



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

January 1977
Vol. 23, No. 7

Next deadline: January 15

Meeting: Thurs., Jan. 6. Birdingformation: 7 p.m.; social time: 7:30; meeting: 8 p.m. Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek.

Field Trips: Sat., Jan. 15, 9 a.m., Putah Creek & Lake Solano; carpool: Copper Penny, Sun Valley Center, 7:30. Leader: Florence Bennett (933-3781).

Wed., Jan. 19, 9:45 a.m., Palo Alto Salt Marsh; carpool: Alamo Market Plaza, 8:30. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).

CHRISTMAS COUNT: Sun., Jan. 2. Compiler: Bob Richmond, 125 Via Serena, Alamo 94507; phone 837-2843. Count Period: Dec. 30-Jan. 5.

Board Meeting: Wed., Jan. 19, 7:30 p.m., home of Norma and Merv Ortez, 1010 Walnut Blvd., Lafayette; phone 283-3072.

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Tom Steller will lead the Birdingformation session on identification of ducks on the water and in flight. Tim Manolis will present the program on foraging and behavior habits of eastern wood warblers. A Chico State graduate with postgraduate work at Purdue, he majored in biology with emphasis in ornithology.

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At Putah Creek & Lake Solano will be, hopefully, Lewis' Woodpecker, Dipper, Rock & Canyon Wren, Phainopepla. Take I-680 north to I-80, east to Cherry Glen exit, cross the freeway, go about a mile then left on Pleasants Valley Rd. about 14 miles to SR 128. Turn left about 5 miles and meet at the top of Monticello Dam.

At Palo Alto Salt Marsh will be waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls, including Blue-winged Teal & possibly European Wigeon, Thayer's Gull. If we have time we will look for Short-Eared Owls along the frontage road. Cross Dumbarton Bridge to US 101, go south to Embarcadero Rd., then east over the freeway, continue to the yacht harbor and meet at the duckpond on the left.

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MONTEREY WEEKEND: Sat.-Sun., Mar. 5-6. We will bird Moss Landing, fishing pier, Coast Guard pier, El Carmelo Cemetary, Crespi Pond, Pt. Pinos, Carmel River. Make motel reservations in the area now, they fill early. Saturday evening we will go to The Studio Theatre/Restaurant for dinner and a play. Dinner choice: roast beef or roast turkey. Carmel ordinances prohibit sale of alcoholic beverages but you may bring wine for dinner, glasses are provided. Money for The Studio MUST be in to Sally Steller, 591 Fulton Way, Danville 94526, no later than Feb. 1. Cost, including tax and tip, is \$11.86 per person. Make check payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Soc.

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ITINERARY for the May 14-22 trip to ARIZONA are available from Sally Steller if you did not get one at the December meeting.

Our CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT is scheduled for Sun., Jan. 2, rain or shine. If you plan to participate but have not yet contacted compiler Bob Richmond, do so immediately at 837-2843. We have a leader for Rossmoor/Tice Valley: Jim Hale, 283-3200. New areas this year are Donner Canyon, Bob Doyle, 685-4007; Mt. Diablo summit area: Bob Bary, 685-1643; Mt. Diablo (junction south to Artist Pt.) & east Danville: Steve Ballard, 376-3481; residential area west of Pleasant Hill Rd.: George Monheit, 284-4261. If you have a feeder within our count circle and will count birds there or will allow someone else to do so, contact Jane Helrich, 687-8873.

If you should find any bird which is rare for our area, including those on the list which follows, write down all details, preferably before consulting a field guide: field marks, habitat, behavior, when and where seen and by whom, lighting, optical equipment used, voice, your familiarity with that and similar species. Then contact Bob Richmond as soon as possible.

THE LIST: Com Loon, Bl-Crowned Night Heron, Snow Goose, European Wigeon, Wood Duck, Virginia Rail, Sora, Semipalmated Plover, Lesser Yellowlegs, Burrowing & Long-Eared Owl, Poorwill, Lewis' Woodpecker, Com Raven, Red-Br Nuthatch, Br Creeper, Winter Wren, Orange-Crowned, Black-Thr Gray & Townsend's Warbler, Tricolored Blackbird, Br-Headed Cowbird, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Sage Sparrow, Slate-Colored Junco, White-Throated Sparrow.

The post-count POTLUCK and CBC compilation will be that evening at 6:30 at San Ramon Valley Methodist Church, Alamo. Be sure to bring your own cups, plates and utensils plus enough food for AT LEAST 4 times the number in your family attending. (We were somewhat short of food last year---let's not repeat that!) Call Jerry Gentile now (228-6297) to let him know what you would like to bring and how many of your family are coming.

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Eleven members and guests made the trip to SUNOL PARK on Nov. 17 with warm, clear weather. Dippers were not found but 1 adult and 2 immature Golden Eagles, 5 species of woodpeckers and a White-Throated Sparrow were seen among the following 51 species seen or heard:

G B Heron, T Vulture, Sh-Sh, Coop & R-T Hawk, G Eagle, Am Kestrel, Cal Quail, gull sp, M Dove, swift sp, hummingbird sp, Belted Kingfisher, Com (R-S) Flicker, Ac Woodpecker, Yel-Bel (R-Br) Sapsucker, Downy & Nut Woodpecker, Bl & Say's Phoebe, St & Sc Jay, Y-B Magpie, Com Crow, Ch-B Chickadee, Pl Titmouse, Bushtit, Wh-Br Nuthatch, Wrentit, Bew Wren, Am Robin, Var & Her Thrush, West Bluebird, R-Cr Kinglet, Starling, Yel-Rump (Aud) Warbler, West Meadowlark, Br Blackbird, H Finch, Am & L Goldfinch, R-S & Br Towhee, Sav Sparrow, Dark-Eyed (Or) Junco, Wh-Cr, Gold-Cr, Wh-Thr, Fox & Song Sparrow.

The Dec. 4-5 trip to the SACRAMENTO VALLEY REFUGES was made by 49 members and guests, most of whom stayed both days. The weather Saturday began cold but warmed up early and was excellent until about 2:30 when the wind suddenly came up. Sunday was somewhat windy but still beautiful all day. The European Wigeon was missed at both refuges but the clouds of white geese against the blue sky was breathtaking to see as was the flight back and forth in front of us of a large flock of Yellow-Headed Blackbirds. One couple on the way to Gray Lodge Sunday morning saw an immature Bald Eagle near the entrance. The following 89 species were heard or seen:

E & P-B Grebe, Wh Pelican, D-C Cormorant, G B & Green Heron, Gr & Sn Egret, B-C N Heron, Am Bittern (many), Wh Swan, Can (mostly Cackling), Wh-Fr, Sn & Ross' Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Gr-W & Cin Teal, Am Wigeon, No Shoveler, R-N Duck, Canvasback, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, T Vulture, Wh-T Kite, Sh-Sh, Coop, R-T & Rough-Legged Hawk, Bald Eagle, M Hawk, Am Kestrel, R-N Pheasant, Sand Crane, Va Rail, Com Gallinule, Am Coot, Killdeer, Com Snipe, Sp Sandpiper, Willet, Gr Yellowlegs, L Sandpiper, Dunlin, Lg-Bill Dowitcher, Am Avocet, B-N Stilt, Cal & R-B Gull, M Dove, Barn, Gr-H, Burrowing & Sh-Ear Owl, B Kingfisher, Com (R-S) Flicker, Downy & Nut Woodpecker, Bl Phoebe, H Lark, Tr Swallow, Y-B Magpie, Com Crow, Bushtit,

Lg-Bill M Wren, Mockingbird, Am Robin, R-Cr Kinglet, W Pipit, L Shrike, Starling, Yel-Rump (Aud) Warbler, H Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Yel-H, R-W & Br Blackbird, H Finch, Am & L Goldfinch, Br Towhee, Sav Sparrow, Dark-Eyed (Or) Junco, Wh-Cr, Gold-Cr & Song Sparrow.

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It is with great pleasure we welcome the following new members of MDAS:
Concord: Mrs Patricia M Arkin, Jim Armstrong, Nancy Grier Baha, John & Libby Halle, Charlotte M Young; Danville: May E Blaney, Mrs W E Nexsen; Lafayette: A Gilson, Molly & John Murphey, Kathy Williams; Moraga: Mrs James E Drennan, Mrs Richard J Schoofs; Orinda: Mrs Hugh P Bain, Mrs Joan Melendy; Pittsburg: Celeste G Mason; Pleasant Hill: Mrs Alan Lippincott, John A Walker; Walnut Creek: Edward K Alstat, Dr Jack Greenlaw, T Halligan, Dr/Mrs Francis A Munson, Mrs Alexena Pinkham, Harvey P Schneiber, T Tinnes.

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CONGRATULATIONS to member Charles Wind who was selected Grand Marshal of the 8th Annual Sugar City Festival held in Crockett recently. A native of Crockett, Charles was honored for his many years of community service, including being Cubmaster of Pack 41 for the past 44 years.

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A PELAGIC TRIP from Monterey, scheduled Feb. 13, departs 8 a.m., returns about 3 p.m. For reservations send a check for \$13 per person to Golden Gate Audubon Society, 2718 Telegraph Ave., #206, Berkeley, CA 94705. Details will be sent with an acknowledgement.

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COLOR-BANDED LONG-BILLED CURLEWS. Red, yellow, green or light blue plastic leg bands were placed on curlews in southeastern Washington in a study of their ecology, behavior and migration. If you see any of these birds write: Bird Banding Laboratory, Office of Migratory Bird Management, Laurel, MD 20811. Include date, time of day, location, activity of bird, habitat and number of other curlews with it along with name of observer, color of band, and if possible the number printed on the band.

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ENVIRONMENT DAY. The Cousteau Society in conjunction with Superb, a student activities organization at U.C. Berkeley, is sponsoring a celebration of the Water Planet on Jan. 15 on the U.C. campus. The event, which will include exhibits, featured speakers (including Captain Jacques Cousteau), environmental workshops, panel discussions, films, filmstrips, as well as evening entertainment, will be held 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Admission is free.

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A BIRDWATCHING CLASS taught by Alice Hoch begins Jan. 4 and runs 11 Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. There will be visits to parks where birds will be studied in their natural environment. Information: Fremont Adult School, 40775 Fremont Blvd., Rm. 8, Fremont 94538. Cost is \$4.

There is still room in Craig Hohenberger's CLASS at Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum beginning Jan. 19. See Dec. Quail for more details.

Jon Winter's WORKSHOPS (see Dec. Quail) will be Saturdays, 1-4 p.m. at Richardson Bay Sanctuary, Tiburon, Sundays, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. in the field.

Natural History of Calif Birds, taught by Phil Gordon at Acalanes High School beginning Jan. 5, will still accept registrations. (See Dec. Quail for more details.) Call 935-0170 for information.

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The OAKLAND MUSEUM ASSOC. has launched a \$200,000 capital fund drive to seek financing for completion of the Museum's Earth Dynamics Gallery. The gallery will explain the formation of California, detailing the state's geology. The Museum hopes to obtain financial pledges over the next several months, with the money itself coming over the next two years.

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OBSERVATIONS: (also see field trip reports)

Northern Fulmar, Pt. Pinos, Nov. 26--JR; Pigeon Pt., San Mateo Co., Nov. 30--BP, BR, JR, et al.

Cattle Egret, 2 on rooftop, Half Moon Bay, Nov. 20--FB, BR, JR; 2, Bolinas Lagoon, Nov. 23--BR, JR, et al; 1 shot near Walnut Creek Nov. 28 recovering at Lindsay Museum; 1, I-680, Pleasanton, Dec. 1--DS; 2, Inverness, Dec. 7--BR, JR, et al; 2, Nunes Ranch, Pt. Reyes, Dec. 12--JH.

Whistling Swan: 2 imm., Rodeo Lagoon, Dec. 11-14--FB, H&JG, BR, JR, et al.

Snow Goose, Princeton Harbor, San Mateo Co., Nov. 20--FB, BR, JR.

European Wigeon, male, Lake Merced, S.F., Nov. 1-12--m.ob.

Wood Ducks, over 100, Briones Reservoir, Nov. 25--JB, JH.

Barrow's Goldeneye, Bolinas Lagoon, Dec. 12--JH.

Harlequin Duck, San Gregorio Creek, San Mateo Co., Nov. 14-early Dec.--m.ob.

Golden Eagle, 2 adults, Briones Reservoir, Nov. 25--JB, JH.

RUFF, Pacific Grove, Oct. 29-at least thru Dec. 8--m.ob.

Red Phalaropes, all along the coast, including est. 2500, Salinas River mouth, Nov. 27--FB, MJ&BG, m.ob.

GLAUCOUS GULL, Redwood City dump, Nov. 24-Dec. 3--BR, JR, FB, et al; Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes, Dec. 12--JH.

Elegant Tern, very late, Tomales Bay Nov. 23--BP, BR, JR, et al.

ANCIENT MURRELETS, up to 19, Pigeon Pt., Nov. 6-early Dec. --m.ob.

Tropical Kingbird, Lake Merced, S.F., Nov. 14-at least Dec. 8--m.ob.

Western Kingbird, very late, West Butte Rd., Sutter Co., Dec. 5--RR, et al.

Black-and-White Warbler, Fish Docks, Dec. 12--JH.

Chestnut-Sided Warbler, Carmel River, Nov. 25--FB, F&RN, MJ&BG.

Palm Warbler, 2, El Carmelo Cemetary, Pacific Grove, Nov. 26--F&RN, FB, MJ&BG, BR, JR.

Corrigendum: in Dec. 1976, Quail, Sharp-Tailed SPARROW, not Sandpiper.

(Observers: Florence Bennett, James Benney, Mary Jane & Bill Greene, Helen & Jerry Gentile, Jim Hale, Fran & Roy Nelson, Bill Pursell, Bob, Jean & Rich Richmond, Don Schmoltdt, many observers.)

GREATER BAY AREA SITE GUIDE: East Bay shoreline, Pt. Isabel to Bay Bridge.

Grebes, waterfowl, gulls, terns all winter. Sometimes Burrowing & Short-Eared Owls in field between Virginia St. & University Ave. Gulls at dumps.

Pt. Isabel Park: From Hoffman Blvd. (SR 17) or I-80 in El Cerrito go west on Central Ave., then right on Isabel St. to parking area at end of street.

Albany Crescent: Take Buchanan St. west from I-80; park (watch for "No Parking" signs), check water, mud flats near freeway. Dump at end of road.

Berkeley Marina: From frontage road between Gilman & University Ave. go west on Virginia St. toward dump; water on right, open field on left. Return to frontage road, go south to University, west toward marina (open field on right), turn right on Marina Blvd., follow to end. Berkeley dump near here. Check open Bay. Return to University, go right to Bay. Check open water from shore or from long recreation pier.

Aquatic Park: From University Ave. just east of I-80, go south on 6th St. a block to Addison, right to end and into park. Drive south, checking lake frequently. Park at south end, check large pond then cross road to south (carefully, it is a freeway access), check large pond by radio station.

Frontage Road: Many places to safely get off road to check Bay waters.

Emeryville Marina: West on Powell St. Open Bay to left, marina on right, plenty of parking from Tia Maria Restaurant to end of road.

Bay Bridge Toll Plaza: Approaching Toll Plaza, take "Last Oakland Exit" & follow small signs to "Radio Stations". Park just past stations, walk "trail" to water's edge--good mudflat at proper tide. Clapper Rails seen sometimes. Walk to end of road to check open Bay.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY NEW YEAR AND GOOD BIRDING TO ALL FROM THE RICHMONDS
Jean Richmond, Editor--125 Via Serena, Alamo, CA 94507---phone 837-2843



The Quail

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February 1977
Vol. 23, No. 8

Next deadline: Feb. 13

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- Meeting:** Thurs., Feb. 3. Birdingformation: 7 p.m.; social time: 7:30; meeting: 8 p.m. Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek.
- Field Trips:** Sat., Feb. 5, 8:30 a.m., Ano Nuevo to see Elephant Seals; carpool: Alamo Market Plaza, 6:30. For birding San Mateo County coast, meet at Ano Nuevo, 10:00. Leader: Kent Fickett (798-7421).
Sat., Feb. 12, Grizzly Island (meet in Fairfield), 8:15; carpool: Copper Penny, Sun Valley Center, 7:30. Leader: Maxine Clason (837-8954). Call leader if rainy---trip may be postponed a week.
Thurs., Feb. 17, 10:00 a.m., Thornton area; carpool, Copper Penny, Sun Valley Center, 8:30. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).
- Screen Tour:** Wed., Feb. 16, 8:00 p.m., Diablo Valley College gym, "Yosemite: An Ecological Visit" by Eben McMillan. No admission charge.

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Birdingformation, Identification of Gulls, will be led by Bob Richmond. Kent Fickett will present the program for the evening, a discussion of Ano Nuevo, its geology, offshore ecosystem, Elephant Seals and birds. This will be a good background for our trip there.

The Ano Nuevo trip begins with a ranger-led tour to Ano Nuevo Point to observe seals and their pups. After returning to the parking lot we will bird up the coast, including Pigeon Pt., Pescadero beach and marsh. We will see waterbirds, waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls, perhaps American Bittern, rails, gallinules, Tricolored Blackbirds. Cross San Mateo Bridge, continue on SR 92 to Half Moon Bay, turn left on SR 1 about 28 miles to New Years Creek Rd., turn right to the parking lot at the end of the road.

Grizzly Island has good numbers of geese, ducks, hawks, sometimes eagles, Long-Eared or Short-Eared Owls. Take I-680 north to I-80, east to Fairfield exit (SR 12), then a short distance to Allan Witt Park on the right. If you come late, continue on SR 12 through Fairfield. A mile or so out of town turn south on Grizzly Island Rd. until you find us. If the weather is very rainy, call Maxine as the trip may have to be postponed.

Around Thornton there should be thousands of Whistling Swans, geese, ducks, Sandhill Cranes, possibly Green Heron, Bittern or Barn Owl. Go north on SR 24, east to 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.

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The AUDUBON FILM is on spectacular Yosemite, an area shaped by glaciers as they carved, smoothed and gouged canyons, polishing the granite face as they went. Mr. McMillan explores this area and its wildlife, the variety and beauty of which make us all thankful it is a National Park.

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Despite ghastly weather, our CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT on Jan. 2 was a rousing success. The 70 observers in 14 parties plus 5 at feeders turned up a record-breaking total of 127 species and 1 additional race (2 subspecies of Dark-eyed Junco). It was so cold, windy and rainy all day, especially on Mt. Diablo, we missed several species we should have seen. However we did find some real "goodies", including Red-Shouldered, Rough-Legged & Ferruginous Hawk, 2nd-year Glaucous Gull, Tricolored Blackbird and Brown-Headed Cowbird. Marbled Godwit and Ferruginous Hawk were new to this count. The following species were found:

Horned, Eared, West & P-B Grebe, Dbl-Cr Cormorant, G B & Green Heron, Gr & Sn Egret, Bl-Cr Night Heron, Am Bittern, Can Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, G-W & Cin Teal, Am Wigeon, No Shoveler, Redhead, R-Neck Duck, Canvasback, Com Goldeneye, Ruddy Duck, T Vulture, Wh-T Kite, Sh-Sh, Coop, Red-T, Red-Sh, R-Leg & Ferrug Hawk, G Eagle, Marsh Hawk, Am Kestrel, Cal Quail, Va Rail, Com Gallinule, Am Coot, Killdeer, Com Snipe, Lg-B Curlew, Sp Sandpiper, Willet, Gr Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Lg-Bill Dowitcher, West Sandpiper, M Godwit, Am Avocet, B-N Stilt, Glaucous, Gl-W, West, Herring, Cal, Rg-B, Mew & Bon Gull, B-T Pigeon, R & M Dove, Screech, Gr-H & Sh-Ear Owl, Wh-T Swift, An Hummingbird, B Kingfisher, Com (R-S) Flicker, Ac Woodpecker, Yel-B (R-B) Sapsucker, Hairy, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Bl & Say's Phoebe, H Lark, Tree Swallow, St & Sc Jay, Com Raven, Com Crow, Ch-B Chickadee, Pl Titmouse, Bushtit, Wh-Br Nuthatch, Wren-tit, Winter, Bew & Lg-B Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Cal Thrasher, Am Robin, Var & Her Thrush, W Bluebird, G-Cr & R-Cr Kinglet, W Pipit, Ced Waxwing, L Shrike, Starling, Hut Vireo, Yel-Rump (Aud) Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, H Sparrow, West Meadowlark, R-W, Tricol & Br Blackbird, Br-H Cowbird, H Finch, P Siskin, Am & L Goldfinch, R-S & Br Towhee, Sav & Lark Sparrow, D-Eye (Or & Sl-C) Junco, Wh-Cr, G-Cr, Wh-Thr, Fox, Linc & Song Sparrow.

Also seen during the Count Period were White Pelican, Ring-Necked Pheasant and Sora.

A bit THANK YOU is due our CBC compiler, Bob Richmond, for reorganizing our CBC and for obtaining the record-breaking number of observers. (The highest previous number was 42.)

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The Dec. 9 trip to BENICIA STATE REC AREA was made by 17 members and guests on a clear, cool day with light wind. A Semipalmated Plover, unusual here in Dec., was on the mudflat. The following 54 species were found:

Red-Th Loon, H, West & P-B Grebe, D-C Cormorant, G B Heron, Gr Egret, Mallard, Pintail, G-W Teal, No Shoveler, Canvasback, L Scaup, Com Goldeneye, Ruddy Duck, T Vulture, W-T Kite, R-T & Marsh Hawk, Am Kestrel, R-N Pheasant, Va Rail, Am Coot, Semipal Plover, Killdeer, B-B Plover, Sp Sandpiper, Willet, L Sandpiper, Dunlin, West Sandpiper, M Godwit, Am Avocet, G-W, Herr, Cal, R-B & Mew Gull, M Dove, An Hummingbird, Com (R-S) Flicker, L-B Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, L Shrike, Starling, Yel-Rump (Aud) Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, W Meadowlark, Br Blackbird, H Finch, Am Goldfinch, Wh-Cr, Gold-Cr & Song Sparrow.

