



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
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January 1976
Vol. 22, No. 6

Next deadline: January 18

- Meeting: Thurs., Jan. 8. Birdingformation: 7 p.m.; social time: 7:30; meeting: 8:00. Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek.
- Field Trips: Sat., Jan. 10, 8:30 a.m., Coyote Hills; carpool: Alamo Market Plaza, 7:30. Leader: Bob McCarthy (934-2724).
Thurs., Jan. 15, 9:00 a.m., Bay Bridge Toll Plaza marsh; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Freeway 24, 8:30. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843). Note: date changed from published schedule.
- Screen: Mon., Jan 19, 8:00 p.m., Diablo Valley College gym. "On The
Tour: Trail of the Arctic Char" narrated by Karl H. Maslowski.
- Board Meeting: Wed., Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m., home of Tom E. Lee, 3071 Walnut Blvd., Walnut Creek; phone 934-5475.
- CHRISTMAS COUNT: Sat, Dec. 27. Co-compilers: Jane Helrich (40 Mt. Emory Ct., Clayton 94517; 687-8873) & Virginia Schaefer, 2958 Grant St., Concord 94520; 687-2809). Count period: Dec. 24-30.

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At the Birdingformation session Gary Bogue, Curator of Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum, will inform us of what we can do for sick and injured birds and what to do with fallen nestlings. The program for the evening will be a presentation by Terry A. Schulz, a staff research associate for Zoological Medicine and Wildlife Diseases at U.C., Davis. He has a very interesting program about owls, don't miss it.

The varied habitats of Coyote Hills should produce waterbirds, waterfowl, shorebirds, hawks, landbirds, and possibly owls. Go down SR 17 (Nimitz Freeway) to Jarvis Rd., go west to the signal at Newark Blvd., turn right a mile or so then turn left into the park. Meet at the large unpaved parking lot by the south marsh.

The Bay Bridge Toll Plaza marsh is excellent for waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls, terns, and sometimes rails. It is tricky to reach so be very alert. Approaching the toll plaza area keep in the far right lane. Take the off-ramp marked "last Oakland exit and Oakland Army Base" then follow the small signs toward the radio stations. We meet a short distance along that road where there is room to park off the pavement.

The next Audubon film contains exciting angling sequences along with scenes of the tundra in bloom, activities of Arctic Ground Squirrels, Caribou, Oldsquaws, and Beluga Whales. This film, produced in Canada's Northwest Territories, is shown at DVC with no admission charge.

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We look forward to another exciting CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, scheduled for MDAS on Sat., Dec. 27, rain or shine. If you wish to participate in this important event but have not yet contacted one of the party leaders listed last month, do so immediately or contact Jane Helrich at 687-8873. The leader for Mt. Diablo is changed to Bob Bary, 685-1643. Leader for Walnut Creek city area is Ann Cavanagh, 939-3280; leader for feeder watchers is Kathy Biggs, 934-0685. We are not looking just for expert birders, we need and welcome anyone who will join us in counting any and all birds we can find within our CBC circle. WE NEED YOU!

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, voice, your familiarity with that and similar species. Then phone Jane Helrich so she may have the opportunity to have the sighting confirmed, a procedure vital for acceptance of the record. The list: Common Loon, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Snow Goose, European Wigeon, Wood Duck, Virginia Rail, Sora, Semipalmated Plover, Lesser Yellowlegs, Burrowing & Long-Eared Owl, Poorwill, Lewis' Woodpecker, Common Raven, Red-Breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Orange-Crowned, Black-Throated Gray & Townsend's Warbler, Tricolored Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Sage Sparrow, Slate-Colored Junco, White-Throated Sparrow. Any unusual birds seen during our count period (Dec. 24-30) should be reported directly to Jane Helrich.

The post-Count potluck will be that evening at 6:30 at the Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek. Be sure to bring your own dishes, utensils and food for AT LEAST 4 times the number in your family attending. Call Betty Gallagher (682-2458) to let her know what you would like to bring. Come prepared for a lot of fun and see how well our CBC has done.

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The HONEY LAKE CBC date has been changed from Dec. 29 to Jan. 1.

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The trip to PESCADERO on Nov. 20 was made by 10 members and guests under clear skies with comfortable temperature and no wind except while we were at Ano Nuevo Pt. We saw 3 male Harlequin Ducks in beautiful plumage and watched a Red-Tailed Hawk covering its prey as it fed on a hillside. The following 67 species were heard or seen:

Com Loon, Horned, Eared, West & P-B Grebe, Br Pelican, Dbl-Cr, Brandt's & Pel Cormorant, G B Heron, Sn Egret, Harlequin Duck, W-W & Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, R-B Merganser, Wh-T Kite, Red-T, Rough-Leg & Marsh Hawk, Am Kestrel, Am Coot, Bl Oystercatcher, Sn Plover, Killdeer, Bl-Bel Plover, Surfbird, Ruddy & Bl Turnstone, Wand Tattler, Willet, Gr Yellowlegs, Dunlin, Marb Godwit, Sanderling, Gl-Wing, West, Herring & Heermann's Gull, Forster's Tern, Com Murre, Rock & Mourning Dove, Wh-Thr Swift, Belt Kingfisher, Bl Phoebe, H Lark, St Jay, Ch-Back Chickadee, Bushtit, Pygmy Nuthatch, Wrentit, Bew Wren, Ruby-Cr Kinglet, Starling, Yel-Rump (Aud) Warbler, West Meadowlark, Red-Wing, Tricol & Br Blackbird, House Finch, Am Goldfinch, Br Towhee, Savannah, Wh-Crown, Gold-Crown & Song Sparrow.

Only 9 members made the trip to CONN DAM on Dec. 6. After threatening rain for two days, the weather turned clear and warm for the trip which produced a Horned Grebe on the lake, a Rock Wren near the spillway, and a flight of 100 honking Canada Geese plus more geese on the water. The following 65 species were seen or heard:

Com Loon, Horned, West & P-B Grebe, Dbl-Cr Cormorant, G B Heron, Canada Goose, Mallard, Pintail, Gr-Wing Teal, Canvasback, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Wh-Tail Kite, Sharp-Sh & Red-T Hawk, Am Kestrel, Cal Quail, Am Coot, Killdeer, Spot & Least Sandpiper, Ring-Bill Gull, Anna's Hummer, Belt Kingfisher, Com (R-Sh) Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Yel-Bel (Red-Br) Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Bl Phoebe, St & Sc Jay, Com Crow, Pl Titmouse, Bushtit,

Br Creeper, Wrentit, Bew & Rock Wren, Mockingbird, Am Robin, Varied & Hermit Thrush, West Bluebird, Gold-Cr & Ruby-Cr Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Log Shrike, Starling, Yel-Rump (Aud & Myrtle) Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, West Meadowlark, Br Blackbird, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Am & Less Goldfinch, R-S & Br Towhee, Dark-eyed (Oreg) Junco, Wh-Cr, Gold-Cr & Song Sparrow.

The 10 members and guests who went to LAKE MERRITT on Dec. 10 found the weather cold and dreary but the birding hot. We found a male Ring-Necked Duck, a male Greater Scaup, 3 male & 2 female Barrow's Goldeneyes (at times in close proximity to Common Goldeneyes for good comparison), and a female Hooded Merganser. We also had the fun of watching a gull flying overhead playing with a stick which he would drop then dive to retrieve. The following 35 species were seen or heard:

Horned, Eared & P-B Grebe, Wh & Br Pelican, Dbl-Cr Cormorant, Sn Egret, Bl-Cr Night Heron, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, No Shoveler, R-N Duck, Canvasback, Gr & Less Scaup, Com & Bar Goldeneye, Ruddy Duck, Hooded Merganser, Am Coot, Gl-Wing, West, Calif, R-Bill, Mew & Bonaparte's Gull, Forster's Tern, Rock & Mourn Dove, Bushtit, Yel-Rump (Aud) Warbler, House Sparrow, Red-Wing & Br Blackbird, Wh-Crown Sparrow. Also seen, but not wild: Wh Swan, Canada, Wh-Front & Snow Goose.

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

Alamo: C F Thompson; Concord: A B Bullock, Mr & Mrs Mack Davis, Irving M Johnson; Danville: Cal & Pat Andre, W A Schreiber; Lafayette: Mr & Mrs Mervyn A Ortez, Geoffrey J Pickton; Martinez: Catherine Tandy; Pleasant Hill: Robert Huddleston; Walnut Creek: Christine A Conlin, David K Garcelon, Miss Susan Kelly, Mrs Hazel S Mays.

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WHOOPIING CRANE BULLETIN. All 8 Whooping Crane chicks fledged in Canada have arrived safely at Aransas Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in Texas. It was the largest number of young to be added since 1969, and, with 48 adults, brings the flock to 56. Last winter there were 47 adults and 2 chicks on the Refuge. Of the 9 chicks hatched in Sandhill Crane nests in Idaho (see The Quail, Nov. 1975) all 6 survivors arrived safely with the Sandhills at Bosque del Apache NWR in New Mexico. (Audubon Leader)

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PRBO 1976 NATURAL EXCURSIONS include both weekend and week-long trips in California, week-long trips in Arizona and Central America, all with expert naturalists and reasonable cost. Contact your editor or write to Bob Stewart, 27 Cedar St., San Anselmo, CA 94960 for more information.

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BEGINNING BIRDWATCHING CLASS, offered by Fremont Adult School, Alice Hoch, instructor, will meet for 11 weeks beginning Jan. 6. Held on Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., the course will consist of field trips, lectures and slide presentations. Class will meet at the Fremont YMCA, 41811 Blacow Rd., Fremont. Fee of \$4 not required of those over 60, under 21, or those working toward a degree. For more information call 657-9538.

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EVERY LITTER BIT DOES HURT! Broken bottles, pull tabs and other litter cause an estimated 300,000 injuries a year in California, according to a study commissioned by the Assembly Resources and Land Use Committee. Medical treatment for the injuries costs \$3 million a year. SO....continue to do your part for the environment and your fellow human by picking up cans and bottles when you are birdwatching or hiking. (White-Tailed Kite, Altacal Audubon Society) You can help Mt. Diablo at the same time. Contact Gen Sattler (685-5315) about contributing glass and aluminum cans to "Save Mt. Diablo", of which she is a member.

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OBSERVATIONS: (also see field trip reports)

BEWICK'S SWAN, with Whistling Swans, Victoria Island on SR 4, Dec. 7--VH.

12 White Pelicans, over Alamo, Nov. 28--JR.

Male European Wigeon, Palo Alto, Nov. 29--FLB; Elk Glen Lake, Golden Gate Park, Dec. 9--JR, et al.

8 male, 6 fem. Wood Ducks, Metson Lake, Golden Gate Park, Dec. 9--JR, et al.

Female White-Winged Scoter, South Lake Tahoe, Nov. 22--R&JR.

2 female Red-Breasted Mergansers, South Lake Tahoe, Nov. 22--R&JR.

Harlan's Hawk, Sandy Mush Rd. by Merced Nat'l Wild. Ref., Nov. 23--AE.

Herring Gull, South Lake Tahoe, Nov. 22--R&JR.

6 Ancient Murrelets, North Beach, Pt. Reyes, Dec. 8--AM, BP.

Thick-Billed Parrot (escapee), Metson Lake, G.G. Park, Dec. 9--BF, JR, et al.

Winter Wren, his Lafayette garden, Nov. 9--LF. (#138 on his yard list.)

BROWN THRASHER, Oakland garden, arrived mid-Nov.--GM.

Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Blue Rock Springs Park, returned late Nov.--FrB.

600 Cedar Waxwings, his Lafayette garden, Nov. 15--JE.

Orange-Crowned Warbler, returned to his Lafayette garden, Nov. 22--LF.

Black-Throated Gray Warbler, Gazos Creek, San Mateo County, Dec. 2--JR, et al.

Male Black-Headed Grosbeak, Gazos Creek, Dec. 2--RD, JR, et al.

12 Red Crossbills, Metson Lake, Golden Gate Park, Dec. 9--JR, et al.

Lark Bunting, Del Puerto Canyon Rd., Dec. 8--CH.

Slate-Colored Junco subsp. of Dark-Eyed, his Vallejo yard, late Nov.--FrB.

White-Throated Sparrow, Sunol Park, Nov. 28--FLB.

(Observers: Florence Bennett, Frank Beyer, Ruth Dement, Art Edwards, Jimm Edgar, Lynn Farrar, Craig Hohenberger, Vi Homem, Alice Mericourt, Gwen Mayne, Bill Pursell, Rich & Jean Richmond)

GOOD BIRDING SPOTS FOR JANUARY:

See last month's issue for specific places to go and what to look for when you get there. A Bewick's Swan has been on Victoria Island $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Middle River bridge on SR 4 with many Whistling Swans. At Sacramento and Gray Lodge Refuges in the Sacramento Valley geese and ducks seem to be in about normal numbers except for Gadwall which are noticeably fewer. The Sacramento NWR produces an occasional Blue phase Snow Goose and more rarely an Emperor Goose, while Cackling Canada Geese are found in good numbers. The most reliable field mark of Barrow's Goldeneye is the "ladder" effect on the side of the bird on the water. The crescent-shaped face patch may be difficult to pick out. The general effect of the Barrow's is much more black on the upper parts. Females of the two Goldeneyes are very much alike, but the bill of the Barrow's is much shorter and may already be yellow as were the bills of those seen on our field trip to Lake Merritt. Rock Sandpipers, when found, are usually with Surfbirds & Turnstones both of which have broad white bands across the tail but the sandpiper does not. Thayer's Gulls are probably regular in flocks of gulls, the Palo Alto Baylands duck pond being one of the places where they are often found. For field marks of Thayer's Gull, see The Quail, Feb. 1974. Little Gulls have been seen in Washington and Oregon so check out flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls for a possible Little Gull. An immature was seen for some time last winter at Zmudowski State Beach. If owling is your thing, try Higgins-Purissima Rd. or Gazos Creek Rd. on San Mateo County's coast where several Pygmy and Saw-whets have been found in recent weeks. One young man had more than he bargained for when trying to call in Saw-whets---one landed on his head! Check Cedar Waxwing flocks for possible Bohemian. The Bohemian is larger, has white markings in the wings which are conspicuous in flight, has a rusty, not white, crissum, and has a more nasal call.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY NEW YEAR AND GOOD BIRDING from the Richmonds!!!

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



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Next deadline: February 12

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- Meeting: Thurs., Feb. 5. Birdingformation: 7 p.m.; social time: 7:30; meeting: 8:00. Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek.
- Field Trips: Sat., Feb. 7, 9:00 a.m., Thornton; carpool: Copper Penny in Sun Valley Center, 7:30. Leader: Bob McCarthy (934-2724).
Wed., Feb. 18, 9:15 a.m., Chabot Regional Park; carpool: Alamo Market Plaza, 8:30. Leader: Doris Griffin of Ohlone Audubon Society. (Information: Jean Richmond, 837-2843).
- Screen Tour: Mon., Feb. 23, 8:00 p.m., Diablo Valley College gym. "Pacific Shores" narrated by Norman Wakeman. No admission charge.

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Birdingformation will be a discussion by MDAS member Kent Fickett on "How to attract birds to your yard, patio and balcony". Following the business meeting will be a film presentation by Warren Larson, "Jeepers, Creepers" about things that crawl, and "Hummingbirds". Mr. Larson is a past president of Golden Gate Audubon Society and a retired Richmond school teacher.

At Thornton are thousands of Whistling Swans, geese, ducks and Sandhill Cranes, plus land and water birds of many species. There may be a Green Heron, Bittern or Barn Owl and perhaps some Cranes will be doing their courtship dance. Go north on SR 24, east on SR 4, cross Antioch Bridge and continue on SR 160 to SR 12. Turn right 16 miles to Thornton Rd. then left 5 miles and meet at its junction with Peltier Rd.

At Chabot Park we will see land birds of various species, including many California Thrashers. MDAS has not birded here so we have an opportunity to learn a new area from Doris Griffin, a very able leader from Ohlone Audubon. From I-680 take Crow Canyon Rd. to Castro Valley Blvd, turn right to Redwood Rd., right again and meet at the corner of Camino Alta Mira.

There has been a change in the film for the Audubon series at DVC as the scheduled speaker, John Bulger, recently died. The film now will be "Pacific Shores" by Norman Wakeman but the college has no advance information about either the film or the narrator.

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We had a very successful CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT on December 27 with 37 observers in 10 parties plus 5 at feeders who turned up 126 species and 2 additional races. The total was a record for this Count, the previous high being 123 which was reached in 1963. The day started very foggy and cold but it improved considerably as the day went on, although fog lingered along the river. The numbers of waterfowl were very low and the European Wigeon, present on our CBC the last few years, was not found at all. We did tally Townsend's Solitaire, Orange-Crowned and Black-Throated Gray

Warbler, all good finds. The following species were recorded:

Horned, West & P-B Grebe, Dbl-Cr Cormorant, G B & Green Heron, Gr & Sn Egret, Bl-Cr Night Heron, Am Bittern, Wh Swan, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Gr-Wing Teal, Am Wigeon, No Shoveler, Redhead, Canvasback, Less Scaup, Ruddy Duck, Tur Vulture, Wh-Tail Kite, Sh-Sh, Coop & R-Tail Hawk, Golden Eagle, Marsh Hawk, Am Kestrel, Cal Quail, R-Neck Pheasant, Virginia Rail, Sora, Com Gallinule, Am Coot, Killdeer, Bl-Bel Plover, Com Snipe, Lg-Bill Curlew, Spot Sandpiper, Willet, Gr Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Lg-Bill Dowitcher, West Sandpiper, Am Avocet, Bl-Neck Stilt (2nd time on Count), Gl-Wing, Herring, Thayer's, Calif, R-Bill, Mew & Bonaparte's Gull, B-Tail Pigeon, Rock & Mourn Dove, Barn, Screech, Gr Horn & Sh-Ear Owl, wh-Thr Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Com (Yel-Sh & Red-Sh) Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Yel-Bel (Red-Br) Sapsucker, Hairy (2), Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Bl & Say's Phoebe, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, St & Sc Jay, Com Crow, Ch-Back Chickadee, Pl Titmouse, Bushtit, Wh-Br Nuthatch, Wrentit, House, Winter, Bew, Lg-Bill Marsh & Rock (7) wren, Mockingbird, Calif Thrasher, Am Robin, Varied & Hermit Thrush, West Bluebird, TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE, Gold-Cr & Ruby-Cr Kinglet, Water Pipit, Ced Waxwing, Log Shrike, Starling, Hut Vireo, ORANGE-CROWNED, Yel-Rumped (Aud) & BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER, Com Yellowthroat, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, R-wing & Br Blackbird, Purple & House Finch, Pine Siskin, Am & Less Goldfinch, R-Sided & Br Towhee, Savannah, Lark & Ruf-Cr Sparrow, Dark-Eyed (Slate-Colored & Oreg) Junco, Wh-Cr, Gold-Cr, Fox, Lincoln's & Song Sparrow. Also seen was a Ringed Turtle Dove, a probable escapee.

