coastline—continue to enhance our environment.

Audubon California joins other conservation and environmental groups, local government entities, museum and park interests, elected officials, and civic organizations in favor of Proposition 84, the Clean Water, Parks and Coastal Protection Bond.

California's wildlife and forests as well as its farms and ranches are under direct threat from the state's rapid population growth. Proposition 84 will fund the programs needed to protect California's wildlife and forests, as well as to preserve working farms and ranches.

The health of California's rivers, lakes and streams is continually threat-

Continued on page 6

Native Plants for Native Birds

By Pat Bacchetti

The Water-Wise Bird Garden

One of the seductions of gardening in the Bay Area is the mild climate that allows plants from all over the world to be grown. It's not uncommon to see a large lush green lawn, an English cottage garden, and a tropical paradise all in the same block. Although all are possible, these gardens are not the most compatible with our dry warm summers. And they are not the easiest on your monthly water budget.

Why grow a low-water use garden? To most people, this conjures up an image of a dry brown expanse in their front yards—something that the neighbors would complain about. But with the right use of plants and judicious use of water, you can have your bird-friendly garden, the neighbor's envy, and a lower water bill all at the same time.

The first requirement is deciding on plants that have similar water and soil requirements, then grouping them together into hydrozones for irrigation. This is much like the plant communities that exist in nature. An oak woodland setting, with grasses, manzanita, coffeeberry, toyon, and cremebush require little to no water during the summer after they are established. A little water will keep the grasses green, and the shrubs more lush.

Again, remember that native plants evolved in our dry summer climate and need less water to stay green and pretty during the summer. Shadier areas with more woodland plants such as ferns, huckleberry, wax myrtle, and wild ginger require more water, and would be put onto a more frequent watering schedule. Hydrozones insure that you don't over- or underwater plants with different needs.

Drip irrigation also allows for less evaporative water loss than sprinklers. There are newer drip systems that don't get clogged lines, and they can be put onto timers to come on only when needed. A well-designed garden with irrigation on



THE WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN, the result of a long partnership between The Gardens at Heather Farm and East Bay Municipal Utility District, illustrates how conservation principles can be put to use to create beautiful landscapes that conserve water and energy, protect wildlands, limit green waste, and provide habitat for wildlife, while at the same time requiring less upkeep than traditional landscapes. The Garden is immediately adjacent to Mount Diablo Audubon's regular monthly meeting room.

timers can save water and keep the garden looking green all summer.

A word about lawns. Lawns were first used by the English and the French to mimic expansive meadows, and were maintained by hundreds of inexpensive workers. They said to the world that their owners were wealthy men (usually) of leisure. After World War II and the rise of suburban housing on the East Coast, well-manicured lawns became a status symbol again. It rains all summer in these climates, so water use is minimal. In the West, lawns consume gallons of water a week to stay green.

Pesticides and herbicides are also needed to keep lawns looking their best, and these are then washed into the storm drain system. Thus, lawns have become the largest source of pesticide and herbicide pollution in the state, even exceeding agricultural use. Lawns also present minimal habitat to animals and birds, except for the robins. More plant variety means more use by birds and other creatures to enjoy.

So where can you find plants suited for minimal water use? There are several lovely examples of water-wise gardens locally to enjoy and study. Heather Farm, in Walnut Creek, is one of the best. You can preview the garden at their website at www.gardensfh.org. The East Bay Regional Botanic Garden in Tilden Park is another beautiful example of a California native garden grouped by geographic regions of the state. East Bay Municipal Water District has also published *Plants and Landscapes for Summer-Dry Climates of the San Francisco Bay Region*, 2004. It is a beautiful and useful

book containing both native and non-native selections.

Buck the trend. Plant a garden that will lower your water bills and be in tune with our native climate. Grow the plants and the birds will come. Just don't forget to leave water out for the birds!

GRAY LODGE *Continued from page 8*



Great Blue Heron Rookery, Gray Lodge

growth as breeding and nesting activities get underway. Reptiles and amphibians also become more active as the days begin to warm.

One of the special features to be found at Gray Lodge is the pair of wildlife viewing hides completed last year and dedicated in honor of Harry and Betty Adamson, founding members of Mount Diablo Audubon. [See the October and November, 2005, issues of the *Quail*.] Harry, known as the "undisputed master painter of wildfowl on the wing" is the artist who drew our Quail logo. Betty is a former editor of the *Quail*. The hides are perfect for wildlife photography.

Mount Diablo Audubon Society has scheduled a field trip to Gray Lodge for the weekend of December 9-10. You won't want to miss it.

Vote November 7 *Continued from page 4*
 ened by pollution, reduced water quality, and destruction of fish and wildlife habitats. Proposition 84 will provide funding to develop river parkways, restore and protect urban streams, and keep contaminated storm water runoff out of our rivers, lakes and streams.