The PUTAH CREEK/LAKE SOLANO trip on Jan. 15 was made by 24 members and guests on a cold day under overcast and some fog but with no wind. The sun did break through in mid-afternoon to warm things up a bit. We found all the hoped-for species plus Common Loon, Blue-Winged Teal, Hooded Merganser, Osprey & Rufous-Crowned Sparrow among the following 84 species:

Com Loon, E, West & P-B Grebe, G-B Heron, Wh Swan, Can Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, G-W & Bl-W Teal, Am Wigeon, No Shoveler, Wood Duck, Redhead, R-N Duck, Canvasback, L Scaup, Com Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Hooded & Com Merganser, Sh-Sh, Coop & R-T Hawk, Osprey, Am Kestrel, Cal Quail, Com Gallinule, Am Coot, Killdeer, Com Snipe, gull sp, R & M Dove, Wh-Thr Swift, hummingbird sp, B Kingfisher, Com (R-S) Flicker, Ac & Lewis' Woodpecker, Yel-B (R-B) Sapsucker, Downy & Nut Woodpecker, Bl & Say's Phoebe, Sc Jay, Y-B Magpie, Com Raven, Pl Titmouse, Bushtit, Wh-B Nuthatch, Br Creeper, Wren-tit, Dipper, Bew, Can & Rock Wren, Mockingbird, Am Robin

Her Thrush, W Bluebird, R-Cr Kinglet, Phainopepla, L Shrike, Starling, Yel-Rump (Aud) Warbler, H Sparrow, W Meadowlark, Br Blackbird, H Finch, P Siskin, Am & L Goldfinch, R-S & Br Towhee, Ruf-Cr Sparrow, Dark-Eyed (Or) Junco, Wh-Cr, Gold-Cr, Fox & Song Sparrow.

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It is with great pleasure we welcome the following new members of MDAS:
Concord: Donald Carlton, Douglas Cowie, Doris Crosby, Raymond L Dod, Pam R Eggert, Donna Howe, L R Pember, Sr, Dick Ragan; Lafayette: Sue Cross, Robert English, Douglas R Herr, Master Dana Lopez, Ross E McCandless, Kelley Ryan, Michael B Watson, Russell Woodlief; Martinez: Virginia T Murison; Pleasant Hill: B R G Connel, John W Keating, John M LePage; San Ramon: Dave Bennett; Walnut Creek: Ms Richard Burgraff, Mark-Judy Ferrari, Mr/Mrs Richard Herrick, Catherine S Nicoll, Bob N Pickard.

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Remember, money for the dinner & show on the MONTEREY WEEKEND must be in to Sally Steller no later than Feb. 1. See January Quail for details.

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CALIFORNIA FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS, a non-profit organization dedicated to promotion of educational & scientific values of ornithology in western U.S. & Canada, publishes Western Birds, a quarterly journal. CFO membership of \$5 a year includes a subscription. Their 2nd annual convention, to be held in Monterey Feb. 19-21, includes a series of 15-20 minute papers and slide shows, field trips, dinner and a program featuring Will Russell. For information on CFO and/or the convention, contact your editor. We who are going to Monterey would be happy to see you there.

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We again this year offer a 2-week CAMPSHIP to Audubon Workshop of the West in the Wind River Mountains of Wyoming. We are looking for applicants for this rich learning experience who can return home and pass on that knowledge to local residents, especially the children. If you are interested or know someone who might be, contact President Jimm Edgar, address and phone on page 1. Applications should be made as soon as possible so arrangements for the summer workshop can be made.

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The NATIONAL AUDUBON CONVENTION will be held June 9-12 at YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, Colorado, adjacent to Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park. Attending will be delegates from each Chapter; plus newsletter editors, education & conservation committee members, publicity persons, membership & program workers, other officers; plus any other interested Audubon members and families. A limited number of rooms have been reserved for delegates, members and their families. Deadline is March 9 so send in your application now. Full information and/or registration forms are available from your president and editor.

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The WORLD WILDLIFE FUND, with the theme "The Seas Must Live", is beginning a drive to raise \$10 million. As part of this drive, an Environmental Fair and a Walkathon will be held Sat., Feb. 5, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum in Walnut Creek. The Fair will be held in Larkey Park, the Walkathon will begin and end at the Museum there. Both participants and sponsors are needed for the walk. Any of our members who can assist should contact Jimm Edgar, those who can help man a booth at the Fair should contact Judy Moorad, 938-4446.

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OFFICERS for next year will be elected at the April meeting, therefore a nominating committee has been appointed and will present a slate in March. If you would like to volunteer do not hesitate, even if you have never held an office in MDAS. We hope some of our newer members will volunteer their services as we would like some new faces and fresh ideas on the Board. Contact Helen Gentile, 827 Robinson St., Martinez 94553; phone 228-6297.

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OBSERVATIONS: (also see CBC and field trip reports)Cattle Egret, up to 5, Inverness, Jan 8--at least Jan 18--m.ob.Whistling Swan, ad, Bolinas Lagoon, Jan 8--FlB, BR.European Wigeon, east end Richmond Bridge, Jan 15--RH; 1 each still at Palo Alto and on Elk Glen Lake, Golden Gate Park--m.obTUFTED DUCK, male, Richardson Bay, late Dec--at least Jan 18--m.ob.Barrow's Goldeneye, up to 13, east end Richmond Bridge, Jan 15-18--m.ob.Oldsquaw, up to 6, Princeton Harbor, Dec 18-Jan 5--m.ob.; 1, east end Richmond Bridge, Jan 9-16--NB, m.ob.Hooded Merganser, 2 females, 5--Brooks, Pt Reyes, Jan 8-18--FlB, BR, m.ob.Golden Eagle took a Dbl-Cr Cormorant, Loch Lomand, Santa Cruz Co, Dec 19--JH.Black Rail, 4, Benicia State Rec Area, Dec 19 (Benicia CBC)--m.ob.Mountain Plover, Sandy Mush & Henry Miller Rds, Merced Co., Jan 14--JH.Rock Sandpiper, Princeton Harbor, Dec. 18-26--m.ob; Bodega Head, Jan 16--PR.Ruff, still at Pacific Grove--m.ob.GLAUCOUS GULL, 2nd-year, found on CBC, still at Mallard Res, Jan 12--BR, JR.Possible LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL, Denver, CO, Dec 12-19--HH, PW, et al.FRANKLIN'S GULL, imm, Pt Richmond, Jan 9--at least Jan 19--NB, m.ob.Tropical Kingbird, still at south end Lake Merced, San Francisco--m.ob.Red-Breasted Nuthatch, 3, San Leandro Reservoir, Dec 25--JH.NORTHERN SHRIKE, ad, Nicasio Res, Jan 6--at least Jan 19--AM, BP, m.ob.BLACK-&-WHITE WARBLER, Inverness Park, Jan 18--DS, JR, BR, et al.Orange-Crowned Warbler, Tocaloma, Marin Co., Jan 18--JD, BR, JR, et al.Palm Warbler, 2, El Carmelo Cemetary, Pacific Grove, Jan 1--FlB.Slate-Colored Junco, her Pleasant Hill garden, Jan 1 & 5--CJ.Harris' & White-Throated Sparrows, still at Fairchild Corp, Palo Alto--m.ob.

(Observers: Florence Bennett, Ned Boyajian, Jane Dang, Jim Hale, Claire Jarrett, Harold Holt, Ralph Hudgins, Alice Mericourt, Bill Pursell, Bob & Jean Richmond, Peter Rosmarin, Dave Shuford, Peter Willmann, many observers)

GREATER BAY AREA SITE GUIDE: Coyote Hills Regional ParkAccess: 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.Indian Mound parking lot (on right just past gate). Walk north: warblers and other small birds in willows, Long-Eared Owls occasionally.Main parking lot (large, unpaved, on left). South Marsh across road has waterfowl (sometimes Blue-Winged Teal), rails, Yellowthroat. Rock Wrens on steep slope behind "frog pond" (just west of parking lot along paved walk). Continue west--marsh on left, hillside on right: Say's Phoebe, Loggerhead Shrike, sometimes Tricolored Blackbird. BE CAREFUL as some Red-wings (not our usual Bicolored subspecies) in winter have very faded yellow edging on shoulder patch making them look like Tricolored. Continue west, cross hill to Bay: many grebes, waterfowl, shorebirds (sometimes Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper), avocets, stilts, gulls.Parking lot at park office. North Marsh across road: waterfowl, rails, some shorebirds, Yellowthroats. Just before parking lot is trail north past large pond on right (boardwalk circles pond): waterfowl, rails, shorebirds. Proceed on to levee past pond. Large shallow pond beyond levee has shorebirds, sometimes Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper. East along levee may be Bitterns, also sometimes Green Heron in ditch on right. Picnic area uphill from office. Great Horned Owl, flycatchers, nuthatches, thrushes, both kinglets, warblers, etc., in trees.Throughout park: White-Tailed Kite (com), several hawks, Golden Eagle (occ), swifts (occ. Vaux's), swallows, several sparrows (Swamp Sparrow rare).

Summer is warm and birding slow. Many spring and fall transients, sometimes accidentals. Winter has greatest concentration of birds.

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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

March 1977
Vol. 23, No. 9

Next deadline: March 15

Meeting: Thurs., Mar. 3. Birdingformation: 7 p.m.; social time: 7:30; meeting: 8 p.m. Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek.

Field Trips: Sat.-Sun., Mar. 5-6, 9 a.m. both days, Monterey weekend. Leaders: Florence Bennett (933-3781) & Jean Richmond (837-2843).
Wed., Mar. 16, 9:30 a.m., Golden Gate Park; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd., just north of Freeway 24, 8:30. Leader: Tom Steller (834-3633).

Screen Tour: Mon., Mar. 7, 8:00 p.m., Diablo Valley College gym. "In the Domain of the Leopard" by Robert Rydjord. No admission charge.

Board Meeting: Wed., Mar. 16, 7:30 p.m., home of Elizabeth Dickey, 113 Hillcrest Dr., Orinda; phone 254-0486.

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Birdingformation will be by Beverly James of J. Warren Nute, Inc., who will explain the marsh project in Martinez which was created by using reclaimed wastewater. Jon Winter, a biology and ornithology instructor at Sonoma State College, will present an illustrated talk about owls, their habitats, activities, etc.

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On the Monterey Area weekend we will see waterbirds, waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls and a good assortment of landbirds in varied habitats. A Ruff and 2 Palm Warblers have been wintering there and several uncommon species have been seen off and on. Take I-680 to San Jose, south on US 101 to Prunedale, west on SR 156, north 4 miles on SR 1, west onto Jetty Rd. (½ mile north of Elkhorn Slough bridge), meet there just off SR 1. Allow at least 2 hours driving time. On Sunday meet on the Coast Guard pier at the southeast end of Cannery Row. Those going Saturday evening to The Studio Theater/Restaurant (on Dolores between Ocean and 7th, Carmel) meet there at 6:45, dinner at 7:00, show at 8:30.

Golden Gate Park is excellent for close-up study of waterfowl and gulls. We should see Wood Ducks and Pygmy Nuthatches, possibly European Wigeon and Red Crossbills. We will meet just inside the Park at 43rd Ave. and Fulton St. at North Lake, Chain of Lakes.

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The final AUDUBON FILM of this season takes us to Equatorial East Africa, one of the few places left where the natural system remains intact. In filming the savannahs, dry thornbush country, lakes of the Great Rift Valley, high rain forests, and jungles crowding the Victoria Nile, Mr. Rydjord communicates an understanding of ecological and aesthetic beauty.

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Nine members and guests made the trip to PALO ALTO SALT MARSH on Jan. 19 on a clear, cool day with little wind. We saw no Short-Eared Owls but there were Blue-Winged Teal, European Wigeon and Merlin then the high tide brought out 14 Clapper Rails! The following 76 species were heard or seen:

Horn, Ear, West & P-B Grebe, D-C Cormorant, G B Heron, Gr & Sn Egret, Bl-Cr Night Heron, Am Bittern, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, G-W, B-W & Cin Teal, Eur & Am Wigeon, No Shoveler, Canvasback, Gr & L Scaup, Com Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, T Vulture, W-T Kite, R-T & Marsh Hawk, Merlin, Am Kestrel, R-N Pheasant, Cl Rail, Am Coot, Killdeer, Bl-B Plover, Com Snipe, Willet, Gr Yellowlegs, L Sandpiper, Dunlin, Sh-B & Lg-B Dowitcher, West Sandpiper, M Godwit, Am Avocet, B-N Stilt, Gl-W, West, Herr, Thayer's, Cal, Rg-B & Bon Gull, R & M Dove, Bur Owl, H Lark, Com Crow, Bew Wren, Water Pipit, Log Shrike, Starling, Com Yellowthroat, H Sparrow, West Meadowlark, R-W & Br Blackbird, H Finch, Am Goldfinch, Br Towhee, Sav, Wh-Cr, Gold-Cr and Song Sparrow.

The trip to AÑO NUEVO and the SAN MATEO COAST was made by 43 members and guests under sunny skies with cool temperature and wind at times. We saw many Elephant Seals including a 3-day-old and a 14-day-old pup and also a playful Sea Otter. Among the birds were a Blue-Winged Teal, Black Scoter, Golden Plover and an early Cliff Swallow. The 92 species seen or heard:

Com & R-Th Loon, Horn, Ear, West & P-B Grebe, Br Pelican, D-C, Br & Pel Cormorant, G B Heron, Gr & Sn Egret, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, G-W, B-W & Cin Teal, Am Wigeon, No Shoveler, R-N Duck, Canvasback, Gr & L Scaup, Com Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Wh-W, Surf & Black Scoter, Ruddy Duck, R-Br Merganser, T Vulture, W-T Kite, R-T & Marsh Hawk, Am Kestrel, Cal Quail, Sora, Am Coot, Killdeer, Am Gold & Bl-Bel Plover, Surfbird, Bl Turnstone, Com Snipe, Lg-B Curlew, Whimbrel, Willet, Gr Yellowlegs, L Sandpiper, Dunlin, dowitcher sp, M Godwit, Sanderling, Gl-W, West, Herring, Thay, Cal, Rg-B & Mew Gull, R & M Dove, An Hummingbird, Com (R-S) Flicker, Bl Phoebe, Tree & Cliff Swallow, St Jay, Ch-B Chickadee, Bushtit, Wren, Bew & Lg-Bill Marsh Wren, Am Robin, Her Thrush, G-Cr & Ruby-Cr Kinglet, W Pipit, Log Shrike, Starling, Yel-Rump (Aud) Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, West Meadowlark, R-W & Br Blackbird, H Finch, Am Goldfinch, Sav, Wh-Cr, Gold-Cr, Fox & Song Sparrow.

The JOICE-GRIZZLY ISLAND trip Feb. 12 started foggy and cold but Joice was clear, the fog had lifted on Grizzly when we returned in late morning and the afternoon was quite warm. The 16 members and guests saw no Short-Eared or Long-Eared Owls but did find 14 White Pelicans in flight, Rough-Legged Hawks, many Greater Yellowlegs and at least 1,000 House Finches among the following 68 species seen or heard:

Horn, Ear & P-B Grebe, Wh Pelican, D-C Cormorant, G B Heron, Gr & Sn Egret, Bl-Cr Night Heron, Am Bittern, Can Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, G-W & Cin Teal, Am Wigeon, No Shoveler, Canvasback, Com Goldeneye, Ruddy Duck, T Vulture, Wh-Tail Kite, Red-T, R-Leg & Marsh Hawk, Am Kestrel, R-N Pheasant, Com Gallinule, Am Coot, Killdeer, Com Snipe, Lg-Bill Curlew, Willet, Gr Yellowlegs, L Sandpiper, Dunlin, dowitcher sp (prob. Lg-B), Am Avocet, Herring, Cal, R-B & Bon Gull, Gr H Owl, An & Al Hummingbird, Belt Kingfisher, Bl Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Com Crow, Lg-Bill Marsh Wren, Ruby-Cr Kinglet, W Pipit, Log Shrike, Starling, Yel-Rump (Aud) Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, H Sparrow, West Meadowlark, R-W & Br Blackbird, H Finch, Am Goldfinch, R-S Towhee, Dark-Eyed (Or) Junco, Wh-Cr, Gold-Cr & Song Sparrow.

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The BAY AREA AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT has a toll-free number for use within the nine Bay Area counties. Ask Operator for Enterprise 1-3200. Call anytime day or night for any air pollution complaints, including odors, and an inspector will investigate the problem then get back to you. Call between 8:30 and 5:00 for general information about the District and its enforcement policies.

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

Alamo: Virginia & Tony Madden; Antioch: Harold & Lena Brink; Concord: John S Gregg, Richard Thall, Michael J Vickers; Danville: Judy Madeires, Linda Rae Victor, Mrs Mildred E Wing; Lafayette: John K Allen, Mr R E Bernard, Mrs F Herringer, James R Stone; Martinez: Howard Carter, Andrew J McMahon, Cheri Milano, the Stephensons; Pleasant Hill: Miss Debra K Lind, Michael S Taylor, Mr & Mrs Rex Albert Womack; San Ramon: Douglas Scheer; Walnut Creek: Marney & David Ackerman, Mr & Mrs Robert M Byars, M W Grant, Jeff Hubbell, Mr & Mrs Stephen F Layton & family, Harry Marks, Debbie Shinn, Harry & Ethel Starnes, Theodore Waldo.

* * * * *

Twelve young WHOOPING CRANES have arrived at their wintering grounds at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, Texas, along with 57 adults. It was the largest number of young and the highest total---69 Whoopers in all---since 1938 when the counts began, shortly after the Aransas NWR was established. All of the adults that flew north to the Canadian nesting grounds last spring have returned, two of which straggled in late. Also, at least five of the Whoopers fledged in the past two years from eggs placed in nests of Sandhill Crane "foster parents" in an attempt to start a second wild flock are alive; they have returned with the Sandhills to the Sandhill wintering grounds in New Mexico.

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NONGAME WILDLIFE PROGRAM funds will be put to use this spring with watering projects in the desert and a special guard at Morro Rock during the Peregrine Falcon nesting season. Donations in any amount are accepted but donors of \$5 or more receive a wildlife decal and certificate of appreciation. MDAS contributed to the program and seeks contributions from members (you receive a decal for \$5) to replenish a "revolving fund" to be used for this purpose. Contact Judy Moorad at meetings or at 1419 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek 94598; 938-4446. If sent direct, mail check (payable to Nongame Wildlife) to Wildlife, Box DFG, Sacramento, CA 95801.

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PT. REYES BIRD OBSERVATORY had a poor year financially despite generous response to their appeal last May. They are actively seeking foundation, corporate and grant money but in the meantime, funds are needed as their expenses keep going up as with us all. Send contributions to PRBO, 4990 Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach, CA 94970.

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MARIN COUNTY BREEDING BIRD ATLAS. Many factors affect changes in status of breeding distribution of birds, thus it is important to have an accurate record of present distribution for future comparison---birds are very sensitive to habitat changes. A 3-year study in progress needs more people to assist. Weekday field sessions mid-March to early-May are planned to stimulate interest in this and to improve bird skills. More information is available from your editor.

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The Oakland Museum is offering spring NATURAL SCIENCE CLASSES, including 2 in ornithology, one taught by George Peyton and one by Joe Morlan, beginning mid-March. Contact the Natural Sciences Dept., Oakland Museum, 1000 Oak St., Oakland (1 block from Lake Merritt BART station); phone 273-3884.

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PRBO offers many EXCITING NATURAL EXCURSIONS this year, led as usual by very capable people. Some information available from your editor but for brochure or detailed descriptions, write PRBO, address above.

TOURS also offered by Nature Expeditions International, P. O. Box 1173, Los Altos, CA 94022 and by Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, 1603 West Clay, Houston, TX 77019. Some information on these from your editor.

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OBSERVATIONS: (also see field trips reports)

On a pelagic trip out of Monterey with Golden Gate Aud Soc, Jan 23: dark phase Northern Fulmars, 1 Flesh-Footed Shearwater, Black-Legged Kittiwakes, 1 2nd-year Glaucous Gull, 2 Xantus' Murrelets, 3 Ancient Murrelets, and estimated 1500 Northern Right Whale Dolphins (rare!)--PR, BR. White-Fronted Goose, Rodeo Lagoon, Jan 22--FLB, BR, JR. Oldsquaw, 4, Princeton Harbor, Jan 27--JR, BR, RR. Harlequin Duck, still along US101, Brisbane, at least thru early Feb--m.ob. Black Scoter, Bodega Bay, Jan 29--FLB, BR. Red-Shouldered Hawk, Crespi Pond, Pacific Grove, Feb 2--JE. Ferruginous Hawk, Panoche Pass Rd, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Little Panoche Rd, San Benito Co, Jan 30--PR; near Bodega Bay, Feb 2--JR, BR. Golden Eagle, 8, Calaveras Reservoir & Sunol Park, Feb 1--JR, BR, et al. Mountain Plovers, Little Panoche Rd, 1.8 mi north of Panoche Rd, Jan 30--PR. Rock Sandpipers, 2, still off Bodega Head--m.ob. RUFF, still at Pacific Grove--m.ob. Black-Legged Kittiwake, Bodega Bay, Jan 29--BR, FLB. RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD, Bodega Bay, at least thru early Feb--BR, FLB, et al. Allen's Hummingbird, 1st reported, his Lafayette garden, Jan 30--LF. WESTERN KINGBIRD, Calaveras Rd south of Sunol Park, Jan 24--BR, JR. Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, mouth of Carmel River, Feb 2--JE. Nashville Warbler, 2, Bodega Bay, Jan 29, Feb 2--FLB, BR, m.ob. Palm Warbler, 2, still at El Carmelo Cemetary, Pacific Grove--JE, m.ob. White-Throated Sparrow, her Walnut Creek garden, Jan 4--FS.

(Observers: Florence Bennett, Jimm Edgar, Lynn Farrar, Bob, Jean & Rich Richmond, Peter Rosmarin, Frieda Shackelford, many observers)

GREATER BAY AREA SITE GUIDE: Sunol Regional Park.

Access: go south on I-680 about 9 miles past Dublin to Calaveras Rd., turn left under the freeway about 4 miles to Geary Rd., then left about 2 miles to the park.