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The field trip to COYOTE HILLS on Jan. 10 was made by 13 members and guests who arrived to find fog and frost but fortunately no wind, then the afternoon was clear although cold. The group saw American Bitterns, a Virginia Rail and hybrid Flicker with red nape and red whiskers, heard a Sora and a SWAMP SPARROW: The following 63 species were seen or heard:

Hared & P-B Grebe, G B Heron, Sn Egret, Am Bittern, Pintail, Gr-wing & Cin Teal, Am Wigeon, No Shoveler, Canvasback, Less Scaup, Ruddy Duck, Wh-Tail Kite, Sh-Sh, R-Tail & Marsh Hawk, Am Kestrel, Cal Quail, R-Neck Pheasant, Virg Rail, Sora, Com Gallinule, Am Coot, Killdeer, Bl-Bel Plover, Com Snipe, Willet, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, West Sandpiper, Am Avocet, Bl-Neck Stilt, Herring Gull, Mourn Dove, Gr Horn Owl, Belt Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Bl & Say's Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Sc Jay, Ch-Back Chickadee, Lg-Bill Marsh wren, Ruby-Cr Kinglet, Water Pipit, Log Shrike, Starling, Orange-Cr & Yel-Rump (Aud) warbler, Com Yellowthroat, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, R-wing & Br Blackbird, House Finch, Savannah, Wh-Cr, Gold-Cr, Fox, Lincoln's SWAMP & Song SPARROW.

The BAY BRIDGE TOLL PLAZA MARSH trip, sandwiched between 2 very foggy mornings, was made under clear skies with cool temperature. The 11 members and guests were treated to the sight of a Clapper Rail wandering nonchalantly along a channel within 15 feet of the group. A strangely marked Red-Tailed Hawk caused much discussion before an identification was made. The following 59 species were found:

Red-Necked, Horned, Hared, West & P-B Grebe, Dbl-Cr Cormorant, G B Heron, Gr & Sn Egret, Mallard, Pintail, Canvasback, Less Scaup, Com Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Red-Br Merganser, R-Tail Hawk, Am Kestrel, Clapper Rail, Am Coot, Semipal & Sn Plover, Killdeer, Bl-Bel Plover, Ruddy & Bl Turnstone, Com Snipe, Lg-Bill Curlew, Whimbrel, Willet, Red Knot, Least Sandpiper, Sh-Bill Dowitcher, West Sandpiper, Marb Godwit, Sanderling, Am Avocet, Gl-Wing, West, Calif, R-B & Mew Gull, Forster's Tern, Rock & Mourn Dove, Belt Kingfisher, Water Pipit, Starling, West Meadowlark, R-wing Blackbird, House Finch, Am Goldfinch, Savannah, Wh-Cr, Gold-Cr & Song Sparrow.

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

Antioch: Jennifer J Dowell; Concord: Miss Susan Karr, Robert H Petrina, Anna Maria Raefield, Wilbert Welle; Danville: the Robert Kretz family; Lafayette: Mr Mason Haire, Jack Holliday; Pacheco: Mrs George A Rands; Pleasant Hill: Kathy E Davis, Mr & Mrs Peter R C Jarratt; Walnut Creek: Mrs Thomas R Bulland, James McCall.

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The JANUARY PROGRAM of Alexander Lindsay Museum will be a talk and slide show on "Migratory Birds of the Contra Costa County Area", by Philip Gordon. Mr. Gordon will cover marshland birds, hawks and songbirds, varieties of habitats, and techniques of identification. The program will be presented Thurs., Jan. 29, at 8 p.m. in the Friends Church Social Hall, 1950 First Ave., Walnut Creek, directly across the street from the Museum parking lot. Everyone is welcome and there is no charge.

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Audubon's Western BIENNIAL CONFERENCE at Asilomar April 10-13 will have outstanding speakers, programs, exhibits and field trips. The theme, "What Alternatives", will center around conservation and ecology in the last half of the 70's and what we can do. Your president or editor can give you more information if you are interested in attending this informative conference.

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FREE BOOK OFFER. Audubon Illustrated Handbook of American Birds by Edgar M. Reilly, Jr., edited by Dr. Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr., is a single-volume guide to all birds of North America. National Audubon Society will send the book free to any Chapter member who enrolls 3 or more new members. (Gift memberships are eligible.) All applications must be sent in groups of 3 or more, enclosing remittance checks and the name of the person to receive the book. Members must NOT route these directly to National but MUST send them through our membership chairman: Stuart Purcell, 603 Aleta Pl., Pleasant Hill 94523.

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CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT. Members recently received a brochure concerning this vast proposed project which hopefully you read very carefully. The project would destroy or degrade valuable streamside habitat and create a disaster for several species of birds in the process. There are a number of other problems in this proposal, energy and water waste, water quality, and expense among them. Five Audubon chapters are involved in litigation to halt construction of the CAP and are in great need of funds. Tax-deductible contributions, payable to CAP Fund - Maricopa Audubon Society, should be sent to Monica A Szostak, Treasurer, Maricopa Audubon Society, 4242 N. 32nd St., Phoenix, AZ 85018.

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PROGRAMS AT RICHARDSON BAY WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, Sunday afternoons, 3:00. Feb. 1: Vanishing Birds, about Condors; Feb. 8: Harbor Seals, lecture and slides; Feb. 15: Otters, Clowns of the Sea, film; Feb. 22: Tripping with Terwilliger, films of Marin's favorite naturalist, Elizabeth Terwilliger; Feb. 29: Last Days of the Dolphin, beautiful film on the dolphin/tuna controversy. 2-hr nature walk for beginners, Sundays, 9 a.m. Sanctuary admission is free to Audubon members, 50¢ for non-members.

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BIRDING AT EAGLE LAKE, a trip to an excellent birding area June 4-6, will be led by Phil Schaeffer, manager of Richardson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. There will be presentations on the natural history of the lake and the highly successful Osprey Management Program, guided visits to the Osprey nesting area, and a look at more than 100 species. Cost: \$1-2, depending on accommodations arrangements. Information: write the Sanctuary, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon 94920, include stamped, self-addressed envelope.

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OBSERVATIONS: (also see field trip reports)

2 Cattle Egrets, Hall Ranch, Pt. Reyes, Dec. 26--BR, JR, FLB.

Bewick's Swan, Victoria Island, Dec. 13--JR, FLB.

8 Black Scoters, Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes, Dec. 26--BR, FLB, JR.

Ferruginous Hawk, I-680 north of Benicia Bridge, Benicia Christmas Count, Dec. 28--FLB, MC, ED.

Prairie Falcon, near Red Bluff, Jan. 4--FLB.

3 Black Rails, Benicia State Park, Benicia CBC Dec. 28--LB, FrB, BR, JR, et al. STAY OUT OF THE MARSH at least through May due to the breeding season! To see the species, plan to work that CAC next winter.

2 Golden Plovers, Drake's Beach turnoff, Pt. Reyes, Dec. 26--FLB, BR, JR.

At least 10 Surfbirds, Bodega Head, Jan. 3--JR, BR, AB.

2 Rock Sandpipers, Bodega Head, Jan. 3--JR, BR, AB.

Dede & Peter Rosmarin saw the IVORY GULL found on Dec. 22 at Salisbury, Mass. The rare gull was at the mouth of Merrimack River at least through Jan. 9. They also saw Iceland Gull and Snowy Owl on their trip.

12 White Throated Swifts, Palo Alto, Jan. 6--JR, et al.

EASTERN PHOEBE, Bodega Bay, Western Sonoma Christmas Count Jan. 3--Betty Burridge, et al; Jan. 13--JR, et al.

Dipper, Sunol Park, Dec. 17--J&JE; Solano Lake, Jan. 8--FLB, E&IH, J&HG.

Phainopeplas, Solano Lake, Jan. 8--FLB, E&IH, J&HG.

(Observers: Alan Brown, Leon Borowski, Florence Bennett, Frank Beyer, Maxine Clason, Elizabeth Dickey, Joan & Jimm Edgar, Jerry & Helen Gentile, Irene & Erling Hellekson, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond)

GOOD BIRDING SPOTS FOR FEBRUARY:

Check information in the past two issues as it still holds for February. The mouth of Tomales Bay at Dillon's Beach is excellent for loons of 3 species, while waterbirds are all over the area in good numbers. Whistling Swans and Sandhill Cranes were in huge numbers along Woodbridge Road near Thornton the third week of January. They may also be seen along SR 4 east of Byron and along SR 12 east of Rio Vista. Los Banos Wildlife Area and Merced Nat'l Wildlife Refuge are excellent for birding. Los Banos is good for American Bittern, White-Faced Ibis, some Ross's Geese, Common Gallinule, waterfowl and hawks, sometimes including Rough-Legged & Ferruginous. Merced NWR has some of those same species but also good numbers of White Pelican, Whistling Swan, Ross's Goose and Sandhill Crane. A trip to those 2 areas, both in Merced County, is a rather long but very rewarding day. Mountain Flowers on SR 33 and Little Panoche Rd. (see Dec. Quail) will remain for just a short time longer before leaving for their breeding areas. Late this month Rufous and Allen's Hummingbirds will begin showing up in this area. Tricolored Blackbirds are often found in areas such as Drake's Beach Rd. on Pt. Reyes or Pigeon Point in San Mateo County. When you see a huge flock of blackbirds in such places, chances are that you will find Tricolors. Check carefully if you find a bird with a light border on the red epaulet as there are some Red-wings other than our usual "Bicolored" race here in winter. The red on the Tricolor is a very dark shade while that of the Red-wing is a lighter, brighter red. The border is not stark white in the Tricolor in winter and sometimes it is very washed out in the Red-wing, making that field mark a bit difficult.

High tides on the mornings of Feb. 13-15 are the last good tides until late Sept. An hour before peak high tide the rails begin to come into view in marshy areas then shorebirds move in to feed when the tide starts out.

If you want information on birding a particular place or where to look for a specific species, please contact your editor for assistance.

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



The Quail

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

P. O. Box 53

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

March 1976
Vol. 22, No. 9

Next deadline: April 12

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- Meeting: Thurs., Mar. 4. Birdingformation: 7 p.m.; social time: 7:30; meeting: 8:00. Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek.
- Field Trips: Sat., Mar. 6, Bodega Bay, 9:30 a.m.; carpool: 7:30, Copper Penny in Sun Valley Center. Leader: Bob McCarthy (934-2724).
Thurs., Mar. 18, Grizzly Island, 9:15 a.m. (meet in Fairfield); carpool: 8:30, Copper Penny. Leader: Sally Steller (837-9061).
- Screen Tour: wed., Mar. 17, 8:00 p.m., Diablo Valley College gym. "The Land No One Wanted" by Buzz Moss. No admission charge.
- Board Meeting: wed., Mar. 17, 7:30 p.m., home of Helen Gentile, 134 Gilbert Ct., Martinez; phone: 228-6297.

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Birdingformation, Shorebirds, Part 1, will be led by Frank Beyer to help sort out those confusing species. He will present Part 2 at the Birdingformation session next month. The program will be a presentation by Bob Claypole of slides taken mostly around a ranch near Covelo, Mendocino County. Bob, a former member of MDAS, is now a fishing guide on the Klamath River in southern Oregon.

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At Bodega Bay there are many waterbirds, ducks, shorebirds and landbirds, hopefully including the Rock Sandpipers which have been seen from Bodega Head most of the winter. There are sometimes unusual or rare species around the Bay, Oldsquaw and Sabine's Gull among them. Go north on US 101 to Petaluma then follow the signs from the Washington St. exit to SR 1 then north to The Tides Restaurant in the middle of the town of Bodega Bay.

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Grizzly Island should produce good numbers of geese, ducks and hawks and perhaps Long-Eared or Short-Eared Owls among the many species usually seen there. Take I-680 north to I-80, turn east to the Fairfield exit (SR 12) and go a short distance to Allan Witt Park on the right. Meet there in the parking lot close to the street. If you plan to meet the group later at Grizzly Island, continue on SR 12 through Fairfield. A mile or so out of town turn south on Grizzly Island Rd. and drive until you find us. If the weather has been very wet be sure to call Sally before the trip as the roads may be too muddy and the trip would have to be cancelled.

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The final Audubon film of this season is about deserts, harsh land of sand and rock that nourishes a multiplicity of wildlife. The Land No One wanted (once) is being abused, and Moss juxtaposes its incredibly varied living beauty and those abuses, leaving the conclusions to us.

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There was no rain at THORNTON on our field trip although it rained at home that day and also on the road home. The sky was overcast most of the day but fortunately no wind accompanied the cold temperature. Whistling Swans, Pintails and Sandhill Cranes were seen in breathtaking numbers on the ground and in the air. Best sighting of the day was the excellent views of a female Merlin perched in a tree alongside Woodbridge Rd. There were also good views of 2 Green Herons and 3 Common Gallinules from Blossom Rd. The 26 members and guests heard or saw the following 67 species:

P-B Grebe, Gr Bl & Gr Heron, Gr Egret, Bl-Cr Night Heron, Am Bittern, Wh Swan, Canada, Wh-Fr & Snow Goose, Mallard, Pintail, No Shoveler, Canvasback, Tur Vulture, Wh-T Kite, Coop, Red-T, R-Leg & Marsh Hawk, Merlin, Am Kestrel, R-N Pheasant, Sand Crane, Com Gallinule, Am Coot, Killdeer, Bl-B Plover, Com Snipe, Lg-Bill Curlew, Dunlin, dowitcher sp, Am Avocet, R-E Gull, Rock & Mourn Dove, B Kingfisher, Com (R-Sh) Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Bl & Say's Phoebe, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Sc Jay, Com Crow, Lg-Bill Marsh wren, Mockingbird, Am Robin, R-C Kinglet, Water Pipit, Log Shrike, Starling, Yel-Rump (Myrtle & Aud) Warbler, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-W, Tricol & Br Blackbird, Br-H Cowbird, House Finch, R-S Towhee, Savannah, Lark, Wh-Cr, Gold-Cr & Song Sparrow.

The trip to CHABOT REGIONAL PARK began under partly cloudy skies but the weather continued to improve as the day went along, ending under beautiful blue, nearly cloud-free sky. We walked the 10-Hills Trail under the capable guidance of Doris Griffin of Ohlone Audubon. The 12 members and guests were treated to very good views of a Cooper's Hawk, both perched and in flight. The Gadwalls found at the lake were the first Doris had seen there in all her many walks through the park. The Hutton's Vireo was found after a diligent search for the bird as he was singing his monotone song. The following 48 species were seen or heard:

P-B Grebe, Dbl-Cr Cormorant, Gr Egret, Gadwall, Cin Teal, Canvasback, Ruddy Duck, Tur Vulture, Wh-Tail Kite, Coop & Red-T Hawk, Am Kestrel, Calif Quail, Am Coot, Gl-Wing, Calif & R-B Gull, Mourn Dove, Wh-Thr Swift, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Com (R-Sh) Flicker, Black Phoebe, St & Sc Jay, Ch-Back Chickadee, Fl Titmouse, Bushtit, Wrentit, Bew Wren, Calif Thrasher, Am Robin, Hermit Thrush, West Bluebird, Gld-Cr & Ruby-Cr Kinglet, Starling, Hutton's Vireo, West Meadowlark, Purple Finch, Less Goldfinch, R-S & Br Towhee, Dark-Eyed (Oreg) Junco, Wh-Cr, Gold-Cr, Fox & Song Sparrow.

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From Audubon Leader:

USEFUL BOOKLET AVAILABLE. "Environmental Impact Statements - How to Analyse Them," shows what to look for in these documents and how to make use of them in your efforts to protect the environment. Published for National Audubon's North Midwest Region, it is available for \$1.50 per copy, including postage, from the Midwest Regional Representative: Edward M. Brigham, III, R.R. 4, Red Wing, Minn. 55066.

WINDMILLING is a new course offered at New Mexico State University to meet a growing demand from energy-conscious ranchers, farmers and suburbanites for instruction in the repair, installation, and maintenance of water-pumping windmills.

RETURN OF THE PUFFIN. There was a high rate of success last summer in the first transplant program to re-establish the Common Puffin at an island in Muscongous Bay, Maine, where they formerly nested. Of 94 chicks imported from a colony in Newfoundland and raised by scientists on the island, all but three successfully fledged. The work is being done under grants from NAS and its Joint Scientific Program with Massachusetts Audubon.

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It is with great sadness we inform our membership of the death on Jan. 26 of long-time MDAS member Ed Eichstedt. We will greatly miss his marvelous sense of humor and that ever-ready smile. We extend our deepest sympathy to Edna and to all other members of the family.

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The KIRTLAND'S WARBLER more than tripled its population last summer in one of the most successful nesting seasons on record, according to Wildlife Management Institute. It is believed that there are now about 1200 of this species compared to about 358 which arrived back in the nesting area of Michigan last spring. The program of trapping and removing cowbirds from the nesting area of this endangered species is credited with the nesting success of the warblers which have been heavily parasitized by cowbirds in the past.

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CALIFORNIA CONDORS apparently are not faring as well. The annual Condor survey is only one indicator of the status of this endangered species; the birds are spread so widely over such remote and rugged terrain that a count of the entire population is impossible. In the survey conducted last October, 29 of the big birds were sighted, 20 adults, 5 immatures (5 years old or younger), and 4 unclassified. One fledgling was discovered last fall, the only known nesting to have taken place last summer. Biologists estimate the total population is about 50, but they also say the overall pattern of the surveys, along with other data, "suggests a downward trend."

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PROGRAMS AT RICHARDSON BAY: 3 p.m., Sundays. Mar. 7: Life Story of the Hummingbird; Mar. 14: A Day in the Life of a Meadow, illustrated lecture; Mar. 21: Wildlife Babies; Mar. 28: Courtship and Nesting, lecture and slides. Admission free to Audubon members, 50¢ for others.

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Those who have birded at THE MILE HI in Ramsey Canyon, southeastern Arizona, will be delighted to learn that The Nature Conservancy is in the process of buying the property. Along with 280 acres owned by the late Dr. N. C. Bledsoe and willed to the Conservancy, the property will form The Ramsey Canyon Preserve. Joan and Carroll Peabody will remain and, with the help of caretakers, will continue to provide education and enjoyment for visitors. To aid in raising the purchase cost, send contributions, made payable to National Audubon Society - Mile Hi Fund, to National Audubon Society, Attention Brian Bedell, 950 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022. All such funds will be turned over to Nature Conservancy.

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PRBO COURSES: April 24-25, Ecology of Plant Reproduction, \$25; April 24-25 & May 15-16, Birds of the Bay Area, finer points of bird identification, including behavior and song, \$40, or \$25/weekend. Write Bob Stewart, 27 Cedar St., San Anselmo 94960.

* * * * *

"SPSH, SPSH" is the strange sound made by experienced birders when trying to flush passerines---vireos, warblers, orioles and such, and it works! "SpsH" mimics the call of certain tropical residents that our northern birds encounter during migration. Those tropical residents know the whereabouts of fruit and nectar, important staples for visiting North American species. But a word of caution: don't try this trick with Old World birds as their food requirements in Africa are different. The discoverer of this information is Neal Griffith Smith of the Smithsonian Tropical Institute in the Canal Zone. (The Burrowing Owl, Davis Audubon)

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OBSERVATIONS: (also see field trip reports)

Yellow-Billed Loon, Berkeley Marina, Jan 25--at least through Feb. 10--JM, JR, FlB, et al.

Oldsquaw, 4 females, Moss Landing, Feb. 16--FlB, et al.

Black Scoter, 12 male, 2 female, Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes, Feb. 23--JR, et al.

Ferruginous Hawk, Panoche Rd., San Benito County, Feb. 2--D&PR.

Osprey, Tahoe Keys, South Lake Tahoe, Feb. 13--R&JR.

American Golden Plover, Drake's Beach Rd., Pt. Reyes, Feb. 3--JR, et al.

Glaucous Gull, Moss Landing Feb. 15--fide FlB.

Roadrunner, Mines Rd., Jan. 27--GB.

Brown Thrasher, still at Oakland feeder at least through January.

Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, mouth of Carmel River, Feb. 16--FlB, et al.

Phainopepla, male, Mines Rd., Jan. 27--JR, et al.

