



# The Quail

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY  
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94597  
P.O.Box 53

Pres.: Sally Steller  
591 Fulton Way  
Danville, Ca. 94526  
phone: 837-9061

January 1973  
Vol. 19, No. 7

Next deadline: Jan. 17

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 4, 8 p.m.; social time 7:30 p.m.  
Women's Club of Walnut Creek, 1224 Lincoln Ave.,  
Walnut Creek. The program will be a film entitled  
"The Valley and the Stream".

Next Field Trip: Saturday, January 27, 8:30 a.m., Lafayette Reservoir.  
Leader: Bob McCarthy (934-2724).

Next Screen Tour: Thursday, January 25, 8 p.m., Diablo Valley College  
gym. Robert Fultz presents "Sky Island: Arizona's  
Chiricahua Mountain Range".

Christmas Count: Count Day is Saturday, December 30; the count period  
is December 16-January 1, inclusive.

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We usher in the new year with a film by Clint Robene who has furnished us  
with such excellent films in the past. "The Valley and the Stream" shows  
the glacial movement and the torrential weather forming the river and the  
valley. Time-lapse photography then reveals intimate glimpses of the  
hidden beauties of valley life, both plant and animal.

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Bob McCarthy will lead the way at Lafayette Reservoir on January 27, the  
trip being scheduled later in the month than usual due to the Christmas  
Count in December. We meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot at the top of  
the dam. Be sure you have a couple of quarters for the parking fee to  
open the gate to enter the parking area. The trail around the lake is  
easy walking. To reach the Reservoir, go west from downtown Lafayette  
on Mt. Diablo Blvd.

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The next film in the Audubon Wildlife Series will be "Sky Island: Arizona's  
Chiricahua Mountain Range" by Robert Fultz. These mountains in south-  
eastern Arizona hold more varied wildlife, vegetation and climate than any  
other area of comparable size in North America. Moving up these mountains  
is like traveling through all climatic variations there can be between  
dry desert and cold, green forests of spruce-firs. This film will be  
shown Thursday, January 25, at 8 p.m. in the gym at Diablo Valley College.  
As usual, there is no charge.

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CHRISTMAS COUNT DAY for our chapter is Saturday, December 30, with Marvin Larsen as compiler. Please call Sally Steller ahead of time if you plan to attend the potluck that evening to be in on the preliminary reporting. If you wish to take part in the count and have not contacted Marv, do so immediately for assignment and instructions. Details are in the December issue. We have a VOLUNTEER to accept calls concerning rare species which may turn up. (See December "Quail" for list.) If you should see any of those species, write down all pertinent information (field marks, habitat, behavior, time and place of sighting, who saw the bird, how familiar you are with the species, etc.) then phone our president, Sally Steller at 837-9061 and give her all the information.

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Seventeen members and guests met at Gray Lodge State Game Refuge on Saturday, December 2, then spent the day birding and shivering in the cold and fog. Sandhill Cranes finally put in an appearance as the group was preparing to leave---some for home but most for Willows. Dinner at willows was finished by candlelight as there was a power failure. Emerging the following morning the group found that the cold and damp of Saturday was lovely compared to what they then had to face! After only a couple of hours of that "survival test" at Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge the group called it quits and headed for home. One male Yellow-Headed Blackbird had been found during that time, a good find for these winter trips. Altogether, the following 30 species were observed during the weekend:

western and Pied-Billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Common and Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, American Bittern, Whistling Swan, Canada, White-Fronted, Snow and Ross' Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-winged and Cinnamon Teal, American Widgeon, Shoveler, Wood Duck, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Sharp-Shinned, Cooper's, Red-Tailed, Red-Shouldered, Rough-Legged, Marsh and Sparrow Hawk, California Quail, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Sandhill Crane, Common Gallinule, American Coot, Killdeer, Common Snipe, Greater Yellowlegs, Dunlin, Long-Billed Dowitcher, American Avocet, Ring-Billed Gull, Mourning Dove, Great Horned, Burrowing and Short-Eared Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Red-Shafted Flicker, Downy and Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Scrub Jay, Yellow-Billed Magpie, Common Crow, Plain Titmouse, Common Bushtit, Long-Billed Marsh wren, Mockingbird, Robin, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Audubon's Warbler, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-Headed and Red-winged Blackbird, House Finch, American Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided and Brown Towhee, Oregon Junco, Savannah, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned and Song Sparrow.

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The MOUNTAIN PLOVER does not live in mountains, but is essentially a bird of the plains. It nests on grasslands and semidesert areas east of the Rockies from Montana to New Mexico, then moves primarily to the southwest with part of their population wintering in California. They occur in the Central Valley south of Marysville, particularly in the southwest section of the San Joaquin Valley and many valley plains of the Central Coast Range. Mountain Plovers inhabit grassy or nearly barren areas where brush or other tall vegetation is sparse or absent and where terrain is flat or gently rolling. Department of Fish and Game requests information on sightings of Mountain Plovers in the state to help determine the current status of the species here. Where possible the following information should be included: date of sighting, specific area, number observed, type of habitat, name of observer. Also, look for leg bands. Send reports to: Ron Jurek, Dept. of Fish and Game, 1416 Ninth St., Sacramento, Ca. 95814.

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Univ. of Calif. Extension announces 2 weekend courses this spring. "Birds of the San Joaquin Valley": March 3-4, preceded by lecture Feb. 28 at U.C. Extension Center, S.F. Enrollment limited. "Birds of Prey": March 16 at Extension Center, March 17-19 at S.F. Zoo. For information and details of these and other courses, contact U.C. Extension, Natural Environment Studies, 2223 Fulton St., Berkeley, Ca. 94720; phone 642-3112.

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RENEWAL PROCEDURE. For renewals a computer punch card will be sent by National to members along with a business reply envelope addressed to P.O. Box 5133. It is essential that the punch card be returned in the Box 5133 envelope with the appropriate remittance if the new system is to function smoothly and with minimum delay. The Box 5133 envelope is to be used only for such direct individual payments and not for other correspondence.

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We welcome the following new members of Mt. Diablo Audubon Society:

Brentwood: Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Almand; Walnut Creek: Mrs. Louis Osterero, George Peters, Thomas Siwecki; Martinez: Mrs. Claude Greerty; Lafayette: Mary Euranius, Carl W. Kindt, Mrs. Daniel M. Peregoy; Concord: Mrs. Ted Crosno, Erik R. Hauge, Stanley M. Roberti; Pleasant Hill: Mrs. George W. Prall; Pittsburg: Ronald L. Parks.

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#### Observations:

Bob Lockett reports 1600 Whistling Swans between Middle River and Old River on Highway 4 on November 24, a pair of Hooded Mergansers on Lake Merritt November 25 (a pair and a spare--1 male, 2 females were there on November 30), and a Mountain Bluebird on Point Reyes November 26.

In their backyard the Richmonds had a Golden-Crowned Kinglet November 29. On December 3, 29 Turkey Vultures were seen circling south of their home.

Russ Epley reports a White-Throated Sparrow in his Lafayette backyard. Anyone wishing to see it plus a number of other birds (Fox Sparrows, Varied and Hermit Thrushes, Calif. Thrashers and others) please call him at 284-1917 to make arrangements and for his address---his phone is unlisted.

Jim Hale had a long, close observation of a young Golden Eagle in Alum Rock Park on November 28. In Briones Park November 14 he watched a Brown Creeper bed down for the night under loose bark on a nearby tree.

Your editor saw an immature Golden Eagle and a SNOW BUNTING on Bay Farm Island December 4. Unfortunately it was on private property where others cannot go, due to circumstances involving insurance.

A note of explanation about the European Tree Sparrow reported last month. It is NOT a misidentification as it was confirmed by others. As the range of the bird is very limited in the St. Louis area, this is obviously an escapee, although this is its second year at Boileaus' feeder.

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OFFICERS OF MT. DIABLO AUDUBON. (Clip and save for future reference.)

Pres.: Sally Steller, 591 Fulton Way, Danville 94526; 837-9061.

V.P.: Marvin Larsen, 1195 Saranap, #11, Walnut Creek 94595; 937-1429.

Sec.: Lucy A. Hall, 140 Esther Ln., Danville 94526; 837-2681.

Treas.: Doris Eckstrom, 1100 Singingwood Ct., #6, Walnut Creek 94595; 933-9257.

Field Trips: Jon Williams, 455 Virginia Hills Dr., Martinez 94553; 935-1562.

Membership: Joy Meagher, 1537 N. Marta Dr., Pleasant Hill 94523; 685-5702.

Hospitality: Helen Gentile, 134 Gilbert Ct., Martinez 94553; 228-6297.

Publicity: Agnes Eckford, 3331 Walnut Blvd., Concord 94519; 685-7230.

Conservation: Ann Cavanagh, 1553 Siskiyou Dr., Walnut Creek 94598; 939-3260.

Editor: Jean Richmond, 125 Via Serena, Alamo 94507; 837-2843.

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P.O.Box 53

Pres.: Sally Steller  
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phone 837-9061

February 1973  
Vol. 19, No. 8

Next deadline: Feb. 12

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 1, 8 p.m.; social time 7:30 p.m.; Women's Club of Walnut Creek, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek. Leon Borowski will present a program on "Save Mt. Diablo".

Next Field Trips: Sunday, February 11, 9:00 a.m., Frank's Tract. Leader: Jane Helrich (687-8873).

Wednesday, February 14, 10:00 a.m., Thornton.

Sat.-Sun., March 10-11, weekend trip, Monterey. Leader: Ferd Ruth. Details on page 2.

Next Screen Tour: Thursday, March 1. Details next month.

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The meeting will feature a program by Leon Borowski, a science teacher at Monte Vista High School in Danville. He will show beautiful slides of Mt. Diablo in all its moods and give a talk about the efforts being made to preserve the mountain.

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The field trip to Frank's Tract should be extremely interesting. The area has many birds with the fringe benefit of an unusual setting. To get there, take Highway 4 east through Oakley. Just beyond town continue east on Cypress Rd. toward Bethel Island. At Jersey Island Rd. turn left, then take the first right turn after crossing the bridge. A little sign says Jersey Island Ferry. Meet at the ferry slip at the end of the road at 9 a.m. Carpool if at all possible. The \$10 ferry fee will be split among those attending. Allow 1 hour driving time, 1½ hours if foggy. Weather probably will be cold, windy and damp so dress waterproof and warm. Be prepared for some great birding.

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We are going to try something new in the way of field trips. These mid-week trips will not be as organized as the regular weekend trips. On Feb. 14 we will meet near Thornton at 10 a.m., then bird down Blossom, Peltier and Woodbridge Rds. Sandhill Cranes and Whistling Swans winter here in large numbers. To reach the meeting place, cross Antioch Bridge, continue on Highway 160 to Walnut Grove then follow the signs east toward Thornton. Meet at the corner of Walnut Grove Rd. and Blossom Rd. Rain will cancel the trip. If questionable, phone Jean Richmond, 837-2843, before 8:30 that morning.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Christmas Count on Dec. 30 was a great success, as was the potluck that evening. About 40 observers turned up 118 species, including 5 Golden Eagles, European Widgeon, European Tree Sparrow, White-Throated Sparrow and Snow Bunting. Compiler Marvin Larsen is working on the report and it should appear in the March "Quail".

As of this writing, Christmas Counts by other Audubon chapters include: Golden Gate, 170 species; Napa-Solano, 123; Ohlone, 162; Pt. Reyes, 195. "California Thrasher", from Paso Robles Audubon, reports Yosemite had a record 71 species, compared to the previous high of 51.

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**SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO BAY USERS WANTED.** Chris Nelson provided us with this information from an ad in the Palo Alto Times requesting help for the new South S.F. Bay Nat'l Refuge. The State is in a huge lawsuit to confirm public rights in 10,000 acres of the Bay between the S.F. Airport and San Jose. If you have used this area, including the shore and abutting areas of tidelands for boating, fishing, commerce or other activities; if your relatives or ancestors used these waters; if you have old photographs, newspapers or diary accounts of commerce or recreation there, please contact: California Attorney General's Office, 6000 State Building, San Francisco, Ca. 94102, Attention: John Brisco, Deputy Attorney General. Thanks for your assistance!

It had been reported earlier that L.A. Merhoff would be the manager of the new South Bay Refuge. "The Kite Call", bulletin of Ohlone Audubon, informs us that this was to be only for a short time. The manager is Walter O. Stieglitz, who comes from the position of Associate Regional Supervisor of the Division of Wildlife Refuges in Atlanta, Ga.

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**Monterey Peninsula Field Trip:** Sat.-Sun., March 10-11. Those who have participated in this trip before say it is one NOT to miss! The trip includes a visit to Pacific Grove Museum in the afternoon, dinner at The Sardine Factory followed by The First Theater. Sunday morning we go on a walk at Point Lobos. Ferd Ruth, a college biology teacher and former member of our group, will be our guide. Make your own reservations, preferably at Motel 6, 2124 Fremont Ave., Monterey, Ca. 93940; phone 408-373-3500. Mention Ferd Ruth and Mt. Diablo Audubon, enclose a check.

**Route:** Go to San Jose then to Watsonville (either via Los Gatos and Santa Cruz or via Gilroy then west over Hecker Pass) and on 10 miles south to Moss Landing. Meet at 8:45 a.m. (leave Walnut Creek by 7 a.m.) at the start of Jetty Rd. which is  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile north of the bridge over Elkhorn Slough. Look for a white Buick station wagon with red paper on the door and hood.

If you go only Sunday, park your car outside and meet us at the Point Lobos entrance kiosk at 9 a.m. sharp. Walk is from 9-12 noon.

**Bring:** Binoculars and scope, if you have one, lunch and drink for Saturday, comfortable warm clothes and change for evening.

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Return by February 20 to: Jon Williams, 455 Virginia Hills Dr., Martinez, Ca. 94553---enclose check for theater.

Names of party members:

Number in party: Adults \_\_\_\_\_ Children (17 & under) \_\_\_\_\_

No. firm reservations for The Sardine Factory, Sat. eve., 6 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_

No. firm reservations for First Theatre, Sat. eve., at \$3.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 17 & under, at \$2.00 \_\_\_\_\_

As our APRIL MEETING conflicts with the Audubon Wildlife film, "Twentieth Century wilderness", our April meeting will not be held. In its place we will have a no-host dinner and 5-minute business meeting after which we will attend the film at Diablo Valley College gym. Please note this on your calendar. Details will be in the March issue.

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COMING MARCH 24-31: A natural history field study program of the Pacific islands and lagoons of Baja California sponsored by Foothill College of Los Altos. Travel by charter ship to observe unique birds and marine mammals. For information phone Ted Chandik, 493-5330.

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Notes from the "Audubon Leader":

Five new young are among the 51 Whooping Cranes counted at their wintering grounds at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. This count is below last year's record 59, although late comers may yet arrive.

