



# 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

January 1975  
Vol. 21, No. 7

Next deadline: January 18

Meeting: Thurs., Jan 2. No Birdingformation this month; social time, 7:30; meeting, 8 p.m. Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek. Frank Beyer will present a slide program on shorebirds.

Field Trips: Sat., Jan. 11, Lafayette Reservoir, 8:30 a.m. Leader: Bob McCarthy (934-2724).

Wed., Jan. 22, Lake Merritt, 9:15 a.m. Carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. at 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.

Board Meeting: Wed., Jan. 15, 7:30 p.m., Agnes Eckford's home, 3831 Walnut Ave., Concord; phone 685-7280.

Screen Tour: Mon., Jan. 13, 8 p.m., Diablo Valley College gym. "Footloose in Newfoundland" by Tom Sterling.

\* \* \* \* \*

A treat is in store for our meeting when Frank Beyer presents his excellent program on shorebirds. Frank, a longtime MDAS member, will entertain and educate you with his slides and narration. Birdingformation will be omitted this month as we all have such crowded calendars this time of year.

\* \* \* \* \*

On the field trip, a week later than usual, Bob McCarthy will lead the easy walk around Lafayette Reservoir where we will see both land and water birds. Go west on Mt. Diablo Blvd. from downtown Lafayette to the well marked turn-off. Have some quarters for the entrance gate and meet us at 8:30 at the parking area at the top of the dam on January 11.

Since the weekday trip to Lake Merritt was rained out in December we will try again on January 22. To study waterfowl and other birds, meet us at 9:15 on the lake-side walkway behind the Rotary Science Center at the corner of Bellevue and Perkins. If you arrive late, look for us along the walk. Carpool at 8:45 on Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Freeway 24.

\* \* \* \* \*

A 900-year-old Viking settlement, St. Johns, Gros Morne and Terra Nova National Parks are some of the focal points from which Tom Sterling views the Canadian Province of Newfoundland in his film, "Footloose in Newfoundland." This next presentation of Audubon Wildlife Films will be shown with no admission charge at the DVC gym on Monday, January 13, at 8 p.m.

\* \* \* \* \*

Our annual CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT will be held Saturday, December 28, rain or shine, so hope for good weather as well as many birds. Anyone who wants to participate but has not yet contacted any of the party leaders should talk to compiler Harry Couden at once. If you should find any bird which is rare for our area, including those on the list which follows, write down all details: field marks, habitat, behavior, when and where seen and by whom, lighting, optical equipment used, your familiarity with the bird and similar species. Then phone Joy Meagher at 685-5702 so the information can be passed on to Harry Couden when he calls during the day. This will give him the opportunity to confirm any sightings. The list: Common Loon, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Snow Goose, European Wigeon, Wood Duck, Virginia Rail, Sora, Semipalmated Plover, Lesser Yellowlegs, Burrowing & Long-Eared Owls, Poorwill, Lewis' Woodpecker, Common Raven, Red-Breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Orange-Crowned, Black-Throated Gray & Townsend Warblers, Tricolored Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Sage & White-Throated Sparrows. Any unusual birds seen during our Count Period (Dec. 25-27, 29-31) should be reported directly to Harry Couden.

The post-Count potluck will be at San Ramon Valley Methodist Church, 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo (1.4 miles south of Stone Valley Rd.) that evening at 6:30. Be sure to bring your own dishes and utensils plus food for AT LEAST 4 times the number in your family attending. Call Olive Chadeayne, not Dec. 24-26, (937-3940) to let her know what you would like to bring. Join us for the preliminary count and hear the tales of adventures experienced by the counters.

\* \* \* \* \*

The field trip to ALAMEDA SOUTH SHORE AND DOOLITTLE POND on December 7 was made by 19 members and guests. The weather was foggy early then sunny for a short time followed by heavy fog for a while but then the sun came out again and a very lovely day emerged. The following 42 species were seen, including a long look at a Clapper Rail out of the water:

Horned, Eared, Western & Pied-Billed Grebe, Brown Pelican, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Canada Goose, Pintail, Amer. Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Common Golden-eye, Bufflehead, Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Red-Breasted Merganser, Clapper Rail, Amer. Coot. Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Long-Billed Curlew, Willet, Dunlin, dowitcher sp., Western Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Amer. Avocet, Glaucous-winged, Western, Ring-Billed & Bonaparte's Gull, Forster's Tern, Water Pipit, Starling, Red-winged Blackbird, House Finch and Savannah Sparrow.

The weekday trips to the U.C. Botanic Garden on November 21 and to Lake Merritt on December 11 were both rained out.

\* \* \* \* \*

It is with great pleasure that we announce the awarding of CAMPERSHIPS for next summer to Audubon Workshop in the Wind River Mountains of Wyoming. Mrs. John Meyer and Mr. Eugene H. Brown, both of Danville, are highly qualified and each is in a position to pass on to the youth of our area the knowledge gained there. Congratulations to both of these recipients.

\* \* \* \* \*

Earl Panzer of El Sobrante makes BIRD FEEDERS of empty bleach bottles. Cut several 3-inch slits about an inch above the bottom, parallel to the bottom, then push in the plastic above the cuts. A 16 penny nail is then driven through the bottom of the bottle at each slit to provide a feeding station, the nail going into a board or panel that serves as a base. The nail keeps the slit open so seed can get into the little trough at each slit. The bottle is filled through the top and the cap replaced. A rain cover can be placed over the bottle. (The Song Sparrow, Napa-Solano Audubon Society)

\* \* \* \* \*

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

Concord: Michael J. Vickers, Leslie Wilson; Danville: Laura Kelleher; Lafayette: Keith Aubry; Martinez: Jay & Elizabeth Meikle, Donald Ohs; Pleasant Hill: the Kenneth Walters family; San Ramon: John B. Watson; Walnut Creek: Lorelei McCorkel, Don Smart, Bud Smith, Sharon L. Wall, E.F. Watson.

\* \* \* \* \*

If you are interested in a RARE BIRD ALERT which is in the planning stage, contact your editor. There are only 2 requirements: willingness to phone a few others and a desire to go out to try to find rare birds that are reported to, or seen by, a member of the alert.

\* \* \* \* \*

The YOSEMITE NAT'L PARK DRAFT MASTER PLAN has been rejected by the National Park Service, bowing to widespread criticism. The plan and the accompanying environmental impact report were found to be deficient in several respects. Rejection of the documents represented a new policy of opening park planning to the public at all stages. It also has been recognized that there is increasing public concern about preserving the beauty of national parks and protecting them from over-commercialism. The new planning program may begin as early as this month and will take 18-20 months. There will be a series of public workshops in the Bay Area and other California locations as well as out-of-state cities due to the national interest in the park.

\* \* \* \* \*

In mid-December MDAS past president Chris Nelson was seen on local television and on the front page of at least one major area newspaper with a story about attempts of the Regional Park District to help preserve newts, slow-moving, lizard-like amphibians which cross the roads near Briones Park. Chris, chief Park District naturalist, came up with the idea of newt crossing signs being put up to warn motorists to watch for the creatures and avoid hitting them with their cars. "People should have a consciousness of other living things," he said. "If they don't, how can they have a consciousness of mankind?" This is one more of Chris' contributions to the world of nature.

\* \* \* \* \*

Col Henry A. Flertzheim has replaced Col. James L. Lammie as district engineer, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, public works programs in northern Calif. Col. Flertzheim has served as curriculum planning officer for the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in Washington, D.C. (Madrone Leaves. Madrone Audubon Society)

\* \* \* \* \*

A CASE IN POINT. Aluminum Company of America opposes Oregon "Bottle Bill"-type of legislation that would, in effect, make non-returnable containers obsolete. Conservationists have been saying that, among other things, throwaway cans are a waste of metal. Now Alcoa has reported a shortage of aluminum and it intends to cease production of household aluminum foil---but to go right on making throwaway aluminum cans. (Audubon Leader)

\* \* \* \* \*

National Audubon believes CONSERVATION must be a basic part of the Nation's policy to reduce energy needs and to buy time for safe, orderly development of new energy sources. The problems are large and complex and must be worked out. Chapters and individual members are urged to let their political leaders know this basic fact: Conservationists are "ready". We believe energy conservation is absolutely essential to America's and the world's future, and we fully support sound programs to accomplish it---even though we know this will mean basic changes in our life style.

\* \* \* \* \*

OBSERVATIONS:

In late Nov. and early Dec. Lynn Farrar added 3 new yard birds for his Lafayette home, putting the list to 137---Long-Billed Curlew, Say's Phoebe and Brown Creeper.

Cattle Egret and 2 European Wigeon, Palo Alto, early Dec.---sev. obs.

Female Hooded Merganser, Jewell Lake in Tilden Park, late Nov. at least through Dec. 15---sev. obs.

Red-Shouldered Hawk, St. Mary's College, late Nov.--LF.

Ruff, back at Martinez, Nov. 22 at least through Dec. 1---sev. obs.

Screech Owl, roosting in pines in his Lafayette yard, Nov. and Dec.--LF.

Short-Eared Owls, several, near Palo Alto Yacht Harbor, Nov. and Dec.--sev. obs.

White-Throated Swifts, 8-10, County Admin. Bldg., Martinez, Dec. 11--AB.

Pileated Woodpecker, Annadel State Park, Nov. 29--FB, J&HG.

Thick-Billed Kingbird, still at McLaren Park, S.F., at least through Dec. 16--sev. obs.

Golden-Crowned Kinglets, in larger numbers than usual in Calif., including 2-3 in her Alamo yard, sev. days Nov. 15-28--JR.

Northern Shrike, first of season at Grizzly Island, Nov. 26.

Orange-Crowned Warbler, at hummingbird feeder in his Lafayette yard, late Nov. and early Dec.--LF.

Black-Throated Blue Warbler, still at Olema at least through Nov. 19--sev. obs.

MacGillivray's Warbler, in her Alamo yard, late date of Nov. 25--JR.

Yellow-Headed Blackbirds, Sacramento Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Dec. 7--B&HA, FB, R&JR, GGAS field trip.

BLACK-HEADED GROSEBEAK, female, his Lafayette yard, very late date of late Nov. through at least Dec. 6--HA.

White-Throated Sparrow, his Lafayette yard, Dec. 6--HA.

Lincoln's Sparrow, Palo Alto, Dec. 16--BR, JR, and others.

SWAMP SPARROW "Invasion" of several, Inverness, late Nov. at least through mid-Dec.--sev. obs.

Chestnut-Collared Longspur, Hall Ranch at Pt. Reyes, 1 still there with 25 Lapland Longspurs through Nov. 26--sev. obs.

(Observers: Betty & Harry Adamson, Al Boileau, Florence Bennett, Lynn Farrar, Golden Gate Aud. Soc., Jerry & Helan Gentile, several observers, Bob, Jean and Rich Richmond)

GOOD BIRDING SPOTS FOR JANUARY:

The waterbirds are back in our area for the winter although the ducks and geese are not yet in their usual large numbers due to a lack of very cold weather to the north which would send the birds south. The numbers of waterfowl at Sacramento Wildlife Refuge on Dec. 7 was the smallest that the Adamsons have seen in all their years of visiting there. However, Sandhill Cranes and Whistling Swans are in the Delta in good numbers, along with many ducks. European Wigeons and Blue-Winged Teal are at Palo Alto and a Cattle Egret was seen there several times. See recent issues of The Quail for birds to look for and where to find them. As I have not yet seen a tide table for 1975 I do not know when high tides will occur. Watch your newspaper for that information then when the tide is high (6 feet or more) arrive near a marsh about an hour ahead of the peak high tide and watch for rails to come up out of the vegetation. Alameda South Shore and the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza marsh are the easiest to reach from here.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE RICHMOND FAMILY WISHES EACH OF YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR AND GOOD 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.: Irene Hellekson  
811 Brown St., Apt. K  
Martinez, CA 94553  
Phone: 229-1837

February 1975  
Vol. 21, No. 8

Next deadline: February 16

- 
- Meeting: Thurs., Feb. 6. Birdingformation: 7 p.m.; social time: 7:30; meeting: 8:00. Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek. Program: "Our Ridgeland Treasures" by Phil Gordon.
- Field Trips: Sat., Feb. 8, Thornton, 9:00 a.m.; carpool: 7:30, Copper Penny, Sun Valley Center. Leader: Bob McCarthy (934-2724).  
Wed., Feb. 19, Golden Gate Park, 9:30 a.m.; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. at Freeway 24, 8:45. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).
- Screen Tour: Fri., Feb. 14, 8 p.m., Diablo Valley College gym. "Animaux Sauvages" (Wild Animals) by San Schippers and Henk Kegel.

\* \* \* \* \*

Birdingformation this month will be a study of woodpeckers. Frank Beyer will present slides and Jean Richmond will play tapes of the birds' calls. Our meeting will feature "Our Ridgeland Treasures--A Question of Planning" by Phil Gordon of Walnut Creek. This program of slides and commentary is a photo-essay on the ecology of the ridgelands between Richmond and Pacheco Pass and including Mt. Diablo. Mr. Gordon is a naturalist-photographer, past president of Ohlone Audubon Society, co-director of Preserve Area Ridgelands Committee, and chairman of Save Sunol Wilderness Coalition.

\* \* \* \* \*

If you want to see Whistling Swans by the thousands, geese, ducks and Sandhill Cranes in large numbers, plus land and water birds of many other species, join us for the trip to Thornton on February 8. Hopefully we will see some of the Cranes doing their courtship dance, and perhaps we can find a Green Heron, Bittern or Barn Owl. Meet us at the Copper Penny in Sun Valley Center at 7:30 to carpool or at 9:00 at Peltier Rd. just off Thornton Rd. south of Thornton. Go north on SR24 then east on SR4. Cross the Antioch Bridge and continue on SR160 to SR12. Turn right on SR 12 about 16 miles to Thornton Rd. then left about 5 miles to Peltier.

The weekday trip on February 19 is to Golden Gate Park for close-ups of water birds and gulls. Two years ago we found a pair of Red Crossbills there. Meet us on Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Freeway 24 at 8:45 to carpool or at 9:30 inside the park at 43rd and Fulton.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Audubon Wildlife Film on February 14, "Animaux Sauvages" by San Schipper and Henk Kegel, is an extraordinary, brilliant study of some of the wild creatures of Africa, a carefully filmed exploration of life styles, and a documentary which won the award for being the best educational documentary at the Cannes Film Festival, 1971. Presented with no admission charge, the film will be shown at 8 p.m. in the DVC gym.

\* \* \* \* \*

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT day, 1974, will be long remembered by all who took part---cold, wind, rain, sleet, hail and snow, we had it all, Snow forced the closure of Mt. Diablo State Park, keeping us from some excellent areas. The weather improved considerably in the afternoon although it remained cold and windy. The Bald Eagle, an adult found at Mallard Reservoir, was a first for our count. The 43 observers, out in 13 parties between 5:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., found 118 species, plus one additional race, including 81,800 individuals. Although most local counts were down, ours was normal in spite of adverse weather: 118 in 1970, 115 in 1971, 117 in 1972, 116 in 1973. The following species were seen on our CBC on December 28:

Horned, Western & Pied-Billed Grebe, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Whistling Swan, Canada & White-Fronted Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail (25,700), Green-winged Teal, EUROPEAN & American WIGEON, Northern Shoveler (32,000), Wood & Ring-Necked Duck, Canvasback, Com. Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Sharp-Shinned, Cooper's, Red-Tailed & ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK, Golden & BALD EAGLE, Marsh Hawk, Amer. Kestrel (Sparrow Hawk), Calif. Quail, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Sora, Com. Gallinule, Amer. Coot, Killdeer, Com. Snipe, Long-Billed Curlew, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Long-Billed Dowitcher, West. Sandpiper, Amer. Avocet, Black-Necked Stilt, Glaucous-winged, Herring, California, Ring-Billed, Mew & Bonaparte's Gull, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Rock & Mourning Dove, Barn, Screech and Great Horned Owl, White-Throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Com. (Red-Shafted) Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Yellow-Bellied (Red-Breasted) Sapsucker, Hairy, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black & Say's Phoebe, Horned Lark, TREE SWALLOW, Steller's & Scrub Jay, COM. RAVEN, Common Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Wrentit, Winter, Bewick's & Long-Billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Calif. Thrasher, Amer. Robin, Varied & Hermit Thrush, West. Bluebird, Golden-Crowned & Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Yellow-Rumped (Audubon's) Warbler, House Sparrow, West. Meadowlark, Redwinged & Brewer's Blackbird, Purple & House Finch, Pine Siskin, Amer. & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Savannah & Lark Sparrow, Dark-Eyed (Slate-Colored & Oregon) Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox & Song Sparrow.

Seen during our count period (Dec. 25-31) but not on Count Day were Blue-winged & Cinnamon Teal, SANDHILL CRANE (first County record), Black-Bellied Plover and Orange-Crowned Warbler, plus the European Tree Sparrow (an escapee, undoubtedly) which has been around the last two years.

\* \* \* \* \*

For the field trip to LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR on January 11 the weather was the complete opposite of that for the Christmas Count. The skies were a beautiful blue and the temperature a little cool for the 42 members and guests who attended. While we were sorry to miss seeing the Acorn Woodpecker, Hermit Thrush and House Finch, there were no tears that we also missed Starlings. We had a close view in excellent light of Ring-Necked Ducks near the dock. The following 43 species were seen or heard:

Eared & Pied-Billed Grebe, Mallard, Ring-Necked Duck, Canvasback, Com. Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Com. Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-Shinned, Cooper's & Red-Tailed Hawk, Amer. Kestrel (Sparrow Hawk). Calif. Quail, Amer. Coot, Killdeer, California & Ring-Billed Gull, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Wrentit, Bewick's wren, Calif. Thrasher, Amer. Robin, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Yellow-Rumped (Audubon's) warbler, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco, white-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

\* \* \* \* \*

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

Antioch: Gary Cottle, Mrs. A Crase, Sara A. Long; Concord: E. L. Miner, Patrick Williams; Danville: Frank Moran; Lafayette: Mrs. E E Brinckerhoff, Mrs. W. C. Kerr, George Malloch; Martinez: Capt. E. R. Vorenkamp; Pittsburg: Brenda Maxine; Pleasant Hill: David Fujikawa, the T. B. Martin Family; Walnut Creek: Mrs. E. L. Alexander, Jim Bentkowski, Alvin T. Hansen, Frank Sankey.

\* \* \* \* \*

**PERIPHERAL CANAL.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has set February 7 as the deadline for receiving written objections to the construction of the Peripheral Canal. If you wish to submit a letter stating reasons why you feel this project should not be approved, sent it to Col. F. G. Rockwell, Jr., U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 650 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, CA 95814.