CAPE MAY WARBLER, male, feeder in Santa Cruz, Feb. 8-15 (at least).

Northern Waterthrush, mouth of Carmel River, Jan. 31--D&PR.

Lawrence's Goldfinch, 18, beyond San Antone Junction, Mines Rd., Jan. 27--JR, et al.

Slate-Colored Junco, Mines Rd., Jan. 27--JR, et al.

White-Throated Sparrow, 1 ad., 1 imm., her Alamo garden, Feb. 15--JR.

Swamp Sparrow, 2, still at Shields' Study Area, Inverness, early Feb.

(Observers: Florence Bennett, Gertrude Biolos, Joe Morlan, Dede & Peter Rosmarin, Rich & Jean Richmond)

GOOD BIRDING SPOTS FOR MARCH:

March is the month to look for early migrants. Late this month look in grasslands for Swainson's Hawks passing through and watch bays, lakes, beaches and mudflats for Northern Phalaropes, while Caspian Terns should arrive by mid-March around mudflats, bays, lakes and marshes. Allen's Hummingbirds are back and Rufous should be passing through on their way to nesting areas far to the north of us. Check hummingbirds for possible Black-Chinned as that species has been at a Concord feeder the past 2 summers. Western Kingbirds may begin to arrive the end of the month, Western Flycatchers by mid-March, but most flycatchers will not arrive until April. Swallows will be in ever-increasing numbers during March, and vireos will begin arriving. Orioles and Black-Headed Grosbeaks may begin to turn up here at the end of March.

Many of our wintering species will still be around through this month but some individuals will be moving north. Before they leave, many of the shorebirds will be changing into their beautiful breeding plumage. It is very worthwhile to check along the Bay in such places as Alameda South Shore and Bay Bridge Toll Plaza marsh to see these lovely birds---quite a contrast to the rather somber dress they wear all winter. The Western Grebes may be seen doing some of their courtship dance at Richardson Bay or from Battery Wallace. Check recent issues for where to look for wintering species.

Mines Rd. south of Livermore is an excellent birding area (one of my personal favorites) and one of the best places to see Golden Eagle, Phainopepla, orioles, and Lawrence's Goldfinch. Monterey and Pt. Reyes always turn up more than their share of rarities at any time of the year.

If you would like to see Sage Grouse on their booming grounds, there is one area near Crowley Lake in Mono County and another near Litchfield (just east of Susanville) in Lassen County.

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Jean Richmond, Editor---125 Via Serena, Alamo, CA 94507---phone 837-2843
(Exchange bulletins to MDAS at this address.)



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

April 1976
Vol. 22, No. 10

Next deadline: April 12

Meeting: Thurs., Apr. 1. Birdingformation: 7 p.m.; social time: 7:30; meeting: 8:00. Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek.

Field Trips: Sat., Apr. 3, 9:00 a.m., Annadel State Park; carpool: Copper Penny, Sun Valley Center, 7:30. Leader: Florence Bennett (933-3781).

Wed., Apr. 21, 9:15 a.m., Redwood Regional Park; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Freeway 24, 8:30. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).

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Frank Beyer will conclude his presentation on shorebirds at the Birdingformation this month. His expert knowledge and excellent slides will be a great help in learning to distinguish the various species. This will be a double header for Frank as he is also to present the program for the evening, a narrated slide show about the desert. We will see flowers, birds and some mammals mostly from Arizona but some from southeastern California.

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Our first field trip to Annadel State Park near Santa Rosa should produce many woodland birds, including several species of woodpeckers, Pileated Woodpecker among them. There may be Wood Ducks on the pond and there is also the possibility of finding early migrants. From I-80 east of Vallejo turn west on SR 37 to SR 121 then north to SR 12, turn left and continue about 17 miles beyond Sonoma. Just after reaching divided road turn left on Los Alamos Rd. then right on Montgomery Dr. for 0.6 miles to Channel Dr. Go left 2 miles to the Annadel parking lot at the end of the road.

At Redwood Regional Park we should see many newly arrived migrants and summer residents such as flycatchers, vireos, warblers and grosbeaks. Take Freeway 24 toward Oakland, south on Warren Freeway (SR 13) to Redwood Rd. exit and turn left. The park entrance is about 2½ miles beyond Skyline Blvd. Turn left into the park and drive about a third of a mile to the main parking lot.

* * * * *

This issue is a rather abbreviated one as your editor, along with her husband, is going on a 3½-week trip to Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. Consequently, this issue is being written the latter part of February, just after finishing the March bulletin. The March field trip reports and observations will be in the May issue. The Whooping Cranes call!

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

Alamo: Paula & Tom Jorde, Virginia Kimberley; Antioch: Mr & Mrs Walter J Henderson; Concord: Mrs Larry Bradley, Sue Carnegie, John H Davis and family, Diane DeRushia, Dr R L Holmstead, Cindy Robinson; Danville: Ms Daniel Cavellier, Mr C D Lamp, Dick & Dianne Overstreet, Mr & Mrs F H Zuerner; Lafayette: William J Nownes; Pittsburg: Don H Bloomer; Pleasant Hill: Mrs Doris Baltzo, Mrs H A Sweetman; Pleasanton: Daniel Thomas Belton; Walnut Creek: Mrs Russell B Allen, Ethel D Beckerman, Mr W C Bonner, Dr E R Chisholm, Mrs Edna Lyser, Mr A R Rathert, Lucy S Smith, Marion Treat, the Wilcox family.

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ELECTION OF OFFICERS will be held at the April meeting and the nominating committee is hard at work to select a slate to present to the membership. Ordinarily the slate would be published in this issue but due to the vacation trip by your editor and the consequent early date of typing the bulletin there is no report from the committee. Be sure to attend the meeting to consider the committee's choices or to make a nomination from the floor. The list of new officers will be published next month.

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We take great pleasure in announcing the awarding of the CAMBERSHIP for next summer at Audubon Workshop in the Wind River Mountains of Wyoming. Kathy Hoffman, of Berkeley, teaches 4th grade in Valle Verde School in the Mt. Diablo School District. In that position she can instill in young minds an awareness of our environment, its importance and fragileness.

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RICHARDSON BAY PROGRAMS: Apr. 4: The Lorax, a film for children (fun for adults too) about Dr. Suess' characters and how they deal with the problems of their environment; Apr. 25: Wood Duck's World, film; May 2: It Began with Birds, film of the history and development of National Audubon Society. This program coincides with the opening of the newly restored Lyford House to the public. Admission is free to NAS members, 50¢ for others.

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PRBO TRIPS: May 1-2, Bird Song, \$25; May 22-23, Landbird Ecology, \$30; May 31-June 6, Birds of Southwest Arizona, \$210. Detailed information, write Bob Stewart, 27 Cedar St., San Anselmo CA 94960.

* * * * *

GUESS WHAT THE CORPS HAS BEEN UP TO. The Army Corps of Engineers, which in years past has flooded out or dried out many a marsh, is now making them and has completed a 352-acre project in the Mississippi delta that is the largest man-made marsh ever built in this country. The project had the active encouragement of the Orleans Audubon Society and other nearby conservation groups. Spoil from channel dredging was carefully spread to the right depth in a shallow area, allowing restoration of natural marsh vegetation, wildlife and aquatic life, (Audubon Leader)

* * * * *

GARBAGE POWER. The city of Ames, Iowa, gets 15% of its electricity from garbage. The garbage is trucked to a plant where it is shredded then sent past a magnet which picks out the metal for recycling. The remaining refuse is shredded even finer then sent to the power plant where it is burned in conjunction with coal. Every two truckloads of refuse is the equivalent of one truckload of coal. There have been pollution problems to be overcome with some such plants but there have been no complaints at Ames. Such plants can use gas instead of coal if preferred, therefore garbage can conserve natural resources while the refuse itself is disposed of without burying us. (KRON-TV)

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DUSKY AND HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER, how to tell them apart? The following tips are from Dr. David DeSante of Stanford. Both are small and belong to the genus Empidonax: basically olive-greenish above, light gray below, with an eye-ring and two light wing-bars.

DUSKY: A. occurs, when breeding, in shrubby clearings; B. gives an upward tail-flick in a shallow arc; C. has a longish tail which is held parallel with the back, is light along the outer edges, and is the same color as the back; D. gives a clear call best described as "si-dic" with emphasis on the second syllable; E. has a largish, readily visible bill.

HAMMOND'S: A. occurs, when breeding, in dense fir forest; B. gives an exaggerated upward tail-flick; C. has a shortish tail held straight down, darker than the back with no light edges; D. sneezes its call, "schlick," E. has a minute bill, giving it a big-headed appearance. (Pacific Flyway, Morro Coast Audubon)

* * * * *

GOOD BIRDING SPOTS FOR APRIL:

April means the spring migration will be getting underway in earnest although the main push does not usually arrive until late in the month. We bid farewell to the last of our winter residents, many of which will have acquired some or all of their breeding plumage before their departure. Early in April check areas along the Bay for loons, grebes and shorebirds wearing their fresh new colors.

For returning residents and for migrants passing through, keep an eye on your own backyard as well as visiting such places as Lafayette Reservoir, Briones Park and Mt. Diablo. Farther afield are Mines Rd., Veterans' Park in Livermore, Mt. Hamilton, Sunol Park, Coyote Hills, Tilden and Redwood Parks, Alum Rock Park in San Jose (crowded on weekends), Pescadero in San Mateo County, Golden Gate Park (also somewhat crowded on weekends), Rodeo Lagoon and Battery Wallace in Marin County, Bolinas Lagoon, Pt. Reyes, Woodland Sugar Ponds in Yolo County.

Swainson's Hawks may be found in the Central Valley, Caswell State Park in San Joaquin County for example. Check swifts for any Vaux's which may be around. Calliope Hummingbirds are often found in Tilden Park, especially near the model airplane field, in late April. Flycatchers will be back in the area, most species fairly early in the month. Cassin's Kingbirds have occasionally been seen along Mines Rd. in late April. Canyon and Rock Wrens should begin to sing and therefore be more easily found--- several pairs are almost always to be found along Mines Rd. Swainson's Thrushes arrive about mid-month, occurring for a time with Hermits still in the area. Phainopeplas should be easily found now in places such as Mines Rd. Many warbler species will be arriving for the breeding season or passing through on migration. Sometimes on Mt. Diablo several species may be seen at once. Carefully check any warblers you see for the possibility of the more unusual species. Some Hooded Orioles will be around so do not assume any oriole you see is Bullock's. Grasshopper Sparrows may turn up in Las Trampas Park by the last week in April. Listen for their insect-like song. Also arriving at the end of the month will be Black-Chinned Sparrows just below the South Gate entrance station on Mt. Diablo.

Watch especially carefully after the passage of warm fronts as birds tend to follow them. For nesting birds put out bits of string and yarn and also dryer lint. When pruning in the spring please be careful as you may disturb nesting birds. Keep me posted on rarities, arrival dates of migrants and summer residents, and departure dates of winter birds.

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The Quail

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

P. O. Box 53

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May 1976
Vol. 22, No. 11

Next deadline: May 15

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- Meeting: Thurs., May 6. Birdingformation: 7 p.m.; social time: 7:30; meeting: 8:00. Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek.
- Field Trips: Sat., May 8, 9:00 a.m., Capay Cemetary and Woodland Sugar Ponds; carpool: Copper Penny, Sun Valley Center, 7:30. Leader: Florence Bennett (933-3781).
- Thurs., May 13, 8:30 a.m., Mt. Diablo State Park. Leader: Sally Steller (837-9061).
- Sat., May 22, 8:00 a.m., Mines Road; carpool: Alamo Market Plaza, 7:15. Leader: Art Edwards (447-3720).
- Wed., May 26, 9:45 a.m., Glen Ellen; carpool: Copper Penny, Sun Valley Center, 8:30. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).
- June 19-20, YUBA PASS WEEKEND, make reservations now.
- Board Meeting: Wed., May 19, 7:30 p.m., home of Sally Steller, 591 Fulton Way, Danville; 837-9061. All outgoing and incoming officers are requested to attend.

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Sounds of Birds, by Marie Mans, will be the Birdingformation topic for May. One of the very best at birding by ear, Marie will help you to learn how to listen to birds. For the program, a number of baby birds will accompany Bobbie Meyer who will discuss the raising of orphan birds.

Capay and Woodland, new birding areas for us, should turn up Black Tern, flycatchers, warblers and Blue Grosbeak, among others. Take I-680 to I-80, east to I-505, north to SR 16. Meet on SR 16 just west of I-505.

Mt. Diablo in May produces warblers, Lazuli Bunting, Rufous-Crowned, Sage and Black-Chinned Sparrows, sometimes Vaux's Swift, Calliope Hummer, Gnatcatcher or Phainopepla. Meet on South Gate Rd. 2.7 miles from the left turn near Athenian School, late comers look for us along the road.

Mines Road is a birding goldmine: Golden Eagle, Roadrunner, Vaux's Swift, Lewis' Woodpecker, wrens, Phainopepla, warblers, Lawrence's Goldfinch, and Costa's Hummingbird. Go south on I-680, east on I-580 to N. Livermore Ave., then south to 2nd St. (1 block beyond the flagpole) and meet in the parking lot there. Be sure to start with a full tank of gasoline.

Yellow-Breasted Chat will be the primary objective of the Glen Ellen trip, but there should be woodpeckers, flycatchers, warblers and other spring birds. From I-80 east of Vallejo turn west on SR 37, north on SR 121, continue north on SR 116 about 1½ miles then follow signs to El Verano and Glen Ellen. Meet in the parking lot of Jack London Lodge.

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The YUBA PASS WEEKEND will be June 19-20. Motel reservations in Sierra City should be made now as fishermen will be competing for the limited accommodations. Some motels in the area are: Sierra Chalet 916-862-1110, Herrington's Sierra Pines 916-862-1151, Canyon Ranch 916-994-3340. There are a number of good campgrounds in the area.

* * * * *

The trip to BODEGA BAY was made by 25 members and guests who found very mild, windless weather and calm water. Late morning brought a complete reversal with very strong wind and bitter cold causing the group to quit by 2:30. Nothing unusual was seen, not even the Rock Sandpipers seen there all winter, but the following 54 species were found:

Com Loon, Horn, Ear, West & P-B Grebe, D-C & Pel Cormorant, G B Heron, Sn Egret, Pintail, G-W & Cin Teal, No Shoveler, Canvasback, Less Scaup, Com Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Tur Vulture, R-Tail & Marsh Hawk, Osprey, Am Coot, Bl Oystercatcher (4), Sn Plover, Killdeer, Bl-B Plover, Surfbird, R & Bl Turnstone, Whimbrel, Wand Tattler, Willet, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, S-B Dowitcher, Marb Godwit, Sanderling, Am Avocet, G-W, West, Herr & R-B Gull, Com Murre, Com Raven, W Pipit, Starling, Yel-Rump (Aud) Warbler, Br Blackbird, H Finch, Wh-Cr, Gold-Cr & Song Sparrow.

The trip to GRIZZLY ISLAND began with light rain which cleared but the wind was strong all day. No owls were found but the 8 members did see Rough-Legged Hawks and also Chocolate Pheasants which were introduced by the gun club. The following 53 species were seen:

P-B Grebe, G B Heron, Gr & Sn Egret, B-C Night Heron, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, G-W & Cin Teal, No Shoveler, Tur Vulture, Wh-Tail Kite, R-Tail, R-Leg & Marsh Hawk, Am Kestrel, R-N Pheasant, Com Gallinule, Am Coot, Killdeer, Com Snipe, L-B Curlew, Gr Yellowlegs, dowitcher sp., Mar Godwit, B-N Stilt, M Dove, hummingbird sp., Com (R-S) Flicker, Horn Lark, V-G, Tree, Barn & Cl Swallow, Com Crow, L-B Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Am Robin, W Pipit, L Shrike, Starling, Yel-Rump (Aud) Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, H Sparrow, West Meadowlark, R-W & Br Blackbird, H Finch, Am Goldfinch, Sav, Sparrow, Dark-Eyed (Or) Junco, Wh-Cr, Gold-Cr & Song Sparrow.

ANNADEL STATE PARK did not produce the Pileated Woodpeckers although their holes were found in a number of trees. Wood Ducks were seen on the pond beside the road on the way out of the park. The weather was overcast and cold in the morning, becoming a little warmer in the afternoon along with some clearing. The 33 members and guests found the following 58 species:

Mallard, Wood Duck (pair), Tur Vulture, Wh-Tail Kite, R-Tail & Red-Sh Hawk, Am Kestrel, Cal Quail, Am Coot, Killdeer, Com Snipe, gull sp., Mourn Dove, Anna's, Rufous & Allen's Hummingbird, Com (R-S) Flicker, Acorn, Downy & Nut Woodpecker, Bl Phoebe, West Flycatcher, Tree & Barn Swallow, St & Sc Jay, Com Raven, Com Crow, Ch-B Chickadee, Bushtit, Wh-Br & Pygmy Nuthatch, Br Creeper, Bew Wren, Mockingbird, Am Robin, Var & Her Thrush, West Bluebird, Gold-Cr & R-Cr Kinglet, Sol & Warb Vireo, Or-Cr & Wil Warbler, West Meadowlark, R-W Blackbird, North (Bul) Oriole, Br Blackbird, P & H Finch, R-S & Br Towhee, Dark-Eyed (Or) Junco, Wh-Cr, Gold-Cr, Fox & Song Sparrow.

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The NEW OFFICERS, elected at the April meeting, are as follows: president, Jimm Edgar; vice-president (program), Kent Fickett; vice-president (conservation), Leon Borowski; secretary, Elizabeth Dickey; treasurer, Florence Bennett. These officers and the committee chairmen will all be listed with addresses and phone numbers as soon as the committee chairmen are chosen. All the members of MDAS send to the outgoing officers our hearty thanks for a job well done.

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MEETING DATE CHANGE. Please mark your calendar now as our JUNE meeting date is changed to Friday, June 4, instead of the usual Thursday.

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

Alamo: Ruth E Stephens, Arlene Stich; Altadena: Susan A Schetne; Antioch: John Immel, Paul K Schorr; Concord: Ms Rebecca Beemer, Mrs. James S Foster, E Thomas Moewed, DDS, Lee Rode, Mike Szymanski; Danville: Tony Huegel; Lafayette: Richard Boyle, Debbie Brown, S Arnold Haberman, William J Letson, Ed Martinez, Cindy G Osterman; Martinez: Arthur Beresford, Mr & Mrs George W Kilbourne; Oakland: Mr H G Petersen; Orinda: Mr & Mrs David Waddell; Pleasant Hill: Carol Armstrong, Susan C Carre, Mr Gale H Reedy, Ms Katherine Woodard; San Ramon: Timothy R Jacobs, Mrs Sally Scholl; Walnut Creek: Mr & Mrs Steven B Bachman, Ed Balleuger, Ronald Johnson, Dr. John W Lang, Vicki Minkowski, Alice Simmons, Mr Ross Sonneborn.

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The ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE of such activities as fishing, hunting, camping, skiing, boating, etc., are well documented but contributions of birding are not. Birders spend considerable amounts on field guides and other books, binoculars, scopes, feed and feeders, to say nothing of travel expenses such as air, train or bus fare, motels or hotels, restaurants, car rental. We are a valuable asset to the economy!

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The COASTAL CONSERVATION ACT of 1976, SB 1976, has been introduced into the California Legislature by Senator Anthony Beilenson. This bill is a result of the work done by the state and local coastal commissions created by passage of Proposition 20 in 1972. Among other things, the proposed bill would control development in coastal areas, require public access, bar development in environmentally sensitive areas and keep a statewide coastal commission to oversee coastal development. Conservation groups feel the bill fulfills the intent of Proposition 20, but developers, builders, construction trade unions, utilities and others would like to defeat it or at least weaken its provisions. The bill, which is going to generate a hot debate in the Legislature, will be heard first by the Senate Natural Resources Committee, chaired by Senator John Nejedly of Walnut Creek.