Report No. 1 of Bureau of Land Management's Technical Note series on habitat management for endangered species is on the Peregrine Falcon. A 32-page booklet is readily understandable to laymen. For a free copy write: Director, Portland Service Center, Box 3861, Portland, Ore. 97208.

Among those charged in Wyoming with killing Eagles, one who pleaded guilty to 74 killings and a conspiracy charge was sentenced to a \$500 fine and placed on 6 months unsupervised probation!!! Others in Wyoming and Colorado who were similarly charged received similar sentences. Two other cases come up this winter---hopefully the government will have better luck in securing justice in this environmental crime of the worst order.

\* \* \* \* \*

From the Condor Newsletter: The fire which burned into part of the Sespe Condor Sanctuary had no known affect on the Condors as most of their numbers spend that part of the year foraging in Kern and Tulare Counties. However, there may be indirect danger as fire removes brush from around nest site and make it more vulnerable to human disturbance. The Forest Service has now closed the Sanctuary and key buffer areas to firearms possession which should give much needed protection to Condors in areas of public access. Sanctuary trespass violators are also being prosecuted with new vigor and BIRDERS ARE NOT EXEMPT! Restrooms and a trail to the look-out point have been completed at Dough Flat. This site is best for Condor watching during winter and spring. As road conditions are sometimes poor following heavy rains, visitors should call the Ojai District Ranger (805-646-4348) before driving to Dough Flat. When watching for Condors, BE PATIENT!

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HOORAY!!! Gov. Ronald Reagan last month signed the "wild rivers" bill by Senator Peter Behr and vetoed the rival bill by Senator Randolph Collier. In doing so, the governor said the Behr bill "goes further in solving the problem of protecting the natural state of our north coast rivers."

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The following are warmly welcomed into Mt. Diablo Audubon:

Concord: Mrs. George W. Clemens, Jr., Mrs. Elva Peck, Richard Wallace;  
Danville: Betty R. Gordon, Mrs. Elsie Lamm; Walnut Creek: Lynn Lakso,  
Douglas Wright; Pleasanton: Sam & Verdi Swyers.

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For info on Feb. hikes sponsored by Mt. Diablo Regional Group, Sierra Club, contact Molly Reeves, 126 Canon Dr., Orinda 94563; phone 254-1428.

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KEEP YOUR HUMMINGBIRD FEEDERS GOING. During the very cold weather we have had this winter many blossoms were frozen, depriving the hummers of their usual natural food. Also, many people have reported that their feeders froze. Please check your feeders during freezing weather and thaw them promptly if they freeze. Or take the feeders in at night and replace them in their usual spot early in the morning. Many of these lovely little mites died as a result of the severe weather. If you have any information regarding dead hummingbirds following the cold spell, contact Lynn Farrar, 955 Diablo Dr., Lafayette, 94549, phone 283-3938.

Hummingbird syrup formula from Alexander Lindsay Jr. Museum:  
4 c. boiled water, 1 c. sugar, 2 T. Similac (available at pharmacies and grocery stores).

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### Observations:

On Dec. 9-10, the weekend after our field trip to the refuges in the Sacramento Valley, Harry and Betty Adamson led a Golden Gate Audubon trip there. The weather was clear but very COLD and many of the waterfowl had moved south. (We humans should have been so wise!) The report from the Adamsons included a Blue Goose, European Widgeon, Bald Eagle immature, and a "Wren-on-the-Rocks"---a Bewick's Wren would briefly flit around on the surface of the frozen pond then hop up onto the reeds sticking up through the ice, seemingly to get his feet off that cold surface. The Adamsons also reported Ferruginous Hawk and Golden Eagles on the trip home.

At least 6 Blue Winged Teal were at Palo Alto Salt Marsh on Jan 2.

On Jan. 7 Mary Jane and Bill Greene of Golden Gate Audubon and your editor saw a flock of 150 Turkey Vultures just north of Sunol.

Sally Steller found 105 Band-Tailed Pigeons in the oaks behind their property on Dec. 22. She also reports that during the holidays a hummingbird was trying to feed from a red Christmas light on the eaves of a neighbors' house!

A Western Flycatcher was seen by yours truly on Dec. 6 at Berkeley's U.C. Botanical Garden on a Golden Gate field trip. The bird was properly identified later after discussions with well-qualified birders. It was still there for the Golden Gate Christmas Count.

A Loggerhead Shrike has turned up in the Adamsons' garden.

Lynn Farrar had an Orange-Crowned Warbler in his yard on Jan. 2. He also reports 92 species on a recent trip to Tomales Bay---an excellent birding spot!

At Bay Farm Island on Dec. 29 your editor, with 3 Golden Gate birders, had a Lapland Longspur and a Snow Bunting in the scope at once. As of that date the Bunting had been there for 27 days. Elsie Roemer, of Alameda, provides the information that the previous longest stay of a Bunting in California had been 11 days.

Good birding areas for February: See the October, November and December issues. February is probably the best time to see the Whistling Swans and Sandhill Cranes around the Thornton area. These, plus geese, ducks and other birds can also be seen along Highway 12 east of Rio Vista and along Highway 4 east of Byron.

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Editors please note: I would prefer that exchange bulletins be sent directly to me at the address below, rather than to the Chapter's post office box in Walnut Creek. Thanks.

Jean Richmond, Editor---125 Via Serena, Alamo, Ca. 94507---phone 837-2843

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March 1973  
Vol. 19, No. 9

Next deadline: March 15

- Meeting: Thursday, March 1, 8 p.m.; social time 7:30 p.m.; Women's Club of Walnut Creek, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek. Josh Barkin will present "Of Whales and Men."
- Field Trips: Saturday-Sunday, March 10-11, Monterey weekend. Leader: Ferd Ruth.  
Thursday, March 22, 9:30 a.m., Golden Gate Park, S.F.
- Screen Tour: Thursday, March 1, 8 p.m. "Wildlife Safari To Ethiopia." Jeffery Boswall. Diablo Valley College gym.

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The program for our March meeting will be presented by Josh Barkin who is Supervising Naturalist for the East Bay Regional Park District. "Of Whales and Men" concerns the whaling industry in the Bay Area.

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That great weekend to Monterey will be March 10-11. Meet at 8:45 a.m. Saturday at the start of Jetty Rd. at Elkhorn Slough. Sunday at 9 a.m. meet at the Pt. Lobos entrance kiosk. See details in February "Quail".

The mid-week trip will be to Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. The Chain of Lakes offers early-nesting land birds and close-ups of water birds and gulls. Meet at 9:30 a.m. just inside the Park at 43rd and Fulton. For information on carpooling or for rescheduling (in case of rain) call Jean Richmond 837-2843.

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This month's Audubon Wildlife film unfortunately conflicts with our meeting. Jeffery Boswall spent six months working in Ethiopia to film "Wildlife Safari to Ethiopia." He began in a lifeless salt desert, one of the hottest areas on earth, and finished on top of 15,880-foot High Simien with spectacular mountain scenery. The film, with no admission charge, will be shown in the Diablo Valley College gym at 8 p.m. on March 1.

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CENTRAL COUNTY CHECKLIST. A group from Mt. Diablo Audubon is getting organized to compile a checklist of birds and birding areas for this area. If you have any records from bird trips here or feeder records please contact your president or editor. Records from the past five years are preferable but some older records have value to the project also.

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The FIELD TRIP to Lafayette Reservoir January 27 was attended by 16 birders who had a good day in spite of overcast skies and cold weather. The following 41 species were seen or heard on the stroll around the lake:

Red-Throated Loon, Western & Pied-Billed Grebe, Double-Crested Cormorant, Mallard, Ring-Necked & Ruddy Duck, Common Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed Hawk, California Quail, American Coot, Killdeer, Ring-Billed Gull, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Red-Shafted Flicker, Acorn, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Common Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, California Thrasher, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Loggerhead Shrike, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox & Song Sparrow.

There are no reports for the February field trips as both the Frank's Tract trip on the 11th and the Thornton trip on the 14th were washed out by the extremely wet winter weather we have been having. Take heart, however, as spring cannot be far off with the return of such birds as Allen's Hummers and the chorus of songsters tuning up these days.

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The CHRISTMAS COUNT on December 30 found 40 observers out in sunny, clear weather with variable wind and low temperature in the morning but warming before noon. By the time the day ended a total of 119 species and 36,000 individuals had been found. This compared to 115 species last year and 118 in 1970. The first MDAS count, held in 1954, turned up 89 species while the highest count, in 1963, was 123. The following species were spotted on the 1972 count:

Loon species, Eared, Western & Pied-Billed Grebe, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Common & Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, American Bittern, Canada & White-Fronted Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-Winged Teal, European & American Widgeon, Shoveler, Canvasback, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Sharp-Shinned, Cooper's & Red-Tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle (5), Marsh & Sparrow Hawk, California Quail, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Sora, Common Gallinule, American Coot, Killdeer, Common Snipe, Long-Billed Curlew, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Western Sandpiper, American Avocet, Glaucous-Winged, Herring, California, Ring-Billed, Mew & Bonaparte's Gull, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Barn, Screech, Great Horned & Short-Eared Owl, White-Throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Yellow-Shafted & Red-Shafted Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Red-Breasted Sapsucker, Hairy, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black & Say's Phoebe, Horned Lark, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Common Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Common Bush-tit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Wrentit, House, Winter, Bewick's, Long-Billed Marsh & Rock Wren, Mockingbird, California Thrasher, Robin, Varied & Hermit Thrush, Western Bluebird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Hutton's Vireo, Myrtle & Audubon's Warbler, Yellowthroat, House & European Tree Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Purple & House Finch, Pine Siskin, American & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Savannah & Rufous-Crowned Sparrow, Slate-Colored & Oregon Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, White-Throated, Fox, Lincoln's & Song Sparrow, Snow Bunting.

Also found during the count period (December 16-January 1) were Wood Duck, Belted Kingfisher and Red-Breasted Nuthatch.

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AUDUBON CANYON RANCH, on the east shore of Bolinas Lagoon, will be open to the public without charge March 3 through July 4, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Schools and other groups interested in guided visits to the Ranch on weekdays please call Mrs. Edris Cole, 383-1644. The Ranch is closed on Mondays. The Ranch is sponsored by Golden Gate, Marin and Sequoia Audubon Societies. Great Blue Herons and Common Egrets nest in the tops of trees there. The best time to visit the heronry is between April 15 and June 15 as the nesting season is at its height and the wildflowers are out and the grass is still green. (From The Redwood Log, Marin Audubon Society bulletin.)

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As our APRIL MEETING conflicts with an Audubon Wildlife film for the second month in a row, we have cancelled that meeting and will meet instead for a no-host dinner. We will meet at Lyons Restaurant at 6 p.m. in Sun Valley Shopping Center, Concord. (The restaurant is near the Macy's entrance.) Following the dinner we will all make the short jaunt to Diablo Valley College to see "Twentieth Century Wilderness". If you plan to attend the dinner please notify Betty Williams by card or phone by April 1 so that the restaurant will have some idea of how many places to set up in the room we will be using. Betty's address: 455 Virginia Hills Rd., Martinez 94553; phone 935-1562.

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BIRDING IN THE LOS ANGELES AREA? Each week Los Angeles Audubon tapes a listing of unusual or rare birds seen in that area. The phone number for this service is 874-1318.

\* \* \* \* \*

"DOWN UNDER" NATURE TOUR. Golden Gate Audubon Society is conducting an Ecological Tour of Australia and New Zealand in late September 1973, led by George Peyton, former GGAS vice-president. He will be assisted along the route by local bird experts and naturalists. Primary emphasis will be on birds but plants, animals and ecology will also be covered. For information, write to Golden Gate Audubon 1973 Tour, %Siemer and Hand, Ltd., One Embarcadero Center, San Francisco 94111, or phone Bud Simon, (415) 788-7186.

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From AUDUBON LEADER: President Nixon and Environmental Protection Administrator William D. Ruckelshaus still need your support for their ban on the use of poisons for predator control on public lands. The sheep ranchers have not let up on their demands for revoking the action. The Department of the Interior has stepped up alternative predator controls with trappers and gunners in trouble spots. However, the Nat'l Wool Growers Ass'n leaders have been crying "coyote" and claiming predators are putting them out of business. The industry is well-subsidized by price supports, protective tariffs, low grazing fees on public lands, and publicly financed predator control. But, it is easier to blame the coyote for losses than to improve efficiency and management. Write: President Richard M. Nixon, The White House, Washington, D.C. 20500, and William D. Ruckelshaus, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, Waterside Mall, 401 M Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20460.

\* \* \* \* \*

The S.F. Chronicle recently related the story of a couple who came home to their ranch to find a large hawk on the table, eating a quail he had chased through a plate glass window and caught in the dining room. The hawk screeched and beat a hasty retreat through the broken window.

\* \* \* \* \*

We cordially welcome the following new members of Mt. Diablo Audubon:  
Walnut Creek: Mrs. Paul R. Ames, Mrs. Ernest Christin, Elva H. Jones, Mrs. Iran Kirk, Mary Ann McElroy, J. Frank Valle-Riestra, M. K. C. Wilcox, Mrs. C. K. Wilson; Concord: Robert L. Bary, Duane A. Beddoes, Edward E. Blevins, Theodore A. Scott, Grace W. Turner, J. R. Wagner; Pittsburg: R. K. Eppley; Diablo: Robert & Karen Claypole, Jack Golden, Mrs. M. Griffin; Antioch: Lester M. Leuty; Martinez: Clifford F. Souza; Danville: Jan Clements, Carol & Richard Gilbert, W.E. MacMath, Mrs. Richard M. Stearns; Lafayette: Mrs. Olive B. Fontaine, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Fortmeg, Lee Goodrich, Mrs. John Thompson; Pleasanton: Mrs. Bob Ghent, Mrs. Josephine Harding; Pleasant Hill: Terry Hillard, Miss Sidney Price, D. L. Sprinkle; San Ramon: Mrs. R. R. Scott, Jr.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### Observations:

At Lake Tahoe on February 3 the Richmonds found 3 Greater Scaup, usually found on the coast.

Adrienne Ormsby reports they have 2 Barn Owls on their property in Concord.

Jean Richmond saw a Golden Eagle overhead at home February 8. On a bird trip to Pt. Reyes on January 23 she saw a Bald Eagle, Rough-Legged Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk and 4 American Golden Plovers.

The first reported Allen's Hummingbirds of the year turned up at the Gentiles' on January 29, one at Richmonds' on February 5, and one at Farrars' on February 9.