\* \* \* \* \*

**U.S. SUPREME COURT AND NEPA (and who???)** The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires government agencies to file an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) analyzing all possible objections to and benefits from any project which will alter the environment. The agency must then weigh these factors before deciding whether to proceed with the project. Two aspects of NEPA which have not been clarified are now into a test case.

First, who has the ultimate responsibility for assessing the completeness and accuracy of an EIS? Is it the agency which originated the project and so has self-interest in the project or is it the Council on Environmental Quality (an independent agency)? Second, if the agency decides to proceed with a project after an adequate EIS reveals serious problems, can the courts step in and make a substantive review of the agency's decision? In other words, can the courts say: "This project has so many adverse environmental effects that for you to proceed is an abuse of your discretionary powers, and we rule that you may not do it." Five of the nine U.S. Circuit Courts have ruled that the courts may do this, two have ruled that they may not. Only the U.S. Supreme Court can resolve this conflict.

These are the questions the Warm Springs Dam Case, now in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, seeks to have resolved. This is a true test case, and from it should come a landmark decision affecting hundreds of projects all over the country.

Going to court is extremely expensive even though the lawyers have carried this case for nearly a year without salary as they believe so strongly in its importance. The plaintiffs are all "little" people, such as the League of Women Voters and the Dry Creek Band of Pomo Indians. As big conservation organizations have a slump in investment income and therefore can not help, we will all have to help if the case is to be carried to its logical conclusion. If you feel this case is truly important, send a tax deductible contribution to Warm Springs - Legal, P.O. Box 6181, Santa Rosa, CA 95406 to help pay expenses for this suit. (Madrone Audubon Society)

\* \* \* \* \*

**DINNER ANYONE?** We have an opportunity to schedule a five-course dinner of superb cuisine in the Norseman Room at Diablo Valley College on March 12 preceeding the Audubon Wildlife Film, "Wandering Through Florida" by Roy Coy. The dinner will be served at 6:30 which allows ample time to enjoy dinner before making the leisurely walk to the gym to view the film. The dinner, prepared and served by the Restaurant and Catering majors at the college, requires a minimum of 40 paid reservations. We have to know if there is sufficient interest to warrant planning such a dinner. You are welcome to invite friends to attend with you. If you are interested in attending, contact Carol Pursell (603 Aleta Dr., Pleasant Hill 94523; phone 689-2537) at or before our February 6 meeting. If we do have this dinner, the \$5.00 per person will not be due until March 1.

\* \* \* \* \*

The world's only wild flock of WHOOPING CRANES returned this fall to its wintering grounds in Texas, where Aransas National Wildlife Refuge officials report there are 49 of the big birds, including two newly fledged young. Last year there were 48 birds which included only one young.

\* \* \* \* \*

### OBSERVATIONS:

Green Heron, her Pleasant Hill backyard, Jan. 8--JM.

3 Cattle Egrets, Joice Island, Benicia Christmas Count, Dec. 22; 2, Martinez, Jan. 11 (1st County record)--H&JG, Jan. 12--LF, et al; 1 at Palo Alto since mid-Dec.--sev. obs.

Whistling Swan, Benecia State Recreation Area, Benicia Christmas Count--LF, FB, JH, BR, JR; est. 15,000, SR12 east of Rio Vista, Dec. 26--BR, JR.

European Wigeon, still at Palo Alto--sev. obs.

Wood Duck, back at Jewell Lake, Tilden Park, Dec. 20--ED.

200 Ring-Necked Ducks, Briones Reservoir, Jan. 15--PG.

Barrow's Goldeneye, female and imm. male, Lake Merritt, Dec. 30--BR, JR.

Hooded Merganser, female, Jewell Lake--sev. obs.; pair, Lake Merritt, early Jan.--JC; 2 males, 1 female, lagoon in Corte Madera, Jan. 14--JR et al.

BALD EAGLE, full adult, Mallard Reservoir, MDAS Christmas Count, Dec. 28 (1st MDAS count record)--FB, et al; also seen through Dec. 31--sev. obs.

BLACK RAIL, Benicia St. Rec. Area, Benicia CBC, Dec. 22--JR, FB, LF, JH, BR.

Lesser Yellowlegs, I-680 & Parish Rd. beyond Benicia Bridge, Dec. 26--BR, JR.

Sandhill Crane, Mallard Reservoir, Dec. 29--JR, AB, FB, BR. First confirmed County record.

Pygmy Owl, Carson Valley, Nev., Jan. 2--JR, BR, RR.

Yellow-Billed Magpie, 2, Benicia St. Rec. Area, Dec. 31--JR, BR, VH, R&TD.

Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Blue Rock Springs Park, Solano County, mid-Dec. through at least mid-Jan.--FB, et al.

HARRIS' SPARROW, his backyard feeder, Berkeley, Dec. 11 at least through Jan. 15--CG. To arrange to see the bird, contact him at 843-8846.

3 Lincoln's Sparrows, Benicia St. Rec. Area, Benicia CBC, Dec. 22--sev. obs.

Blackbirds have been observed bathing in the Stellers' backyard swimming pool in Danville. The birds splatter around in the water as if it were a birdbath then take off and fly away.

(Observers: Alan Brown, Frank Beyer, Jim Clayton, Ruth & Ted Dement, Elizabeth Dickey, Lynn Farrar, Helen & Jerry Gentile, Clark Gleason, Phil Gordon, Jim Hein, Vi Homem, Joy Meagher, Bob, Jean and Rich Richmond)

### GOOD BIRDING SPOTS FOR FEBRUARY:

Waterbirds are in good numbers all over the area. If loons are on your list for viewing, the mouth of Tamales Bay at Dillon Beach is one of the "looniest" places around. Whistling Swans are in the Delta in tremendous numbers, an estimated 15,000 on Dec. 26, many of them along SR12 around Glascock and Correia Rds. The Sandhill Cranes have begun their courtship dance which is quite interesting to watch. The Barrow's Goldeneyes at Lake Merritt have been along Lakeshore Ave. between the log boom and the lake's outlet. If you go to Palo Alto to look for the European Wigeon or Cattle Egret, ask at the Nature Center where the birds have been most recently seen as they turn up in various places there. If you hope to see Mountain Plovers in the San Joaquin Valley (see Dec. issue) plan to go there fairly soon before they depart for their breeding areas. Los Banos Wildlife Area has White-Faced Ibis as well as Sandhill Cranes, geese and ducks. Check recent issues for other specific places to go and birds to be seen. Keep an eye out for Allen's Hummingbirds which may be arriving back in our area at any time. High tides will be Feb. 7-8 and 24-25. Arrive an hour before peak high tide to look for rails, then stay as the tide starts out and watch the shorebirds as they move in to feed.

\* \* \* \* \*

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

March 1975  
Vol. 21, No. 9

Next deadline: March 16

- 
- Meeting: Thurs., Mar. 6. Birdingformation: 7 p.m.; social time: 7:30; meeting: 8:00. Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek. Bobbie Meyer will present a program on wildlife rehabilitation.
- Field Trips: Sat., Mar. 8, Bodega Bay, 9:30 a.m.; carpool: 7:30, Copper Penny in Sun Valley Center. Leader: Harry Couden (934-8873).  
Thurs., Mar. 20, Sunol Regional Park, 9:30 a.m.; carpool: 8:45, Alamo Shopping Plaza. Leader: Sally Steller (837-9061).
- Board Meeting: Wed., Mar. 19, 7:30 p.m., Bob McCarthy's home, 1929 Dora Ave., Walnut Creek, phone 934-2724.
- Screen Tour: Wed., Mar. 12, 8 p.m., Diablo Valley College gym. "Wandering Through Florida" by Roy Coy. No admission charge.

\* \* \* \* \*

Jean Richmond will lead Birdingformation on hawk identification. Bring field guides with you and also any slides you may have of hawks. The program for the meeting will be a presentation by Mrs. Bobbie Meyer on the preparation of wildlife for release back into the wild. A resident of Danville, Mrs. Meyer is active in this work being done by Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum. She is the recipient of one of our Camperships to the Audubon Workshop in Wyoming this summer.

\* \* \* \* \*

On Mar. 8 we are going to Bodega Bay, led again by Harry Couden. Hopefully he and Frank Beyer will be prepared with a few rocks if we need to flush a Snipe from the marsh again. My own records for Bodega list 113 species of waterbirds, ducks, shorebirds and landbirds, including Red-Necked Grebe and Rock Sandpiper. Meet at 7:30 near the Copper Penny in Sun Valley Center to carpool. Go north on Highway 101 to Petaluma then follow the signs from the Washington St. exit to SR1 then north to The Tides Restaurant in the middle of the town of Bodega Bay and meet us there at 9:30.

We go to Sunol Park on Thursday, Mar. 20, where Sally Steller will lead us along Alameda Creek to look for land birds. Last year our trip list of 51 species included Golden Eagle and White-Throated Sparrow. Perhaps the Dipper will show up for us also. Meet at Alamo Shopping Plaza at 8:45 to carpool. Go south on I-680 about 9 miles past Dublin to Calaveras Rd., turn left under the freeway about 4 miles to Geary Rd., then left about 2 miles to the park headquarters. Meet us there at 9:30.

\* \* \* \* \*

The final Audubon Film of this season, "Wandering Through Florida" by Roy Coy, will be shown March 12 in the Diablo Valley College gym at 8 p.m. Florida, with its lovely landscape and incredibly rich and abundant wildlife, is an endless source of fascination and enjoyment.

\* \* \* \* \*

We have scheduled a DINNER March 12 preceding this season's final Audubon film. The 5-course dinner will be served at 6:30 in the Norseman Room at Diablo Valley College by the Restaurant and Catering majors of the college. You are welcome to invite friends to attend the dinner and the film with you. To make reservations, send a check for \$5.00 per person to Carol Purcell, 603 Aleta Pl., Pleasant Hill 94523 no later than March 1.

\* \* \* \* \*

Leaving soupy fog at home, we arrived at LAKE MERRITT to find sunny skies and mild temperature on our field trip January 22. By lunchtime we had shed heavy sweaters and coats and thoroughly enjoyed the sun. The nine members got an excellent view of a Barrow's Goldeneye through the scope as well as a close look at a Green-Winged Teal. The following 41 species were seen or heard:

Horned, Eared & Pied-Billed Grebe, White Pelican, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great (Common) & Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Mallard, Pintail, Green-Winged Teal, Canvasback, Greater & Lesser Scaup, Common & Barrow's Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Amer. Coot, Glaucous-Winged, Herring (?), California, Ring-Billed & Mew Gull, Rock & Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Amer. Robin, Starling, House Sparrow, Redwinged & Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, Amer. Goldfinch, Brown Towhee, White-Crowned Sparrow.

The field trip to THORNTON on February 8 was made in lovely weather in spite of fog at home and dire predictions of rain. Field trips chairman Bob McCarthy obviously has an "in" with the weatherman as the rain did not begin until the 17 members on the trip were well on the way home. There was only one Whistling Swan but many Sandhill Cranes some of which were doing a bit of courtship dance. On SR12 near Glascock Rd. a big flock of large white birds was spotted, the group stopped to look through scopes and found---decoys. However, the following live species were seen:

Eared & Pied-Billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Great (Common) Egret, Amer. Bittern, Whistling Swan, White-Fronted Goose, Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, Amer. Kestrel (Sparrow Hawk), Ring-Necked Pheasant, Sandhill Crane, Com. Gallinule, Amer. Coot, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Long-Billed Curlew, Dunlin, Ring-Billed Gull, Mourning Dove, Burrowing Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Common (Red-Shafted) Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Scrub Jay, Com. Crow, Long-Billed Marsh Wren, Amer. Robin, Water Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, Yellow-Rumped (Audubon's) Warbler, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Redwinged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Rufous-Sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco, White-Crowned, Fox, and Song Sparrow.

\* \* \* \* \*

Endangered WHOOPING CRANES winter on and near Matagorda Island, Texas, which has been a practice bombing range for the Air Force. The range is to be closed down and the island turned over to General Services Admin. to be sold as surplus property. Hopefully as much of it as possible will become a wildlife refuge as it would be a logical extension of Dept. of Interior's nearby Aransas Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, where most of the Cranes winter.

\* \* \* \* \*

The BROWN PELICAN which suffered a dramatic decline in the 1950's and 60's now appears to be raising young with increasing success. The discontinued use of DDT and other persistent pesticides is thought to be primarily responsible for fledgling success of the past few years. After virtually no hatchlings in recent years, in 1973 some 34 young hatched on the Anacapa Islands, last year there were 305. There has been a similar favorable trend in other birds whose soft-shelled eggs had not been hatching.

\* \* \* \* \*

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

Alamo: Charles P. Mathe, Jr.; Concord: Mrs. Edwin L. Benedict, Clifford DeMagri, Paul & Donna Feldsher, Craig Ronayne, the Philip D. Shea family, Miss Carol Tucker; Danville: Phyllis Barton, D. R. Datwyler; Lafayette: Mr. & Mrs. John J. Carlson, Jim Edgar, Mrs. E. Quenzel, Diane Smith; Martinez: I. C. McCutchan; Pittsburg: S. Chin, Mrs. Ray Faria; San Ramon: Dr. V. L. Kirkland, Ann Redfield; Walnut Creek: Melvin M. Melnicoe, Jr., Mrs. D. Mirk, Mr. & Mrs. H. D. Orcutt, Jane N. Ploss, J. Ruldolph Sehring, Harry & Freda Smith.

\* \* \* \* \*

The NOMINATING COMMITTEE is at work on a slate of officers for next year and would very much appreciate your help and cooperation. If you would like to offer the name of an individual for any office or to volunteer yourself, please contact Sally Steller (837-9061), Helen Gentile (228-6297) or Olive Chadeayne (937-3940). If you would like to volunteer do not hesitate, even if you have never held an office in MDAS before. We hope some of our newer members might volunteer their services as we would like to add fresh faces and ideas to the Board.

\* \* \* \* \*

The MARTINEZ BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION is seeking participation in projects for next year's 200th birthday of our nation and the 100th birthday of Martinez. To make it a memorable occasion, they would like input from MDAS as to what we would like to see accomplished for this event. Send your ideas on what to add to celebration activities to the Martinez Bicentennial Commission, 525 Henrietta St., Martinez 94553. We also need a representative at the commission meetings which are presently being held on the fourth Monday each month at 3 p.m. in the City Hall Conference Room at the above address. If you can serve in this capacity please contact president Irene Hellekson.

\* \* \* \* \*

The NATIONAL WOOLGROWERS ASSOCIATION has launched an all-out effort to overturn the Executive Order banning poisons to control predators on public lands and is asking for reinstatement of the use of such things as strychnine and Compound 1080. Letters are urgently needed to counteract this pressure by the woolgrowers. Write President Ford and Secretary of Interior Rogers C. B. Morton (Washington, D.C. 20240) asking that the Administration stand firm on the poison ban. A year ago a massive outpouring of letters helped repel an attempt to reverse the Executive Order and another effort must be launched now to present our views on the overall effect of poisons on all wildlife. Sheep losses to coyotes, which we still feel are exaggerated, can be cut down by better sheep management practices and selective controls in cases of individual predators causing trouble.

\* \* \* \* \*

A CAMPAIGN to double National Audubon Society membership is under way and will last through June 30. Thanks to a grant from the Whittell Estate, cash prizes will be made in each of the NAS regions: \$1000 to the chapter showing the greatest number of new members in the six-month period and \$500 to the chapter with the greatest percentage growth. "Every Member Bring in a New Member."

\* \* \* \* \*

NATURE EXCURSIONS to California, Arizona and Mexico, offered by Point Reyes Bird Observatory: Birds of the Bay Area, Apr. 26-27, May 10-11; Plants of Pt. Reyes, May 3-4; Land Birds of Pt. Reyes Peninsula, May 16-18; Birds of Southeast Arizona, May 20-25; Natural History of Pt. Reyes, June 9-13; Transect of California, June 22-27; East of the Sierra, July 13-18; Stanislaus River - Flow of Life, July 26-31; Birds of San Blas, Nayarit, Nov. 21-29; Birds of the Barrancas, Mexico, Dec. 5-12. Details from Meryl Stewart, P.O. Box 442 Bolinas, CA 94924.

\* \* \* \* \*

OBSERVATIONS:

150 White Pelicans, Chabot Park, Vallejo, Jan. 17--H&FKB; 30 over Moraga, Jan. 21--CS; one in Livermore, Jan 22--AE.

BEWICK'S SWAN, accompanied by 3 immatures, Hog Lake near Red Bluff, Jan. 13--Stephen Laymon. Seen by many obs. at least through Jan. 23. This bird, identified as the northeast Siberian race, is the second North American record. The first record may or may not have been a wild bird. Oldsquaw, Monterey, Jan. 26--PR.

Hooded Merganser female, Chabot Park, Jan. 17---H&FKB.

Ferruginous Hawk, near Merced Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Feb. 1--NS, FGB, H&JG, JR, et al, on GGAS field trip.

Lesser Yellowlegs, Los Banos Wildlife Area, Feb. 1--FGB, H&JG, JR, et al, on GGAS field trip; one beyond Parish Rd. along frontage road of I-680 north of Benicia Bridge, Feb. 4--JR, VH.

RUFF, near Benicia, Jan. 31--H&FKB. Probably the same bird that was near Martinez. At high tide take Mt. Herman Rd. exit from I-680 north of Benicia Bridge and continue along frontage road to the first pond.

Glaucous Gull, Spreckels Lake, Golden Gate Park, mid-Jan.

LITTLE GULL, immature, on pond at Zmudowski State Beach near Moss Landing, Jan. 19--Brian McCaffery. Seen by many obs. at least through mid-Feb. Third record for the state, first record for Northern California.

First reported Allen's Hummingbird of the season, their Martinez backyard, Feb. 2--H&JG.

Rock Wren, back again at Coyote Hills, Feb. 11--JR, EE, et al.

Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Coyote Hills, Feb. 11--JR, EE, et al.

Thick-Billed Murre, again at Monterey mid-Feb.--sev. obs.

Tennessee Warbler, Golden Gate Park, Jan. 18--Bill Purcell.