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MAJOR SPORTING EVENT. "Though it may sound preposterous," comments Bartlett Hendricks in his column in the Pittsfield, Mass., Berkshire Eagle, "it is a fact that more outdoor people participate each year in a bird count than in the qualifying round for the U. S. Open Golf Tournament or any other event in the wide, wide world of sports." Close to 30,000 persons took part in the National Audubon sponsored annual Christmas Bird Count last winter, covering 1165 areas from Alaska to Venezuela.

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KAIPAROWITS PROJECT DROPPED. On April 14 a consortium of electric companies announced cancellation of the proposed \$3.5 billion Kaiparowits Power Plant in scenic southern Utah. The plant, in the heart of the Canyon Country, would have caused severe air pollution in several national parks and monuments. The National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management and Environmental Protection Agency had all submitted to Secretary of Interior Thomas S. Kleppe judgements of adverse environmental affects on the region but conservationists had expected approval of the plant later this month. The cancellation, attributed to economic, regulatory and environmental problems, comes as a major victory for environmentalists. See Audubon magazine, March 1976, page 64, for background information.

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"The conservation movement is a breeding ground of communists and other subversives. We intend to clear them out, even if it means rounding up every birdwatcher in the county." John N. Mitchell. From Whole Grains: a Book of Quotations. Mercy, I had no idea we were THAT bad. (White-Tailed Kite, Altacal Audubon Society)

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OBSERVATIONS: (also see field trip reports)

On their trip Feb. 25-Mar. 18, the Richmonds saw 1 immature and 17 adult Whooping Cranes, Masked Ducks, Hook-Billed Kites, Black Hawk, Rufous-Capped Warbler and Baird's Sparrow among 264 species.

In Arizona Mar. 27-Apr. 10, the Stellers, Jack, Sally and Tom, saw courtship flight of a pair of Goshawks, also Black Hawk, Gray Hawk, and Rufous-Winged Sparrow, among others.

Northern Fulmar, 15, Pigeon Pt., San Mateo Co., Mar. 30--JR, et al; 70+ Monterey Bay, Apr. 12--BR, JR; 300, Monterey Bay, Apr. 14--AB, BR.

Cattle Egret, Cypress Rd near Jersey Island Rd., Apr. 13--NK, GB.

European Wigeon, 2, feeding in meadow near town of Bolinas, Mar. 30--FlB.

SWAINSON'S HAWK, 3, Jersey Island Rd., Apr. 13--JR, BR, et al.

Black Scoter, 2, Pescadero, Mar. 30--JR, et al.

Osprey, Briones Regional Park, Apr. 13--BR, JR, et al.

BLACK-HEADED GULL, Tomales Bay, Apr. 6--NK, BR, JR, et al. Found Apr. 5 by Bruce Sorrie of PRBO, this is the 3rd or 4th record for California.

Black-Legged Kittiwake, Princeton Harbor, Apr. 14--BR, AB.

Rhinoceros Auklet, 4, Pigeon Pt., Mar. 30--NK, JR, BR, et al.

Roadrunner, 2, MP 6.59 on Mines Rd., Mar. 27--JR, BR, FlB, et al.

SPOTTED OWL, Muir Woods, Mar. 20--FlB, B&MJG, BR, JR.

COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD, Del Puerto Canyon Rd., Stanislaus Co., 3.3 Miles west of I-5, Mar. 21--AE, PW; same spot, Mar. 27--FlB, BR, JR, AE, et al.

Rufous Hummingbird, her Walnut Creek feeder, Feb. 28--FlB.

Western Kingbird, I-5 in San Joaquin Co., Feb. 25 (early)--JR.

OLIVACEOUS FLYCATCHER, still at Carmel River, Apr. 12--T&EL, JR, BR, PG.

Purple Martin, Crespi Pond, Pacific Grove, Apr. 12--BR, JR.

Hermit Warbler, Pt. Reyes headquarters, Apr. 10--FlB, J&HGM B&MJG, BR, JR.

Hooded Oriole, his Pleasant Hill feeder, Apr. 1--PR.

Northern (Bullock's) Oriole, Mines Rd., Mar. 27--JR; her Pleasant Hill feeder, Apr. 1--KB.

EVENING GROSBEAK, 2, Chabot Regional Park, Apr. 1--JE.

Lawrence's Goldfinch, pair, Curry Creek Park, Apr. 13--JR, BR, et al.

Harris' Sparrow, Half Moon Bay, Feb. 21--JR, B&MJG, FlB; one still at his Berkeley feeder, molting into summer plumage--CG.

(Observers: Alan Brown, Florence Bennett, Gertrude Biolos, Kathy Biggs, Jimm Edgar, Art Edwards, Jerry & Helen Gentile, Clark Gleason, Phil Gordon, Bill & Mary Jane Greene, Nils Kjellen, Tom & Elaine Lee, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Peter Rosmarin, Peter Willmann.

GOOD BIRDING SPOTS FOR MAY:

Spring migration is now in full swing! Migrants and vagrants are passing through our area and the summer residents have arrived or will soon. See the April issue for the better areas for these birds. Check warblers very carefully as we sometimes get rarities here in May. Some of the most exciting birding in California is at Death Valley in late May and early June when all sorts of "eastern" species are seen. Pinnacles National Monument south of Hollister, San Benito Co., an interesting place to visit, has species of birds not often seen closer to home.

Go out Mines Rd., turn toward Del Valle Park, then left on Mendenhall Rd. to look for Poor-Wills. Arrive there an hour before dark and look for the birds on the road. Black Swifts may be found at Lighthouse Point in Santa Cruz and at Ano Nuevo and Pigeon Point, San Mateo County. The Costa's Hummer in Del Puerto Canyon frequents the tobacco plant with its yellow blossoms. Check near the southeast corner of the airplane field in Tilden Park for Calliope Hummers. Blue Grosbeaks, usually found in willows in the western Sacramento Valley, should be seen on our Woodland field trip. They also may be found along Rd. 124 just west of SR 16 near Sacramento.

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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

June 1976
Vol. 22, No. 12

Next deadline: July 1

Meeting: Fri., June 4, 6:30 p.m., Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek. POTLUCK DINNER. Please note day change.

Field Sat., June 5, 8:30 a.m., Briones Park. Leader: Jean Richmond.

Trips: Wed., June 9, 8:30 a.m., Bolinger Canyon. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).

Sat.-Sun., June 19-20, Yuba Pass and Sierra Valley weekend.
Leader: Bob McCarthy (934-2724).

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Our annual potluck dinner will be at the Women's Club on Friday, June 4, rather than Thursday, our usual day. We meet at 6:30 for an evening of good food and fun. Bring your own dishes and utensils plus enough salad, casserole, dessert (and serving spoon) or bread for 4 times the number in your family. Tea, coffee and punch will be provided; milk drinkers bring your own. Phone Betty Gallagher (682-2458) as to what you want to bring.

The program for the evening will be slides shown by our members. Those who wish to show slides should limit the number to a dozen or so and keep the commentary to a reasonable length. Slides may be not only of birds but also of animals, flowers, scenery, etc.

At Briones Park we should see flycatchers, vireos, orioles, grosbeaks and other nesting species. Take Upper Happy Valley Rd. from the freeway in Lafayette. At Happy Valley Rd. turn left 2 miles to Bear Creek Rd., right $\frac{1}{2}$ mile then right into the park. Meet in the parking lot on the right.

At Bolinger Canyon we will look for such birds as Barn Owl, flycatchers, vireos, warblers, orioles, tanagers and grosbeaks. From central Lafayette take Moraga Rd. to Rheem Blvd., turn left to St. Mary's Rd., then right a short distance and meet at the roadside by the entrance to the college.

By popular request we are going to the Yuba Pass area on June 19-20. Meet both days at 8:30 a.m. at Yuba Pass (on SR 49 east of Sierra City) in the parking area on the south side of the road. Saturday morning we will bird in the vicinity of the Pass then, after lunch, move to Gold Lake-Sardine Lakes area. There should be many wildflowers and many mountain birds, hopefully including Mountain Quail, White-Headed Woodpecker, Townsend's Solitaire and possibly Black-Backed 3-Toed Woodpecker, Pine Grosbeak and Red Crossbill. Sunday we go east of the Pass into Sierra Valley to look for Black Tern, Sage Thrasher, Brewer's Sparrow and other desert and marsh birds. If you have not yet made motel reservations, do so immediately as space is limited. There are motels in Downieville, Sierra City and Sierra-ville and several campgrounds in the area. Information will be available at the potluck, or call Bob McCarthy at 934-2724.

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The SUMMER ISSUE will be the usual combined July-August edition which will be out in early July, the regular September issue about August 25.

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The trip to REDWOOD REGIONAL PARK was made in good weather although by the time we left the park the temperature was dropping and clouds were moving in. We had excellent views of a MacGillivray's Warbler and also watched a pair of Red-Breasted Nuthatches excavating a nest hole. The 15 members and guests, including one from Pennsylvania and one from Sweden, heard or saw the following 47 species:

T Vulture, Coop & R-T Hawk, Cal Quail, B-T Pigeon, M Dove, Allen's Hummingbird, Com (R-S) Flicker, Ac & Downy Woodpecker, West & O-S Flycatcher, V-G Swallow, St & Sc Jay, Com Raven, Ch-B Chickadee, Pl Titmouse, Bushtit, R-B Nuthatch, Br Creeper, Wrentit, H & Bew Wren, Mockingbird, Cal Thrasher, Am Robin, Starling, Hut & Warb Vireo, O-C, Yel-Rump (Aud) & MacG Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, Wil Warbler, Northern (Bul) Oriole, B-H Grosbeak, H Finch, P Siskin, Am & L Goldfinch, R-S & Br Towhee, Dark-Eyed (Or) Junco, Gold-Cr, Linc and Song Sparrow.

The weather for the CAPAY CEMETARY-WOODLAND SUGAR PONDS trip was clear, sunny and warm with just enough breeze to make things comfortable. We did not see Black Terns or any rarities but did get close views of Blue Grosbeaks and a Hermit Warbler. The 30 members and guests heard or saw the following 79 species:

Ear Grebe, G B Heron, B-C Night Heron, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Cin Teal, No Shoveler, Redhead, Canvasback, L Scaup, Ruddy Duck, T Vulture, W-T Kite, R-T & Marsh Hawk, Am Kestrel, Cal Quail, R-N Pheasant, Com Gallinule, Am Coot, Semipal Plover, Killdeer, Com Snipe, Spot & Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Lg-B. Dowitcher, West Sandpiper, Am Avocet, Wil & No Phalarope, R & M Dove, Barn & G H Owl, hummingbird sp., Ac Woodpecker, West Kingbird, Ash-Th Flycatcher, Say's Phoebe, V-G, Bank, Barn & Cl Swallow, Sc Jay, Y-B Magpie, Com Raven, Com Crow, Pl Titmouse, Bushtit, Bew & Lg-B Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Am Robin, Her Thrush, Ced Waxwing, Log Shrike, Starling, Warb Vireo, O-C, Yel-Rump (Aud), Herm & Wil Warbler, H Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Y-H & R-W Blackbird, Northern (Bul) Oriole, Br Blackbird, B-H Cowbird, West Tanager, Blue Grosbeak, H Finch, Am & L Goldfinch, Br Towhee, Sav & Wh-Cr Sparrow.

The MT. DIABLO trip was made on a hot, sunny day, weather which resulted in closure of the park to entry in mid-morning but we were not required to leave. The hot, dry conditions kept the birds somewhat quiet and hard to find. The Black-Chinned Sparrow we heard singing would not show himself but we did see 4 Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers, a pair of Phainopeplas and 5 Townsend's Warblers. The 8 hardy birders heard or saw these 53 species:

T Vulture, R-T Hawk, Am Kestrel, Cal Quail, B-T Pigeon, M Dove, Wh-Th Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Com (R-S) Flicker, Ac & Nut Woodpecker, Ash-Th & West Flycatcher, West Wood Pewee, O-S Flycatcher, H Lark, V-G, Barn & Cl Swallow, St & Sc Jay, Com Crow, Pl Titmouse, Bushtit, W-B Nuthatch, Wrentit, Bew Wren, Mockingbird, Cal Thrasher, Am Robin, Sw Thrush, West Bluebird, B-G Gnatcatcher, Phainopepla, Starling, Warb Vireo, O-C, Town & Wil Warbler, West Meadowlark, R-W Blackbird, West Tanager, B-G Grosbeak, Laz Bunting, H Finch, L Goldfinch, R-S & Br Towhee, R-Cr & Sage Sparrow, Dark-Eyed (Or) Junco, Bl-Chin & Gold-Cr Sparrow.

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Inadvertantly omitted last month was the ANNOUNCEMENT that Erik Sean arrived February 16 at the home of Karen and Leon Borowski. Congratulations to the proud parents and welcome to our newest, and youngest, member.

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IMPORTANT TV SHOW. "The Well Springs," a one-hour special on the ecology and value of coastal wetlands, will be shown on KQED on Thursday, June 24 at 9 p.m. Included is coverage of NAS' fight to save Marco Island, Florida.

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We cordially welcome the following new members of MDAS:

Antioch: Sister M Foraboschi OP; Danville: Dr Neil E Anderson, Darren Firestone, A Lansfeld; Lafayette: Olive Wilhelm; Martinez: Mr/Mrs Milfred Arthur, Nan M Townsend; Pleasant Hill: William W Griffin, Jr; San Ramon: Barbara Levy; Walnut Creek: Danse Bennett, Mr Dale L Haag, Miss Susan Ann McCoy, Olga Nicolayeff.

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A COURSE on "Natural History of California Birds" will be offered by Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum through St. Mary's College Extension. Instructor is Phil Gordon of Walnut Creek, a life science teacher for Hayward Unified School District. The course, June 21-23, 9 a.m.-noon at the museum, June 24, 6 a.m.-noon in the field, will develop skills in bird identification, scientific notation, natural history of California birds and knowledge of habitats in Contra Costa. Fee: \$15 for Walnut Creek residents, \$22 for non-residents; one unit credit available for additional \$17.50 fee. Contact the museum at 1901 First Ave., Walnut Creek.

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PRBO COURSES: June 20-26, Transect of the Sierra Nevada, \$170; July 4-10, East of the Sierra, \$100; August 2-6, Ecology of Plants and Birds of the Lake Tahoe Region, \$65. For information or to enroll (\$25 reserves a place) write Bob Stewart, 27 Cedar St., San Anselmo 94960.

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A 6-week BIRDWATCHING CLASS taught by Alice Hoch will meet Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. beginning June 22. Contact Fremont Adult School, 40775 Fremont Blvd., Fremont 94538, 657-9538, or call Alice at 657-0475.

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CRUCIAL DECISION NEARS for the "Lobbying Bill" for tax-exempt organizations. Write your Congressman and Senators, urge their support!! Revised legislation to clarify and liberalize the rules under which charitable and educational organizations may endeavor to influence legislation without jeopardizing their tax exempt status has been introduced in both houses. The new bill, H.R. 13500 (no Senate number yet), has taken 7 years to reach its present form and has extensive backing. Charitable organizations have been hampered by vague restrictions and uncertainties on legislative matters. The new bill spells out the extent to which organizations such as ours can engage in attempts to influence legislation without loss of tax-exempt status. It would set top limits for such expenditures; clearly exempt communications between an organization and its members on legislation; provide guidelines for communications with the executive branch; establish clear rules on so-called "grass-roots lobbying," and all in all would give tax-exempt organizations many of the same rights which trade associations already have.

This is the one issue on which we can freely express ourselves to our legislators under present law, and we should give this bill our highest priority. "For the first time in this long fight we have the Administration supporting us," said NAS President Dr. Stahr. "We have some strong support in Congress and a united front among charitable organizations. This is the chance we've been waiting for; there's no time to lose. Right now, please write, wire or telephone your Congressman and Senators and urge them to pass this important bill, H.R. 13500 without delay."

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BIRD LISTS WANTED. As you travel, 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. The response to the request last year was great but the chapter hopes to accumulate a larger file. When planning a trip contact me---I may have a list for the area you plan to visit and you can learn what birds are likely to be found there.

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OBSERVATIONS: (also see field trip reports)

In Texas Apr. 14-26, Florence Bennett found 194 species (91 lifers) including Least Grebe, Masked Duck, Hook-Billed Kite, Ferruginous Owl, 24 species of warblers (including Swainson's, Worm-Eating & Tropical Parula)

Birding in Arizona and Texas Apr. 15-May 9, Peter and Dede Rosmarin found 270 species (111 lifers) including Hook-Billed Kite, Zone-Tailed Hawk, Yellow Rail, Ferruginous Owl and Tropical Parula.

Dave and Kathy Biggs, in Arizona Apr. 18-28, found 145 species (50 lifers) including Zone-Tailed Hawk, Montezuma (Harlequin) Quail, Costa's Hummingbird and Red-Faced Warbler.

10 Pink-Footed Shearwaters, Pigeon Pt, San Mateo County, May 17--BR, JR.

45+ Sooty Shearwaters, Pigeon Point, May 17--BR, JR.

Swainson's Hawk, Woodland Sugar Ponds, May 16--F1B, et al.

Red Knots, 50, most in breeding plumage, Alameda, Apr. 27--ED.

RED PHALAROPES, some in breeding plumage, all along the coast, Monterey to Mendocino, early to mid-May. 2, Berkeley Aquatic Park, May 15--JR, BR, F1B, B&MJG; many, Carmel and Monterey, May 15-16--SS; 75, Pescadero, May 17--BR, JR; 5, Alameda, May 17--ED.

40+ Black-Legged Kittiwakes, Pigeon Point, May 17--BR, JR.

17 SABINE'S GULLS, Pigeon Point, May 17--JR, BR.

Black-Chinned Hummingbird, his Lafayette garden, Apr. 2--HA.

Roadrunner, Mines Rd., marker 0604 (in Santa Clara County), May 16--C&FS.

Vaux's Swift, up to 3, Mt. Diablo, Apr. 25, May 1, 4 --m.ob.

DUSKY FLYCATCHER, his Lafayette garden, Apr. 15-16--LF.

GRAY CATBIRD, his Lafayette garden, Apr. 17--LF.

Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, up to 9, Mt. Diablo, Apr. 23, 25, May 1, 4, 5--m.ob.

Phainopepla, pair, Mt. Diablo, Apr. 25--BR, JR, H&JG, I&EH.

Nashville Warbler, Mt. Diablo, Apr. 23, May 1, 4, 5--BR, JR, F1B, et al.

Black-Throated Gray Warbler, Mt. Diablo, Apr. 23, May 1, 4, 5--m.ob.

Townsend's Warbler, Mt. Diablo, May 1, 4, 5--m.ob; Las Trampas Park, May 7--BR, JR; 4, Tilden Park, May 11--JR, BR, et al.

Hermit Warbler, Mt. Diablo, May 1, 4, 5--m.ob; Las Trampas Park, May 7--BR JR; Mines Rd., May 16--C&FS.

Yellow-Breasted Chats, back at Glen Ellen and at Piper's Slough at Bethel Island, late Apr.--m.ob.

EVENING GROSBEEK, his Lafayette garden, May 3--HA.

Black-Chinned Sparrows, back at Mt. Diablo, Apr. 23--JR, BR.