Park Headquarters area. Acorn Woodpecker, jays, Yellow-Billed Magpie, chickadee, titmouse, Bushtit, kinglet, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbirds, both towhees; Varied Thrush most winters; in spring, vireos, warblers, Northern "Bullock's" Oriole, Western Tanager, Black-Headed Grosbeak. Behind buildings: Song Sparrow sometimes along creek; White-Throated Sparrow some winters; Brown Thrasher last October.

Creek from headquarters upstream to bridge at end of picnic areas. Along stream: Black Phoebe, Belted Kingfisher, woodpeckers, thrushes, Western Bluebird, both towhees, Lark, Fox and Harris' (1972) Sparrows. Throughout picnic area: woodpeckers, sapsucker, bluebird; spring-fall: vireos, warblers, oriole, tanager, grosbeak.

Fire road along creek from bridge to and beyond Little Yosemite (easy 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile walk from bridge): Pygmy Owl, woodpeckers, Dipper (in creek), bluebird, thrushes, kinglet; spring-fall: flycatchers, swallows, warblers; Common Merganser sometimes in creek about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile above bridge; wrentit California Thrasher & Rufous-Crowned Sparrow on chaparral hillsides. Alternative trail back to headquarters from Little Yosemite: Canyon View Trail through grassland, oak woodland. May see Say's Phoebe.

Welch Creek Rd. ($\frac{1}{2}$ mile before Geary Rd. turnoff). Park and walk up along road. Many woodland species as in rest of park. May find Canyon Wren.

Throughout park: hawks (Sharp-Shinned, Cooper's, Red-Tailed), Golden Eagle, woodpeckers (Flicker, sapsucker, Downy, Nuttall's), swallows, Yellow-Billed Magpie, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet (winter).

I would not recommend Sunol Park in summer as it becomes quite warm.

* * * * *

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



The Quail

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY

P. O. BOX 53

WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94597

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

April 1977

Vol. 23, No. 9

Next deadline: April 15

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

Field Trips: Thurs., Apr. 14, 9:15 a.m., Alameda; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd., just north of Freeway 24, 8:30. Leader: Maxine Clason (837-3954).

Sat., Apr. 16, 9:15 a.m., Sunol Regional Park; carpool: Alamo Market Plaza, 8:30. Leader: Sally Steller (837-9061).

Sat., Apr. 23, 8:00 a.m., Mt. Diablo State Park. Leader: Lynn Farrar (283-3938). Meet at lower South Gate (be prompt!). \$1.50 entrance fee.

Wed., Apr. 27, 10:00 a.m., Annadel State Park and Glen Ellen; carpool: leave Copper Penny, Sun Valley Center, 8:30. Leader: Bob Richmond (837-2843).

NOTE--Mines Rd. trip changed to April 30. Details in May Quail.

Board Meeting: wed., Apr. 20, 7:30 p.m., home of Jean Richmond, 125 Via Serena, Alamo; phone: 837-2843.

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Birdingformation, led by Marie Mans, will be "Sounds of Birds," a discussion and recordings of common birds, designed to help distinguish some of the similar sounds made by different birds. David Gaines and David Winkler will present an illustrated talk about Mono Lake, its ecology and problems. The lake has the largest breeding population of California Gulls, with the possible exception of Great Salt Lake, Utah. Dr. Gaines, now with the Pygmy Forest, and Mr. Winkler, a graduate student at U.C., Davis, have both done much study around Mono Lake.

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At ALAMEDA SOUTH SHORE we hope to see waterbirds and shorebirds in breeding plumage and possibly some waterfowl that have not left for the north. Go through the tunnel to Alameda, continue on to Central, left 2 blocks to Washington Park, then right to the Bay. Turn left on Shoreline Dr. to the foot of Broadway.

The trip to SUNOL PARK has been postponed 2 weeks to April 16 due to conflict with the Bay Area Audubon Council meeting which MDAS will host on April 2. During the easy walk up along Alameda Creek there should be hawks, eagles, woodpeckers, Yellow-Billed Magpies, thrushes, warblers, sparrows and more. Go south on I-680 about 9 miles beyond Dublin to Calaveras Rd., turn left under the freeway about 4 miles to Geary Rd., then left 2 miles to the parking lot at Park headquarters.

On the MT. DIABLO STATE PARK trip we hope to see several species of warblers, Lazuli Bunting, possibly Rufous-Crowned, Sage & Black-Chinned Sparrow, among many species on the mountain. From I-680 in Danville follow signs to the Park.

At ANNADEL STATE PARK we will look for Pileated Woodpecker, many woodland birds, warblers, possibly Wood Duck. From I-80 east of Vallejo go 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. 0.6 miles to Channel Dr. Turn left 2 miles to the parking lot at the end of the road. In GLEN ELLEN we will look for Yellow-Breasted Chats.

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The trip to THORNTON on February 17 was made by 13 members and guests on a beautiful, warm day with little wind. There were Sandhill Cranes in large numbers, some doing a bit of courtship dance. We heard or saw the following 61 species:

Pied-Billed Grebe, Great Blue & Green Heron, Great Egret, Amer Bittern, Whistling Swan, Canada, White-Fronted & Snow Goose, Mallard, Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Sandhill Crane, Com Gallinule, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Glaucous-Winged, Calif & Ring-Billed Gull, Rock & Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Com (R-Sh) Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Scrub Jay, Yellow-Billed Magpie, Com Raven, Com Crow, Bewick's & Long-Billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Golden-Crowned & Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Starling, Yellow-Rumped (Aud) Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, House Sparrow, West meadowlark, Red-Winged, Tricolored & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Amer Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided Towhee, Savannah, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

The weekend trip to the MONTEREY AREA March 5-6 was a study in contrast. Saturday was a lovely day, rather warm in the afternoon, but Sunday, after starting warm, became windy, cold and foggy. Red-Necked Grebes were at the Coast Guard pier, the Oldsquaw was at Fisherman's Wharf, the Ruff was in Pacific Grove, a Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher and Swamp Sparrow were at Carmel River but the Palm Warblers were not seen at El Carmelo Cemetery. The following 106 species were heard or seen:

Com, Arctic & Red-Throated Loon, Red-Necked, Horned, Eared, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, White & Brown Pelican, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Mallard, Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, Canvasback, Bufflehead, Oldsquaw, White-Winged & Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, accipiter sp., Red-Tailed Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Amer Coot, Black Oystercatcher, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Surfbird, Ruddy & Black Turnstone, Com Snipe, Long-Billed Curlew, Spotted Sandpiper, Willet, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Short-Billed & Long-Billed Dowitcher, Western Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Ruff, Sanderling, Amer Avocet, Black-Necked Stilt, Glaucous-Winged, Western, Calif, Ring-Billed, Mew, Bonaparte's & Heermann's Gull, Forster's Tern, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Rock & Mourning Dove, Anna's, Rufous & Allen's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Com (R-Sh) Flicker, Hairy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black & Say's Phoebe, Violet-Green & Tree Swallow, Scrub Jay, Com Raven, Com Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Pygmy Nuthatch, Wrenit, Bewick's & Long-Billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Amer Robin, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Golden-Crowned & Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Orange-Crowned & Yellow-Rumped (Aud & Myr) Warbler, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Amer Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Dark-Eyed (Or) Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox Swamp & Song Sparrow. (There were 36 members and guests on the trip.)

Eleven members and guests went to GOLDEN GATE PARK on March 16 despite somewhat threatening skies at home. The heavy rain of the previous day had stopped and we had a sunny, cool morning followed by a rain shower just as we finished lunch. We saw a male European Wigeon and an immature Black-Legged Kittiwake at Spreckles Lake, Wood Ducks on North, Metson and Lloyd's Lakes, Ring-Necked Ducks on Mallard Lake and a Tropical Kingbird between Middle and South Lakes. The following 55 species were heard or seen:

Pied-Billed Grebe, Double-Crested Cormorant, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Mallard, Gadwall, Cinnamon Teal, European & Amer Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Wood & Ring-Necked Duck, Canvasback, Greater & Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck, Cooper's & Red-Tailed Hawk, Calif Quail, Amer Coot, Glaucous-Winged, Western, Calif, Ring-Billed & Mew Gull, Black-Legged Kittiwake, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Rock & Mourning Dove, Allen's Hummingbird, Com (R-Sh) Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Tropical Kingbird, swallow sp., Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Pygmy Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Amer Robin, Varied & Hermit Thrush, Golden-Crowned Kinglet, Yellow-Rumped (Aud) Warbler, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided Towhee, Dark-Eyed (Or) Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox & Song Sparrow.

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ELECTION OF OFFICERS for next year will be held at the April meeting. The nominating committee offers the following slate of candidates: president, Bruce Moorad; vice-president, conservation, Kent Fickett; vice-president, programs, Merv Ortez; secretary, Elizabeth Dickey; treasurer, Winnie Orcutt. Nominations may also be made from the floor at the time of the election.

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CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL CAREFULLY AND NOTIFY US of any errors! We are applying for a bulk mailing permit as the cost of first class mailing is getting too high. Bulk mailings are not forwardable and address corrections cost 25¢ apiece. Therefore, it is imperative that you let us know of any error in your label and if you move, NOTIFY MDAS as well as National or you will miss issues until we receive notification from NAS and that can take some time.

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I need your COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS about The Quail. This is your newsletter and I want to find out what you like or don't like about it, what you would like to have added or changed, etc. I also want to hear your reaction to the changes in The Quail which have been made beginning with this issue. The changes will allow more space so that items can be spread out somewhat to make them more readable as they have become quite jammed together in recent issues. There is now room to add other things but I need your suggestions on what to include. Drop me a postcard with your comments. Thanks!

We also need a volunteer to write about a half-page CONSERVATION COLUMN, as I am far less knowledgeable than many of our members in these matters. I do not want a lengthy dissertation but rather highlights of important issues facing us on the local, state and national scene. Eleven reports a year would require little time from one of our excellent conservation people but would be of tremendous value to our membership. Recent changes in the laws governing our activities allow us much more leeway in lobbying, let's make good use of our opportunity!

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ALASKA AFFAIRS by Dan and Candi Mitchell.

The National Audubon Society is supporting the Alaska National Interest Lands Bill (HR 39) which establishes new national parks, wildlife refuges, wild and scenic rivers and wilderness areas and enlarges existing areas. We urge you to write to your Congressman to support this important bill. George Miller, the Representative for the Walnut Creek area, can be contacted at House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. If you have any questions, please contact Dan Mitchell at 935-1485.

(Dan and Candi Mitchell have agreed to serve us as our Alaska Affairs chairmen. They will be kept alert as to what is going on in that area and will then report to us at meetings and through The Quail. We hope in this way to keep you informed about the progress of the attempt to protect that vital area and that you will then take appropriate action. Editor.)

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An OPEN SPACE CELEBRATION AND PICNIC will be held Sunday, May 1, from 1-4 p.m., on Shell Ridge. Bring your family and friends, lunch and beverage. There will be entertainment and a songfest from 2-3 p.m. To reach the area, go out Ignacio Valley Rd., right on Homestead Ave., then left on Marshall Dr. to the end. Or from Ignacio Valley Rd. go right on Walnut Blvd., then left on Sutherland Dr. This event will hopefully make people more aware of the open space around them.

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The registration deadline for the NATIONAL AUDUBON CONVENTION has been extended to April 29 (see February issue). The YMCA Camp of the Rockies, one of the most beautiful conference centers in the country, was chosen both for its spectacular setting and for its low cost. U.S. Senator Gary Hart of Colorado, member of the Senate Committee on Public Works and the Environment and sponsor of the Federal-Aid for Non-Game Wildlife bill, will address the Convention. NAS President Elvis J. Stahr will deliver the keynote "State of the Society" address. There will also be workshops, a nature art show/sale, and field trips. Contact your president (283-3510) or editor (837-2843) for information or send for a brochure to Convention, National Audubon Society, 950 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022. Questions not answered by the brochure should be addressed to NAS Convention manager, 2336 Sunset Ln., Greeley, CO 80631. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope for reply.

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BIRDING AT EAGLE LAKE, north of Susanville, June 3-5, will be conducted by Phil Schaeffer, manager of Audubon's Richardson Bay Sanctuary. Last year more than 100 species were observed, including Bald Eagle, Black-Backed Three-Toed Woodpecker, Purple Martin, Pinyon Jay and Goshawk. Cost is \$2-3 per person. Reservation forms and information from: National Audubon Society, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon, CA 94920---and include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

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

Benicia: Erna M. Kamb; Brentwood: Joe Antonio Silveira; Concord: Dr. R. Reed Call, Ron & Diane Duplanty, Mrs. R. M. Ferguson, Mrs. Edward E. Fox, Darrell McClure, Glen M. Murimoto, Timothy & Laurie Rask, R. W. Smith; Danville: the Estrada family, Miss Mary Ann Flett, the Robert Marquardt family, Mrs. Willis Steinbeck; Lafayette: Val Andrews, Eugene W. Beers, Ms. Laura D. Belo, Richard W. Doust, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Negley, Sherrie E. Ogden, Mr. & Mrs. Ralph R. Reese, David Worthington; Martinez: John Bradshaw, Mr. & Mrs. A. Winkler; Moraga: Ben Johnson, Les & Elsie Wandel; Pleasant Hill: Donald D. Kingman, Pleasant Hill Intermediate School, Mark & Bernice Vandort; San Ramon: Miss Stephanie Troup; Walnut Creek: Max & Julia Bruck, the Philip W. Campbell family, Robert Day, James M. Fowler, Gayla I. Morrison.

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"A SEA OTTER CELEBRATION" will be presented by National Audubon's Whittell Education Center on Sunday, May 1, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., at the Center, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon. The free, day-long program, cosponsored by Golden Gate Audubon Society and Friends of the Sea Otter, will consist of a continuous stream of displays and activities, including speakers, slides and films.

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A PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION, "The Beautiful Birds of Ron Shunk," (40 photographs) is being held at Lower Cowell Hall Gallery, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, through July 1. The Academy says, "This is possibly the finest photographic passerine portraiture yet shown anywhere."

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"Earth, Air, Fire and Water," a four-theater MULTI-MEDIA EXHIBITION about familiar scientific phenomena, is on view through April 10 at Oakland Museum. The exhibition, developed through the cooperation of Smithsonian Institution, Fordham University and National Geographic Society, among others, is on loan from the National Science Foundation in Washington, D.C.

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The April 1976 issue of THE AUK, journal of the American Ornithological Union, published the 33rd supplement of the AOU Checklist which lists changes accepted by the AOU Committee on Classification and Nomenclature. (See September, 1973, issue of The Quail for 32rd supplement.) Please keep this list for future reference.

Black Brant is merged with BRANT, Black-Crested Titmouse with TUFTED TITMOUSE. Change the common name of Tree Ducks to WHISTLING DUCKS. The other changes made are of Latin names or of genus and have no effect on "listing" birds.

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CLASSES OFFERED. Birds of the Bay Area and Northern California, through Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum, taught by Craig Hohenberger, starts Thursday, April 14, at 7:00 p.m. The course consists of two lectures, six 1-day field trips on weekends. Cost is \$25, binoculars required. Information: write Sam Smoker, Lindsay Junior Museum, 1901 First Ave., Walnut Creek 94596 or call the museum at 935-1978.

Eleven-week class, taught by Alice Hoch, through Fremont Adult School on Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., beginning March 22. You may register at any class meeting. Cost: \$4. Contact Fremont Adult School, 40775 Fremont Blvd., rm. 8, Fremont, CA 94538; phone: 657-9538.

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Houston Audubon Society is sponsoring a 4-day BIRD AND WILDLIFE TOUR of Tropical Texas (Santa Ana NWR, Bentsen State Park, Falcon Dam) April 14-17. Conducted by T. Ben Feltner and Elaine Robinson, emphasis will be on Texas specialties. Cost of \$140 includes bus transportation, hotels, lunches, round-trip from Houston. Write H.A.S. Tours, P. O. Box 19687, Houston, TX 77024.

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AUDUBON CANYON RANCH opened this year on March 5 and will continue to be open to visitors on weekends, holidays and during Easter week, through the Fourth of July. Arrangements have been made with Golden Gate Transit for service to the Ranch. If interested in using this method of transportation, call their Marin office at 453-2100 for the schedule and further information.

NON-GAME LEGISLATION. A bill to provide matching federal funds to the states for research, protection, and habitat management for non-hunted wildlife will soon be introduced. Senator Gary Hart of Colorado, sponsor of this unique legislation, would like a larger complement of co-sponsors before introducing his bill. Write and let your Senators know that you support legislation to supply funds for non-game wildlife management, and ask them to co-sponsor Senator Hart's Bill.

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The SUPREME COURT has rejected a challenge to the clean water program. The Environmental Protection Agency's power to set industry-wide standards to control the dumping of wastes into the nation's waterways has been unanimously upheld by the Court. Although EPA has been widely believed to hold such power, the provisions of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act are enormously complicated, and several large chemical companies brought suit claiming the law only gave the agency the right to set guidelines on an industry-wide basis and that it was up to the states to apply them, plant by plant.

The industry interpretation was upheld in lower courts but the Supreme Court rejected it saying that national standards are legal so long as provision is made for variances in special cases. Thus the burden of proof is on individual plants that ask to be exempted from the industry's standard, and leaves the EPA program intact.

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BROWN PELICANS. Through the initiative of Houston Audubon Society, a program is underway to re-establish Brown Pelicans in former habitat along the Texas coast. A plane loaned by Shell Oil Company took 24 birds from Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary in Florida to Sea-Arama Marine World in Galveston, where a breeding project will be undertaken. Although these pelicans are crippled birds, found injured and treated but unable to return to the wild, they can breed healthy young. With DDT banned and now working out of the environment, contamination has dropped to a tolerable level. It is hoped that the young pelicans will move along the coast in search of new nesting areas and form new colonies.

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BIOLOGICAL CONTROL. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has developed a virus pesticide devastating to tussock moths but otherwise apparently harmless. The culmination of 13 years of research, the new pesticide has been formally approved by the Environmental Protection Agency.

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OBSERVATIONS: (also see field trip reports)

Red-Necked Grebe, 2, Bodega Bay, Feb. 15--BR, JR, et al.
Black-Footed Albatross, on Monterey Bay, Feb. 20, WFO trip--BR, JR, RR, et al.
Northern Fulmar, light phase, Bodega Head, Feb. 15--AM, BP, JR, BR, et al.
Great Egret, 4, over his Lafayette garden, Mar. 6--HA.
Double-Crested Cormorant, 29 in perfect "V" over his garden, Mar. 6--HA.
Black Brant, 10, on Monterey Bay, Feb. 20, WFO trip--BR, JR, RR, et al.
White-Fronted Goose, over his garden, Jan. 15--HA.
Blue-Winged Teal, male, field just south of Waterfront Rd. at I-680, Martinez, Mar. 20--J&HG, FlB, JR; Mar. 21--BR.
European Wigeon, 2, Bolinas Lagoon, Mar. 12--H&NB, et al; male, field just south of Waterfront Rd. at I-680, Martinez, Mar. 20--FlB, J&HG, JR; Mar. 21--BR, DE.
Wood Duck, 2, over his garden, Feb. 4, Mar. 5--HA.
Black Scoter, Bodega Bay, Feb. 15--BR, JR, et al.
White-Tailed Kite, over their Alamo garden, Mar. 6--JR, BR.
Golden Eagle, ad., Briones Park, Jan. 26; imm., San Leandro Res., Jan 27; 2 ad., 1 imm., Rocky Ridge, Feb. 6; imm. south of Fremont on I-680, Feb. 13; 3 ad., Alum Rock Park, Feb. 15--JH; 1 over his garden, Feb. 15, Mar. 3, 7--HA; 2 ad., Monticello Dam, Feb. 22--BR, JR, et al; 2 ad., Mines Rd, Mar. 19--FlB, BR.
Rock Sandpiper, Bodega Head, Feb., 15--JR, BR, et al.
Xantus' Murrelet, 12, on Monterey Bay, Feb. 20, WFO trip--BR, JR, RR, et al.
Ancient Murrelet, 2, on Monterey Bay, Feb. 20, WFO trip--BR, JR, RR, et al.
Rufous Hummingbird, still at Bodega Bay at least thru Feb. 15--m.ob; her Alamo garden, Feb. 26 (earliest reported locally)--JR.
Allen's Hummingbird, his garden, Jan. 23 (earliest reported)--HA.
Cliff Swallow, 2, Briones Res., Feb. 11 (earliest reported)--JH.
Orange-Crowned Warbler, his garden, Feb. 15--HA; different subspecies, his Lafayette garden, Feb. 26 (very early)--LF.

Nashville Warbler, 2, still at Bodega Bay at least thru Feb. 15--m.ob.
Lawrence's Goldfinch, Del Puerto Canyon Rd., Stanislaus Co., 2 at Frank Raines Co.
 Park, 2 more 3.3 miles west of I-5, Mar. 19--FlB, BR.
White-Throated Sparrow, his garden, Feb., Mar. 3--HA.
Lincoln's Sparrow, his garden, at least thru Mar. 11--HA.

(Observers: Harry Adamson, Hugh & Norah Bain, Florence Bennett, Dick Erickson, Lynn Farrar, Jim Hale, Alice Mericourt, Bill Pursell, Bob, Jean & Rich Richmond, Western Field Ornithologists, many observers)

GREATER BAY AREA SITE GUIDE: Tilden Regional Park.

Access: From Freeway 24 in Orinda, go north on Camino Pablo toward Richmond then left on Wildcat Canyon Rd. into the Park. Follow signs along the main road through the park to the parking lot at the Interpretive Center and the Little Farm. Get a park map at the Center and take a look at the exhibits there.

Jewel Lake. North of the Center go left on the boardwalk, stopping often to check for birds, especially warblers during migration. At the end of the boardwalk go left toward the lake. At the north end of the lake, continue north on the dirt road for chaparral birds or cross the bridge at left and continue around the lake. On the west side of the lake, the trail forks: Pack Rat Trail (right) goes higher up on the hillside, eliminating some of the neck-craning, Jewel Lake Trail (left) passes wet areas attractive to birds. Both trails return to the parking lot. Hooded Mergansers, Ring-Necked and Wood Ducks are often on the lake in winter; a Green Heron sometimes is there. Downy Woodpeckers are resident; Northern "Bullock" Orioles and Black-Headed Grosbeaks nest in this area; Golden-Crowned Kinglets are often in the trees at the north end of the lake, mostly in winter.