Cedar Waxwings are quite erratic in their appearances. Some members report the number of Waxwings is very low yet others report good-sized flocks: Alan Brown counted 188 in Alamo; Adrienne Ormsby, over 200 in Concord; Carol Rankin, well over 100 in Walnut Creek. One somewhat puzzling note from your editor: The Waxwings and Robins have cleaned out the toyon and juniper berries in our neighborhood but not quite all the pyracantha berries. Still remaining is a large, very heavy-laden pyracantha across the street and there are still many Waxwings and Robins here. Yet the birds, to my knowledge, have not been in the one shrub.

The European Tree Sparrow still comes daily to the Boileaus' feeder in Walnut Creek. Al also saw 23 Evening Grosbeaks on January 24 across the street from his office in Martinez.

Harry Adamson found 9 Evening Grosbeaks in his yard on January 29. The Adamsons have been hosts to hordes of Band-Tailed Pigeons lately.

A pair of Red Crossbills were seen by Dave Rudholm on January 13 in downtown Walnut Creek.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### Birding areas for March:

Most of the winter birds will still be here for a little while but some will begin to move north this month. Those which have been south for the winter will begin to return although most will not begin to arrive until next month. Check out the places listed in earlier issues for wintering species. For spring arrivals try such places as Coyote Hills, Sunol and Tilden Regional Parks. Pt. Reyes should be good for both wintering and spring birds.

\* \* \* \* \*

Jean Richmond, Editor---125 Via Serena, Alamo, Ca. 94507---phone 837-2843



# The Quail

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY  
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94597

P.O.Box 53

Pres.: Sally Steller  
591 Fulton Way  
Danville, Ca. 94526  
phone 837-9061

April 1973  
Vol. 19, No. 10

Next deadline: April 15

- Meeting: Thursday, April 5, 6:00 p.m., no-host dinner at Lyons Restaurant, Sun Valley Shopping Center, Concord. Short business meeting included.
- Field Trips: Saturday, April 14, 9:00 a.m., Las Trampas Regional Park. Leader: Walter Knight.  
Wednesday, April 25, 9:30 a.m., Tilden Regional Park.
- Screen Tour: Thursday, April 5, 8:00 p.m. "Twentieth Century Wilderness" by Tom Sterling. Diablo Valley College gym.

\* \* \* \* \*

As our April meeting conflicts with the Audubon Wildlife film, the regular meeting has been cancelled, and in its place we will meet for a no-host dinner at 6:00 p.m. at Lyons Restaurant. We will include a very short business meeting to attend to a few matters which must be taken care of, then we will adjourn to Diablo Valley College to view the Audubon Wildlife film. If you are planning to attend the dinner, please contact Betty Williams by card or phone by April 1 so she will have some idea of how many places the restaurant should set up in the room we will be using. Betty's address: 455 Virginia Hills Rd., Martinez 94553; phone 935-1562.

A very important matter is to be voted upon at the brief business meeting. The Board members, at a meeting on March 14, voted to recommend a Campership be given to pay the camp expenses for an individual, yet to be named, to attend a session of Audubon Camp of the West this summer. This expenditure must be approved by a majority of members present.

\* \* \* \* \*

The field trip to Las Trampas will be the annual wildflower trip, with birding also an integral part of the doings for the day. The first mile and a half is level but after that the trail gets fairly steep. Those who wish to turn back at that point will return to the parking lot while the more hardy souls will make the climb. The trip will not be a hurried one at any time, and should be a most interesting and rewarding one for all comers. Plan to carry your lunch and liquids with you. To reach the meeting place, go south on Freeway 680 to Crow Canyon Rd., west a short distance to Bolinger Canyon Rd., turn right and drive to the end of the road. Meet in the parking area there at 9:00 a.m. For further information contact Jon Williams, 935-1562.

Almost anything could turn up in Tilden Park during the weekday trip there on April 25. For example, your editor saw Calliope Hummingbirds

there the past two years at that time of year. Meet at the parking lot near the Little Farm at 9:30. For information, directions or car-pooling, phone Jean Richmond at 837-2843.

\* \* \* \* \*

The FINAL FILM in the Audubon Wildlife series for this season will be shown in the Diablo Valley College gym at 8 p.m. on Thursday, April 5. Tom Sterling invites viewers of "Twentieth Century Wilderness" to explore vast prairies, canyons and high mountains, the Everglades and other wilderness areas. Greater Sandhill Cranes, Black-Footed Ferret, bison, pronghorn, caribou, and grizzlies are a few of the creatures to be seen on this trip through twentieth century wilderness America. As usual, there is no admission charged for the film.

\* \* \* \* \*

Forty members and guests took part in the FIELD TRIP to the Monterey area the weekend of March 10-11. A few sprinkles on Saturday and showers on Sunday failed to at all dampen the spirits of the participants or to keep the birds out of sight. The following 91 species were reported for the two days:

Common & Red-Throated Loon, Horned, Eared, Western & Pied-Billed Grebe, Double-Crested, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Common Egret, Mallard, Pintail, Blue-Winged & Cinnamon Teal, American Widgeon, Shoveler, Greater & Lesser Scaup, White-Winged & Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Red-Breasted Merganser, White-Tailed Kite, Red-Tailed & Sparrow Hawk, American Coot, Black Dystercatcher, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Surfbird, Ruddy & Black Turnstone, Common Snipe, Long-Billed Curlew, Whimbrel, Willet, Baird's & Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, dowitcher sp., Western Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, American Avocet, Black-Necked Stilt, Glaucous-Winged, Western, Herring, California, Ring-Billed & Heermann's Gull, Forster's & Common Tern, Pigeon Guillemot, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, hummingbird sp., Belted Kingfisher, Red-Shafted Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Common Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Common Bushtit, Pygmy Nuthatch, Wrentit, Mockingbird, Robin, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, Audubon's & Townsend's Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Oregon & Slate-Colored Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

Some members also reported seeing flamingos and ostriches on the way into Monterey for lunch on Saturday. On both days a number of playful Sea Otters were seen from the shore.

The field trip to Thornton, scheduled for February 14, was held a week later due to the rain on the original date. Unfortunately, we could only notify those who had expressed interest or who phoned that morning to see if the trip was still going in spite of the weather. Eight enthusiastic birders found the following 51 species:

Western & Pied-Billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, Whistling Swan, White-Fronted Goose, Mallard, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Red-Tailed, Marsh & Sparrow Hawk, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Sandhill Crane, Sora, Common Gallinule, American Coot, Killdeer, Long-Billed Curlew, gull sp., Mourning Dove, Barn & Burrowing Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Red-Shafted Flicker, Black Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Scrub Jay, Common Crow, Bushtit, Long-Billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Robin, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Audubon's Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Oregon Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox and Song Sparrow.

\* \* \* \* \*

"The Poetry of Photography" is a weekend course offered by University of California Extension May 5-6 on the Berkeley campus. For information and enrollment forms: Dept. P10, University Extension, University of California, 2223 Fulton St., Berkeley, Ca. 94720; phone 642-1061.

\* \* \* \* \*

NATURAL HISTORY EXPEDITIONS TO EAST AFRICA. Nature Expeditions International, a non-profit corporation, offers two trips this summer to East Africa: June 25-July 16 and July 16-August 5. For information or reservation forms write or phone Ted Chandik, 4238 Ruthelma Ave., Palo Alto, Ca. 94306 (415-493-5330) or Nature Expeditions International, P. O. Box 1173, Los Altos, Ca. 94022 (415-941-2910).

\* \* \* \* \*

CAMP DENALI WILDERNESS RETREAT in the shadow of Mt. McKinley. An educational and wilderness workshop experience is available for Audubon members at Camp Denali. For information write to Box D, College, Alaska 99701.

\* \* \* \* \*

IMPENDING DANGER? A new Blue List, or "early warning system" for birds not officially designated endangered, but exhibiting a steady decline in numbers, appears in the December, 1972 issue of American Birds. Reports of observations--and lack of them--of the species in question over the last year largely corroborated the tentative list published in December 1971. (From "The Yellow Bill", bulletin of Fresno Audubon Society.)

\* \* \* \* \*

We warmly welcome a large number of new members to Mt. Diablo Audubon:  
Lafayette: Mr. & Mrs. R.M. Alpen, Ruth Barcelon, Mr. Cotruvo, Robert G. Holmes, Mrs. Patricia McCrae, Robert W. Read, Lewis B. Reynolds, Bruce Sandow; Costa Mesa: Mrs. Bob Aten; Concord: John Auda, Dr. Howard Baughman, Mrs. David Freer, Michael P. McGarvey, Mr. F. Werle Senger, Miss Silva, Miss Stepp, Lyle & Linda Vannorman, Dr. & Mrs. H.M. Watchers; San Ramon: David Banker, Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Pipes; Walnut Creek: Alex Boozenny, Miss Manon A. Bottome, Margaret Burk-Dietrich, Phillip W. Campbell, Mrs. Calvin Duncan, Mr. & Mrs. A.E. Jones, James A. McCall, Mrs. David S. Moore, the Moyle family, Franciene Othus, Clark Peters, Virginia Schultz, James S. Short, Mrs. Maude J. Turner; Alamo: Alan Brown, Dorothy & Lawrence Ladnev, Mrs. Herb Stocking; Pleasant Hill: Tom Best, L.T. Devol, Michael T. Ecsi, Clarissa Wilson; West Pittsburg: Edward E. Kracen; Martinez: Harriet Smith; Antioch: Richard Fischer, Mrs. Ralph Redo; Pleasanton: Mrs. R.C. Lewis; Danville: Danna Saunders, R.L. Schwein.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### THE AUDUBON PHILOSOPHY:

We believe in the wisdom of nature's design.

We know that soil, water, plants and wild creatures depend upon each other and are vital to human life.

We recognize that each living thing links to many others in the chain of nature.

We believe that persistent research into the intricate patterns of outdoor life will help to assure wise use of earth's abundance.

We condemn no wild creature and work to assure that no living species shall be lost.

We believe that every generation should be able to experience spiritual and physical refreshment in places where primitive nature is undisturbed. So we will be vigilant to protect wilderness areas, refuges, and parks, and to encourage good use of nature's storehouse of resources.

We dedicate ourselves to the pleasant task of opening the eyes of young and old that all may come to enjoy the beauty of the outdoor world, and to share in conserving its wonders forever.

\* \* \* \* \*

Observations:

A Wood Duck male has been on Lloyd Lake in Golden Gate Park lately.

Lynn Farrar reports an albino Red-Tailed Hawk in Bolinger Canyon south of Lafayette. Bob Claypole found a melanistic Red-Tailed Hawk on El Pintado Rd., Danville, in January.

A Rough-Legged Hawk was seen on Grizzly Island on February 17 and on March 20.

The Richmonds spotted an immature Golden Eagle March 18 near Avenal in the San Joaquin Valley.

Two Soras were seen on the field trip to Thornton February 21.

A small flock of Indian Ringnecked Parakeets is in Vasona Park, Los Gatos. Information from the Santa Clara Valley Audubon bulletin states that Greg Grenfell of San Jose, after seeing them, checked several references before determining the identity of the birds. These are either escapes or released birds and are apparently breeding there. Your editor, along with several birder friends, has seen these beautiful birds on two occasions.

Bob Claypole reports 2 Poorwills on February 18 about a mile below South Gate on Mt. Diablo.

Rufous Hummingbirds turned up Russ Epley's home in Lafayette February 23, Al Boileau's in Walnut Creek on February 24, and Bob Lockett's south of Danville on February 25.

Bob Claypole Reports a Lewis' Woodpecker at Diablo and South Gate Road in Diablo in February.

A male Williamson's Sapsucker appeared at Elsie and Russ Epley's home on February 21 and remained through March 8, giving ample time for a number of people to view him.

On February 17 Lynn Farrar found a pair of Brown Creepers in a tree and Golden-Crowned Kinglets above them giving an excellent comparison of their very similar sounds.

A Northern Shrike was seen on Grizzly Island on February 17.

On March 3 Lynn Farrar found 5 singing Orange-Crowned Warblers in Lafayette. He said it was a most significant first day---like they had all just arrived on P.S.A. flight 210 from the south. (Don't remember the exact airline or flight number he used.)

Al Boileau spotted a flock of Evening Grosbeaks and a Red Crossbill in downtown Martinez on February 21.

White-Throated Sparrows were seen at Russ Epley's February 25, and by Bob Claypole in Diablo in mid February.

A note from Lynn Farrar reminds us to check out every bird through the next few weeks as the spring migration is under way. Birds follow warm weather fronts so be particularly watchful at those times. And whatever you do, let me know what unusual birds you find.

Good birding spots for April:

This month finds the summering birds arriving back from the south. Among the many places to go are Lafayette Reservoir, Briones Park, Mt. Diablo, Mines Road south of Livermore, Sunol Park, Coyote Hills, Alum Rock Park in San Jose, Mt. Hamilton, Pt. Reyes and Audubon Canyon Ranch on Bolinas Lagoon. Golden Gate Park is also good but somewhat crowded on sunny weekends.

\* \* \* \* \*

Jean Richmond, Editor---125 Via Serena, Alamo, Ca. 94507---phone 837-2843



# The Quail

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY

WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94597

P.O.Box 53

Pres.: Sally Steller  
591 Fulton Way  
Danville, Ca. 94526  
phone: 837-2843

May 1973  
Vol. 19, No. 11

Next deadline: May 15

Meeting: Thursday, May 3, 8 p.m.; social time 7:30 p.m.; Women's Club of Walnut Creek, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek. Slide show by members.

Field trips: Saturday, May 5, 8:30 a.m., Mines Road and Del Valle Regional Park (south of Livermore). Leader: Art Edwards.  
Thursday, May 24, 9:15 a.m., Mt. Diablo.

\* \* \* \* \*

Our meeting will feature a program of slides shown by members. Those wishing to show slides should limit them to about a dozen and keep their comments to a reasonable length. The slides need not be limited to birds, but may include also animals, flowers, scenery, etc.

\* \* \* \* \*

The field trip down Mines Road should be one of the better ones we have taken. We should see Phainopepla, Western Kingbird, Lewis' Woodpecker, and Yellow-Billed Magpie, among others. Wood Ducks, Eagles, Vaux' Swift, Cassin's Kingbirds and Lawrence's Goldfinches were seen there in the past two years. Accompanied by two friends from Oakland, your editor saw two Roadrunners in the area on March 24. Meet at the flagpole in the center of Livermore at 8:30. To reach the meeting place, go south on Highway 680 then east on Highway 580 to N. Livermore Ave. exit. Go south on N. Livermore Ave. to the flagpole and meet the group in the block just beyond. If you cannot arrive by 8:30 come anyway and catch up with us out on Mines Road---we will be birding at various stopping places along the road. (Go south on S. Livermore, left on Tesla which goes to the left where Livermore Ave. ends, then a very short distance to Mines Rd. Turn right and drive until you find us.) For information, phone Jon Williams at 935-1562 or Jean Richmond at 837-2843.