(Observers: Harry Adamson, Florence Bennett, Elizabeth Dickey, Lynn Farrar, Helen & Jerry Gentile, Irene & Erling Hellekson, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Clair & Freida Shackelford, Sally Steller, many observers)

GOOD BIRDING SPOTS FOR JUNE:

The best time to look for birds this time of year is early morning. Check the last 2 or 3 issues for where to go and what to look for. A few Harlequin Ducks summer at Ano Nuevo; Least Terns are at Alameda; Purple Martins can sometimes be found on Mt. Tamalpais, at Pt. Reyes or in Napa Valley.

The best summer birding is usually in the mountains. In the Sierras (see also page 1): Calliope Hummingbird, Hammond's & Dusky Flycatcher (to distinguish them see the April issue), Clark's Nutcracker, Dipper, Mountain Bluebird, warblers, Western Tanager, Evening Grosbeak, Green-Tailed Towhee. In Yosemite: Great Gray Owl (do NOT disturb them) at Crane Flat & Peregoy Meadow, Black-Backed 3-Toed Woodpecker near Bridalveil Campground, Gray-Crowned Rosy Finch in Tioga Pass areas, especially on Mt. Dana trail. Vaux's & Black Swift at Crane Flat & Glacier Pt., Blue Grouse near Glacier Point. East of the Sierra in areas such as Sierra Valley look for marsh and desert species. Black-Throated Sparrow can be found near Minden, Nev. Pinyon Jays should be found near Mammoth and between Hallelujah Junction and Honey Lake, as may Gray Flycatchers.

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Jean Richmond, Editor---125 Via Serena, Alamo, CA 94507---phone 837-2843
(Exchange bulletins to MDAS to this address, please.)



The Quail

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

P. O. Box 53

Pres.: Jimm Edgar
3478 Orchard Hill Ct.
Lafayette, CA 94549
phone: 283-3510

July-August 1976
Vol. 23, No. 1-2

Next deadline: August 12

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- Meeting:** No meeting until September 9. Details in the next issue.
- Field Trips:** Sat., July 24, 9:00 a.m., San Mateo County coast. Carpool: LEAVE Alamo Market Plaza, 7:30. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).
Anyone interested in a Saturday trip in August (possibly to Bodega Bay for post-breeding wanderers and early migrants) contact Florence Bennett (933-3781) or Jean Richmond (837-2843).
Sun., Oct. 3, pelagic trip out of Monterey. See below.
- Board Meeting:** Wed., Aug. 4, 7:30 p.m., Jimm Edgar's home, 3478 Orchard Hill Ct., Lafayette; 283-3510. Budget planning for next year.

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Along the San Mateo County coast: Shearwaters are sometimes seen; Common Murres, Pigeon Guillemots, Marbled Murrelets are usually close to shore; Black Brant, Harlequin Ducks, Black Swifts and Bank Swallows are often at Ano Nuevo. We should see about 75 species on the trip. Cross San Mateo bridge and continue on SR 92 to Half Moon Bay, turn left on SR 101 about 15 miles to Pescadero Rd., then turn right into the parking area.

On Sunday, October 3, we again make a pelagic trip out of Monterey. The boat leaves the dock at 8 a.m., returns about 3 p.m. We will see shearwaters, storm-petrels, alcids and others, hopefully including Black-Footed Albatross. Last year we saw 2 Wilson's and 2 Fork-Tailed Storm-Petrels among huge flocks of Ashy and Black. The trip is limited to the first 36 people who make paid reservations. Send a check for \$14 per person (payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society) to Peter Rosmarin, 25 Elliott Dr., Pleasant Hill 94523, along with the name, address and phone number of those going. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope so that complete information may be sent to you. This is on a first come, first served basis so do not delay if you want to be sure of going. Our members and subscribers have first chance at the trip but others will be added one week after mailing of this issue of The Quail if space is still available. A waiting list will be made to fill any cancellation--last year the first several wait-listed made the trip. If you must cancel a reservation, contact Peter immediately so a replacement may be notified and you will get a refund. For further information contact Peter (above address); phone 939-3910.

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The MINES ROAD trip brought out 32 members and guests on a sunny, warm day which was rather windy at times. We found all the hoped-for birds except Vaux's Swift. The following species were seen or heard:

- Mallard, Wood Duck, T Vulture, Coop & R-T Hawk, G Eagle, Merlin, Am Kestrel, Cal Quail, R-N Pheasant, Killdeer, R & M Dove, Roadrunner, Barn Owl, W-T Swift, Costa's, An & Al Hummer, B Kingfisher, Com (R-S) Flicker,

Ac, Lew & Nut Woodpecker, West & A-T Flycatcher, Bl & S Phoebe, West Flycatcher, W W Pewee, V-G, R-W, Barn & Cl Swallow, St & Sc Jay, Y-B Magpie, C Raven, C Crow, Pl Titmouse, Bushtit, W-B Nuthatch, Wrentit, H, Bew, Can & Rock Wren, Mockingbird, Cal Thrasher, Am Robin, Sw Thrush, W Bluebird, Phainopepla, Ced Waxwing, Starling, O-C & Wil Warbler, H Sparrow, W Meadowlark, R-W Blackbird, No (Bul) Oriole, Br Blackbird, B-H Cowbird, West Tanager, B-H Grosbeak, H Finch, Am, Less & Law Goldfinch, R-S & Br Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Dark-Eyed (Or) Junco.

5 members went to GLEN ELLEN on a hot sunny day. We had a Green Heron and close views of Rough-Winged Swallows at the bridge, a Red-Shouldered Hawk at Jack London State Park and 3 Yellow-Breasted Chats along Henno Road. The following 59 species were seen or heard:

Gr Heron, T Vulture, Coop & R-T Hawk, Cal Quail, R & M Dove, An & s-lasphorus Hummer, B Kingfisher, Com (R-S) Flicker, Ac, Downy & Nut Woodpecker, A-Th Flycatcher, Bl Phoebe, West Flycatcher, W W Pewee, V-G, Tree, R-W & Cl Swallow, St & Sc Jay, C Raven, C Crow, C-B Chickadee, Pl Titmouse, Bushtit, W-B Nuthatch, Br Creeper, Wrentit, H Wren, Am Robin, Sw Thrush, Starling, Hut, Sol & Warb Vireo, O-C & Yel Warbler, Y-B Chat, Wil Warbler, H Sparrow, No (Bul) Oriole, Br Blackbird, B-H Cowbird, B-H Grosbeak, P & H Finch, Am & L Goldfinch, R-S & Br Towhee, Lark Sparrow, D-E Junco, Chip & Song Sparrow.

13 members made the trip to BRIONES PARK on a day which was sunny but windy and chilly. We saw a somewhat late Solitary Vireo and about 18 Lazuli Buntings among the following 52 species seen or heard:

G B Heron, T Vulture, Coop & R-T Hawk, Am Kestrel, Cal Quail, M Dove, W-T Swift, Al Hummer, Com (R-S) Flicker, Nut Woodpecker, A-T Flycatcher, Bl Phoebe, West Flycatcher, W W Pewee, V-G, Tree & Cl Swallow, St & Sc Jay, C-B Chickadee, Pl Titmouse, Bushtit, W-B Nuthatch, Wrentit, Bew Wren, Cal Thrasher, Am Robin, Sw Thrush, W Bluebird, Starling, Hut, Sol & Warb Vireo, O-C Warbler, W Meadowlark, R-W Blackbird, No (Bul) Oriole, Br Blackbird, B-H Cowbird, B-H Grosbeak, Laz Bunting, P & H Finch, Am & L Goldfinch, R-S & Br Towhee, Lark Sparrow, D-E Junco, Chip & Song Sparrow.

The walk at BOLINGER CANYON was made by 6 members on a hot, sunny day. No Barn Owls were found but a White-Tailed Kite was seen. The following 44 species were seen or heard:

T Vulture, W-T Kite, R-T Hawk, Am Kestrel, Cal Quail, M Dove, An & s-lasphorus Hummer, Com (R-S) Flicker, D & Nut Woodpecker, Bl Phoebe, West Flycatcher, W W Pewee, Cl Swallow, St & Sc Jay, C-B Chickadee, Pl Titmouse, Bushtit, W-B Nuthatch, Wrentit, Bew Wren, Mockingbird, Am Robin, Sw Thrush, Starling, Warb Vireo, O-C Warbler, H Sparrow, W Meadowlark, R-W Blackbird, No (Bul) Oriole, Br Blackbird, B-H Cowbird, B-H Grosbeak, P & H Finch, Am & L Goldfinch, R-S & Br Towhee, D-E Junco, Song Sparrow. A possible Lincoln's Sparrow was also seen.

The YUBA PASS-SIERRA VALLEY WEEKEND was made by 22 members and guests. The weather was clear, cool and windy, especially in Sierra Valley. We did not see the Black-Backed 3-Toed Woodpecker (seen by 2 members on Friday) but saw a female Blue Grouse with a chick, Calliope Hummingbird pair, Clark's Nutcrackers and Red Crossbills in the Pass area. Highlight on Saturday was a nesting pair of Dippers at the falls and fountain beside SR 49 east of Sierra City. In Sierra Valley we found a Sandhill Crane, many Black Terns and Brewer's Sparrows but missed the Sage Thrashers. The following 89 species were seen or heard:

P B Grebe, B-C Night Heron, Am Bittern, Mallard, Cin Teal, T Vulture, R-T & Marsh Hawk, Am Kestrel, Bl Grouse, Sand Crane, Am Coot, Killdeer, Com Snipe (winnowing flight), Willet, Gr Yellowlegs, L-B Dowitcher, Wil Phalarope*, gull sp, Bl Tern, R & M Dove, Com Nighthawk, An, Al & Cal Hummer, Com (R-S) Flicker, Y-B (R-B) Sapsucker, Hairy & W-H* Woodpecker, Ham & Dusky Flycatcher, W W Pewee*, O-S Flycatcher, H Lark, Tree, R-W, Barn (many

young) & Cl Swallow, St Jay, B-B Magpie, C Crow, Cl Nutcracker, Mt Chickadee*, R-B Nuthatch*, Br Creeper*, Dipper*, L-B Marsh & Rock Wren, Am Robin, H & Sw Thrush, Mt Bluebird*, G-C Kinglet, Starling, Sol & Warb Vireo, O-C, Nash, Yel*, Yel-Rump (Aud), B-Th Gray, Herm, MacG & Wil Warbler, W Meadowlark, Y-H, R-W, Tricol & Br Blackbird, B-H Cowbird, W Tanager, B-H Grosbeak, Eve Grosbeak, Cas & H Finch, P Siskin, R Crossbill, G-T & R-S Towhee, Sav, Vesp & Lark Sparrow, D-E (Or) Junco, Chip, Br, Fox, Linc & Song Sparrow.

*--nesting birds found

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

Alamo: G P Greer, Donna Wood; Antioch: M Pierce; Concord: Dr & Mrs E L Bourke, Eric R Hanna, Mac D Homan, Nicholas Lines, Darrell Peterson, Dr L J Pinsker; Danville: Mrs H J Mondot; Lafayette: Jim Croke, Donald K Crowley, Maria Juracek, Bradford Kelly, L Schultz; Martinez: Cheryl Anderson, Larry C Davis, Robert J Russell, the Ryans; Pittsburg: John & Sandra Bellomy; Pleasant Hill: Brian D Harris, Helen Holm; San Ramon: Ann & Stevan Henriouille; Walnut Creek: Mr & Mrs Robert J Canning, Mrs Harmer E Davis, Mr & Mrs Kenneth H Duckert, Cecil Fay Hicks, Mr Hollis McLaughlin, L B Nobbe, Robert M Uren.

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FIELD TRIPS for next year will be planned sometime this summer and input from the membership is desired. If there is somewhere you would like to have a field trip or if there is a species you would like to find, please let us know. You may contact your editor with requests which will be passed along to the new field trips chairman when named by Jimm Edgar.

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BULLOCK'S AND HOODED ORIOLES, trouble distinguishing them? Our most common oriole is the Northern (Bullock's) but Hooded can also be found here. The adult males are not difficult but females and young males can be a problem. The female Bullock's has a yellow-green breast, whitish belly, grayish-green superciliary line (over the eye) and a rather straight bill. It is also a bit plumper and larger and the tail is less rounded. The Hooded female also has a yellow-green breast but the belly is also yellow-green and the bill is noticeably decurved. The chatter of the Hooded is similar to that of the Bullock's but is softer and less guttural. Hooded flick their tails rather consistently which the Bullock's do not do. Juveniles of both species resemble the females. Males during their first winter acquire black lores and a black throat, narrow in Bullock's and wide in Hooded, then molt into adult plumage late the following summer. (Partly from Jon Dunn, The Western Tanager, Los Angeles Audubon Society.)

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PRBO COURSES: Aug. 14-15, Plant Ecology, \$25; Aug. 21-22 or 23-27, Natural History of Pt. Reyes and Mt. Tamalpais, \$30 weekend, \$75 for week; Aug. 27-29, Monterey Bay Experience, \$100. Information or enrollment: write Bob Stewart, 27 Cedar St., San Anselmo, CA 94960.

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SUISUN MARSH PURCHASE. Under provisions of the Suisun Marsh Preservation Act of 1976 the state Wildlife Conservation Board authorized the first purchase of land in the marsh. The 272.73 acres has about two miles of frontage along Montezuma Slough about four miles from Suisun City. The Wildlife Conservation Board has been authorized by the Legislature to spend \$4 million in the Suisun Marsh. Part of the property in the first purchase is heavily used by fishermen and hunters and could be developed as a public fishing access and recreational site, according to a staff report. The \$197,000 purchase price was included in the 1975-76 W.C.B. budget for coastal wetlands. (The Song Sparrow, Napa-Solano Aud. Soc.)

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OBSERVATIONS: (also see field trip reports)

Northern Fulmars, San Mateo County coast, June 22--BR, JR, et al.
Pink-Footed Shearwaters, San Mateo County coast, June 22--BR, JR, et al.
Sooty Shearwaters, San Mateo County coast, June 22--BR, JR, et al.
Adult LITTLE BLUE HERON, Bolinas Lagoon, mid-May at least thru May 27--m.ob.
Wood Ducks, Baldwin Beach, South Lake Tahoe, May 18--RB.
Harlequin Ducks, pair, Ano Nuevo, June 22--NK, BR, JR.
Osprey, Tahoe Keys, South Lake Tahoe, May 18--RB.
American Kestrels, nesting near her Walnut Creek home, mid-May--FS.
Red Phalarope, Doran Beach, Bodega Bay, May 27--FLB.
Black-Legged Kittiwakes, Bodega Head, May 27--FLB; Pt. Reyes, June 15--BR, JR, et al; San Mateo County coast, June 22--BR, JR, et al.
Black Swift, on a nest, Santa Cruz, June 22--BR, JR, et al.
Black-Chinned Hummingbird, Red Rock Road, Lassen County, June 18--FLB.
Black-Backed 3-Toed Woodpecker, pair, Sand Flat, Calaveras Co, May 29--BR; male, South Lake Tahoe, May 18--RB; female, Yuba Pass, June 18--BR, JR.
PURPLE MARTINS, nesting on underside of elevated freeway, I-80, at Capitol Ave. ("M" St), Sacramento, June 20--FLB, JR, BR.
Pinyon Jays, Red Rock Rd., June 18--FLB.
Several species of "eastern" warblers, outer Pt. Reyes, June 6-20--m.ob.
9 Western Tanagers at once in an oak tree in their Walnut Creek garden, May 18--JL, TL.
ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK, female, Pt. Reyes, June 10--JR, BR, et al; pair, Pt. Reyes, June 19--H&JG, et al.
INDIGO BUNTING, singing male, Pt. Reyes, June 6-22 (at least)--m.ob.
Grasshopper Sparrow, Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes, June 10 & 15--BR, JR, et al; Abbott's Lagoon, Pt. Reyes, June 26--FLB, H&JG.
(Observers: Florence Bennett, Ruth Barcelon, Helen & Jerry Gentile, Nils Kjellen, Janice Lee, Tom Lee, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Freida Shackelford, many observers)

GOOD BIRDING SPOTS FOR JULY & AUGUST:

Summer is a quiet time for birding, but in late summer watch for early migrants which begin to return in early August. Try points along the Bay such as Dumbarton Bridge, Alameda, Bay Bridge Toll Plaza marsh, Berkeley and Albany, and along the coast for these birds, some of which will be in breeding plumage. Pt. Reyes and Monterey turn up many migrants, including rarities; Rodeo Lagoon and Battery Wallace in Marin County and Bodega Bay are also good. Rare post-breeding wanderers should be watched for. (Magnificent Frigatebird at Alameda in 1972 and at Bodega Bay in 1973.)

Mountain birding will be good and there are excellent possibilities along the San Mateo County coast (see page 1). July through September is the time to look for Condors at Mt. Pinos with mid-August the best.

Remember to also check in central Contra Costa County as migrating warblers, tanagers, hummingbirds, etc., are to be found here. Your own garden may turn up some of these or even things more rare.

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Beginning in September "Good Birding Spots," which has run about 3 years, will be replaced by "The Greater Bay Area Site Guide." Each month will concentrate on one particular area between Monterey and Bodega: easiest access, places to cover after arrival, what species to expect or hope for, etc. Occasionally the column will stray farther afield to such places as Death Valley or Yosemite. If there is an area which you would like to know better or a species you would like to find, please contact your editor.

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Jean Richmond, Editor---125 Via Serena, Alamo, CA 94507---phone: 837-2843
(Exchange bulletins for MDAS to this address, please.)



The Quail

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

P. O. Box 53

Pres.: Jimm Edgar
3478 Orchard Hill Ct.
Lafayette, CA 94549
phone: 283-3510

September 1976
Vol. 23, No. 3

Next deadline: September 15

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- Meeting:** Thurs., Sept. 9. Birdingformation: 7 p.m.; social time: 7:30; meetings: 8 p.m. Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek.
- Field Trips:** Sat., Sept. 11, 9:00 a.m., San Mateo coast; carpool: leave Alamo Market Plaza, 7:30. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).
- Wed., Sept. 15, 9:30 a.m., Coyote Hills; carpool: Alamo Market Plaza, 8:30. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey (254-0486).
- Sat., Sept. 18, 9:00 a.m., outer Pt. Reyes; carpool: Lafayette BART parking lot, 7:30. Leader: Darrell Peterson (685-3781).
- Thurs., Sept. 23, 9:00 a.m., Tilden Park; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Freeway 24, 8:30. Leader: Tom Steller (837-9061).
- Board Meeting:** Wed. Sept. 22, 7:30 p.m., Agnes Eckford's home, 3831 Walnut Ave., Concord; 685-7280.

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Birdingformation will be a presentation by Darrell Peterson on "Parabolics, Beginner's Approach & Techniques." A most interesting slide program will be presented by Phil Schaeffer, manager of Richardson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. This program, highlighted by spectacular photography, is an effort to acquaint those of us in the "Lower 48" with the importance of the upcoming Congressional decision concerning protection of Alaskan wildlands.

The San Mateo County coast should produce many waterbirds, waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls and others. Fall migration is underway and no telling what may show up. 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 into the parking area.

Coyote Hills, with varied habitat, will turn up water and shorebirds as well as land birds. Go down Nimitz Freeway (SR 17) to Jarvis Rd., turn west to the signal at Newark Blvd., turn right $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles. Turn left into the park and meet at the large unpaved parking lot by the south marsh. On our trip to Pt. Reyes anything may turn up at Abandoned Ranch, Mendoza Ranch, Drake's Beach, Fish Docks, etc., which are visited in fall by many "eastern" species. Cross San Rafael Bridge, go north on US 101 0.6 mile, take San Rafael exit 2 blocks to 4th St., turn left and go out through Fairfax to SR 1. Turn right $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, turn left to the Seashore Headquarters. We should keep cars to a minimum to avoid parking problems.

