



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 1974
Vol. 20, No. 7

Next deadline: January 18

- Meeting: Regular meeting for January 3 cancelled due to conflict with Audubon Wildlife film. We will meet for dinner at 6:30 p.m. then attend the film. Next regular meeting February 7.
- Field Trips: Saturday, January 5, 9 a.m., Joice Island Waterfowl Refuge. Leader: Bob McCarthy (934-2724).
Wednesday, January 23, 9 a.m., Lafayette Reservoir. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).
- Christmas Count: Saturday, December 29; count period: December 15-January 1, inclusive.
- Screen Tour: Thursday, January 3, 8 p.m., Diablo Valley College gym. "Malheur: Marsh, Meadow and Mountain" by James D. Hammond.
- Board Meeting: Wednesday, January 16, 7:30 p.m., Carl & Agnes Eckford's home; 3831 Walnut Ave., Concord (685-7280).

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Our regularly scheduled meeting January 3 conflicts with the film at Diablo Valley College. It was felt by the Board that our members would like to see this film and therefore cancelled our meeting. We will meet for a no-host dinner at 6:30 at the Copper Penny Restaurant in the southeast corner of the Sun Valley Center parking area near the freeway; then, following dinner, adjourn to the college to view the film. Any business which must be conducted will be taken care of at the potluck on December 29.

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Joice Island should produce large numbers of Short-Eared Owls plus many geese, ducks and hawks. Last year an immature Northern Shrike was found there and another at nearby Grizzly Island. For our trip there January 5 meet at 8 a.m. in the southeast corner of Sun Valley Center near the Copper Penny to CARPOOL, or at Joice Island at 9 a.m. Go north to Interstate 80, turn east to Fairfield exit (State Route 12), follow SR 12 through Fairfield. A mile or so east of town turn south on Grizzly Island Rd. about 5 miles to the parking area at the entrance to Joice Island.

The weekday trip will be a walk around Lafayette Reservoir January 23. Go west on Mt. Diablo Blvd. from downtown Lafayette to the well-marked turn-off. Have two quarters for the entrance gate and meet us at the parking area at the top of the dam at 9 a.m. This is an easy, level walk.

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The Audubon Wildlife film, "Malheur: Marsh, Meadow & Mountain" by James D. Hammond, sounds very exciting. Malheur National Refuge in Oregon contains perhaps the largest variety of birds and mammals of any national refuge.

Mr. Hammond spent 5 years filming the abundant wildlife there, and scenes of Trumpeter Swans and Pronghorn Antelope are complimented with a look at the rich human history of the land. As usual, the film will be presented without charge at the Diablo Valley College gym at 8 p.m.

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Another exciting event is our annual CHRISTMAS COUNT set for Saturday, December 29, rain or shine. Anyone interested in participating but who has not contacted Elizabeth Dickey (254-0486) should do so at once. We have no volunteer to take calls regarding rare species (see Dec. "Quail" for a list). However, if you should come across one of those listed, write down all details: field marks, habitat, behavior, when and where seen, lighting, optical equipment used, your familiarity with the bird and similar species. Then call the Richmond home (837-2843) and leave the information plus your name and phone number. I will try to check with our sons during the day for any messages in order to have any rarities checked out.

The potluck dinner and preliminary compilation will be at the Women's Clubhouse, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek, at 6:30 p.m. Be sure to bring your own dishes and utensils and food for AT LEAST 4 times the number in your family attending. Call Olive Chadeayne (937-3940 after December 26) to let her know what you would like to bring.

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At ALAMEDA SOUTH SHORE on Dec. 8 twelve birders found 55 species of birds on a beautiful day. I can already hear the groans, but the "Glaucous Gulls" are deleted from the list. Dubious at the time, I did much research in books and discussed the matter with others and have come to the conclusion that the birds were in reality Glaucous-Winged Gulls with sunlight through their plumage. Sorry about that; but we did find the following:

Common & Arctic Loon, Horned, Western & Pied-Billed Grebe, Brown Pelican, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great (Common) & Snowy Egret, Canada Goose, Mallard, Pintail, American Widgeon, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, merganser sp., Turkey Vulture, Clapper Rail, American Coot, Semipalmated & Snowy Plover, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Ruddy & Black Turnstone, Long-Billed Curlew, Whimbrel, Spotted Sandpiper, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Dunlin, dowitcher sp., Western Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, American Avocet, Glaucous-Winged, Western, California, Ring-Billed & Bonaparte's Gull, Forster's Tern, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Water Pipit, Starling, Brewer's Blackbird, Savannah, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

Those who did not go to LAKE MERRITT missed a marvelous, rainless morning while the two of us who did go had a great time even though we did not find the Barrow's Goldeneyes. We did see the following:

Red-Throated Loon, Horned, Eared & Pied-Billed Grebe, White Pelican, Double-Crested Cormorant, Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Canada Goose, Mallard, Pintail, American Widgeon, Northern Shoveler, Wood Duck, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, American Coot, Herring, Ring-Billed & Bonaparte's Gulls, Forster's Tern, Mourning Dove, Scrub Jay, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown Towhee, White-Crowned Sparrow. There were also Whistling Swans, White-Fronted & Snow Geese which are not free-flying, and a flight cage with a number of waterfowl, all of which makes an excellent study area!

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CONGRATULATIONS are in order for Florence Klinger for her selection as "Woman of the Year" by the city of Martinez. Florence, who shares the honor with another Martinez citizen, is very active in area affairs as well as in her own community.

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The 1973 census of the KIRTLAND'S WARBLER, an extremely endangered species on which National Audubon has funded research, shows a gain over 1972's very low count. The increase, while not substantial, does not reflect the fact that a good many first-year warblers do not breed and therefore do not get counted. There were 201 singing males recorded in 1971, 200 in 1972 and 216 in 1973. These warblers nest only in a small part of northern lower Michigan and winter in the Bahamas.

The news is not so good for the WHOOPING CRANES. The size of the world's only remaining wild flock has dropped to 46, down from 51 last year and 59 the year before. The 46 include only one newly fledged bird. Three young had been reported last summer in Canada, where the cranes breed. Two of them arrived safely at Aransas NWR, in Texas, earlier this fall but one disappeared and no one knows how or why. Hopes are slim that there will be late arrivals from Canada or that aerial searches now underway will find some of the missing birds elsewhere in the Gulf area.
(from Audubon Leader)

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The 54,000 acres of prime wildlife habitat of the Suisun Marsh is threatened. Encroachment by a steel plant at Collinsville, a regional solid waste disposal area of 900 acres in the Potrero area, and both residential and industrial development from Benicia to Suisun City is proposed or underway.

This peripheral development must be controlled to prevent damage to one of three remaining great marshes in the United States. A buffer zone limited to agriculture and other compatible uses is proposed by the California Department of Fish and Game. Strong opposition to this proposal by developers and some officials exists.

Legislation being prepared by Senator Peter Behr and Assemblyman John Dunlap and others (AB 14) will authorize the buffer zone and appropriate four million dollars to purchase land or development rights.

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SECRET WITNESS FUND. — The Mt. Shasta Area Audubon Society, with full support of Lava Beds Nat'l Monument officials, is establishing and coordinating a "Secret Witness" fund in an effort to encourage any individuals who have knowledge of the shooting of the bighorn rams in the 1100-acre enclosure to come forth with such information. The killing of both rams in the project area at Lava Beds is a serious blow to the efforts being made to reestablish this rare and endangered species in California. Audubon Conservation Chairman Jim Eckman feels confident there are many people who are disturbed enough by this incident to pledge money for a reward if information comes forth that will lead to a conviction. He hopes this effort will also be a deterrent to any future incident like the one which occurred recently. The program will seek pledges of money from any group or individual who wants to participate. The decision as to whether any information directly leads to a conviction of those responsible will be made by rangers at Lava Beds. Anyone who believes they might have such information should write directly to "Secret Witness", P.O.Box 865, Tulalake, CA 96134. Informants are guaranteed they will not have to identify themselves. Informants should sign their letter with an 8-digit number of their own choosing and keep a copy of that number. If a conviction is obtained through an informant's information, the first four digits of the informant's numbered series will be published. Upon completing the numbered series, the informant can state in another letter to the Secret Witness mailbox how he wants to receive his reward. All pledges through the mail should be sent to "Secret Witness", P.O.Box 309, Yreka, CA 96097. For further information, contact Jim Eckman at the Yreka address. For some background on the project and the incident mentioned above, contact your editor.

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Observations:

Inside Monterey Harbor the last week of November were seen Yellow-Billed Loon, Fulmars (including dark-phase), Fork-Tailed & Black Petrels, imm. male King Eider, Cassin's & Rhinoceros Auklets.

An Oldsquaw has been seen at Berkeley Aquatic Park recently.

A female Hooded Merganser is on Lake Anza in Tilden Park.

Rough-Legged Hawks are in large numbers at many places. Art Edwards has seen many of them in the hills east of Livermore.

A Savannah Hawk was in Albany near the Golden Gate Fields north parking lot on Nov. 17. This bird is surely an escape as its range is from Panama south through Bolivia and Argentina but it is a beautiful bird anyway.

Jane Helrich reports an adult Bald Eagle seen at Frank's Tract Nov. 25 & 28 by rangers there and by her and her students for 20 minutes Nov. 30.

On the field trip to Alameda Dec. 8 we found only 6 Clapper Rails, but on Dec. 11 there were 10 Clappers, 1 Virginia and 2 Soras. The rail census conducted Dec. 9-11 turned up 11 BLACK RAILS around the Bay, including 2 found by our own Frank Beyer in the Benecia State Park Marsh at Southampton Bay! Congratulations, Frank.

Rock Sandpipers were found recently at Bodega Head by Alice Mericourt and Bill Pursell of Golden Gate Audubon.

The Bar-Tailed Godwit was still at Bolinas Lagoon at least through Dec. 3. The security guard at the gate on weekends is most cooperative in not only allowing birders to enter to see the bird, but in telling them where the bird is! A big bouquet to the people at the Sea Drift property!!!

Red Phalaropes turned up in large numbers all over the place the last half of November.

Snowy Owls are in great numbers in British Columbia, Washington and Oregon, and some are into California. One man was reported by the Seattle Audubon bulletin to have seen over 30 in one day there. Earlier reports had placed Snowy Owls in Del Norte County then on Dec. 12 one was found between Arcata and Eureka. The joy among birders was short lived, however, as a trophy hunter SHOT the owl that afternoon and hauled it off to a taxidermist! I shall keep my comments to myself.

On the Golden Gate Audubon Christmas Count Dec. 16 a Pygmy Owl was heard near Upper San Leandro Reservoir by a team of 4 GGAS birders and yours truly.

A Saw-whet Owl has been seen & heard lately around Tilden's Lake Anza.

Bob Claypole found 2 Pileated Woodpeckers on Lucas Valley Rd. in Marin County in late November.

A Dipper is again along the creek in the Tilden Park botanical garden.

A BROWN THRASHER is in a backyard in Fairfax. The residents are happy to share their bird but only with a few people at a time. Contact your editor for details.

On a trip to the Avenal area Nov. 18, Art Edwards, George Bing, Mary Jane & Bill Greene and Jean Richmond found over 280 Mountain Plovers (250 in one flock), 18 Rough-Legged Hawks, a Roadrunner, and a Red Fox.

Good Birding Spots for January:

This may be a banner winter for birds that are out of the ordinary. Be especially alert for any Snowy Owl that may get down toward central California. The Christmas Count Dec. 16 by Golden Gate Audubon turned up 2 Northern Shrikes, 2 Oldsquaws and Red Crossbills. Exceptionally high tides are due around January 5, but I do not know the exact dates as I have not yet seen a 1974 tide table. Check your newspaper for the dates. High tides send rails out of the marshes and perhaps you can find one of the Black Rails seen on the census. For places to go and the birds to be seen, check recent issues of The Quail.

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Next deadline: February 18

- Meeting: Thursday, February 7, 8 p.m., social time 7:30 p.m., Women's Club of Walnut Creek, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek. Program: a film, "Mzima Springs."
- Field Trips: Saturday, February 9, 9 a.m., Joice Island Waterfowl Refuge. Leader: Bob McCarthy (934-2724). Postponed from January.
Thursday, February 21, 9:15 a.m., Martinez waterfront marsh.
- Screen Tour: Wednesday, March 6. Details next month.

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Another excellent program is in the offing with the presentation of "Mzima Springs" at our February meeting. The film, with fabulous underwater photography, stresses the ecological interrelatedness of various species. Many of you will remember "The Baobab Tree" (at the potluck in June 1971) which was also done by Alan and Joan Root, leading African photographers. There will be information available at the meeting for anyone interested in joining an East African Ecological Safari in February 1975 which will be under the guidance of Root & Leaky, Nairobi.

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The FIELD TRIP to Joice Island, originally scheduled for January, will be held Saturday, February 9, when we hope to see many Short-Eared Owls, ducks, geese and hawks. Meet at 8 a.m. in the southeast corner of Sun Valley Center near the Copper Penny to CARPOOL, or at Joice Island at 9 a.m. Go north to Interstate 80, east to Fairfield exit (State Route 12), follow SR 12 through Fairfield. A mile or so east of town, turn south on Grizzly Island Rd. about 5 miles to the parking area at the entrance to Joice Island. Rain will cancel the trip.

We are going to the marsh at the Martinez waterfront for the weekday trip on Thursday, February 21 at 9:15 a.m. To reach the Martinez Marina go north on Interstate 680, take the Martinez exit, turn left onto Marina Vista to North Court St., turn right to the parking area at the marina. Or take Pleasant Hill Rd., Taylor Blvd., then Alhambra Ave. to Escobar. Turn right 3 blocks to North Court St; turn left to the marina.

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The NOMINATING COMMITTEE will soon be looking for officers for next year. If you have any suggestions or if you would like to volunteer for one of the offices, please contact Jon Williams (935-1562), Helen Gentile (228-6297) or Jean Richmond (837-2843). Helen is going to remain as treasurer but we will need a new president, vice president (program), vice president (conservation) and secretary. Florence Bennett has agreed to finish out the term of secretary Adrienne Ormsby who has resigned.

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February 1974

THE QUAIL

In spite of a wet beginning, we had a very successful CHRISTMAS COUNT on December 29, followed by a very enjoyable potluck dinner. We had 41 observers out in 14 parties between 5:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., under mostly cloudy skies with intermittent rain until mid-morning followed by mostly clear weather in the afternoon. A total of 116 species were found, plus 2 additional races, and included 48,200 individuals. Recent counts include: 118 in 1970, 115 in 1971, 117 in 1972. The following species were found on the 1973 count:

Eared, Western & Pied-Billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Great (Common) & Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, American Bittern, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-Winged Teal, EUROPEAN (4!) & American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Ring-Necked Duck, Canvasback, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Sharp-Shinned, Cooper's, Red-Tailed, RED-SHOULDERED & ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK, Golden Eagle (4), Marsh Hawk, American Kestrel (Sparrow Hawk), California Quail, Ring-Necked Pheasant, American Coot, Killdeer, Common Snipe, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Western Sandpiper, American Avocet, Glaucous-Winged, WESTERN (4), Herring, Thayer's, California, Ring-Billed & Bonaparte's Gull, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Barn, Screech, Great Horned & BURROWING OWL, White-Throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Common Flicker (both YELLOW-SHAFTED & Red-Shafted), Acorn Woodpecker, Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker, Hairy, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black & Say's Phoebe, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, COMMON RAVEN, Common Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, Winter, Bewick's, Long-Billed Marsh & Rock Wren, Mockingbird, California Thrasher, American Robin, Varied & Hermit Thrush, Western Bluebird, Golden-Crowned & Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Hutton's Vireo, Yellow-Rumped (both Myrtle & Audubon's) & Townsend's Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-Winged, Tricolored & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Savannah, Lark & Rufous-Crowned Sparrow, Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox, Lincoln's & Song Sparrow.

Also seen during count period but not on count day: Virginia Rail, Long-Billed Curlew, Townsend's Solitaire & Purple Finch.

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We tried twice for a FIELD TRIP in January but the first time we had to cancel as Joice Island was closed except to hunters, then the following weekend our trip with Napa-Solano Audubon to Vallejo was rained out. The weatherman tried to make amends on the weekday trip to Lafayette Reservoir January 23 as we had an absolutely gorgeous day for the outing! We had an excellent turnout of 17 people, including 3 third graders with their teacher. The following 42 species were seen or heard on the walk:

Pied-Billed Grebe, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-Shinned & Red-Tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, California Quail, American Coot, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Ring-Billed Gull, Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Common (Red-Shafted) Flicker, Red-Breasted Sapsucker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Common Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, California Thrasher, American Robin, Varied & Hermit Thrush, Western Bluebird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Yellow-Rumped (Audubon's) Warbler, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox & Song Sparrow.