20 Brown-Headed Cowbirds, Heather Farms, Jan. 21--AB.

(Observers: Florence G. Bennett, Helene & Frank K. Beyer, Alan Brown, Art Edwards, Ed Eichstedt, Golden Gate Aud. Soc., Vi Homem, Jean Richmond, Peter Rosmarin, Clair Shackelford, Nick Story)

GOOD BIRDING SPOTS FOR MARCH:

March is the month to look for early migrants. Allen's Hummingbirds are back and the Rufous Hummers should be passing through on their way north. Swallows of several species will be arriving at any time and can be found in many places. Caspian Terns should show up early this month in places like Alameda South Shore. Later in March try Mines Rd. south of Livermore for such things as Golden Eagle, several species of swallows, Swainson's Thrush, Phainopepla and Bullock's Oriole. Those birds were among the 63 species I saw there on March 24 last year. By the end of the month some of the wintering shorebirds will begin donning their breeding plumage so a check along the Bay will be worth a try. Most wintering birds will be with us for another month or so and the bulk of our spring migrants and summer residents are not due back until April or May but keep an eye open for any unusually early arrivals. Check recent issues for places to see wintering species before they leave for their northern breeding grounds. Monterey has had several unusual species of waterbirds and at times in the past has turned up real goodies. The Broad-Winged Hawk has remained at the Carmel River mouth for some time and a Rusty Blackbird has been seen in that general area by several observers. Point Reyes is another spot which turns up more than its share of rarities at any time of the year. Keep me posted on the birds you find, especially the first arrivals of migrants and summer residents and of course any rare species you may happen to come across. If you do find a rare species, please phone me as soon as you can so that those of us interested in seeing rarities may have a chance of seeing it.

\* \* \* \* \*

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

April 1975  
Vol. 21, No. 10

Next deadline: April 5

---

Meeting: Thurs., Apr. 3. Birdingformation: 7 p.m.; social time: 7:30; meeting: 8:00. Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek. Dick Angel will present a wildflower program.

Field Trips: Wed., Apr. 9, Veterans' Park, Livermore, 9:30 a.m.; carpool: Alamo Shopping Plaza, 8:45. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).  
Sat., Apr. 12, Briones Regional Park (west), 8:30 a.m. Leader: Florence Bennett (933-3781). This trip is a week later than usual.  
Sat., Apr. 26, Mt. Diablo State Park, 8:30 a.m. Leader: Bob McCarthy (934-2724).

\* \* \* \* \*

Birdingformation will be a review of local birds using John Davis' slides and written commentary. Birds will be shown without being named until after you have a chance to identify them on your own. For our meeting Dick Angel will present an excellent narrated slide program about wildflowers. Mr. Angel is a naturalist at Sunol Valley Regional Park.

\* \* \* \* \*

The weekday trip on Wed., Apr. 9, is to Veterans' Park south of Livermore where we will see many different kinds of birds in a variety of habitats. There should be Wood Duck, hawks, woodpeckers, swallows, thrushes, orioles, sparrows and others. Meet at Alamo Shopping Plaza at 8:45 to carpool. Go south on I-680, then east on I-580 to N. Livermore exit, south to 4th St., right to L St. which becomes Arroyo Rd. and continue to Veterans' Park. We meet at 9:30 in the parking lot on the right side of the road.

The weekend trip is a week later than usual, Apr. 12. Briones Park has a variety of wildflowers as well as birds. The many species of landbirds should include flycatchers, vireos, warblers, orioles and grosbeaks. Take Upper Happy Valley Rd. exit from the freeway in Lafayette. At Happy Valley Rd. turn left 2 miles to Bear Creek Rd. then right half a mile to the right turn into the park. Meet in the parking lot at 8:30 a.m.

We are having a second weekend trip this month as part of "Spring on the Mountain" which is to help in the efforts of Save Mt. Diablo to publicize the need to add land to the park. The Lazuli Buntings and Black-Chinned Sparrows should be back for the season as should other species to join the residents such as Sage and Rufous-Crowned Sparrows. Meet us at 8:30 on South Gate Rd. at a point 2.7 miles from the left turn near the Athenian School. This is before you reach the South Gate entrance station.

\* \* \* \* \*

Please note the EARLY DEADLINE for the May issue is April 5.

In spite of the rain, 8 adventurous people went to GOLDEN GATE PARK on Feb. 19 and found good birding, including good views of 5 Wood Ducks and several Pygmy Nuthatches. A Ring-Billed Gull and a Mew Gull flew in and landed very close together for an excellent study and comparison of the two species. The following 31 species were seen or heard:

Pied-Billed Grebe, Mallard, Cinnamon Teal, Amer. Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Wood Duck, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck, Cooper's Hawk, Amer. Coot, Ring-Billed & Mew Gull, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Rock Dove, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Black Phoebe, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Pygmy Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Amer. Robin, Varied & Hermit Thrush, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Yellow-Rumped (Audubon's) Warbler, House Finch, Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox & Song Sparrow.

Twenty-five intrepid birders left home on March 8 under threatening skies, drove through intermittent rain and arrived at BODEGA BAY hoping for only occasional rain. The skies began clearing and we had a dry but very windy day of excellent birding which included a good view of an immature male OLDSQUAW. We also saw an albino Marbled Godwit in the midst of a flock of normally plumaged birds. We missed the Sabine's Gull seen that morning by members of Sacramento Audubon but we did see the following 74 species:

Com. & Red-Throated Loon, Red-Necked, Horned, Eared & Western Grebe, Double-Crested, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Black Brant, Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, Northern Shoveler, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, OLDSQUAW, White-Winged & Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Red-Breasted Merganser, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, Amer. Kestrel (Sparrow Hawk), California Quail, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Amer. Coot, Black Oystercatcher, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Surf-bird, Black Turnstone, Willet, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Short-Billed Dowitcher, Western Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Glaucous-Winged, Western, Herring, California, Ring-Billed & Mew Gull, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-Shafted Flicker, Black Phoebe, Scrub Jay, Common Raven, Bushtit, Bewick's & Long-Billed Marsh Wren, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Yellow-Rumped (Audubon's) Warbler, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Brown Towhee, Savannah, White-Crowned, Fox & Song Sparrow.

\* \* \* \* \*

At the March meeting a NEW POLICY for field trips was adopted by the members. As a result of the high cost of operating our cars, passengers will in the future be expected to share the expenses of driving on field trips. We will follow the existing Sierra Club policy of passengers chipping in 2¢ per mile per person upon return to the point of origin of the trip. We will evaluate this at a future date for any changes deemed necessary.

\* \* \* \* \*

HELP!! We need more leaders for the highly successful Birdingformation sessions held prior to our monthly meetings. We also would like to know what topics you would like to have covered. As a leader you need not be an expert on birds but if you have a special area of knowledge you can help others to learn. Contact your president or editor.

\* \* \* \* \*

RARE BIRD ALERTS. Northern Calif.: 843-2211 (Berkeley). Southern Calif.: (213) 874-1318. Seattle: (206) 455-9722 for info on field trips and rare birds. Philadelphia's "dial-a-bird": (215) 236-BIRD. New York area: (212) 832-6523. Many cities in the east have such tapes and most are listed under "Voice of Audubon" in the phone books. OPERATION NATURE GUIDE is another great aid to traveling birders, listing people who will help you either in person or with information of birds and birding in their locality. Send 50¢ to Nature Guide, 34915 4th Ave. S., Federal Way, WA 98002.

\* \* \* \* \*

A predator is any creature who beats you to a creature you wanted yourself. (Appalachian Audubon News)

We warmly welcome the following new members of MDAS:

Alamo: Susannah S. Walters; Brentwood: Larry J. Wilgenbush; Concord: L. H. Clingman, Mr. & Mrs. F. J. Culhane, Patricia Disbrow, Robert T. & Betty Gallagher, Cindy Goncalves, John M. Probst, J. L. Smith, Ernest B. Strongman; Danville: Mrs. A. H. Bushy; Lafayette: Andrew & Judith Adler, Judith Mon, Mr. & Mrs. Walter McNiell, Mrs. D. Rees, Clifford Silvan, Chandler P. Young; Martinez: Mario Balestrieri, Alice E. Bonner; Pittsburg: Wm. E. Downer, Mrs. Henry C. Pratt; Pleasant Hill: Louise Anderson, David & Kathy Biggs, Margaret G. Loratta, Barb Shen, Gene T. Wilson; Walnut Creek: Mrs. E. Calhoon, Carol Caster, Bea Ferreira, A. S. Harvey, Dr. & Mrs. C. T. Headland, Jacqueline D. Jones, Erma Ann Leighton, Joe Lopez, P. D. Molen, Jr., Frances D. Rusk, G. N. Weston, MD, L. M. Willis.

\* \* \* \* \*

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS will be held at the April meeting. The nominating committee offers the following candidates: president, Tom Lee; vice-president (program), Bob Bary; vice-president (conservation), Leon Borowski; secretary, Jean Holden; treasurer, Florence Bennett.

\* \* \* \* \*

"THE BOOK OF OWLS" by Lewis Wayne Walker (Knopf, New York, 1974, \$12.50) is a book of excellent text and fabulous photographs. Thirteen species of owls are covered in a manner which shows the author's long, deep interest in these birds. A Potpourri of Facts, the final chapter, contains much information about the order Strigiformes. This book is highly recommended by your editor for fascinating reading.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE OWL--A FRIEND IN THE BARN. One Barn Owl is said to be worth more than 8-12 average cats in the destroying of rats and mice. The owl is the non-pareil of rat traps, never needing baiting, never having to be set. This owl functions every day, winter and summer from dusk to dawn. Other owls help too---and to kill an owl is to kill a friend. (Maricopa Audubon, Scottsdale, Ariz., by way of Monterey Peninsula Audubon)

\* \* \* \* \*

The APPOINTMENT by Governor Brown of Claire Dedrick as Secretary of Resources is good news to conservationists. A national vice president of Sierra Club, she resigned that post to accept the appointment to this position. Among the departments under her able jurisdiction are Fish & Game, Water, and State Parks.

\* \* \* \* \*

Don't let them tell you that POLLUTION CONTROL costs are one of the causes of inflation, or that we "can't afford" clean air and water! Under new environmental laws industry is being required to spend more money on pollution control and the cost is presumably being passed on to the consumer. How much is this adding to the cost of living? This year, according to the President's Council on Environmental Quality, pollution abatement costs amounted to only about seven tenths of one percent of the Gross National Product--hardly enough to rate as a root cause of today's economic woes.

And don't forget the high cost of NOT cleaning up our air and water. The cost of pollution is difficult to pin down, but most sources agree it runs somewhere between \$6 and \$18 billion a year for health-related expenses (work days lost, medical bills, etc., particularly from respiratory disease), property damage, crop damage, and so on. When you balance the savings from clean-up against its cost, the case for blaming environmentalists for the high cost of living disappears entirely. (Audubon Leader)

\* \* \* \* \*

"Our natural resources furnish the basis of all our national wealth. Stripped of them, we have nothing." (Sign at the entrance to Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge)

\* \* \* \* \*

OBSERVATIONS:

OLDSQUAW, imm. male, Bodega Bay, Mar. 8--MDAS field trip.

European SMEW, very shy male, Riefel Refuge near Vancouver, B.C., Jan. 18--

Terry Wahl. Seen again Jan. 25. (This duck is related to mergansers.)

Broad-winged Hawk, Monterey, Feb. 22--H&JG, FGB, JR.

Golden Eagle, over Alamo, Feb. 27--JR; 2 imm, 1 on I-5 near Los Banos, 1 on Little Panoche Rd., San Benito County, Mar. 15--FGB, B&MJG, WM, JR, ES.

Chukars, 3, Shotgun Pass on Little Panoche Rd., Feb. 25--JR, et al. Check the west side of the pass in the washes where there is more cover.

Mountain Plover, 100+, Little Panoche Rd., mid-Feb--sev. obs.

ROSS' GULL, Salisbury, Mass., Mar. 2. This rarely seen Siberian bird was the first record on the East Coast, bringing birders long distances to see it. The sighting was even reported on NBC national news Mar. 7.

Thick-Billed Murre, Monterey, Feb. 22--JR, FGB, H&JG.

First reported Rufous Hummingbird of season, her Alamo yard, Feb. 26--JR.

An earlier Allen's Hummingbird than reported last month, her Lafayette yard, Jan 25--MM.

Phainopepla, male, their Rossmoor yard, Mar. 15--A&AB.

Yellow-Shafted Flicker, his Lafayette yard, Mar. 16--DM.

First reported Yellow Warblers of season, his Lafayette yard, Mar. 8--LF; near her Pleasant Hill home, Mar. 14--KB.

White-Throated Sparrow, his Lafayette yard, mid-Mar.--LF.

(Observers: Florence G. Bennett, Kathy Biggs, Al & Ann Boileau, Lynn Farrar, Helen & Jerry Gentile, Bill & Mary Jane Greene, Dan Mitchell, Molly Monheit, Winifred Murison, Jean Richmond, Edie Shilling)

GOOD BIRDING SPOTS FOR APRIL:

Spring migration is getting underway and birders are getting itchy feet. The Allen's Hummingbirds are back and the Rufous Hummers are going through. First reports of Yellow Warblers are in, swifts are back in good numbers, swallows are back in ever-increasing flocks. The mainstream of migration will soon be on us. As we greet the incoming migrants and summer residents we must bid goodbye to the wintering species. Before they leave, however, many of the winter birds don all or part of their beautiful breeding plumage. The loons began acquiring their spring plumage in mid-March, the cormorants were doing so in February. Shorebirds should be changing at any time. To look for loons, grebes and shorebirds in their new finery try points along the Bay such as Alameda, Toll Plaza marsh, and Albany mud flats. Cormorants in breeding plumage can be seen in many places along the ocean. The courtship dance of Western Grebes can usually be seen at Richardson Bay. Some grebes were observed on March 11 from Battery Wallace in Marin County doing a little of the beginning of courtship behavior. For returning summer birds and migrants passing through, keep an eye on your own backyard as well as checking out areas such as Lafayette Reservoir, Briones Park and Mt. Diablo close to home. Farther afield, try Mines Rd., Sunol Park, Coyote Hills, Mt. Hamilton, Alum Rock Park in San Jose (crowded on warm weekends), Golden Gate Park (also somewhat crowded on weekends), Rodeo Lagoon and Battery Wallace in Marin County, Audubon Canyon Ranch on Bolinas Lagoon and Pt. Reyes. In Redwood Park MacGillivray's and Hermit Warblers are sometimes seen. Calliope Hummingbirds have been found near the model airplane area in Tilden Park. Black-Chinned Sparrows are usually back near South Gate entrance to Mt. Diablo in late April.

Migrants tend to follow warm fronts so watch carefully at such times. For nesting birds put out bits of string and yarn and also the lint from the dryer. Be careful with pruning in the spring as you may disturb nesting birds. Please keep me posted on rarities, arrival dates of migrants and summer residents, and departure dates of winter birds.

\* \* \* \* \*





# 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

May 1975  
Vol. 21, No. 11

Next deadline. May 18

- 
- Meeting:** Thurs., May 1. Birdingformation: 7 p.m.; social time: 7:30; meeting: 8:00. Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek. "Double header" slide program on Canada by Pat & Jackie Gilmore.
- Field Trips:** Sat., May 3, 9:30 a.m., Audubon Canyon Ranch; carpool: Lafayette BART station, 8:00. Leader: Bob McCarthy (934-2724).  
Wed., May 7, 9:00 a.m., Las Trampas Regional Park. Leader: Gen Sattler (685-5315).  
Thurs., May 22, 9:30 a.m., Mines Rd., Livermore; carpool: Alamo Shopping Plaza, 8:45. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).
- Board Meeting:** Wed., May 28, 7:30 p.m., Jean Holden's home, 1219 Glenwood Dr., Concord; phone 687-1981. All outgoing and incoming officers are requested to attend.

\* \* \* \* \*

Birdingformation, conducted by Lynn Farrar, will be a study of warblers. Bring field guides--if you do not have one, copies will be available for your use. The beauty of the Banff area of Alberta, Canada, will be shown by the husband-wife team of Pat and Jackie Gilmore at our May meeting. Mr. Gilmore, a teacher in Concord, will show his black and white photo essay, "Mark of Man" while Mrs. Gilmore, a Moraga teacher, will present her color slides in "Rocky Mountain Highlights", including closeups of local wildlife.

\* \* \* \* \*

A good view of nesting Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets at Audubon Canyon Ranch will be the highlight of our trip on May 3. There should also be vireos and warblers. Meet at 9:30 across the road from the Ranch gate. North of Golden Gate Bridge take State Route 1 exit and follow SR1 to the Ranch, 3-4 miles north of Stinson Beach. To carpool, meet at the northeast corner of the Lafayette BART station at 8 a.m.

The May 7th trip to Las Trampas should produce hawks, bluebirds, warblers, Lazuli Bunting and Grasshopper Sparrow. Go south on I-680 to Crow Canyon Rd., west about 2 miles to Bolinger Canyon Rd., north to the end of the road, then turn left into the parking lot. Meet us there at 9:00.

On the trip out Mines Rd., south of Livermore, on Thurs., May 22, we hope to find Golden Eagle, Caspian Tern, Lewis' Woodpecker, Canyon Wren, Phainopepla, several warblers, Lazuli Bunting, and many more. To carpool, meet at Alamo Shopping Plaza (not Safeway) at 8:45. Go south on I-680, east on I-580 to N. Livermore Ave. exit, south on Livermore to Tesla Rd. which goes to the left where S. Livermore ends, then a short distance to Mines Rd. Turn right about half a mile to the meeting point.

\* \* \* \* \*

YUBA PASS WEEKEND TRIP is scheduled June 21-22. Motel reservations in Sierra City should be made now. There are several campgrounds in the area.