At Tilden Park we should see many land birds, perhaps including vagrants such as "eastern" warblers. From SR 24 in Orinda take the Richmond exit about 2 miles, go left over the ridge and follow signs to the parking lot near the Interpretive Center and the Little Farm.

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18 members and guests on the SAN MATEO COUNTY COAST in July were treated to varied weather and birding. Pescadero was foggy, windy and cold both morning and afternoon, Pigeon Point was socked in for the morning but good visibility in the afternoon, Ano Nuevo was mostly sunny but some wind at the point. We saw 2 Pink-Footed Shearwaters among Sooties at Pigeon Pt., long strings of cormorants, 2 Harlequin Ducks, 6 Black Swifts, 15 Bank Swallows at Ano Nuevo, single Black-Legged Kittiwakes at Pescadero and Pigeon Pt., and 4 very early Pectoral Sandpipers at Pescadero. The following 81 species were seen or heard:

Arc & R-T Loon, W & P-B Grebe, P-F & Sooty Shearwater, Br Pelican, D-C, Br & Pel Cormorant, G B Heron, Gr & Sn Egret, Mallard, Har Duck, Surf Scooter, Ruddy Duck, R-B Merganser, T Vulture, W-T Kite, R-T & Marsh Hawk, Am Kestrel, Am Coot, Bl Oystercatcher, Killdeer, B-B Plover, R & Bl Turnstone, L-B Curlew, Whimbrel, W Tattler, Willet, Gr Yellowlegs, Pec & Least Sandpiper, dowitcher sp, M Godwit, W Phalarope, West, Cal, R-B & Heer Gull, B-L Kittiwake, For & Casp Tern, Com Murre, P Guillemot, B-T Pigeon, R & M Dove, Barn Owl, Bl Swift, An & Al Hummingbird, B Kingfisher, Bl Phoebe, V-G, Tree, Bank, R-W, Barn & Cl Swallow, St Jay, C-B Chickadee, Bushtit, Wrentit, Bew & L-B M Wren, Sw Thrush, Starling, O-C Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, Br Blackbird, H Finch, P Siskin, Am Goldfinch, Sav, W-C & Song Sparrow.

The BODEGA BAY trip August 7 was made by 15 members and guests who found clear, cool, windy weather. We saw 2 Kittiwakes at The Tides where we met and later an adult Purple Martin with 2 young, but highlight of the day was the 6 Virginia Rails in the little marsh on the north side of the Bay. As we watched, one rail stalked and caught a red dragonfly which it promptly ate. The following 62 species were seen or heard:

Com, Arc & R-T Loon, Br Pelican, Br & Pel Cormorant, G B Heron, Sn Egret, W-W & Surf Scooter, T Vulture, R-T & Marsh Hawk, Cal Quail, Va Rail, Bl Oystercatcher, Semipal Plover, Killdeer, B-B Plover, R & Bl Turnstone, Whimbrel, Sp Sandpiper, W Tattler, Willet, Least & West Sandpiper, M Godwit, Sanderling, W & No Phalarope, West, R-B, Bon & Heer Gull, B-L Kittiwake, F & Casp Tern, Com Murre, P Guillemot, Al Hummingbird, B Kingfisher, D & Nut Woodpecker, R-W, Barn & Cl Swallow, P Martin, Bushtit, Bew Wren, Mockingbird, Starling, O-C & Wil Warbler, H Sparrow, R-W & Br Blackbird, H Finch, Am & L Goldfinch, W-C & Song Sparrow.

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OFFICERS OF MT. DIABLO AUDUBON, 1976-77. (Save for future reference.)
 Pres.: Jimm Edgar, 3478 Orchard Hill Rd., Lafayette 94549; 283-3510.
 VP (program): Kent Fickett, 1900 Sunshine Dr., Concord 94520; 798-7421.
 VP (conservation): Leon Borowski, 1610 Ridgewood Rd., Alamo 94507; 837-1801.
 Secretary: Elizabeth Dickey, 113 Hillcrest Dr., Orinda 94563; 254-0486.
 Treasurer: Florence Bennett, P. O. Box 4578, Walnut Creek 94596; 933-3781.
 Field Trips: Sally Steller, 591 Fulton Way, Danville 94526; 837-9061.
 Membership: Mervyn & Norma Ortez, 1010 Walnut Dr., Lafayette 94549; 283-3072.
 Hospitality; unfilled. Any volunteers?
 Publicity: Agnes Eckford, 3831 Walnut Ave., Concord 94520; 685-7280.
 Exhibits: Judith & Bruce Moorad, 1419 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek 94598; 938-4446. (Also assisting with publicity.)
 Education: Helen Gentile, 827 Robinson St., Martinez 94553; 228-6297.
 Irene Hellekson, P. O. Box 1085, Martinez 94553; 229-1837.
 Editor: Jean Richmond, 125 Via Serena, Alamo 94507; 837-2843.
 Thanks to last year's officers who did such a great job!

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CONGRATULATIONS are in order for Shirley and Peter Smith of Houston, Texas, who formerly lived in Lafayette. Twin daughters, Ginger Ann and Crystal Marie, arrived on July 18.

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

Antioch: Teresa Trejo-Mejia; Brentwood: Dr John Grabowski; Concord: Edith Carlston, Barry Brian Cunningham, Robert Keys, Mr A Austin; Danville: Athenian School Library, Mrs Jean Cunningham, Kenneth R Cunningham, Bonnie England, Lydia Vercinsky; Lafayette: Kent Daane, Dr Pauline Heizer, Master Gregory P Hoyt, Steven C Kirschner, Robert A Leidy, Carolyn Lynch, Donald E McGilley, the Wm R Moeller family, Larry Viel; Martinez: Kay Schaefer, Gerald Sedgewick; Pacheco: Philip E Prosser; Pleasant Hill: Jon K Lago, Robert Rivas, Ms Teddy Wilson; Rodeo: Fred Bartholomew; San Ramon: Philip M Dowling; Walnut Creek: Mr/Mrs Franklin M Bayol, Michael W Cochrane, John Wm Cunningham, Miss Denise DeVincenzi, R C Efford, Cora B Farrell, Mrs R E Free, Rande Freidland, Robert Mineart, Mrs Janet Oman, Edith A Stephan, Mr/Mrs J F Thompson.

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A CALIFORNIA CONDOR SYMPOSIUM, sponsored by National Audubon Society, will be held at Marin County Civic Center, San Rafael, on October 23 from 10-4. The program will be presented by representatives of the five agencies which make up the Condor Recovery Team. Registration is by mail only: send \$2.00 per person to cover mailing and materials, your complete name and address to: Condor Symposium, National Audubon Society, George Whittell Education Center, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon CA 94920.

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The following is the remainder of the FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE for 1976-77:

<u>Weekend</u>				<u>Weekday</u>	
Oct 3	Pelagic trip (Monterey)	Wed	Oct 6	Rodeo Lagoon	
Oct 9	Limantour	Thurs	Oct 21	Alameda South Shore	
Nov 6	Palo Alto Salt Marsh	Wed	Nov 17	Sunol Regional Park	
Dec 4-5	Sacramento Valley refuges	Thurs	Dec 9	Benicia State Park	
Dec ?	CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT				
Jan 15	Putah Creek, Lake Solano	Wed	Jan 19	Palo Alto Salt Marsh	
Feb 5	Grizzly Island	Thurs	Feb 17	Thornton	
Feb 19	Ano Nuevo (Elephant Seals)				
Mar 5-6	Monterey, Pt. Lobos	Wed	Mar 16	Golden Gate Park	
Apr 2	Sunol Regional Park	Thurs	Apr 14	Bolinas Lagoon	
Apr 23 (30?)	Mt Diablo	Wed	Apr 27	Annadel Park, Glen Ellen	
May 7	Mines Rd	Thurs	May 12	Las Trampas Regional Park	
May 14-22	Southeast Arizona	Wed	May 26	Briones Regional Park	
June 4	Pine Canyon	Thurs	June 9	Redwood Regional Park	
June 25-26	Yuba Pass				
July 9	Woodson Bridge State Recreation Area				
July ?	San Mateo County coast (?)				

Trips may be changed and trips can be added if there is sufficient interest. Contact Sally Steller or Jean Richmond.

Field trips chairman Sally Steller asks members who might be interested in a trip to southeast Arizona in May to call her at 837-9061 so she can get your thoughts on the idea and start making plans if there is sufficient interest. She envisions a loosely organized, provide your own transportation and reservations (or camp) type of trip limited to about 20 persons.

* * * * *

A 6-week FIELD ORNITHOLOGY CLASS, 2½-hour sessions on Tuesday mornings starting Sept. 28, will be taught by Joe Morlan of Golden Gate Audubon Society. Sponsored by the Natural Sciences Guild of Oakland Museum Society, the class will cost \$20.00. Other classes: Arachnology, by John Hjelle, and Photography, by Ernie Braun. Information: call 273-3884.

A 12-week FALL BIRDS CLASS taught by Alice Hoch will meet Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. beginning Sept. 14. Contact Fremont Adult School, 40775 Fremont Blvd., Fremont 94538, 657-9538. Most classes in the field.

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PRBO field class, BIRDS OF SAN BLAS, MEX., Nov. 19-27: varied habitat, over 325 species. Cost: \$350 from Mazatlan (excludes motels, evening meals). Details: Bob Stewart, 27 Cedar St., San Anselmo CA 94960; ph. 457-3744.

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OBSERVATIONS: (also see field trip reports)

Cattle Egrets, 2, on Santa Fe Grade Rd. 2.7 mi. south of Gun Club Rd. near Gustine, Merced Co., Aug. 15--AE.

LEAST BITTERN, Gray Lodge Wildlife Refuge, Butte Co., Aug. 15--FLB, MJ&BG, BR, JR. Reported by Bruce Deuel of Refuge staff, up to 5 seen--m.ob.

California Condor, 3 adults, Edmonston Pumping Station, 7 mi. east of Grapevine (on I-5, southern Kern Co.), Aug. 14--FLB, MJ&BG, BR, JR, RR, et al. John Borneman, NAS Condor naturalist, says this is better for Condors than Mt. Pinos.

Goshawk, MP 18 on SR 4 east of Lake Alpine, Alpine Co., July 21--WO.

Golden Eagle, subadult, Coyote Hills, Aug. 10--BR, JR, et al.

Spotted Doves, 7, Greenlawn Cemetary, Bakersfield, Aug. 14--FLB, MJ&BG, BR, JR, RR. Elizabeth Dickey saw them in this general area last year.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO, 2-3, Woodson Bridge State Recreation Area, Tehama Co., July 10--FLB, MJ&BG, JR, PR.

Rufous Hummingbird, male, Muddy Hollow, Pt. Reyes, July 13--JR, et al.

Pileated & Black-Backed 3-Toed Woodpeckers, SandFlat on Stanislaus Riv., Calveras & Stanislaus Cos., July 3-17--BR; July 4-9--Jr.

Purple Martin, Ano Nuevo, Aug. 1--AE, PW.

Pinyon Jays, 100+, Red Rock Rd., Lassen Co., July 29--JR, RR.

BENDIRE'S THRASHER, returned to Courtland garden, Aug. 7--AP.

Indigo Bunting, male, still at Pt. Reyes at least through July 13--m.ob.

(Observers: Florence Bennett, Art Edwards, Mary Jane & Bill Greene, Winnie Orcutt, Arvil Parker, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Rich Richmond, Peter Rosmarin, Peter Willmann, many observers)

GREATER BAY AREA SITE GUIDE---Point Reyes.

Seashore Headquarters near Olema: migrants in willows along creek & in trees behind. Go north through Inverness, continue on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Schooner Bay (MP 33.67): right tide brings shorebirds & waders in winter, possibly Pectoral Sandpiper. Low tide, birds too far away. RCA Station on right: Golden Plovers in field just to east. Abandoned Ranch (just beyond RCA & just before MP 35.50): in cypress trees, migrant warblers & such. Pt. Reyes Beach North: migrating whales in winter, gulls, loons, etc. Spaletta Ranch (MP 39.39): warblers. Mendoza Ranch (MP 41.04): pond for waterfowl in winter, shorebirds in migration, including Baird's & Pectoral Sandpipers; cypress trees for warblers, sometimes Rose-Breasted Grosbeak in migration. Just past Nunes Ranch (MP 42.77) is road--sign says Chimney Rock--to Fish Docks. Golden Plover in field along road. Park in lot at end of public road. Cypress trees during migration, many warblers, sometimes Red-Eyed Vireo, Waterthrush sometimes near watertank. Clay-Colored Sparrow last Sept., singing Grasshopper Sparrow in June on hillside above parking lot. From roadway overlooking Bay, waterbirds & ducks: Oldsquaw occasionally, Black Scoters & Red Necked Grebes.

Along Drake's Beach Rd. in winter: in fields, Golden Plover; also Lapland & sometimes Chestnut Collared Longspurs in flocks of Horned Larks. Hall Ranch (last ranch before Drake's Beach): big flocks of Tricolored Blackbirds in winter; near pond south of ranch, Longspurs, also Cattle Egrets last winter. Drake's Beach: waterbirds, ducks, shorebirds. Restrooms & picnic facilities here. Across parking lot by monument are cypress trees: warblers & other migrants; Indigo Bunting 2 years ago. Gallinules, ducks & gulls on pond nearby.

Ferruginous & Rough-Legged Hawks in open, grassy areas of entire area.

RESPECT RIGHTS & PRIVACY OF AREA RANCHERS!!!

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



The Quail

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

P. O. Box 53

Pres.: Jimm Edgar
3478 Orchard Hill Ct.
Lafayette, CA 94549
phone: 283-3510

October 1976
Vol. 23, No. 4

Next Deadline: Oct. 14

Meeting: Thurs., Oct. 7. Birdingformation: 7 p.m.; social time: 7:30; meeting: 8 p.m. Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek.

Field Trips: Sun., Oct. 3, pelagic trip out of Monterey. (Boat is full.)
Wed., Oct. 6, 9:30 a.m., Rodeo Lagoon; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Freeway 24, 8:30. Leader: Bud Fry (731-2874).
Sat., Oct. 9, 9:00 a.m., Limantour Spit; carpool: Lafayette BART parking lot, 7:00. Leaders: Harry & Dorothy Couden (934-8873).
Thurs., Oct. 21, 9:00 a.m., Alameda South Shore; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd., just north of Freeway 24, 8:30. Leader: Bob Richmond (837-2843).

Dec. 4-5, Sacramento Valley refuges. Make reservations NOW for Sat. night at Markay's Motel, Gridley (916)-846-3758, Pacific Motel, Gridley (916)-846-9915, or Buckner's Motel, Biggs.

Screen Tour: Mon., Oct. 18, 8:00 p.m., Diablo Valley College Gym. "Hidden World of the Big Cypress Swamp" narrated by Richard C. Kern.

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Birdingformation will be a session on shorebirds and waterfowl conducted by very knowledgeable Frank Beyer. The program is "Planting Native Plants to Attract Birds," by Wayne Rodrick of Tilden Park Botanical Garden. Mr. Rodrick is a member of the board of directors of the Native Plant Society.

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The pelagic trip out of Monterey has been filled for some time. If for any reason you must cancel your reservation, contact Peter Rosmarin (939-3910) immediately so that a replacement can be obtained from the waiting list.

Rodeo Lagoon and Battery Wallace often have "eastern" species this time of year and Broad-Winged Hawks are sometimes seen over Bunker Hill. Take the Alexander Ave. exit just north of Golden Gate Bridge and follow signs to Forts Cronkhite and Baker. Go through the signal-lighted tunnel and meet in the parking area just beyond the west end.

Limantour Spit, in contrast to outer Pt. Reyes, has waterbirds, waterfowl and shorebirds. From Pt. Reyes Nat'l Seashore Headquarters (for directions see September issue) go north 1.2 miles, left at well-marked Limantour turnoff and proceed to the parking lot at the end of the road.

Alameda South Shore and Doolittle Pond produce many waterbirds, waterfowl, shorebirds and sometimes rails. 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., continue to Broadway and meet us there.

* * * * *

The fall Audubon series opens with a film of the profusion of microscopic creatures, fish, water beetles, mosquitoes and carnivorous plants among the alligators and wading birds, the orchids and bromeliads, of Big Cypress Swamp. As always, there is no admission charge for these films.

* * * * *

The SAN MATEO COUNTY COAST trip on Sept. 11 was made by 14 members and guests with weather mostly overcast, cool in the morning, comfortable in the afternoon, with no wind and a calm sea. There was a long, close look at a female Merlin perched on a bush at Ano Nuevo and a quick look later as she pursued a shorebird in the air. A Pectoral Sandpiper was seen at Pescadero Marsh. The following 87 species were heard or seen:

Com, Arc & R-T Loon, E, W & P-B Grebe, Sooty Shearwater, B Pelican, D-C Br & Pel Cormorant, G B Heron, Gr & Sn Egret, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, G-W & Cin (B-W?) Teal, S & Bl Scoter, Ruddy Duck, T Vulture, W-T Kite, R-T & M Hawk, Merlin, Am Kestrel, Sora, C Gallinule, Am Coot, Bl Oystercatcher, Sn Plover, Killdeer, B-B Plover, Surfbird, R & Bl Turnstone, Whimbrel, Sp Sandpiper, W Tattler, Willet, Gr Yellowlegs, Pec & L Sandpiper, S-B Dowitcher, W Sandpiper, M Godwit, Sanderling, N Phalarope, G-W, W, Cal, Bon & Heer Gull, F, El & Casp Tern, C Murre, P Guillemot, M Murrelet, B-T Pigeon, R Dove, swift sp, B Kingfisher, Com (R-S) Flicker, Bl Phoebe, Tree, R-W & Barn Swallow, Sc Jay, Bushtit, Wrentit, B & L-B M Wren, L Shrike, Starling, Com Yellowthroat, R-W, Tric & Br Blackbird, H Finch, Am & L Goldfinch, Sav, W-Cr & Song Sparrow.

The trip to COYOTE HILLS was made by 9 members and guests in clear, warm weather Sept. 16. A flock of 93 White Pelicans flew over, both Virginia Rail and Sora answered a tape, 6 Lesser Yellowlegs were seen near Greaters for good comparison, and 12 Vaux's Swifts were in the air. The following 61 species were seen or heard:

H & P-B Grebe, Wh Pelican, Gr Egret, Mallard, Pintail, Am Wigeon, No Shoveler, Ruddy Duck, T Vulture, W-T Kite, M Hawk, Am Kestrel, R-N Pheasant, Va Rail, Sora, Am Coot, Semipal Plover, Killdeer, Willet, Gr & L Yellowlegs, L Sandpiper, dowitcher sp, W Sandpiper, M Godwit, Am Avocet, B-N Stilt, N Phalarope, Cal Gull, R & M Dove, V Swift, Selasphorus hummer, Com (R-S) Flicker, Nut Woodpecker, A-Thr Flycatcher, Bl Phoebe, W Flycatcher, V-G & B Swallow, Sc Jay, Pl Titmouse, Bushtit, W-B Nuthatch, B, L-B M & Rock Wren, Sw Thrush, L Shrike, Starling, Yel-Rump (Aud) Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, W Warbler, W Meadowlark, R-W & Br Blackbird, H Finch, goldfinch sp, Br Towhee, Song Sparrow.