We will be looking for Black-Chinned, Rufous-Crowned and Sage Sparrows, Lazuli Buntings and other goodies on the trip up Mt. Diablo on May 24. We meet on South Gate Rd. at a point 2.7 miles from the left turn near Athenian School. This is before you reach the entrance station. For information, phone your editor.

\* \* \* \* \*

Twenty-two rabbits eat the same amount of food as one sheep. COYOTES EAT RABBITS. (from "The White-Tailed Kite" of Altacal Audubon Society)

\* \* \* \* \*



The FIELD TRIP to Las Trampas in April found 34 people out for a walk in a beautiful wilderness area. The weatherman cooperated and provided lovely weather, neither too hot nor too cold although a little windy in spots. Walter Knight discussed park management as well as the flora fauna on the hike. The birding was not very good and the following 31 species were seen:

Turkey Vulture, Sharp-Shinned, Red-Tailed & Sparrow Hawk, California Quail, Mourning Dove, hummingbird sp., Acorn Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Violet-Green & Cliffswallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Plain Titmouse, Common Bushtit, Wrentit, Rock Wren, Robin, Western Bluebird, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Orange-Crowned & Wilson's Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, Black-Headed Grosbeak, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Brown Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Oregon Junco, Chipping Sparrow.

The trip to Golden Gate Park on March 22 turned up far more birds but for far fewer people. Four fortunate people found the following 50 species:

Pied-Billed Grebe, Mallard, American Widgeon, Shoveler, Wood & Ring-Necked Duck, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, American Coot, Glaucous-Winged, California, Ring-Billed & Mew Gull, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-Shafted Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Western Flycatcher, Violet-Green & Tree Swallow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Common Bushtit, Red-Breasted & Pygmy Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Robin, Varied Thrush, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, Hutton's Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Myrtle & Audubon's Warbler, Yellowthroat, Red-Winged and Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American & Lesser Goldfinch, RED CROSSBILL, Oregon Junco, White-Crowned, Fox & Song Sparrow. A beautiful Mandarin Duck drake (a released bird) was seen at Metson Lake.

\* \* \* \* \*

CONGRATULATIONS to Dennis Clemens, a member of MDAS, who will be married in June to Ann Florence Furlong of Los Gatos. They are both employed by the U.S. Forest Service in Pinecrest. The best wishes of the members of the Mt. Diablo Audubon go to the young couple.

\* \* \* \* \*

BALD EAGLE SANCTUARIES. Florida Audubon Society is selling commemorative stamps to collectors and these funds are being used to maintain sanctuaries for the Bald Eagle in the state of Florida. Save and send your used commemorative stamps to Deyea Harper, 2310 Northwood Dr., Santa Rosa 95404, who will send them on their way. (from Madrone Audubon Society)

\* \* \* \* \*

GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA. Bay Area residents will have an opportunity to play a part in the planning of the newly-established GGNRA during a public forum to be presented on Saturday, May 12, by University Extension, U.C., Berkeley. The all-day forum will be held at Marina Junior High School, Chestnut and Fillmore Streets, San Francisco. A series of workshops will be held during the following week at the U.C. Extension Center in San Francisco at Laguna and Market Streets. Recommendations developed during the sessions will be forwarded to be used in the planning, administration and development of the new Recreation Area. Enrollment fee for the May 12 lecture and the workshops is \$10. Information is available from Continuing Education in City, Regional, and Environmental Planning, University Extension, University of California, 2223 Fulton St., Berkeley, CA 94720; phone 642-4811.

\* \* \* \* \*

We are happy to welcome the following as members of Mt. Diablo Audubon:  
Concord: Mr. & Mrs. L.V. Fay, Julie Karpiak, Dr. Marston Leigh,  
 Mr. F.W. Senger; Danville: Nicolas K. Temnikow; Dublin: Mr. & Mrs.  
 Edwin C. Kolb; Lafayette: Mr. & Mrs. Charles C. Clark, Brian & Dianne  
 Donnan, Mrs. Harold R. Farrow, John P. Gandio, Miriam B. Hvidt, Mrs. J.  
 Richard Johnston, Shirley Lamantia, Ms. Marion Ray, Dwight Woodfield,  
 Barbara Wright; Pleasant Hill: Miss Ramona J. Bullock, Heather Rosmarin,  
 Mr. & Mrs. William Wadsworth; San Ramon: James J. Burke; Walnut Creek:  
 Mrs. Frank Adams, Reuben J. Balzer, James Barbieri, Brett K. Bernhardt,  
 Kathryn W. Cook, Frances Freeman Johnson, M.F. Paulovic, Virginia Schultz,  
 J.K. Smith, Dr. Amy Stannard, Dr. Howard Sturtz.

\* \* \* \* \*

The following appeared in the April, 1973, issue of "The Sanderling",  
 bulletin of the Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society:

Geologists and the Public: Taking the Initiative. The traditional  
 posture of the scientist as an oracle who waits for laymen to come to  
 him for advice is rapidly giving way these days. Scientists are finding  
 that, for one reason or another, laymen do not always come for advice.  
 Dams are being built, pipelines laid, and sites for hospitals chosen  
 without the benefit of the best available information. This realization  
 was more apparent than ever at last week's meeting of the Geological  
 Society of America in Minneapolis. An unprecedented amount of session  
 time was devoted to the role of the geologist in public decision-making  
 and to his obligations to society. And such sessions were stimulating as  
 much excitement as the current darling of the earth sciences, plate  
 tectonics. ... Richard R. Parizek of the Pennsylvania State University  
 went through an exhaustive description of damage caused by Hurricane  
 Agnes last spring, pointing out that in many places damage and loss of  
 life could have been averted if adequate geological information had been  
 made available. He emphasized the need for rezoning of flood plains  
 and for discouraging building in flood-prone areas. He believes now is  
 the time to act: Flooding after Agnes cleared the building off many  
 flood plains. The thing to do now, he said, is to leave these areas clear  
 and discourage people from rebuilding there. One possibility would be  
 to convert riverside sites into recreation areas. Perhaps people who  
 insist on building in flood plains should be subject to higher taxes or  
 denied mortgages. Deeds for flood plain property should be clearly  
 stamped "on flood plain". He asks, "How many times do we have to keep  
 rewarding people for being there?"---Science News, Dec. 1972, p. 340.

As a postscript, perhaps, is the April Altacal Audubon bulletin story of  
 the proposal to spend \$4,700,000 and destroy 560 acres (by building a  
 diversion dam and bypass on the North Fork Feather River) to protect 570  
 acres, including the town of Chester, California, population 1531, from  
 a "once in 100 year flood".

\* \* \* \* \*

The nearly 4,000 acre STARR RANCH of Orange County will be transferred  
 to National Audubon Society ownership Thursday, May 10, at special  
 ceremonies. The ranch is an outstanding example of primeval hill coun-  
 try of Southern California. This acquisition represents a responsibil-  
 ity for NAS and funds will be needed immediately for maintainance and  
 care of the Ranch. Gifts in any amount can be sent to the National  
 Audubon Society, 555 Audubon Place, Sacramento, CA 95825, and are tax  
 deductible. If anyone is interested in attending the opening dedication  
 days, Friday, Saturday or Sunday, May 11-13, please contact your editor  
 right away.

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A WARNING ABOUT CANVASSERS. Door-to-door canvassers in several cities across the country have been soliciting funds "to support environmental improvement." Nat'l Audubon and a dozen other national environmental organizations have jointly disclaimed any connection with the group behind this activity, and have pointed out that only a small part of the funds collected in this way gets spent for the environment. (from Audubon Leader)

\* \* \* \* \*

Ever see a hummingbird eating ants? Brooks Kuehl reports in the Concord Transcript that he has. The ants discovered the feeder attached to the garage roof then the hummers discovered syrup-filled ants are delicious. The birds use their tongues to scoop up the ants into their bills. One evening a hummer returned six times in ten minutes to latch onto another batch of these goodies.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Observations:

Aft Edwards reports Quail in his yard well within the city of Livermore.

A number of water and shore birds in breeding plumage were seen at Alameda South Shore in early April: Red-Throated Loon, Horned & Eared Grebe, Black-Bellied Plover, Dunlin, Sanderling and American Avocet.

Mary Jane and Bill Greene and Jean Richmond saw 2 Roadrunners at marker 6.75 on Mines Road south of Livermore on March 24.

The Gentiles had a Black-Chinned Hummingbird appear at their feeder on April 7. It was still there at least through April 18.

Leon and Karen Borowski reported a Costa's Hummingbird, later seen by your editor, at their feeder on March 20-22. However, as the bird was not seen by an expert on hummingbirds, this individual will have to remain as an unsubstantiated sighting.

On March 11 Art Edwards found a small flock (at least 2, possibly 6) Mountain Bluebirds on Altamont Road. They were seen later by George Bing.

Harry Adamson heard his first Bullock's Oriole of the year at his home in Lafayette on March 22. Bob Lockett saw a male Oriole in his yard south of Danville on March 27.

On the mid-week field tripto Golden Gate Park on March 22 a pair of Red Crossbills were seen at close range at North Lake.

An Osprey was seen at Lake Tahoe by the Richmonds on April 16.

What a trip the Locketts are having! A report dated April 8 from Big Bend National Park tells of undesert-like SNOW at Joshua Trees and at Carsbad Caverns. Although most summer birds have not yet arrived at the Caverns area, the Cave Swallows are already nesting. Among the many birds they have seen already are Harris' Hawk, Bell's Vireo and Chestnut-Collared Longspur. The Locketts were on their way to the Brownsville area.

### Good Birding spots for May

This is probably the best month for birding in this area. The summer birds are arriving and the migrants are still passing through. The spots listed last month are still good. Add to that: Tilden & Redwood Regional Parks, Del Valle Regional Park south of Livermore, Napa-Bothe State Park above St. Helena; Las Trampas Park may turn up Grasshopper Sparrows (contact your editor as to where they were last year), Yellow-Breasted Chats can be seen near Glen Ellen; Pinnacles National Monument south of Hollister has good birding including several species not usually found here at home.

\* \* \* \* \*

Jean Richmond, Editor---125 Via Serena, Alamo, CA 94507---phone 837-2843



# The Quail

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY  
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94597  
P.O. Box 53

Pres.: Sally Steller  
591 Fulton Way  
Danville, Ca. 94526  
phone 837-9061

June 1973  
Vol. 19, No. 12

Next deadline: June 15

Meeting: Thursday, June 7, 6:30 p.m., Women's Club of Walnut Creek, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek. POTLUCK DINNER. Program: two films, "Bay Tidelands" and "The Redwoods".

Field Trip: Saturday-Sunday, June 23-24, Yuba Pass and Sierra Valley weekend. Leader: Frank Beyer (707-644-0236, Vallejo).

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Our last meeting of the spring will be the annual potluck dinner. As our group has outgrown the facilities of the gardens of our members we will gather at 6:30 p.m. at the Clubhouse where we will have ample space. Bring your own dishes and utensils plus enough salad, casserole, dessert or bread for 4 times the number in your family (group, party, or whatever) and a serving spoon for it. Mt. Diablo Audubon will provide tea and coffee as usual. Phone Betty Williams (935-1562) and tell her the number in your group and what you would like to bring. She will warn you if 4 others already plan to bring beans. We also would like to have a headcount so we know how many tables should be set up.

The program will be two films, "Bay Tidelands" and "The Redwoods", by Betty Terwilliger who is a well-known member of Marin Audubon Society, another Bay Area chapter of National Audubon. This film is from the Standard Oil Company film library.

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The Yuba Pass trip June 23-24 is a repeat of the highly successful jaunt of last year, lead again by Frank Beyer. Meet both days at 8:30 a.m. at the entrance to the campground at Yuba Pass (on Highway 49 east of Downieville and Sierra City). On Saturday morning we will bird near Yuba Pass then after lunch we will move to the Gold Lake-Sardine Lakes area west of the Pass. We will see many mountain wildflowers and birds, hopefully including Mountain Quail, White-Headed Woodpecker, Townsend's Solitaire and, if very lucky, Black-Backed Three-Toed Woodpecker. On Sunday we will drive east over the Pass into Sierra Valley to look for marsh and desert birds: Black Tern, Sage Thrasher, Brewer's Sparrow and many others. There are motels in Downieville, Sierra City and Sierraville and several campgrounds in the area. Further information can be obtained at the potluck, or call Frank Beyer.

There will be no further weekday field trips until September.

\* \* \* \* \*

The FIELD TRIP to Mines Road and Del Valle Regional Park on May 5 produced 58 species of birds for the 19 people who attended. The weather was as great as the birding which turned up a number of "lifers" for several members of the group. The following species were seen:

Mallard, Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed & Sparrow Hawk, California Quail, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, gull sp., Forster's & Caspian Tern, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, White-Throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Red-Shafted Flicker, Acorn, Lewis', & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Western Kingbird, Ash-Throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Western Flycatcher, Violet-Green, Tree, Rough-winged, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Scrub Jay, Yellow-Billed Magpie, Plain Titmouse, Common Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, Mockingbird, California Thrasher, Robin, Swainson's Thrush, Western Bluebird, Phainopepla, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned & Wilson's Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Red-Winged Blackbird, Bullock's Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Lark & Sage Sparrow, and Oregon Junco.

Four members attended the field trip to Tilden Park on April 25. The highlight of the trip was the Allen's Hummingbird we discovered at her nest just a few feet from the trail. The angle was such that we could not see down into the nest while she was away but we could see the heads of the babies. We had a delightful walk in the park and found the following 42 species:

Mallard, Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed & Sparrow Hawk, California Quail, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Red-Shafted Flicker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Ash-Throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Western & Olive-Sided Flycatcher, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Common Bushtit, Wrentit, House Wren, Robin, Swainson's Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, Solitary & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Nashville & Wilson's Warbler, Red-Winged Blackbird, Bullock's Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, Black-Headed Grosbeak, House Finch, American Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Oregon Junco and Song Sparrow.

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An AMENDMENT TO THE BY-LAWS has been recommended by the Board. The primary objective is to upgrade the position of the Conservation Chairman to that of an elective office and in so doing relieve the office of President of matters relating to conservation. We believe this change is indicated by our increased involvement in conservation resulting both from our becoming a Chapter of National Audubon and from increased public awareness of the need for conservation.

The change in Article III, Section 3, simply makes the by-laws agree with what has been our practice for a number of years.

The proposal will be voted upon at the potluck dinner on June 7.

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WE STILL NEED A PRESIDENT for the coming year. If you would be willing to serve or know someone who would, please contact Bob McCarthy (934-2724), Joy Meagher (685-5702) or Jean Richmond (837-2843). Without a president we have no Mt. Diablo Audubon. We know we have a president somewhere in our membership but the right name has not come to mind. Please give us a hand. The rest of our offices were filled at the May meeting: Vice-President, Jon Williams; Secretary, Adrienne Ormsby; Treasurer, Helen Gentile.