A beautiful day with mild temperature greeted 17 people who went to SUNOL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK on March 20. The Dipper did not show up at all and only 2 members got a fleeting glimpse of a probable Golden Eagle, but we did get excellent views of Western Bluebirds. We found the following 50 species:

Turkey Vulture, Cooper's & Red-Tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle (?), American Kestrel (Sparrow Hawk), Calif. Quail, gull sp., Band-Tailed Pigeon, White-Throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Common (Red-Shafted) Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Red-Breasted Sapsucker, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Violet-Green, Tree & Rough-winged Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Yellow-Billed Magpie, Common Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Bewick's Wren, American Robin, Hermit Thrush, Western Bluebird, Golden-Crowned & Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Starling, Hutton's Vireo, Orange-Crowned & Yellow-Rumped (Audubon's) Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco, Chipping, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

After several days of cold, wet weather, the trip to VETERAN'S PARK on April 9 was held under clear skies with mild temperature which became rather warm by noon. The 12 members and guests had good looks at Great Blue Herons, Brown Creepers and orioles among the following 55 species seen or heard:

Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed Hawk, Amer. Kestrel (Sparrow Hawk), Calif. Quail, Killdeer, White-Throated Swift, Anna's & either Rufous or Allen's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Common (Red-Shafted) Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Red-Breasted Sapsucker, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Western Kingbird, Black Phoebe, Violet-Green, Rough-winged & Cliff Swallow, Scrub Jay, Yellow-Billed Magpie, Common Crow, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Wrentit, House & Bewick's Wren, Mockingbird, Calif. Thrasher, Amer. Robin, Hermit Thrush, Western Bluebird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Starling, Hutton's Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Yellow-Rumped (Myrtle & Audubon's) & Wilson's Warbler, West. Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Northern (Bullock's) Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Purple & House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

\* \* \* \* \*

BLUE LIST FOR 1975. The Blue List, published by American Birds, includes species which for one reason or another are on the decline in all or part of their range. The list does not include species which are designated as endangered. Any observation of blue listed species should be reported so the information may be compiled to keep track of the birds and to learn if the difficulty is real or is due merely to lack of information. Send reports to your editor who in turn will report them to American Birds.

Red-Throated Loon, Red-Necked & Western Grebe, Fork-Tailed Petrel, White Pelican, Double-Crested Cormorant, Reddish Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Wood Stork, White-Faced & White Ibis, Fulvous Tree Duck, Canvasback, Sharp-Shinned, Cooper's, Red-Shouldered, Swainson's, Ferruginous, Harris' & Marsh Hawks, Osprey, Caracara, Prairie Falcon, Merlin, American Kestrel, Sage Grouse, Mountain Quail, American Oystercatcher, Piping & Snowy Plover, Upland Sandpiper, Gull-Billed & Least Tern, Ancient Murrelet, Yellow-Billed Cuckoo, Barn & Burrowing Owl, Common Nighthawk, Lewis' & Hairy Woodpecker, Purple Martin, Florida Scrub Jay, Bewick's Wren, Mountain Bluebird, Loggerhead Shrike, Bell's Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Lesser Goldfinch, Grasshopper, Henslow's & Bachman's Sparrow.

Many of these species do not occur in California, others are not in difficulty here. The list is published in its entirety so that you can see the number of species which are in trouble at least in part of their range. In reporting any of these, include the species, date of observation, exact location of the sighting, details of field marks, and your name.

\* \* \* \* \*

As most of the wintering waterfowl at RICHARDSON BAY WILDLIFE SANCTUARY have left for northern breeding grounds, the water area of the sanctuary was reopened to public use March 31. This was done in accordance with the terms of the leases of submerged lands to National Audubon Society by the County of Marin and the City of Belvedere, for wildlife conservation. The water area is closed each fall when migratory birds become plentiful. The people of the neighboring communities are to be commended for their fine cooperation during the period of closure.

\* \* \* \* \*

A MOUNTAIN LION study, financed by a special fund, is being done for National Audubon Society by Carl Koford. Mr. Koford did a three-year study of the California Condor a number of years ago. If you see a Mountain Lion or fresh tracks of one, send the information to Paul Howard, National Audubon Society, Western Regional Office, 555 Audubon Place, Sacramento, CA 95825. Include the time, date, and exact location of the sighting along with the name, address and phone number of the observer.

\* \* \* \* \*

PRBO COURSES: Transect of California, June 21-27, \$200; East of the Sierra, July 12-18, \$80; Stanislaus River--Flow of Life, July 26-31, \$80. Information or enrollment: Meryl Stewart, Box 442, Bolinas CA 94924.

\* \* \* \* \*

TREES FOR POLLUTED AIR, a 12-page booklet prepared by the U.S. Forest Service, describes the varying degrees of tolerance of the major tree species to air pollution. The booklet lists the air pollutants and shows how they affect more than 200 species of evergreen and deciduous trees used for ornamental and commercial purposes. The booklet is available free of charge from the U. S. Forest Service, Room 529, 630 Sansome St., San Francisco 94111. (Nature Center News, via Buena Vista Audubon Society)

\* \* \* \* \*

More RARE BIRD ALERTS. The latest issue of American Birds carried an excellent listing of phone numbers which birders may call for information on rare birds in various areas. A number of individuals were listed as were the following tapes: Eastern Massachusetts: (617) 259-8805; western Massachusetts: (413) 566-3590; western New York: (716) 896-1271; Albany, New York area: (518) 377-9600; Maryland, including Chesapeake Bay and parts of Delaware and Virginia: (301) 652-3295 or (202) 652-3295; Atlanta, Georgia: (404) 634-5497; Columbus, Ohio: (614) 299-7833. See the April "Quail" for others.

\* \* \* \* \*

The STRIP MINING BILL cleared the Senate 84-13, the House 333-86, March 12 and 18 respectively, with sufficient majority in both houses to over-ride a Presidential veto if it comes. The Senate-passed bill was almost identical to the one vetoed last year by President Ford; the House version included a major strengthening amendment to ban strip mining on alluvial valley floors. This is crucial for ranching in the arid West where underground water is close enough to the surface to support vegetation.

Other strengthening amendments were also accepted by the House, although amendments banning strip mining on national grasslands and on slopes greater than 20° did not get through. Serious weakening amendments offered by the Administration were killed, including an amendment to drop the ban on mining in national forests. The bills now go to joint conference to work out differences where it is hoped that the House bill amendments are retained. The conferees will be assigned sometime after the Easter recess. (Audubon Leader)

\* \* \* \* \*

OBSERVATIONS:

50 White-Faced Ibis, Los Banos Waterfowl Management Area, Mar. 26--AB, BR;  
20 on Apr. 5--H&JG, FGB.

European Wigeon, still in Golden Gate Park, Mar. 27--BR.

Pair of Common Mergansers, Sunol Regional Park, Mar. 25--JR, BR.

Broad-Winged Hawk, still at Monterey, Mar. 22--H&JG, FGB, BR, JR.

2-3 Golden Eagles, Sunol Regional Park, Mar. 25--EE, BR, JR, WW.

2 Rock Sandpipers, off Bodega Head, Mar. 24--JR, BR.

Black-Legged Kittiwake, adult, near Pt. Pinos, Mar. 22--JR, FGB, H&JG, BR.

4 Caspian Terns, Del Valle Regional Park, Apr. 6--FGB, B&MJG, JR.

Western Kingbirds, 20, Little Panoche Rd., San Benito County, Apr. 5--FGB,  
H&JG. First reports of season.

2 Dippers near Little Yosemite in Sunol Regional Park, Mar. 25--JR, BR.

Tricolored Blackbirds, 300+, Little Panoche Rd., Apr. 5--FGB, H&JG.

Northern (Bullock's) Orioles, her Lafayette yard--MM and her Alamo yard--  
JR, both Mar. 31. First reports of season.

Correction: The Yellow Warbler attributed to Lynn Farrar in the April  
issue should have been Orange-Crowned Warbler instead.

(Observers: Florence G. Bennett, Alan Brown, Ed Eichstedt, Helen & Jerry  
Gentile, Bill & Mary Jane Greene, Molly Monheit, Bob Richmond, Jean Rich-  
mond, Whitey Whitehead.)

GOOD BIRDING SPOTS FOR MAY:

Anywhere outdoors is good for birding this time of year as the migration  
is in full swing. Migrants are passing through on their way north and sum-  
mer residents are arriving for the season. The wintering species should be  
mostly long gone by now, not to be seen here again until fall.

Two of my favorite birding spots in May are Mt. Diablo and Mines Rd. Among  
the 80 species I have recorded on Diablo in May are hawks, Golden Eagle,  
swifts, hummingbirds (including Calliope on occasion), 5 woodpeckers, 5  
flycatchers, House & Bewick's Wren, Calif. Thrasher, Swainson's Thrush,  
Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, 3 vireos, Orange-Crowned, Yellow, Audubon's, Black-  
Throated Gray, Townsend's, Hermit & Wilson's Warbler, orioles, Western Tan-  
ager, Lazuli Bunting, Lark, Rufous-Crowned, Sage, Chipping, Black-Chinned  
& Golden-Crowned Sparrow. Mines Rd. has included on the list Golden Eagle,  
Roadrunner, Lewis' Woodpecker, Western (& sometimes Cassin's) Kingbird,  
other flycatchers, House, Bewick's, Canyon & Rock Wren, Swainson's Thrush,  
Western Bluebird, Phainopepla, vireos, Orange-Crowned, Yellow, Black-  
Throated Gray, Townsend's, MacGillivray's & Wilson's Warbler (Nashville  
there last year), Com. Yellowthroat, orioles, tanagers, grosbeaks, Lazuli  
Bunting, Sage Sparrow. A long but excellent birding trip is out Mines Rd.  
to San Antonio Junction, east through Del Puerto Canyon to Interstate 5,  
then home by freeway. Or instead of turning east, go on south over Mt.  
Hamilton to San Jose and home from there.

The places listed last month for returning or migrating species are excel-  
lent for May. Nesting activity of herons and egrets at Audubon Canyon  
Ranch is in full stride and Henderson Overlook provides an excellent spot  
for viewing and photography. The Ranch is open weekends and holidays  
through June 30. Look for Swainson's Hawks at Caswell State Park near Man-  
teca. Warblers can turn up anywhere, including backyards so keep an eye  
open for them there. Yellow-Breasted Chats can usually be found at Glen  
Ellen in Sonoma County. Grasshopper Sparrows are found in Las Trampas &  
Wildcat Canyon Parks. Look for Rufous-Crowned Sparrows on Mt. Diablo, at  
Sunol & Tilden Parks. Black-Chinned Sparrows are near South Gate on Mt.  
Diablo and sometimes in Laurel Canyon in Tilden Park. Pinnacles Nat'l Mon-  
ument south of Hollister in San Benito County often has species we do not  
find close to home. It is an interesting place to visit also.

\* \* \* \* \*

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

June 1975  
Vol. 21, No. 12

Next deadline: June 24

---

Meeting: Thurs., June 5, 6:30 p.m., Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek. POTLUCK DINNER. Program: Sam Smoker will present a talk and slides of Bristle Cone Pines. This will be followed by slides by members.

Field Trips: Sat.-Sun., June 21-22, Yuba Pass and Sierra Valley weekend.  
Leader: Bob McCarthy (934-2724).

Thurs., June 26, 9:30 a.m., if sufficient interest, Alum Rock Park, San Jose. If interested, contact Jean Richmond (837-2843).

\* \* \* \* \*

Our annual potluck dinner at the Women's Club on June 5 will be the final meeting of the spring. We meet at 6:30 for an evening of good food, fellowship and film. Bring your own dishes and utensils plus enough salad, casserole, dessert or bread for 4 times the number in your family and a serving spoon for it. As usual, tea and coffee will be provided. Phone Olive Chadeayne (937-3940) to let her know what you would like to bring and the number in your party. If you have a special dish you would like to bring, contact Olive early, as a change will be suggested if there is already enough of your choice of food. The headcount is necessary to plan on how many tables and chairs need to be set up.

Adding to the usual enjoyment of this event will be Sam Smoker's program of narrated slides about some of the world's oldest living things, the Bristle Cone Pines. A member of MDAS, Mr. Smoker is director of the Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum. Following his presentation will be slides shown by our members. Please limit your slides to a dozen or so and keep your commentary to a reasonable length. Slides need not be limited to birds, but may also include animals, flowers, scenery, etc.

\* \* \* \* \*

On June 21-22 we return to Yuba Pass where we had very successful trips in 1971 and 1972, led this time by Bob McCarthy. Meet both days at 8:30 a.m. at the entrance to the campground at Yuba Pass (Highway 49 east of Downieville and Sierra City). On Saturday morning we will bird the area around the Pass then move to the Gold Lake-Sardine Lakes area after lunch. Besides many flowers there will be many mountain birds, hopefully including Mountain Quail, White-Headed Woodpecker, Townsend's Solitaire and, if we are especially fortunate, Black-Backed Three-Toed Woodpecker. On Sunday we drive east over the Pass to the Sierra Valley where we should see Black Tern, Sage Thrasher, Brewer's Sparrow and many other marsh and desert birds. If you have not yet made motel reservations, do so immediately. There are motels in Downieville, Sierra City and Sierraville and also several camp-

grounds in the area. With the late snows in the Sierras, there may be some last minute changes in the areas we will bird near the Pass. Further information can be obtained at the potluck or you may call Bob McCarthy.

On Thurs., June 26, if there is sufficient interest, we will go to Alum Rock Park in San Jose to look for woodland birds, and also perhaps Canyon Wren and Rufous-Crowned Sparrow. We hope the weather will be better than last year and that more people will attend. The carpool meeting point will be Alamo Market Plaza (NW corner) at 8:30 a.m., or meet at the parking lot overlooking the Park's picnic area at 9:30 or so. Contact Jean Richmond if you are interested in making this trip.

\* \* \* \* \*

On April 12 at BRIONES PARK 28 adults and 2 children had a very nice day for the trip although the temperature was quite warm. Many of the expected birds were not found but the list did include the following 42 species:

Turkey Vulture, Sharp-Shinned, Cooper's & Red-Tailed Hawk, Calif. Quail, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Allen's Hummingbird, Com. (Red-Shafted) Flicker, Acorn, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Western Flycatcher, Violet-Green Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, Calif. Thrasher, Hermit Thrush, West. Bluebird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Starling, Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned Warbler, West. Meadowlark, Red-Winged Blackbird, Purple & House Finch, Amer. & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

April 26 found 26 members and guests on MT. DIABLO on a very cool morning. With ice still on the top of the mountain from the snow which fell the previous afternoon and some of the expected birds apparently not yet arrived for the season, most of the birders had left by lunchtime. Three Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers and the Rufous-Crowned and Sage Sparrows were seen on the trip which included the following 42 species in the report:

Turkey Vulture, Sharp-Shinned, Cooper's & Red-Tailed Hawk, Calif. Quail, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Mourning Dove, Vaux's & White-Throated Swift, Anna's & Rufous Hummingbird, Com. (Red-Shafted) Flicker, Acorn & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Ash-Throated Flycatcher, Violet-Green Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Wrentit, House & Bewick's Wren, Mockingbird, Calif. Thrasher, West. Bluebird, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Starling, Orange-Crowned, Yellow-Rumped (Audubon's) & Wilson's Warbler, West. Meadowlark, Red-Winged Blackbird, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Rufous-Crowned & Sage Sparrow, Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco, Golden-Crowned Sparrow.

The trip to AUDUBON CANYON RANCH & BOLINAS LAGOON on May 3 began with drizzly, threatening weather but soon after our arrival the misting stopped and we had excellent birding under overcast in the morning and partly clearing skies after lunch. From the overlook we watched Great Blue Herons with half-grown young and Great Egrets with eggs and newly hatched young. An Osprey with a fish in its talons flew fairly close over us after lunch. On Bolinas Lagoon we found 51 Northern Phalaropes, some in breeding plumage. The 18 members heard or saw the following 71 species:

Loon sp., West. Grebe, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great (Com.) & Snowy Egret, Mallard, Green-Winged & Cinnamon Teal, Lesser Scaup, Com. Goldeneye, Ruddy Duck, Red-Breasted Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Cooper's & Red-Tailed Hawk, Osprey, Calif. Quail, Amer. Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Long-Billed Curlew, Whimbrel, Willet, Dunlin (some in breeding plumage), Long-Billed Dowitcher, West. Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Northern Phalarope, Western, Ring-Billed & Bonaparte's Gull, Forster's & Caspian Tern, Rock Dove, Great Horned Owl, hummingbird sp., Belted Kingfisher, Com. (Red-Shafted) Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Violet-Green, Tree, Rough-Winged

& Barn Swallow, Steller's Jay, Com. Raven, Com. Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Brown Creeper, Wrentit, Bewick's & Long-Billed Marsh Wren, Amer. Robin, West. Bluebird, Starling, Hutton's Vireo, Orange-Crowned & Wilson's Warbler, West. Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Purple & House Finch, Amer. & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

Seven members went to LAS TRAMPAS PARK on May 7 to look for Grasshopper Sparrows which apparently had not arrived for the spring as there was no response to the tape recording. The weather was ideal as it was sunny but not too warm. Many wildflowers were found on the hillsides and a Ring-Necked Snake was also seen. The birding was very good and included good views of nesting House Wrens, Townsend's Warblers in beautiful plumage, Bullock's Orioles, Western Tanagers and 2 pairs of Lazuli Buntings. The following 48 species were seen or heard:

Turkey Vulture, accipiter sp., Red-Tailed Hawk, Calif. Quail, Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Com. (Red-Shafted) Flicker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Ash-Throated & West. Flycatcher, West. Wood Pewee, Horned Lark, Violet-Green & Barn Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Com. Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Brown Creeper, Wrentit, House & Bewick's Wren, Calif. Thrasher, Amer. Robin, West. Bluebird, Starling, Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Townsend's & Wilson's Warbler, West. Meadowlark, Northern (Bullock's) Oriole, Brown-Headed Cowbird, West. Tanager, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Lark & Rufous-Crowned Sparrow, Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco, Chipping, White-Crowned & Golden-Crowned Sparrow.

The following wildflowers were also identified: baby blue eyes, geranium, cream cups, filaree, buttercup, fiddleneck, woodland star, mallow, Calif. poppy, bush lupine, vetch, brodiaea, blue-eyed grass, pineapple plant, wild strawberry, shepherd's purse, chickeed, miners' lettuce & mustard.

\* \* \* \* \*

From The Quail of Jan. 1956, in reporting a field trip to the refuges in the Sacramento Valley:

Best birds for life list: One Ross Goose in large flock of Snow Geese, two Starlings on power lines between Willows and Williams. These days we would be very happy to report Starlings in such a way!

\* \* \* \* \*

MANY THANKS to treasurer Helen Gentile for the many, many hours spent in establishing an accounting system for us which is acceptable to the Internal Revenue Service. Her devoted effort on our behalf is greatly appreciated by the members of Mt. Diablo Audubon Society. We are indeed fortunate to have this dedicated member in our midst.

\* \* \* \* \*

BIRD LISTS WANTED. As you travel this summer, or anytime for that matter, when you are in national, state or local parks, refuges, sanctuaries, etc., where checklists or bird lists are available please ask for an extra copy and pass it along to your editor. I would like to accumulate a Chapter file of such lists to augment my own. On the other hand, if you are planning a trip and would like to know what birds are likely to be found there, contact me--I may just have a list for the area, especially in California.