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The American Petroleum Institute last year published a pamphlet on the rescue and care of birds caught in oil spills. Single copies are free from Amer. Petroleum Institute, 1801 K St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

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We extend warm greetings to the following new members of MDAS:

Alamo: The T. H. Cline family, Edward W. Woodman; Antioch: Charles C. Duffy, Robert L. Oyler; Concord: Richard Adams, Michael M. Judkins, J. H. Kalivoda, Mrs. Wm. Maier, Dr. Bennett J. Riley, Mrs. Louise Woodcock; Danville: Mrs. Luke Barrett, Jr., Anna L. Forni, Mrs. E. V. Roberts; Lafayette: Douglas E. Cowden; Moraga: John Mahoney; Pleasanton: Nancy Dohner, Stephen V. Landreth; Pittsburg: Mrs. Allan B. Colt; Walnut Creek: Francis Blaker, R. R. Delareulle, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur L. Jones, Jr., Susan Pillsbury, Lou Ritthaler, Mr. & Mrs. James R. Silfvast.

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ACTION ON "BOTTLE BILL." Hearings on Sen. Mark Hatfield's (R-Oregon) "Nonreturnable Beverage Container Prohibition Act of 1973," which has been referred to the Senate Commerce Committee, will be held sometime in February. The Committee has received a sizeable number of letters from citizens favoring the bill, S.2062. (Audubon Leader, December 28, 1973)

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The largest living things on earth, the redwoods of the Sierra Nevada, are the subject of a new book titled "The Enduring Giants," written by Joseph H. Engbeck, Jr., published by U.C. Extension in cooperation with Calaveras Grove Association, Save-the-Redwoods League, and California Department of Parks and Recreation. Priced at \$3 per copy, it is available at Calaveras Big Trees State Park, local book stores or by mail through University Extension, University of California, Berkeley 94720.

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THAYER'S GULL. It is not easy to identify, but with patience, you should be able to pick one out of our wintering population of gulls. Thayer's Gulls nest in Central and Western Arctic Canada and in N.W. Greenland, winter along the Pacific Coast, from British Columbia to California, and occasionally to Baja California. The birds look very much like Herring Gulls. Look first for a Herring Gull and see if it might not be a Thayer's. Thayer's tends to be slightly smaller than Herring, about 5%, the bill is about 10% slimmer: a thin bill is the first field mark to look for.

Adult Thayer's Gulls have darker eyes than adult Herrings. The eye ring on a Thayer's tends toward a dusky rose, sometimes even a light purple, while that of the herring is usually yellow or orange. Also, the iris of the adult Thayer's is usually speckled with brown, while that of the adult Herring is usually pale yellow. Herring Gulls, however, may have a browner iris.

The bill of the Herring tends to brighter yellow, the spot redder. The Thayer's bill has a slight greenish cast with a duller spot, but this is usually not much help except under ideal conditions.

The wingtips of the Herring Gull are usually blacker, contrasting strongly with the paler mantle. The wingtips of the Thayer's are paler, with more white spots, and don't contrast as strongly with the mantle. From below, the wingtips of the Thayer's may look as pale as those of a Glaucous-Winged. A gull with dark wingtips above, and pale wingtips below, is probably a Thayer's. Be careful, Thayer's with paler wingtips above tend to have paler eyes like a Herring Gull, while Thayer's Gulls with nice dark eyes may have wingtips nearly as dark as a Herring Gull.

Immature Thayer's Gulls are even more difficult to identify. The young Thayer's looks like a pale immature Herring with a thin bill and a dark eye ring. Don't be fooled by the dark iris of the young Herring Gull. As hard as it is to see, the purplish eye ring of the Thayer's Gull is a reliable field mark in all plumages. (THE GULL, Golden Gate Audubon Society)

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FIELD TRIP ETIQUETTE: a few guidelines which will mean more birds and less problems. 1. Be on time. 2. Keep in sight of the group. When in a caravan, follow the car in front and be sure the car behind can follow you. 3. Be as quiet as possible in the field. Do not wear bright colors. 4. Do not bring pets unless you plan to keep them locked in your car. 5. Leave all gates as you found them. 6. Collect no plants, rocks or other specimens in protected areas. In fragile areas, stay on trails and roadways. Leave an area as you found it. (THE GULL, Golden Gate Audubon)

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NATURAL HISTORY OF HAWAII, its geology, evolutionary history, and its native plants and animals, will be explored in a study tour presented by U.C. Extension from May 18-26. Enrollment is open to any adult interested in the wild heritage of the islands. Information and enrollment forms: Dept. H-4, University Extension, 2223 Fulton St., Berkeley, CA 94720.

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Observations:

The 4 European Wigeons on our Christmas Count is unusual. We have had the species on our count before but never that many.

25 beautiful Redheads were seen January 9 at Berkeley Aquatic Park. (Sorry, fellas, they were the feathered kind.)

Sally Steller saw 2 Rough-Legged Hawks on Dougherty Rd. southeast of Danville on January 14, and 4 there a few days later. Lynn Farrar saw one from his Lafayette yard this winter.

The Red-Shouldered Hawk, a first for our Count, was seen by the Monheits.

An adult Bald Eagle was seen December 20 in Mendocino County by Bob Claypole.

An Osprey was seen at Inverness on December 31.

American Golden Plovers were seen by Doug and Bob Claypole at Pt. Reyes December 20. These birds have also been seen by many other people. The birds are very yellow on the back, an Asian subspecies, I have been told.

SNOWY OWLS have been reported as far south as Monterey. One was seen on a rooftop in San Francisco by a group of birders. The Richmonds are among the fortunate birders who have seen Snowy Owls, 2 of them, at Pt. Reyes January 6. Some people have searched diligently, but unsuccessfully. It is my understanding that the person who shot the Snowy Owl near Eureka (reported in the last issue) was caught and fined heavily while his companion was fined a lesser sum for doing nothing to prevent the shooting.

Ralph Hudgins had 2 Golden-Crowned Kinglets in his yard on Thanks iving.

A Lincoln's Sparrow was seen at Chabot Regional Park January 14.

Frank Beyer reports that the Napa-Solano Christmas Count turned up Rough-Legged & Ferruginous Hawks, BLACK RAIL (seen later by a number of observers) and Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers.

A recent day at Dillon Beach and Pt. Reyes turned up a total of 84 species.

Good Birding Spots for February:

This is the best time to see Whistling Swans and Sandhill Cranes in the Thornton area. Waterfowl, cranes and other birds can be seen along State Route 12 east of Rio Vista and State Route 4 east of Byron. Bodega Bay, Tomales Bay and Pt. Reyes are excellent birding areas. Los Banos Waterfowl Management Area has White-Faced Ibis, Sandhill Cranes, ducks and geese. Closer to home, Joice Island (our February trip is there) and nearby Grizzly Island are very good, as are Coyote Hills, Alameda South Shore, Doolittle Pond, Berkeley Aquatic Park, Tilden Park, Sunol Park, and our own Lafayette Reservoir. High tides of 6.6' occur February 5 and 6.

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- Field Trips: Saturday, March 9, 9:00 a.m., Sunol Regional Park. Leader: Bob McCarthy (934-2724).
Wednesday, March 20, 9:15 a.m., Briones Regional Park (west). Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).
- Screen Tour: Wednesday, March 6, 8:00 p.m., Diablo Valley College gym. "Queen of the Cascades" by Charles T. Hotchkiss.
- Board Meeting: Wednesday, March 13, 7:30 p.m., the Holdens' home, 1219 Glenwood Dr., Concord (637-1981).

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Continuing the excellent quality of our programs, at the March meeting we will see slides taken by Frank Beyer in Maine. This will be a travelogue which will include birds, animals, flowers and landscape. Frank has not only fine slides but very interesting commentary to go with them.

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On March 9 we should see hawks, eagles, woodpeckers, magpies and much more on the trip to Sunol Regional Park. Meet at the Alamo Market Plaza at 8 a.m. to carpool. Take the Alamo offramp from Interstate 680, go 1 block to the signal at Danville Blvd. Turn right about a block and turn left into the shopping center. Or meet us at Sunol Park headquarters at 9 a.m. Go south on Freeway 680 about 9 miles past Dublin to Calaveras Rd., left under the freeway 4 miles to Geary Rd. Turn left and drive nearly 2 miles into the park.

On the weekday field trip we will go to the west side of Briones Regional Park to study land birds. Meet in the parking lot there at 9:15 a.m. To get there, take the Upper Happy Valley Rd. turnoff from the freeway in Lafayette. At Happy Valley Rd. turn left 2 miles to Bear Creek Rd. then right about half a mile to the right turn into the park.

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Mt. Ranier, highest peak of the Cascade Range and dominant feature of Mt. Ranier National Park, is the focal point of the Audubon Film this month at Diablo Valley College gym on March 6. In addition to the wildlife seen in this film produced by Charles T. Hotchkiss, "Queen of the Cascades" includes a sequence featuring his climb to the 14,410-foot summit of the mountain through spectacular Ingraham Glacier. As usual, there is no admission fee.

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The field trip to JOICE AND GRIZZLY ISLANDS on February 9 was a very enjoyable one for the 17 people who attended. The weather was great and so was the birding although we saw only one owl, a Great Horned. However, we did see many hawks which included 8 White-Tailed Kites and 12 Rough-Legged Hawks. The trip logged the following 56 species:

Pied-Billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Great (Common) & Snowy Egret, Canada Goose, Mallard, Pintail, Green-Winged & Cinnamon Teal, Northern Shoveler, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, white-Tailed Kite, Red-Tailed, Rough-Legged & Marsh Hawk, American Kestrel (Sparrow Hawk), Ring-Necked Pheasant, American Coot, Killdeer, Common Snipe, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Dunlin, dowitcher sp., Western Sandpiper, Sanderling, American Avocet, Ring-Billed & Bonaparte's Gull, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Allen's Hummingbird, Common (Red-Shafted) Flicker, Black Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Long-Billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, American Robin, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Yellow-Rumped (Audubon's) Warbler, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Redwinged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, American Goldfinch, Savannah Sparrow, Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

The weather was much different on the MARTINEZ WATERFRONT MARSH trip on February 19. We met in a light rain which soon stopped but we quit at lunchtime as the wind was just too much. However, the 13 eager birders had a good time and found the following 27 species:

Western Grebe, Black-Crowned Night Heron (12), Mallard, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, White-Tailed Kite, Marsh Hawk, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Common Gallinule, American Coot, Killdeer, Glaucous-Winged, Western, California & Ring-Billed Gull, Mourning Dove, Common (Red-Shafted) Flicker, Tree Swallow, Long-Billed Marsh Wren, American Robin, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Western Meadowlark, Redwinged & Brewer's Blackbird, White-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

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SYRUP DANGEROUS TO HUMMINGBIRDS? It may be dangerous for hummers to eat syrup colored with red food coloring. I do not know much about the research upon which the warning is based but with hummers being the tiny creatures they are, it seems to me that it would be wise to delete the red coloring until we find out if the dye in the coloring is really safe to use for birds. The research seemed to indicate "red 2" damages chick embryos. I tried using clear syrup in our feeder and it made no difference at all to the birds. The Allan's Hummers returned to our feeder on February 5 so they obviously had no trouble finding the syrup upon their arrival.

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REMEMBER, with spring comes nesting birds so prune carefully. And don't forget to put out bits of string, colored yarn and dryer lint to help the nest builders.

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AUDUBON CANYON RANCH opens for the season on March 3. Great Egrets and Great Blue Herons nest in the tops of the redwood trees and can be observed from the overlook which is accessible by an easy trail. From mid-April to mid-June the nesting season is at its height, the wildflowers are out, and the grass is still green. The ranch is open to the public March 3-July 4 on weekends and holidays; open to schools and other groups October 1-July 4, weekdays only, by appointment.

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A BIRDWATCHER A DAY KEEPS THE RUSTLER AWAY. A story on radio KABL told of a rancher who allows birders to roam the property, knowing they will report rustlers or anything unusual going on. They haven't lost a steer in months.

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At a HEARING on February 21, the Solano County Planning Commission turned down a proposal by Envirosol, Inc., to create a massive regional garbage dump in the Potrero Hills area adjoining the Suisun Marsh. The proponents have 10 days in which to file an appeal with the County Supervisors.

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BOMB HALT FOR THE BIRDS. The Defense Department has agreed to stop practice bombing runs on Matagorda Island off Corpus Christi while the 46 remaining wild Whooping Cranes are there. The runs will be restricted to June through September when the cranes are nesting in Canada.

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PROJECT JONAH, Box 476, Bolinas, CA 94924, has a free kit available which gives information about the plight of the world's whales. Project Jonah is an international organization leading the protest of the continuing slaughter of whales by Japan and Russia.

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A.O.U. CHANGES IN NOMENCLATURE (such as Common to Great Egret) were listed in The Quail several months ago. If any of our new members would like a copy of that list, please write your editor at one of our meetings.

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We are delighted to welcome the following as members of MDAS:

Antioch: K. Chaffin; Concord: George Cantrell family, W.F. Clarke, Raymond Conrad, Lawrence Green, Gary Hunt, Jeff Strollberg; Danville: Mrs. Alfred McNamee, Gary Ruffatto; Diablo: Margaret Helfrich; Lafayette: Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Bernard, David Campbell, Ray Castellino family, Stephen Kaufmann, Mr. & Mrs. Wm. H. Lamson, Susan & Jennifer McCombs, John M. Muller, Richard Sharkey, Dale Smith, Allan R. Watson; Martinez: Frank M. Balestrieri; Orinda: Phyllis Simon; Pleasant Hill: Ted L. Trambley; San Ramon: Mrs. Wm. R. Evans, Luann Sylvia; Walnut Creek: Mrs. Raymond J. Brown, Mrs. Wesley Clark, Alice & Jean Downing, Wm. H. Elledge, Ivan Essayon, Miss Alice Kops, Mr. & Mrs. G. Bruce Munn, Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Reeves, Paul Sibley family, Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Stroube, Randy Wiseman.

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NATURAL HISTORY EXPEDITIONS TO EAST AFRICA: Natural History & Nature Photography. Mt. Kenya and the Northern Frontier. A tenting safari led by Dr. Leslie Brown of Kenya and David Roderick of Foothill College, Los Altos. July 8-29, 1974, \$2090 including airfare from the west coast. Natural History and Ornithology. The Serengeti, Kilimanjaro and the Kenya Coast. A luxury tenting safari in association with Abercrombie and Kent Safaris Ltd. of Kenya led by Ted Chandik, Naturalist with the City of Palo Alto. August 1-23, 1974. \$2290 including airfare from the west coast. For further information or reservation forms write or phone Nature Expeditions International, P.O. Box 1173, Los Altos, CA 94022 (415-941-2910).

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POINT REYES BIRD OBSERVATORY COURSES: May 17-19, Breeding Ecology of Pt. Reyes Birds, \$45, deadline for enrollment May 10; May 14-21, Birds of Southeast Arizona, \$200, plus transportation and food, deadline April 25; June 21-27, Transect of California, \$185 plus transportation and food, deadline May 15; July 12-18, Transect of California, repeat of above, deadline June 15; Sept. 6-8, Shorebird Ecology, Land-Bird Migration, \$45, deadline Sept. 1; Nov. 9-17, Birds of San Blas, Mexico, cost from Mazatlan, \$200 plus lodging and food, deadline Oct. 10; Nov. 23-Dec. 1, Birds of San Blas, repeat of above, deadline Oct. 10; Dec. 7-15, Birds of San Blas, repeat of above, deadline Oct. 10. Further information: Meryl Stewart, Box 442, Bolinas CA 94924. Your check made out to Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory is your reservation in a course. Send to PRBO at the above address.

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Russell E. Train, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency:

"As I read and listen to advertisements, it is my very strong impression that there is a well-organized campaign afoot to propagandize the public into believing that our environmental concerns have been over-stated and over-sold and are the cause of major economic and energy problems. This is hot air---pure and simple. The public should be alert to this campaign and recognize it for what it is---simply an effort to slow down or avoid getting on with the job of cleaning up pollution. It is a fear campaign which seeks to capitalize on the anxieties and uncertainties of the public concerning our energy problems. It probably signals a major assault on the Clean Air Act." (from The Sequoia, bulletin of Sequoia Aud. Soc.)