\* \* \* \* \*

CONGRATULATIONS are in order for Chris Nelson, a past president of MDAS. Chris, Chief of the East Bay Regional Park District's Interpretive Department for the past 11 years, has been given the coveted "fellow award" of the nationwide Association of Interpretive Naturalists. He also was the recipient of a citation from Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton "for efforts in the establishment of the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge." Great going, Chris.

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THANKS AND FAREWELL to our efficient mailer, Doug Kerr, who is leaving soon for Humboldt State University. We all send Doug our best wishes for his college years ahead.

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ALASKA WILDLIFE TOURS. Seattle Audubon Society offers 2 separate wildlife tours to Alaska this summer: Pribilof Islands, June 25-30; Mt. McKinley Nat'l Park, Glacier Bay Nat'l Monument and Katmai Nat'l Monument (Valley of 10,000 Smokes), July 9-21. For information write: Seattle Audubon Society, 712 Joshua Green Bldg., Seattle, WA 98101.

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VIRGINIA SCHAFFER was offered and accepted the campership approved by our membership at a recent meeting. She has been accepted for the third session this summer at Audubon Camp of the West.

\* \* \* \* \*

PROMPT RENEWAL of dues would be very much appreciated as it would make the job of bookkeeping much easier for both your Treasurer and Editor. Delays cause names to be dropped by National, and thus by MDAS, with the resulting paperwork of reinstatement when dues are paid late.

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OPERATION NATURE GUIDE is a people-to-people service for Audubon members as they travel the length and breadth of this country. A directory, listing names of people from 30 western chapters, willing and eager to guide visiting Auduboners to local natural habitats to see birds--or wildflowers, trees, or other interests--is available by writing to: Operation Nature Guide, 34915 4th Ave. So., Federal Way, WA 98002, and enclosing 25¢.

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The American Petroleum Institute has recently published a pamphlet on the rescue and care of birds caught in oil spills. Single copies are available free from American Petroleum Institute, 1801 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006. (Paso Robles Audubon "The California Thrasher")

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### Good Birding Spots for June:

The breeding season is in full swing now and the birds should be easily found, especially in the morning. See the April and May issues for places to go in the Bay Area. The Sierras should be good birding now too, although accessibility in any given area will depend on the snow pack. The birds listed as hoped for on the Yuba Pass trip can be found in other Sierran areas along with Calliope Hummingbird, Clark's Nutcracker, Mountain Bluebird, several warblers, Western Tanager and Green-Tailed Towhee. Gray-Crowned Rosy Finches are to be looked for in the Tioga Pass area of Yosemite. Blue Grosbeaks have been found in past years, and should be found again, at the Woodland Sugar Ponds and also in Sacramento along South River Road. Contact your editor for specific directions. Looking for a specific specie? Let me know and I will try to find out where you would be most likely to find it.

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Observations:

Members have been traveling far and wide lately. Bob and Sue Lockett reported in late April they had picked up 81 life birds by that time. At Falcon Dam, Texas, they met James Lane who told them where to find a Ruff. They ran into some small "waves" of migrants around Rockport and found several warbler species. In Florida they saw, among others, Wood Ibis and Swallow-Tailed Kites. The weather had improved from their previous report but the mosquitoes were worse. Their next stop was to be the Keys.

Doris Eckstrom was in Texas but only found 2 "lifers" as she has been there before.

Bob McCarthy, also in Texas, saw a number of creatures, some feathered and some furred: hawks, flycatchers, warblers, many Roadrunners, and more; Mule Deer, White-Tailed Deer, Javalina (Peccary), Coyote, and a Mountain Lion.

The Richmonds flew to Kentucky and managed to find 43 new species (including 14 warblers) in spite of the fact that the relatives they were visiting are not birders. Among the 93 species seen were Black Vulture, Broad-Winged Hawk, Red-Headed Woodpecker and Philadelphia Vireo. One huge help was that they knew of the Kentucky Ornithological Society meeting while they were there. A field trip with KOS produced 16 lifers by noon that day.

Karen and Bob Claypole have covered a lot of territory in Southern California, and found many species of birds. Among the many birds they saw: at Joshua Trees--Tennessee Warbler, Gray Vireo; Morongo Canyon--Vermillion Flycatcher, Cassin's Kingbird; Rammer Lake--Fulvous Tree Duck; near Maricopa--2 LeConte's Thrashers. At the Colorado River they also saw Western Banded Gecko and Sidewinders.

Helen and Frank Beyer took a trip to the Salton Sea area not long ago and among the birds they saw were several Cattle Egrets and Verdin, a bird they have previously sought unsuccessfully.

On May 1 there were 3 Red-Necked Grebes at Limantour and a Red-Shouldered Hawk in the area of the National Seashore headquarters at Pt. Reyes.

A male Purple Martin was seen flying over the Muddy Hollow Trail on Pt. Reyes on May 1.

A male Hooded Oriole was in Art Edwards' yard for 3 hours on Easter Sunday, April 22. It made several trips to the hummingbird feeder at 20-35-minute intervals. There are Hooded Orioles in the palm trees just across the creek from Camel Lane which is a block east of Highway 680 at Rudgear Road, Walnut Creek. If you go looking for them, be patient! The day your editor finally saw them was the fourth try. They appeared for a short time then were not seen again for nearly half an hour.

Tom Best found a male Western Tanager in Pleasant Hill on May 11.

On April 29 Mary Jane and Bill Greene and Jean Richmond found Sage, Rufous-Crowned and Black-Chinned Sparrows along the road below South Gate on Mt. Diablo. On May 20 the same trio found at least 2 and possibly 4 Grasshopper Sparrows in Las Trampas Regional Park.

Drop me a note or a card when you take a jaunt this summer and let me know what interesting nature observations come your way.

\* \* \* \* \*

Jean Richmond, Editor---125 Via Serena, Alamo, CA 94507---phone 837-2843



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July-August 1973  
Vol. 20, No. 1-2

Next deadline: August 15

Meeting: Early September. Details in September Bulletin  
Field Trips: September. Both the weekend and weekday trips will be resumed in September. Details in next issue.

Screen Tour: Audubon Wildlife films begin the new season in the fall.

BOARD MEETING for members of the outgoing board as well as the incoming members will be held Wednesday, July 25, 7:30 p.m. at Joy Meagher's home, 1537 N. Marta Dr., Pleasant Hill (685-5702). Please plan to attend.

There will be no "Quail" next month but the bulletin will be out again late in August. In the meantime, have a grand summer and let me know of any interesting nature observations that come your way.

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A very enjoyable FIELD TRIP to Yuba Pass on June 23-24, led by Frank Beyer, was attended by 27 members of Mt. Diablo and Napa-Solano Audubon Societies. The weather was overcast Saturday morning, becoming worse with drizzle in the afternoon, but Sunday was a lovely day for the trip into Sierra Valley. The highlight of the trip was the nesting pair of Black-Backed Three-Toed Woodpeckers seen at Yuba Pass, a life bird for most, if not all, the birders in attendance. The following 60 species were found during the weekend in the Yuba Pass-Sierra Valley area:

Black-Crowned Night Heron, Mallard, Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, Turkey Vulture, Sora (heard), American Coot, Killdeer, Common Snipe, Willet, Wilson's Phalarope, Black Tern, Mourning Dove, Common Nighthawk (including a female and her "nest" with 2 eggs), Red-Shafted Flicker, Red-Breasted Sapsucker, White-Headed & Black-Backed 3-Toed Woodpecker, Hammond's Flycatcher, Western Wood Pewee, Olive-Sided Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Tree, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Steller's Jay, Common Crow, Mountain Chickadee, Red-Breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, House & Long-Billed Marsh Wren, Sage Thrasher, Robin, Hermit & Swainson's Thrush, Solitary & Warbling Vireo, Audubon's, MacGillivray's & Wilson's Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-Headed, Red-winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, Western Tanager, Evening Grosbeak, Cassin's Finch, Pine Siskin, Green-Tailed & Rufous-Sided Towhee, Vesper & Sage Sparrow, Oregon Junco, Chipping, Brewer's, White-Crowned, Fox & Lincoln's Sparrow. In addition, while not with the group, some members also found Townsend's Solitaire, a pair of nesting Mountain Bluebirds and Black-Throated Gray Warbler.



On a cool day under overcast skies 12 observers turned out on May 24 for the field trip up Mt. Diablo. They were rewarded with a long look at a singing Black-Chinned Sparrow near South Gate entrance station, a lifer for most of the group. During the day the following 36 species were seen:

Turkey Vulture, California Quail, Mourning Dove, White-Throated Swift, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Red-Shafted & Acorn Woodpecker, Red-Naped Sapsucker, Ash-Throated Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Violet-Green & Cliff Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Plain Titmouse, Common Bushtit, Wrentit, House & Bewick's Wren, California Thrasher, Robin, Western Bluebird, Starling, Orange-Crowned Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Rufous-Crowned & Sage Sparrow, Oregon Junco, and Black-Chinned Sparrow.

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The proposed CHANGES IN THE BY-LAWS were approved by the membership at the potluck dinner in June. The office of Vice-President for Conservation was filled with the selection of Jean Holden.

\* \* \* \* \*

We are sorry to learn of the death in Reno on June 3rd of George E. Schad, one of Mt. Diablo Audubon's strongest supporters for many years. He was our efficient Treasurer for 10 years and attended almost every meeting during that time. Talk to any of the "old timers" in MDAS and you will find that they all have the fondest recollections for genial George. He was a retired station agent and telegrapher with the S.P. Several years ago George and his wife, Muriel, hosted a memorable Christmas Count Potluck in their beautiful home in Concord. The members of MDAS extend their deepest sympathy to the members of his family.

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OREGON'S BAN ON NON-RETURNABLE BOTTLES. Nine months ago Oregon banned sale of non-returnable beer and soft-drink containers and the ban has worked out to almost everyone's satisfaction. Distributor's costs have increased somewhat (because of the expense of handling return) but litter and trash-removal loads have declined (which is to say the cost of getting rid of the containers is now being charged to the product, not the tax-payer). The law has virtually ended use of cans for beer and soft drinks in Oregon, but consumption remains about the same; the business the canners have lost has gone to the bottlers.

Fact, figures and the text of the law are available in Oregon's Bottle Bill, A Progress Report; an account of techniques used in getting the bill through is described in The Bottle Bill Booklet. Both are for sale for a dollar each, by the Oregon Environmental Council, 2637 S.W. Water Ave., Portland Oregon 97201. (Audubon Leader, April 23, 1973)

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We extend a warm welcome to the following new members of Audubon:

Brentwood: R.S.Francisco; Concord: Pam Conway, Roberta Coragliotti, Nina Hara; Danville: Marian M. Ford, Harry & Florine Gorsky; Diablo: Chester Eschen, Jr.; Lafayette: Gladys H. Gross, the Kaylor family, Carolyn L. Norris, Miles Ottenheimer, Mrs. B.B.Sabouni, Dale & Norma Scott, Mrs. Charles Shepard; Martinez: Mrs. L.J.Moore; Pittsburg: Victoria Beyer; Pleasant Hill: Alvin A. Burton; Pleasanton: Mr. & Mrs. G. Keith Janes, Jimmie L. McClure; Walnut Creek: F.G.Bennett, David S. Dodds, A.P.Giordano, Jr., Vi Kaiser, Mrs John G. Liscow, Mrs. E.R.Smullen.

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CONGRATULATIONS to Mrs. Isabella McGeehon who was recently awarded the Clara Barton Award by the Mt. Diablo Red Cross for her long years of service to the Red Cross. She is a long-time member of MDAS, being Editor of the "Quail" for several years during that time.

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OIL SUMPS---THE DECEPTIVE KILLERS. From the air they look like little ponds but on closer examination it is obvious that a thick coating of oil covers them. These are the settling ponds which receive the water which comes up with the oil from the wells in the San Joaquin Valley. Even after processing of the crude oil, this water still contains oil. The surface of these ponds is littered with the bodies of birds, reptiles and animals. Others are hidden from view below the surface. Birds see the "pond" and soon become stuck in the gooey mess and die---150,000 of them EACH YEAR! This makes the loss in the Santa Barbara spill or the San Francisco Bay disaster look rather small, yet there was a great outcry because those were more spectacular. The Western Regional Office of Audubon began an investigation into this problem in 1971. Assemblyman Walter Karabian introduced legislation in May to eliminate this major hazard to wildlife in California. AB 2209 would require compliance within one year from the effective date of the legislation.

At the Bay Area Audubon Council meeting in Vallejo in April delegates saw a slide program, with a tape-recorded narrative, describing today's bleak oil sump situation. The pictures were truly sickening!

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#### Bird Observations:

Carol Purcell wrote from England that she was awakened each morning by a Cuckoo---sounded just like their clock at home.

Sue and Bob Lockett reported from South Dakota in mid-June that they had found 111 lifers by that point on their extended trip, including Dicksissel and Sharp-Tailed Grouse.

Helen and Jerry Gentile visited Pennsylvania in May and June, adding 38 birds to their life list. Among the birds seen were Osprey, Cattle Egret, Upland Plover, Yellow-Billed Cuckoo and Red-Headed Woodpecker.

The Richmonds added 18 lifers on a trip to Arizona in early June, including Mexican Duck, Thick-Billed Kingbird, Buff-Breasted Flycatcher, Gray Vireo and Five-Striped Sparrow.

Closer to home, Bob Claypole had a beautiful male Black-Chinned Hummingbird at his feeder in Diablo on May 24.

A male Hermit Warbler was in Bolinger Canyon in Lafayette May 27.

A Black Swift was seen on a nest on a cliff at Santa Cruz June 26.

Grace Turner had Hooded Orioles at her feeders in Concord this summer, arriving in April.

#### Good Birding Spots for July and August:

Things can be a little slow during the summer as many birds are rather quiet and can be hard to find. The San Mateo coast at Half Moon Bay and Ano Nuevo can produce interesting birds such as Sooty Shearwater, Harlequin Duck (Ano Nuevo), Common Murre, Marbled Murrelet and Black Swift (your Editor saw at least 8 at Ano Nuevo June 26). Points along the Bay, such as Alameda South Shore, Bay Bridge toll plaza, Berkeley Marina and Albany mud flats, will turn up shorebirds, some in breeding plumage. Bolinas Lagoon should produce a variety of birds. Last year in mid-August several Baird's Sandpipers turned up at Nicasio Reservoir in Marin County, so keep your eyes open for migrants in late summer.

\* \* \* \* \*

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September 1973  
Vol. 20, No. 3

Next deadline: September 6

Meeting: Thursday, September 6, 8 p.m.; social time 7:30 p.m., Women's Club of Walnut Creek, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek. Philip Schaeffer will present a narrated slide program, "Oil Sumps, The Deceptive Killers."