Laurel Canyon. Walk east from the Little Farm to Loop Rd. then continue east on Laurel Canyon Rd. In spring, Calliope Hummingbirds occasionally are near the power lines while farther up in the chaparral Rufous-Crowned and (some years) Black-Chinned Sparrows have been found.

Selby Trail (known also as Caves Trail). Drive back to the tennis courts, turn left and park. Near the picnic area go right, cross the creek to an open, grassy field (model airplane field). From late April to early May Calliope Hummers are often found about 200' beyond the southeast corner of this field. Gray Flycatchers have occasionally been seen in spring in willows at the edge of this field. From the southwest corner, the trail follows along the creek. Here are woodland birds, warblers, etc.

Lake Anza. Not much on the lake, usually, but Hooded Mergansers are sometimes here in winter and Saw-Whet Owls have been seen and heard around north end of the lake.

Botanic Garden. There are many interesting plants here and sometimes a Dipper has been in the creek which flows through here.

Big Springs Trail. Drive a short distance south of the Botanic Garden to a trail on the left which climbs up to Sea View Trail on the ridge. There are beautiful views from the top, Rufous-Crowned Sparrows on the hillsides and in summer perhaps Poorwills will be found just after dark.

Birds of the park include hawks, Band-Tailed Pigeon, hummingbirds, woodpeckers, flycatchers, both jays, chickadee, Bushtit, titmouse, Wrentit (more often heard than seen), creeper, thrasher, thrushes (Varied and Hermit in winter, Swainson's in summer), both kinglets, vireos, several warblers, Western Tanager, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Rose-Breasted Grosbeak has been found north of Jewel Lake (rarely), Lazuli Bunting, both goldfinches, several sparrows.

There is much poison oak throughout the park and you can get the rash from leafless plants so be doubly careful in winter to stay on trails. The park can get somewhat crowded on weekends, especially in good weather.

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THE QUAIL is published monthly, except a combined July-August issue. It is sent without additional charge to National Audubon Society members living in this area. Subscription for non-member is \$3.00 per year, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Soc. Send to the Treasurer, F. G. Bennett, P. O. Box 4578, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. Send address changes to Mrs. Jackie Knisley, 4741 Olive Dr., Concord, CA 94521.

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
P. O. BOX 53
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94597

Pres.: Jimm Edgar
3611 Chestnut St.
Lafayette, CA 94549
phone: 283-3510

May 1977
Vol. 23, No. 11

Next deadline: May 10

Meeting: Thurs., May 5. Birdingformation: 7:00 p.m.; social time: 7:30; meeting: 8:00. Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek.

Field Trips: Sat., Apr. 30, 8:00 a.m., Mines Rd.; carpool: Alamo Market Plaza, LEAVE 7:15. Leader: Art Edwards (447-3720).

Thurs., May 12, 8:30 a.m., Las Trampas Regional Park; carpool: Alamo Market Plaza, 8:00. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).

May 14-22, southeast Arizona. Coordinator: Sally Steller (837-9061).

Sat., May 14, 9:00 a.m., Annadel State Park; carpool: Copper Penny, Sun Valley Center, 7:30. Leader: Florence Bennett (933-3781).

Wed., May 25, 8:30 a.m., Briones Regional Park (west). Leader: Elizabeth Dickey (254-0486).

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In preparation for the Arizona trip, Frank Beyer will lead the Birdingformation session on the birds of that area. He will also present the program for the evening, "Desert Islands", a narrated slide show of the flowers, mammals, birds and scenery of Arizona. This double feature will be an excellent one as Frank is an accomplished photographer as well as an excellent speaker.

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Now is the time for incoming & nesting summer residents, migrants, maybe rarities. The MINES ROAD trip (moved to April 30 from May 7) should produce eagles, Costa's Hummingbird, Lewis' Woodpecker, flycatchers, swallows, magpies, Canyon & Rock Wren, Phainopepla, several warblers, Lawrence's Goldfinch. Go south on I-680, east on I-580 to N. Livermore Ave. exit, south on Livermore to Vineyard Shopping Center at S. Livermore and 7th St.

The trip to LAS TRAMPAS PARK is to see Grasshopper Sparrows which nest there and also hawks, woodpeckers, flycatchers, bluebirds, vireos, warblers, oriole, tanager, grosbeak, and sparrows. Go south on I-680 to Crow Canyon Rd., west 1 mile to Boller Canyon Rd., then right about 5 miles to the parking lot at the end of the road.

We hope to find Pileated Woodpeckers at ANNADEL STATE PARK and possibly Wood Ducks. There should also be other woodpeckers, flycatchers, wrens, vireos, warblers, tanager, grosbeak. On the return trip, Yellow-Breasted Chats should be seen at Glen Ellen. From I-80 east of Vallejo go 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. 0.6 miles to Channel Dr. Turn left 2 miles to the parking lot at the end of the road.

At BRIONES PARK there will be woodpeckers, flycatchers, thrushes, vireos, warblers, oriole, tanager, grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, among the woodland birds, many of which will be nesting. Take Upper Happy Valley Rd. exit from Freeway 24 in Lafayette, continue to Happy Valley Rd., turn left 2 miles to Bear Creek Rd. then right $\frac{1}{2}$ mile and turn right into the park. Meet in the parking lot on the right.

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FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Only 7 members made the trip to ALAMEDA SOUTH SHORE on April 14. It was a sunny, windless day with comfortable temperature and very good birding. There was an immature male Barrow's Goldeneye, 2 Soras, an adult male Hooded Oriole, and many species of shorebirds in breeding plumage, including many very striking Black-Bellied Plovers and Red Knots. We heard or saw the following 65 species (BP indicates breeding plumage):

Common (BP), Arctic & Red-Throated Loon, Horned (BP), Eared, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great (BP) & Snowy Egret, Mallard, Green-Winged Teal, Amer Wigeon, Canvasback, Greater & Lesser Scaup, Common & Barrow's Goldeneye, Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Red-Breasted Merganser, Amer Kestrel, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Sora, Amer Coot, Semipalmated & Snowy Plover, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover (BP), Ruddy (BP) & Black (BP) Turnstone, Whimbrel, Spotted Sandpiper, Willet, Red Knot (BP), Least Sandpiper (BP), Dunlin (BP), Short-Billed (BP) & Long-Billed (BP) Dowitcher, Western Sandpiper (BP), Marbled Godwit, Sanderling (BP), Amer Avocet (BP), Glaucous-Winged, Western, Calif, Ring-Billed & Mew Gull, Forster's (BP) & Caspian (BP) Tern, Rock & Mourning Dove, hummingbird sp, Cliff Swallow, Bushtit, Mockingbird, Amer Robin, Starling, House Sparrow, Red-Winged Blackbird, Hooded Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, House Finch and Brown Towhee.

The trip to SUNOL REGIONAL PARK on April 17 was made by 15 members on a beautiful day. The skies were blue, the temperature was comfortably warm with a delightful light breeze blowing. We saw a Prairie Falcon near Little Yosemite, a Black Phoebe nest near headquarters, House Wrens seemingly everywhere, including one going in and out of a hole in a tree, breeding-plumaged Yellow-Rumped Warblers (both Myrtle and Audubon's), Lazuli Buntings with nesting material and vivid breeding-plumaged American Goldfinches. The following 59 species were seen or heard:

Duck sp., Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Killdeer, gull sp., Rock Dove, White-Throated Swift, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Com (R-S) Flicker, Acorn & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Violet-Green, Tree, Rough-Winged & Cliff Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Yellow-Billed Magpie, Com Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, House & Bewick's Wren, Amer Robin, West Bluebird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Yellow, Yellow-Rumped (Myr & Aud), Black-Throated Gray & Wilson's Warbler, Red-Winged Blackbird, Northern (Bullock's) Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, House Finch, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed (Oreg) Junco, Golden-Crowned, Fox, Lincoln's and Song Sparrow.

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Please make note of Jimm Edgar's new address: 3611 Chestnut St., Lafayette 94549. His phone number remains the same, 283-3510.

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The Oakland Museum's eighth annual WILDFLOWER SHOW will be held April 30 and May 1 in the Natural Sciences Side Gallery. More than 200 wildflower specimens, gathered throughout the Bay Area and from as far away as the Sierra and Mendocino, will be on display. Each exhibit will have informational labels and plant experts will be on hand to answer questions.

This year's show will feature native ferns and other drought resistant varieties. A number of wildflowers can be grown at home, often using much less water than is needed for other plants. Visitors to the show can receive information about the acquisition and care of these hardy, beautiful plants.

Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on April 30 and 10-6 on May 1. Admission is 25¢, children 11 and under are free. The Museum is at Tenth and Oak Streets, Oakland.

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A BLACK RAIL STUDY is being conducted by the Department of Fish & Game in the Bay Area. This is being done by Tim Manolis who would greatly appreciate hearing about any Black Rail sightings. He can be contacted at 4409 44th Ave., Sacramento, CA 95824; phone (916) 428-3833.

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ALASKA AFFAIRS by Dan and Candi Mitchell.

Congressman John Seiberling, chairman of the House Sub-Committee for the Alaska National Interest Lands, has scheduled hearings across the country in order to hear the views of all Americans on this important national issue. The hearing in our area will be in San Francisco on June 18. Please contact Dan Mitchell if you are interested in testifying at the hearing as workshops will be held before the hearing to provide more information on testimony. Also, written requests to testify have to be sent to the Honorable John Seiberling.

Besides writing our Congressmen in support of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, we should also write President Carter and Secretary of the Interior Cecil D. Andrus. It is sometimes hard to find the time to sit down and write but it is a good feeling of accomplishment knowing you are doing something positive to shape our country. This bill has a December 1978 deadline. The Alaska frontier --its wilderness, wildlife and unique cultural values--belong to all Americans !!

(Dan Mitchell, 1125 Juanita Dr., Walnut Creek 94595; 935-1485.)

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CONSERVATION NOTES by P. J. Hauser.

President Carter has set up a special committee to hear any good ideas you may have. Why not express your views on conservation issues? Write: The People's Program, The White House, Washington, D.C. 20050.

In regard to the recent, good-old-fashioned demonstration by the truckers and loggers from Eureka protesting the National Redwood Park expansion, I'm sure that, by now, very few people are swayed by such tactics, knowing that much of what is shouted has very little substance. The conservationists looked good. They were cool, confident and rational in stating their defense of the Redwoods.

The "Bottle Bill" by State Senator Omar Rains (SB 4) passed its first test on March 3 by the Committee on Natural Resources which voted 5 to 4 for passage. The next hurdle is the Senate Finance Committee which votes on April 18. Oregon has enjoyed all the benefits of returnable container legislation, and none of the dire results predicted by the bottling/container industry.

In late February, Mr. Victor Calvo, an avid bird watcher and conservationist, was appointed Chairman of the Assembly Resources Land Use and Energy Committee. This committee reviews most state legislation dealing with environment and energy issues.

Probably one of the most environmentally damaging projects proposed over the years is the Baldwin Channel. It has surfaced again, this time by the Board of Supervisors, who recently voted to send a lobbyist to Washington to support a \$12 million study of the project (at taxpayers' expense). Should the project be built, it would guarantee years of oil spills, and assorted heavy pollutions.

Letters are urgently needed in support of bills H.R. 1771 and S. 88 which would transfer Mineral King to the National Park Service. As envisioned by Disney Corp., this wilderness area, in latest EIS calls for 2,785,000 visitor days per year, 18 ski lifts, 3 alpine villages, 2 mountain top restaurants, an "improved road" through Sequoia National Park, and a 2200-car parking facility! Write to Senator Alan Cranston, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 and Representative John Krebs, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.

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GOLDEN TROUT CAMP, an Audubon Sierra Natural History Workshop, is a week in "primitive luxury" at 10,000 foot elevation in the southern Sierra near Mt. Whitney. It is a 2½ mile hike from the end of the road and you carry in your sleeping bag and personal belongings. Days are spent hiking with naturalist-leaders learning about the flora, fauna and ecology of the alpine and sub-alpine area, and perhaps ascend nearby 14,000-foot Mt. Langley. There are Foxtail Pines, Pikas, Dipppers, Gray-Crowned Rosy Finches, Goshawks, profuse wildflowers and who knows what. Delicious dinners are served in the central log cabin, after which there is a session around a cozy wood stove to review the day's adventures and to hear guest lecturers.

Sleeping tents and all meals are provided. Dates this year are July 23-August 10. Cost is \$70-\$90 per adult. For more information, write Golden Trout Camp Workshop, c/o Mrs. Tomi Solen, 825 N. Soledad, Santa Barbara, CA 93103, or call her at (805)-966-4836.

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

Concord: Dorothy Gunnell, Robert W. McKinnon; Orinda: Mrs. James Mitchell; Moraga: Mrs. Paul Schmidt; Lafayette: Paul Swatek; San Ramon: Gail Gibbs; Walnut Creek: Samuel R. B. Davis, III, Marion M. Hilliard, Robert Jacobsen, Mr. K. R. Lorcke, Jonathen Lowenson, Henry Miller.

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EFFECTIVELY VOICING YOUR OPINIONS.

1. Address the letter properly. Use your own stationery. A letter is more effective than a postcard or telegram. Be sure to sign your name and give your address. Address the legislator by his proper title. A form of address frequently used is The Honorable (name), then the title.
2. Identify the bill or issue. Be specific. Write on only one issue.
3. The letter should be timely.
4. Concentrate on your own delegates.
5. Be reasonably brief. Letters need not be typed but they should be legible. State your opinions and arguments as concisely as possible.

SOME DO'S

1. Write your own views. A personal letter is more effective than a form letter or a name on a petition.
2. Give your reasons for taking a stand.
3. Be constructive.
4. If you have expert knowledge, share it.
5. Express your appreciation when it is deserved.

SOME DON'TS

1. Don't make threats or promises. Instead, let your delegate know why you feel strongly on the issue. Threats or promises of punitive action will "turn him off".
2. Don't berate your congressman.
3. Don't pretend to wield vast political influence. Write as an individual, not as a spokesman for a group. Claims of political influence not supported by facts will make him doubt you.
4. Don't become a constant "Pen Pal".
5. Don't demand a commitment before the facts. Bills rarely become law in the same form as when introduced.

(Sketches, San Diego Audubon Society)

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PRBO COURSES. Bird Song, June 4-5, \$20; The Birds of Monterey Bay, June 4-5, \$45 (includes a pelagic trip on the Bay); Birds of the High Sierra, June 12-18, \$150. For information and itineraries, write to PRBO, 4990 Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach, CA 94970.

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SIERRA NEVADA NATURAL AREAS SURVEY. The National Park Service has contracted with ecologists at the University of California and the University of Montana to inventory possible natural areas in the Sierra Nevada for classification as Registered Natural Landmarks. Dr. Robert Curry, geologist, and Drs. Jack Major, Dean Taylor and David Randall, plant Ecologists, are the investigators carrying on this study.

The area being surveyed is defined by the physiographic limits of the Sierra Nevada, and includes the western foothills and eastern escarpment of the range. Areas recommended as Federal Landmarks will be selected on the basis of their representation of characteristic Sierran ecosystems. Outstanding areas of unique integrity will be reviewed with reference to the potentiality of extending present Park boundaries to fully include representative ecosystems of the region.

Correspondence regarding the details of site selection and evaluation, and suggestions of localities for consideration in this survey, should be directed to Dr. Dean Wm. Taylor, Department of Botany, University of California, Davis, CA 95616.

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CAR-SHOPPING GUIDE. The Federal Energy Administration list of fuel economy ratings for 1977-model cars is available free from Fuel Economy, Pueblo, CO 81009.

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A second CONFERENCE ON RIPARIAN FORESTS in California will be sponsored by Davis Audubon Society, the Institute of Ecology at U.C. Davis and the Riparian Task Force. Speakers will discuss historical and current extents of the forests, the geomorphology and hydrology of the river, the importance of riparian vegetation to fisheries, the uniqueness of riparian habitat in terms of bird species diversity, recent botanical field work in selected riparian forests, alternatives to existing procedures of vegetation removal, acquisition and reclamation of riparian forest lands, and current legislative action to protect riparian habitat in California.

The conference will be Saturday, May 14, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., in Kleiber Hall, U.C. Davis. There is NO CHARGE. Bring a knapsack lunch and your own cup (save a tree).

On Sunday, May 15, a Davis Audubon field trip will be led to a local riparian forest which has become part of Sacramento Audubon's Bobelaine Sanctuary. Details will be announced on Saturday at the conference. For further information, write to Riparian Conference/Anne Sands, P. O. Box 886, Davis, CA 95616.

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OBSERVATIONS: (also see field trip reports)

- Yellow-Billed Loon, Bolinas Lagoon, Apr. 2--JH.
Red-Necked Grebe, 3, Bolinas Lagoon, Apr. 3--JH.
Northern Fulmar, Pigeon Pt., Mar. 22--BR, JR, et al.
Pink-Footed & Sooty Shearwaters, Pigeon Pt., Mar. 22--BR, JR, et al.
Blue-Winged Teal, Mt. View Sanitation Dist., Martinez, Apr. 10--FLB, H&JG, E&IH; 2, Caldwell Ponds, Tulare Co., Apr. 7 (very rare there)--BR, RB.
Barrow's Goldeneye, Bolinas Lagoon, Apr. 2 & 3--JH.
Harlequin Duck, male, Año Nuevo, Apr. 5--BR, JR, et al.
Surf Scoter, Martinez Marina, Mar. 5--ED.
Black Scoter, Bolinas Lagoon, Apr. 2 & 3--JH.
Hooded Merganser, 3 females, Bolinas Lagoon, Apr. 2--JH; female still at Jewel Lake, Tilden Park, at least thru Apr. 14--m.ob.
Rough-Legged Hawk, Pigeon Pt. Mar. 22--BR, JR, et al.
Osprey, hovering like a Kestrel, Tomales Bay, Mar. 29--BR, JR; 1, over his Lafayette garden, Apr. 3--HA.
Semipalmated Plover, Caldwell Ponds, 1st spring record for Tulare Co., Apr. 7--BR, RB.
Whimbrel, 3, Caldwell Ponds, 1st Tulare Co. record, Apr. 7--BR, RB.
Pectoral Sandpiper, 2, Caldwell Ponds, 1st Tulare Co. spring record, possibly 2nd California inland spring record, Apr. 7--BR, RB.
Marbled Godwit, over his garden, Apr. 3--HA.
Black-Necked Stilt, 2, field south of Waterfront Rd. at I-680, Martinez, Mar. 22--ED.
Black-Legged Kittiwake, 13, Monterey, Apr. 10--JH; 1, Pigeon Pt., Apr. 5--BR, JR.
Marbled Murrelet, 20, Pigeon Pt., Mar. 22--BR, JR, et al.
Rhinoceros Auklet, 4, Pigeon Pt., Mar. 22--BR, JR, et al.
Spotted Owl, 2, Muir Woods, Mar. 26--FLB, H&JG, E&IH; m.ob. since that day.
Greater Swallow-Tailed Swift, 4, 1st record for state of Mexico, Apr. 8--PW.
Black-Chinned Hummingbird their Lafayette garden, Apr. 10--B&HA.
Costa's Hummingbird returned the last week of March to Del Puerto Canyon Rd. 3.3 miles west of I-5, Stanislaus Co.
Bank Swallows, back at Año Nuevo, Apr. 5--JR, BR, et al.
Rough-Winged Swallow, Lafayette Reservoir, Mar. 9--ED.
Swainson's Thrush, Las Trampas Park, Apr. 17--1st reported--FLB, JR.
Tricolored Blackbird, 75, Mt. View Sanitary District, Apr. 10--FLB, H&JG, E&IH.
"Bullock's" Oriole, his Walnut Creek garden, Mar. 19, earliest reported--RH.
Western Tanager, Las Trampas Park, Apr. 15--DS. There at least thru Apr. 17--m.ob.
Black-Headed Grosbeak, his garden, Apr. 7, 1st reported--HA.
Red Crossbill, 7, near Bolinas, Apr. 2--JH.
Grasshopper Sparrows, back at Las Trampas Park, Apr. 15--DS.
Chipping Sparrows, back at Las Trampas Park, Apr. 15--DS.
White-Throated Sparrow, their garden, Apr. 12--B&HA.
Lincoln's Sparrow, still in their garden at least thru Apr. 12--B&HA.

(Observers: Betty & Harry Adamson, Robert Barnes, Elizabeth Dickey, Helen & Jerry Gentile, Erling & Irene Hellekson, Jim Hale, Ralph Hudgins, Bob & Jean Richmond, Don Schmoltdt, Peter Willmann, many observers)

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GREATER BAY AREA SITE GUIDE: Mines Road and Del Puerto Canyon Road.

Access: From I-580 in Livermore take N. Livermore exit, go south on Livermore to Tesla Rd. which goes to the left where S. Livermore ends, then $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to Mines Rd. Turn right onto Mines Rd. (Mileages on MP markers begin at this intersection.)

MP 0.2--little road straight ahead goes through the creek, Mines Rd. bends to left. Park here. Lewis' Woodpecker, warblers; Wood Ducks sometimes in creek. Little dirt roadway to west goes to creek--may see Green Heron, Lawrence's Goldfinch; Cassin's Kingbird here earlier this year. MP 0.3-1.09--best area for Lewis' Woodpecker. MP 1.62--Cassin's Kingbird some years. MP 3.80--Lawrence's Goldfinch. MP 4.22--Ash-Throated Flycatcher, Nashville Warbler. MP 4.73 (bridge)--Golden Eagle, Phainopepla, warblers, oriole, tanager, grosbeak. MP 5.54-5.75--Phainopeplas usually nest, Golden Eagle, Roadrunner, Black-Throated Gray Warbler, Rufous-Crowned Sparrow. MP 5.99--down the slope is a corral and a bathtub of water--Roadrunner, Canyon Wren, Lazuli Bunting, Rufous-Crowned Sparrow. MP 5.99-6.75--Roadrunner. MP 7.80-9.80--Phainopepla. MP 9.94--Canyon Wren, MacGillivray's & Nashville Warbler. MP 11.75--Golden Eagle, Canyon Wren, Phainopepla. MP 12.62--water dripping into tank on the right--Golden Eagle, Canyon Wren, Phainopepla, sparrows. MP 13.40--the Branding Iron has food, cold drinks--Canyon Wren, oriole. MP 14.60--gate with name "Dutra"--several warblers in willows along the creek, Phainopepla. MP 17.25, 17.40, 18.25, 19.50--House and Rock Wrens have nested. Just beyond MP 26--Sage Sparrow in chaparral. MP 0593 (markers change at the county line)--Lawrence's Goldfinch. This is a nice spot for a picnic lunch in the shade by a little stream. San Antonio Junction (junction of Mines and Del Puerto Canyon Rds.)--store and restrooms, some gasoline. Lewis' Woodpecker, Phainopepla in this area.