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Bird Observations:

2 Whistling Swans were seen by several birders at Coyote Hills Jan. 29.

A Common Teal (now a subspecies of the Green-Winged) was on Belmont Slough at Foster City Feb. 9 through at least Feb. 18.

The Stellers had a White-Tailed Kite in their backyard Feb. 17!!!

On Feb. 5 there were 1000 Sandhill Cranes along Woodbridge Rd. near Thornton but no Whistling Swans were seen. Frank Beyer reports that on the Napa-Solano field trip Feb. 16 they saw fewer Cranes but found about a dozen Swans. Such are the whims of Nature.

Clapper Rails are back in good numbers at Alameda South Shore. There were 12 seen Feb. 5 along with 2 Virginia Rails and a Sora.

At Benecia State Park 2 Black Rails were seen Jan. 8 while 3 were seen Feb. 5, each time by several observers.

More Snowy Owls have turned up in the area. One at Bodega Bay Jan. 30 at least through Feb. 5, one on rooftops at Alameda South Shore Feb. 9-14, and one (possibly the one from Alameda) was in Berkeley Feb. 16 when it was seen on a telephone pole outside the International Bird Rescue Research Center. It is such a shame that so many of these lovely creatures have been shot in the state this winter. The more fortunate of those have been cared for and will be returned to their northern home. Even the stiff fines meted out to those who have been caught shooting Snowy Owls seems not to have stopped this highly illegal activity---these birds are a protected species.

On Feb. 18 at Grizzly Island there were 22 Long-Eared Owls. Long-Eared Owls were seen the day after our field trip there Feb. 9.

A Saw-whet Owl was seen by several observers in Tilden Park near Lake Anza on Feb. 1.

An Allen's Hummingbird was seen by many on Jan. 29 at Coyote Hills. The Gentiles, who had one at their feeder Feb. 2, had the earliest arrival here.

The Gentiles also had a Yellow-Shafted Flicker (subspecies of the Common) on Feb. 2.

Al Boileau reported a Lewis' Woodpecker at Concord Naval Weapons Station Jan 23.

Varied Thrushes seem to be seen in more places and in greater numbers this winter.

Good Birding Spots for March:

Most of the birds we have had with us for the winter will stay for a while longer but some will begin to move north now. Some which have wintered to the south will begin to return but most will not begin to arrive until next month. Check recent issues for places to see wintering species. To look for early spring arrivals try Coyote Hills, Sunol and Tilden Regional Parks, and other such places. Pt. Reyes is good all year for birding.

* * * * *

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 1974
Vol. 20, No. 10

Next deadline: April 15

- Meeting: Thursday, April 4, 8 p.m., Social time 7:30. Women's Club of Walnut Creek, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek. Program: presentation concerning marshlands, by Kent Watson of BCDC.
- Field Trips: Saturday, April 6, 9 a.m., Mines Rd. south of Livermore. Leader: Art Edwards (447-3720). Carpool: meet at 8 a.m. in Alamo.
- Thursday, April 18, 9:30 a.m., Redwood Regional Park. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843). Carpool: meet at 9 a.m. in Lafayette.
- Screen Tour: Tuesday, April 2, 8 p.m., Diablo Valley College gym, "Wild Tennessee" by John D. Bulger. Admission Free.

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Our program for the April meeting will be an interesting discussion, principally of a joint study of marshlands, conducted by Bay Conservation and Development Commission and the Army Corps of Engineers. Kent Watson, of BCDC will illustrate his talk with slides.

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The field trip down Mines Road should turn up Phainopeplas, Western Kingbirds, Lewis' Woodpeckers, Yellow-Billed Magpies and other interesting species. In past years Wood Ducks, Eagles, Roadrunners, Vaux' Swifts, Cassin's Kingbirds and Lawrence's Goldfinches have been seen. Meet at Alamo Market Plaza (see March "Quail") at 8 a.m. to carpool. Or meet us in Livermore at 9 a.m. Go south on Freeway 680, east on Freeway 580 to N. Livermore exit, then south to a block beyond the tall flagpole in the center of town. If you cannot meet us at the scheduled times you can easily find us out along Mines Rd. (Go south on S. Livermore Ave. to Tesla which goes left where S. Livermore ends, then a short distance to Mines Rd. Turn right and drive until you find us.)

No telling what we might find on the weekday trip to Redwood Regional Park. Hopefully, we will see warblers and flycatchers, newly arrived from the south. We might even find the Saw-whet Owl which has been seen there. Meet at the northeast corner of the BART parking lot in Lafayette at 9 a.m. to carpool. Or meet us at the park at 9:30. Take Highway 24 toward Oakland, south on Warren Freeway (Highway 13) to Redwood Rd. exit, turn left. Park entrance is about 2½ miles past Skyline Blvd. Turn left into the park and drive about a third of a mile to the main parking lot.

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A 24-hour HOT LINE FOR LOCAL RARITIES has just been instituted by Golden Gate Audubon Society. The tape, listing local sightings of rare birds, will be changed periodically, probably weekly. The number is 843-2211.

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The final FILM in the current Audubon Wildlife series will be shown Tuesday, April 2, at 8 p.m. in the DVC gym. Over half of Tennessee is evergreen timber land, and its incredibly varied topography and climate is host to a great diversity of life forms. Within this state is a unique collection of wildlife which serves as subject of John Bulger's film, "Wild Tennessee."

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On March 2 at SUNOL REGIONAL PARK, 15 people turned out for a delightful walk under blue skies. We saw many of the expected species plus one uncommon one, a White-Throated Sparrow, which unfortunately was seen by only two of the group. Most, however, watched a Golden Eagle being chased off by two Red-Tailed Hawks. Lovely Varied Thrushes seemed to be everywhere. The following 51 species were seen or heard:

Turkey Vulture, Cooper's & Red-Tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, American Kestrel (Sparrow Hawk), California Quail, Killdeer, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, White-Throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Common (Red-Shafted) Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Red-Breasted Sapsucker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Violet-Green & Tree Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Yellow-Billed Magpie, Common Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, Bewick's wren, American Robin, Varied & Hermit Thrush, Western Bluebird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet (one of which showed beautifully his crown of fire), Starling, Orange-Crowned & Yellow-Rumped (Myrtle & Audubon's) Warbler, Yellowthroat, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, White-Throated, Fox & Song Sparrow.

The weather could not have been better for the trip to BRIONES PARK March 20. Under beautiful blue skies, with ideal temperature, 11 members and guests saw many Western Bluebirds, 3 Townsend's Warblers, a White-Throated Sparrow and many other birds. The following 46 species were seen or heard:

Duck sp., Turkey Vulture, Sharp-Shinned & Red-Tailed Hawk, California Quail, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Common (Red-Shafted) Flicker, Acorn & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Tree Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Common Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, California Thrasher, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Western Bluebird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Starling, Hutton's & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Yellow-Rumped (Audubon's) & Townsend's Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Red-Winged Blackbird, Bullock's Oriole, Purple Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco, White-Crowned, Golden Crowned, White-Throated, Fox & Song Sparrow.

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ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS will be held at the April meeting. We are still looking for a president, but the other offices have the following candidates offered by the nominating committee: vice-president (program), Bob Bary; vice-president (conservation), Leon Borowski; secretary, Jean Holden; treasurer, Helen Gentile. If you would like to volunteer as president or have someone to suggest, contact Jon Williams (935-1562), Helen Gentile (228-6297) or Jean Richmond (837-2843). Please give us a hand!!!

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CONFERENCE ON SUISUN MARSH, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Saturday, April 6, Solano Community College in Cordelia. Full conference, \$5; lunch only, \$3. Space limited; reservation deadline, April 1. Luncheon speaker; Assemblyman John Dunlap. Afternoon tours of the marsh. Information, call Judy Arrants (707) 745-4770. Your editor has some information and reservation form. In Solano County time is running out for Suisun Marsh as we know it!

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GOLDEN EAGLES, what are they worth? In one year a pair of Golden Eagles with two young in the nest will eat an average of 800 rabbits, which would have eaten 300 tons of range grass, that could have fed 328 sheep. (Appalachian Audubon News)

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The following new members are warmly welcomed into MDAS:

Alamo: Leon & Karen Borowski; Antioch: Clinton D. Gans, Mr. & Mrs. Phil Hopper, Tom Tesler, S.S. Travale; Concord: Susan Benedict, Gordon E. Garretson, Thomas Graham, Scott C. Krumland; Danville: Patricia Billig, Dave & Pat Graham, Harry H. Hilton, Louis & Esther Roseman, Willis Steinbeck, Lila Van Zanten, Mrs. John R. Ward; Diablo: Mrs. Dennis Corwin; Lafayette: Kathryn Callaway, Susan Dalcamo, Giancarlo Facca, Mark Harrison, Marguerite Hemingway, John R. Janney, Miss E.M. Lazansky, Dr. Timothy B. Malan, Sean Spillane; Martinez: Scott Garretty, Lincoln B. Grayson, Norman D. Ingersol, James W. Ward; Walnut Creek: Mrs. Mark Baker, Mrs. Loretta Broyer, Mrs. Kathryn P. Heinrich, Bertha Hixon, Dr. Wm. H. Howell, Mrs. Wm. R. Jones, the W.W. Lamberts, Mrs. J.A. Madison, Mrs. N.P. Peterson, C.M. Torget, Walter Weinbezhahn.

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It is with great pleasure that we announce the awarding of a SCHOLARSHIP to Audubon Camp of the West to Leon Borowski. This was a difficult choice to make from several very well qualified applicants.

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"BIRDING IN THE FLORIDA KEYS" is a new guide put out by Monroe County (Fla.) Audubon Society and Nat'l Audubon's Research Dept. Single copies are free from the Research Dept., 115 Indian Mound Trail, Tavernier, Fla 33070.

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BIOLOGICAL FIELD PHOTOGRAPHY, U.C. Extension course #X-410, at Mendocino, weekend of Friday evening, April 26, through 4 p.m. Sunday, April 28. Arrange your own accommodations: motels; camping at Russian Gulch (closest) or Van Damme State Parks. Information: U.C. Extension, 642-1061 (Berkeley).

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The FALCON WATCH has begun again for its third year. Prior to a watch being kept over a nest of a Prairie Falcon in the area there had been NO young birds fledged from that nest for at least 6 years. The first year of the watch the adult birds reared 5 young and last year 2 more. If you can contribute any time to helping guard these birds please contact Bill Bland (537-5696) or Steve Schumpelt (276-6405).

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CONDORS GET CHRISTMAS PRESENT. Mr. and Mrs. Val Gerrish of the Big Sespe M.R.G. Oil Company, residents of Long Beach, donated a 320-acre inholding in the Sespe Condor Sanctuary to Nat'l Audubon Society, on Dec. 31, 1973. This area, known as the Green Cabins, has long been a Forest Service priority in land acquisition for the protection of the California Condor. NAS expects to transfer the property to the USFS at a later date. Green Cabins is located on Sespe Creek in the heart of the Sespe Sanctuary and has long been a source of potential disturbance to the Condors because of a private access road leading to the property. Several Condor nest-sites are located near the property. All those who value the Condor owe Mr. and Mrs. Gerrish heart felt thanks.

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The destruction of NESTS OF CLIFF SWALLOWS on private homes, public buildings, stores, etc., is not uncommon. The California Dept. of Fish and Game says that such nests may be destroyed during their construction, but it is illegal to destroy them once they are built and occupied. Department game wardens should be informed of such needless destruction and will take action. The value of the birds' insect-eating activities far outweighs the minor irritation felt by some over a white-spotted sidewalk or an occasionally spattered car. (from The Sanderling, Monterey Peninsula Aud. Soc.)

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PLEASE CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL!!! If there is any change, notify your editor as new labels will be made soon and we would like them to be accurate.

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APRIL ON THE MOUNTAIN. A local organization, Save Mt. Diablo, and Concord Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring a series of events to publicize the necessity of preserving acreage outside the present boundaries of Mt. Diablo State Park. There will be contests in art, photography, multimedia and writing; film festival, wildflower slide program, art show, nature walks, hikes, bike rides, a mini-course in natural history, a course in fire ecology and man, AAU race, cleanup campaign, etc. Watch local papers or call the Chamber of Commerce (685-1181) for information on various events, then take part in them to learn more about our marvelous mountain. Money is to be raised over a period of time to aid the State in adding land to the Park.

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Interested in a proposed ELEMENTARY ORNITHOLOGY COURSE? Golden Gate Audubon is considering a non-field course, possibly beginning in April and lasting 8-10 weeks, meeting for one two-hour session per week. Cost \$25-30, plus text. If interested, contact your editor or Jean Holden (687-1981).

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Bird Observations:

4 Redheads were observed at Coyote Hills on Mar. 17 by several people.

On Mar. 17 at Coyote Hills a partial albino Ruddy Duck was seen by many observers. The head of the bird was almost entirely white.

Rough-Legged Hawks are still being reported all around the area.

3 Osprey were seen by Pat Whittle in early Feb. along Luther Gibson Freeway north of Benecia Bridge.

On Mar. 12 Bob and Doug Claypole and Steve Street saw 32 Sage Grouse on the booming grounds near Susanville.

Long-Eared Owls were still at Coyote Hills at least through Mar. 17.

A COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD was at the Adamsons' feeder in Lafayette Mar. 11!!!

Rufous Hummingbirds appeared at Adamsons' on Mar. 6, at the Gentiles' in Martinez Mar. 8 and at the Claypoles' in Diablo also on Mar. 8.

On Mar. 3 the Richmonds spotted a Yellow-Billed Magpie in a tree beside Interstate 680 near Stone Valley Rd. in Alamo.

First reported Bullock's Oriole was at Jon & Betty Williams' on Mar. 12.

The White-Throated Sparrow was still at Art Edwards' feeder in Livermore at least through mid-March.

Good Birding Spots for April:

This is the time of year when birders get very restless---spring migration is gettin underway. Allen's Hummers arrived some time ago and the Rufous are on their way through on their flight to northern nesting areas, swallows are back, orioles are turning up, Orange-Crowned Warblers are in. All this is just a prelude to the glory of that marvelous event known as spring migration. We sadly bid farewell to our winter visitors but look forward eagerly to the birds we've missed these past several months. Before they leave, some of the wintering water birds change into the lovely plumage of the breeding season. Early in April check such places as Alameda South Shore, Bay Bridge toll plaza marsh and Albany mud flats for loons, grebes and shorebirds in their new garb. The courtship dance of Western Grebes can be seen at Richardson's Bay. There are many places to look for returning summer visitors and migrants passing through. Try such places as Lafayette Reservoir, Briones Park, Mt. Diablo, Mines Road, Sunol Park, Coyote Hills, Alum Rock Park in San Jose, Mt. Hamilton, Pt. Reyes, Audubon Canyon Ranch on Bolinas Lagoon---and your own backyard. Golden Gate Park is good also but tends to get rather crowded on sunny weekends.

Birds tend to follow warm weather fronts so be particularly alert for migrants at such times. Look over every bird carefully, you may just pick up a rarity. Keep me posted on your findings, especially unusual birds, and also your first sightings of returning species. Good luck and good birding.

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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

May 1974
Vol. 20, No. 11

Next deadline: May 1

Meeting: Thursday, May 2, 8 p.m.; social time 7:30. Women's Club of Walnut Creek, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek. Program: John and Tammy Davis will show slides of Africa.

Field Trips: Saturday, May 4, 9 a.m., Pine Canyon. Leader: Bob McCarthy (934-2724).

Wednesday, May 22, 9:15 a.m., Mt. Diablo. Leader Jean Richmond (837-2843).

Board Meeting: Wednesday, May 15, 7:30 p.m., Sally Steller's home (address above). All outgoing and incoming officers are requested to attend.

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Three years ago we were fortunate to see "The Baobab Tree" at our potluck dinner. After viewing this excellent film John and Tammy Davis decided that Africa was a place they just had to see and off they went to Kenya and Tanzania, carrying cameras. The slides we will see at our May meeting are the result of that trip. Don't miss this showing of the Davis' great photographic work.

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We have not been to Pine Canyon for two years although this is a very good birding area. On May 6th we will walk up the canyon to find, hopefully, hawks, Ash-Throated Flycatchers, woodpeckers, Western Bluebirds, orioles, grosbeaks and others. Two years ago we saw nests of Scrub Jays, Black-Headed Grosbeaks and Bushtits, the latter unbelievably large for such a little bird. Bob McCarthy has permission from the Fords for us to enter the property as a group, so meet promptly at 9 a.m. at Castle Rock Park about half a mile beyond the swimming pool. To reach the meeting point from the Concord area go out Oak Grove Rd. or from the Walnut Creek area take Ygnacio Valley Rd. then Walnut Ave. Just beyond where Oak Grove Rd. and Walnut Ave. join, the road splits with North Gate Rd. going left to Mt. Diablo and Castle Rock Rd. going to the right. Follow Castle Rock Rd. to the end. Please, there is NO SMOKING on the trail due to fire hazard.