Field Trips: Saturday, September 8, 9:00 a.m., Pt. Pinole. Leader: Bob McCarthy (934-2724).

Wednesday, September 12, 9:30 a.m., Coyote Hills Park.

Screen Tour: First film October 11. Details in October issue.

Board Meeting: Wednesday, September 19, 7:30 p.m., Jon & Betty Williams' home, 455 Virginia Hills Rd., Martinez (935-1562).

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The first meeting this fall will feature a program of slides accompanied by a narration of "Oil Sumps, The Deceptive Killers", presented by Phil Schaeffer. Mr. Schaeffer has done extensive work on the problem of these sumps and this program will help us to increase public awareness and concern over these "killer" sumps. (See last issue for more information.)

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The field trip on September 8 to the new Pt. Pinole Park should prove to be a good one. The prospects for birding there are excellent, the view of a new area sounds exciting. Meet at the parking lot at 9:00 a.m. To reach there, go west on Highway 4 to Interstate 80, turn south about 4 miles to Hilltop Drive exit then west to San Pablo Ave. Turn right to Atlas Rd., then left to Giant Highway, turn left again about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile to the parking lot.

The mid-week trips get under way again with a trip to Coyote Hills on September 12. To reach the park, go down Nimitz Freeway (Highway 17) to Jarvis Rd. Go west to the signal at Newark Blvd., turn right, go across the railroad tracks and continue about a mile to Patterson Ranch Rd. Turn left into the park. (For any further information call 837-2843.)

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Our very efficient president, Sally Steller, has agreed to stay on another year in that office. As her mother's health may require her to make somewhat hurried trips to Los Angeles, if Sally calls on you for any help, please respond quickly in the affirmative.

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The April 1973 issue of THE AUK, journal of the American Ornithological Union, published the 32nd supplement of the AOU Checklist. This includes all the changes which have been accepted by the AOU Committee on Classification and Nomenclature since the last Checklist was published in 1957. What these changes will do to life lists! As a species is divided into two new ones the list grows but on the other hand the list becomes smaller as two species are merged into one. Other species have acquired new names with no change in species status. Furthermore, we lose some favorite, familiar names and must learn new ones. At any rate, the changes are effective immediately. New guides will eventually be published but as no one knows at present when that will occur, please keep this list for future reference.

The following are changes involving merging formerly separate species into one: Great White Heron becomes GREAT BLUE HERON; Blue Goose becomes SNOW GOOSE; Common (Eurasian) Teal becomes GREEN-WINGED TEAL; Harlan's Hawk becomes RED-TAILED HAWK; Yellow-Shafted, Red-Shafted and Gilded Flicker become COMMON FLICKER; Black-Eared Bushtit becomes COMMON BUSHTIT; Bahama Honeycreeper becomes BANANAQUIT; Socorro and Olive-Backed Warblers become TROPICAL PARULA; Audubon's and Myrtle Warblers become YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER; Bullock's and Baltimore Orioles become NORTHERN ORIOLE; Ipswich Sparrow becomes SAVANNAH SPARROW; Dusky Seaside and Cape Sable Sparrows become SEASIDE SPARROW; Slate-Colored, White-Winged, Oregon and Guadalupe Juncos become DARK-EYED JUNCO; Mexican and Baird's Junco become YELLOW-EYED JUNCO.

The following are species which have been split into two separate species: CHUKAR is separated from European Rock Partridge; THAYER'S GULL is separated from Herring Gull; Traill's Flycatcher is separated into WILLOW FLYCATCHER (fitz-bew song type) and ALDER FLYCATCHER (fee-bee-o song type); GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE is separated from Boat-Tailed Grackle.

The following have had name changes only: Fulmar becomes NORTHERN FULMAR; Pale-Footed Shearwater becomes FLESH-FOOTED SHEARWATER; Slender-Billed Shearwater becomes SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATER; Petrels of the Hydrobatidae family become STORM-PETRELS (i.e., Leach's Petrel becomes LEACH'S STORM-PETREL); Common Egret becomes GREAT EGRET; Wood Ibis becomes WOOD STORK; Widgeon is now spelled WIGEON; Shoveler becomes NORTHERN SHOVELER; Common Scoter becomes BLACK SCOTER; Gray Sea Eagle becomes WHITE-TAILED EAGLE; Pigeon Hawk becomes MERLIN; Sparrow Hawk becomes AMERICAN KESTREL; Harlequin Quail becomes MONTEZUMA QUAIL; Upland Plover becomes UPLAND SANDPIPER; Knot becomes RED KNOT; Catbird becomes GRAY CATBIRD; Robin becomes AMERICAN ROBIN; Yellowthroat becomes COMMON YELLOWTHROAT; Parula Warbler becomes NORTHERN PARULA.

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LETTERS ARE NEEDED. Forest Supervisor Robert Lancaster announced in July that an off-road vehicle study will be conducted August 1973-August 1974 on the portion of the Santa Lucia Ranger District located in San Luis Obispo County. Pressure is mounting from a hand-full of sportsmen to re-open some of the roads that have been closed to motorized vehicles. Some of these roads are quite close to important Condor roost and nest sites. Letters or phone calls to Supervisor Lancaster and/or your congressmen are vitally important. Commend the Forest Service for the road closures and urge them not to give in to these pressures until they have had ample time to evaluate the impact of road use on the California Condor as well as wildlife in general. Write to Mr. Robert Lancaster, Supervisor, Los Padres National Forest, U.S. Forest Service, 42 Aero Camano, Goleta CA 93017.

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It has been brought to my attention that some of our newer members do not know the meaning of "lifer" in birding jargon. Most birders maintain a "life list" - a list of the birds which they have seen and identified. A life bird, or "lifer", is one which is included on the life list.

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AUDUBON NATURE TRAINING invites all who are interested in nature to join the fall adventures in urban ecology. Regular courses meet for four or eight weekly sessions. Each session includes at least one hour out-of-doors. Class sizes are limited, therefore registration MUST be made in advance. "Adventures in Urban Ecology for Everybody" has a course at Wagner Ranch Nature Area on Thursdays, 9:30-11 a.m., Sept. 20 through Oct. 11; fee \$8. "Adventures in Urban Ecology for Teachers" is offered at John Muir N.H.S., Martinez, Thursdays, 3:45-5:15 p.m., Oct. 4 through Nov. 29; fee \$16 (college credit \$9 extra). There are other sessions of these courses offered in the Bay Area on different days and at different times. There are three courses in Advanced Urban Ecology open to anyone who has ever taken an ANT course. For information on any of these courses, contact your editor for a brochure, or write Audubon Nature Training, Golden Gate Audubon Society, P.O.Box 5022, Berkeley, CA 94705.

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WESTERN REGIONAL OFFICE of National Audubon Society has announced the appointment of Philip Schaeffer as Manager of Richardson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary in Tiburon. He succeeds Norman McIntosh who has been transferred to Orange County to manage the new Starr Ranch Sanctuary. In his first actions as manager, Mr. Schaeffer announced new hours for public visitation. The Sanctuary will be open 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday. The sanctuary's Lyford-Dickey House, with completion of exterior restoration, will be open to the public. The Sanctuary is at 376 Greenwood Beach Rd., just off Tiburon Blvd, in Tiburon. Mr. Schaeffer is to be at our September meeting with his eye-opening program concerning the oil sump problem.

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NATURE SEMINAR at Mt. Shasta, California, October 13-14. Workshops on Saturday will be followed in the evening with good food, good program, good fellowship, and perhaps an Owl Prowl. On Sunday there will be a field trip by bus to the fabulous Tule Lake Wildlife Refuge, or if you prefer, a ride on the Mt. Shasta Ski Bowl chair lift or local birding. WHAT A WEEKEND! For information write Elizabeth Koerner, Mt. Shasta Area Audubon Society, Rt. 1, Box 515, Mt. Shasta, CA 96067.

\* \* \* \* \*

I have been asked about BIRD GUIDES AND LISTS, etc. The best place in this area for books, field lists, annotated lists, etc., is Lucas Book Store, 2430 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, CA 94704. When you have time, go in and browse. Another source of bird books is The Audubon Bookcase, 138 Grand St., Groton-on-Hudson, N.Y. 10520, whose prices are lower than most places, even with postage and handling. The Pierce Book Co., Winthrop, Iowa 50682, has a catalogue with an unbelievably large listing of bird books. Dover Publications, Inc., 180 Varick St., New York, N.Y. 10014, has a good selection of books which are reprints of more expensive editions. Write for free catalogues from these places - or if you wish, drop by and take a look at mine.

\* \* \* \* \*

A NEW CHECKLIST OF BIRDS of the Pt. Reyes area is now available for 10¢ at Lucas Book Store in Berkeley, Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory in Bolinas, and Pt. Reyes National Seashore Headquarters in Bear Valley.

\* \* \* \* \*

EDUCATIONAL FORUM ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY is a six-unit course being offered by the Junior League of Oakland in cooperation with the Environmental Clearinghouse and Univ. of Calif. Extension. The course deals with the interrelated social, economic and ecological factors which determine the quality of our environment in the East Bay. For information and details of course structure contact Mrs. Christopher M. Derick, 24 Mira Loma Lane, Danville, CA 94526, phone 837-7380.

\* \* \* \* \*

A hearty welcome to the following new members of Mt. Diablo Audubon:

Concord: Marie Lavinger, the F.T. Marshall family, Mrs. Robert Meyer, K. Moura; Danville: Marion Bonde; Lafayette: the Gene S. Coburn family, Thomas Davis, Gail Miller; Martinez: Cecil H. Coburn; Pleasant Hill: Richard Beard; San Ramon: Roger Fiske, the K. Leeuwenberg family; Walnut Creek: the Bristow family, the Stephen Cole family, Marjorie Ostrom; Watsonville: Alex McBride.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Observations:

The Stellers were in Alaska this summer for 12 days, only 2 of which had clear weather. They found no loons anywhere, and not many birds of any sort except many, many gulls. They saw quite a few Bald Eagles including 2 young just out of the nest at Glacier Bay. They also found a Long-Tailed Jaeger, Horned and Tufted Puffins at Glacier Bay, and a Hawk Owl. They also saw a number of four-legged animals ranging from hares through Dall Sheep and Moose to Grizzlies.

3 Red-Necked Grebes were at Pt. Reyes (Limantour) on August 14.

Jean Richmond found an immature MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD at Bodega Bay July 31. The bird soared around for some time, allowing excellent views by all the group which included Ed Eichstedt. The bird remained in that area at least through August 5.

Adrienne Ormsby spotted an Osprey with a fish in its talons over the Russian River this summer. One was also seen at Bodega Bay July 31.

The Richmonds found 2 Willetts on the south shore of Lake Tahoe July 8---wanderers from the Great Basin?

Bob Claypole reports a Spotted Owl was seen by his brother near Cecilville, Siskyou County this summer.

A Short-Eared Owl was seen along Highway 4 about 6 miles east of Stockton on July 18. It was being chased by 2 Brewer's Blackbirds.

A Bank Swallow was flying over Rodeo Lagoon July 3.

On July 24 two Purple Martins were seen on Mt. Tamalpias, and three were seen at Pt. Reyes August 14.

### Good Birding Spots for September:

The fall migration is in full swing with shorebirds, warblers and others passing through our area. Shorebirds can be found at places like Pt. Reyes, Tomales Bay, Bodega Bay, Rodeo Lagoon, Albany mud flats, Bay Bridge toll plaza, Alameda South Shore, Palo Alto salt marsh. All sorts of "eastern warblers" have been found in past years, particularly in Marin County (Pt. Reyes and Rodeo Lagoon especially). Some warblers also may turn up at Coyote Hills, which also should have various marsh, water and land birds. Passerine species may turn up anywhere. Migration is an exciting time, so keep alert for anything.

\* \* \* \* \*

Jean Richmond, Editor---125 Via Serena, Alamo, CA 94507---phone 837-2843



# The Quail

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY  
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94597  
P.O.Box 53

Pres.: Sally Steller  
591 Fulton Way  
Danville, CA 94526  
phone 837-9061

October 1973  
Vol. 20, No. 4

Next deadline: October 15

Meeting: Thursday, October 4, 8 p.m.; social time 7:30 p.m., Women's Club of Walnut Creek, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek. Virginia Schaefer will report on her experiences at Audubon Camp of the West this summer.

Field Trips: Saturday, October 6, 9:00 a.m., Lower Tubbs Island. Leader: Bob McCarthy (934-2724).

Thursday, October 18, Sunol Valley Regional Park, 9:30 a.m.

Screen Tour: Thursday, October 11, 8:00 p.m., "The Living Jungle" by Greg McMillan. Diablo Valley College gym.

\* \* \* \* \*

At our meeting Virginia Schaefer will present a report on her stay at Audubon Camp of the West in August. She has some slides to show to add to the exciting story she has to tell. Virginia teaches in the Science Center of the Mt. Diablo School District.

\* \* \* \* \*

The field trip to Tubbs Island will produce a varied list of birds: water birds, waterfowl, shorebirds, hawks, land birds. Who knows, perhaps a Rough-Legged Hawk as was seen a year ago, or a Baird's Sandpiper as seen the year before. Take Freeway 680 north to Vallejo, then Freeway 80 to State Route 37 (Columbus Parkway turnoff just beyond Solano County Fairgrounds) and follow the signs west toward San Rafael about 12 miles. Just before the Tolay Creek bridge and the turnoff to Sonoma there is a locked gate on the left. Bob McCarthy will be there to unlock the entry to some very good birding. Meet at the gate at 9:00 a.m.

The mid-week trip to Sunol will be in different habitat than the above. We may see a Golden Eagle or two along the way. Take Freeway 680 south past Dublin about 9 miles, then Calaveras Rd. left under the freeway 4 miles to Geary Rd. Turn left and drive nearly 2 miles to the park. Meet at the headquarters at 9:30 a.m. (If any questions, call 837-2843.)

\* \* \* \* \*

The first Audubon Wildlife Film in the series for this year will be shown Thursday, October 11 at 8:00 p.m. in the gym at Diablo Valley College. On Barro Colorado Island, Greg McMillan filmed "The Living Jungle", a beautiful study of the life styles of various creatures, of survival and death, of continuation and growth. These films are presented by Diablo Valley College without admission charge.

\* \* \* \* \*

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.

\* \* \* \* \*

BOOKS. It has been brought to my attention that we have a more local source of good books on birds and other nature-oriented subjects. It is Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum's book store, located in the Museum at 1901 First Ave., Walnut Creek (phone 935-1978). All profits go to help the Museum function. (Thanks, Edith Valle-Riestra!)

\* \* \* \* \*

At meetings and field trips Bob McCarthy has a supply of field lists at a cost of 5 for 10¢.