Del Puerto Canyon Rd. About 5 miles of good, dirt road between about the county line and Frank Raines County Park. Raines Park--good picnic spot here, restrooms, water. Wrens, warblers, woodpeckers; Lawrence's Goldfinch on north side of creek. Lower canyon--Say's Phoebes nest in area. Costa's Hummingbird has been found the last few years, including 1977, at points 3.3, 3.5 and 4.3 miles west of I-5, most often at 3.3. Look for him in the blossoms of Tree Tobacco plants (yellow, tubular blossoms). Rufous Hummingbird may also be seen. Barn Owls (in holes in the large rock) and Lawrence's Goldfinch may also be at 3.5 miles west of I-5. It is about 65 miles back to Walnut Creek via I-5, I-580 and I-680.

Del Valle Park, off lower Mines Rd. has Caspian Terns in summer, possible Vaux' Swift, Bank Swallow, Chipping Sparrow. Mendenhall Rd., off Del Valle Rd., has Poor-Wills in summer. Look for them at dusk on or near the road.

Throughout the area: several hawks, hummingbirds, woodpeckers, flycatchers, swallows, Yellow-Billed Magpie (lower end of Mines Rd.), California Thrasher, bluebird, several warblers, orioles ("Bullock's" in good numbers, Hooded has also been seen), tanager, grosbeak, all 3 goldfinches, several sparrows. Killdeer and Greater Yellowlegs, sometimes Green Heron, in the creek.

As a personal note, Mines Road-Del Puerto Canyon Road is one of my favorite birding areas. There can be good birding almost any time of the year but best March-May. Summer is very hot in the area. In wet weather you are never far from your car and can take shelter from showers.

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THE QUAIL, published monthly except a combined July-August issue, is sent without additional charge to National Audubon Society members affiliated with Mt. Diablo chapter. Subscription to non-member: \$3.00 per year, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to the Treasurer, F. G. Bennett, P. O. Box 4578, Walnut Creek CA 94596. Address changes: Mrs. Jackie Knisley, 4741 Olive Dr., Concord, CA 94521. NOTE: address changes sent to National do not change chapter affiliation unless such change is specifically requested by the member.

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

P. O. BOX 53

WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94597

Pres.: Jimm Edgar
3611 Chestnut St.
Lafayette, CA 94549
phone: 283-3510

June 1977
Vol. 23, No. 12

Next deadline: July 1

Meeting: Thurs., June 2, 6:30 p.m., women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek. POTLUCK DINNER.

Field Sat., June 4, 8:30 a.m., Pine Canyon. Leader: Bob McCarthy (934-2724).

Trips: Thurs., June 9, 9:00 a.m., Redwood Regional Park; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. north of Freeway 24, 8:15. Leader: Jean-Marie Spoelman (797-0265).

Sat.-Sun., June 18-19, Yuba Pass and Sierra Valley. Leader: Florence Bennett (933-3781). Make motel reservations immediately (Downieville, Sierra City, Sierraville)--space is limited. Camping available in several nearby campgrounds. Information at potluck or call Florence.

Sat., July 9, 9:30 a.m., Woodson Bridge State Recreation Area; carpool: Copper Penny, Sun Valley Center, 6:30. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).

Board Meeting: wed., June 29, 7:30 p.m., home of Agnes Eckford, 3831 Walnut Ave., Concord; 685-7280. Outgoing and incoming officers are requested to attend.

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The annual POTLUCK DINNER will be the last formal meeting of the year. Bring your own dishes and utensils plus salad, casserole, dessert (plus serving spoon) or bread for 4 times the number in your family. Tea, coffee and punch are provided, milk drinkers must bring their own. Call Jerry Gentile (228-6297) to let him know what you would like to bring and how many will be attending. The program will be slides shown by our members. Please limit your slides to a dozen or so and your commentary to a reasonable length. Slides may be not only of birds but also mammals, flowers, scenery, etc.

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On the walk up PINE CANYON we should see hawks, Ash-Throated Flycatchers, woodpeckers, bluebirds, orioles, grosbeaks and others. In past years we have found nests of Scrub Jays, Black-Headed Grosbeaks and Bushtits, the latter unbelievably large for such tiny birds. We have permission to enter the property as a group, so meet promptly at 8:30 a.m. at Castle Rock Park about half a mile beyond the swimming pool. From Concord go out Oak Grove Rd. or from the Walnut Creek area take Ygnacio Valley Rd. then Walnut Ave. Just beyond where Oak Grove Rd. and Walnut Ave. join, the road splits with Castle Rock Rd. going to the right. Follow Castle Rock Rd. to the end. THERE IS NO SMOKING ON THE TRAIL due to fire hazard.

At REDWOOD REGIONAL PARK we will look for summer residents such as flycatchers, vireos, warblers and grosbeaks. Take Freeway 24 toward Oakland, south on Warren Freeway (SR 13) to Redwood Rd. exit, turn left and go 2½ miles beyond Skyline Blvd. Turn left into the park and drive about a third of a mile to the main parking lot.

On the YUBA PASS WEEKEND we meet both days at 8:30 a.m. at Yuba Pass (SR 49 east of Sierra City) in the parking area on the south side of the road. Saturday morning will be spent in the Pass area then, after lunch, we will go to the Gold Lake and Sardine Lakes area. The mountain birds hopefully will include Mountain Quail, White-Headed and Black-Backed Three-Toed Woodpecker, Townsend's Solitaire, possibly Blue Grouse, Pine Grosbeak and Red Crossbill. Sunday we go east into Sierra Valley for Black Tern, Sage Thrasher, Brewer's Sparrow and other desert and marsh birds.

The WOODSON BRIDGE trip is to find Yellow-Billed Cuckoos which usually nest in the park. Other species to be expected include woodpeckers, flycatchers, Chat, tanager, grosbeaks, etc. We will also bird the Ohio Oxidation Ponds for waterfowl and shorebirds, possibly Blue Grosbeak. Along the road home we should see Black Terns. From I-80 east of Vacaville go north on I-505 then I-5 to South Ave. near Corning. Turn east and follow signs 6 miles to Woodson Bridge State Rec Area. Turn left and meet at the entrance station.

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FIELD TRIP REPORTS

On MT DIABLO April 23 the weather was warm, the area very dry. Among the birds found were Calliope Hummingbird, Dusky Flycatcher, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, 6 warbler species and Black-Chinned Sparrow. The 25 members and guests heard or saw the following 66 species:

Turkey Vulture, Sharp-Shinned & Red-Tailed Hawk, Calif Quail, gull sp., Band-Tailed Pigeon, Rock & Mourning Dove, White-Throated Swift, Anna's, Allen's & Calliope Hummingbird, Com (R-SH) Flicker, Acorn, Hairy, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Ash-Throated, Dusky & West Flycatcher, Violet-Green, Rough-winged & Cliff Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Com Crow, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, white-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, Bewick's & Rock Wren, Mockingbird, Calif Thrasher, Amer Robin, Swainson's Thrush, west Bluebird, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, Solitary & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Yellow-Rumped (Aud), Black-Throated Gray, Townsend's, Hermit, MacGillivray's & Wilson's Warbler, West Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, West Tanager, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Purple & House Finch, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Rufous-Crowned & Sage Sparrow, Dark-Eyed (Oreg) Junco, Black-Chinned, White-Crowned & Golden-Crowned Sparrow.

The ANNADEL STATE PARK-GLEN ELLEN trip was made by 13 members and guests on April 27 in beautiful weather. We found no Pileated Woodpeckers but did see recent workings on several trees. There were Red-Shouldered Hawks and singing MacGillivray's Warblers at Annadel, 2 Chats at Glen Ellen and tanagers and grosbeaks at both places. We heard or saw the following 59 species:

Mallard, Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed & Red-Shouldered Hawk, Calif Quail, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Acorn, Hairy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, west Flycatcher, Violet-Green, Tree, Rough-winged, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Com Raven, Com Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Brown Creeper, House & Bewick's wren, Mockingbird, Amer Robin, Swainson's Thrush, West Bluebird, Starling, Hutton's, Solitary & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Yellow & MacGillivray's Warbler, Yellow-Breasted Chat, Wilson's Warbler, House Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Northern (Eul) Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, West Tanager, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Purple & House Finch, Pine Siskin, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed (Oreg) Junco & Song Sparrow.

The MINES ROAD trip had its usual excellent birding for the 18 people who went on April 30. The weather varied from sunshine to clouds to rain, heavy at times. A Pygmy Owl was heard near the Santa Clara Co. line, a Costa's Hummingbird was on Del Puerto Canyon Rd., Canyon & Rock Wrens and 4-5 Lawrence's Goldfinches were at MP 18.60, a male MacGillivray's Warbler and Yellow-Breasted Chat were at MP 13.92-13.98, Phainopeplas, orioles, tanagers, Lazuli Buntings at several places. The following 78 species were seen or heard:

Great Blue Heron (2), Mallard, Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle (2), Prairie Falcon (2), Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Killdeer, gull sp., Rock & Mourning Dove, Great Horned & Pygmy Owl, Costa's & Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Com (R-Sh) Flicker, Acorn, Lewis' & Nuttall's Woodpecker, West Kingbird, Ash-Throated Flycatcher, Black & Say's Phoebe, West Flycatcher, west Wood Pewee, Violet-Green, Rough-winged, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Yellow-Billed Magpie, Com Raven, Com Crow, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, House, Bewick's, Canyon & Rock Wren, Mockingbird, Calif Thrasher, Amer Robin, Swainson's Thrush, West Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, Phainopepla, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Hutton's & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Yellow & MacGillivray's Warbler, Yellow-Breasted Chat, Wilson's Warbler, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Northern (Eul) Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, West Tanager, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, House Finch, Lesser & Lawrence's Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Dark-Eyed (Oreg) Junco, White-Crowned & Golden-Crowned Sparrow.

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RELIEF FOR THE REDWOODS. The Director of California's Department of Forestry has denied requests for permits to log in three old-growth redwood tracts in Northern California on the grounds that such logging would cause damage to the recreational and aesthetic aspects of the Redwood National Park. Logging is thereby halted in those areas (Devil's Creek, Creek 44, and a tract fairly close to the historic Tall Trees Grove). The companies involved must appeal to the State Board of Forestry for any reversal of the decision. The director, Lewis Moran, acted under the State Forestry Practice Act in view of the clear intention of the Administration and the Congress to expand the park.

Meanwhile, loggers and other opponents of park expansion jammed the congressional field hearings recently (chaired by Rep. Phillip Burton) so that some conservationists could not even get in to testify. Madrone Audubon Society of Santa Rosa was able only to leave written testimony for the record. The opposition is strong because loggers claim thousands of jobs would be lost. Burton has been working hard all along to provide alternatives for such job losses in his bill to expand the park (H.R. 3813) and he held hearings on the problem. A subcommittee staff and Interior Department team is working on specific proposals to add to the legislation.

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Birds have been the unfortunate victims of OIL SPILLS so who comes up with a product to cleanse oiled fowl? Shell Oil. A California veterinarian discovered that Shell's Sol 70, a liquid used in paints, varnishes and hand creams, is a better bird cleaner than detergent. But Shell is initially skeptical on marketing it for bird baths since it hasn't tested it for that use. Meanwhile, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is endorsing the findings of the veterinarian, except for one small problem: The cleaner makes birds temporarily drunk during washing - or as one observer put it, "no tern unstoned." (Pacific Flyway, Morro Coast Audubon Soc.)

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CONSERVATION NOTES by P. J. Hauser

Again we are faced with some typical short sighted, near panic legislation as a result of the drought. State Senator Ayala (Dem., San Bernardino) is one of the persons who would like to see the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act of 1972 repealed to make way for more dams. His bill, SB 345, would repeal this act now protecting the Trinity, Klamath, Smith and Eel Rivers, among others. It's an exercise in the domino theory: build more dams to encourage more users to encourage more dams..... Resolution of the drought problem does not lie in more dams, but in constant conservation of our resources, not only during times of emergency.

Senator Ayala has also introduced SB 346, allowing immediate construction of the Peripheral Canal! It did not pass the Senate Agricultural and Water Resources Committee, but it is expected that amendments will be made and the bill reintroduced. SB 345 did pass the same committee by a 5 to 3 vote. These bills will both travel next to the Senate Finance Committee. If you write now to: Chairman Albert S. Rodda, Senate Finance Committee, State Capitol Building, Sacramento, CA 95814, there will be time for many letters to reach his desk expressing strong disapproval of both bills.

The Bottle Bill, SB 4, was killed in the Senate Finance Committee on April 25. It was a key piece of legislation, and an environmentally important one. Some of the supporters of the bill were impressive: Yosemite's Curry Co., bottlers, retailers and manufacturers from Oregon, California Committee of Two Million (fishermen), and the State Director of Water Resources. Senator Stiern, in voting against the bill said, "Americans, like Europeans, have no pride in their country." I didn't know that.

Again, let me urge you to write in support of bill HR 1771, and S 88, which would transfer Mineral King to the National Park Service. Recently, a coalition of labor unions, ski associations, representatives from Disney Productions, and the Forest Service was formed to lobby for development of Mineral King. This new group calls itself "United Organizations of America," and is adamant in its opposition to Park status for Mineral King. This organization is also well financed, powerful and influential. If you have written, please write again, either to Senator Alan Cranston or Rep. John Krebs as mentioned in last month's Quail, or to both of the following:

Hon. Morris Udall, Chairman	Hon. John M. Murphy, Chairman
Committee on Interior & Insular Affairs	Committee on Merchant Marine & Fisheries
House Office Bldg, Washington, D.C. 20515	House Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20515

* * * * *

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

Alamo: Dorothy Matson; Antioch: Dr. Donald L. French, Joseph C. McKinnon; Arcata: Pam Thompson; Concord: Melvin O. Binderup, Steven Diehl; Danville: Tamara Ritchey; Lafayette: William Bodman, Carol Holleuffer, Dr. Stanley Lorenki, G. E. Phillips, Mr. & Mrs. E. G. Rossman; Martinez: Elaine May; Pleasant Hill: Janic Shumway; San Ramon: Suzanne Crum; Walnut Creek: Leslie Bruce, Carol Frederick, Anthony Motta, Richard A. Peck, Thomas Lee Smith; Spokane, WA: Phil Stringer.

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DOUBLE CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL and notify us of any error as we hope to mail under bulk rate starting in July. We will not guarantee postage as it costs 25¢ for each one and therefore if your address is incorrect you will not receive The Quail. If you move, notify us as well as National Audubon.

* * * * *

A SUMMER PICNIC is in the planning stage. We hope to bridge the gap between the June potluck and the September meeting by having an informal evening with a picnic supper and bird walk at a nearby location such as Lafayette Reservoir. If this is finalized at the Board Meeting on June 29, the information about time and place will be in the summer issue of The Quail which will be out in early July.

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SANCTUARY BOOKLET AVAILABLE. "Islands of Life; the National Audubon Sanctuaries" is a beautifully illustrated, 32-page booklet that describes the unique system of wildlife preserves that every Audubon member has a stake in. There are listings for 63 NAS sanctuaries from Maine to California plus a short section on chapter sanctuaries. Send \$1.00 to Public Information Dept., National Audubon Society, 950 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022.

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A revised edition of ANNOTATED CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF BUTTE COUNTY is now available. Send \$1.50 to Altacal Audubon Society, P. O. Box 3671, Chico, CA 95926.

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A GUIDE TO BIRD FINDING EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI, second edition, by Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr., has just been published by Oxford University Press, New York. Slightly longer and larger in format than the first edition, and featuring updated transport directions and pen-and-ink drawings by George Miksch Sutton, the book remains an excellent guide to where and when to find what birds. Available at \$15.95 from Dalton's Books (in a week if not in stock), Rakestraw's Books, Danville (order takes 3 weeks), or Lucas Books, Berkeley.

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As you travel, please ask for an extra copy of any BIRD LISTS OR CHECKLISTS when you visit parks, refuges and sanctuaries and pass the extra one along to your editor to place in the chapter file. When planning a trip contact me as I may have a list from the area you plan to visit and you can learn what birds to expect there.

* * * * *

OFFICERS OF M.T. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY, 1977-78. (Save for future reference.)

Pres.: Bruce Moorad, 1419 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek 94598; 938-4446.
 VP (Program): Mervyn Ortez, 1010 Walnut Dr., Lafayette 94549; 283-3072.
 VP (Conservation): Kent Fickett, 1900 Sunshine Dr., Concord 94520; 798-7421.
 Secretary: Elizabeth Dickey, 113 Hillcrest Dr., Orinda 94563; 254-0486.
 Treasurer: Winnie Orutt, 30 Iris Ln., Walnut Creek 94595; 944-0593.
 Field Trips: Sally Steller, 591 Fulton Way, Danville 94526; 837-9061.
 Membership: Jimm Edgar, 3611 Chestnut St., Lafayette 94549; 283-3510.
 Hospitality: Molly Murphey, 3422 McEllen Ct., Lafayette 94549; 284-5431.
 Publicity: Norah Bain, 32 Via Farallon, Orinda 94563; 254-4516.
 Exhibits: Mark VanDort, 100 Devon Ave., #47, Pleasant Hill 94523; 938-8079.
 Education: Ronald "Skip" Johnson, 254 Wildwood Ave., Piedmont 94611; 763-1959.
 Editor: Jean Richmond, 125 Via Serena, Alamo 94507; 837-2843.

A big THANK YOU to last year's officers who did such a very fine job!!

* * * * *

A note from Bruce Moorad, incoming president of MDAS:

In his March newsletter, Senator Alan Cranston spoke out strongly on the need to protect the California Condor. Those who share his concern might drop him a note of thanks for his support in this effort. Perhaps we don't often enough express our appreciation to public officials for the good that they do.

Our local State Assemblyman, Dan Boatwright, a person not previously known for his concern about the environment or conservation, was recently appointed by Assembly Speaker Leo McCarthy to the State Wildlife Conservation Board. Assemblyman Boatwright says this will allow him "to continue to keep a close eye on the Suisun Marsh and Delta wildlife system." Perhaps those concerned with the Suisun Marsh and the Delta wildlife ought to keep a close eye on him.

* * * * *

RIPARIAN HABITAT DONATED. The Sutter Basin Land Corporation has given the Dept. of Fish & Game title to 624 acres of land along Sutter Bypass, Sutter County. Quail, pheasants, herons, songbirds, hawks and owls flourish in the sloughs and riparian habitat, catfish and bass can be caught in the sloughs. Riparian habitat such as this is especially important to wildlife and is becoming more and more scarce as California's population expands. (Outdoor California, Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game)

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NATURAL AREAS are the most efficient utilizers of the natural budget for any given area. As such, they are valuable genetic and information reservoirs. They provide irreplaceable natural laboratories where the intricacies of organisms and their associated natural mechanisms can be researched. Since these processes provide the basis for our life support systems, a more thorough basic understanding of these organisms and systems is essential for efficient management and sound planning procedures. Provision for protecting and researching representative natural areas must not be considered a luxury of society but should be considered a high priority necessity if society is to survive at present or higher standards of living--- Charles C. King, The Surveyor, Ohio Biological Survey. (Appalachian Audubon News, Appalachian Audubon Soc)

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OBSERVATIONS: (also see field trip reports)

Common Loon, 56, full breeding plumage, Bodega Bay, Apr. 26-28--H&JG.

Red-Necked Grebe, full breeding plumage, Bodega Bay, Apr. 27--H&JG.

BLACK-FOOTED ALBATROSS, 56, including 19 behind one ship, from Pigeon Pt., May 6--BS; at least 42 on May 7--BS, FLB, JR, BF, F&RN.

Green Heron, Orwood Tract, eastern Contra Costa Co., May 6--BR.

Hooded Merganser, pair, Lake Chabot, Vallejo, Apr. 29--FrB.

Golden Eagle, imm., over Lincoln Park, Alameda, Apr. 16--FLB.

Sora, Five Brooks pond, Pt. Reyes, Apr. 26--H&JG.

Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, many, breeding plumage, Alameda South Shore, May 5--ED.

Least Terns returned to Alameda South Shore, May 5--ED.

Roadrunner, 2, Del Puerto Canyon Rd. 3.3 mi. west of I-5, Stanislaus Co., Apr. 26--BR, JR, et al.

Barn Owl, back at St. Mary's College, Apr. 29--BR.

Vaux's Swift, 6, SR 1 at Verde Rd., San Mateo Co., May 7--JR, FLB; 2, Lafayette Reservoir, May 8--ED, BR.

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD, returned to their Concord garden, Apr. 11--A&CE.

DUSKY FLYCATCHER, Blue Oak picnic area, Mt. Diablo, Apr. 30--JR, SAS.

Phainopepla, North Gate Rd., Mt. Diablo, Apr. 29--BG; Marsh Creek Rd., May 6--BR.

MARBLER WAVE on Mt. Diablo: Apr. 30, 12 Orange-Crowned, 3 Nashville, 12 Black-Throated Gray, 75 Townsend's, 75 Hermit, 6 Wilson's, most at Sunset picnic area--JR, SAS; May 3, 15 Orange-Crowned, 8 Nashville, 1 Yellow-Rumped, 20 Black-Throated Gray, 80 Townsend's, 65 Hermit, 6 Wilson's, 150 unidentified, at Rock City, Arroyo & Sunset picnic areas, Junction campground--BR, JR, et al.

Tricolored Blackbird, 5,000, SR 1 at Marin-Sonoma County line, Apr. 26--H&JG.