Mt. Diablo is one of your editor's favorite birding places for May. My own records show 77 species for the month, including Black-Chinned, Rufous-Crowned and Sage Sparrows and Lazuli Buntings along with the birds mentioned for Pine Canyon. Meet at 9:15 on South Gate Rd. at a point 2.7 miles from the left turn near Athenian School. This is before you reach the South Gate entrance station. If you cannot arrive at the scheduled time, come on up anyway as we will be easy to find along the road.

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Please note the early deadline for the June issue!

On April 6 at MINES ROAD and DEL VALLE PARK 26 members and guests turned out in beautiful weather which contrasted greatly with the forecast. Some of the hoped-for species were not to be found but they were replaced with some surprises. We saw a Green Heron, at least 6 Golden Eagles (4 imm., 2 adult), 4 Rock Wrens, 5 Phainopeplas, and heard a Canyon Wren. Altogether, the following 69 species were seen or heard:

Green Heron, Mallard, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Cooper's & Red-Tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, American Kestrel (Sparrow Hawk), California Quail, Killdeer, Forster's & Caspian Tern, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, White-Throated Swift, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Red-Shafted Flicker, Acorn, Lewis' & Downy Woodpecker, Western Kingbird, Black Phoebe, Violet-Green, Tree, Rough-Winged, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Yellow-Billed Magpie, Common Crow, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Bewick's, Canyon & Rock Wren, Mockingbird, California Thrasher, American Robin, Hermit Thrush, Western Bluebird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Phainopepla, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Orange-Crowned, Yellow-Rumped (Myrtle & Audubon's) & Townsend's Warbler, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-Winged Blackbird, Northern (Bullock's) Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Purple & House Finch, Pine Siskin, American & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Savannah & Lark Sparrow, Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco, White-Crowned & Golden-Crowned Sparrow.

The field trip report for REDWOOD REGIONAL PARK will appear in the June Quail. The trip is just too late to meet the May publication deadline.

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Last month the nominating committee put out a plea for help in finding a NEW PRESIDENT. Irene Hellekson, one of our newer members, feels that MDAS is too good an organization to risk losing for lack of a president and, therefore, she volunteered. Her past experience as president of other organizations and her enthusiasm for MDAS keeps our society in good hands. At the April meeting Irene was elected to office along with the candidates for the other offices as listed in the last issue. The outgoing officers have done an outstanding job and we all extend them a heartfelt thank you.

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Most of the waterfowl that winter at Richardson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary have departed for their northern breeding grounds in Canada and Alaska. Accordingly the water area of the Sanctuary was reopened to public use March 25, Dr. Elvis J. Stahr, President of National Audubon Society, has announced. This is done in accordance with the terms of the leases of these submerged lands to the Society by the County of Marin and the City of Belvedere, for wildlife conservation purposes. The Sanctuary water area is closed to public use each fall when wintering migratory birds become plentiful, usually about the first of October. Public notice of the closing date will be given next fall as usual. "The National Audubon Society wishes to thank the people of neighboring communities for their fine cooperation during the closed period since last October," Dr. Stahr said.

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SEATTLE WILD BIRD CLINIC continues collecting U.S. commemorative and foreign stamps as an important long-term project. Foreign stamps are particularly desirable and they urge exploring the possibility of obtaining such stamps from businesses or individuals who are known to have foreign correspondents. Send to the clinic at 21234 33rd S., Seattle, WA 98188.

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CONGRATULATIONS are in order for Alan Brown. A member of Boy Scout Troop 216, Alamo, he was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout at a Court of Honor on April 5. Well done, Alan.

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It is with pleasure that we welcome the following new members of MDAS:

Alamo: Adolph S. Almquist; Brentwood: Gene Poertner; Concord: M. Caldera, Harlan Dillon, Miss Ruth Ann Draeger, Ernest M. Fine, Gordon B. Kittle, Lorraine MacKenzie, Mrs. M.G. Tucker; Danville: Mrs. G.E. Betts, Manfred Lindner, Gary Noy; Dublin: Mrs. Thomas Flippen; Lafayette: Robert Carlson, Miss E. Elliott, Nancy J. Flood, N.R. Miller; Martinez: Audrey Bell; Orinda: Mr. & Mrs. James Mitchell; Pacheco: Robert F. Davis; Pleasant Hill: Mr. & Mrs. Allyn D. Briggs, Mr. & Mrs. G.A. Doughty; Pleasanton: Edward W. Colson, Ronald Hein, Scott D. Jeffery, Dennis Michaud, Mrs. Carl E. Neal, Mr. & Mrs. Don Rathjen; San Ramon: Bobbie Gibson, Mary Ellen Hawley; Walnut Creek: M. Baird, Joyce S. Berlin, Jess Bowdle, Mr. & Mrs. George C. Davis, Jr., Kent Fickett, the Haig family, S.M. Hudd, James W. Kincaid, Harry Lohstroh.

* * * * *

L'EGGS ARE RECYCLED. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission has reportedly used those little egg-shaped containers used by one brand of panty hose to productively fool Mother Nature in the form of nesting geese.

For two years now, the plastic containers filled with sand, sealed, and then traded for real eggs which are carefully placed in incubators. If the eggs are stolen without a convincing replacement the bird is likely to abandon her first choice of nest and move on. The replacement keeps the female happy with her nest until she finishes her clutch. Then technicians steal the dummies and cover the nest. Five days later, they uncover it and the bird returns to start the whole procedure again. Waterfowl production has nearly doubled with this method---at least with geese. Technicians are not sure yet whether swans will be so gullible. (Burrowing Owl, Davis Audubon Society)

* * * * *

Ralph Nader and Oregon Governor Tom McCall will keynote the PLANNING AND CONSERVATION LEAGUE'S 1974 Annual Meeting. The one-day conference will be held on Saturday, June 8, at the San Francisco Hilton. The conference theme is "The Urban Environment". The meeting is open to the public. For more information write: The Planning and Conservation League, 1225 8th St., Suite 310, Sacramento, CA 95814. Phone: (916) 444-8726.

* * * * *

ENVIROSOL, INC., which was turned down by the Solano County Planning Commission in its application for a massive garbage dump near the Suisun Marsh, filed an appeal with the County Supervisors. However, in early April that appeal was withdrawn by the corporation and a year must now elapse before they may make a renewed attempt for such an operation.

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NO TRESPASSING: PEREGRINE FALCONS. The National Audubon Society and the Defenders of Wildlife provided the funds to enable the California Dept. of Fish & Game to place an electronic detector system on Morro Rock Ecological Preserve, northwest of Santa Barbara, to protect this historic nesting site of Peregrine Falcons. Now anyone climbing the rock can be easily detected and will be subject to immediate arrest, heavy fines and possible imprisonment. (Audubon Leader)

* * * * *

A Bitter Twitter

If I were a warbler named Audubon
Or Myrtle, I'd think it a shame
To have to be lumped
And called "Yellow-Rumped"
A very undignified name!

Ecks Nesbitt

Many thanks to Ecks Nesbitt and
The Observer, Sacramento Audubon
Society, for the expression of my
exact feelings about the A.O.U.
name change of these very lovely
birds!

* * * * *

"BIRDS OF CALIFORNIA" by Arnold Small is a brand new book just off the press in March. The annotated list of over 500 species positively known to have been seen in California between 1900 and 1973 includes information as to seasonal status, habitat preference, range and breeding status within the state. The chapters on the 25 varied habitats within California relate our birds to their habitats. The book also contains excellent black-and-white photographs of 280 species. Arnold Small is Professor of Biology at Los Angeles Harbor College, an ornithologist for many years, and is a past president of Los Angeles Audubon Society. The book, published by Winchester Press, N.Y., is priced at \$12.50 and well worth the cost. My copy, a late-arriving Christmas gift, is a treasured addition to my birding library.

* * * * *

Observations:

A flock of about 80 White Pelicans was seen just east of Davis on Apr. 14 by Rich & Jean Richmond.

2 White-Tailed Kites were seen over Pleasant Hill the weekend of Feb. 9 by the Toasperns, 1 near Danville in early Feb. by Pat Whittle, and 1 south of Danville Apr. 14 by Karen Claypole. This species is expanding in numbers and in range, quite a contrast to Ralph Hoffmann's "Birds of The Pacific States" which in 1927 said there were probably not more than 50 pairs left and that they were slowly decreasing in number.

A Red-Shouldered Hawk was seen near Danville early in March by Pat Whittle.

On Apr. 14 the Richmonds saw 2 Ferruginous Hawks just east of Davis.

Golden Eagles have been seen by many observers in the Mines Rd. area south of Livermore with a high of 6 on our field trip. An immature flew over the Richmonds' home in Alamo Apr. 9 and on Apr. 14 they saw 2 immatures near Sacramento.

An Osprey with a fish in its talons was seen over Bolinas Lagoon Mar. 23 by Jean Richmond and son Bob.

The Gentiles still had their Rufous Hummingbird at the feeder at their Martinez home early in April. Karen Claypole reports as many as 3 Rufous still at their feeder Apr. 15.

An albino Robin was around the Walnut Creek home of the Les Landecks the first week of April. The bird was all white except for a Robin-red breast.

Elizabeth Dickey saw a female Golden-Crowned Kinglet in her yard in Orinda on March 20.

A male MacGillivray's Warbler was seen by many observers in Redwood Regional Park April 16.

Good Birding Spots for May:

The spring migration is in full swing this month with summer residents arriving and migrants passing through on their way north. See last month's issue for good places to go to look for birds. Mt. Diablo is one of the few places to find Black-Chinned Sparrows in our area. Phainopeplas can be seen along Mines Rd., usually at the bridge at El Mocho Inn, but if not there continue on south and watch for them as you go. They are usually at or near the tops of the trees. Audubon Canyon Ranch on Bolinas Lagoon is a very interesting place this time of year as the Great Blue Herons and Snowy Egrets are hatching out. The Henderson Overlook gives a great view of the activities of these two species. The Ranch is open to the public on weekends. Add to the list of birding spots: Tilden and Redwood Regional Parks; Napa-Bothe State Park north of St. Helena; look for Grasshopper Sparrows in Las Trampas Regional Park; try Glen Ellen for Yellow-Breasted Chats; Pinnacles National Monument south of Hollister has species not usually found here in our area.

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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 1974
Vol. 20, No. 12

Next deadline: June 25

Meeting: Thursday, June 6, 6:30 p.m., Women's Club of Walnut Creek, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek. POTLUCK DINNER. Program: members' slides.

Field Trips: Saturday, June 8, 8:30 a.m., Bollinger Canyon in Lafayette. Leader: Bob McCarthy (934-2724).

Wednesday, June 19, 9:30 a.m., if sufficient interest, to Alum Rock Park in San Jose. If interested, contact Jean Richmond, 125 Via Serena, Alamo 94507; phone 837-2843.

* * * * *

The final meeting this spring will be the annual potluck dinner at the Women's Clubhouse. We will gather at 6:30 for food, fellowship and film. Bring your own dishes and utensils plus enough salad, casserole or bread for 4 times the number in your family (group, party or whatever) and a serving spoon for it. To celebrate a special occasion one of our members is going to provide the dessert. Tea and coffee will be provided as usual. Phone Olive Chadeayne (937-3940) and let her know what you would like to bring and the number in your party. She will suggest a change if there is already enough of your choice of food, so if you have your heart set on bringing some of Aunt Bessie's family recipe contact Olive early. We need the head count so we can plan the number of tables needed.

The program will be slides shown by our own members. Those wishing to show slides should limit the number to a dozen or so and keep their comments to a reasonable length. The slides may include not only birds but animals, flowers, scenery, etc., as well.

* * * * *

For the field trip on June 8 we will walk up Bollinger Canyon in Lafayette near St. Mary's College. With many trees and the nearby creek we should see many species of birds including warblers and vireos, perhaps even a Hermit Warbler such as was seen there a year ago. From central Lafayette take Moraga Rd. to Rheem Blvd., turn left to St. Mary's Rd., then right a short distance. Meet at 8:30 at the roadside by the entrance to the college.

If there is sufficient interest in a weekday trip on June 19 we will go to Alum Rock Park in San Jose to look for woodland birds. There may be Canyon Wrens and Rufous-Crowned Sparrows. The carpool meeting point would be Alamo Market Plaza at 8:30 a.m. or at the parking lot overlooking the Park's picnic area at 9:30 or so. Contact Jean Richmond if you are interested in such a trip. Meeting times can be adjusted a bit if necessary.

* * * * *

On April 18 at REDWOOD REGIONAL PARK 10 hardy members and guests turned out under threatening skies to look for returning summer residents and spring migrants. The showers turned to rain at noon but failed to dampen the spirits of the birders who saw a beautiful male MacGillivray's Warbler plus several other new arrivals. The following 34 species were seen or heard:

Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed Hawk, California Quail, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Red-Shafted Flicker, Red-Breasted Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Ash-Throated, Western & Olive-Sided Flycatcher, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Wrentit, California Thrasher, American Robin, Starling, Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, MacGillivray's and Wilson's Warbler, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Purple & House Finch, American Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

We had beautiful weather for the walk up PINE CANYON on May 4. The 34 members and guests got some excellent views of Ash-Throated Flycatchers, House Wrens, Warbling Vireos, a male Western Tanager and lovely Lazuli Buntings. There were also many beautiful wildflowers in bloom along the way. The following 51 species of birds were seen or heard:

Turkey Vulture, Cooper's & Red-Tailed Hawk, California Quail, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, White-Throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Common (Red-Shafted) Flicker, Acorn, Hairy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Ash-Throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Western Flycatcher, Western Wood Pewee, Violet-Green, Rough-Winged, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, House & Bewick's Wren, Mockingbird, California Thrasher, American Robin, Western Bluebird, Starling, Hutton's & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Yellow-Rumped (Audubon's) and Wilson's Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Red-Winged Blackbird, Northern (Bullock's) Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, Western Tanager, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, and Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco.

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An excellent PUBLICATION, especially for newer members, is Annotated Field List, Birds of Northern California by Guy McCaskie and Paul DeBenedictis. The book contains a wealth of information as to area, habitat and monthly relative abundance (shown by bar graphs) of birds in northern California. Field guide size, the 58-page book is available at Lucas Book Store in Berkeley. Cost is \$1.00.

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If you plan on birding out of our area and would like help from people in areas you are visiting, send for OPERATION NATURE GUIDE, 34915-4th Ave. So., Federal Way, WA 98002, enclosing 25¢. This is a directory developed by Tahoma Aud. Soc. (Tacoma, WA) to bring together nature-seeking travelers and local people who are knowledgeable and willing to acquaint visitors with local natural history--birds, wildflowers, trees, or other interests. Phones are listed for contact on an impromptu basis and addresses are also there for those who prefer to write ahead.

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NAT'L AUDUBON SOCIETY DONATION. Dr. Elvis Stahr, president of NAS, recently presented to the Calif. Dept. of Parks and Recreation \$150,000 for the purchase of land in 2 local areas. Of these funds, \$100,000 will be used for land in Pescadero Marsh, San Mateo County, and \$50,000 will go to help complete land acquisition to preserve Ledsen Marsh in Annadel State Park, Sonoma County. The donation comes from the generosity of Captain George Whittell who left one-third of his estate to NAS to be used to preserve wildlife. The money for Annadel meets the criteria of the "matching funds" offer made by Hewlett-Packard Corp. which local conservationists were asked to raise.

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MANY THANKS to those who cooperated so marvelously with the early deadline for this issue. As a result, I left on our Texas trip with much of The Quail completed and was able to complete the job easily upon my return.

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There will be a July-August EDITION out this summer, probably sometime in early July, followed by our regular schedule with the September issue out the last week of August.

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

Alamo: Vernon Buls; Antioch: John J. Chism; Concord: Richard L. Bower, W. J. Dawson, Mr. & Mrs. W. T. Farry, Stephanie Herriott; Lafayette: Roger S. Boothe, Bob Heaton, A. C. Helmholtz; Martinez: Mrs. Wm. Dipace; Pittsburg: Martha Moutlon; Pleasant Hill: Lois L. Hamm; Pleasanton: Dick Martin; Walnut Creek: John Brasett, Robert Clampitt, Dan Langston, Diane E. Melvin, Patricia Quinn.