\* \* \* \* \*

POINT REYES BIRD OBSERVATORY offers a 12-day trip to San Blas, Mexico, and environs Dec. 7-19. Bill Clow and Richard Stallcup, both experienced birders, will lead you through one of the best birding areas in Western Mexico. For details contact Mary Stewart, P.O. Box 442, Bolinas, Calif. 94924; phone 868-0696. Deadline for entry, November 1, 1973.

\* \* \* \* \*

We are very sorry to learn of the recent death of Glenn Shanks who has been a member of Mt. Diablo Audubon for many years. He was an enthusiastic rockhouser and conservationist, and in recent years has written many letters to public offices in our behalf. Several years ago he and his wife, Margaret, hosted a series of June potlucks. We send our deepest sympathy to Margaret and the other members of his family.

\* \* \* \* \*

OFFICERS OF MT. DIABLO AUDUBON. (Clip and save for future reference.)  
 Pres.: Sally Steller, 591 Fulton Way, Danville 94526; 837-9061.  
 V.P. (Program): Jon Williams, 455 Virginia Hills Dr., Martinez 94553; 935-1562.  
 V.P. (Conservation): Jean Holden, 1219 Glenwood Dr., Concord 94518; 687-1981.  
 Secretary: Adrienne Ormsby, 4 Elliot Ct., Pleasant Hill 94523; 935-8316.  
 Treasurer: Helen Gentile, 134 Gilbert Ct., Martinez 94553; 228-6297.  
 Field Trips: Bob McCarthy, 1929 Dora Ct., Walnut Creek 94597; 934-2724.  
 Membership: Joy Meagher, 1537 N. Marta Dr., Pleasant Hill 94523; 685-5702.  
 Hospitality: Olive Chadeayne, 141 Flora Ave, #16, Wal. Creek 94595; 937-3940.  
 assisted by Lucy Hall, 140 Esther Ln., Danville 94526; 837-2681.  
 Publicity: Agnes Eckford, 3831 Walnut Blvd., Concord 94519; 685-7280.  
 Editor: Jean Richmond, 125 Via Serena, Alamo 94507; 837-2843.

\* \* \* \* \*



Hearings on a bill to ban the non-returnable beverage container nationwide will be held in October or November before the Senate Commerce Committee. The bill, S.2062, is sponsored by Senator Mark Hatfield. Let your Senator know how you feel about this legislation. Oregon's ban on non-returnables has worked very well. (See the July-August "Quail".)

\* \* \* \* \*

A Conservation Committee has been formed within Mt. Diablo Audubon. We wish to find members who are interested in actively supporting this effort. Please fill out this questionnaire and return it to:

Jean Holden, 1219 Glenwood Dr., Concord, CA 94518

or bring it to the next Audubon Meeting.

1. Would you be willing to write letters (as an individual) on current conservation issues?
2. Would you be a member of a "Hot-Line" telephone committee for emergency action?
3. Do you wish to be contacted (telephone or letter) about conservation and open space issues in your:
  - a. local community \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. county \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. state \_\_\_\_\_
4. Would you be willing to be an observer at your:
  - a. city council meetings \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. city planning commission meetings \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. county supervisor meetings \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. East Bay Regional Park District meetings \_\_\_\_\_
5. Would you be able to attend legislative hearings? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Do you belong to other conservation organizations? If so, which ones?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
7. Are you interested in becoming a member of the conservation committee? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What do you think Audubon's purpose is? What do you want from Audubon Society?

9. Any other comments:

Your name \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)

SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO BAY REFUGE CLEAN-UP. Help is needed to clean up the Plummer Creek-Mowry Slough areas on October 7. Much of the area to be cleaned has not yet been acquired by the Federal Government but the land owners are cooperating in this effort. The owners will probably require liability disclaimers from participants to protect themselves in the event of injury. Meet at 9 a.m. at the end of the pavement on Central Ave., Newark, opposite the Morton Salt Co. plant west of Filbert St. Bring lunch---water and liquid refreshment will be provided. Bring work clothes. Have 2 pairs shoes (old ones)---gym shoes tied above the ankles are good for walking in the mud. You may also want to bring gloves. If you have questions, call Walt Stieglitz, Refuge Manager, 792-0222 during office hours or 886-1895 evenings. Or call Bill Hurd of Ohlone Audubon at 656-2556 at any time.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### Observations:

On August 22, Jean Richmond saw 2 immature Golden Eagles just below South Gate entrance of Mt. Diablo State Park.

Alan Brown saw a Roadrunner on a fencepost along Interstate 5 about 10 miles north of State Route 33 on August 24.

Lynn Farrar had 3-4 Warbling Vireos in his yard in Lafayette during late August-early September. He usually only has one or two.

Warblers are all over: Adrienne Ormsby had 2 Wilson's Warblers in her yard for two weeks before the September 6th meeting and Bob McCarthy had 2 in his yard September 11.

Lynn Farrar has warblers galore. The Orange-Crowned are staying longer than usual, the Yellow are in larger numbers than he has ever had before, Black-Throated Gray are unusual in his yard and are much earlier than normal. Townsend's and Wilson's are also there.

The Richmonds had an Orange-Crowned Warbler on August 24 and a MacGillivray's Warbler August 26.

A PARULA WARBLER was reported by Art Edwards in the Arroyo Mocho along Mines Rd. south of Livermore August 18 and it was still there at least through September 11.

On August 24 the Richmonds had a Western Tanager in their yard.

At press time bird observations of recent days seemed to indicate a possibility of good finds this fall. Pintails arrived early at Alameda South Shore. Lynn Farrar's observations at his home are unusual either in numbers of birds or time of arrival. There are reports of Tennessee Warbler and American Redstart in Tilden Park. A number of unusual birds have turned up along the coast recently. Focus your binoculars, sharpen your pencil, and head for the hills, the Bay, the ocean, or even your own backyard.

#### Good Birding Spots for October:

October is a marvelous time for birding in the Bay Area. Many migrants are still passing through and wintering birds are beginning to arrive. There are many excellent birding spots within easy reach of home. The places listed in the September "Quail" are still good. Add to those: Tubbs Island and Lafayette Reservoir. San Pablo, Briones and Upper San Leandro Reservoirs are also good for waterfowl if you have a scope. In late October Lake Merritt becomes the winter home for many waterfowl.

\* \* \* \* \*

Jean Richmond, Editor---125 Via Serena, Alamo, CA 94507---phone 837-2843



# The Quail

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY  
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94597

P.O.Box 53

Pres.: Sally Steller  
591 Fulton Way  
Danville, CA 94526  
phone: 837-9061

November 1973  
Vol. 20, No. 5

Next deadline: November 18

- Meeting: Thursday, November 1, 8 p.m., social time 7:30 p.m., Women's Club of Walnut Creek, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek. Slide program presented by W. F. Scott, Jr.
- Field Trips: Saturday, November 10, 9:00 a.m., Frank's Tract. Leader: Jane Helrich (687-8873).  
Wednesday, November 14, 9:30 a.m., Berkeley Aquatic Park and Bay Bridge Toll Plaza.
- Screen Tour: Tuesday, November 6, 8:00p.m., "West Side Story--Mexico to Alaska" by Walter Berlet. Diablo Valley College gym.
- Board Mtg.: Wednesday, November 14, 7:30 p.m., Jerry & Helen Gentiles' home, 134 Gilbert Ct., Martinez (228-6297).

\* \* \* \* \*

We have an exciting program for the November meeting. W. F. Scott, Jr., will present "A Nature Photographer's Notebook", a collection of favorite pictures from more than 15 years of nature photography. It covers a broad view of many fields including trees, wildflowers, fungi, insects, birds, reptiles and mammals.

\* \* \* \* \*

We are going to Frank's Tract on our field trip November 10, the second Saturday after our meeting. Our leader for this great trip will be Jane Helrich who knows the area very well. The Holdens have offered the use of their boat to ferry us across from the Jersey Island ferry dock. To get there, take Highway 4 east through Oakley. Just beyond town continue east on Cypress Rd. toward Bethel Island. At Jersey Island Rd. turn left, then take the first right turn after crossing the bridge. A little sign says Jersey Island Ferry. Meet at the dock at 9 a.m. Carpool if at all possible. Allow 1 hour driving time, 1½ hours if foggy. Weather may be cold, windy and damp so dress waterproof and warm.

The midway trip will be to Aquatic Park in Berkeley and the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza where many people have not yet birded. Meet at the south end of Aquatic Park at 9:30 on November 14. Take the University Ave. offramp from Eastshore Freeway (Interstate 80), take the RIGHT fork of the offramp to 2nd St., turn right to Addison St., turn right and proceed to the park. Turn left and go to the south end of the park.

\* \* \* \* \*

In his "West Side Story--Mexico to Alaska" Walter Berlet will take us up the West Coast where changing seasons bring changes in wildlife populations

and activities: birds returning north from their winter stay in Mexico, otters and sea lions enjoying the summer waters off the coast, Kodiak bears fishing in Alaskan streams. The film will be shown free of charge in the gym at Diablo Valley College on November 6 at 8:00 p.m.

\* \* \* \* \*

On the TUBBS ISLAND TRIP October 6 the weather was cloudy with a threat of rain but 12 birders had a nice day. There were a lot of birds including 12 pheasants in plowed field on the way in. The following 44 species were seen:

Pied-Billed Grebe, White Pelican, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great (Common) & Snowy Egret, Mallard, Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, American Kestrel (Sparrow Hawk), Ring-Necked Pheasant, American Coot, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Long-Billed Curlew, Willet, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Western Sandpiper, American Avocet, Ring-Billed Gull, Forster's Tern, Common (Red-Shafted) Flicker, Common Crow, Bushtit, Long-Billed Marsh Wren, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Common Yellowthroat, Western Meadowlark, Redwinged & Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, House Finch, American & Lesser Goldfinch, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

The midweek trip to COYOTE HILLS September 12 was overcast in the morning but warm in the afternoon, providing a pleasant day for the 4 birders who found the following 50 species, including Pectoral Sandpiper:

Great Blue & Green Heron, Great (Common) & Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Mallard, Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, Northern Shoveler, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, American Kestrel (Sparrow Hawk), California Quail, Ring-Necked Pheasant, American Coot, Killdeer, Pectoral & Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Long-Billed Dowitcher, Western Sandpiper, American Avocet, Black-Necked Stilt, Glaucous-Winged Gull, Black Phoebe, Western Flycatcher, Violet-Green, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Bewick's & Long-Billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Common Yellowthroat, Western Meadowlark, Redwinged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Brown Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco, White-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

\* \* \* \* \*

CHRISTMAS COUNT DAY FOR MDAS: Saturday, December 29, Marvin Larsen, compiler. The post-count potluck will be at the Walnut Creek Women's Club as our membership has outgrown the size of the facilities in members' homes. Further information will be in the December issue.

If you live within the OAKLAND CHRISTMAS COUNT circle (in our area, roughly anywhere in Orinda, Orinda Village, Rheem Valley, Moraga, or Lafayette south of Happy Valley Rd. and west of Moraga Rd.) please contact Mr. Van Remsen, 373 Gravatt Dr., Berkeley 94705 if you are willing to take a few minutes to count the individuals of each species at your feeder on December 16, or if you are willing to have someone else come and count your birds for you. Also, Lynn Farrar will be doing the count that day at Lafayette Reservoir. Drop him a card at 955 Diablo Dr., Lafayette 94549 if you would like to meet him there at 7 a.m. to help.

Other local Christmas Count dates: Ohlone (Fremont-Hayward), Dec. 15; Napa-Solano, Dec. 16; Point Reyes Bird Observatory & Marin, Dec. 22; Davis and Madrone (Sonoma County) on our date, Dec. 29.

\* \* \* \* \*

NATURE CONSERVANCY needs a good survey of the fauna and flora of Tubbs Island. If you would like to help with the important work of doing periodic surveys during the year please contact your editor

\* \* \* \* \*

SUCCESSFUL OIL SUMP BILL! The State Legislature passed the Oil Sump Bill 68-0 in the Assembly on August 23, 40-0 in the Senate September 4, and on October 2 it was signed by Governor Reagan. Those who attended our September meeting will be especially aware of the matter of the oil sumps.

\* \* \* \* \*

Notice to MDAS CHAPTER MEMBERS. (This refers only to those who are LOCAL members but not members of National Audubon Society. Some members of MDAS chose not to join NAS when our chapter affiliated with National a few years ago and are permitted to retain their local membership.) The current membership cost does not cover expenses, therefore effective January 1974 dues per year for local members will be: single membership, \$2.50, family membership, \$4.00. Please remember the increase when renewing.

\* \* \* \* \*

POINT REYES BIRD OBSERVATORY needs our financial help. Of their annual \$80,000 budget, 45% comes from Individual memberships. At the present time PRBO is much in need of funds to pay expenses. This operation is scientifically oriented and involves very serious birders. If you are a member already and are about to renew, would you consider adding an extra sum, and if you are not a member please consider becoming one. All memberships and contributions are tax deductible. Annual memberships are: student, \$5; regular, \$7.50; family, \$10; sustaining, \$15; contributing, \$30. PRBO needs and deserves the support of all of us. Make checks payable to Point Reyes Bird Observatory; mail to Box 321, Bolinas, Calif. 94924.

\* \* \* \* \*

BIRDING IN MENDOCINO COUNTY? Madrone Audubon Society and the U.S. Dept. of the Interior have recently published "Birds of Mendocino County, California" which includes relative abundance, seasons likely to be found, and localities where one could expect to observe the species. For a free copy, write U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, 555 Leslie St., Ukiah, CA 95482.

\* \* \* \* \*

OPERATION NATURE GUIDE, 1973 edition, is now available from Tahoma Audubon Society. This greatly expanded edition includes 270 chapters from 42 states. The guide lists names, addresses and phone numbers of over 400 people who are ready, willing and able to assist you with information or as guides to the best spots in their locality for birds and for other nature interests. For your copy send 25¢ to: Operation Nature Guide, 34915 4th Avenue South, Federal Way, Washington 98002.

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Do you do any birding at PESCADERO MARSH in San Mateo County? If so, your bird records will be of value in compiling a list of birds for that marvelous birding area. Send your bird lists to Ray Patton, State Dept. of Parks and Recreation, San Mateo Coast Area, 55 Kelly Ave., Half Moon Bay, California 94019.

\* \* \* \* \*

NICOTINE POLLUTION. As of August 8, Arizona became the first state to limit public smoking for health, rather than fire reasons. Mrs. Betty Carnes, an Audubon member from Scottsdale, is largely responsible for the ban on smoking in elevators, indoor theaters, libraries, art museums, concert halls and buses, except in designated areas. She took a poll which disclosed that only 25% of Arizonans smoke. Why should they be permitted to pollute the air breathed by the other 75%? (Audubon Leader, Sept. 14, 1973)

\* \* \* \* \*

If burned in power plants, the 2.5 billion tons of waste produced in the United States every year would generate more than half of today's national output of electricity. (Chico Enterprise-Record via Altacal Audubon Soc.)