All Californians deserve access to our state's natural resources, yet our state and local park systems are currently unable to take on the challenges that arise in a rapidly-growing society. Proposition 84 will include projects that will expand and restore the state park system to reflect the state's growing population and shifting population centers. Proposition 84 will also provide funding for the creation of local and regional parks. In addition, it will fund the development of nature education opportunities at institutions including natural history museums, aquariums, research facilities and botanical gardens.

Proposition 90 is a savage assault on environmental protection in California. Hidden behind language to stop abuses of eminent domain, Prop 90 includes very dangerous provisions that would

drastically cut back on the State's, local governments' and even voters' ability to protect the environment, local communities, and farmland, making it nearly impossible to implement many resource protection laws or to acquire private property to protect wildlife habitat.

Yes on 87. This measure is a tax on oil profits that cannot be passed on to consumers. Tax will be used for all renewable energy incentives in the state. Oil companies are lying to us in commercials. We are the only state without an extraction tax on oil and without a windfall profits tax for oil companies.

Under Prop 90, most government actions to protect the environment would require huge payments to landowners unless those actions are to protect narrowly-defined public health or safety. Prop 90 would redefine "damages" to allow virtually anyone to sue claiming a law or regulation has impacted the value of their property or business—no matter how far-fetched the claim. It would also make pollution a private property right so that the government would have to pay to regulate or reduce pollution. Prop 90 would not only im-

pair environmental protection, but also consumer protection, historic preservation, hunting regulation, and many other laws that protect our quality of life, communities and environment.

In addition to making many regulations difficult or impossible to enforce, Prop 90 would make it prohibitively expensive for public agencies to acquire property for wildlife or resource protection, public works projects, new schools, fire protection measures, utilities to name a few.

Proposition 90 is the most extreme threat to California's environment in decades! Please vote No!

2007 Entertainment Books

Save almost twice the \$25 price of the book by using the Safeway and Long's Drugs coupons.

- Buy at MDAS general meetings.
- Pick up at Wild Birds Unlimited, 692 Contra Costa Blvd, Pleasant Hill.
- Order on line at www.entertainment.com and enter the MDAS ID #: 175587.

Wild Turkey • *Meleagris gallopavo*



Orange-Glazed Roast Turkey *Adapted from Sunset Magazine*

- 1½ cups orange juice
- 1 (12-pound) turkey
- Salt and pepper
- 3 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1½ cups chicken or turkey broth

- ½ cup butter or margarine, melted
- ¼ cup orange marmalade
- 3 tablespoons honey
- 2 teaspoons grated orange rind
- 1 tablespoon coarse-grained mustard

Cut a 36" square piece of cheesecloth; fold twice to make an 18" square. Pour orange juice into a small bowl; submerge cheesecloth square in orange juice, and let soak 5 minutes.

Remove giblets and neck from turkey. Rinse turkey thoroughly with cold water; pat dry. Sprinkle cavity with salt and pepper. Place turkey, breast side up, in a greased broiler pan. Tie legs together with heavy string, wrap a small piece of aluminum foil around ends of legs. Lift wingtips up and over back, and tuck under bird. Brush turkey with oil; add broth to pan.

Lift cheesecloth out of orange juice, and squeeze lightly; reserve orange juice in bowl. Add butter and next 4 ingredients to orange juice; stir well. Brush turkey lightly with orange glaze mixture. Spread cheese-

cloth over most of turkey, covering legs and wings. Brush cheesecloth and exposed parts of turkey with orange glaze mixture; pour remaining glaze over covered breast of turkey.

Insert a meat thermometer into meaty portion of thigh, making sure it does not touch bone. Bake at 325° until thermometer registers 170° (2 1/2 to 3 hours), basting cheesecloth and exposed areas of turkey every 30 minutes with pan juices.

Remove and discard cheesecloth. Remove aluminum foil and string holding legs together. Baste turkey heavily with pan drippings. Bake turkey at 325° for 30 additional minutes or until thermometer registers 180°, basting heavily with pan drippings every 10 minutes.

When turkey is done, let stand in pan 15 minutes; then carefully transfer to a serving platter. Brush again with pan drippings. Cover turkey with foil while preparing gravy. Garnish platter with kale, baby artichokes and red grapes, if desired. Serve turkey with pan gravy.

the Quail

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Mount Diablo Audubon Society

• a nonprofit organization dedicated to habitat conservation and environmental education •

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Deadline for the December issue is November 8.

Ornithological Opportunities

Broken Wings: Portraits of Non-releasable Raptors, a photography exhibition at the Lindsay Wildlife Museum in Walnut Creek tells the stories of 20 eagles, hawks, falcons, and owls that cannot be released to the wild due to their injuries. Photographer and naturalist John Perry tells each raptor's story through a portrait and text that relates each bird's known life history. **Broken Wings** portrays each subject as an individual with a unique story. The exhibit runs until December 31.