\* \* \* \* \*

A very exciting BIRDING TOUR, led by Mrs. Barbara Bedayn of Orinda, is planned for this August to Eastern Canada and the Gaspé Peninsula. Mrs. Bedayn taught natural sciences in Hillsborough for 10 years and for the past 14 years has led bird identification courses in Contra Costa County. For information contact Marjorie (Mrs. Dave) Humphrey at 837-4323 (home) or at J & J Travel, 1527 Cypress St., Walnut Creek 94596, phone 939-7676.

\* \* \* \* \*

There will be a combined July-August EDITION out this summer, most likely early July, followed by the regular September issue out about August 25.

\* \* \* \* \*

### OBSERVATIONS:

On an 18-day trip to southern Florida and the Texas coast in April the Richmonds found 241 species of birds. Among 34 lifers were Everglade Kite, Greater Prairie Chicken, Ringed & Green Kingfishers, Red-Cockaded Woodpecker, Brown Jay & Tropical Parula (Olive-Backed Warbler). Highlight of the trip was a flight from Key West to the Dry Tortugas and the many Magnificent Frigatebirds and Sooty & Noddy Terns there, the terns also lifers.

On May 10 a trip to Capay Cemetary and Woodland Sugar Ponds in Yolo County turned up 75 species including several species of warblers--FGB, H&JG, SS. Hopefully they will lead a trip for us there next spring.  
Spotted Sandpiper & Northern Phalarope, Heather Pond, May 2--PG.  
Rufous Hummingbird, her Alamo yard, Mar. 30--at least through Apr. 10--JR.  
 At least 4 Calliope Hummingbirds, Tilden Park, Apr. 30--early May--JM, et al.  
GRAY FLYCATCHER, Tilden Park, Apr. 30--JM, et al; Coyote Hills, May 4-6--  
 JL, et al.

Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Mt. Diablo, May 3--PG; Mt. Diablo, May 13--sev. obs.

Several Nashville Warblers, along Mines Rd., late Apr.--mid May--sev. obs.

MacGillivray's Warbler, Mt. Diablo, May 3--PG.

Hooded Oriole, pair, her Walnut Creek yard, May 8--OC.

Harris' Sparrow, immature, her Concord yard, Apr. 4-25--GS.

(Observers: Florence G. Bennett, Olive Chadeayne, Helen & Jerry Gentile, Phil Gordon, John Luther, Joe Morlan, Jean Richmond, Genivieve Sattler, Shirley Smith, several observers)

### GOOD BIRDING SPOTS FOR JUNE:

June brings the breeding season and birds can be easily found as they are very active, the best time being early morning. Check the past two issues for where to go and what to look for around the greater Bay Area. Least Terns have returned to Alameda. Double check the swifts for possible Vaux's and look for Black Swifts around Ano Nuevo. If you are looking for Pileated Woodpecker, try Annadel State Park east of Santa Rosa. Bank Swallows are around in several places so check out the swallow flocks. Purple Martins are sometimes found in small numbers in Marin County around Mt. Tamalpais and Pt. Reyes. Canyon & Rock Wrens are usually found out along Mines Rd. Blue Grosbeaks are back at Woodland Sugar Ponds.

Some of the best birding in summer is in the mountains, but late snows in the Sierras may pose problems with accessibility. Reports seem to indicate the snow is melting rapidly so the high country may begin to open sooner than earlier predictions had indicated. Birds to be found in Sierran areas include Mountain Quail, Calliope Hummingbird, Williamson's Sapsucker, White-Headed & Black-Backed 3-Toed Woodpecker (if you are lucky), Hammond's & Dusky Flycatcher (difficult to distinguish between them), Dipper, Mountain Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, several warblers, Western Tanager, Evening Grosbeak & Green-Tailed Towhee. Great Gray Owls are usually found at Crane Flat & Peregoy Meadow in Yosemite Nat'l Park, Black-Backed 3-Toed Woodpeckers near Bridalveil Campground. Gray-Crowned Rosy Finches can be found in the Tioga Pass area on the east side of Yosemite. East of the Sierra crest, in areas such as we will cover on the trip to Sierra Valley, are found marsh and desert species such as Black Tern, Sage Thrasher, Brewer's Sparrow and others. Look for Pinyon Jay around Mammoth and between Hallelujah Junction and Honey Lake.

Keep me posted on what you find on your travels, including not only birds but also other interesting nature observations.

\* \* \* \* \*

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.: Tom E. Lee  
3071 Walnut Blvd.  
Walnut Creek CA 94596  
phone: 934-5475

Vol. 22, No. 1-2  
July-August 1975

Next deadline: August 15

- 
- Meeting: No meetings until September 4. Details in next issue.
- Field Trips: Sat., July 26, 9:00 a.m., San Mateo County coast. Carpool: leave Alamo Market Plaza, 7:30. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).
- Sun., Oct. 5, pelagic trip out of Monterey. Details below.
- Board Meeting: Wed., Aug. 6, 7:30 p.m., Bob McCarthy's home, 1929 Dora Ave., Walnut Creek; 934-2724.

\* \* \* \* \*

On July 26 we will repeat the highly successful trip of last year down the San Mateo County coast. Sooty Shearwaters are sometimes seen; Common Murres, Pigeon Guillemots and Marbled Murrelets are usually found close to shore. American Bitterns may be seen at Pescadero Marsh. Harlequin Ducks, Black Swifts and Bank Swallows are often in the area around Ano Nuevo. Meet at the NW corner of the Alamo Market Plaza by 7:30 a.m. to carpool or meet us at Pescadero Beach at 9:00. Cross the San Mateo Bridge and continue on SR 92 to Half Moon Bay, turn left on SR 1 about 15 miles to Pescadero Rd., then turn right into the parking area.

On Sunday, Oct. 5, we are going to make a pelagic trip out of Monterey. The boat will leave the dock at 8 a.m. and return about 3 p.m. We should see Black-Footed Albatross, shearwaters, storm-petrels, alcids and many others. We have as our leaders Ted Chandik, a naturalist at Baylands in Palo Alto, and Dr. Howard Cogswell, a biology professor specializing in ornithology at Hayward State, both well-known and excellent birders. The trip is limited to the first 36 people who make paid reservations. Send a check for \$11.00 per person (made payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society) to Shirley Smith, 964 Risa Rd., #32, Lafayette 94549, along with the full name and address of those going. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope so that complete information may be sent to you. Those who have paid a \$7 deposit must remit the balance to make the reservation complete. This trip is on a first come, first served basis so do not delay if you want to be sure of a place on the boat. A waiting list of late-comers will be made to fill any cancellation. For further information, contact Shirley Smith at the above address or call her at 283-0376.

\* \* \* \* \*

On May 22 ten members went down MINES ROAD on a warm, sunny day with little or no wind. Four Golden Eagles (3 adults, 1 immature), nesting House and Rock Wrens, 8 Phainopeplas and a MacGillivray's Warbler were among the following 60 species seen or heard:

Mallard, Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, Amer. Kestrel (Sparrow Hawk), Calif. Quail, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Killdeer, Rock & Mourn-

ing Dove, hummingbird sp., Belted Kingfisher, Com. (Red-Sh.) Flicker, Acorn, Lewis', Hairy, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, West. Kingbird, Ash-Throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, West. Wood Pewee, Violet-Green, Rough-Winged, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Yellow-Billed Magpie, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, House, Bewick's, Canyon & Rock Wren, Mockingbird, Amer. Robin, Swainson's Thrush, West. Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, Phainopepla, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Orange-Crowned, MacGillivray's & Wilson's Warbler, House Sparrow, West. Meadowlark, Red-Winged Blackbird, Northern (Bullock's) Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Lark Sparrow & Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco.

The YUBA PASS trip on June 21-22, led by Bob McCarthy, was attended by 23 members and guests. Much of the late deep snow had disappeared by the weekend of the trip and the group found sunny warm weather for both days. Mountain Quail, Sage Thrasher and Townsend's Solitaire were among the missing and only three lucky people saw the Pine Grosbeak. Among the many nesting species was a pair of Black-Backed Three-Toed Woodpeckers which is using the same hole as was used two years ago. The following 65 species were seen or heard:

Black-Crowned Night Heron, Pintail, Blue-Winged & Cinnamon Teal, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, Sandhill Crane, Sora, Killdeer, Common Snipe, Willet, Wilson's Phalarope, Calif. Gull, Black Tern, Mourning Dove, Calliope Hummingbird, Com. (Red-Sh.) Flicker, Yellow-Bellied (Red-Br.) Sapsucker, Hairy, White-Headed & Black-Backed Three-Toed Woodpecker, Dusky Flycatcher, West. Wood Pewee, Olive-Sided Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Tree & Barn Swallow, Steller's Jay, Black-Billed Magpie, Com. Crow, Mountain Chickadee, Red-Breasted Nuthatch, Dipper, Amer. Robin, Hermit Thrush, Mountain Bluebird, Starling, Warbling Vireo, Yellow, Yellow-Rumped (Audubon's), Hermit, MacGillivray's & Wilson's Warbler, West. Meadowlark, Yellow-Headed, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, Western Tanager, Evening Grosbeak, Cassin's Finch, Pine Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, Red Crossbill, Green-Tailed Towhee, Vesper & Rufous-Crowned Sparrow, Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco, Chipping, Brewer's, White-Crowned, Fox & Lincoln's Sparrow.

\* \* \* \* \*

MONK PARAKEETS have been found "next door" in San Joaquin County and we should be alert for them here also. Originally imported as caged pets, these birds are now prohibited in California either wild or caged as they are potentially serious agricultural pests. They will also drive native birds from feeders set out for them. The Monk Parakeet has a gray crown, throat and breast, yellow belly and green back. (See Audubon, May 1974, page 49 for a picture.) If you find one of these birds, wild or caged, contact the County Dept. of Agriculture or California Fish & Game Dept.

\* \* \* \* \*

OFFICERS OF MT. DIABLO AUDUBON, 1975-76. (Save for future reference.)  
 Pres.: Tom E. Lee, 3071 Walnut Blvd., Walnut Creek 94596; 934-5475.  
 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: Florence Bennett, P. O. Box 4578, Walnut Creek 94596; 933-3781.  
 Field Trips: Bob McCarthy, 1929 Dora Ave., Walnut Creek 94597; 934-2724.  
 Membership: Stuart & Carol Purcell, 603 Aleta Pl., Pl. Hill 94523; 689-2537.  
 Hospitality: Betty Gallagher, 2136 Ann St., Concord 94520; 682-2458.  
 Publicity: Agnes Eckford, 3831 Walnut Ave., Concord 94520; 685-7280.  
 Exhibits: Bobbie Meyer, 2120 Blackhawk Rd., Danville 94526; 837-2404.  
 Education: Helen Gentile, 134 Gilbert Ct., Martinez 94553; 228-6297.  
 Christmas Count: committee being formed but chairman not yet chosen.  
 Editor: Jean Richmond, 125 Via Serena, Alamo 94507; 837-2843.

\* \* \* \* \*

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

Alamo: Jeffrey Rubin; Antioch: Steven Purcell, Mrs. Kathleen Solak; Brentwood: Carol Ann Jensen; Concord: David A Barnes, Ann Brandstad, Shelli Buster, R. Chambers, Ronald E Fitzpatrick, Boyd C Hansen, Carl A Janson, Lynn M Jones, Mr. & Mrs. W B Knisley, Mrs. Bernard Krueger, Deborah L Price, Harold T Taylor, Mrs. Anthon M Zilen; Danville: Mrs. Shimi Edmondson, Mark Longdon; Lafayette: Richard Campbell, Marlene S Deuschle, Joyce King, Mrs. Bernard Kulke, Susan E Reynolds, Catherine Sherman, Mrs. H P Stewart, Nancy Stone, Dana Westphal; Martinez: Coleen S Cooper, H H Wainwright; Pleasant Hill: Dr. Karl E Engdahl, J P Hauser, Alana MacDonald, G E Reynolds; San Ramon: John W Alcorn, Joy Semmens; Walnut Creek: Wm. H Burns, MD, Timothy Davis, Claire Fleischman, Darrell Gee, Mrs. E B Harri-son, Mrs. Ollie Hill, Janet L Hollrah, Mrs. Philip A Lehman, Pat & Michael MacDougall, Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Marquardsen, Philip M Maynard, J. McDonald, Bruce & Judith Moorad, Evan Morgan, Richard Taylor, Janet Wessel.

\* \* \* \* \*

EXTRA EFFORTS FOR KIRTLAND'S WARBLERS. The Michigan Aud. Soc. is spearheading a campaign to raise \$3,500 to intensify efforts to preserve safe, suitable habitat for the Kirtland's: only 334 adults remain in Michigan's northern Lower Peninsula, a 23% decline from 1973. To aid in this effort, send contributions to Kirtland's Warbler Fund, Michigan Audubon Society, 7000 N. Westridge Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49007. The warblers will also have one of the first 10 of 50 "recovery teams" the Fish & Wildlife Service is organizing for endangered species this year. (Audubon Leader) Even the Michigan National Guard is trying to aid the species. In mid-May they announced tank exercises were postponed to protect the birds' nesting area. For a discussion of the problems of the species, see Audubon, May 1975.

\* \* \* \* \*

KILLING PROTECTED BIRDS EXPENSIVE. While duck hunting, a Tennessee physician shot a Bald Eagle which he reportedly mistook for a hawk. The commonly held misconception that "the only good hawk is a dead hawk" or "all hawks are chicken hawks" was the defense offered for accidentally shooting the bird. After a plea of guilty, a fine of \$1,000 was imposed by the U.S. District Court. The Bald Eagle is presently on the endangered list as fewer than 1500 remain in the lower 48 States. (Appalachian Audubon News)

\* \* \* \* \*

One morning in mid-June your editor had the rather STRANGE EXPERIENCE of returning home from running several errands to find a young Mockingbird flying around in the family room. After the initial start of seeing the bird, the sliding glass door was opened wide and the youngster finally decided to fly off, leaving behind several small fluffy feathers stuck to the ceiling. The bird apparently had come down the barbecue flue.

\* \* \* \* \*

ADVANCED BIRDING COURSE, taught by Van Remsen, will be offered by Golden Gate Aud. Soc. the last week of Sept. through the first week of Dec. It is designed for those who know the common Bay Area birds by sight and desire to improve their skill at the more difficult identifications. Participants should have at least a year of birding experience. Format: 1-1½ hr. lecture Thurs. evenings for 10 weeks, and all-day Sat. or Sun. field trip for 9 weeks (mainly Monterey, San Mateo Co., Pt. Reyes & Bodega Bay). Limited to about 15 persons, cost is \$90. For further information or applications write Van Remsen, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, U.C., Berkeley 94720.

\* \* \* \* \*

Somewhere you would like to have a FUTURE FIELD TRIP? A species you would like to find? The trips for next year will be planned soon and input from you is welcome. Contact Bob McCarthy (934-2724) or Jean Richmond (837-2843) with any suggestions you may have.

\* \* \* \* \*

OBSERVATIONS:

Several members were in southeast Arizona in May. The Stellers turned up 29 lifers among 128 species between May 13 and 23, including Gray Hawk, Elf Owl, 5 species of hummers, Coppery-Tailed Trogon, Thick-Billed Kingbird, Bendire's Thrasher, Black-Tailed Gnatcatcher and 10 warbler species.

May 18-29 Florence Bennett saw 129 species of which 59 were lifers, including Whiskered, Flammulated, Pygmy & Elf Owl, 4 new hummers, the Trogon, 3 new woodpeckers, Rose-Throated Becard, Buff-Breasted & Beardless Flycatcher, Brown-Throated Wren, 5 warbler species and Five-Striped Sparrow.

The Gentiles joined Florence on May 22 and also saw most of the above species while adding 49 lifers.

The last two weeks of May the Monheits turned up 41 lifers including Mexican Duck, Gray Hawk, Brown-Throated Wren and Rufous-Winged Sparrow. Osprey, South Lake Tahoe, June 8--JR, RR.

Black-Chinned Hummingbird, Del Puerto Canyon Rd., 4.6 mi. west of I-5, May 26--AE.

COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD, Del Puerto Canyon Rd., 3.5 mi. west of I-5, May 26--AE; 4.3 mi. west of I-5, June 3--JR, et al; 3.3 mi. west of I-5, June 12--BR, JR, SS.

Nuttall's Woodpecker, with his red head patch raised into a crest, Mt. Diablo, May 17--JR, et al.

Nesting Black-Backed 3-Toed Woodpeckers, MDAS Yuba Pass trip, June 21.

CASSIN'S KINGBIRDS, Mines Rd., marker 1.62, May 25--AE, TC, B&CY; June 1--SS; June 12--SS, JR; June 14, apparently nesting--JR, BR, FLB.

Phainopeplas, Mines Rd. Seldom seen this year in their usual places but consistently seen at marker 5.75--several observers.

Male OVENBIRD, his Lafayette garden, May 20--LF.

MacGillivray's Warbler, MDAS Mines Rd. field trip, May 22.

Common Yellowthroat, Suisun Marsh, June 18--FrB. First he has seen in that area in two years--they are getting scarce there.

Yellow-Breasted Chat, his garden, May 2--LF.

Wilson's Warbler and Western Tanager, nesting in or near his garden--LF.

Male Cassin's Finch, their gardens in Lafayette, Mar. 16-May 14--Farrars and Adamsons.

Lawrence's Goldfinch, Mines Rd., nesting at marker 0593, June 3--JR, et al; June 12--BR, JR, SS.

Grasshopper Sparrow, Del Puerto Canyon Rd., ½ mi. west of I-5, June 12--JR, BR, SS.

(Observers: Florence Bennett, Frank Beyer, Ted Chandik, Art Edwards, Lynn Farrar, Bob, Jean & Rich Richmond, Shirley Smith, Bob & Carol Yuttsy.)

GOOD BIRDING SPOTS FOR SUMMER:

Summertime--the living is easy and the birding rather quiet. However, late summer is the time to start looking for early migrants, some of which return in early August. Check points along the Bay, such as Dumbarton Bridge, Alameda, Toll Plaza Marsh, Berkeley and Albany, and along the coast. Pt. Reyes and Monterey turn up many migrants, including a number of rarities; Rodeo Lagoon and Battery Wallace in Marin County and the Bodega Bay area are also good.

Mountain birding should still produce results and there are interesting possibilities along the San Mateo County coast (see field trip, page 1). For California Condors, go to Mt. Pinos (west of I-5 near Lebec in southern Kern County) in July, August and September, mid-August being best.

Don't neglect our home territory in central Contra Costa including your own yard as migrating warblers, hummers, tanagers, etc, are also found here.