\* \* \* \* \*

We warmly welcome the following as members of Mt. Diablo Audubon:

Concord: Mr. & Mrs. D. E. Oldfather; Lafayette: Tracey Bartlett, Dennis Callaway, John Gandio, Sherry A. Ward; Martinez: Darlene Dressler, P. J. Ryan; Pleasanton: Mrs. Burnard S. Biggs, Mrs. G. K. Jacobson, Delores F. Lorenz, Chris Pelletier; Walnut Creek: Marion Dingley, Thomas P. Jones, Ardis V. Loonie, Laura K. McCune, Laurie Schwartz, F. M. Stewart, Yours Unlimited.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Observations:

The Richmonds, on a 2-week trip to the Pacific Northwest in late September, found much rain and fog but also some real "goodies". Perhaps the weather was responsible for the surprises at Westport, Washington: a Pomarine and at least 2 Parasitic Jaegers, Skua, Black-Legged Kittiwake and Arctic Tern. Pink-Footed Shearwater was seen near LaPush, Washington, Sharp-Tailed Sandpiper and 4 Franklin's Gulls near Vancouver, B. C.

"High Voltage", the albino Red-Tailed Hawk, is back near Rodeo Lagoon for the fifth consecutive year.

Seen in Marin County on October 2 were a Red-Shouldered Hawk and a male BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER near the stables at Fort Cronkhite and two American Redstarts at Battery Wallace.

Acorn Woodpeckers discovered a dripping rainbird sprinkler head at the Stellers', providing humorous viewing while they tried to figure out how to get the water--succeeding when they found some foothold on the pipe.

Al and Ann Boileau saw a full plumaged male Summer Tanager in their yard at Rossmoor on September 28.

The Adamsons had a number of returning sparrows in September to their Lafayette yard: White-Crowned on Sept. 15, Golden-Crowned on Sept. 26, Lincoln's on Sept. 24 and Fox on Sept. 29. They also had a Wood Duck on September 29, Traill's Flycatcher September 14, Orange-Crowned Warbler on September 29 and Red-Breasted Sapsucker on October 14.

Screech Owls have returned to the Farrars' yard in Lafayette.

Where is everybody? I have received very few observations from our members since summer. If you have not been out in the field you have missed seeing many delightful things, and if you have been out in this wonderful world of ours please send me a note with your observations. Other members would like to know what you have seen and where.

### Good Birding Spots for November:

Waterfowl will be back in great numbers this month as these birds return to spend the winter with us. Loons, grebes and many shorebirds will also be back to winter here. There will be high tides Nov. 21 and 22 in mid-morning which produces interesting birding. (Very high tides are due in Dec. and Jan.) The listed places in the past two issues are still good spots to go birding. If you would like to study waterfowl quite closely try Lake Merritt where they normally arrive about the first of November. Barrow's Goldeneye and Hooded Mergansers have been found there in recent years. Whistling Swans, geese and Sandhill Cranes can be found in the Delta. For likely areas for specific species of birds wintering in our area please contact your editor.

\* \* \* \* \*

Jean Richmond, Editor---125 Via Serena, Alamo, CA 94507--phone 837-2843



# The Quail

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY  
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94597

P.O.Box 53

Pres.: Sally Steller  
591 Fulton Way  
Danville, CA 94526  
phone 837-9061

December 1973  
Vol. 20, No. 6

Next deadline: December 12

- Meeting: Thursday, December 6, 8 p.m., social time 7:30 p.m., Women's Club of Walnut Creek, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek. Slide program presented by Betty & Harry Adamson.
- Field Trips: Saturday, December 8, 9 a.m., Alameda South Shore. Leader: Bob McCarthy (934-2724).  
Thursday, December 13, 9:30 a.m., Lake Merritt.
- Christmas Count: Saturday, December 29. Marvin Larsen (655-9342), compiler, assisted by Betty Williams (935-1562), Jean Holden (687-1981), Elizabeth Dickey (254-0486). Count period: Dec. 15-Jan. 1.
- Screen Tour: Thursday, January 3. Details in January issue.

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For the second month in a row we will be treated to the delights of an excellent slide program. This time beautiful slides taken on their varied travels will be presented by Betty and Harry Adamson, long-time members of Mt. Diablo Audubon Society.

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Our field trip will be to Alameda South Shore where some of the best birding in our area is to be had. Rails, wiped out by an oil spill near there last year, have been seen in recent weeks so the high tide due on Dec. 8 will send these birds out of the marsh for us to see. Go into Oakland and take the Webster St. Tube to Alameda and continue on to Central. Turn left, go 2 blocks to Washington Park, turn right and go down to the Bay. Turn left onto Shoreline Dr. until you reach the "Wildfowl Sanctuary" at the foot of Broadway. Meet there at 9 a.m. Better still, CARPOOL. Meet at the northeast corner of the BART parking lot in Lafayette at 8 a.m. If it rains the trip is off so go back to bed and catch another 40 winks.

With Christmas close at hand, our mid-week trip will be to Lake Merritt in Oakland on Dec. 13. This is an excellent place to study ducks and other waterbirds, including Barrow's Goldeneye. Meet on the lake-side walkway behind the Rotary Science Center (corner Bellevue & Perkins) at 9:30 or CARPOOL: meet at northeast corner of Lafayette BART parking lot at 9 a.m.

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CARPools. Due to the energy crisis, we are strongly urging the greatest possible use of carpools for our trips. We are going to list carpool meeting points for all future field trips. If you do not already have a full car, please meet at the designated place for additional riders.

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CHRISTMAS COUNT DAY will be Saturday, December 29, with a post-count potluck at the Women's Club in Walnut Creek in the evening. Anyone who can help on the Count should contact Elizabeth Dickey to volunteer. Phone 254-0486 or write to 113 Hillcrest Dr., Orinda 94563. Although experience is obviously valuable, it is not necessary. People go out in teams to count species and individuals they find in assigned sections of a 15-mile diameter circle which is centered near Cowell. Our count is only one of over a thousand conducted across the continent during the Count Period. The count is conducted rain or shine so hope for dry weather.

Those who maintain feeders can help with the Count by turning in a list of birds which appear there. Please contact Elizabeth Dickey to let her know you have a feeder and to get instructions for the count. If you are going to be away on Count Day, contact her anyway to make arrangements for someone else to count your birds for you.

Those who have yard lists must mail them to Elizabeth (address above) no later than January 3 as the total count must be compiled and sent in to National. Be sure to indicate which species are seen on count DAY and which were seen during count PERIOD.

We need a VOLUNTEER to accept telephone calls about any rare (for our area) species which may turn up, especially the following: Common Loon, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Snow Goose, European Widgeon, Wood Duck, Virginia Rail, Sora, Semi-Palmated Plover, Lesser Yellowlegs, Burrowing and Long-Eared Owls, Poorwill, Lewis' Woodpecker, Common Raven, Red-Breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Orange-Crowned, Black-Throated Gray and Townsend's Warblers, Tricolored Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Sage and White-Throated Sparrows. The phone number will be in the January issue which will be out a little early.

The potluck will be at the Women's Club on Lincoln Ave. beginning at 6:30 p.m. Bring your own dishes and utensils. Milk drinkers bring your own. Punch, coffee and tea will be provided. Phone Olive Chadeayne (937-3940, but not December 23-26) to let her know what you would like to bring. Bring food for at least 4 times the number in your family attending. Birders after the Count are famished and we have been somewhat short of food the last few years.

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There is no report from the Frank's Tract trip as it was rained out again. However, 11 birders left home in fog on October 18 and arrived at SUNOL REGIONAL PARK in sunshine for the week-day trip and had a lovely walk up along the creek. We saw 2 Golden Eagles, an adult and an immature perched a few feet apart in a tree for some time. The following 33 species were seen:

Turkey Vulture, Sharp-Shinned & Red-Tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, California Quail, Killdeer, Belted Kingfisher, Common (Red-Shafted) Flicker, Acorn, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Yellow-Billed Magpie, Common Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Common Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Robin, Western Bluebird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Starling, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco, White-Crowned & Golden-Crowned Sparrow.

The week-day trip to BERKELEY AQUATIC PARK & BAY BRIDGE TOLL PLAZA marsh Nov. 14 had good weather but the expected duck population was not there. An interesting day was had by 4 birders who found the following 47 species: Common Loon, Horned, Eared, Western & Pied-Billed Grebe, Brown Pelican, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great (Common) & Snowy Egret, Mallard, Pintail, Canvasback, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Red-Breasted Merganser, American Kestrel (Sparrow Hawk), Amer-



ican Coot, Semipalmated & Snowy Plover, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Black Turnstone, Willet, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Western Sandpiper, Sand-derling, Northern Phalarope, Glaucous-Winged, Western, Ring-Billed & Bonaparte's Gull, Forster's Tern, Belted Kingfisher, Common (Red-Shafted) Flicker, Starling, Western Meadowlark, Red-Winged Blackbird, House Finch, Brown Towhee, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

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CONGRATULATIONS and best wishes to Marvin and Susan Larsen who were married in Las Vegas on October 19. Marv was our vice president last year and is our compiler for our Christmas Count this year and last.

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As our JANUARY MEETING, scheduled for January 3, conflicts with the Audubon Wildlife film we have cancelled the meeting. Instead we will meet at 6:30 at the Copper Penny at Sun Valley for dinner, then attend the film. Any necessary business will be conducted at the potluck dinner Dec. 29.

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As approved at the November meeting, Audubon Bookcase catalogues were sent to our members. These came to us pre-stamped, we attached our address labels, and mailed them. Our membership list was not given out. Our chapter will receive a 5% return for all purchases made through the catalogue using the numbered order form.

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AUDUBON CAMP OF THE WEST opens June 23 for four 12-day sessions, ending August 16. Our chapter plans to award a scholarship for one of these sessions as we did last summer for Virginia Schaefer. If you are interested or know of someone who might be, please contact our president Sally Steller for more information.

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MARTINEZ WATERFRONT MARSH. We are undertaking a study to find out what birds use this area. Irene Hellekson has volunteered to keep our records. Any time you bird there please send her the following information: species, number of individuals, habitat seen in, any nesting activity, date and observer. Send to Irene at 811 Brown St., Apt. K, Martinez 94553.

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CLAPPER RAIL SURVEY. A census is to be done during very high tides Dec. 9, 10, 11 in the salt marshes around San Francisco and San Pablo Bays. The purpose is to obtain population data on the Clapper Rails and to determine winter habitat preferences of all rails living in the Bay's marshes. Canoes and small boats will be used in the large marsh areas, the remainder to be covered on foot. Anyone interested in assisting should contact Bob Gill, Dept. of Fish & Game, P.O.Box 47, Yountville, CA 94599 or at his home, P.O.Box 368, Suisun, CA 94585.

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PEREGRINE FUND. Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology is working on an exciting project aimed at rearing Peregrines and releasing them into the wild. Working with falcons and other birds of prey, the project has been going since 1970 and hopes to restock Peregrines in their natural areas. If all goes well, in the next 10 years they could conceivably return 2000 falcons back to nature. If 400 become established as breeders, the pre-DDT levels of Peregrines in eastern North America would essentially be restored. Money is needed for this project. Send contributions to The Peregrine Fund, Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Rd., Ithaca, N.Y. 14850. If you would like to see their recent newsletter with information about their research to date, contact your editor.

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We were very saddened to learn of the death in Walnut Creek on November 3 of Elizabeth O'Meara. She was a founding member of Mt. Diablo Audubon Society and a staunch supporter ever since. Her sister, Isabella McGeehon, is also a long-time member of MDAS. We all extend our deepest sympathy to all the members of her family.

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It is a pleasure to warmly welcome the following as members of MDAS:  
Alamo: Virginia Arnke; Antioch: R.J. Farley; Concord: Roberta Coragliotti, Mr. & Mrs. Merrill Franck, Dr. Steven Tischler; Danville: Mr. & Mrs. D. Adolphson, A.S. Hutchcraft, III; Lafayette: Mrs. W.C. Hageman; Martinez: Irene & Erling Hellekson; Pleasanton: Diane Axton, Mrs. Mary Foust; Walnut Creek: Mrs. Donald Hagen, Mrs. Charles Mynard, Thomas Reiser.

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#### Observations:

A Red-Necked Grebe was seen at Alameda South Shore by Jean Richmond on October 27.

At Palo Alto Salt Marsh on October 27 Blue-Winged Teal and a male European Widgeon were found by George & Vi Homem of Golden Gate Audubon. At the same place on November 3 Art Edwards also found a bird that looks like a hybrid of European and American Widgeon.

Common Scoters were seen at Point Reyes October 30.

Harry Couden saw 3 immature Golden Eagles along Columbus Parkway in Solano County. On the mid-week field trip an adult and an immature Golden Eagle were perched in a tree. Possibly a second immature was seen later.

At Point Reyes October 30 a Kestrel (Sparrow Hawk) was seen to swoop in at a Burrowing Owl, apparently striking the owl on the head, judging from the reaction of the owl. The hawk flew on and landed atop a pole.

A BAR-TAILED GODWIT was found at Bolinas Lagoon October 26 and seen later by a number of observers, including members Ed Eichstedt and Jean Richmond. This species breeds in Alaska and is supposed to migrate down the far side of the Pacific. I understand this is the second record for the state.

A male Black-Throated Blue Warbler was at Point Reyes October 30.

Lynn Farrar had a pair of Golden-Crowned Kinglets in his yard in Lafayette October 27 and 28.

A male Red Crossbill appeared briefly at the Richmonds' home Nov. 1.

White-Throated Sparrows turned up at feeders at Art Edwards' Livermore home and Richmonds' on November 2, the latter only passing through.

#### Good Birding Spots for December:

Waterfowl, loons, grebes and shorebirds are back in good numbers to spend the winter months with us. Besides our usual birds Blue-Winged Teal and European Widgeon have been found at Palo Alto Salt Marsh, Wood Duck at Jewel Lake in Tilden Park, Barrow's Goldeneye at Lake Merritt (also Hooded Mergansers were there the past 2 years), Common Scoters at Point Reyes, Red-Necked Grebe at Alameda. Other places good for December include Conn Dam for water and land birds, Bodega Bay for waterfowl and shorebirds, Thornton area for swans, geese and Sandhill Cranes. The new little park at the end of Edgewater Dr. (off Hegenberger Rd. near the Oakland Coliseum) is an interesting place to go, as is Doolittle Pond. Don't forget our own local areas, Lafayette Reservoir and the marsh in Martinez, near the marina. For other suggestions, see the last couple of issues of the bulletin. Very high tides, due mornings of Dec. 8-11, are good for birding Bay marshes.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!

Jean Richmond, Editor---125 Via Serena, Alamo, CA 94507---phone 837-2843