10th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium, November 16–19. Stockton, California. Keynote programs will be presented by premier wildlife photographer Kevin Karlson, and John

MDAS MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION

___ Please enroll my family and me as a member of the Mount Diablo Audubon Society for \$25 for one year.

___ Please enroll me as a lifetime member for \$500. Payment can be made in two annual payments of \$250 each.

___ Please enroll the individual/family listed below as a gift membership for \$25 for one year.

___ For an additional \$20 (new NAS members only) or \$35 (returning members), please enroll me in the National Audubon Society to receive four quarterly issues of the *Audubon Magazine*.

___ I'm enclosing an additional donation of \$_____.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State _____ Zip _____

Phone (___) _____ Email _____

Card Number: _____

___ Visa ___ MasterCard ___ Expiration Date: _____

Name on Card: _____

Please make your tax-deductible check payable to:

MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY and mail with this application to:

Membership Chair, 400 Oneida Court, Danville, CA 94526



Mount Diablo Audubon Society meets on the first Thursday of each month, except July and August in the Camellia Room of The Gardens at Heather Farms, 1540 Marchbanks Drive, Walnut Creek. Everyone is invited.

From Walnut Creek, take Ygnacio Valley Road to the signal at Marchbanks Drive. Go left and follow Marchbanks to The Gardens at Heather Farm, opposite the Greenery Restaurant. Turn left into the parking lot.

From Highway 680 south, take Treat Blvd. to Bancroft. Go right to Ygnacio Valley Road, turn right and go one block past signal at N. San Carlos Dr. (Heather Farm entrance). At Marchbanks Drive turn right. The Gardens at Heather Farm is located on the right in the second block.

Hendrickson will talk about falcons. Keith Hansen will offer a class on bird sketching; Joe Morlan will discuss birds of Australia. Simone Whitecloud will present her program on identifying raptors. And, of course, there will be the usual assortment of high quality artists and vendors displaying their wares. Field trip locations include Gray Lodge, and a rare opportunity to visit the Sutter Buttes. Don't miss this one! More information at www.cvbs.org.

Workshops with Alvaro Jaramillo: Gulls, San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, January 9–13, Alviso. These workshops incorporate ecology, evolutionary biology, behavioral ecology, and natural history to complement bird identification information taught in class. There are two evenings of instruction and a weekend all-day fieldtrip. Classes are at Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR. Waterfowl workshops follow in February. www.sfbbo.org/birdingworkshops.html.

Mount Diablo Audubon Society
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Walnut Creek, CA 94597-0053

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Gray Lodge Wildlife Area

Quickies

Weekend Birding in California

Gray Lodge Wildlife Area

Fall is an ideal time to visit Gray Lodge Wildlife Area. The stately, red-capped Sandhill Cranes arrived in September and many stay until March. By November, 100,000 or more Ross's and Snow and Greater White-fronted Geese begin to fill the skies as they meet the swans, American Widgeon, Buffleheads, Northern Shoveler and Northern Pintail, Ruddy Duck and Green-winged Teal, who are arriving daily. Here also are Gadwall, Cinnamon Teal, Wood Duck and Mallards. Many shorebirds can be observed, too. Pheasants are abundant. By year's end, rookeries are filled with nests of Great Blue Herons, Black-crowned Night Herons, and egrets. Raptors may be seen perched in trees or soaring over the fields in search of prey such as blacktail jackrabbits and desert cottontails. Deer are common sights.

From 1900 to 1910, California's population increased by 60 percent, and from 1910 to 1920 by another 44 percent. The need for land for agriculture drastically cut the space available for wildlife. This concern led to legislation that diverted funds from hunting licenses to the acquisition of refuge lands.

Rice crop depredation by waterfowl had developed into a serious issue, and refuges were seen as one method for not only attracting waterfowl and thereby protecting the crops, but also providing waterfowl with needed resting and foraging opportunities. The first refuge, in 1929, was the Los Banos Waterfowl Refuge, a portion of a duck club in the grasslands and wetlands of Merced County.

The second waterfowl refuge, Gray Lodge, was established in 1931. Located 10 miles west of Gridley, in the Butte Sink, it is a major wetland in California. The Gray Lodge Gun Club had been a very successful duck club with an average annual take of more than 12,000 birds. Theirs was a gray-painted lodge (Duh!).

Gray Lodge, then, is a success story for waterfowl as a principal resting spot along their Pacific Flyway migration route. During hunting season, late October through January, hundreds of thousands of birds squeeze into this refuge away from the guns. But by December, they have consumed much of the available food, and at sunset, when the guns are silenced, they lift off to feed in neighboring grain fields. This "night flight" is indeed one of the spectacular events among wildlife.

In the spring, when the marshes are drained, the mud flats are exposed and become extremely attractive to a variety of shorebirds. Sandpipers, Black-necked Stilts, Avocets, Killdeer, Yellowlegs, curlews, snipe, and a host of others can be found feeding along the shorelines. The receding waters concentrate prey for the herons, egrets, Double-crested Cormorants, and American White Pelicans.

Muskrats, beavers and river otters also become more active in the receding waterways. The riparian and grassland areas are lush with new plant

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