The PT. REYES trip on Sept. 18 was made by 14 members and guests under mostly overcast skies with weather ranging from quite cold and windy to almost warm and calm. The species total of 110 (!) is an MDAS trip record as far as we know. A Pectoral Sandpiper was at Mendoza Ranch, a Blackpoll Warbler was at the Fish Docks, and an out-of-area Yellow-Headed Blackbird was at Rogers Ranch. The following species were seen or heard:

C & R-T Loon, H, E, W & P-B Grebe, Wh & Br Pelican, Br & Pel Cormorant, G B Heron, Gr & Sn Egret, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, G-W & Cin (B-W?) Teal, Am Wigeon, No Shoveler, W-W & S Scoter, Ruddy Duck, T Vulture, R-T & R-Sh Hawk, Am Kestrel, Cal Quail, Va Rail, Am Coot, Semipal Plover, Killdeer, B-B Plover, Bl Turnstone, L-B Curlew, Whimbrel, Willet, Pec & L Sandpiper, dowitcher sp, W Sandpiper, M Godwit, Sanderling, N Phalarope, G-W, W, Her, R-B & Heer Gull, F Tern, C Murre, B-T Pigeon, R & M Dove, G H Owl, hummer sp, B Kingfisher, Com (R-S) Flicker, Ac, H & D Woodpecker, Bl Phoebe, Wil-low (Tr) & W Flycatcher, W W Pewee, O-S Flycatcher, H Lark, B Swallow, St & Sc Jay, C Raven, C Crow, C-B Chickadee, Bushtit, B Creeper, Wrentit, H, Win & B Wren, Am Robin, W Bluebird, R-C Kinglet, L Shrike, Starling, H, Sol & W Vireo, O-C, Yel, B-Th Gray, Town, Blackpoll & Wil Warbler, H Sparrow, W Meadowlark, Y-H, R-W, Tric & Br Blackbird, W Tanager, B-H Grosbeak, H Finch, P Siskin, Am & L Goldfinch, R-S Towhee, Sav Sparrow, D-E (Oreg) Junco, W-Cr & Song Sparrow.

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KIRTLAND'S WARBLER GAINS. Michigan Audubon Society reports this year's census of this endangered species shows an 11% gain over 1975--199 singing males, compared to 179. This is a breeding population of 398, plus an undetermined number of non-breeding birds. The 7-year recovery plan, now nearing final planning stages, involves expanding potential habitat---young stands of jack pine trees---to accommodate 1,000 pairs of nesting birds. (Audubon magazine)

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CONDOR SYMPOSIUM (see September issue). Space is still available. In conjunction with the symposium, a field trip to the Condor Range will be lead by Condor Naturalist John Borneman October 29-31. For maps, trip itinerary and information on camping, motels and restaurants in the area, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Condor Field Trip, National Audubon Society, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon, CA 94920.

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BAY ACCESS INFORMATION. The Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) recently issued a 56-page booklet listing 104 areas where the public may obtain access to San Francisco Bay. Copies may be obtained free at the Commission office or by mail upon request to BCDC, 30 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco, CA 94102. (The Sequoia, Sequoia Audubon)

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NATURE CONSERVANCY NEWS:

The annual Conference will be October 16 in the Forum Building 1, at DeAnza Community College, Cupertino, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Conference theme is "Preserve Management" with presentations by managers and others associated with preserves. Featured speaker will be John Roush, Executive Vice President of The Nature Conservancy, Arlington, VA. The conference is free. For information and preliminary agenda, contact your editor.

The purchase of Mile Hi Ranch in Ramsey Canyon, Arizona, was closed last December but \$50,000 still must be raised to meet the project goal of \$180,000. A subcommittee is establishing guidelines for public access to Mile Hi and adjacent Ramsey Canyon bequeathed by Dr. Bledsoe to TNC. The new caretakers at Mile Hi are Carol & Bob Yutzy, formerly of Los Altos. There is now a full-time custodian, Bruce Andre, at Patagonia Sanctuary also in Arizona. Since last February the local project committee has had sole responsibility for financing the management there. Contributions to either of these excellent birding places should be sent to The Nature Conservancy, P. O. Box 4157, Tucson, AZ 85717. If you have a preference as to where your contribution should be used, make a note to that effect.

TNC also needs funds for Skagit River Bald Eagle Natural Wildlife Area in Washington. Each winter 300 Bald Eagles gather along the Skagit River, one of the two major wintering areas for Northern Bald Eagles in the continental U.S. It is necessary to raise \$150,000 by Dec. 22 to exercise its option with Scott Paper Co. Send contributions to Skagit Eagles/The Nature Conservancy, 1234 NW 25th Ave., Portland, OR 97210.

More information on these projects is available from your editor. All contributions are tax deductible.

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Negotiations have been completed for establishment of a 320-acre PRESERVE for hawks and owls on land owned by Hunt-Wesson Foods, Inc., in Yolo County. The property is locally known as the spray fields, and has been frequently visited by bird watchers in search of Marsh Hawks, White-Tailed Kites and Short-Eared Owls. (Burrowing Owl, Davis Audubon)

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Add to list of officers. Hospitality: Jerome Gentile, 827 Robinson St., Martinez 94553; 228-6297. Thanks for volunteering, Jerry!

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OBSERVATIONS: (also see field trip reports)

On a pelagic trip out of San Diego Sept. 18: 1 Manx Shearwater, 5 Leach's & 10 Least Storm-Petrels, 2 Red-Billed Tropicbirds, 1 Long-Tailed Jaeger, 50 Arctic & 2 Royal Terns, 1 Xantus' & 30 Craveri's Murrelets. Sept. 19 at Salton Sea: Wood Stork, Least Storm-Petrel, Gull-Billed Tern--PW. Magnificent Frigatebird, Salton Sea, Aug. 18--D&PR.

Fulvous Tree Duck, Salton Sea, Aug. 18--D&PR; Finney Lake, Imperial Co., Sept. 19--PW.

50 Bald Eagles, Alaska, over 2-3 days in July--N&MO.

White-Tailed Ptarmigan, walked over his foot!, Mt. Ranier National Park, Aug. 8--JE.

Solitary Sandpiper, Crespi Pond, Pacific Grove, at least through Aug. 28--AE, FlB, BR, JR, et al.

10 Baird's Sandpipers, Salinas River mouth, Aug. 28--AE, FlB, BR, JR, et al; 3, Rodeo Lagoon, Sept. 5--BR, JR.

2 BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPERS, Salinas River mouth, Aug. 27--RS; Aug. 28--FlB, AE, BR, JR, et al. First northern California record. One remained at least through Sept. 8--m.ob.

Red Phalarope, Salinas River mouth, Aug. 28--BR, JR, AE, FlB, et al.

Magnolia Warbler, PRBO, Sept. 5--B&JK, et al.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER, Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes, Sept. 2--AM, BP; Sept. 3--JR, BR, et al; Sept. 4--FlB, AE, H&JG, et al. 2nd record north of S.F.

Blackpoll Warbler. PRBO, Sept. 4--B&JK, et al.

Hooded Oriole remained at Richmonds' feeder through Sept. 13.

HEPATIC TANAGER, Solano County Park, Putah Creek, Sept. 2--DG, et al; Sept. 3--RS, JM, BR, JR. 3rd Northern California record.

5 Pine Grosbeaks, Alpine Meadows, Placer Co., Sept. 15--R&JR.

(Observers: Florence Bennett, Art Edwards, Jimm Edgar, David Gaines, Helen & Jerry Gentile, Bob & Jackie Knisley, Alice Mericourt, Joe Morlan, Norma & Merv Ortez, Bill Purcell, Bob, Jean & Rich Richmond, Dede & Peter Rosmarin, Rich Stallcup, Peter Willmann, many observers)

GREATER BAY AREA SITE GUIDE--Rodeo Lagoon area. (Approach, see page 1.)

Parking lot, west end of tunnel: willows, chaparral. Watch utility poles in area for "High Voltage," the albino Red-Tailed Hawk. Side road loop on right near rifle range and stables: willows, brush, some taller trees, grassy area & open hillsides beyond willows. At west end of loop is small stream under willows. RODEO LAGOON area (big parking area on right just before large lagoon). Large pond (many ducks, rails, gallinules) and surrounding reeds & willows (warblers, woodpeckers). Small pond at east end of large pond (rails, wrens, warblers). Cross road to large lagoon (ducks, shorebirds, waterbirds). Drive along north side of lagoon, stop (get completely off road) to check lagoon. Turn uphill at firehouse, park under cypress trees (eastern vagrants in migration). Large lot at west end of lagoon (shorebirds on lagoon edges; sea ducks, waterbirds, aloids on ocean). Bird Rock, beyond lagoon, often covered with pelicans, cormorants, gulls.

Return to small pond, turn right up hill, follow road past missile site & between 2 yellow buildings, turn left then right a short distance to cypress trees of BATTERY WALLACE. In migration, trees in this area have "eastern" warblers. At far end of trees is an overlook of the ocean.

Return down hill, turn right past side loop to road up hill on right. At top of hill go right to where road narrows & becomes one way. Park, walk to top of hill--BUNKER HILL or "Hawk Mountain" (many hawks, including Broad-Winged, swifts, gnatcatchers). Cypress trees in area (warblers, etc.).

Return on approach road but do not turn down hill to Lagoon area. Stay on south side of hill to US 101 Freeway, turn right to S.F. and home.

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Mrs. Jean Richmond, Editor--125 Via Serena, Alamo, CA 94507--phone 837-2843
(Exchange bulletins for MDAS to this address, please.)



The Quail

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY
94597

WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA
P. O. Box 53

Pres.: Jimm Edgar
3478 Orchard Hill Ct.
Lafayette, CA 94549
phone: 283-3510

November 1976
Vol. 23, No. 5

Next deadline: Nov. 15

Meeting: Thurs., Nov. 4. Birdingformation: 7 p.m.; social time: 7:30; meeting: 8 p.m. Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek.

Field Trips: Sat., Nov. 6, 9:00 a.m., Palo Alto Salt Marsh; carpool: Alamo Market Plaza, 7:30. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey (254-0486).

Wed., Nov. 17, Sunol Regional Park, 9:15 a.m.; carpool: Alamo Market Plaza, 8:30. Leader: Bob Richmond (837-2843).

Dec. 4-5, Sacramento Valley Refuges.

Christmas Bird Count: Sun., Jan. 2. Please mark your calendar now.

Board Meeting: Wed., Nov. 17, home of Norma and Merv Ortez, 1010 Walnut Dr., Lafayette; phone 283-3072.

Screen Tour: Tues., Nov. 9, 8:00 p.m., Diablo Valley College gym. "The Marsh - A Quiet Mystery" narrated by Tom Sterling.

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Birdingformation will feature part 2 of Shorebirds and Waterfowl by Frank Beyer. There will be a narrated slide program on Avian Habitats in California presented by John Luther who is with the Biology Dept., College of Alameda, and is one of the Bay Area's best birders. This will not only be very interesting but educational as well.

At the Palo Alto Salt Marsh there will be waterfowl, shorebirds and gulls, possibly including European Wigeon, Blue-Winged Teal and Thayer's Gull. Along the frontage road we should also find Short-Eared Owls. Cross Dumbarton Bridge to US 101, go south to Embarcadero Rd., then east over the freeway and continue to the yacht harbor and meet at the duckpond on the left.

At Sunol Regional Park we will walk up along Alameda Creek to see land birds. Golden Eagles are often seen and sometimes Dippers are found along the creek. 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 parking lot at park headquarters.

If you have not made motel reservations for the Sacramento Valley Refuges weekend trip, do so immediately as there will be many hunters there also. Motel reservation information, see the October issue of The Quail.

The Audubon film presents a study of our diminishing wetlands. From the barren stillness of winter, with deer, coyote and opossum searching for food, through the seasons, the marshes are discovered and richly appreciated in this exceptional film.

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Our CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT will be held on Sun., Jan. 2, as our usual count day falls this year on Christmas Day. We need all the help we can get, not only from experts but also from brand-new birders. Yes, beginners are essential as we need as many eyes as possible in order to spot the birds for the experts to identify. Details will be in the December issue. Please plan to help on our CBC this winter. Napa-Solano Audubon will conduct their CBC on Sun., Dec. 19, and Frank Beyer can use our assistance.

* * * * *

The Sept. 23 trip to TILDEN REGIONAL PARK was made by 14 members and guests under clear skies and with comfortable temperature. We saw 2 Cooper's Hawks, one perched and one in flight, and several warblers of 5 species. The following 48 species were seen or heard:

Mallard, Pintail, Coop & Red-T Hawk, Cal Quail, Am Coot, Sp Sandpiper, B-T Pigeon, Vaux's Swift, An Hummingbird, Com (R-S) Flicker, Yellow-Bellied (R-B) Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Bl Phoebe, St & Sc Jay, Ch-B Chickadee, Pl Titmouse, Bushtit, Wh-Br Nuthatch, Br Creeper, Wrentit, Bew Wren, Cal Thrasher, Am Robin, R-Cr Kinglet, Starling, Hut Vireo, Yel, Yel-Rump (Aud) Bl-Thr Gray, Town & Wil Warbler, H Sparrow, R-W Blackbird, West Tanager, Bl-H Grosbeak, P & H Finch, P Siskin, Am & L Goldfinch, R-S & Br Towhee, Dark-Eyed (Or) Junco, Wh-Cr, Fox & Song Sparrow.

The MONTEREY BAY PELAGIC TRIP on Oct. 3 was made by 35 members and guests under clear skies with warm temperature and fairly calm seas. Pomarine & Parasitic Jaegers, Sabine's Gulls, Arctic Terns and, best of all, Xantus' Murrelets were seen. Thanks ever so much to Dr. Howard Cogswell and Ted Chandick for again leading our pelagic trip and doing such a magnificent job!!! The following 42 species were spotted:

Loon sp, H & W Grebe, P-F, N Z & Sooty Shearwater, F-T, Ashy & Black Storm-Petrel, Br Pelican, Br & Pel Cormorant, Bl Turnstone, Willet, Gr Yellowlegs, dowitcher sp, M Godwit, R & No Phalarope, Pom & Par Jaeger, G-W, West, Her, Cal, Mew & Heer Gull, B-L Kittiwake, Sabine's Gull, F, Com, Arctic & El Tern, Com Murre, P Guillemot, XANTUS' MURRELET (3), Cas Auklet, R Dove, B Kingfisher, C Crow, Starling & H Sparrow.

The Oct. 6 RODEO LAGOON trip led by GGAS member Bud Fry was made by 17 members and guests in clear, warm weather with little or no wind. Although no "eastern" birds were found, 3 Pectoral Sandpipers and 4 Vaux' Swifts were spotted. The following 55 species were seen or heard:

W & P-B Grebe, Br Pelican, Br & Pel Cormorant, G B Heron, Gr & Sn Egret, Mallard, Pintail, Cin or B-W Teal, Am Wigeon, Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, T Vulture, S-S, Coop & R-T Hawk, Am Kestrel, Cal Quail, Am Coot, Killdeer, Gr Yellowlegs, Pec Sandpiper, No Phalarope, G-W, W, Cal or R-B, & Heer Gull, M Dove, V Swift, B Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Bl Phoebe, V-G Swallow, St & Sc Jay, Ch-B Chickadee, Bushtit, Wrentit, B& Rock Wren, Am Robin, thrush sp, R-Cr Kinglet, O-C & Yel-Rump (M & Aud) Warbler, Br Blackbird, H Finch, Am & L Goldfinch, R-S & Br Towhee, Wh-Cr, G-Cr & Song Sparrow.

The Oct. 9 trip to LIMANTOUR SPIT was made by 18 members and guests. The breezy weather varied from cool and foggy to warm and sunny. Unfortunately several species which should have been seen apparently had not yet arrived in the area, but the following 65 species were heard or seen:

Com Loon, E, W & P-B Grebe, storm-petrel sp, Wh Pelican, D-C Cormorant, G B Heron, Gr & Sn Egret, Am Bittern, Mallard, Pintail, Cin or B-W Teal, Am Wigeon, No Shoveler, L Scaup, W-W Scoter, Ruddy Duck, T Vulture, S-S, R-T & Marsh Hawk, Am Kestrel, Cal Quail, Am Coot, Semipal Plover, Killdeer, B-B Plover, Bl Turnstone, Willet, Gr Yellowlegs, L Sandpiper, Dunlin, M Godwit, Sanderling, W, Her, R-B & Heer Gull, tern sp, An Hummingbird, Com Flicker, Ac Woodpecker, kingbird sp, Bl Phoebe, Barn Swallow, St & Sc Jay, C Crow, Ch-B Chickadee, Wrentit, L-B M Wren, R-Cr Kinglet, Starling, Yel-Rump Warbler, W Meadowlark, Br Blackbird, H Finch, L Goldfinch, R-S Towhee, Sav, Wh-Cr & Song Sparrow.

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

Concord: Mrs. J R Cahill, Andro P Gagne, R H Lewis; Lafayette: Ms Dorothy Toll; Martinez: Mrs John Waltz; Pleasant Hill: William R Wade; Walnut Creek: John R Fewry, Mr Braeme E Gigas, Harry Marsh, Mrs A D McCormick, Steven A Nelson.

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PROPOSITION 2 on the November 2nd ballot, the State, Urban and Coastal Park Bond Act, would provide funds for acquisition, development and restoration of state and local parks. Mt. Diablo State Park is listed as a recipient of funds from this bond issue if it is passed.

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CONGRATULATIONS are in order for Beckee Beemer and Kent Fickett, MDAS Vice President for Programs, who were married on September 4. We send our very best wishes to the young couple.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to member Mrs. Edna Lyser of Walnut Creek who celebrated her 96th birthday on September 13!

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SLIDES ANYONE? If you have an extra slide or can have a duplicate made, MDAS would like to start a slide library for use by members who speak before groups, for Birdingformation, etc. We would very much like to have good slides of birds donated for this purpose. Contact Jimm Edgar if you have any questions.

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SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO BAY REFUGE. According to a Fish & Wildlife Service official from Portland, the Refuge Environmental Impact Statement will be issued in late November and the land will be acquired after that, before the end of 1976. A Monterey-based group, "The Clark Foundation," has pledged enough money, now matched by Congress, to begin building the Alviso Interpretive Center and Coyote Hills Headquarters in early 1977. (The Avocet, Santa Clara Valley Audubon)

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Interested in a RARE BIRD ALERT? The only requirements are a willingness to phone a few others and a desire to go out to try to find rare or unusual birds which are reported to, or seen by, a member of the alert. If you would like to be a part of this alert, contact your editor.

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NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES - AN ENDANGERD SPECIES? With continued attrition of funds for refuges, the idea does not seem impossible. It also appears to be a tendency of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to divest itself of part or all of the refuge system. An attempt was made to transfer 3 wildlife ranges to Bureau of Land Management which would have opened these lands to mining, logging, grazing and fossil-fuel development and would have set a precedent. On Jan. 26, 1976, a permanent injunction against this transfer was ordered following vigorous opposition to the transfer by many organizations, including NAS. Subsequent action by Congress made these arbitrary transfers impossible without prior Congressional approval.

Fish & Wildlife Service's fiscal year 1976 budget request contained an increase of less than 4% over 1972, while the Refuge System grew by 10%. The cost of living increases in that period meant many refuges had to cut personnel, reduce programs and, worst of all, many refuges lacked funds for proper maintenance of their physical plants.