Hooded Oriole, from her Walnut Creek apartment window, Apr. 24--FLB.

Blue Grosbeak, 1 at Orwood Tract, 1 at Trapper Slough on SR 4, eastern Contra Costa Co., May 6--BR.

Lawrence's Goldfinch, 2, her Walnut Creek garden, Apr. 27--GG.

(Observers: Florence Bennett, Frank Beyer, Elizabeth Dickey, Agnes & Carl Eckford, Bud Fry, Betty Gallagher, Gen Graves, Helen & Jerry Gentile, Fran & Roy Nelson, Bob & Jean Richmond, Barry Sauppe, Sequoia Audubon Society)

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GREATER BAY AREA SITE GUIDE: Outer Pt. Reyes (For further information, see The Quail, September 1976.)

R.C.A. Receiving Station has 2 rows of cypress trees along a narrow entrance road. The sign says "No Admission Without Prior Authorization." Birding is permitted if you park outside and walk in. The best spot is the large group of pines at the end of the road. The trees behind the buildings are off limits.

The small Amer. Tel. & Tel. Overseas Receiving Station is just west of R.C.A. Walk around the outside and look in the trees through the fence. Permission should be obtained through the phone at the gate. Policy seems to change often.

Spaletta Ranch. Ask permission at the house to bird the trees behind it. Also check the garden along the road north of the house and the grove next to the barn on the east side of the road.

Mendoza Ranch. The garden and yards around the ranch complex on the east side of the road are strictly off limits. You may go through the trees on the west if you leave the gates as you found them. It is O.K. to bird the small row of trees on the right just beyond here across from the old schoolhouse.

Nunes Ranch (MF 42.77). There is a row of trees on the west just north of the buildings and there is a gap in the fence. It is O.K. to bird these trees as long as you stay under them within the fence around the trees. NEVER enter the yards around the residences or the residence porches. Do not park across the road leading west off Sir Francis Drake Blvd. and north of the trees as cows may follow Sir Francis Drake instead of going into the pasture area. If there are many cars, park near the road junction just beyond the ranch and walk back to bird the area. There is a cattle feeding area north of the ranch on the east side of the road and the area along the road here often has longspurs in fall. You may look from the road but do not enter the field.

Fish Docks. Stay away from the immediate vicinity of buildings and do not enter the yard or garden.

New Willows. From the parking lot at the Fish Docks, head down the road toward the docks. Where the road bends back east take a narrow trail west to a bluff above the beach. There is a ditch, and usually some water where there are 3 clumps of scrubby willows, which are sometimes good. Species other than those utilizing the cypresses and pines have been found here.

The lighthouse is scheduled to open to the public in June. The row of scrubby cypresses along the road to the lighthouse was good birding very early in the morning years ago before the lighthouse was closed. A Murre colony on the rocks below can be observed from the walkway at the lighthouse.

It would be helpful if groups notify the park service when they are coming so they can advise their rangers and the ranchers. Car pools are recommended as parking is limited. **DO NOT BLOCK GATES** when you park and leave gates as you found them.

It is important that we maintain good relations with ranchers and that we police ourselves. If you see any birder inadvertently violating a rancher's privacy, it is your responsibility to inform him in a nice way that access to these trees could be revoked by ranchers at any time if we do not comply with their requests. It is far better for you to do this, than for a rancher or ranger to do so.

Fall has been well known for migrants but spring is also excellent with the added advantage of birds being in full breeding plumage and many singing. Head for outer Pt. Reyes late May to late June, especially early June, when there is high overcast on the ocean, hugging the coast, with clear weather inland.

(Thanks to Joe Morlan and The Gull, Golden Gate Audubon Society.)

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THE QUAIL, published monthly except a combined July-August issue, is sent without additional charge to National Audubon Society members affiliated with Mt. Diablo chapter. Subscription to non-member: \$3.00 per year, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to the Treasurer, F. G. Bennett, P. O. Box 4578, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. Address changes (send also to NAS): Mrs. Jackie Knisley, 4741 Olive Dr., Concord, CA 94521. NOTE: Address changes sent to National do not change chapter affiliation unless such change is specifically requested by the member.

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
P. O. BOX 53
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94597

Pres.: Bruce Moorad
1419 Marchbanks Dr.
Walnut Creek, CA 94598
phone: 938-4446

July-August 1977
Vol. 24, No. 1

Next deadline: August 15

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- Meeting:** No meeting until September 8. Details in the next issue.
- PICNIC:** Thurs., Aug. 4, 6:30 p.m., Larkey Park, Buena Vista Ave., Walnut Creek.
- Field Trips:** Sat., July 30, 9:00 a.m., San Mateo County coast; carpool: LEAVE Alamo Market Plaza, 7:30. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).
Sun., Oct. 2, pelagic trip out of Monterey.
- Board Meeting:** Wed., Aug. 17, 7:30 p.m., home of Sally Steller, 591 Fulton Way, Danville, phone: 837-6091. Board meetings are always open to members.

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FIRST ANNUAL PICNIC

A great evening of picnicking, birding and socializing is planned for August 4 beginning at 6:30 in Larkey Park, Walnut Creek, where we have reserved a set of tables. There are 2 barbeques available there or you may bring your own. Bring your own food, beverage, plates, utensils and, if you plan to barbeque, charcoal. At 8:00 we will have a conducted tour through Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum.

To reach the park go west on Geary Rd. from I-680 (or east from Pleasant Hill Rd.) to Buena Vista Ave. then turn south a little more than a block. Bring the family and join us for a very enjoyable evening.

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Beat the heat and come to SAN MATEO COUNTY COAST. Shearwaters are sometimes seen; Common Murres, Pigeon Guillemots, Marbled Murrelets are usually in close to shore; Harlequin Ducks, Black Swifts and Bank Swallows are often at Año Nuevo. About 75 species is par for the trip. Cross San Mateo Bridge and continue on SR 92 to Half Moon Bay, then left on SR 1 about 15 miles to Pescadero Rd., turn right into the parking area.

On Sunday, October 2, we will have a PELAGIC TRIP out of Monterey. The boat will leave the dock at 8:00 a.m. and return about 3:00 p.m. There will be shearwaters, storm-petrels, aloids and others. In the past we have had Wilson's and Fork-Tailed Storm-Petrels, Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers, Sabine's Gulls, Arctic Terns and Xantus' Murrelets. The trip is limited to the first 36 paid reservations. Send a check for \$15 per person (made out 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 stamped, self-addressed envelope so complete information may be mailed to you. This is on a first come, first served basis so do not delay if you want to be sure of a place on the boat. Our members and subscribers will have priority until September 1. A waiting list will be made to fill any cancellations. There will be NO REFUNDS unless replacements are made for cancelled reservations. If you must cancel for any reason, contact Peter Rosmarin immediately so that a replacement can be notified (or provide your own replacement). For further information contact Peter at the above address or phone 939-3910.

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FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

Although the trip to LAS TRAMPAS REGIONAL PARK on May 11 was made under threatening skies there was no rain but the grass was very wet from rain the previous few days. Five species of warblers and 3 Grasshopper Sparrows were among the following 53 species seen by the 5 members on the trip:

Turkey Vulture, Calif Quail, Mourning Dove, White-Throated Swift, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Common (R-S) Flicker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Ash-Throated & Western Flycatcher, West Wood Pewee, Horned Lark, Barn Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Com Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Wren-tit, House & Bewick's Wren, Calif Thrasher, Amer Robin, Swainson's Thrush, West Bluebird, Starling, Hutton's, Solitary & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Yellow, Townsend's, Hermit & Wilson's Warbler, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged Blackbird, Northern (Bullock's) Oriole, West Tanager, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Grasshopper & Lark Sparrow, Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco, Chipping Sparrow.

The ANNADEL STATE PARK-GLEN ELLEN trip on May 14 was made by 15 members and guests in nice weather. As on the mid-week trip in late April, the Pileated Woodpeckers were not found, but there were 6-8 MacGillivray's Warblers at Annadel and the Chats were again seen at Glen Ellen. The following 49 species were seen or heard:

Turkey Vulture, accipiter sp, Red-Tailed Hawk, Calif Quail, Mourning Dove, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Common Flicker, Acorn & Hairy Woodpecker, West Kingbird, Black Phoebe, West Flycatcher, Tree, Rough-Winged, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Com Raven, Com Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Mockingbird, Amer Robin, Starling, Solitary & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Yellow & MacGillivray's Warbler, Yellow-Breasted Chat, Wilson's Warbler, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged Blackbird, Northern Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Purple & House Finch, Pine Siskin, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed Junco, Song Sparrow.

The SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA trip May 15-21 was a rousing success. Twenty members and friends enjoyed delightful weather, beautiful scenery and wildflowers, and great birding in Arizona-Sonora desert near Tucson and 3 isolated mountain ranges south-east of that city. Mexican Duck, Zone-Tailed & Gray Hawk, Sulphur-Bellied Flycatcher, Coppery-Tailed Trogon were seen by all, Elsie Glotfelty spotted a Rose-Throated Becard and Merv Ortez found a Rose-Breasted Grosbeak. Olivaceous Cormorant, Black Vulture, Goshawk, Scaled & Montezuma (Harlequin) Quail were also seen. Two tireless birders, Art Edwards and Darrell Peterson, started a few days early then returned via Death Valley and Yuba Pass accumulating the impressive total of 255 species! The following 164 species, including 25 nesting species, were tallied on the trip:

Eared & Pied-Billed Grebe, Olivaceous Cormorant, Great Blue & Green Heron, Great Egret, Mexican & Ring-Necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck, Turkey & Black Vulture, Goshawk, Red-Tailed, Swainson's, Zone-Tailed & Gray Hawk, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Merlin, Amer Kestrel, Scaled, Gambel's & Montezuma Quail, Com Gallinule, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Willet, Long-Billed Dowitcher, Amer Avocet, Wilson's Phalarope, Band-Tailed Pigeon, White-Winged, Mourning, Ground & Inca Dove, Roadrunner, Screech, Whiskered & Elf Owl, Whip-Poor-Will, Poor-Will, Lesser Nighthawk, White-Throated Swift, Black-Chinned, Costa's, Broad-Tailed, Rivoli's, Blue-Throated & Broad-Billed Hummingbird, Coppery-Tailed Trogon, Common (R-S & Gilded) Flicker, Gila, Acorn, Hairy, Ladder-Backed & Arizona Woodpecker, Rose-Throated Becard, Cassin's & West Kingbird, Sulphur-Bellied, Wied's Crested, Ash-Throated & Olivaceous Flycatcher, Black & Say's Phoebe, Buff-Breasted, Hammond's, Western & Coues' Flycatcher, West Wood Pewee, Vermillion & Beardless Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Violet-Green, Bank, Rough-Winged, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Steller's & Mexican Jay, Common & White-Necked Raven, Mexican Chickadee, Bridled Titmouse, Verdin, Bushtit, White-Breasted & Pygmy Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, House, Brown-Throated, Bewick's, Cactus, Canyon & Rock Wren, Mockingbird, Curve-Billed & Crissal Thrasher, Amer Robin, Hermit & Swainson's Thrush, East & West Bluebird, Blue-Gray & Black-Tailed Gnatcatcher, Cedar Waxwing, Phainopepla, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Hutton's, Bell's, Solitary & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Virginia's, Lucy's, Yellow, Yellow-Rumped (Aud), Black-Throated Gray & Grace's Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, Yellow-Breasted Chat, Red-Faced & Wilson's Warbler, Painted Redstart, House Sparrow, East Meadowlark, Yellow-Headed & Red-Winged Blackbird, Hooded, Scott's & Northern Oriole, Great-Tailed Grackle, Brown-Headed & Bronzed Cowbird, West, Hepatic & Summer Tanager, Cardinal, Pyrrhuloxia, Rose-Breasted, Black-Headed & Blue Grosbeak, Varied Bunting, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Lesser Goldfinch, Green-Tailed, Rufous-Sided, Brown

& Abert's Towhee, Lark Bunting, Grasshopper, Lark, Rufous-Winged, Rufous-Crowned & Black-Throated Sparrow, Yellow-Eyed (Mexican) Junco, Chipping, White-Crowned, Lincoln's and Song Sparrow.

On May 25 the BRIONES PARK trip was made by 6 members in cloudy weather, but clearing by noon, with little wind. Lazuli Bunting were abundant and Lawrence's Goldfinches were also seen. The following 42 species were seen or heard:

Turkey Vulture, Cooper's & Red-Tailed Hawk, Calif Quail, Mourning Dove, White-Throated Swift, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Common Flicker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Ash-Throated & West Flycatcher, West Wood Pewee, Violet-Green Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, Mockingbird, Calif Thrasher, Amer Robin, Swainson's Thrush, West Bluebird, Hutton's & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned Warbler, Red-Winged Blackbird, Northern Oriole, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, House Finch, Lesser & Lawrence's Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Dark-Eyed Junco, and Song Sparrow.

Thirty-one members and guests walked PINE CANYON on June 4 in warm weather which turned hot. The birding was good with Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers, Phainopepla and Lawrence's Goldfinches among the following 51 species seen or heard:

Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Killdeer, Rock & Mourning Dove, White-Throated Swift, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Common Flicker, Acorn & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Ash-Throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, West Flycatcher, West Wood Pewee, Violet-Green & Cliff Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, House & Bewick's Wren, Mockingbird, Amer Robin, West Bluebird, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Phainopepla, Starling, Hutton's & Solitary Vireo, Orange-Crowned Warbler, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged Blackbird, Northern Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, West Tanager, Black-Headed Grosbeak, House Finch, Lesser & Lawrence's Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Dark-Eyed Junco, and Chipping Sparrow.

At REDWOOD REGIONAL PARK on June 9 three members led by Jean-Marie Spoelman of Ohlone Audubon Society braved cold, drizzly weather until 11:30. There were many singing Swainson's Thrushes during the morning among these 22 species found:

Turkey Vulture, Calif Quail, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, West Flycatcher, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Wrentit, Amer Robin, Swainson's Thrush, Orange-Crowned & Wilson's Warbler, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Purple Finch, Amer Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed Junco and Song Sparrow.

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CONSERVATION NOTES by J. P. Hauser.

In my notes last month, I mentioned legislation introduced in Sacramento allowing construction of the Peripheral Canal as submitted by Senator Ayala of San Bernardino. Apparently the many letters you wrote in protest were not enough, or perhaps the water interests south of here with their predominant representation in the Senate were active, for the canal, plus other large water projects, is working its way through the legislature. To pass, it will be heavily amended since it will now go to the Assembly, whose members are largely northern California. Perhaps some headlines from the local press tell the story:

- April 21: "Farmers Claim Peripheral Canal Crucial to Future"
- May 5: "Supervisors Adopt Delta Water Policy"
- May 13: "Local Legislators Deny Plans to Compromise on Delta Canal"
- May 13: "Court Fights Over Canal Threatened"
- May 18: "State Must Guard Delta's Quality Canal Foes Insist"
- May 19: "Peripheral Canal Bill Passes First Hurdle"
- May 25: "Delta White Paper Fades as an Issue"
- June 3: "Politicians Prepare for Canal Battle"
- June 8: "Board Warned on Canal Compromise"
- June 20: "Supervisors Say Canal Would Damage the Bay"
- June 21: "Opponents Vow Hard Fight on Delta Compromise"
- June 23: "Governor Brown is Playing With Delta Canal"
- June 24: "Senate Approves Peripheral Canal"
- June 29: "Water Fears Snag Brown's Canal Pact"

I think we should write to Governor Brown on this, expressing concern. (Governor Edmond G. Brown, Jr., State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814) Although provisions safeguarding the integrity of the Delta are part of the legislation, it is unlikely

that after years of utilizing this water to establish communities and farming, that the Delta would receive a top priority in an emergency situation.

Another piece of legislation affecting the Delta is AB 1717, the Susuin Marsh Protection Act, by Assemblyman Victor Fazio, which has passed the Assembly, but again the Senate will be a problem. Please write to Senator John Nejedly, Senator John Holmdahl, Senator Nicholas Petris or Senator Peter Behr, State Capitol, Sacramento 95814, or, better yet, all four. This legislation was prepared by the Bay Conservation and Development Commission and the Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game at the request of the Legislature, and contains provisions to wisely plan for the use and preservation of this very important and unique estuarine system. Many conservation groups have written support. Let the Senators know your opinion.

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FIELD TRIP QUESTIONNAIRE

Your Field Trip Chairman needs your help in planning trips where and when you want them. If you hope to go on some of our field trips please return this questionnaire immediately (why procrastinate?) for the field trip committee meeting the end of July. It is going to take time to work out the year's schedule for printing in the next "Quail". For family memberships both members should check the questions.

Send to: Sally Steller, 591 Fulton Way, Danville, CA 94526; phone 837-9061.

1. I prefer one-day weekend trips to be on Sat.____, Sun.____ alternating_____.
2. I could enjoy and participate in 1____, 3____, 6____, other____ two-day weekend trips a year. (Such as Monterey Peninsula, Yuba Pass, Morro Bay, Sacramento or Los Banos area refuges)
3. If you are able to go on midweek trips, which days are you usually free?_____ One (or 2) days you prefer?_____
4. How far do you like to go on a Sat. or Sun. trip?
 _____ Immediate area. (Mt. Diablo, Las Trampas, Briones, Lafayette Reservoir, Tilden, Sunol, Alameda South Shore, etc.)
 _____ Farther. (Coyote Hills, Palo Alto Salt Marsh, Thornton, Grizzly Island, etc.)
 _____ Farther yet. (Annadel, Woodland Sugar Ponds, Pt. Reyes, Bodega Bay, Lake Solano, Año Nuevo, etc.)
 _____ Variety.
5. How far do like to go on a weekday trip?
 _____ Immediate area. (see question 4) _____ Farther yet.
 _____ Farther. _____ Variety.
6. Would you prefer more____, or less____, instruction during trips?
7. Do you feel the trips progress too slowly____ or are too hurried_____?
8. How early do you think field trips should start?_____.
9. Species you are anxious to find?
10. Suggestions for new/better places to visit?
11. Would you be willing to lead a trip?____. Any preference as to place?_____
12. List some places you would like to go this year and indicate whether weekend (WE) or midweek (MW).
13. Would you enjoy social events in conjunction with weekend trips, such as dinner out afterward as at Gridley?____, campfires____, plays as at Monterey?____, other?_____.
14. Interested in any week, or longer, tours?_____ Where?_____

Since the objective is to find out how you feel about the field trips, where you'd like to go, when, etc., please write any other comments you have or phone me at 837-9061 with your opinions if that is easier for you.

* * * * *

We warmly welcome the following new members of MDAS:

Antioch: Doris Daniels; Concord: Raoul St John Duncan, George Istvan, W G Jackson, F R Porter, Daniel Souza; Denville: Jan Davis, J W Speigelberg; Kensington: Beverly B James; Lafayette: Mrs Carol Bloner, Mrs Francis Dibble, John R Lavinder; Martinez: Patricia Guy; Pleasant Hill: Marilyn M Holloway, James L Naviauz, DVM; San Ramon: Lisa Roth; Walnut Creek: Miles & Jeanne Braten, Mrs Beth Hansen, John H Mathews, the Meng children, Mrs Patricia Spradlin, Mr & Mrs R D Wilcox.

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DAVID HAYDON, a high school senior from Lafayette, fell to his death on June 12 while at Sunol Regional Park guarding a falcon nest as part of Ohlone Audubon's Prairie Falcon watch. David had been a volunteer at Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum for several years, working up from aide to interpretive guide. With a tremendous interest in nature, he was planning a career in wildlife and photography. A memorial scholarship fund has been established in his name at the museum with the goal of an annual award to a student in the wildlife/nature field. Send checks, payable to Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum and marked for the David Haydon Scholarship Fund, to the museum at 1901 First Ave., Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

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OBSERVATIONS: (also see field trip reports)

Black-Footed Albatross, Pigeon Pt., San Mateo Co., 13, May 13; 9, May 19; 1, May 27--BR; 100+, Monterey Bay, June 11--JH, SCV.
Pink-Footed Shearwater, Pigeon Pt., 50, May 13; 40, May 19; 24, May 27--BR.
Sooty Shearwater, Pigeon Pt., 700, May 13; 100, May 19; 6, May 27--BR; 3000, including partial albino, Monterey Bay, June 11--JH, SCV.
White Pelican, 60, Skaggs Island, Solano Co., June 17--BR.
Little Blue Heron, Palo Alto Flood Control Basin, mid-June--JH.
White-Faced Ibis, Palo Alto Flood Control Basin, mid-June--JH.
CONDOR roost, Blue Ridge Lookout, Tulare Co., 2, June 30--PW. Information about seeing them, call Bob Barnes, 209-784-4477. Condors have roosted here for 20 years and Tulare Co. Aud. Soc. needs support to prevent development in the area.
Goshawk, pair with young, Yosemite National Park, June 26--AE, GB, FGB, H&JG. The female attacked Art by diving at him.
Red Phalarope, 2, Pigeon Pt., May 19--BR.
Wilson's Phalarope, I-680 north of Benicia Bridge, June 12--KF.
Black-Legged Kittiwake, 5, Pigeon Pt., May 19--BR; 1, Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes, June 7--BR; 15, Monterey Bay, June 11--JH, SCV.
Common Tern, 1-2, Tahoe Keys, South Lake Tahoe, July 5--R&JR.
Arctic Tern, 8, Pigeon Pt., May 19--BR.
Caspian Tern, 2-3, Tahoe Keys, July 5--R&JR.
Rhinoceros Auklet, 8, Pigeon Pt., May 19; 7, May 27--BR.
TUFTED PUFFIN, 1, Pigeon Pt., May 27--BR; 2, Pigeon Pt., May 30--JE.
Poor-Will, 3, Mendenhall Rd., near Del Valle Park, Alameda Co., July 4--BR.
Black Swift, female on nest, Santa Cruz, 3, Año Nuevo, June 28--JR, et al; 3, Año Nuevo, July 5--BR.
Vaux's Swift, 24, Año Nuevo, May 13, 1, May 19--BR.
Costa's Hummingbird male, still in Del Puerto Canyon, Stanislaus Co., July 5--BR.
Calliope Hummingbird, Camp Jack Hazard, Sonora Pass area, May 28--JH.
Pileated Woodpecker, 2, Bon Tempe Lake, Marin Co., May 28--FGB; 3, Lake Lagunitas, Marin Co., May 30--BR.
Black-Backed 3-Toed Woodpecker, pair at nest, Siesta Lake, Yosemite, June 25--H&JG, FGB.
Gray Flycatcher, Red Rock Rd., Plumas Co., June 17--FGB.
Common Raven, I-680 and Waterfront Rd., Martinez, June 12--KF.
Pinyon Jay, 18, Red Rock Rd., June 17--FGB; 5-6, calling, Marlette Lake Trail near Lake Tahoe, July 6--R&JR.
BROWN THRASHER, Fish Docks, June 7--BR.
Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers, nesting, Red Rock Rd., June 17--FGB.
WHITE-EYED VIREO, Mendoza Ranch, Pt. Reyes, June 7--BR, et al. 2nd Calif. record.
Solitary Vireo, 3, Alum Rock Park, San Jose, June 2--JH.
Red-Eyed Vireo, New Willows, Fish Docks, June 14--BR, et al; June 15--JE.
Black-and-White Warbler, male, Nunnes Ranch, Pt. Reyes, June 14--BR, et al.
Tennessee Warbler, Nunnes Ranch, June 14--BR, et al.
Northern Parula, singing male, 5-Brooks, Pt. Reyes, June 21--JR, BR, et al.
Magnolia Warbler, male, Nunnes Ranch, June 14--BR, et al.
Cape May Warbler, male, Mendoza Ranch, Pt. Reyes, June 10--BR
Chestnut-Sided Warbler, female, Nunnes Ranch, June 17--BR.