* * * * *

A field trip to YUBA PASS is being planned by Napa-Solano Audubon for June. As the date is not definite at presstime (probably first or second weekend in June) if you are interested in attending contact Lillian Maydole at 707-644-4751, evenings, for information. The trip will not be led by Frank Beyer this year but by two other very capable birders.

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WILDLIFE ARE A CONTINUOUS EARLY WARNING SYSTEM which can alert man to the first signs of danger in the environment. Death and illness of herons, fish, shellfish and cats preceded the deaths of over 100 humans from mercury poisoning in Minamata and Niigata Bays in Japan. Death of seed-eating birds in Sweden warned of the mercury problem in that country. Deaths and eggshell thinning in hawks, pelicans and many other birds warn of high levels of pesticides. Any rapid, major change in species populations should be a warning to search out the cause. The survival of ALL species, including man, depends upon the diversity of existing gene pools. But man's exploitation of new areas is destroying or displacing many important genetic resources. (Environmental Quality, the Third Annual Report of the Council on Environmental Quality---by way of Madrone Leaves, Madrone Aud. Soc.)

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WE TOLD THEM SO. Federal authorities in March ordered the destruction of 4 million chickens in Mississippi, which were determined to have eaten feed contaminated by dieldrin, an insecticide known to cause cancer in laboratory tests on animals. Meanwhile, EPA is holding cancellation hearings on whether dieldrin and aldrin pose serious health and environmental hazards; need we say more? (Audubon Leader)

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The NATIONAL PARK SERVICE has recommended against extension of the Grand Teton National Park jetport runway in its final environmental impact statement, but the final decision will be made by the Secretary of the Interior.

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"Electrical Power Plants in the Coastal Zone", a new, authoritative BOOK understandable to laymen, is an invaluable resource for information regarding power plant siting. It also provides background material on the complexities of aquatic life in the estuarine zone. At a cost of \$5.00, it is available from The American Littoral Society, Highlands, N.J. 07732 or The Striped Bass Fund, P.O.Box 501, Babylon, N.Y. 11702 (AudubonLeader)

* * * * *

Observations:

Reuben Balzer recently spent 2 weeks each in Honduras and Dominican Republic and added 30 species to his life list.

The Gentiles proved that you do not have to go far from home for a birding vacation. They spent several days in April around the Pt. Reyes area and found 12 life birds including Ruddy Turnstone and Red Knot.

Rough-Legged Hawks were seen at Pescadero Marsh April 20, on Mines Rd. south of Livermore April 27, and by Sally Steller on Dougherty Rd. May 2.

Fulvous Tree Ducks and Solitary Sandpipers were seen at the Woodland Sugar Ponds in late April.

Costa's Hummingbirds have been found near the east end of Del Puerto Canyon.

A male Rufous Hummingbird was at Stellers' home in Danville April 23, a pair at Eckfords' Concord home late April and 3 in Tilden Park April 30.

A Calliope Hummingbird was found in Tilden Park April 22 and at least 6 and probably about a dozen (!) were seen there April 30. A dead one was found at Claypoles' in Diablo on May 2.

There were 2 Nashville Warblers on Mines Rd. April 27.

A pair of Hooded Orioles was found at Camelback, Walnut Creek, by Lynn Lakso on April 26 and a pair was seen on Mines Rd. on April 27.

An INDIGO BUNTING was found by Barry Sauppe (Sequoia Aud. Soc.) just below South Gate on Mt. Diablo on May 3.

Bob McCarthy recently found a House Finch nest built in the yellow section of one of the traffic signals at the intersection of Crow Canyon Rd. and San Ramon Valley Blvd. The nest was shallow enough that it did not block the light enough to cause a traffic hazard.

Several Lawrence's Goldfinches were spotted on Mines Rd. April 27.

Chipping Sparrows returned to the Boileaus' Rossmore home April 14.

Frank Beyer reports a white blackbird--Brewer's, that is--at Lake Chabot in Vallejo. It can be seen evenings at the caddy house.

Rich & Jean Richmond spent 11 days on the Texas coast in May and found 68 lifers including Black Duck, Jacana, Roseate Tern, Buff-Bellied Hummingbird, Swainson's, Worm-Eating, Prairie & Mourning Warblers and Henslow's Sparrow. The birding was excellent but the humidity was inhuman!!

Good Birding Spots for June:

The breeding season is now in full swing and the birds are easily found, especially if you get out early in the morning. See the April and May issues for places to go in the Bay Area. Blue Grosbeaks are again in the area of the Woodland Sugar Ponds. Caswell Memorial State Park along the Stanislaus River west of Ripon (on SR 99) in San Joaquin County should produce Swainson's Hawks and other interesting birds. The Sierras should be good birding but accessibility depends on the snow pack. The birds to be looked for in Sierran areas include Mountain Quail, Calliope Hummingbird, White-Headed Woodpecker, Dipper, Mountain Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, several warblers, Western Tanager and Green-Tailed Towhee. Gray-Crowned Rosy Finches can be found in the Tioga Pass area on the east side of Yosemite. Mountain meadows should be in their glory with lovely wildflowers. On the east side of the Sierran crest, in places like Sierra Valley, look for marsh and desert birds such as Black Tern, Sage Thrasher, Brewer's Sparrow and others. Contact your editor for specific directions to any of these places. Looking for a particular species? Let me know and I will try to pinpoint areas where you would be most likely to find it.

Wherever you wander this summer drop me a card or note and let me know about any interesting nature observations. The best of birding luck to you all and have a happy summer.

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.: Irene Hellekson
811 Brown St., Apt. K
Martinez, CA 94553
phone: 229-1837

July-August 1974
Vol. 21, No. 1-2

Next deadline: August 18

Meeting: Early September. Details in September issue.

Field Trip: Informal trip Saturday, July 27, San Mateo County coast. Car-pool: Alamo Market Plaza at 7:30; Pescadero Beach at 9:00.

Board Meeting: Wednesday, July 10, 7:30 p.m., Irene Hellekson's home (address above).

* * * * *

On July 27 there will be an informal (unofficial?) trip down the coast of San Mateo County. A group of us are planning to go and invite anyone who is interested to join with us. There should be Sooty Shearwaters migrating along the coast; Common Murres, Pigeon Guillemots and Marbled Murrelets are usually seen close to shore. Harlequin Ducks and Black Swifts are often in the vicinity of Ano Nuevo. Meet us at Alamo Market Plaza at 7:30 a.m. or at Pescadero Beach at 9:00. To reach Pescadero Beach, cross San Mateo Bridge and continue on SR92 to the town of Half Moon Bay, turn left on US101 for about 15 miles, then turn right into the parking area. Call Jean Richmond (837-2843) for any further information.

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On May 22 at MT. DIABLO STATE PARK 18 members and guests met under clear skies and mild temperature for a delightful field trip. The hoped-for Lazuli Buntings and the three species of sparrows all showed up (and showed off), much to the delight of all those in attendance. The following 41 species were seen or heard on the trip:

Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed Hawk, California Quail, Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Common (Red-Shafted) Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Ash-Throated, Traill's & Western Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Violet-Green & Cliff Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, California Thrasher, American Robin, Swainson's Thrush, Western Bluebird, Phainopepla, Solitary Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Yellow & Townsend's Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Rufous-Crowned & Sage Sparrow, Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco and Black-Chinned Sparrow.

18 birders turned out for the BOLINGER CANYON trip on June 8. The temperature was a bit lower than the preceding days and a breeze made the weather even more comfortable. Highlight of the trip was the Barn Owl in a nest behind a statue on the front of a building on the St. Mary's College campus. The owl peered down from its lofty haven as the noise of a departing wedding party began, consequently all the birders got a good look at the bird. We heard or saw the following 46 species:

Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed Hawk, California Quail, Mourning Dove, Barn

Owl, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Common (Red-Shafted) Flicker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Ash-Throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Western Flycatcher, Western Wood Pewee, Rough-Winged, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, California Thrasher, American Robin, Swainson's Thrush, Western Bluebird, Starling, Solitary & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned & Yellow Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Red-Winged Blackbird, Northern (Bullock's) Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Western Tanager, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Purple & House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco and Song Sparrow.

After lunch 5 members proceeded on to Las Trampas Regional Park to look for Grasshopper Sparrows which were found along with Cooper's Hawk, Horned Lark, Common Crow, House Sparrow, Lark & Chipping Sparrow, plus many of the species seen earlier at Bolinger Canyon.

Only 3 people turned out for the trip to ALUM ROCK PARK on June 19, apparently due to cloudy weather at home but in San Jose skies were only partly cloudy and no rain fell. Two pairs of Rough-Winged Swallows were found nesting in pipes in a retaining wall along the creek. At lunch we were serenaded by the bubbling song of a House Wren which was feeding young nearby. We heard or saw the following 33 species on the morning walk:

Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed Hawk, California Quail, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, White-Throated Swift, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Acorn, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Western Flycatcher, Western Wood Pewee, Rough-Winged Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Brown Creeper, Wrentit, House & Bewick's Wren, American Robin, Starling, Orange-Crowned Warbler, Northern (Bullock's) Oriole, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco and Song Sparrow.

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"WESTERN BIRDS" (formerly "California Birds"), quarterly journal of field ornithology of California Field Ornithologists, includes articles on bird distribution, migration, abundance, behavior and ecology; identification of difficult species; photographic essays; studies of effects of pollution and the need for habitat preservation; techniques for censusing, sound recording, and photographing birds in the field. C.F.O. membership (for active amateur birders and professional ornithologists) is \$5, dues and contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Mail check payable to California Field Ornithologists, Inc., to Clifford R. Lyons, Treasurer, P.O.Box 369, Del Mar CA 92014.

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OFFICERS OF MT. DIABLO AUDUBON, 1974-75. (Save for future reference.)
 Pres.: Irene Hellekson, 811 Brown St., Apt. K, Martinez 94553; 229-1837.
 VP(program): Bob Bary, 1812 Tobi Ct., Concord 94521; 685-1643.
 VP(conservation): Leon Borowski, 1610 Ridgewood Rd., Alamo 94507; 837-1801.
 Secretary: Jean Holden, 1219 Glenwood Dr., Concord 94518; 687-1981.
 Treasurer: Helen Gentile, 134 Gilbert Ct., Martinez 94553; 228-6297.
 Field Trips: Bob McCarthy, 1929 Dora Ave., 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 Ave., Concord 94520; 685-7280.
 Exhibits: Ann Cavanagh, 1553 Siskiyou Dr., Walnut Creek 94598; 939-3280.
 Christmas Count: Harry Couden, 1491 Sunset Loop, Wal. Cr. 94595; 934-8873.
 Editor: Jean Richmond, 125 Via Serena, Alamo 94507; 837-2843.

We have a NEW COMMITTEE to work on exhibits for garden clubs, libraries, etc. If Ann Cavanagh, chairman, calls on you for assistance, please respond in the affirmative.

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A PERSONAL OPINION TELEGRAM is the fastest way to tell Congressmen your views: 15 words for just \$2. Or, you can send a 100-word Mailgram, same price, to arrive in the next day's mail. Call Western Union for details.

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BOTTLE BILL. In testimony before the Senate Environment Subcommittee (Commerce) John R. Quarles, Jr., deputy administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, supported S.2062 (ban on non-returnable beverage containers from interstate commerce). He stressed he was speaking for the Administration, not just EPA. Reusing containers, instead of making a new one each time a beer or soft drink is sold, could save the energy equivalent of 92,000 barrels of oil a day, plus huge tonnages of aluminum and steel. The bottle and can industry is fighting to keep its huge business under the throwaway system. No hearings are yet scheduled in the House.

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BOYCOTT. National Audubon is calling on its 300,000 members and the general public to boycott goods from Japan and the Soviet Union until those countries cease their needless slaughter of whales. It is recognized this will entail hardship for NAS, its members, and those inside and outside those two nations who depend on sale of those products. After a series of appeals by Audubon, our Government, and others failed, the Board of Directors reluctantly concluded that a general boycott is the only alternative. Widespread world opinion stands against these only two nations to refuse to abide by whaling quotas set by the International Whaling Commission. Our Government in 1970 banned whaling and importation of whale products.

NAS is dropping all advertising for Japanese and Russian products in Audubon magazine (including substantial numbers of ads for binoculars and cameras) and has cancelled wildlife tours to both countries. Members are urged to tell merchants of the boycott, write letters to editors of newspapers, and in other ways spread the word of the plight of the whales and the reason for the boycott, and ask friends to do the same. There are adequate substitutes for the whale oil. The more effective the boycott, the sooner the slaughter will halt, and the sooner the boycott will end.

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

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NEW BOOK. "Birds of the World: A Check List", by James F. Clements, lists all of the nearly 9000 species of birds known to ornithologists, giving scientific name, best-known common name, world-wide range, and status if unique, rare, vanishing or endangered. A \$15 volume, pre-publication price is \$12 (good until August 1, 1974). For further information or for ordering at this price contact Sally Steller at 837-9061.

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NOTE: July issue of Audubon, a special issue on Alaska, will arrive late.

We are happy to greet the following new members of MDAS:

Alamo: Mrs. A.D.Hartwell, Mr. & Mrs. J.J.Radigonda; Brentwood: V. Alan Mode; Concord: Mrs. J.L.Caruso, Marvin J. Taylor; Danville: Dr. Don L. Maxfield, Wilma E. Wilgus; Diablo: Nanci Kimball; Lafayette: Beverly Adams, George H. Finger, Mr. & Mrs. P.L.Haydon, Mrs. T.E.Latimer, Mr & Mrs Robert H. Nelson, Shirley Smith, Diane Underhill; Pittsburg: J.R.Kolkhorst; Pleasant Hill: Cory Crow, Pamela Winfield; Walnut Creek: L.S.Bertagnolli, W. Shilling E. Murison, James Rhodes.

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OBSERVATIONS:

On a Golden Gate Audubon field trip to Yosemite on May 1-2 Florence Bennett saw 14 lifers, including Great Gray Owl and Townsend's Solitaire.

A Little Blue Heron was seen at Palo Alto in May.

Two Cattle Egrets found at Novato June 16 remained there several days.

A late-lingering Rough-Legged Hawk was seen over Dougherty Rd. south of Danville by Karen Claypole on May 22.

An adult Golden Eagle was at South Gate on Mt. Diablo on May 25.

A Wild Turkey was seen June 16 near Altaville, Calaveras County, by Jean Richmond and son, Bob.

Black Swifts are nesting again this year at Santa Cruz.

Phainopeplas were near South Gate on Mt. Diablo on May 21 and 22.

A Tennessee Warbler was seen at the Presidio, San Francisco, May 23.

Bob Claypole found a singing immature American Redstart at Covelo, Mendocino County, June 10.

A singing male ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK was found in Wildcat Canyon Regional Park on June 19 by Nick Story of Golden Gate Audubon.

Grasshopper Sparrows are again in Las Trampas and Wildcat Canyon Parks.

Bob Claypole found Rufous-Crowned and at least 4 singing Black-Chinned Sparrows in May near Covelo, both species well north of their usual range.

GOOD BIRDING SPOTS FOR JULY AND AUGUST:

This can be a slow time for birders as our feathered friends tend to be quiet and hard to find but late summer is the time to start looking for migrants. The fall migration gets underway early in August and continues through mid-October with the peak in early September.

Mountain areas should still produce good birding. The San Mateo County coast can turn up interesting birds (see field trip, page 1). Bank Swallows can be found at Ocean Beach in San Francisco. Shorebirds, some still in breeding plumage, should be looked for along the coast and along the Bay at such places as Dumbarton Bridge, Alameda South Shore, Bay Bridge Toll Plaza marsh, Berkeley marina and Albany mud flats. Bolinas Lagoon is good for many species of birds. Cypress tree "islands" out on Pt. Reyes produce many migrants, including a number of rarities. The Monterey area is also the location of many unusual sightings. Rodeo Lagoon and Battery Wallace in Marin County could turn up interesting finds as should Bodega Bay where a Magnificent Frigatebird was seen a year ago. Mt. Pinos, west of Interstate 5 on the Kern-Ventura County line, is where California Condors can be seen in July, August and September, August being the best month. Here at home keep an eye open for migrating warblers, especially immature Townsend's and Hermit, check hummingbirds for a possible immature Rufous, and watch for Western Tanagers.

All sorts of interesting birds pass our way on their way south but someone has to be out there to record them so grab your binoculars and field guides and see what you can find. Keep me posted on any unusual birds or unusual things about our common species. Also let me know of any sort of interesting observation in the wide world of nature.