\* \* \* \* \*

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.: Tom E. Lee  
3071 Walnut Blvd.  
Walnut Creek CA 94596  
phone: 934-5475

Vol. 22, No. 3  
September 1975

Next deadline: September 15

---

Meeting: Thurs., Sept. 4. Birdingformation: 7 p.m.; social time: 7:30; meeting: 8:00. Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek. Emerson Stoner will present a program on bird banding.

Field Trips: Sat., Sept. 6, 9:00 a.m., Pt. Reyes; carpool: Lafayette BART parking lot, 7:30. Leader: Bob McCarthy (934-2724).

wed., Sept 10, 9:30 a.m., Coyote Hills; carpool: Alamo Market Plaza (NW corner), 8:30. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey (254-0486).

Thurs., Sept 25, 9:30 a.m., Rodeo Lagoon, Battery Wallace; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Freeway 24, 8:30. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).

Board Meeting: Wed., Sept. 17, 7:30 p.m., Agnes Eckford's home, 3831 Walnut Ave., Concord; phone 685-7280.

Screen Tours resume in October. Details of first film in October issue.

\* \* \* \* \*

The next three months of Birdingformation will be attuned to newcomers and novices. The September session, led by Kent Fickett, will be "Gearing Up" for a field trip: pointers on field guides, apparel, etc, to make a trip more interesting and comfortable. The program will be a very enlightening discussion by Emerson Stoner on the history and practice of bird banding. An active birder for many years, Mr. Stoner has been banding birds since about 1930. He was instrumental in organizing the Benicia Christmas Count. Our BUDGET will be presented for approval so be sure to attend if you want to get in your "two cents worth".

\* \* \* \* \*

Anything may turn up on our trip to Pt. Reyes on Sept. 6. we will bird at Abandoned Ranch, Mendoza Ranch, Drake's Beach, Fish Docks, etc, as these places are visited in fall by many species of "eastern" birds. Meet at Pt. Reyes Nat'l Seashore headquarters in Olema at 9 a.m. or carpool at the Lafayette BART parking lot at 7:30. Cross Richmond Bridge, go north on US 101 a short distance, take San Rafael exit 2 blocks to 4th St., turn left and go straight out through Fairfax past Samuel Taylor Park to SR 1. Turn right  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile, turn left and proceed to the parking lot at Headquarters. We should keep cars to a minimum to avoid parking problems on the trip.

With its varied habitats Coyote Hills attracts water and shorebirds as well as land birds, including rarities on occasion. On Sept. 10 meet at the large unpaved parking lot by the south marsh at 9:30 or carpool at Alamo Market Plaza at 8:30. Go down Nimitz Freeway (SR 17) to Jarvis Rd., turn west to the signal at Newark Blvd., turn right, cross the railroad tracks and continue about a mile. Turn left into the park.

Rodeo Lagoon and Battery Wallace turn up a number of eastern warblers each fall and hopefully some of them will be there for our trip Sept. 25. Take Alexander Ave. exit JUST beyond the Vista Point at the north end of Golden Gate Bridge. Follow signs to Forts Chronkrite and Baker and meet at the signal-lighted tunnel at 9:30. To carpool, meet on Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Freeway 24 at 8:30.

\* \* \* \* \*

On June 26 four members went to ALUM ROCK PARK in San Jose. It was ideal weather for a walk---sunny skies and comfortable temperature---so the quartet walked up Penitencia Creek all the way to the falls. Neither Canyon Wren nor Rufous-Crowned Sparrow was found but many nesting birds were seen, including a pair of Ash-Throated Flycatchers feeding young in a hole near the top of a snag. The following 37 species were seen or heard:

Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed Hawk, Calif. Quail, White-Throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Com. (Red-Shafted) Flicker, Hairy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Ash-Throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, West. Flycatcher, West. Wood Pewee, Rough-Winged Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Wrentit, House & Bewick's Wren, Amer. Robin, Starling, Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned Warbler, Northern (Bullock's) Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Purple & House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco, Song Sparrow.

July 26 found 22 members and guests birding along the SAN MATEO COUNTY COAST. The sunny day started a bit cool but warmed up during the day although it was very windy out on Ano Nuevo Point. All the hoped-for species except Sooty Shearwater were seen, including 2 female Harlequin Ducks which were well seen by all. The ducks have been more difficult than usual to find this year so we were fortunate. The Red Knot, found in the midst of a large flock of shorebirds, was also a lifer for several of the group. It was still in breeding plumage which made it an even better find. The following 74 species were seen or heard:

Common Loon, Western & Pied-Billed Grebe, Brown Pelican, Double-Crested, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Amer. Bittern, Black Brant (6), Mallard, Harlequin & Ruddy Duck, Red-Breasted Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, Amer. Coot, Semipalmated & Snowy Plover, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Ruddy & Black Turnstone, Long-Billed Curlew, Whimbrel, Wandering Tattler (4), Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Red Knot, dowitcher sp., West. Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Glaucous-Winged, Western, Ring-Billed & Heermann's Gull, Caspian Tern, Com. Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Marbled Murrelet, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Black Swift (2), Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Com. (Red-Shafted) Flicker, Black Phoebe, West. Wood Pewee, Violet-Green, Tree, Bank, Rough-Winged, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Steller's Jay, Chestnut-Becked Chickadee, Bushtit, Wrentit, Bewick's & Long-Billed Marsh Wren, Starling, Com. Yellowthroat, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Amer. Goldfinch, Savannah, White-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

\* \* \* \* \*

FIELD TRIP ETIQUETTE. A few guidelines will mean more birds, fewer problems. 1. Be on time. 2. Stay behind the leader. You may scare off a bird he has "staked out" if you go ahead. 3. Keep in sight of the group. When in a caravan, follow the car in front and be sure the car behind can follow you. 4. Be as quiet as possible in the field. 5. Do not wear bright colors. 6. Leave all gates as you found them. 7. 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. 8. We welcome young birders but please leave disinterested, active youngsters home as they disturb birds and disrupt birding.

\* \* \* \* \*

We warmly welcome the following as new members of MDAS:

Antioch: Earl L Jessen; Brentwood: Carol Ellsberg; Concord: Ms L F Mini, Michael L Nichols, Bill Strickland, D Robert Watts; Danville: Stephen D Brockett, Craig Dore, M R Goldman, MD, Don M Morris, Mrs Nathan Tolpalar; Lafayette: Michael Boyle, Lili Cook, Clay Fletcher, R E Nichols, Thomas W Olson, Alexander Plumb, Mrs Stephen Tucker; Martinez: Martin E Turkington; Pleasant Hill: Mrs Cynthia Ballentine, Mr & Mrs Walter Hambleton, Craig Spittler, Mrs Edward J Vomund; San Ramon: G M Cross, Lemuel C Jackson; Walnut Creek: Michael J Coons, Leslie Dunning, Ms Jackie Fekete, Robin Lee Hambley, Mr & Mrs Alwyn Hughes, N H Kurihara, Mrs Wm H MacKay, Stephanie Necheles, Jeannie Scaff, Lynn Scharmer, Mr & Mrs R S Starbird, Max E Stringer, Gifford & Audrey Symonds, Mr & Mrs Wm J Wadsworth.

\* \* \* \* \*

Our newest and YOUNGEST MEMBER, Wesley Walden Biggs, arrived July 5 at the home of Dave & Kathy Biggs. "Wes" weighed in at 6 pounds, 7 ounces. Congratulations to the proud parents and welcome to Wes from MDAS.

\* \* \* \* \*

The following is the remainder of the FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE for 1975-76:

Weekend			Weekday	
Oct 5	Pelagic trip (Monterey)	wed	Oct 15	Alameda South Shore
Oct 11	Rodeo Lagoon	Thurs	Nov 20	Pescadero Marsh
Nov 8	Palo Alto Salt Marsh	wed	Dec 10	Lake Merritt
Dec 6	Conn Dam (Lake Hennessey)	Thurs	Jan 22	Bay Bridge Toll Plaza
Dec 27	CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT	wed	Feb 13	Chabot Regional Park
Jan 10	Coyote Hills	Thurs	Mar 18	Grizzly Island
Feb 7	Thornton	wed	Apr 21	Redwood Regional Park
Mar 6	Eodega Bay	Thurs	May 13	Mt Diablo State Park
Apr 3	Annadel State Park	wed	May 26	Glen Ellen
May 8	Woodland Sugar Ponds	Thurs	June 10	Bolinger Canyon
May 22	Mines Road			

June weekend not yet scheduled

July 24 San Mateo County coast

Trips may be changed and trips can be added if there is sufficient interest. Contact Bob McCarthy or Jean Richmond to add other trips.

\* \* \* \* \*

BIRD WALKS at Benicia State Recreation Area, Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. Short interesting tour of the swamp lands with a ranger guide. Frank Beyer has been the instrumental and guiding figure in this new program. Meet outside the Park gate for a tour of the shorebirds, flora and fauna found there.

\* \* \* \* \*

Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory ORNITHOLOGY COURSE offered this fall is for 10 Saturday meetings Sept. 13-Nov. 15, including 5 field trips, 5 lectures. Cost is \$30. Contact Bob Stewart, P. O. Box 321, Bolinas, CA 94024.

\* \* \* \* \*

PRBO free BIRD WALKS at 9:00 a.m. Sundays beginning Sept 14. Contact your editor for meeting places, destinations, and other details.

\* \* \* \* \*

MDAS member Wm. F. "Scotty" Scott is going on a GALAPAGOS ISLANDS TOUR in May which he feels is the best tour there in several years. If you might be interested, he has sent a copy of the brochure to your editor so that information can be passed on to you.

\* \* \* \* \*

Nature Expeditions International of Los Altos offers NATURE TOURS to many places: southwestern United States, Hawaii, Baja California, Mexico, South America, Galapagos Islands, Africa. Also offered are natural history courses about SF Bay and California. Contact your editor for information.

\* \* \* \* \*

The opportunity to SUPPORT NON-GAME WILDLIFE is available to Californians through Dept. of Fish & Game's new native species conservation & enhancement program. Contributors of \$5 or more will be sent a windshield decal depicting the Sea Otter, organizations will receive a certificate. Lack of support for similar programs in other states, due at least in part to lack of publicity, led to complaints about conservationists vocally, but not financially, supporting things. We should all get behind this project. Send your contribution to DECAL, Box DFG, Sacramento, CA 95814.

\* \* \* \* \*

Inadvertently omitted from the MDAS BOARD last month: Sally Steller (who acts in an advisory capacity), 591 Fulton Way, Danville 94526; 837-9061.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### OBSERVATIONS:

26 White Pelicans, Alameda South Shore, July 22--JR, et al.  
Possible Blue-Winged Teal, Coyote Hills, July 22--ED, et al.  
2 Sandhill Cranes, Dyson Ln., Plumas County (Sierra Valley), July 5--B&JW,  
FLB, BR, JR.

Golden Plover, Limantour Spit, Pt. Reyes, Aug. 19--sev. obs.  
SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER, Pescadero Marsh, Aug. 3--Jk, SB, PR, et al, on GGAS  
field trip.

8 Northern Phalaropes, Doolittle Pond, July 22--JR, BF, et al.  
Poorwills, 1-2 miles out Windenhall Rd. (off Mines Rd. on road to Del Valle  
Regional Park)--sev obs. Get there about an hour before dark.

Male BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD, Carl & Agnes Eckford's garden, mid-June at  
least through Aug. 21. Also a possible female there Aug. 14--Eckfords,  
whP, Am, JR, SS.

Female Black-Backed 3-Toed Woodpecker, Sand Flat, Tuolumne County, first  
week of July--BR.

Sage Thrashers, Dyson Ln about 2 miles east of Beckwourth-Calpine Rd (A23)  
in Plumas County (Sierra Valley), July 5--JK, BR, FLB, B&JW.

(Observers: Steve Bailey, Florence Bennett, Elizabeth Dickey, Bud Fry,  
Alice Mericourt, Joe Morlan, Wm. M. Purcell, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond,  
Peter Rosmarin, Shirley Smith, Betty & Jon Williams, Golden Gate Audubon  
Society, several observers.)

#### GOOD BIRDING SPOTS FOR SEPTEMBER:

Fall migration hits full stride in September bringing shorebirds, landbirds,  
vagrants and rare migrants through the Bay Area. The best areas to see  
rarities are places along the coast such as Bodega Bay, Pt. Reyes, Pesca-  
dero Marsh and Monterey. Shorebirds are found along the Bay at many places  
(see last month's Quail), at Palo Alto, and along the coast. Look for  
Baird's & Pectoral Sandpipers and be alert for the possibility of rarer  
species as they do occasionally turn up here. The Semipalmated Sandpiper  
in August at Pescadero, last year a Ruff at Martinez and Curlew Sandpiper  
at Bolinas and a Bar-Tailed Godwit the year before are good examples.  
Rodeo Lagoon and Battery Wallace in Marin County generally turn up a good  
number of "eastern" warblers as does Pt. Reyes. Coyote Hills sometimes  
has unusual birds along with the usual good assortment of things. Hawks  
often funnel past Pt. Diablo ("Little Hawk Mountain") near the north end  
of the Golden Gate Bridge. In recent years Broad-winged Hawks have been  
seen there and last fall there were many Vaux's Swifts. Condors should  
still be found on Mt. Pinos through this month.

Passerine species turn up almost anywhere, including gardens, so keep an  
eye open when you are around home. Keep me informed of what you find on  
your wanderings. Good 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.: Tom E. Lee  
3071 Walnut Blvd.  
Walnut Creek CA 94596  
phone: 934-5475

Vol. 22, No. 4  
October 1975

Next deadline: October 15

---

Meeting: Thurs., Oct. 2. Birdingformation: 7 p.m.; social time: 7:30; meeting: 8:00. Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek. Narration and slides of New Zealand by Betty & Harry Adamson.

Field Sun., Oct. 5, pelagic trip. (Boat is full.)

Trips: Sat., Oct. 11, 8:30 a.m., Rodeo Lagoon, Battery Wallace; carpool Lafayette BART parking lot 7:30. Leader: Bob McCarthy (934-2724).

Wed., Oct. 15, 9:00 a.m., Alameda South Shore; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Freeway 24, 8:30. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).

Screen Mon., Oct. 20, 8:00 p.m., Diablo Valley College gym. "Vanishing  
Tour: American Wildlife" narrated by Burdette E. White.

\* \* \* \* \*

Birdingformation at the October meeting will be a presentation by John Rodriquez, of Wentling's, on the basic functional need and use of binoculars. If time permits, he will also give a few pointers on spotting scopes and cameras. The program will be a visual treat: the colored slides taken by the Adamsons while on their trip to New Zealand late last year. Harry and Betty hiked the Milford Track and had the good fortune to do so in good weather. Long time members of MDAS, their excellent photography is well known to most of our membership.

\* \* \* \* \*

The PELAGIC TRIP out of Monterey on Oct. 5 has been filled for some time. If for any reason you must cancel your reservation, contact Shirley Smith immediately so that a replacement can be obtained from the waiting list.

On Sat., Oct. 11 we will bird Rodeo Lagoon and Battery Wallace looking for a variety of species including vagrant warblers. Carpool from the Lafayette BART parking lot at 7:30. Take the Alexander Ave. exit just beyond the vista point at the north end of the Golden Gate Bridge. Follow the signs to Forts Cronkhite & Baker and meet at the signal-lighted tunnel at 8:30.

We go to Alameda South Shore on Wed., Oct. 15 to see shorebirds. Carpool from Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Freeway 24 at 8:30. Go through the tube to Alameda, continue on to Central, left 2 blocks to Washington Park, then right to the Bay. Turn left on Shoreline Dr. and continue to Broadway and meet us there at 9:00.

\* \* \* \* \*

The first film of the new Audubon series will be "Vanishing American Wildlife" presented by Burdette E. White on Mon., Oct. 20 at 8:00 p.m. in the

DVC gym. No further information about the film was available at press time. As usual, the film is shown with no admission charge.

\* \* \* \* \*

The trip to PT. REYES on Sept. 6 was attended by 33 members and guests on a cold, foggy, windy day. The hoped-for vagrant species did not turn up, the best bird of the day being the Black Scoter at the Fish Docks. The mystery hawk had still not been identified at the time The Quail went to press. For those not on the trip, the hawk was a beautiful "Osprey" when on the ground but when it flew it had markings of white in the wings and the tail. Any information about the bird, if any, will be reported in a future issue. Mike Rigney of San Jose is operating a banding station at Abandoned Ranch this fall. This was a great follow-up after the program we had at our meeting two days before. Unfortunately for us the weather kept the birds rather quiet and the only bird caught in the mist nets was a Song Sparrow but at least we did get to see first hand the equipment used in banding. The following 70 species were seen or heard:

Com. Loon, West. & Pied-Billed Grebe, Brown Pelican, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great (Com.) Egret, White-Winged, Surf & Black (Com.) Scoter, Red-Breasted Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Cooper's, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, Amer. Kestrel (Sparrow Hawk), Calif. Quail, Com. Gallinule, Amer. Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Willet, Least & West. Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Northern Phalarope, Glaucous-Winged, West., Ring-Billed & Heermann's Gull, Forster's Tern, Pigeon Guillemot, Mourning Dove, Acorn Woodpecker, West. Flycatcher, Violet-Green, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Com. Raven, Com. Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Long-Billed Marsh Wren, Amer. Robin, Swainson's Thrush, West. Bluebird, Starling, Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Yellow & Wilson's Warbler, House Sparrow, West. Meadowlark, Red-Winged, Tricolored & Brewer's Blackbird, West. Tanager, Black-Headed Grosbeak, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Amer. & Lesser Goldfinch, Brown Towhee, White-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

On Sept. 10 at COYOTE HILLS there were 10 members and guests who walked to the Bay in the morning and through the marsh in the afternoon. The day began overcast and cool but by noon the sky had cleared and the temperature was quite comfortable. Two welcome "guests" at lunch were the two Great Horned Owls which flew into the trees near us. Bird of the day was a Lesser Yellowlegs which cooperated nicely by feeding very close to a Greater Yellowlegs giving us excellent comparison of the two species. We saw or heard the following 55 species:

Great Blue Heron, Great (Com.) & Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, Amer. Kestrel, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Virginia Rail, Amer. Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Willet, Greater & Lesser Yellowlegs, dowitcher sp., Marbled Godwit, Amer. Avocet, Black-Necked Stilt, Northern Phalarope, West., Calif, & Bonaparte's Gull, Rock Dove, Great Horned Owl, White-Throated Swift, Black Phoebe, Violet-Green, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Scrub Jay, Bushtit, Bewick's, Long-Billed Marsh & Rock Wren, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Orange-Crowned & Yellow Warbler, Com. Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, West. Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Amer. & Lesser Goldfinch, Brown Towhee, Savannah & Song Sparrow.