Bay-Breasted Warbler, male, Fish Docks, female, Nunnes Ranch, June 14--BR, et al;
 female, Nunnes Ranch, June 17--BR.
Blackpoll Warbler, male, Fish Docks, June 3--BR.
OVENBIRD, Mendoza Ranch, June 11-- FGB, BF, AF.
American Redstart, singing imm., Nunnes Ranch, June 11--FGB; 2 imm., Mendoza Ranch,
 1 imm., Nunnes Ranch, June 14--BR; Pt. Reyes, June 15--JE; imm., Nunnes Ranch,
 imm., Pt. Reyes lighthouse, June 17--BR.
Rose-Breasted Grosbeak, 1 male, 2 females, New Willows, male, Nunnes Ranch, June 14
 --BR; male, Pt. Reyes, June 15--JE; male, New Willows, 2 males, 1 female, Nunnes
 Ranch, 2 males, 3 females, Pt. Reyes lighthouse, June 17--BR.
Indigo Bunting, singing male, Limantour Rd., Pt. Reyes, mid-May thru June 16--m.ob.
DICKCISSEL, 1st-year male, Pt. Reyes lighthouse, June 17--BR, et al.
Pine Grosbeak, pair, Kennedy Meadow, Yosemite, May 28--JH; male, Glacier Pt. Trail,
 June 26--H&JG, FGB; 2 males, 1 female, Marlette Lake Trail, July 6--R&JR.
Red Crossbill, 50, near Bridalveil Campground, Yosemite, May 22--FGB.
Lawrence's Goldfinch, 8, Grant Ranch near Mt. Hamilton, Santa Clara Co., June 1--JH.

(Observers: Florence Bennett, George Bing, Jimm Edgar, Art Edwards, Kent Fickett,
 Ann Follis, Bud Fry, Helen & Jerry Gentile, Jim Hale, Bob Richmond, Rich & Jean
 Richmond, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, Peter Willmann, many observers)

Addenda: Williamson's Sapsucker, nesting pair, Siesta Lake, June 25--H&JG, FGB;
 male, Mill Creek Falls Campground, Modoc Co., July 5--Jon & Betty Williams.

* * * * *

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

MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY
 Jean Richmond, Editor
 125 Via Serena
 Alamo, CA 94507

Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Alamo, CA Permit No. 19



The Quail

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

Pres.: Bruce Moorad
1419 Marchbanks Dr.
Walnut Creek, CA 94598
phone: 938-4446 or
938-9100

September 1977
Vol. 24, No. 2

Next deadline: September 10

Meeting: Thurs., Sept. 8. Birdingformation: 7:00 p.m.; business: 7:30; social time: 8:00; program: 8:30. Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek. Due to circumstances beyond our control, the location of our OCTOBER MEETING may be changed. Be sure to double check the October issue.

Field Trips: Sat., Sept. 10, 8:30 a.m., San Mateo County coast; carpool: LEAVE Alamo Market Plaza, 7:00. Leader: Bob Richmond (837-2843).
Thurs., Sept. 15, Coyote Hills Regional Park. SEE NOTICE BELOW. Meet on Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Freeway 24, 8:15 a.m. Leader: Jean-Marie Spoelman (797-0265).
Sat., Sept. 24, 8:30 a.m., outer Pt. Reyes; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. at Freeway 24, 7:00. Leader: Darrell Peterson (685-1115).
Thurs., Sept. 29, 9:15 a.m., Golden Gate Park; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Freeway 24, 8:15. Leader: Betty Gallagher (682-2458).
Sun. Oct. 2, pelagic trip out of Monterey. Coordinator: Peter Rosmarin (939-3910).

Board Meeting: Wed., Sept. 14, 7:00 p.m., home of Jean Richmond, 125 Via Serena, Alamo; phone 837-2843. Board meetings are always open to members.

* * * * *

Please note the change in our schedule for meetings, which we hope will keep meetings moving and therefore more interesting. Birdingformation, led by Bob or Jean Richmond, will be on outer Pt. Reyes---where to go, habitats and their birds, etc. The program will be a talk by Miles Standish, a Mt. Diablo State Park ranger, on the future of the State Park. He will discuss what will happen now following the large fire which swept the north and east sides of the mountain in early August.

- - - - -

The SAN MATEO COUNTY COAST should produce many waterbirds, waterfowl, shorebirds (Baird's and Pectoral Sandpipers are good possibilities), gulls and others. San Mateo County Park is good for camping if you wish to go down Friday night. 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, usually has water and shorebirds as well as land birds but due to uncertain conditions there we will meet on Pleasant Hill Rd. at SR 24 so Jean-Marie can substitute another destination if she deems it wise.

OUTER PT. REYES in September-October regularly turns up many "eastern" species, including many rarities. Cross San Rafael Bridge, go north on US 101 0.6 miles, 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, then left to Pt. Reyes Seashore Headquarters. To avoid parking problems, we must take a minimum of cars from there.

At GOLDEN GATE PARK there should be closeups of waterbirds and gulls and there is a good chance of vagrant landbirds. We meet just inside the park at 43rd and Fulton. There is still space on the PELAGIC TRIP out of Monterey. (See July-August issue for details.) If you have not yet sent in your check, do so right away.

* * * * *

MDAS now has a TELEPHONE NUMBER, 284-2260, listed under Audubon Society as well as Mount Diablo Audubon Society. A taped message which is changed frequently gives information about our coming activities such as meetings and field trips.

* * * * *

The YUBA PASS-SIERRA VALLEY trip was made by 11 members on June 18-19 with clear, warm weather Saturday but thundershowers Sunday afternoon. There were Mountain Quail, Calliope Hummingbird, Evening Grosbeak and several nesting species around the Pass, an Osprey at Sardine Lake, Black Terns, Sage Thrashers and Brewer's Sparrows in Sierra Valley. Black-Backed Three-Toed Woodpeckers nested early at Yuba Pass this year and had already left the area. The following 74 species were found:

Pied-Billed Grebe, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Amer Bittern, Gadwall, Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, Redhead, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Cooper's & Red-Tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, Osprey, Amer Kestrel, Mountain Quail, Sandhill Crane, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Com Snipe, Willet, Amer Avocet, Black-Necked Stilt, Wilson's Phalarope, gull sp, Black Tern, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Com Nighthawk, Calliope Hummingbird, Com (R-S) Flicker, Yellow-Bellied (R-Br) Sapsucker, Hairy & White-Headed Woodpecker, West Kingbird, Hammond's or Dusky Flycatcher, West Wood Pewee, Horned Lark, Tree, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Steller's Jay, Black-Billed Magpie, Common Raven, Mountain Chickadee, Red-Breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Long-Billed Marsh Wren, Sage Thrasher, Amer Robin, Starling, Warbling Vireo, Yellow, Yellow-Rumped (Aud), Hermit, MacGillivray's & Wilson's Warbler, West Meadowlark, Yellow-Headed, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, West Tanager, Evening Grosbeak, Cassin's Finch, Pine Siskin, Green-Tailed & Rufous-Sided Towhee, Savannah & Vesper Sparrow, Dark-Eyed (Oreg) Junco, Chipping, Brewer's, Fox, Lincoln's & Song Sparrow.

The weather at WOODSON BRIDGE STATE RECREATION AREA on July 9 was clear and very warm with a light breeze. We had excellent views of a Yellow-Billed Cuckoo near the Sacramento River west of Chico and at Woodson Bridge were a singing immature male American Redstart and about 25 Lawrence's Goldfinches. The shallow ponds and mudflats at Chico Oxidation Ponds were dried up and few shorebirds were there. On the way home, 3 members were treated to the sight of 2 Burrowing Owls perched on a tractor parked near the road, one on the folded umbrella and the other atop the exhaust pipe. The 19 members and guests heard or saw the following 75 species:

Great Blue & Green Heron, Canada Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Cinnamon Teal, Northern Shoveler, Canvasback, Ruddy Duck, Com Merganser, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Red-Tailed, Red-Shouldered & Marsh Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Spotted, Least & West Sandpiper, gull sp, Rock & Mourning Dove, Yellow-Billed Cuckoo, Burrowing Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Acorn, Downy & Nuttall's woodpecker, West Kingbird, Ash-Throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, West Wood Pewee, Horned Lark, Tree, Barn, Rough-winged, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Scrub Jay, Com Crow, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Bewick's Wren, Amer Robin, West Bluebird, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Yellow Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, Yellow-Breasted Chat, AMER REDSTART, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Northern (Bul) Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, Black-Headed & Blue Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, House Finch, Amer, Lesser & Lawrence's Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Lark & Song Sparrow.

The weather for the SAN MATEO COUNTY COAST trip July 30 was clear, calm and hot. Close to shore at Pescadero were an estimated 2500 shearwaters, mostly Sooty but also several Pink-Footed, at Año Nuevo were 2 male and 2 female Harlequin Ducks and 4 Black Swifts, in Pescadero Marsh was a Lesser Yellowlegs, and there were several Black-Legged Kittiwakes at Pescadero and another at Pigeon Point. The 21 members and guests saw or heard the following 82 species:

Arctic & Red-Throated Loon, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Pink-Footed & Sooty Shearwater, Brown Pelican, Double-Crested, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Mallard, Harlequin Duck, Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Red-Breasted Merganser, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Marsh Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Amer Coot, Black Oystercatcher, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Surf-bird, Ruddy & Black Turnstone, Whimbrel, Spotted Sandpiper, Wandering Tattler, Willet, Greater & Lesser Yellowlegs, Least & West Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Black-Necked Stilt, Glaucous-winged, West, Calif, Bonaparte's & Heermann's Gull, Black-Legged Kittiwake, Caspian Tern, Com Murre, Marbled Murrelet, Pigeon Guillemot, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Rock & Mourning Dove, Black Swift, hummingbird sp, Belted Kingfisher, Black Phoebe, Violet-Green, Barn, Rough-winged, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Steller's Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Pygmy Nuthatch, Wren-tit, Bewick's & Long-Billed Marsh Wren, Starling, Orange-Crowned Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, Savannah, White-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

* * * * *

Mt. Diablo Audubon Society will celebrate its SILVER ANNIVERSARY in October. We hope that those of you who were early members will be able to attend to help us celebrate. If you know the whereabouts of any others who may no longer be members please let us know so that we may also extend special invitations to them.

* * * * *

Our EDUCATION CHAIRMAN, Skip Johnson, has had to resign as he is going to Algeria for two years and is being replaced by Bob Richmond, 125 Via Serena, Alamo 94507; phone 837-2843. Bob has also agreed to serve again this year as Compiler for our CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT which will be held on Saturday, December 31. Please mark your calendar now and plan to assist in that very important project.

* * * * *

FIELD TRIPS SCHEDULE---Sally Steller.

The Field Trips Committee is very enthusiastic about the 1977-78 schedule. More than 40 trips include old favorites plus new areas and ideas (some suggested by your questionnaires). There are trips to 18 of the 25 habitats listed in Arnold Small's "Birds of California". I hope we can fit the deserts and Salton Sea into the 1978-79 schedule. I will appreciate further comments and suggestions from you.

There are five 2-day weekend trips, one of which is extended into a week-long trip into northeastern California to include Eagle Lake, Klamath and Tule Lake Refuges, Burney Falls and Lassen. Also scheduled are a canoe trip, an owling trip, and a picnic followed by a Poor-Will hunt (not to be confused with a snipe hunt). Twelve areas are included which we have not yet visited on a field trip.

The tentative schedule, Oct.-Aug. (changes occasionally must be made):

Oct. 2	Sun.	Monterey Pelagic Trip	Mar. 18	Sat.	Bodega Bay
5	wed.	Alameda South Shore	Apr. 8	Sat.	Lakes Lagunitas & Bon Tempe
8	Sat.	Rodeo Lagoon, Ft. Diablo		13	Thurs. Veterans' Memorial Park
22	Sat.	Bolinas Lagoon, P.R.B.O.		* { 22	Sat. Mines Rd.
26	Wed.	Sunol Regional Park		23	Sun. Caswell Memorial Park
Nov. 5	Sat.	Palo Alto Salt Marsh		26	Wed. Mt. Diablo
10	Thurs.	Mt. View Sanitary Dist.	May 6	Sat.	Audubon Canyon Ranch & 5-Brooks (Stewart Trail)
16	Wed.	Palo Alto Salt Marsh		11	Thurs. Las Trampas Reg. Park
19	Sat.	Lafayette Reservoir		20	Sat. Mitchell Canyon
Dec. 3	Sat.	Frank's Tract Canoe Trip		24	Wed. Briones Regional Park
8	Thurs.	Oursan Trail, Briones Reservoir	June 3	Sat.	Outer Pt. Reyes
Jan. ?	?	Toll Plaza, Berkeley Waterfront (date depends on the tides)	8	Thurs.	Redwood Regional Park
	19	Thurs. Lake Merritt		{ 17-18	Sat.-Sun. Yuba Pass & Sierra Valley
	21	Sat. Lake Solano, Putah Creek		* { 19-24	Mon.-Sat. Northeastern California
Feb. 4	Sat.	Los Banos Refuge		25	Sun. Woodson Bridge SRA
* 5	Sun.	Little Panoche Rd.	July 8-9	Sat.-Sun.	Gualala Point
8	wed.	Thornton	14	Fri.	Picnic & Poor-Wills, Del Valle Park
15	wed.	Strawberry Canyon, U.C.		22-23	Sat.-Sun. Yosemite National Park
18	Sat.	Owling in Redwood Canyon	or 29-30		
Mar 4	Sat.	Golden Gate Park	Aug. 5	Sat.	Bodega Bay
9	Thurs.	Tilden Park Nature Area			
15	Wed.	Rockville Hills Park			

* Bracketed dates, trip may be made as a whole or in part.

A new and exciting possibility is a canoe trip at Frank's Tract in the Delta sponsored by Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum. One of our members participated last year and highly recommends it. The date, Dec. 3, is a good time for waterfowl. Trip leader will be Phil Gordon, and Museum Director Sam Smoker will go along (in his words, "simply as muscle-man in one of the canoes"). Cost per person is \$7-\$10, depending on the size of the group (12-20). Send reservations to Sally Steller, 591 Fulton Way, Danville 94526. Any questions? Call Sally at 837-9061.

Please reserve _____ places on the Dec. 3 "Birding by Canoe" trip. Enclosed is \$10 per person. I understand that the difference in fee will be returned if a lower rate is charged. If the trip is cancelled because of rain the entire amount will be refunded and an effort made to reschedule the trip.

Name:

Phone:

Address:

I am experienced in the handling of a canoe. _____ (yes or no)

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

Alamo: Mrs. Paul Justice; Antioch: Dean Edward Martin, Mrs. Edith F. Youngren; Concord: Richard W. Campbell, Mr. & Mrs. Al Kraus, Louise Lowe, Henry Reynoso; Danville: Mr. & Mrs. John R. Ward; Diablo: Mrs. Thomas H. Peterson; Lafayette: Mr. D. Coffelt, Mrs. Harry D. Franceschi, Jack Hall, William E. Hannan, Dr. & Mrs. Stanley Sizeler, Frank & Betty Timmers, Howard G. Walker; Martinez: David Peterson, Mrs. Elizabeth Shore; Pacheco: Mrs. Bernice E. Latham; Pleasant Hill: James W. Hodge, Mr. H. R. Lindsey, III, Maylisabeth W. Patterson, Paul A. Roller; Walnut Creek: Mr. Benson, Justine A. Faisst, Roger C. Hahn, Mark Hailey, Colin Huff, Mr. & Mrs. William F. Lefevre, Mr. L. M. Vanmeurs; Annapolis, MD: Donald Conroy.

* * * * *

PELAGIC BIRDS OF MONTEREY BAY, CALIFORNIA, by Richard W. Stallcup, appeared in Vol. 7, No. 4, 1976, issue of Western Birds, journal of Western Field Ornithologists. This 24-page article is packed with information about the pelagics found along our coast, many of which can be seen from shore. The notes on field identification, including much which is not found in field guides, also covers how to distinguish various species of shearwaters, cormorants, terns and murre. Reprints are now available by sending a check for \$1.50 (10 or more \$1.00 each), payable to Western Field Ornithologists, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon, CA 94920. Better yet, also join WFT and receive their excellent quarterly journal. For more information, contact your editor.

* * * * *

PEREGRINE FALCON SYMPOSIUM. National Audubon Society will sponsor "The Current Status of Peregrine Falcon Populations in North America" on Sat., Oct. 22. The day-long program will be held at the Oakland Museum. Registration is by mail only, no tickets at the door. Send self-addressed, stamped envelope and \$3.50 per person (payable to National Audubon Society) to Peregrine Symposium, National Aud. Soc., Whittell Education Center, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon, CA 94920.

* * * * *

CONSERVATION NOTES---J. P. Hauser.

As of this writing, AB 1717, the Suisun Marsh Protection Plan, passed the Natural Resources and wildlife Committee by a vote of 6 to 1. It now goes to the Senate Finance Committee prior to the Senate floor. Prospects look good, but opposition is sure to develop.

Probably one of the best reference works for use in finding names, addresses, phone numbers, committee members, agency heads, etc., in Sacramento is the 1977 California Journal Roster and Government Guide. It is available at 75¢ a copy (40¢ each for 2-39 copies) to The Planning and Conservation League, 717 K St., #209, Sacramento CA 95814, plus sales tax. Highly recommended.

AB 1236, the Forest Practices Act (Calvo), would amend the current 1973 Forest Practices Act to plug loopholes responsible for severe abuses of our forest lands, as well as stiffen existing penalties which are so light as to be useless. Under the 1973 Act, logging continues as usual through industry-lobbied legislation known as "loophole logging". This is a series of regulations and guidelines which pay lip service to environmental qualities, while giving the loggers virtual control over logging practices and administration policies.

I was talking recently with our Congressman, George Miller, and he feels certain that the 48,000-acre expansion to the National Redwood Park will become a reality. It passed, by a large margin, in the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, of which he is a member. We also discussed the Peripheral Canal issue, and after an explanation of some of the complexities, it seems there is a strong possibility that the canal will not be built for many years, if ever.

As you can see and hear, this area is experiencing an unprecedented boom in building. Much of it is speculative but it will no doubt continue for many years. I hope that most of you are sufficiently concerned about this to realize that without some limiting factors on this growth, we may all be engulfed in wall to wall buildings, people and cars, not to mention the destruction of orchards and farm lands which made this an uncommonly beautiful place to live. Let our local politicians and governments know that economic growth must go hand in hand with intelligent land use planning. Land costs are now so high that open space must be acquired today. As one large land developer stated: "We consume land like a newspaper consumes newsprint."

* * * * *

Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum has 15 openings for the 1977 DOCENT TRAINING CLASS. There is instruction in many aspects of natural sciences, particularly as applied to Contra Costa County. Docents lead walks, guide tours of the museum and work with area school children. Call 935-1978 Tuesday-Friday for information.

* * * * *

65 WATERFOWL PHOTOGRAPHS are on exhibit through October 9 at the Oakland Museum. "Waterfowl: Ducks, Geese and Swans of California's Winter Wetlands", by waterfowl photographer Blake Millar, are in the Natural Sciences Special Gallery, admission 25¢. The exhibit is highly recommended by MDAS members who have seen it.

* * * * *

UPCOMING COURSES:

Phil Gordon, course at Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum, 2 evening lectures, first on Thurs., Sept. 29, second to be arranged. Six Sat. field trips, Oct. 1-Nov. 5. Fee: \$25. Information: contact the Museum.

By popular demand, Phil Gordon will again teach "Natural History of Calif. Birds" at Acalanes High School, rm. 403. Twelve weeks, Wed. evenings, 7:30-10:00, starting Sept. 14. Pre-registration at the school Aug. 31. Fee: \$6.00.

Alice Hoeh, Ornithology (Fall Birdwatching) Class, through Fremont Adult School, 11 weeks, Tues. mornings beginning Sept. 20. Registration: \$4. Pre-register or at 1st class. Information: Fremont Adult School, 4700 Calaveras Ave., Fremont 94538.

Bird Migration, Bob Stewart, Sept. 24-25, fee \$23. Information/registration: Seminar Co-Ordinator, Pt. Reyes Nat'l Seashore, Pt. Reyes, CA 94956.

Calif. Birds, Monterey to Condor Country, Jon Winter, Oct. 6-11; \$295 includes all meals, lodging, transportation. Registration forms & itinerary: National Audubon Society, George Whittell Education Center, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon 94920.

Owls of Calif., Bill Clow, Sept. 2-4 in Carmel area, fee: \$40; Birds of Monterey Bay, Rich Stallcup, Oct. 22-23, \$45; Special Bird Identification Problems, Rich Stallcup, Nov. 5, \$15. Information/ applications: Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory, 4990 Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach, CA 94970.