* * * * *

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.: Irene Hellekson
811 Brown St., Apt. K
Martinez, CA 94553
phone: 229-1837

September 1974
Vol. 21, No. 3

Next deadline: September 17

Meeting: Thursday, September 5, 8 p.m., social time 7:30 p.m., Women's Club of Walnut Creek, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek. Eric Angress will present a talk on his work in Africa.

Field Trips: Saturday, September 7, 8:30 a.m., Coyote Hills Regional Park; carpool: Alamo, 7:30 a.m. Leader: Bob McCarthy (934-2724).

Thursday, September 19, Alameda South Shore, 9:30 a.m.; carpool: Lafayette, 8:45. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).

Screen Tour: The Audubon Screen Tours will resume in October. Details of the first film of the series will be in the October issue.

Board Meeting: Wednesday, September 11, 7:30 p.m., Helen Gentile's home, 134 Gilbert Ct., Martinez; 228-6297.

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Our first meeting for the fall will feature a talk by Eric Angress who is with the Yosemite Institute. He has been with the Peace Corps in Africa and will tell us about his work with the people there.

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Our September 7 trip to Coyote Hills, with its varied habitats, should produce many species of water, shore, marsh and land birds. There may be some shorebirds still in their summer plumage. To reach the park, go down Nimitz Freeway (SR 17) to Jarvis Rd. Turn 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 and meet us at 8:30. To carpool, meet at the Alamo Shopping Plaza at 7:30 a.m.

The weekday trip will be to Alameda South Shore September 19 to see various water and shore birds, perhaps including Elegant Terns. Go through the tube to Alameda and continue on to Central, turn left 2 blocks to Washington Park, then right to the Bay. Turn left on Shoreline Dr. to the "wildlife sanctuary" at the foot of Broadway at 9:30. Or meet us at the BART parking lot in Lafayette at 8:45 to carpool.

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ATTENTION ALL OFFICERS AND POTENTIAL OFFICERS. Save Saturday, October 5, for a day-long Audubon Leaders' Workshop at Richardson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. All current officers and those who might accept any office in the future are very strongly urged to attend. This includes those who are active in any phase of Audubon from president through those who take part in such things as conservation, testifying at hearings, social aspects, etc. There is no cost except your time. For more information contact your president or editor.

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The trip down the SAN MATEO COUNTY COAST on July 27 was made by 14 members and guests. The morning overcast gave way to beautiful blue skies, accompanied by comfortable temperature and very little wind. All that and good birding too, although the Sooty Shearwaters and Marbled Murrelets were not to be found. Several birds were in their lovely breeding plumage, Ruddy Turnstones in particular. The following 66 species were seen or heard:

Western & Pied-Billed Grebe, Brown Pelican, Double-Crested, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, egret sp., Black-Crowned Night Heron, American Bittern, Black Brant (3), Mallard, Cinnamon Teal, Harlequin Duck (1 female), White-Winged & Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Red-Breasted Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, American Coot, Snowy Plover, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Surf-bird, Ruddy & Black Turnstone, Whimbrel, Wandering Tattler, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, dowitcher sp., Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Northern Phalarope, Western & Heermann's Gull, Caspian Tern, Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Black Swift (at least 12), Allen's Hummingbird, Downy Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Olive-Sided Flycatcher, Bank, Rough-Winged, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Steller's Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Wrentit, Long-Billed Marsh Wren, Starling, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Savannah, White-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

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SCHOLARSHIPS. We are happy to announce that MDAS is offering two scholarships for next summer to Audubon Camp of the West located in Wyoming. There are four 12-day sessions and since each is filled rather early, anyone interested in one of our scholarships should apply before November 1. If you are interested or know someone who might be, contact our president, Irene Hellekson. Those who applied last year need not submit another letter of qualifications as those are on file, but they should inform Irene of their continued interest. We had a difficult task last year in choosing a single scholarship winner from among several well qualified individuals and we urge these people to apply again this year.

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An ORNITHOLOGY CLASS (not a field course) offered by Golden Gate Audubon Society will be taught by Mr. Paul Kelly, a graduate student at Hayward State College doing research on birds. Meeting Tuesday evenings from 7:30-9:30 p.m., the class will be held for 10 weeks, beginning September 17, at Albany High School, 603 Key Route Blvd., Albany. The fee of \$6.00 may be paid at the school office the night of the first class. Those who are interested in this class should contact Jean Holden (1219 Glenwood Dr., Concord 94518; phone 687-1981) so carpools can be set up.

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The WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS INITIATIVE is the only initiative measure to qualify for the November 5 ballot, according to Secretary of State Edmund G. Brown. The measure would declare portions of the Stanislaus River as scenic, thus preventing construction of flood control dams which would "substantially diminish the public use or enjoyment of that portion of the river," Mr. Brown said.

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A VALUABLE BOOK has been published for those needing help in caring for injured or orphaned birds and mammals. "Care of the Wild Feathered & Furred: A Guide to Wildlife Handling & Care," by Mae Hickman and Maxine Guy, is available from Unity Press, P.O. Box 1037, Santa Cruz, CA 95061, for \$3.95 plus approximately 40¢ tax and postage. It gives detailed information on care, feeding, diet; treatment for injuries, poisoning and shock; diseases; oil spill and tar damage; other disabilities; preparing for release. It is in layman's language, factual but sympathetic. (Sketches, San Diego Audubon Society)

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

Antioch: Ron Diefenbacher; Concord: Harold Hancock, Viola Jones; Lafayette: Charlotte Vandafriff; Martinez: Earl V. Requa, Anthony P. Souza, Sr.; Pleasant Hill: Donald Chessmore, Leonor Millan, David C. Roda; San Ramon: K.A. Johnson, Michael D. Smith; Walnut Creek: Miss Doris Broadley, Mrs. F.J. Clune, Gail A. Landis, Mrs. D.C. Peabody, Janet C. Romine, Mrs. Alice Ungar, Kathy Weinberg.

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AUDUBON CANYON RANCH will be holding interviews September 5 for anyone interested in their docent program. Contact Barbara Chase, 454-0225, or ACR for an appointment. Audubon Canyon Ranch, Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach, CA 94970; phone 383-1644.

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"CITIZEN OF THE DAY" on radio KABL July 22 was Isabelle McGeehon, honored for her work with the American Red Cross. Our heartiest congratulations.

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OUTLOOK GOOD FOR KIRTLAND'S. There are now 432 Kirtland's Warblers nesting in Michigan's lower peninsula, their only remaining nesting site, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is optimistic about the survival of this endangered bird in the third year of a cooperative effort with Nat'l Audubon and the State of Michigan to keep warblers' nests safe from cowbird predation. Before the cowbird trapping and removal program was initiated, population of the species had dropped to an all-time low of 400 in 1971, after a 60% drop in numbers in the 60's. (Audubon Leader)

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ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS. If you know of any member not receiving "The Quail" please contact or have member contact Jean Richmond, 837-2843. If you are not receiving Audubon magazine or are having problems with your membership with the NAS office please contact Helen Gentile, 228-6297.

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BRUSH UP ON YOUR BIRDINGFORMATION: Increase and enhance your knowledge of bird lore through brief study sessions that will be offered monthly. Your answers here will determine subjects presented. Sessions will be held 7:00-7:30 p.m. preceding regular meetings (1st Thursday each month).

Cut here and return bottom portion

NAME _____

Please check your interests below:

- 1. Buying and using binoculars and telescopes _____
- 2. Books used as Field Guides _____
- 3. Field marks leading to positive identification _____
- 4. Reference books _____
- 5. Attracting and feeding birds in your yard _____
- 6. Adaptions _____
- 7. Migration _____

OTHER _____

ADVANCED BIRDERS: WE NEED YOUR HELP! IF WILLING TO ASSIST AS SESSION LEADER, PLEASE SIGN HERE

Please give this form to Betty Williams at the September meeting or mail it directly to her at 445 Virginia Hills Drive, Martinez 94553.

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ELEPHANT STEW. Ingredients: 1 elephant, 2 cups salt, 2 cups pepper. Cut elephant into 1-inch cubes, frequently adding pinches of salt and pepper. Cook over kerosene fire for about 4 weeks at 465 degrees. If more than 3,800 guests show up, add 2 rabbits, but only if necessary, because most people don't like hare in their stew. (California Farmer, via Phainopepla, San Fernando Valley Audubon Society)

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OBSERVATIONS:

Harry and Dorothy Couden spent a vacation week birding the Chiricahuas and Patagonia, Ariz., in June, as part of a course sponsored by UC-Riverside---to be offered again next year. The rare-to-us species they sighted: Black, Zone-Tailed & Gray Hawk, Scalded, Gambel's & Montezuma (Harlequin) Quail, Whip-Poor-Will, 5 species of hummingbirds, Coppery-Tailed Trogon, 9 species of kingbirds and flycatchers, White-Necked Raven, Mexican Chickadee, Bridled Titmouse, the desert thrashers, Eastern Bluebird, Lucy's, Olive, Grace's & Red-Faced Warbler, Painted Redstart, Varied Bunting, Eastern Meadowlark, Hooded & Scott's Oriole, Hepatic & Summer Tanager, Cardinal, Pyrrhuloxia, Blue Grosbeak, Grasshopper, Cassin's & Five-Striped Sparrow, and Mexican Junco. What a trip! If you might be interested in this trip next year, give the Coudens a call for information. (934-8873)

On a trip in June to Spokane Florence Bennett found 15 lifers including Veery and Black-Backed Three-Toed Woodpecker.

In June Ralph Hudgins saw both Ringed and Green Kingfishers at Falcon Dam, Texas, and a possible Aplomado Falcon near Sonoita, Ariz.

Leslie Henningsen, with her family in southeast Arizona in July, found 70 lifers including Whiskered Owl, Violet-Crowned Hummingbird, Rose-Throated Becard, Thick-Billed Kingbird, Buff-Breasted Flycatcher, and Five-Striped Sparrow. Unfortunately, she missed the Lucifer Hummingbird which was usually at feeders at 7 a.m. at Mile Hi in Ramsay Canyon, but did not show while they were there.

Harlequin Ducks were at Ano Nuevo in June and July.

An albino Red-Tailed Hawk was seen July 12 by Leslie Henningsen from her Lafayette home.

On June 29 between Booneville and Cloverdale Reuben Balzer saw 2 female and 17-18 half-grown Wild Turkeys.

Least and Elegant Terns were at Alameda South Shore in July.

A Rhinoceros Auklet was found by Jean Richmond at Ano Nuevo on June 25 and seen by several observers.

The Eckfords had a Black-Chinned Hummingbird at their feeders for about two months this summer.

A Townsend's Warbler, unusual for this area in summer, was seen at Battery Wallace on July 12.

GOOD BIRDING SPOTS FOR SEPTEMBER:

The fall migration has now hit its full stride with shorebirds, warblers, and others passing through on their way to their wintering grounds. The shorebirds can be found in coastal and Bay-front areas listed in last month's issue and also along Tomales Bay and at Palo Alto Salt Marsh. The cypress trees on Pt. Reyes are especially attractive to warblers and other land birds. Battery Wallace and Rodeo Lagoon (at Fort Cronkhite) provide interesting possibilities as does Tilden Park closer to home. Coyote Hills turns up many species of birds each year. Condors are still to be seen at Mt. Pinos through this month. Passerine species can turn up almost anywhere so keep your eyes and ears alert even in your own backyard.

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The Quail

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

P.O.Box 53

Pres.: Irene Hellekson
811 Brown St., Apt. K
Martinez, CA 94553
phone: 229-1837

October 1974
Vol. 21, No. 4

Next deadline: October 22

Meeting: Thursday, October 3, 8 p.m.; social time 7:30 p.m.; Women's Club of Walnut Creek, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek. John Olmsted will speak about the famed Jug Handle--Pygmy Forest.

Field Trips: Saturday, October 12, 8:30 a.m., Rodeo Lagoon; carpool Lafayette 7:30 a.m. Leader: Bob McCarthy (934-2724).

Wednesday, October 16, 9:15 a.m., Tilden Regional Park; carpool Lafayette, 8:45 a.m. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).

Screen Tour: Monday, October 7, 8 p.m., Diablo Valley College gym. "Small World" by Fran William Hall. No admission is charged.

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The speaker for our October program will be John Olmsted, an environmental specialist, who was active in the drive to preserve the "Giant Staircase" and, when not teaching at UC, is often leading a seminar there. He has an interesting program about this Pygmy Forest which is on the Mendocino Coast just south of Fort Bragg. If you would like to meet Mr. Olmsted you are invited to a no-host dinner at 6 p.m. at Briargate in Sun Valley Center. If you plan to attend contact Bob Bary (1812 Tobi Ct., Concord 94521; phone 685-1643) by September 30 so the restaurant can plan accordingly.

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The field trip will be October 12 (the week after our meeting) to Rodeo Lagoon and Battery Wallace, providing varied habitats and consequently varied birding. Meet us at the east end of the Fort Cronkhite tunnel at 8:30. Take the Alexander Avenue exit JUST beyond the Vista Point at the north end of the Golden Gate Bridge. Follow the signs to Forts Chronkhite and Barry and meet us at the signal-lighted tunnel. To carpool, meet us at the northeast corner of the BART parking lot in Lafayette.

The weekday trip will take us to Tilden Park October 16 where we will also see a variety of birds, mostly landbirds. Meet us at the parking lot near the Little Farm at 9:15 or, to carpool meet at the Lafayette BART parking lot at 8:45.

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The first in the fall series of Audubon Wildlife Films will be shown Monday, October 7 in the DVC gym at 8 p.m. "Small World", by Fran William Hall, brings to the screen fascinating sequences on the daily lives of some of our smaller creatures, particularly the insects. There is no admission charge for these films.

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The field trip to COYOTE HILLS on September 7 found 20 members and guests out under clear skies with the early morning a bit nippy but warm temperature from mid-morning on. The birding was very good even though the two species of rails refused to come out into view after they had announced their presence by calling. The following 57 species were seen or heard:

Great Blue Heron, Great (Common) Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Mallard, Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, Amer. Kestrel (Sparrow Hawk), California Quail, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Clapper & Virginia Rail, Killdeer, Willet, Least Sandpiper, Short-Billed & Long-Billed Dowitcher, Western Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Amer. Avocet, Black-Necked Stilt, Northern Phalarope, California & Ring-Billed Gull, Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Downy Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Willow (Traill's) & Western Flycatcher, Violet-Green, Tree, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Bewick's & Long-Billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, MacGillivray's Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Song Sparrow.

When leaving the park four members detoured to near the intersection of Jarvis and Thornton Rds. and found Long-Billed Curlews and Burrowing Owls.

Thirteen members and guests made the September 19 trip to ALAMEDA SOUTH SHORE and DOOLITTLE POND. The weather was clear and cool. The best find of the day was a Baird's Sandpiper which cooperated by being in close for our viewing. At Doolittle Pond a Caspian Tern and an Elegant Tern were very obliging and stood together to give an excellent look at the differences between the two. The following 43 species were found:

Horned or Eared Grebe, Pied-Billed Grebe, Brown Pelican, Great Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, Mallard, Pintail, Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, buteo sp., Marsh Hawk, Amer. Coot, Semipalmated & Snowy Plover, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Long-Billed Curlew, Willet, Baird's & Least Sandpiper, dowitcher sp., Western Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Amer. Avocet, Black-Necked Stilt, Glaucous-Winged, Western & Ring-Billed Gull, Forster's, Elegant & Caspian Tern, Rock Dove, Western Flycatcher, Barn Swallow, Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Water Pipit, Starling, House Sparrow, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird.

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The following is the TENTATIVE FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE for this year:

Weekend		Weekday	
Nov. 9	Tubbs Island	Nov. 21	U.C. Botanical Garden
Dec. 7	Alameda South Shore	Dec. 11	Lake Merritt
Jan. 11	Lafayette Reservoir	Jan. 23	Palo Alto or Benecia
Feb. 8	Thornton	Feb. 19	Golden Gate Park
Mar. 8	Bodega Bay	Mar. 20	Sunol
Apr. 5	Briones Park	Apr. 16	Veteran's Park, Livermore
May 3	Audubon Canyon Ranch	May 27	Las Trampas Park
June 7-8	Weekend to Yuba Pass	June ?	Alum Rock Park
		July ?	San Mateo County Coast

One need not be an expert to join our field trips--beginners are more than welcome. If there are any questions, there are always several members ready, willing and able to assist the newer birders. While binoculars, telescopes and field guides are vital, they can be shared. The chapter owns two scopes which are available on field trips for anyone who cares to carry and use one. There is no formal structure to a field trip, and usually no strenuous walking. A field trip is an ideal way to get acquainted, not only with the birds but with the people. We extend a special invitation to our newer members to join with us on our field trips.