\* \* \* \* \*

Sincere THANKS to the several people who responded with checklists from many places. Hopefully the file of bird lists will continue to grow as members travel around the country, providing a pool of information for future trips by members to those areas.

\* \* \* \* \*

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

Alamo: C. Cunningham; Lafayette: Malcolm R. Fowler; Pittsburg: Niels P. Christensen; Walnut Creek: Ms. Linda W. Clark, Lewis D. Colley, Gen Graves, Mrs. Leone S. Johnson.

\* \* \* \* \*

A bigger, better edition of OPERATION NATURE GUIDE is out. The 1974 edition seemed to be the ultimate but the new one has outdone it. For nature-seeking travellers who want to see new birds and other wildlife, the guide lists people who can help, places, addresses and phone numbers coast to coast. Send \$1 to: Operation Nature Guide, 34915 4th Ave., So., Federal Way, WA 98002. Congratulations to Tahoma Audubon Society for a job very well done.

\* \* \* \* \*

CONDOR PROTECTION. The federal government in July won a court case against an oil company that wanted to drill within less than a mile and a half of a California Condor nest in the Sespe Condor Sanctuary in Southern California's Los Padres National Forest. The company contended its rights pre-dated federal regulations protecting the sanctuary but a U.S. District Judge turned down the claim. (Audubon Leader)

\* \* \* \* \*

SAD NEWS from Audubon Canyon Ranch: predation by racoons decimated the nestling population of egrets. A report from Helen Pratt says that it appears that only 5 egret chicks will fledge this year instead of the usual 100 that is expected. Five racoons were trapped and released into other areas of Marin County but unfortunately too late to save most of the egret chicks. The predator was discovered too late to save this year's hatch but the experience gained will provide a guide for prompt action in the future if a similar situation arises again.

\* \* \* \* \*

PERIPHERAL CANAL RULING. A major court decision issued the end of July by U.S. District Judge Charles B. Renfrew opens the door for more public evaluation of the Peripheral Canal Project. The judge held that 1) Two Water Project pumping plants have been operating illegally since they were built. Both plants are essential to the proposed canal. 2) Neither of the plants may be expanded without permits from the Army Corps of Engineers and permits must be obtained for the facilities already built. 3) Environmental Impact statements must be filed before issuance of any permits for existing or proposed construction. The judge also found that the operation of the two plants has interfered with navigable waters by affecting the flow and level of the Sacramento River and that the Canal, if built, would obstruct the navigable capacity of the Delta area. The Tracy plant has been operating since 1951, the Delta plant since 1969.

The judge acted in a suit filed in 1971 by Sierra Club, Friends of the Earth, and three individuals.

The California Water Department earlier this year began a 2-year study of the Peripheral Canal Project, a study which will include the possible alternatives.

Michael Sherwood, a Sierra Club Legal Foundation attorney, called the rulings "a big decision that opens a lot more doors to the public for new shots at the Peripheral Canal Project."

A hearing was scheduled for September for setting a deadline for the permit compliance requirements for the pumping plants.

\* \* \* \* \*

If we tamper with nature it may set off responses that are not only distasteful, but dangerous to man.

\* \* \* \* \*

PUBLIC IS INVITED. A stroll through the water conserving demonstration garden, jointly sponsored by the Marin Municipal Water District and the Marin County Board of Supervisors, at the Marin County Civic Center is a pleasant, informative walk. Kathy Cuneo, botany consultant with Natural Science Education Resources, and Don Rolph, landscape architect with the Marin County Parks and Recreation Department, have designed the planting and the layout of the garden. (Marin Audubon Society, The Redwood Log)

\* \* \* \* \*

RICHARDSON BAY WILDLIFE SANCTUARY has nature walks every Sunday at 9 a.m. and films and lectures Sunday afternoons at 3 p.m. Scheduled: Sept. 28, "No Natural Enemy" (Golden Eagle); Oct. 5, "Death of a Legend" (Wolf); Oct. 12, "The Empty Nest" (Osprey); Oct. 19, "Whales, Dolphins & Men" (Whales & Dolphins), Oct. 26, "Ark" (Man).

\* \* \* \* \*

#### OBSERVATIONS:

The first RED-FOOTED BOOBY ever seen in California appeared Aug. 26 on the Farallon Islands. It was a fourth year bird in good condition. Biologists captured, banded, photographed and released it. The closest breeding area is on the Revilla Gigedo Islands off Mexico.

Male Black-Chinned Hummingbird, still in their Concord garden at least through Sept. 11--C&AE.

2 Pileated Woodpeckers, on North Gate Rd., Walnut Creek, not far from Oak Grove Rd., Aug. 31--reported to Kent Fickett with complete description of birds and their call.

Gray Flycatcher, Red Rock Rd., Lassen County, Aug. 29--JR, BR.

Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Tilden Park, Sept. 2--JR, et al.

Summer Tanager, in and near his Martinez garden, Sept. 3-7--JL.

The early, partial list of birds seen on a GGAS pelagic trip out of Monterey Sept. 6: 1 Fork-Tailed Petrel, 3500 Ashy Petrels, 200 Black Petrels, 2 New Zealand Shearwaters, 2 Skuas, 6 Black-Footed Albatross, 2 Cassin's Auklets, 4 Arctic Terns, 5 Pomarine Jaegers. Hopefully we will do as well. (Observers: Carl & Agnes Eckford, James Lynch, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Golden Gate Audubon Society)

#### GOOD BIRDING SPOTS FOR OCTOBER:

By mid-September there had not been many reports of vagrants in the Bay Area. There had been a number of Pectoral and Baird's Sandpipers and Lesser Yellowlegs seen in several places, however. Golden Plovers turned up at Limantour Spit and Drake's Beach Rd. on Pt. Reyes. Solitary Sandpipers have been seen at Woodland Sugar Ponds as was a Stilt Sandpiper. A Bobolink and a Lark Bunting reportedly were seen in early September at Princeton near Half Moon Bay. During this month the migrants will still be passing through and the wintering species will be arriving. Check the past couple of issues for places to go as those areas are still excellent for this month. When trying to identify warblers, remember that many of them are young birds and will not look like the pictures of the adults that are generally featured in field guides. Adults of many species do not look like the pictures either as they take on winter plumage, but luckily most retain enough of their pattern to be recognized. In late October some of the waterfowl begin to arrive at Lake Merritt, among other places, where there is opportunity to study them at close range. The migration undoubtedly will fall short of what we had last year with its amazing numbers of vagrants but only time will tell. Judging from the above list of observations things have been rather quiet lately, birdwise, but keep your eyes and ears open for whatever flies by and let me know what turns up.

\* \* \* \* \*

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.: Tom E. Lee  
3071 Walnut Blvd.  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596  
phone: 934-5475

November 1975  
Vol. 22, No. 5

Next deadline: November 15

- 
- Meeting:** Thurs., Nov. 6. Birdingformation: 7p.m.; social time: 7:30; meeting: 8:00. Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek.
- Field Trips:** Sat., Nov. 8, 9:00 a.m., Palo Alto Baylands; carpool: NW corner Alamo Market Plaza, 7:30. Leader: Bob McCarthy (934-2724).  
Thurs., Nov. 20, 10:00 a.m., Pescadero; carpool: NW corner Alamo Market Plaza, 8:30. Leader: Fran Nelson. (For information call Jean Richmond, 837-2843.)
- Screen Tour:** Thurs., Nov. 13, 8:00 p.m., Diablo Valley College gym. "Exploring Big Bend" narrated by Charles T. Hotchkiss.
- Board Meeting:** Wed., Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m., Jean Richmond's home, 125 Via Serena, Alamo; phone 837-2843.

-----  
Birdingformation this month concludes topics geared for beginner birders. Frank Beyer, well known and appreciated as guide and teacher, will discuss "How to Look at a Bird." Steve Abbors, a naturalist at Tilden Park, will present a program on Turkey Vultures, especially their foraging behavior. Working on his master's degree under Dr. Howard Cogswell at Hayward State, Mr. Abbors is writing his thesis on the vultures.

-----  
The Palo Alto trip will be to see waterfowl, shorebirds and gulls, possibly including European Wigeon, Blue-Winged Teal and Thayer's Gull. Cross Dumbarton Bridge to US 101, go south to Embarcadero Rd., then east over the freeway and continue to the yacht harbor. Meet at the duck pond on the left.

We go to Pescadero to look for birds of the sea, shore and marsh. We are fortunate to have Fran Nelson, an excellent birder from Sequoia Audubon Society as our leader. Cross San Mateo Bridge, continue on SR 92 to Half Moon Bay, turn left on SR 1 about 15 miles to Pescadero Rd., then turn right to the parking area.

-----  
The area of Big Bend National Park was once ruined by overgrazing but nature is reviving the animal and plant life of the Chisos Mountains and the Chihuahuan Desert. The AUDUBON FILM shows those areas and the cacti, ferns, snakes, hummingbirds, bats, deer and other species that inhabit the Big Bend country. The film is presented with no admission charge.

\* \* \* \* \*

On Sept. 25 seven members birded RODEO LAGOON, BATTERY WALLACE and BUNKER HILL on a day that started with beautiful weather but the fog began to roll in before lunch and the temperature dropped somewhat. No eastern

birds were found but the following 49 species were seen or heard:

West & P-B Grebe, Br Pelican, Gr Blue & Green Heron, Sn Egret, Bl-Cr Night Heron, Mallard, Am Wigeon, Tur Vulture, Sharp-Sh, Coop & R-Tailed Hawk, Osprey, Am Kestrel, Cal Quail, Virginia Rail, Am Coot, Killdeer, Gr Yellowlegs, gull sp, swift sp, Anna's Hummer, Ruf or Allen's Hummer, Bltd Kingfisher, Com (R-Sh) Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Bl & Say's Phoebe, St & Sc Jay, Oh-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Wrentit, Bew & Lg-Bld Marsh Wren, Am Robin, Swainson's Thrush, Ruby-Cr Kinglet, Hutton's Vireo, Orange-Cr Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, Br Blackbird, House Finch, Am Goldfinch, Ruf-Sided & Br Towhee, Wh-Cr & Song Sparrow.

A very successful PELAGIC TRIP in Monterey Bay was made by 38 members and guests on Oct. 5. The day started out foggy and cold but it was sunny before noon and the temperature had risen considerably. The sea was not rough and the birding was excellent. Usually New Zealand Shearwaters must be looked for among the Pink-Foot & Sooties but we had the opposite situation, at one time going through a flock of 400-500 New Zealand. Unfortunately, the Flesh (Pale)-Footed Shearwater was seen by only one person. In the est. 5000 storm-petrels were 2 Fork-Tailed & 2 Wilson's. The following 30 species were seen:

Com Loon, West Grebe, Pink-Footed, FLESH-FOOTED, New Zealand & Sooty Shearwater, FORK-TAILED, Ashy, Black & WILSON'S STORM-PETREL, Br Pelican, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, Bl-Cr Night Heron, Am Coot, Bl-Bellied Plover, Red & Northern Phalarope, Pomarine & Parasitic Jaeger, SKUA, Gl-Wing, West, Herring, Calif, R-Billed & Heermann's Gull, Com Murre, Cassin's & Rhino Auklet, Bltd Kingfisher.

The RODEO LAGOON, BATTERY WALLACE, BUNKER HILL trip Oct 11 took place on a gorgeous day, more enjoyable after the rains of the preceding days. A Sora was well-seen by all as it walked and swam near the reeds on the pond, and "High Voltage", the albino Red-Tailed Hawk, was seen from Bunker Hill. The 15 members and guests heard or saw the following 66 species:

Eared, West & P-B Grebe, Wh & Br Pelican, cormorant sp, Gr Blue Heron, Gr (Com) & Sn Egret, Bl-Cr Night Heron, Mallard, Pintail, Am Wigeon, Ruddy Duck, Tur Vulture, Wh-Tailed Kite, Sharp-Sh, R-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, Am Kestrel, Calif Quail, Sora, Am Coot, Killdeer, Com Snipe, Willet, Gr Yellowlegs, Lg-Billed Dowitcher, Marb Godwit, Sanderling, R-Billed & Heermann's Gull, Gr Horned Owl, Wh-Thr Swift, Anna's Hummer, Bltd Kingfisher, Com (R-Sh) Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Bl & Say's Phoebe, Violet-Gr Swallow, Win, Bew & Lg-Billed Marsh Wren, Am Robin, Ruby-Cr Kinglet, Log Shrike, Starling, Orange-Cr, Yellow, Yellow-Rumped (Myrt & Aud) & Black-Throated Gray Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Red-W Blackbird, Am Goldfinch, Ruf-Sided Towhee, Wh-Cr, Gold-Cr & Song Sparrow.

The Oct. 15 trip to ALAMEDA began with fog which quickly gave way to sunny skies and mild temperature. Hordes of shorebirds, including 4 Greater Yellowlegs and many Red Knots, were seen but the highlight of the day was the flight of 6 Canada Geese over our heads. The 8 members and guests saw or heard the following 56 species:

Horned, West & P-B Grebe, Br Pelican, Dbl-Cr Cormorant, Gr Blue Heron, Gr & Sn Egret, Bl-Cr Night Heron, Can Goose, Pintail, Am Wigeon, Lesser Scaup, Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Tur Vulture, R-Tail Hawk, Am Kestrel, Am Coot, Semipal & Sn Plover, Killdeer, Bl-Bellied Plover, Lg-Bill Curlew, Whimbrel, Willet, Gr Yellowlegs, Red Knot, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Lg-Bill Dowitcher, West Sandpiper, Marb Godwit, Sanderling, Am Avocet, West, Gl-Wing, Herring, Calif & R-Bill Gull, Forster's & Casp Tern, Rock & Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummer, Com (R-Sh) Flicker, Water Pipit, Starling, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, R-Wing & Br Blackbird, Savannah, Wh-Cr, Gold-Cr & Song Sparrow.

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

Concord: Dave Danielson, L.F. Gieske, Jr., Benjamin Mays; Diablo: R. D. Solomom; Lafayette: C. Konrad, Katie Wells; Walnut Creek: Mr. & Mrs. John L. Ames, Jr., Kim Burgraff, Craig Hohenberger, Miss Ella L Ryken, Mrs. John E. South, John R. Warren.

\* \* \* \* \*

The April 1973 issue of THE AUK, journal of the Amer. Ornithological Union, published the 32nd supplement to the AOU Checklist, including all changes accepted by the Committee on Classification & Nomenclature since the last Checklist was published in 1957. Our newer members who would like to know those changes may obtain a copy of the list, as printed in The Quail, by contacting Jean Richmond. It would be wise to learn the new nomenclature as it in general use by most birders and is used in The Quail.

\* \* \* \* \*

BOUQUETS for the great success of our first pelagic trip go to Shirley Smith, who organized and supervised the trip, and to our exceptional leaders, Ted Chandik and Dr. Howard Cogswell. Hopefully, this will be the first of a series of annual pelagic trips. We sadly bid farewell to Shirley who is moving with her husband to Houston. We will miss you!

\* \* \* \* \*

THE BOOK NEST at Richardson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary has instituted a mail order service from their complete natural history bookstore. The catalogue, listing a wide range of field guides, texts, children's books and selected Audubon items, is available by writing the Sanctuary at 376 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon, CA 94920. Proceeds help to advance the educational programs of National Audubon Society.

\* \* \* \* \*

BAD MANNERS. One of Southeastern Arizona's prime birding spots has been closed because two separate charter groups - two busloads - went tramping through private property without asking permission. The Tucson and Huachuca Audubon Societies are pleading with birders there to ask permission and have offered to help them make arrangements. (Audubon Leader)

Please stay out of private property unless you have permission or more good birding areas may be closed to birders too. When you are permitted on private property be sure to leave all gates as you found them and also avoid disturbing any livestock you may encounter.

\* \* \* \* \*

The effort to increase the number of WHOOPING CRANES has produced 6 surviving chicks from the nests of foster parent Sandhill Cranes in Idaho. Wheat was dumped on the Gray's Lake National Wildlife Refuge to bait the cranes away from neighboring wheat fields as an irate farmer with a shotgun would not help the Whoopers' survival. Eggs had been taken from Whooper nests in Wood Buffalo National Park in Canada and placed in Sandhill nests in Idaho. The foster parents were chosen after a lengthy study of the Sandhill fock to determine the most suitable foster parents. It is hoped that a flock of Whooping Cranes can be established which will breed in Idaho and winter in Colorado and New Mexico as do the Sandhills. This would be a flock separate from the present one which breeds in Canada and winters on the Texas coast.

\* \* \* \* \*

The 9th annual Barstow-Las Vegas MOTORCYCLE RACE across the desert, planned for Thanksgiving weekend, will not be held. The Bureau of Land Management refused permission following the monumental damage done last year on the 160-mile race. The 2500 contestants and 10,000 spectators caused severe environmental problems in spite of efforts of BLM and the sponsoring motorcycle club to control the race. A card of thanks to BLM is in order: Mr. J. R. Penny, State Director, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, 2800 Cottage Way, Room E2841, Sacramento, CA 95825.

\* \* \* \* \*

Pink-Footed Shearwater, Pigeon Point, San Mateo County, Sept. 21--FLB.  
Harlequin Ducks, Ano Nuevo, mid-October in full breeding plumage--BF.  
Ferruginous Hawk, Pt. Reyes, Oct. 7--AuB, BF, JR et al.  
STILT SANDPIPER, Alameda South Shore, Oct. 4--JM, et al.  
Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers, Pigeon Point, Sept. 21--FLB.  
Skua, Pigeon Point, Sept. 21--FLB.  
2 Pileated Woodpeckers, Annadel State Park, Oct. 19--FLB, GGAS field trip.  
EASTERN KINGBIRD, Benicia Marsh, Oct. 26-28--FrB (good photograph).  
2 Tropical Kingbirds, Crespi Pond, Pacific Grove, Oct. 5--ED, FLB, ALB,  
 R&JR; 1, Pt. Reyes, Oct. 7--sev. obs.; 1, Moss Beach, San Mateo County,  
 Oct. 13--F&RN.  
Black-and-White Warbler, Pt. Reyes, Sept. 19--FLB; Oct. 7--BF, JR, et al.  
Tennessee Warbler, Pt. Reyes, Rodeo Lagoon; Princeton (San Mateo County),  
 Esplanade Park (Pacific Grove), Fairhaven (Humboldt County), etc.--sev obs.  
VIRGINIA'S WARBLER, Pt. Reyes, Oct. 11--FLB.  
Magnolia Warbler, Pt. Reyes, Sept. 19--FLB.  
Black-Throated Blue Warbler, Pt. Reyes, Oct. 11--FLB.  
Chestnut-Sided Warbler, Fairhaven, Sept. 29--FLB, BR, R&JR.  
Blackpoll Warbler, Pt. Reyes, Esplanade Park, Princeton, Fairhaven, etc.--  
 sev. obs.  
PRAIRIE WARBLER, Fairhaven, Sept. 27--FLB; Sept. 29--JR, BR, FLB.  
Palm Warbler, Pt. Reyes, Rodeo Lagoon, Crespi Pond, etc.--sev. obs.  
3 OVENBIRDS, Pt. Reyes, Oct. 1-2--FLB.  
American Redstart, Pt. Reyes, Battery Wallace, Princeton, etc.--sev. obs.  
RED-EYED VIREO, Pt. Reyes, Sept. 19--FLB.  
Female ORCHARD ORIOLE, Fairhaven, Sept. 28--BR, R&JR, FLB.  
Rose-Breasted Grosbeak, Pt. Reyes, Oct. 2--FLB.  
White-Throated Sparrow, her Alamo garden, Oct. 20--JR.