You can become a member of the National Wildlife Refuge Association which is strictly a lobbying group. Associate membership is \$10 per year. Send to National Wildlife Refuge Assoc., P.O.Box 124, Winona, Minn 55987. (The Spoonbill, Outdoor Nature Club, Ornithology Group, Houston)

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OBSERVATIONS: (also see field trip reports)

- BLUE-FOOTED BOOBY, immature, New Hogan Reservoir, Calaveras Co., found Sept. 13, confirmed iden. Sept. 15-16, there at least thru Oct. 8--m.ob.
- Hooded Merganser, female, Lake Lucerne, San Mateo Co., Oct. 12--BR, et al.
- Ferruginous Hawk, Laughlin Rd., Alameda Co., Oct. 9--AE; Hall Ranch, Pt. Reyes, Oct. 16--BR, F1B, H&JG.
- Pectoral Sandpiper, 3, Lake Monaco, Pleasanton, Sept. 19--AE; 2, Mendoza Ranch, Pt. Reyes, Sept. 26--BR, AE.
- Golden Plover, Drake's Beach Rd., Pt. Reyes, Sept. 26--BR, AE; 2, same place, Oct. 5--BR, et al; Mendoza Ranch, Oct. 16--F1B, H&JG, BR.
- Tropical Kingbird, Mendoza Ranch, Oct. 5--BR, et al; Mendoza Ranch, Oct. 16--F1B, H&JG, BR.
- BROWN THRASHER, Sunol Regional Park, Oct. 10--AE.
- Black-and-White Warbler, Mendoza Ranch, Sept. 28--BR, et al.
- Tennessee Warbler, Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes, Sept. 26--AE, BR, et al.
- Northern Parula, Fish Docks, Sept. 26--BR, AE; Carmel River, Oct. 9--J&JE.
- Cape May Warbler, Nunes Ranch, Pt. Reyes, Sept. 26--AE, BR, et al.
- Black-Throated Blue Warbler, Fish Docks, Sept. 26--BR, AE, et al; Fish Docks, Sept. 28--BR, et al.
- Chestnut-Sided Warbler, 2, Nunes Ranch, Sept. 26--AE, BR, et al; 1, Nunes Ranch, Sept. 28--BR, et al.
- Blackpoll Warbler, 3, Mendoza Ranch, Sept. 26--BR, AE. et al; 2, Mendoza Ranch, Sept. 28--BR, et al.
- Palm Warbler, Crespi Pond, Pacific Grove, Oct. 3--m.ob; Fish Docks, Oct. 9--m.ob, Mendoza Ranch, Oct. 16--BR, F1B, H&JG.
- Ovenbird, willows at Fish Docks, Oct. 9--BR.
- American Redstarts, 4, various ranches, Pt. Reyes, Sept. 26--AE, BR, et al; 4, various ranches, Sept. 28--BR, et al.
- Lapland Longspur, 2, Hall Ranch, Pt. Reyes, Oct. 16--BR, H&JG, F1B.

(Observers: Florence Bennett, Art Edwards, Joan & Jimm Edgar, Helen & Jerry Gentile, Bob Richmond, many observers)

GREATER BAY AREA SITE GUIDE---Alameda South Shore and Doolittle Pond.

South Shore: Go through the tube to Alameda, continue to Central, left 2 blocks to Washington Park, right to the Bay. Turn left on Shoreline Dr., continue to Broadway and park nearby. After thorough survey of this area walk left (south) along the shore then return to Broadway and continue along the beach for several blocks until the beach becomes narrowed, checking sandy points as well as small coves between. Waterfowl & waterbirds are seen on the water close to shore and out in the open channel while along mudflats, sand & water edges are many shorebirds including Semipalmated & Snowy Plovers at the north end of this area. Look for Snowies well up on the sand, often snuggled down into little depressions. Gulls & terns fly overhead throughout the area, including some Least Terns in summer, Common Terns in summer & fall. Best birding occurs as the tide starts out and birds come in to feed; morning light is best. Extreme high tides in winter bring rails (Clapper, Virginia, Sora) out into view. Arrive 30-60 minutes before peak high tide as rails may disappear into onshore vegetation.

Doolittle Pond: Go up Broadway from Shoreline Dr., turn right on Otis Dr., cross bridge to Bay Farm Island, keep left at the signal. Continue on Doolittle Dr. and just past the golf course pull into a large turnout on the right. Cross the road and check the large pond, edges & island as well as open water. Stilts, avocets, yellowlegs, sometimes Black-Crowned Night Herons are here plus large numbers of ducks, shorebirds, gulls, terns.

Restrooms and picnic facilities are available at Washington Park or at Lincoln Park which is several blocks up High St. from Otis Dr. There are a number of landbirds which can be found in either park. Black-Crowned Night Herons can often be seen roosting in trees at Lincoln Park.

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The Quail

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

Pres.: Jimm Edgar
3478 Orchard Hill Ct.
Lafayette, CA 94549
phone: 283-3510

December 1976
Vol. 23, No. 6

Next deadline, December 12

- Meeting: Thurs., Dec. 2. Birdingformation: 7 p.m.; social time: 7:30; meeting: 8 p.m. Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek.
- Field Trips: Sat.-Sun., Dec. 4-5, 9 a.m. both days, Sacramento Valley refuges. Leaders: Betty and Harry Adamson (283-2164).
- Thurs., Dec. 9, 8:45 a.m., Benicia State Recreation Area; carpool: Copper Penny, Sun Valley Center, 8:15; Leader: Frank Beyer (707)-644-0236. Late comers can find us near the meeting point.
- CHRISTMAS COUNT: Sun., Jan. 2. Compiler: Bob Richmond, 125 Via Serena, Alamo; 837-2843.
- Screen Tour: Mon., Dec. 6, 8 p.m., Diablo Valley College gym. "East Side Story: Bahamas to Quebec" by Walter Berlet. Admission free.
- Board Meeting: Wed., Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m., home of Jean Richmond, 125 Via Serena, Alamo; 837-2843. (Meeting postponed from Nov. 17.)

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Birdingformation, by Bob Richmond, will be about the Christmas Bird Count. This session will be of interest whether or not you are planning to work on the CBC. The program will be a very impressive multislides presentation on John Muir, Pygmy Forest and the Continental Trail by John Olmsted. An environmental specialist, Mr. Olmsted was active in the preservation of the "Giant Staircase" and, when not teaching at U.C., is often leading a seminar there. On display will be nature-type Christmas gifts which can be ordered, with profits going to the Pygmy Forest.

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At the Wildlife Refuges in the Sacramento Valley will be thousands of waterfowl including Ross' Goose and hopefully European Wigeon. On Saturday meet at Sacramento Nat'l Wildlife Refuge headquarters: north via I-80, I-505, I-5 to Norman Rd., (between Williams and Willows), north on the old highway about 2 miles, then right into the Refuge. On Sunday meet at Gray Lodge Waterfowl Refuge headquarters: I-80, SR 113, SR 99 to Live Oak and follow Refuge signs on Pennington Rd. Allow about 2½ hours driving time. If you cannot go both days, by all means drive up for either one. We will eat dinner together Saturday evening at Western Smorgy in Gridley at 7:30.

At Benicia State Rec Area we will see waterfowl, hawks, rails and shorebirds. Cross Benicia Bridge, take I-780 to Military West exit, go under the freeway and meet at the edge of Southampton Bay.

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By way of the Audubon film we will follow the sun, early spring to late summer: Kirtland's Warbler, Key Deer, Okefenokee, wild ponies of Assateague Island, Bonaventure Island, and more: a wonderful conglomeration!

* * * * *

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT: Sun., Jan. 2, all day, rain or shine; compiler: Bob Richmond (address, page 1). The object of the CBC is to find as many birds as possible within a 15-mile diameter circle. Our circle, centered at the intersection of Ygnacio Valley and Cowell Rds., runs from Suisun Bay to Alamo, Camp Stoneman and most of Mt. Diablo State Park to east Lafayette and Briones Hills. We average about 120 species per CBC but might run 130-140 with more help. Even inexperienced birders are needed. We also need people to count birds at feeders and gardens within our count circle. (Contact Bob for information and instructions.) If you have some special species staked out somewhere let Bob know about it ahead of time.

Area Leaders. Pine Canyon: Ned Boyajian, 937-2743; Walnut Creek: Sally Steller, 837-9061; Nortonville/Sommerville area: Darrell Peterson, 685-1115; Mitchell Canyon: Kent Fickett, 798-7421; Briones Hills area: Alan Brown, 935-5662; marshes, ponds, north county: Lynn Farrar, 283-3938 or Frank Beyer, (707)-644-0236; Mt. Diablo: Harry Couden, 934-8873; central county (Buchanan Field, Grayson Creek, golf courses, DVC, etc.): Jimm Edgar, 283-3510; Rossmoor/Tice Valley: LEADER NEEDED; feeders/gardens: Jane Helrich, 687-8873. These are excellent leaders and we need people to assist them.

During our Count Period (Dec. 30-Jan. 5) if you should see within our CBC circle a species uncommon or rare for this area contact Bob Richmond as soon as possible with full information. These sightings are included in our CBC report which is sent to NAS and will be published in American Birds next April.

MDAS will pay the cost of participating in the Christmas Count (probably \$1 per participant) but will very happily accept donations from those willing to pay their own.

Whether or not you take part in the count, be sure to join the fun at the post-count potluck and countdown. There is much story-swapping and laughter along with the preliminary report of how well the count has gone. Join us for cheers for "goodies" found and groans at "sure things" missed. Dinner will be at 6:30 at the San Ramon Valley Methodist Church, 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo (1.4 miles south of Stone Valley Rd.). Those working the count need not get home and into fancy clothes as birding clothes are very acceptable. Bring your own dishes and utensils. Coffee, tea and punch are provided but milk drinkers will have to bring their own. Bring enough food for AT LEAST four times the number on your family attending--a day working the CBC leaves the counters hungry. The sign-up sheet for food assignments will be available at the regular meeting on Dec. 2. If you are unable to attend that meeting, call Jerry Gentile at 228-6297 to advise him of what you would like to bring. We also need a head count so we will know how many tables to set up for dinner.

We need volunteers to help set up chairs and tables beginning about 5:30. It would be a great service to the CBC if those not working on the count would take care of this. If you can help, contact Jerry Gentile.

OTHER CHRISTMAS COUNTS. Dec. 18: Pt. Reyes, Crystal Springs; Dec. 19: Benicia (Napa-Solano AS), Oakland (Golden Gate AS), Putah Creek (Davis AS), South Lake Tahoe, Chico, Clear Lake (Redbud AS); Dec. 20: Lewiston (Trinity Co.); Dec. 23: Peace Valley (Gray Lodge); Dec. 26: Santa Clara Valley, Santa Rosa, Sacramento; Dec. 28: Monterey, Los Banos; Dec. 30: Honey Lake; Jan. 1: Oroville; Jan. 2 (our date): Hayward-Fremont (Ohlone AS), West Marin, Southern Marin, Ano Nuevo. If you would like to work any of these counts (and you may do as many as you wish) contact your editor for info.

Frank Beyer would like help with the BENICIA COUNT on Dec. 19. Those who can assist him can contact him at 409 Rollingwood Dr., Vallejo 94590, phone (707)-644-0236. Frank does so much with MDAS, let's give him a hand.

The trip to ALAMEDA SOUTH SHORE AND DOOLITTLE POND on Oct. 21 was made by 11 members and guests with clear weather, little wind, and temperature varying from cool to warm. We saw no rails despite a good tide but did find 46 Common Terns. The following 58 species were seen or heard:

Horned, Eared, West & P-B Grebe, Br Pelican, D-C Cormorant, G B Heron, Gr & Sn Egret, Canada Goose, Pintail, Am Wigeon, scaup sp, Wh-W Scoter, Ruddy Duck, T Vulture, Wh-T Kite, R-T & M Hawk, Am Kestrel, Am Coot, Semipal & Sn Plover, Killdeer, Bl-B Plover, R Turnstone, L-B Curlew, Whimbrel, Willet, Gr Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Sh-B Dowitcher, West Sandpiper, M Godwit, Sanderling, Am Avocet, Bl-N Stilt, Gl-W, West, Cal, R-B, Bon & Heer Gull, Forster's, Com & Elegant Tern, R & M Dove, Water Pipit, Starling, Com Yellowthroat, H Sparrow, Red-W & Br Blackbird, H Finch, Sav Sparrow.

Ten members and guests made the trip to PALO ALTO on Nov. 6 under sunny skies. It was a bit too warm with little wind and the resulting smog cut visibility somewhat. The European Wigeon was seen by 3 members as they started home but the group saw 10 Blue-winged Teal, 2 active Virginia Rails, a Thayer's Gull and a Short-Eared Owl among the following 74 species seen or heard:

West & P-B Grebe, Br Pelican, D-C Cormorant, G B Heron, Gr & Sn Egret, B-C Night Heron, Am Bittern, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, G-W, B-W & Cin Teal, Eur & Am Wigeon, No Shoveler, Canvasback, Ruddy Duck, Wh-T Kite, Red-T & M Hawk, Am Kestrel, R-N Pheasant, Va Rail, Sora, Am Coot, Killdeer, Bl-B Plover, Willet, Gr Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Sh-B & Lg-B Dowitcher, West Sandpiper, M Godwit, Am Avocet, Bl-N Stilt, Gl-W, West, Her, Thay, Cal, R-B, Mew & Bon Gull, Forster's Tern, R & M Dove, Bur & Sh-Ear Owl, Com Crow, Lg-B Marsh Wren, Am Robin, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Yel-Rump (Aud) Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, H Sparrow, W Meadowlark, Red-W & Br Blackbird, H Finch, Am & Less Goldfinch, Sav & Lark Sparrow, Dark-Eyed (Or) Junco, Wh-Cr, Fox & Song Sparrow.

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

Concord: Stephen R Hiatt; Danville: Oscar G Enstrom; Lafayette: Thomas J Fitzmyers, John Muldoon; Oakland: Tom Steller; Orinda: Mrs John Holmgren; Pittsburg: D A Roberts; San Ramon: K Leeuwenberg; Walnut Creek: Jamie Scott Bray, Professional Optical Co., N M Stoddard family, Jo Ann Sussman.

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A FIELD & LECTURE BIRDING COURSE, Birds of the Bay Area & Northern Calif., 2 lectures, 6 one-day weekend field trips, taught by Craig Hohenberger at Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum, starts Wed., Jan. 19, at 7:30 p.m., Cost: \$25. Binoculars mandatory. For information, call the museum at 935-1978 or write Sam Smoker at the museum, 1901 First Ave., Walnut Creek 94596. Students must register through the museum.

A 10-week COURSE, Natural History of Birds of Calif., taught by Phil Gordon at Acalanes High School, Lafayette, Wednesdays, 7:30-9:30 p.m. starts Jan. 5, Saturday trips by arrangement. Includes birdwatching, identification, photography, recording, biology, habitats, etc; workshops with specimens, etc.; field trips will emphasize Contra Costa County. Register at Acalanes High School, Dec. 4-17. Cost: \$2 for Acalanes District residents or \$3 for non-residents. Further information, call 935-0170.

A series of FIELD IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOPS designed for experienced birders (beginners can benefit) will be conducted by Jon Winter Dec. 11-12, Jan. 22-23, Feb. 5-6. Emphasis on problem groups such as immature cormorants, hawks & gulls, terns, sparrows, Empidonax flycatchers, sandpipers, fall warblers, etc. Lecture & slide presentations followed by field trips. Cost: \$20/workshop. Reservations and details: Jon Winter, 1277 Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa 95465; phone (707)-528-7488.

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OBSERVATIONS: (also see field trip reports)

Red-Necked Grebe, Bodega Bay, Nov. 2--BR, et al; Nov. 14--JR, BR, MC, FB.

TUFTED DUCK, Lake Merritt, male, Oct. 31 at least thru Nov. 16; female, Nov. 7 at least thru Nov. 16--HC, m.ob.

European Wigeon, California Rock & Gravel, Livermore, Nov. 13--AE.

Oldsquaw, 2, Bodega Head, Nov. 13--AE.

Black Scoter, 3, Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes, Oct. 16--BR, et al; female, Bodega Bay, Nov. 14--BR, JR, MC, FB.

Hooded Merganser, up to 10 females, Jewel Lake, Tilden Park, Nov. 8 at least thru Nov. 16--m.ob; female, Lake Merritt, Nov. 16--HC, JR, BR, et al.

White-Fronted Goose, 3 imm., Bodega Bay, Nov. 2--BR, et al.

Ferruginous Hawk, Hall Ranch, Pt. Reyes, Oct. 24--BR, FB; one with Rough-Legged Hawk, Fish Docks, Oct. 26--BR, et al.

Golden Eagle, Alamo, sub-adult, Oct. 24, adult, Nov. 8--JR; Concord, Nov. 2--JM; Ed R Levin Regional Park, Santa Clara Co., Nov. 15--JE.

Wild Turkey, Eagle Nest Rd., near Sacramento, Oct. 23--MJ&BG, FB, BR.

Rock Sandpiper, up to 3 back at Bodega Head, Nov. 13-14--AE, BR, JR, MC, FB, et al.

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER, Upper Newport Bay, Los Angeles, Oct. 23--J&BK, LAAS.

Red-Phalarope, 6, Bodega Bay, Nov. 14--JR, BR, FB, MC.

Tropical Kingbird, Carmel State Park, Oct. 18--J&BK; Mendoza Ranch, Pt. Reyes, Oct. 19--BR, et al.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER, 3, Mendoza Ranch, Oct. 19--BR, et al.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER, Battery Wallace, Oct. 30--RS, FB, BR, JR, et al.

Blackpoll Warbler, Mendoza Ranch, Oct. 19--BR, et al.

Palm Warbler, Mendoza Ranch, Oct. 19--BR, et al.

Rose-Breasted Grosbeak, imm. male, Fish Docks, Oct. 24--FB, BR, et al.

Lapland Longspur, Nunes Ranch, Pt. Reyes, Oct. 26--BR, et al.

SNOW BUNTING, Doran Park, Bodega Bay, Nov. 13--AE.

(Observers: Florence Bennett, Maxine Clason, Harold Connon, Jimm Edgar, Art Edwards, Mary Jane & Bill Greene, Jackie & Bob Knisley, Los Angeles Aud Soc, John Murphy, Bob & Jean Richmond, Rich Stallcup, many observers)

GREATER BAY AREA SITE GUIDE: Palo Alto Salt Marsh.

Cross Dumbarton Bridge to US 101, go south to Embarcadero Rd., east over the freeway, continue to the yacht harbor; the duck pond is on the left. Thayer's Gull is consistent, Glaucous & Franklin's Gull rare. Excellent study of gulls of several species at close range. Walkway at the right between duck pond and another, larger pond: many species of ducks including European Wigeon. Island near west end of large pond: Double-Crested Cormorant, ducks, usually including Blue-Winged Teal, shorebirds. From west side of large pond scan around parked airplanes for Burrowing Owls.

Go on to parking area near Nature Center. Walkway past Center skirts the north side of the large pond. Near end of paved walk a dirt path follows a drainage channel to the Bay: ducks, including Blue-Winged Teal & sometimes European Wigeon, Black-Crowned Night Heron, rails in marsh and channel. As tide starts out shorebirds fly in to feed. From Nature Center a boardwalk goes out to and along the Bay: many shorebirds, sometimes rails.

Return just past duck pond, parking on left just west of boats: many ducks sometimes European Wigeon, grebes, shorebirds, rarely Little Blue Heron.

Return to freeway, go left on frontage road a mile or so to parking area on left. Large pond: many gulls, ducks including Gadwall. Walk out on dirt road, go left at fork. Beyond here are Short-Eared Owls, American Bittern.

Entire area: White & Brown Pelican, White-Tailed Kite, Loggerhead Shrike.

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Jean Richmond, Editor---125 Via Serena, Alamo, CA 94507---phone: 837-2843
(Exchange bulletins for MDAS to this address, please.)