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The following new members are warmly welcomed into MDAS:

Alamo: Warren M. Garrison, Miss Lisa Long, Alison Willy; Antioch: Ronald Botelho; Concord: John Lewis; Lafayette: Edward C. Allen, Charlotte K. Allen, the J.C. Schmerker family, Mr. & Mrs. Jasper Woodruff; Martinez: Andrew McMahon; Orinda: Mrs. L.S. MacDonald; Pacheco: Carl H. Huber, Jr.; Pleasant Hill: Rev. James M. Crothers, Herb & Lelia Lee; San Ramon: Mr. & Mrs. James A. Mastro; Walnut Creek: David S. Dodds, Mrs. Lucille Jackson; Genevieve M. James, Mark W. Kleisath, Allen Pirkle, M.D., Robert Roberson, Mrs. Walter Williams.

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WORKSHOP. All officers and potential officers are reminded of the Audubon Leaders' Workshop to be held October 5 at Richardson Bay. If you plan to attend but neglected to notify Irene Hellekson, do so immediately.

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BANDING DEMONSTRATION. Point Reyes Bird Observatory will hold a bird banding demonstration Saturday, October 5, at 9:30 a.m. This will not be for banding training, but to allow you to see birds in the hand and perhaps learn more about the Observatory. Everyone is welcome.

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UC EXTENSION COURSES. If you are interested in a stimulating weekend of study, two up-coming courses could be of interest. October 11-13 at Mendocino, "Plant Ecology of the Mendocino Coast." October 25-28 at Martinez and on a bus tour, following the California landscape profile, first studied by John Muir---across the Great Basin and up into the Sierra to the White Mountains. For information contact President Irene Hellekson.

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PHOTOGRAPHY AT WINERIES, a weekend photography workshop, will be presented at two Napa Valley wineries October 19. For further information contact Alfred A. Blaker, 2050 Blackwood Dr., Walnut Creek 94596, phone 933-9539.

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PERIPHERAL CANAL HEARING. A public hearing concerning the proposed Peripheral Canal, which is designed to transport Sacramento River water around the Delta for export to Southern California, will be held Thursday, October 3 at 10 a.m. in the Oakland Museum. The public may comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report, which is now available for study in the Document Section of the Pleasant Hill Library. The MDAS Executive Board urges you to study this report concerning possible problems with this project. Those wishing to testify should contact immediately Mr. Robin R. Reynolds, District Engineer, Central District, Dept. of Water Resources, 3251 S St., P.O. Box 9137, Sacramento, CA 95816.

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"EGG-PLANT" SUCCESS. Two of three Bald Eagle eggs transported from Minnesota to Maine in May hatched and the young accepted into Maine nests that month, reports the Fish and Wildlife Service. Pesticide residues have affected hatching in Maine in recent years, while the donor state's eagle population is comparatively healthy. This is the first such transplant with Bald Eagles.

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TWO WOLVES IN MICHIGAN TRANSPLANT KILLED. The two males of the four-wolf transplant of Eastern Timberwolf to Michigan from Minnesota are dead. One, found July 28, was shot, probably by a small-caliber weapon at close range, possibly by a coyote trapper, since there is a coyote bounty in the state. There is a \$10,000 fine for killing a wolf; the Michigan game enforcement agents are checking into the case. The other male was hit by a car, which is fairly common for wolves travelling over roads within their range.

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MARbled MURRELET NEST FOUND. On August 8 a State Park Service tree trimmer found a nest of a Marbled Murrelet high up in a redwood tree in Big Basin State Park. Hundreds of ornithologists had searched the area for years seeking a nest of this species. Seeing adult birds flying into the area it was certain the species nested in the vicinity. Dr. Robert T. Orr, of the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco, said: "It's like finding a dinosaur egg, or a lost Indian tribe. I've looked for it myself".

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OBSERVATIONS:

Golden Plovers are back at Pt. Reyes at Drake's Beach Rd. turnoff.

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPERS were found September 18 at Bodega Bay.

Florence Bennett saw several Baird's Sandpipers at Bolinas Lagoon on September 8.

A CURLEW SANDPIPER, found at Bolinas Lagoon, was seen by Florence Bennett September 8. The bird was there September 8-14.

A RUFF was seen September 14 at least through September 19 near Martinez by many observers.

Florence Bennett saw Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers at Bolinas Lagoon September 8. On September 18 a Parasitic Jaeger and a Skua were seen at Bolinas Lagoon by Vi Homem and Alice Mericourt (of Golden Gate Audubon) and Jean Richmond and son, Bob.

Four Roadrunners were found by Florence Bennett at markers 5.65 and 6.28 on Mines Rd. on September 8.

On August 17 Lynn Farrar had three owls in 10 minutes at or near his Lafayette home---Barn, Screech and Great Horned Owls.

Pileated Woodpeckers were seen in mid-August by Jean Richmond and son, Bob, at a Boy Scout Camp not far west of Bear Valley.

An adult Eastern Phoebe was found by Lynn Farrar on August 17 in an oak tree next door to his home in Lafayette.

Lynn Farrar also had two interesting birds in his yard in July---Purple Finch and Red-Breasted Nuthatch.

Several eastern warblers have turned up in the area: Magnolia Warbler at Battery Wallace September 2 and 14; Chestnut-Sided Warbler at Rodeo Lagoon September 2 and 18; Blackpoll Warbler at Battery Wallace September 14; American Redstart at Battery Wallace September 18.

Lynn Farrar reported on September 8 he still had Northern (Bullock's) Orioles at his home and had Hooded Orioles feeding young.

On July 30 Lynn Farrar saw a Blue Grosbeak at Knight's Landing, the most northern record for him.

Harry Adamson and Lynn Farrar have seen a pair of Orange-Fronted Parakeets around eastern Lafayette this summer (escapes from somewhere).

GOOD BIRDING SPOTS FOR OCTOBER:

This month can be an exciting one for birders in the Bay Area as migrants are still passing through and the wintering birds are beginning to arrive. The places listed in the last two issues are still good birding spots as is Lafayette Reservoir. If you have a scope (and some luck) the larger reservoirs, such as Briones and Upper San Leandro, can be good for waterfowl. Late in October the waterfowl return in large numbers to Lake Merritt which is an excellent place for close study of these birds. Above all, don't neglect to check out your own yard as you may find unusual birds along with the regulars. If you start feeding birds, plan to continue until well into spring when the natural food supply becomes plentiful again ---otherwise your feathered friends who become dependant upon your cafeteria may well starve.

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The Quail

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

P.O.Box 53

Pres.: Irene Hellekson
811 Brown St., Apt. K
Martinez, CA 94553
phone: 229-1837

November 1974
Vol. 21, No. 5

Next deadline: November 18

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- Meeting: Thurs., Nov. 7, 8 p.m.; Birdingformation, 7 p.m.; social time, 7:30 p.m. Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek. Film, "Western Discovery" presented by Laura Reynolds.
- Field Trips: Sat., Nov. 9, 9:00 a.m., Palo Alto Baylands; carpool: Alamo Shopping Plaza, 7:30 a.m. Leader: Bob McCarthy (934-2724).
Thurs., Nov. 21, U.C. Botanical Garden; 9:15; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. at Freeway, 8:45 a.m. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).
- Screen Tour: Wed., Nov. 6, 8 p.m., Diablo Valley College gym. "Florida's Cypress Sanctuary: Fisheating Creek" by Richard Kern.
- Board Meeting: Wed., Nov. 13, 7:30 p.m., Jean Richmond's home, 125 Via Serena, Alamo; phone 837-2843.

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Our meeting will feature a fabulous film, "Western Discovery," by Laura Reynolds. The Reynolds family explores wilderness areas of the Pacific Coast: glimpses into the life of Stellar Sea Lions; in San Francisco Bay migrating shorebirds whirl and eddy on a sandspit; redwoods in azelea time, silver trees in Oregon, scarlet cliffs, and islands in a foaming sea.

Something new is added to our meetings: "Birdingformation," learning sessions which will be led by some of our members on subjects of interest to the group. Beginners, experts, and all those in between, are welcome and encouraged to attend. This session, led by Frank Beyer, is "Field marks leading to positive identification." See you there at 7:00 p.m.

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The field trip is changed to Palo Alto Baylands due to problems at Tubbs Island. Ducks should be in good numbers, hopefully including a European Wigeon seen there the past few winters and also Blue-Winged Teal. Cross Dumbarton Bridge to US 101, go south to Embarcadero Rd., then east over the freeway and continue to the yacht harbor. Meet us at the duck pond on the left at 9:00. To carpool, meet at Alamo Shopping Plaza at 7:30.

The weekday trip will be to explore an area we have not birded before, the U.C. Botanical Garden, where we will look for land birds. From Freeway 24 near the Tunnel go north on Fish Ranch Rd., right on Grizzly Peak Blvd., left on Centennial Dr. to the Garden. Meet in the parking lot at 9:15. To carpool, meet at 8:45 on Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Freeway 24.

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The Audubon film on November 6 will be "Florida's Cypress Sanctuary: Fish-eating Creek" by Richard Kern. Mr. Kern and nine others purchased 400 acres along the creek to preserve the land and its wildlife. This film ex-

plores the land and its creek, with studies of the creek in rain and at night. No admission is charged for the film, shown in the DVC gym at 8.

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The field trip to RODEO LAGOON AND BATTERY WALLACE on October 12 was made by 23 members and guests. The weather was gorgeous although the afternoon was a little too warm. Common Gallinules were a lifer for several of the group as was the flock of Golden-Crowned Kinglets which was seen at close range. The following 68 species were seen or heard:

Eared, Western & Pied-Billed Grebe, Brown Pelican, cormorant sp., Great Blue Heron, Great (Common) & Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Mallard, Cinnamon Teal, Amer. Wigeon, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Cooper's Red-Tailed Hawk, Amer. Kestrel (Sparrow Hawk), California Quail, Clapper Rail, Common Gallinule, Amer. Coot, Killdeer, Willet, Dunlin, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Western, Ring-Billed & Heermann's Gull, Forster's Tern, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Rock Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-Shafted Flicker, Black Phoebe, Violet-Green Swallow, Scrub Jay, Common Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Wrentit, Bewick's & Long-Billed Marsh Wren, Amer. Robin, Hermit & Swainson's Thrush, Golden-Crowned & Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Starling, Hutton's Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Yellow-Rumped (Myrtle & Audubon's) Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, House Sparrow, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Purple & House Finch, Amer. & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

Ten members attended the field trip to TILDEN PARK on October 16. As on the weekend trip, the weather was lovely but too warm after lunch. A Townsend's Warbler, a lifer for several people, cooperated by showing off all his field marks. We heard or saw the following 32 species:

Turkey Vulture, Sharp-Shinned & Red-Tailed Hawk, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Anna's Hummingbird, Red-Shafted Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, Amer. Robin, Varied Thrush, Golden-Crowned & Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Yellow-Rumped (Myrtle & Audubon's) & Townsend's Warbler, Amer. Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox & Song Sparrow.

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CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT for MDAS is Saturday, December 28. If you can help on the CBC, please contact compiler Harry Couden now (1491 Sunset Loop, Walnut Creek 94595; 934-8873). You need NOT be an expert or anything near to being one to be of value on the CBC. New birders can keep the tally for a team and perhaps learn some of the birds along the way. If you have a feeder you can help by counting birds there. We also would like to have someone who will be home that day to take calls concerning rare species which are found. The post-count potluck will be at the Women's Club in Walnut Creek that evening. More information in the December issue.

Other Counts in the Bay Area: Fremont-Hayward, Dec. 14; Oakland, Dec. 15; Pt. Reyes & Marin County, Dec. 21; Napa-Solano, Santa Clara Valley, Davis & Santa Rosa, Dec. 22; Monterey, Dec. 27; Sacramento, Dec. 28; Western Sonoma County, Dec. 29. Information can be obtained from your editor.

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WHAT IS S.A.N.E.? Save America's Natural Environment is mostly intermediate, high school and DVC students (elementary students welcome) in the Contra Costa area doing what they can by raising money for parkland purchase, writing letters or attending meetings. For information contact their president Brian Tsukimura, 70 Los Cerros Pl., Walnut Creek 94598; phone 934-0791.

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RARE BIRD HOTLINE: 843-2211. The tape is changed on Wednesdays.

DUES INCREASE. Due to ever-rising costs, effective Sept. 1, NAS reluctantly raised annual dues. The new rates follow; the figure in parenthesis is the chapter's share: student \$7 (\$1), regular \$15 (\$5), family \$18 (\$7), sustaining \$30 (\$13), supporting \$50 (\$20), contributing \$100 (\$40), donor \$250 (\$60), patron \$500 (\$100), life \$1000 (\$100). Our share of dues is used for operating expenses and THE QUAIL, projects such as Audubon Camp scholarships, and contributions to Save Mt. Diablo, PRBO, Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum and others. Our expenses have risen as have those of the conservation organizations to which we contribute and therefore we are hopeful that you will maintain or upgrade your level of membership.

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RICHARDSON BAY CLOSURE. The waters of Richardson Bay Sanctuary were closed to boating and hunting October 13. Next spring when most of the birds have left this winter refuge for northern breeding grounds the date for reopening the waters will be announced by National Audubon Society.

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ALLEN CRUICKSHANK, well-known ornithologist, photographer, author and lecturer, died in a Florida hospital October 11 of complications following surgery. He had been a member of the NAS staff for 37 years and had made many contributions to birdwatching.

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CALIF. CONSERVATION COUNCIL FALL CONFERENCE, "Problems of a Finite Planet," to be held in San Diego Nov. 1-3, 1974, includes a public lecture, in-depth environmental workshops, half-day field trips to local educational resources, and a banquet. Information available from your editor.

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COLOR-MARKED CANADA GEESE wearing neck bands, black on orange in color, are part of a study to ascertain range and distribution of the breeding population of geese using the Umitilla NWR portion of the Columbia River. The bands carry a 2 letter and 2 number code. Information pertaining to sightings or recoveries of these birds should be reported on Federal Form 3-1807 to Bird Banding Laboratory, Office of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Laurel MD 20810. Or by card or letter to Oregon Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Nash Hall, Oregon State Univ., Corvallis, OR 97331. Include name and address and, if possible, date of sighting or recovery, location; type of recovery (sighting, hunter kill, etc.); activity of bird (feeding, nesting, migrating, etc.). Any assistance in relocating these birds will be most appreciated.

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From Audubon Leader:

SAVE THE EAGLES. The 7-Eleven Food Stores, in cooperation with National Wildlife Federation, has launched "Save a Living Thing," a project to educate the public about endangered wildlife and raise money to establish a 835-acre refuge for Bald Eagles along the Missouri River in South Dakota, winter home for 15% of the lower 48 states Bald Eagles. One cent from the sale of each of 7-Eleven's special endangered species cups of its Slurpee drink will go to the refuge, which will become part of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Contributions may also be sent to Department Eagle, National Wildlife Federation, 1412 16th St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

BUY DUCK STAMPS and help buy wetland habitat for migratory waterfowl. The Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Program, established in 1934, has purchased over 2-million acres of wetlands and now is expanded so everyone will be able to buy the stamps to help protect waterfowl. Conservationists are urged to buy the stamps, available at local post offices for \$5.00 each.

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LOOKING for a particular species or want information about a birding area? Your editor would be happy to assist you.

OBSERVATIONS:

On a trip to Southern California in September Florence Bennett found 16 lifers including Least Bittern, Wood Stork, Mountain Quail, Black-Tailed Gnatcatcher, Vermillion Flycatcher and Black-Throated Sparrow.

5 Black Brant, 3 Harlequin Ducks, 2 males in beautiful plumage and 1 female, 1 Black Scoter, Ano Nuevo, Sept. 23--BR, JR.

Broad-Winged Hawks, Pt. Diablo, September and October--sev. observers.

Solitary Sandpiper, Pleasanton sewer plant, Oct. 6--AE.

2 Red Knots, 1 in partial summer plumage, Skaggs Island, Sept. 17--FB, HB, BR, JR. First Sept. record for Solano County as far as Frank knows.

2 Pectoral Sandpipers, Kaiser sandpits, Pleasanton, Sept. 21--AE.

The RUFF was still at Martinez at least through Oct. 6. Another Ruff, in browner plumage, was found at Bodega Bay on Sept. 20.

STILT SANDPIPER, Skaggs Island, mid-September.

Parasitic Jaeger, Alameda South Shore, Oct. 15--AM, WMP, BF, VH, ED.

HORNED PUFFIN, near Farallon Islands, Oct. 6.

5 Tufted Puffins, pelagic trip to Farallon Islands, Oct. 14.

Roadrunners still on Mines Rd. through end of September--AE, BR, JR.