(Observers: Florence Bennett, Frank Beyer, Allen Brown, Aubrey Burns, Elizabeth Dickey, Bud Fry, Golden Gate Aud. Soc., Joe Morlan, Fran & Roy Nelson, Bob Richmond, Rich & Jean Richmond, several observers.)

#### GOOD BIRDING SPOTS FOR NOVEMBER:

The fall migration produced fewer birds than last years super crop, but there were some very good sightings this past month: a Philadelphia Vireo, Golden-Winged & Worm-Eating Warblers and Common Grackle near Arcata in Humboldt County, Sabine's Gull at Chico, Prothonotary Warbler at Pt Reyes, Ruff and Northern Parula at Carmel, among others.

This month most summer residents are long gone, wintering land birds are back at their usual haunts and many waterfowl, loons, grebes and shorebirds will be back to spend the winter. Pintails have been in good numbers for some time, American Wigeon, Northern Shovelers and Lesser Scaup have been seen and the others are due in at any time. It remains to be seen what effect the pollution problems at Lake Merritt may have on returning waterfowl. Ordinarily the lake is an excellent place to study waterfowl, cormorants, grebes, gulls and terns as the birds seem to be less skittish there. In past years Barrow's Goldeneyes and Hooded Mergansers have been on the lake. Alameda is excellent for waterfowl and shorebirds, as is the frontage road along I-680 north of Benicia Bridge. A Hudsonian Godwit has been reported from Reifel Refuge near Vancouver, B.C., so check out Marbled Godwits on the outside chance the Hudsonian may pass through our area. Whistling Swans, geese and Sandhill Cranes can be found in the Delta around Thornton, along SR 12 and SR 4, especially on Victoria Island. Lapland Longspurs can be found near the Hall Ranch on Pt. Reyes. High tides the mornings of Nov. 2-4 and Nov. 30-Dec. 2 should send rails out of marshes around the Bay--plan to arrive an hour or so before peak high tide.

\* \* \* \* \*

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.: Tom E. Lee  
3071 Walnut Blvd.  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596  
phone: 934-5475

December 1975  
Vol. 22, No. 6

Next deadline: December 10

- 
- Meeting: Thurs., Dec. 4. Birdingformation: 7 p.m.; social time: 7:30; meeting: 8:00. Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek.
- Field Trips: Sat., Dec. 6, 9:00 a.m., Conn Dam; carpool: Copper Penny in Sun Valley Center, 7:30. Leader: Bob McCarthy (934-2724).  
Wed., Dec. 10, 9:00 a.m., Lake Merritt; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Freeway 24, 8:30. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey (254-0486).
- CHRISTMAS COUNT: Sat., Dec. 27. Co-compilers: Jane Helrich (40 Mt. Emory Ct., Clayton 94517; 687-8873) and Virginia Schaefer (2958 Grant St., Concord 94520; 687-2809). Count period, our area: Dec. 24-31.
- Screen Tour: None scheduled until January. Details next issue.

\* \* \* \* \*

At the Birdingformation session Lynn Farrar, our Christmas Bird Count compiler for many years, will inform us of necessary requirements and how to keep CBC records. Whether you help in the field or in your own yard this short informative session will make the CBC easier and more enjoyable. The program will be presented by Michael Renslow, a cartographer with the U.S. Forest Service. Mr. Renslow has a very interesting presentation concerning the ecology of the Southampton marshes in Benicia.

We return to Conn Dam (Lake Hennessey) for the first time since 1971. The area has many land birds as well as the waterbirds, sometimes including Hooded Mergansers. From Benicia Bridge take I-780 to Vallejo, I-80 east 3 miles to SR 37. Go west about 2 miles then north on SR 29 through Napa to Rutherford, then right about 3 miles on SR 128 to the picnic area by the dam. If you have more time, north of Napa turn right on SR 121 about 2 miles, then left on Silverado Trail and bird along the 13 miles to SR 128.

The trip to Lake Merritt will be to study grebes, waterfowl and gulls. Redheads and Barrow's Goldeneyes have been seen there this fall and perhaps Hooded Mergansers will return. There is an excellent flight cage for closeup study of several species of ducks. Meet on the lake-side walkway behind the Rotary Science Center (corner Bellevue and Perkins). If you arrive late we will be easy to find along the walk.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT: Sat., Dec. 27, all day, rain or shine; co-compilers: Jane Helrich and Virginia Schaefer (addresses above). We are looking forward again to a successful Christmas Bird Count for 1975. This is one of the main events of the Audubon calendar and is a function of great importance. Come out and join us whether you are a seasoned expert or a novice as there is a happy place for everyone. We find it best to start

early in the morning. (In fact we are looking for a good volunteer owl-ing team to get up at pre-dawn to sight these nocturnal beauties for us.) Let Jane Helrich know if you have some special species stashed away in a local palm or whatever.

Please check the list of leaders below then contact one of them to assign yourself to a group---as co-leader or novice, we still need you. Contact area leaders or Jane Helrich promptly so that the CBC can be completely organized as soon as possible and ready to go on Dec. 27. Your leader will have instructions, organize meeting times, etc. PLEASE NOTE we still need a leader for the Walnut Creek area and for yard-listers. Contact Jane to assist in those areas. If you have a favorite birding area not listed (Suisun Bay to Alamo; Camp Stoneman to east Lafayette and Briones Hills) contact Jane for instructions.

Curry Creek/Mitchell Canyon: Kent Fickett, 3322 Doral Ct., W.C. 94598, 933-6979; Diablo Valley College: Jean Holden, 28 Marlee Rd., Pleasant Hill 94523, 938-7423; \*Lafayette/Springhill area: Sean Spillane, 3251 Sweet Dr., Lafayette 94549, 284-4684 or call Jane Helrich; marshes/ponds/north county: Lynn Farrar, 955 Diablo Dr., Lafayette 94549, 283-3938 or Frank Beyer, 409 Rollingwood Dr., Vallejo 94590, (707)-644-0236; Morgan Territory/Marsh Creek: Ed Mize, 2990 Mt. Diablo St., Concord 94518, 686-1341; Mt. Diablo: Jon & Betty Williams, 132 Ready Rd., W.C. 94598, 935-1562; \*Pine Canyon: Tom Lee, 3071 Walnut Blvd., W.C. 94596, 934-5475; \*Tice Valley/Rossmoor: Al Boileau, 3449 Golden Rain Rd., #3, W.C. 94595, 939-5684; \*Walnut Creek/Heather & Lakewood Ponds/Indian Valley School: NEED LEADER; \*bird feeders/yards: NEED LEADER.

\*These areas are in need of extra people.

Plan to attend the post-count potluck and countdown. It is an event with much story-swapping and laughter plus the preliminary report of how well our 1975 Count does, so don't miss it. Dinner will be at the Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek, at 6:30 p.m. There is no need for the counters to get home and into fancy duds as birding clothes are very acceptable. Those who are not able to get out in the field are most welcome to share in the fun. Bring your own dishes and utensils. Coffee, tea and punch are provided but milk drinkers will have to bring their own. Phone Betty Gallagher (682-2458) to let her know what you would like to bring. Be sure to bring food for AT LEAST four times the number in your family attending as a day working the CBC leaves the counters famished.

During our Count Period (Dec. 24-31) if you should see within our CBC circle an uncommon or rare species for this area contact Jane Helrich as soon as possible with full information. These sightings accompany our CBC report which will be published in American Birds next April.

MDAS will pay the cost of participating in the CBC (\$1-2 per participant, depending on whether or not you subscribe to American Birds) but will happily accept donations from those willing to pay their own.

\* \* \* \* \*

OTHER CHRISTMAS COUNTS in our area. Dec. 20: Pt. Reyes; Dec. 21: Oakland (Golden Gate AS), Putah Creek (Davis AS), Santa Clara Valley, Santa Rosa; Dec. 23: Peace Valley (Gray Lodge); Dec. 27 (our date): Eastern Marin County, Sacramento; Dec. 28: Benicia (Napa-Solano AS), Hayward-Fremont (Ohlone AS); Dec. 29: Honey Lake; Dec. 30: Monterey Peninsula; Jan. 1: Angwin; Jan. 3: Western Sonoma County; Jan. 4: Clear Lake (Redbud AS). If you would like to work any of these counts (and you may do as many as you wish) contact your editor for information and the person to contact.

\* \* \* \* \*

Frank Beyer would like to have help with the BENICIA COUNT Dec. 28. Any MDAS members who can assist him can contact him at 409 Rollingwood Dr., Vallejo 94590, (707)-644-0236. He is attempting to recruit members of Napa-Solano Audubon to help us, so we should reciprocate.

\* \* \* \* \*

The field trip to PALO ALTO BAYLANDS and FLOOD CONTROL BASIN on Nov. 8 was made by 15 members and guests. The weather was clear, cool and somewhat windy and the birding was excellent. Although we did not find European Wigeon or Thayer's Gull, we did see several Blue-winged Teal and 6 Short-Eared Owls among the 64 species. By far the most outstanding sight of the day was early in the morning when at least 400 White Pelicans flew over close by. The following species were seen or heard:

P-B Grebe, Wh & Br Pelican, Dbl-Cr Cormorant, Gr Blue Heron, Gr & Sn Egret, Bl-Cr Night Heron, Mallard, Pintail, Gr-W, Bl-W & Cin Teal, Am Wigeon, No Shoveler, Canvasback, Less Scaup, Ruddy Duck, Wh-Tail Kite, R-Tail & Marsh Hawk, Am Kestrel, R-Neck Pheasant, Clap Rail, Am Coot, Killdeer, Bl-Bel Plover, Com Snipe, Lg-Bill Curlew, Willet, Gr Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Lg-Bill & Sh-Bill Dowitcher, Marb Godwit, Am Avocet, Bl-Neck Stilt, Gl-Wing, West, Herring, Calif, R-Bill & Bonaparte's Gull, Rock & Mourning Dove, Burrowing & Sh-Ear Owl, Com Crow, Lg-Bill Marsh Wren, Water Pipit, Log Shrike, Starling, Com Yellowthroat, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, R-Wing & Br Blackbird, House Finch, Am Goldfinch, Sav, Wh-Crown, Gold-Crown & Song Sparrow.

\* \* \* \* \*

The January issue of The Quail will be out a bit early so that any last minute Christmas Count information will reach you before the Count. If you have anything you wish in that issue note the EARLY DEADLINE!

\* \* \* \* \*

We warmly welcome the following as new members of MDAS:

Alamo: Rex Burress, Mr. & Mrs. Ted Parnell, Ray Razzano; Concord: Thomas Zappas; Danville: Brett Mitchell; Lafayette: Paul Cardinet; Martinez: Megan Craig; Walnut Creek: Mrs. Shirley Ellis, Charles L. Stefflemire, Mrs. Peter Talley, John Wagner.

\* \* \* \* \*

BOOK BARGAIN. Birds of California by Arnold Small (see The Quail, May, 1974) has just been published in a soft cover edition. Priced at \$4.95, the book contains the same excellent photographs and text as the hard bound edition. I consider this volume to be almost a must for any California birder and at this price it is really a great buy.

\* \* \* \* \*

The waters of National Audubon Society's RICHARDSON BAY WILDLIFE SANCTUARY have been closed to boating and hunting to provide refuge for thousands of migratory waterfowl. The waters will be reopened next spring after the birds have begun their northward migration.

\* \* \* \* \*

SUBSTITUTES FOR FREON. The Johnson Wax Company, with full-page ads, has announced it will no longer be using fluorocarbons (Freon, etc.) in its spray can products because of possible damage to the atmosphere and is substituting other propellants. There are reports that other companies are doing the same. (Sequoia Audubon Society, The Sequoia)

\* \* \* \* \*

SUBSCRIPTION RATE INCREASE. Due to rising costs of production and the impending postage rate increase we regret to announce that our rate for subscribers must be increased to \$3.00 per year effective Jan. 1, 1976.

\* \* \* \* \*

Again this year we are offering a SCHOLARSHIP to Audubon Workshop in the West for next summer, a marvelous learning experience for two weeks in the Wind River Mountains of Wyoming. We are looking for applicants who can return home and pass on the knowledge gained to local residents, primarily the children. If you are interested in applying, or know anyone who might be, please contact President Tom E. Lee, address and phone on page 1. The deadline for applications for this scholarship is Feb. 1, 1976.

\* \* \* \* \*

OBSERVATIONS:

Red-Necked Grebe, Bodega Bay, Oct. 21--BP, JR, et al.  
 15 (!) Cattle Egrets, among Black Angus cattle, between markers 17.65 and 18.81 on SR 1 north of Bolinas Lagoon, Nov. 13--BP, AM.  
 American Bittern, Alameda South Shore, Nov. 4--BF, JR, et al.  
 Canada Goose, over his Lafayette home, Oct. 18--LF.  
 2 Redheads, Lake Merritt, early Nov.--B&MJG, ED.  
 4 Black Scoters, Fish Docks at Pt. Reyes, Nov. 11--BP, JR, et al.  
 Female Hooded Merganser, Lake Anza, Tilden Park, Nov. 18 (6th winter)--JR, et al. Sometimes on Lake Anza, sometimes on Jewel Lake.  
 Broad-Winged Hawk, Bunker Hill, Marin Headlands, Oct. 28--AB, JR, et al.  
 2 Rough-Legged Hawks, Pt. Reyes, Nov. 11--JR, et al.  
 3 Golden Plovers, Pt. Reyes, Oct. 22--ED, WO.  
 Yellow-Shafted Flicker, Benicia State Park, Nov. 2--FrB, J&HG, E&IH.  
 6 Red-Breasted Nuthatches, her Pleasant Hill yard, Oct. 27--KB.  
 BENDIRE'S THRASHER, home of the Arvil Parkers in Courtland (between Rio Vista and Sacramento) Oct. 14 at least through Oct. 25--sev. ob.  
 Dipper, Putah Creek, Oct. 25--FlB, J&HG, E&IH.  
 Mountain Bluebirds, between markers 5.17 and 5.22 on Altamont Rd. (NOT I-580) about 1 mile east of Altamont, Nov. 15--AE.  
 Immature Hermit & Townsend's Warblers, his Lafayette garden, Oct. 11--LF.  
 CANADA WARBLER, Battery Wallace, Oct. 28-30--Laurence C. Binford, et al.  
 HARRIS' SPARROW, garden of Clark Gleason in Berkeley, returned Nov. 14.  
 To arrange to see the bird, contact him at 843-8846.  
 Swamp Sparrow, Olema Marsh, arrived late October (usually winter)--sev. ob.  
 3 Lapland Longspurs, Pt. Reyes, near Nunes Ranch, Nov. 11--JR, et al.  
 2 SNOW BUNTINGS, Samoa Peninsula near Arcata, Nov. 6-9--sev. ob.  
 (Observers: Aubrey Burns, Florence Bennett, Frank Beyer, Kathy Biggs, Art Edwards, Elizabeth Dickey, Bud Fry, Lynn Farrar, Jerry & Helen Gentile, Erling & Irene Hellekson, Alice Mericourt, Winnie Orcutt, Bill Pursell, Jean Richmond, several observers)

GOOD BIRDING SPOTS FOR DECEMBER:

This is the time of waterbirds, geese, ducks, wintering hawks & landbirds.  
Bodega Head: Rock Sandpipers sometimes are among Surfbirds & Turnstones on the rocks, particularly 1-2 hours after high tide, Ancient Murrelets once in a while off the Head. Oldsquaws sometimes seen at Bodega Harbor, usually near the mouth. Dillon Beach: many loons, sometimes Black Scoter, Oldsquaw.  
Pt. Reyes: often Red-Necked Grebe, Black Scoter at Fish Docks & sometimes Oldsquaw. Rough-Legged or Ferruginous Hawk over rolling hillsides, Golden Plover near Drake's Beach and on road to Fish Docks, Lapland Longspur near Hall Ranch and Nunes Ranch. Swamp Sparrows at Shields Study Area near Inverness but DO NOT TRAMP INTO THE MARSH! Stand quietly near the sign out in the study area and let the birds come to you, particularly in area near the reeds. Palo Alto Baylands for Blue-Winged Teal, sometimes European Wigeon, Thayer's Gull; Flood Control Basin for Short-Eared Owl, White-Tailed Kite. Monterey Bay: sometimes Yellow-Billed Loon, Northern Fulmar, King Eider, Thick-Billed Murre. For Mountain Plover check along SR 33 from vicinity of Avenal, Kings County, south to Blackwell's Corner or Little Pan-oché Rd. near Fresno-San Benito County line. Ross' Geese usually in the Merced, Sacramento & Gray Lodge Wildlife Refuges along with other geese, ducks. The Delta: Whistling Swan, geese, ducks, Sandhill Crane. Lake Merritt: Barrow's Goldeneye, sometimes Redhead, Hooded Merganser among many ducks. Female Hooded Merganser is back at Tilden Park, sometimes on Lake Anza, sometimes Jewel Lake. Other worthwhile birding areas include Lafayette Reservoir, Albany mud flats, Berkeley Aquatic Park, Alameda, Coyote Hills, Rodeo Lagoon, frontage road along I-680 north of Benicia Bridge. Look for White-Throated Sparrows in flocks of White-Crowns. High tides on Nov. 30-Dec. 2, Dec. 17-19 will bring rails out of marshes.

\* \* \* \* \*