Over 700 Vaux's Swifts, Pt. Diablo, Sept. 30, Oct. 1--sev. observers.

Gray Catbird, near Bodega Head, Sept. 20.

The BROWN THRASHER returned to a Fairfax backyard in mid-October for its 3rd or 4th winter. The residents are happy to share their visitor with a few birders at a time. To see it, contact your editor for information.

Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Pt. Diablo, Oct. 1--sev. observers.

EASTERN WARBLERS have been all over the area: Tennessee, Parula, Magnolia, Cape May, Black-Throated Blue, Blackburnian, Chestnut-Sided, Bay-Breasted, Blackpoll, Prairie, Palm, CONNECTICUT Warblers and American Redstart were found by many observers in many places, including a Chestnut-Sided at Bonita Park, Pleasanton--AE.

INDIGO BUNTING, Drake's Beach, Sept. 24--VH, BR, JR, et al; Sept. 28--AE.

Vesper Sparrow, Battery Wallace, Sept. 18--VH, AM, BR, JR. Somewhat unusual that close to the ocean.

Clay-Colored Sparrow, Pt. Reyes, Oct. 10--VH, et al. Seen sev. days.

Tree and Brewer's Sparrows, Bodega Head, late September.

Earliest reported White-Crowned Sparrows, Gentiles' home, Sept. 16.

Lincoln's Sparrow, Richmonds' backyard, Oct. 5.

(Observers: Frank Beyer, Helene Beyer, Art Edwards, Bud Fry, Vi Homem, Alice Mericourt, William M. Pursell, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond.)

GOOD BIRDING SPOTS FOR NOVEMBER:

This month finds many waterfowl which have returned to the Bay Area for the winter, as have loons, grebes and shorebirds. Lake Merritt in Oakland is the best place to study waterfowl as the birds are in fairly close and, with people around so constantly, do not seem to be as skittish as they are in most places. In past years there have been Barrow's Goldeneyes and Hooded Mergansers on the lake. There are also grebes, cormorants, gulls and terns where you can study them and begin to sort out the confusing species. Alameda is excellent for waterfowl but also for shorebirds which can, to say the least, be a problem to learn when so many look so much alike in winter garb. For Whistling Swans, geese and Sandhill Cranes a trip to the Delta is in order: the area around Thornton or along SR 12 or SR 4, especially Victoria Island, are good. You can see waterfowl along the SR 21 frontage road north of Benecia Bridge. High tides the mornings of Nov. 11-14 and Nov. 29-Dec. 1 should send rails up out of the marshes around the Bay. Plan to arrive an hour or so before the peak high tide at such places as Alameda. See recent issues for other areas as places listed there are still good. Happy birding.

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The Quail

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

P.O.Box 53

Pres.: Irene Hellekson
811 Brown St., Apt. K
Martinez, CA 94553
phone: 229-1837

December 1974
Vol. 21, No. 6

Next deadline: December 15

Meeting: Thurs., Dec. 5, 8:00 p.m.; Birdingformation, 7:00 p.m.; social time, 7:30 p.m. Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek. Robert Mallatte will speak about raptors.

Field Trips: Sat., Dec. 7, Alameda South Shore, 8:30 a.m. Carpool: Lafayette BART parking lot, 8:00. Leader: Bob McCarthy (934-2724).
Wed., Dec. 11, Lake Merritt, 9:15 a.m. Carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just off Freeway 24, 8:45. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey (254-0486).

Christmas Count: Sat., Dec. 28, Harry Couden, compiler (1491 Sunset Loop, Walnut Creek 94595; 934-8873). Count period for our area: Dec. 25-31.

Screen Tour: None scheduled until Jan. 13. Details in January issue.

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The speaker for our December meeting is Robert Mallatte who has a very informative and interesting talk about raptors. Mr. Mallatte is with the wildlife management branch of the State Fish & Game Dept. working with rare and endangered species. The Birdingformation session, "Sparrow Identification," will be led by Frank Beyer and Jean Richmond. Bring field guides if you have them and learn to distinguish one species from another. We hope to have available handout sheets listing sparrows and their distinguishing characteristics.

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The field trip to Alameda on December 7 should produce good numbers of waterfowl and shorebirds at South Shore and Doolittle Pond. Go through the tube to Alameda and continue on to Central, turn left 2 blocks to Washington Park, then right to the Bay. Turn left on Shoreline Dr. to the "wildlife sanctuary" at the foot of Broadway at 8:30. To carpool, meet us at the Lafayette BART parking lot at 8:00 a.m.

The weekday trip to Lake Merritt on Wednesday, December 11, is set a little early in the month to avoid conflicts with the holidays. You can arrive late or leave early if you must and still enjoy studying waterfowl and other birds. Barrow's Goldeneyes have returned and perhaps the Hooded Mergansers will also. Meet us at 9:15 on the lake-side walkway behind the Rotary Science Center (corner Bellevue & Perkins). If you come late, look for us on that walk. Carpool at 8:45 on Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Freeway 24.

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CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT: Sat., Dec. 28, rain or shine; compiler: Harry Couden (address above). Below is a list of areas for which we have leaders. If you plan to participate contact the leader of the area you prefer (except marshes/N. County--that is full). Do this promptly, and no later than

Dec. 14 so he can instruct you about when and where, or if you solo, how to submit to him your count. If you fancy an area not listed, (there are several from Suisun Bay to Alamo; Camp Stoneman to E. Lafayette and Briones Hills), contact Harry promptly as you will need a set of instructions. If you feel you are not expert enough to solo, your help with a group is still needed and appreciated. Our 76.6 square miles is a big area.

Bird feeders/yards: Stan/Laura Hudd, 115 Crosby Ct., W.C. 94598, 934-2858; Curry Creek/Mitchell Canyon: Kent Fickett, 3322 Doral Ct., W.C. 94598, 933-6979; DVC: Jean Holden, 1219 Glenwood Dr., Concord 94518, 687-1981; Lafayette/Spring Hill: Sean Spillane, 3251 Sweet Dr., Lafayette 94549, 284-4684, (alternate: Mark Harrison, 3288 Walnut Ln., Lafayette 94549, 284-7633); marshes/ponds/ N. County: Lynn Farrar, 955 Diablo Dr., Lafayette 94549, 283-3938; Morgan Territory/Marsh Creek: Ed/Joan Mize, 2990 Mt. Diablo St., Concord 94520, 686-1341; Mt. Diablo: Jon/Betty Williams, 455 Virginia Hills Dr., Martinez 94553, 935-1562; Pine Canyon: Jane Helrich, 40 Mt. Emory Ct., Clayton 94517, 687-8873; Walnut Creek/Heather & Lakewood Ponds: Ann Cavanagh, 1553 Siskiyou Dr., W.C. 94598, 939-3280; Tice Valley/Rossmoor: Al Boileau, 3449 Golden Rain Rd., #3, W.C. 94595, 939-5684.

Plan to attend the post-count potluck as that is a great story-swapping social event and you will also get the preliminary CBC report. The potluck will be at San Ramon Valley Methodist Church, 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo (1.4 miles south of Stone Valley Rd.) beginning at 6:30 p.m. Bring your own dishes and utensils. Punch, coffee and tea will be provided, milk drinkers will have to provide their own. Phone Olive Chadaeyne (937-3940), but not Dec. 24-26, to let her know what you would like to bring. Bring food for AT LEAST four times the number in your family attending.

During our Count Period (Dec. 25-31) if you should see within our CBC area an uncommon or rare species contact Harry Couden with full information. These sightings accompany our CBC report.

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Frank Beyer would like help with the Benecia Christmas Count Dec. 22. Any MDAS members who can help with that count contact Frank at 409 Rollingwood Dr., Vallejo 94590, (707)-644-0236, or see him at our December meeting.

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The trip to PALO ALTO on November 9 was made by 24 members and guests under clear blue skies with mild temperature and no wind. Several Blue-Winged Teal were seen but only one member was lucky to see the European Wigeon. Highlight of the day was the side trip to McLaren Park in San Francisco to look for a THICK-BILLED KINGBIRD seen there for several days prior to the trip. It perched for some time atop a post at close range giving all present a fantastic view. The following 74 species were seen or heard:

Eared, Western & Pied-Billed Grebe, Brown Pelican, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great (Common) & Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Canada Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-Winged, Blue-Winged & Cinnamon Teal, European & American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck, White-Tailed Kite, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, Amer. Kestrel (Sparrow Hawk), Ring-Necked Pheasant, Clapper Rail, Amer. Coot, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Common Snipe, Long-Billed Curlew, Willet, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Short-Billed Dowitcher, Western Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Amer. Avocet, Black-Necked Stilt, Glaucous-Winged, Western, Herring, California, Ring-Billed and Bonaparte's Gull, Forster's Tern, Rock & Mourning Dove, Burrowing Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, THICK-BILLED KINGBIRD, Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Long-Billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Amer. Robin, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Orange-Crowned & Yellow-Rumped (Audubon's) Warbler, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Amer. Goldfinch, Brown Towhee, Savannah, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned and Song Sparrow.

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We are happy to welcome the following new members of MDAS:

Antioch: R. E. Robinson; Concord: Mr. & Mrs. D. J. Hill, Bob Steele;
Danville: Isla Arnold; Lafayette: Mrs. D. Baker, Joanne Leavitt, Jennifer
 Lowry; Martinez: Dr. Charles A. Dodge; Pleasant Hill: Boris Breckenridge,
 Bill Poulson, Peter Rosmarin; Walnut Creek: Mrs. Musanti, Dr. A. J. Nemeth,
 Mrs. B. C. Sanderson, Marilyn Shaver, June Tourte.

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AUDUBON INSTITUTE OF DESERT ECOLOGY, sponsored by Tucson Aud. Soc. and Univ. of Arizona, May 2-4 and 9-11, seeks to clarify the relationships between the plants, animals and physical characteristics of the Sonoran desert in such a way that participants will be able to share their new knowledge on their return home. Contact you editor for more information.

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A NATURAL HISTORY EXPEDITION to Baja California's west coast Dec. 29-Jan. 4 is being sponsored by College of Alameda. Following the ocean cruise from San Diego participants will visit the islands of Cedros, San Venito, San Martin, and the San Ignacio Lagoon to observe several species of marine mammals and bird life. For reservations send \$50 deposit to Tom Southworth, Biology Dept., College of Alameda, 555 Atlantic Ave., Alameda 94501; for information call him at 522-7221, ext. 297.

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PROJECT PROPOSAL from Rossmoor Audio-Visual Club. Would you like a wild-flower demonstration area conveniently located near the Rotary Amphitheatre of Lafayette Reservoir? A verbal or written response may make this idea a reality. Write to Felix Gomes, President, Area Control, 1880 Linden St., Livermore 94550, phone 443-7525 (bus.) or 339-0439 (home); or W. T. Hartman, Supervisor, Land Management & Recreation, East Bay Municipal Utility Dist., P.O.Box 24055, Oakland 94623, business phone 835-3000.

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SACRAMENTO CITIZENS' DEFENSE FUND. Five conservationists and 50 "John Does" were sued in April 1972 for \$80 million because they spoke at public hearings in opposition to a land development project. After two years the case was finally thrown out but the McKeon Construction Company filed an appeal. The funds raised to help fight this important case are low and it is necessary to again raise money to continue the battle. Their case is our case and helping them is helping ourselves. This case tests the right of citizens to attend public hearings and provide information and carefully considered opinions. Send tax-deductible contributions to Sierra Club Foundation, 220 Bush St., San Francisco 94104. Enclose a note that the donation is for the "Sacramento Five" and their Sacramento Citizens' Environmental Defense Fund.

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THE YOSEMITE NAT'L PARK MASTER PLAN hearings have again been postponed, perhaps to January this time. The Interior Dept. has been holding up the environmental impact report on the still-secret master plan which environmentalists fear will permit considerable construction of restaurants and hotels in the Valley.

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PROTECT THE VANISHING MARSHLAND. Sequoia Audubon Society seized the opportunity to accelerate public ownership of the balance of Pescadero Marsh by arranging a \$100,000 gift to the State Dept. of Parks and Recreation. That agency is matching these funds and has taken preliminary steps to complete the acquisition. Now Sequoia needs our help in repaying a \$50,000 loan from Nat'l Audubon's Whittell Funds. Each dollar you give is increased four-fold, first by being doubled by NAS, then that sum is matched with State funds. Tax deductible contributions should be sent to Sequoia Audubon Society, P.O.Box 5273, San Mateo 94402.

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OBSERVATIONS:

Yellow-Billed Loon, Inverness, Nov. 14-16--sev. obs.

Red-Necked Grebe, Dillon Beach, Nov. 12--WMP, et al.

Cattle Egret, Lawson's Landing, Dillon Beach, late Oct.--AM, WMP.

Male Blue-Winged Teal, Muddy Hollow, Pt. Reyes, Oct. 22--WMP, JR, et al; several on our field trip to Palo Alto on Nov. 9.

60 Ring-Necked Ducks, Cal Rock & Gravel, Livermore, Nov. 16--AE.

10 Redheads, Aquatic Park, Oct. 29--ED; 6, Cal Rock & Gravel, Nov. 16--AE.

Male Barrow's Goldeneye, east end of islands at Lake Merritt, Nov. 2--B&MJG, AE; 2 males, same place, Nov. 6--JR.

Black Scoters, Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes, Oct. 26--FB & GGAS field trip.

Red-Shouldered Hawk, just west of Petaluma on Bodega Hiway, Nov. 12--JR.

Rough-Legged Hawk, Muddy Hollow, Oct. 22--JR, WMP, et al. Rough-Legs have since been reported from a number of places by sev. obs.

Ferruginous Hawk, Wilson Hill Rd., Marin County, Nov. 14--VH; flying over Livermore, Nov. 16--AE.

American Golden Plover, Lawson's Landing, late Oct.--WMP, AM; Nov. 12--sev. obs.; Nov. 16--FB, AE, JR.

Rock Sandpiper, Bodega Head, Nov. 10; two there Nov. 14 at least through Nov. 16--VH, AM, WMP, FB, AE, JR.

THICK-BILLED KINGBIRD, McLaren Park, S.F., Oct. 26--BD. Seen by many at least through Nov. 16. Identification made by Dr. Laurence C. Binford of Academy of Sciences, S.F. Immatures in fall have very yellow underparts.

Golden-Crowned Kinglet, pair, Richmonds' Alamo backyard, Nov. 15.

Virginia's Warbler, Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes, Oct. 26--FB & GGAS field trip

Black-and-White, Magnolia, Blackpoll and HOODED WARBLERS, Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, Moss Beach, Oct. 28--TC, BS, et al; the Hooded was seen by sev. obs. Oct. 27-30

Black-Throated Blue Warbler, Pt. Reyes Hdqtrs., Nov. 16--F&RN, FB, AE, JR.

2 Lapland Longspurs, Hall Ranch, Drake's Beach Rd., Oct. 26--FB & GGAS field trip; several there at least through Nov. 16--sev. obs.

CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPURS, Hall Ranch, late Oct. through at least Nov. 16--sev. obs.

(Observers: Florence Bennett, Ted Chandik, Byron Davies, Elizabeth Dickey, Art Edwards, Golden Gate Audubon Society, Bill & Mary Jane Greene, Vi Homem, Alice Mericourt, Fran & Roy Nelson, William M Pursell, Jean Richmond, Barry Sauppe.)

GOOD BIRDING SPOTS FOR DECEMBER:

Winter means waterbirds---loons, grebes, geese, ducks, shorebirds of many species. Check recent issues of The Quail for good places to find these birds. Try the Fish Docks at Pt. Reyes for Black Scoters and possibly Oldsquaws. Berkeley's fishing pier and Aquatic Park sometimes turn up goodies. Bodega Bay often has unusual species around. Rock Sandpipers are found most winters at or near Bodega Head often in the company of Surfbirds and Turnstones both of which have a broad white band across the base of the tail but which is lacking in the Rock Sandpiper. Ancient Murrelets may turn up off the bluffs at Bodega Head. For Mountain Plovers try SR 33 on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley in Kings County around Avenal and from there south to Blackwells Corner. American Golden Plovers are often along Drake's Beach Rd. and have also been found this fall at Lawson's Landing at Dillon Beach. Northern Shrikes should be looked for in places like Bodega Bay and Grizzly Island where they have been seen in previous years. Red Crossbills turn up now and then so keep an eye and an ear open for them. High tides the mornings of Dec. 10-12 and 27-30 will send rails up out of the marshes around the Bay.

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FROM THE RICHMOND FAMILY, A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!

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