* * * * *

OBSERVATIONS: (also see field trip reports)

Ross' Goose, 2, Sacramento NWR, Aug. 2--BR.

Wood Duck, female & 4 imm., "Hole in the Head" pond, Bodege Head, Aug. 17--BR

California Condor, 3 ad., Mt. Pinos, Ventura Co., July 30--PR.

Goshawk, female & 1 imm., Yosemite National Park, July 12--BR.

Wandering Tattler, 5, Bay Bridge Toll Plaza (BBTP), Aug. 16--JR

Lesser Yellowlegs, 2, Coyote Hills, July 27, 1, Bolinas Sewer Ponds, Aug. 13--BR.

Baird's Sandpiper, 3, Bolinas Sewer Ponds, Aug. 13--BR; 1, Rodeo Lagoon, Aug. 16--

JR.

Common Tern, 2, Alameda South Shore, July 12--JR, et al; 1, BBTP, July 22--BR; 2, BBTP, Aug. 13--BR; 1 Ft. Baker, & 10, BBTP, Aug. 16--JR.

Least Tern, 1, BBTP, July 12--JR, et al.

Elegant Tern, 1, BBTP, July 12--JR, et al; 6, BBTP, July 27--BR; 9, BBTP, Aug. 16--

JR.

Common Murre, BBTP, Aug. 16--JR.

Rhinoceros Auklet, 4, Chimney Rock, Pt. Reyes, July 19--FLB, H&JG, BR, JR, et al.

Tufted Puffin, 4-5, Chimney Rock, July 16--FLB, H&JG, JR, et al; 2 Chimney Rock, July 19--BR, JR, et al.

Yellow-Billed Cuckoo, River Rd. at Sacramento Ave. near Chico, Aug. 2--BR.

Poor-Will, Mendenhall Rd., Aug. 3--JE.

Pileated Woodpecker, Sand Flat, near Bear Valley, Calaveras Co., Aug. 1--JR; 2, Stewart Trail, Pt. Reyes, Aug. 13--BR.

Black-Backed Three-Toed Woodpecker, 2, Glacier Pt. Rd., 2, Siesta Lake, 2 Tioga Pass Rd., Yosemite Nat'l Park, July 12--BR; 1 Sand Flat, Aug. 1--JR.

Purple Martin, 2, Battery Wallace, Marin Co., Aug. 16--BP, JR, et al.

RUFUS-CAPPED WARBLER, nesting pair, near South Fork, Chiricahua Mts., Ariz., late July--PR, et al. A wind and rain storm washed out the nest shortly thereafter.

Pine Grosbeak, 2, White Wolf, Yosemite Nat'l Park, July 12--BR.

Red Crossbill, 2, Sand Flat, Aug. 4--JR; 4, Stewart Trail, Pt. Reyes, Aug. 13--BR.

Brewer's Sparrow, Sand Flat, July 31--JR.

(Observers: Florence Bennett, Jimm Edgar, Helen & Jerry Gentile, Bill Pursell, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Peter Rosmarin)

* * * * *

We have had some problems with the post office dept. in recent months which may or may not become worse with non-profit mailing. If you do not receive your Quail at least by the first of the month, contact me immediately. The Quail is not forwardable so if you move and have not notified us you will not receive it. If you wish to receive missing issues due to such a move you must send me first class postage.

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

* * * * *

GREATER BAY AREA SITE GUIDE: Golden Gate Park. An oil company or AAA map of San Francisco showing the Park and its lakes and other areas is very useful to find your way. Park maps also available at Calif. Academy of Sciences in the Park.

Chain of Lakes. North Lake: gulls and waterbirds. Trees near northwest corner usually have Pygmy Nuthatch. Path around lake for many landbird, Varied Thrush in winter, Red Crossbill has been seen. Middle Lake: often Wood Ducks among the many ducks. Walk around lake has many landbirds, including rarities at times. South Lake: many ducks in winter, European Wigeon has been seen.

Spreckles Lake: many gulls, Glaucous has been seen, and ducks, sometimes including European Wigeon. Model boaters sometimes make the area very noisy.

Metson Lake: Wood and Ring-Necked Ducks among the waterfowl. Red Crossbill, Pygmy Nuthatch among many landbirds along south side of lake. Many Mew Gulls.

Elk Glen Lake: gulls and waterfowl, often including European Wigeon in winter.

Mallard Lake: Wood Ducks have been found here.

Lloyd Lake: waterfowl has included European Wigeon.

Stow Lake: gulls and ducks on the lake, landbirds around the lake and on island. Can be very crowded here especially on weekends. Tufted Duck here in 1972.

Strybing Arboretum, Fuschia Gardens (near Conservatory) also good for land birds.

Calif. Academy of Sciences: a fascinating place to visit. Simson African Hall, Morrison Planetarium and Steinhart Aquarium are located here, and De Young Museum and the Japanese Tea Garden are just across the music concourse.

Much of the park is closed to vehicles on Sundays. Busses pass near most areas. Good weather, especially on summer weekends, can produce crowds in places in the Park, but there is good birding in many quiet spots.

Mt. Diablo Audubon Society
Jean Richmond, Editor
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938-9100

October 1977
Vol. 24, No. 3

Next deadline: October 10

Meeting: Thurs., Oct. 6. Doors open 6:30 p.m. Business: 7:00; 25th anniversary celebration: 7:30; social time: 8:00; program: 8:30. Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek.

Field Trips: Sun., Oct. 2, Monterey pelagic trip. Coordinator: Peter Rosmarin.
Wed., Oct. 5, 9:00 a.m., Alameda South Shore; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Freeway 24, 8:15. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey (254-0486).
Sat., Oct. 8, 8:30 a.m., Rodeo Lagoon area; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Freeway 24, 7:30. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).
Sat., Oct. 22, 9:00 a.m., Bolinas Lagoon, PRBO; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Freeway 24, 7:00. Leader: Florence Bennett (837-9061).
Wed., Oct. 26, 9:15 a.m., Sunol Valley Regional Park; carpool: Alamo Market Plaza, 8:30. Leader: Merv Ortez (283-3072).

Screen Tour: Wed. Oct. 19, 8:00 p.m., Diablo Valley College gym. "Wilderness Trek Through New Zealand" by Grant Foster. There is no admission charge.

Board Meeting: Thurs., Oct. 13, 7:00 p.m., home of Norah Bain, 32 Via Farallon, Orinda; phone: 254-4516.

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Replacing Birdingformation for this month will be a special program to celebrate the first 25 years of Mt. Diablo Audubon Society. We are extending special invitations to all charter and other early members to join with us to hear about some of our early history and activities and to share a special anniversary cake. The regular program will be a film, "It Began With the Birds", a film about National Audubon Society.

Our MEETINGS will continue to be held at the Women's Club on Lincoln Avenue in Walnut Creek as the possible conflicts did not materialize.

The PELAGIC TRIP may have a space or two left. Contact Peter Rosmarin at 939-3910. At ALAMEDA SOUTH SHORE and DOOLITTLE POND we will see waterbirds and shorebirds. 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 Drive to Broadway.

RODEO LAGOON has waterbirds and shorebirds, BATTERY WALLACE often has "eastern" vagrants, and from BUNKER HILL hawks, sometimes including Broad-Winged, are seen. Just north of Golden Gate Bridge take Alexander Ave. exit and follow signs to Forts Cronkhite and Baker. Go through the signal-lighted tunnel and meet just beyond the west end of the tunnel. This is part of Golden Gate Nat'l Recreation Area.

The north end of BOLINAS LAGOON should be crowded with shorebirds, perhaps including a rarity or two. At PRBO we will look for landbirds, perhaps see banding. From US 101 north of Golden Gate Bridge follow SR 1 from Mill Valley through Stinson Beach to Audubon Canyon Ranch, meet in the wide turnout across from the Ranch gate.

Landbirds are the objective at SUNOL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK. We often see Golden Eagles on the easy walk up along Alameda 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.

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The fall AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM series opens with a film about New Zealand and as no further information was available at press time, call DVC at 685-1230 to get more details. We are planning a NO HOST DINNER at a local restaurant to meet and talk with the speaker, Grant Foster. Details will be available at the October meeting or call the MDAS phone, 284-2260.

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FIELD TRIP REPORTS.

On September 10 the trip to SAN MATEO COUNTY COAST was made on an overcast, windy and cold day but the birding was excellent. After scattering shorebirds in all directions, an adult Peregrine Falcon perched for 15 minutes across the creek from us. We saw thousands of shearwaters, several Pink-Foots among the Sooties, many Lesser Yellowlegs, a Pectoral and a Baird's Sandpiper, and a jaeger, species unknown. The eight members and guest heard or saw the following 97 species:

Red-Throated Loon, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Pink-Footed & Sooty Shearwater, Brown Pelican, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Mallard, Pintail, Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Red-Breasted Merganser, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Red-Tailed, Red-Shouldered & Marsh Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Virginia Rail, Amer Coot, Semipalmated & Snowy Plover, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Surfbird, Black Turnstone, Com Snipe, Whimbrel, Spotted Sandpiper, Wandering Tattler (10), Willet, Greater & Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral, Baird's & Least Sandpiper, Long-Billed Dowitcher, West Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Black-Necked Stilt, Northern Phalarope, jaeger sp, Glaucous-Winged West, Calif, Ring-Billed, Bonaparte's & Heermann's Gull, Forster's, Elegant & Caspian Tern, Com Murre, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Rock & Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, "Red-Shafted" Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, West Flycatcher, Violet-Green, Tree, Rough-Winged, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Scrub Jay, Com Crow, Chestnut-Sided Chickadee, Bushtit, Wren, Bewick's & Long-Billed Marsh Wren, Amer Robin, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Com Yellowthroat, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged, Tricolored & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, Brown Towhee, Savannah, White-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

The COYOTE HILLS trip on September 15 was made by nine members on a cloudy, cool day. Water conditions at the park cut down the number of birds but Lesser Yellowlegs were among the following 47 species heard or seen:

Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Pintail (?), Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Marsh Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Willet, Greater & Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, dowitcher sp, West Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Amer Avocet, Northern Phalarope, West Gull, Forster's Tern, Rock & Mourning Dove, White-Throated Swift, Downy Woodpecker, Black & Say's Phoebe, Violet-Green, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Chestnut Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Bewick's Wren, Mockingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Warbling Vireo, West Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Amer Goldfinch, Brown Towhee, Savannah & Song Sparrow.

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The endangered WHOOPIING CRANES are doing well on three fronts. Eleven young are reported in Canada where the major wild flock nests. That flock was at a record high of 69 when the birds flew north this spring, highest since the counts began in 1938. At Gray's Lake NWR in Idaho, where a joint Canadian Wildlife Service-U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service project is attempting to start a second wild flock by transplanting whooper eggs to Sandhill Crane nests, 15 young have survived so far this season. Twelve of them hatched from eggs transferred from Canada and three from eggs from the captive flock at the Fish & Wildlife Service's research center at Laurel, Md. Five whoopers survive from the 1975 and 1976 Gray's Lake transplants. And equally encouraging figures from the captive flock give promise it will be producing more fertile eggs from transplants in future years. (Audubon Leader)

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The KIRTLAND'S WARBLER population in Michigan increased from 400 to 438 this summer and the improvement is attributed to habitat management and trapping of the parasitic Brown-Headed Cowbird. Between 1966 and 1971, cowbirds parasitized 60% of the nests of the rare songbird; this has been reduced to 4%. (Audubon)

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Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum has a dedicated staff and trained volunteers of the WILDLIFE RESCUE TEAM who spend long hours caring for thousands of wildlife orphans. Funds are needed to pay for food and medical supplies. Tax-deductible donations to Wildlife Rescue Fund, c/o the museum, 1901 First Ave., Walnut Creek 94596.

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The first nationwide CENSUS OF AMERICA'S WETLANDS was launched by federal agencies in June. Wetland acreage in the United States has been reduced 40% since the 1950s and is still being lost at the rate of 300,000 acres annually. (Audubon)

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The fate of a FEDERAL PROGRAM for the protection of our Nation's greatly diminished wetlands, which has been hotly debated by Congress for several years, is about to be resolved in the coming weeks. The program, known as the Section 404 Dredge and Fill Program, is being threatened by a Congress which is renegeing on earlier far-seeing commitments to environmental protection.

Section 404 is only one provision of the monumental Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972 designed to "restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the Nation's waters". Regulatory responsibility under 404 was delegated to the Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency. The Corps was charged with the task of administering a dredge and fill permit program to assure that vital wetlands are protected from indiscriminate development. Although a difficult challenge, it is one the Corps has met and accepted.

Both the House and Senate have passed weakening amendments to Section 404, but it is not too late for us to do something about it! A small group of House/Senate conferees will decide the fate of national legislation for wetlands protection within the next few weeks. We can help assure that the outcome of their deliberations will be favorable toward wetlands protection. The message is a simple one: "Don't amend Section 404. Give it a chance to work". Your letters, telegrams and calls can make a difference.

Letters may be sent to the chairman of the House Public Works Committee: The Honorable Mr. H. T. Johnson, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515; the chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee: The Honorable Mr. Jennings Randolph, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 21510 and the chairman of the Subcommittee - Environmental Pollution, The Honorable Mr. Edmund S. Muskie at the same Senate address.

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CONSERVATION NOTES by J. P. Hauser.

The pressure continues:

The State Legislature, by unanimous vote, approved a bill that would exempt the Los Angeles City and County from filing an Environmental Impact Report when application is made to hold the Olympics here in 1984.....California's various Coastal Commissions report they received more than 4400 permit applications for coastal construction during the first 6 month of this year, and approved nearly 90% of these.....The actions that led to Dow leaving this area are constantly being distorted, or lied about, in the continuing campaign to "improve the business climate of California". The Dow withdrawal was used as a major argument in attempting to discredit, weaken or destroy environmental protection laws.

There is a new (3 years) group formed locally, called the Mount Diablo Interpretive Association. Its major effort is to add about 9,000 acres of Mt. Diablo State Park to the State Wilderness System. They have done their homework well, and have carefully mapped out areas suitable for wilderness classification. For some very interesting information, call Mr. Frank Valle-Riestra at 935-5830.

You might drop a line to Senator John Nejedly, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814, and to Assemblyman Dan Boatwright, Room 3091, State Capitol, Sacramento 95814, asking them why they deleted 317 acres belonging to developer Ken Hofmann of Concord, from the Suisun Marsh Protection Area Plan. There was a revealing article in the September 8 issue of the Contra Costa Times, front page. Should you want a copy, let me know, by calling 934-0589.

The Golden Trout Wilderness Area is in deep trouble. Due to intense lobbying by the timber interests, the proposed area of over 300,000 acres was cut to 179,000 acres. Congressman Bill Ketchum carried the ball for the loggers and pleaded that severe economic hardship would result if the land were put into wilderness. The Forest Service report on the matter states just the opposite. Senator Alan Cranston would like to hear from you in support of the original measure (Senate bill S.88), Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.

"If I have mocked the doctrine of Progress, I have done so only to attack the simplistic notion that human improvements are guaranteed by purely scientific and technological advances---that they are the predictable outcome of today's panacea, research and development".....Lewis Mumford.

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

Antioch: Kitty Schippmann; Concord: Darrell L. Brown, Annette C. Rolse; Lafayette: Tom Huffaker, Thomas R. Lambert, Ken Owen, Eric Placzek; Pleasant Hill: Charles J. Williams; San Ramon: Mr. & Mrs. David C. Budde; Walnut Creek: Miss Nancy L. Crene, Ann Hudspeth, Lyle Marsh.

* * * * *

AUDUBON LEADER, formerly published principally for Audubon chapter leaders, is now being offered to all Audubon members who want to become more actively involved in the conservation movement (see the ad in September Audubon, page 122). The new policy was adopted in part because Audubon's "National Outlook" column has been discontinued due to Charles Callison's retirement, in part because of the fast pace of environmental news, and, finally, because the Tax Reform Act's liberalization of lobbying restrictions now permits us to speak out more freely on legislative issues. Audubon Leader, published twice a month, is \$5.00 per year.

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NAS STAFF ASSIGNMENT. Dr. Richard Mertyr has been transferred to Sacramento to replace Western Regional Representative Paul M. Howard, Jr., who is now Senior Vice President. Western Regional Office: 555 Audubon Place, Sacramento 95825; phone (916) 481-5332.

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A 10-day PRE-CHRISTMAS SALE (October 5-9 and 12-16) will be held at "The Book Nest" at Whittell Education Center, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon, from 9-5 daily. Featuring hundreds of natural history books, field guides, Audubon gift items, stationery and Christmas cards, this sale will provide Audubon members with an opportunity to get their Christmas gift shopping done early. Also of special interest to Auduboners will be the sale of a wide selection of Bushnell binoculars and scopes at 20% off list price.

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The CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF MT. DIABLO has been revised by the Mt. Diablo Interpretive Association and was issued May 30, 1977. The new and improved checklist is available on the mountain for 10¢. The MDIA is a non-profit organization devoted to the promotion of interpretive, scientific and educational projects to help the general public enjoy and become more knowledgeable about Mt. Diablo, one of the unique island mountains of the world. Membership blanks are available on the mountain or by writing to Mt. Diablo Interpretive Assn., P.O. Box 250, Diablo, CA 94528.

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CALIFORNIA CONDOR - 1977 (proceedings of the Audubon Symposium) recounts the history of Condor preservation efforts and describes the current status and recovery efforts proposed to help insure the future survival of the species. Send check, payable to National Audubon Society, for \$2.50 plus 35¢ postage and handling (also 15¢ California sales tax) to National Audubon Society, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon, CA 94920.

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THE BIRD SCHOOL is a special 9-week course in ornithology to be taught by Rich Stallcup at NAS Whittell Education Center. The program: 9 evening workshops (Thurs., 7-9 p.m.) followed by a Saturday field trip, beginning Nov. 10, ending Jan. 28. Rich is a well-known birder, tour leader, and author of several technical papers. Registration information and class syllabus: write Whittell Center, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon 94520 or call 388-2524. Fee: \$90.

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OBSERVATIONS: (also see field trip reports)

White Pelican, 50, over Berkeley-Oakland, Aug. 2--ED.

Nesting Trumpeter Swans & 5 cygnets, Teton Nat'l Park, Wyoming, mid-July--HzNB.

Harlequin Duck, female, Año Nuevo State Reserve, Aug. 23--JH; 2 there, Sept. 4--WO.

Golden Eagle, Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes, Sept. 6--BR, FLB, JR, et al; Mendoza Ranch, Pt. Reyes, Sept. 13--BR, JR, FLB, et al.

Mountain Quail, 2 male, 5 female, Castle Rock State Park, Santa Cruz Co., Aug. 11--JH.

Golden Plover, 11, Drake's Beach Rd., Pt. Reyes, Sept. 2--FLB, BF, MJG, JR; 5 there Sept. 6--FLB, BR, JR, et al; 1, Alameda South Shore, Sept. 8--WO, et al.

Wandering Tattler, 2, BBTP, Aug. 25, FLB, MJG, BR, JR, et al.

Lesser Yellowlegs, Pajaro River, Monterey Co.; Woodland Sugar Ponds, Yolo Co.; Pleasanton sewer ponds, Lake Monaco, Alameda Co.; Drake's Beach, Pt. Reyes; along SR 37, Solano Co.; Aug. 31-Sept. 13--m.ob.

Pectoral Sandpiper, Mendoza Ranch, Sept. 3--BF, FLB, JR, MJG; 2, Woodland Sugar Ponds, Sept. 2--BR.

Baird's Sandpiper, 5, Laguna Lake, San Luis Obispo, Aug. 18--ED; 1, along SR 37, Solano Co., Aug. 27--H&FB, FLB, JR; 2, Woodland Sugar Ponds, Sept. 3--BR; 1, along SR 37, Sept. 13--BR, FLB, JR.

Dunlin, along SR 37, Aug. 27 (early)--H&FrB, JR, FLB.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER, Drake's Beach Rd., Sept. 5--Jerry Langham of Sacramento; Sept. 6--FLB, BR, JR, et al. Second northern California record.

Northern Phalarope, Concord sewer ponds, Aug. 20--BR; Mt. View Sanitary District, Sept. 4--H&JG, FLB, JR.

Pomarine Jaeger, Pigeon Pt., San Mateo Co., Aug. 23--JH.

Black-Legged Kittiwake, Monterey Harbor, Aug. 31--BR.

Common Tern, along SR 37, Aug. 27--JR, FLB.

ARCTIC TERN, Pigeon Pt., Aug. 23--JH; BBTP, Aug. 25--E&HH, MJG, FLB, BR, JR, BF.

Elegant Tern, 65, BBTP, Aug. 25--BR, JR, FLB, MJG, BF, E&HH; Pigeon Pt., Aug. 23--JH; 23, Alameda South Shore, Sept. 8--WO.

BLACK TERN, along SR 37, Aug. 27--JR, FLB.

Marbled Murrelet, 7, Pigeon Pt., Aug. 23--JH.

Ancient Murrelet, Chitoo Harbor, Brookings, Oreg., Sept. 10--E&MVD.

Possible WIED'S CRESTED FLYCATCHER, Lighthouse, Pt. Reyes, Sept. 2--JR, MJG, FLB.

Rock Wren, her Walnut Creek garden, Sept. 4--FS.

BENDIRE'S THRASHER, returned to Courtland, Sacramento Co., Aug. 1--Parkers.

RED-EYED VIREO, 1 each at Lighthouse, Fish Docks, Nunes Ranch (all Pt. Reyes), Sept. 13--FLB, BR, JR, et al.

Tennessee Warbler, Drake's Beach, Sept. 2--BF, MJG, FLB, JR.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER, Mendoza Ranch, Sept. 13--BR.

Chestnut-Sided Warbler, Lighthouse, Pt. Reyes, Sept. 13--FLB, et al.

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER, Mendoza Ranch, Sept. 13--JR, et al.

Blackpoll Warbler, male, Año Nuevo, Aug. 23--JH; 5, Fish Docks, Nunes Ranch, Sept. 13--FLB, JR, BR, et al.

PRAIRIE WARBLER, ad., Fish Docks, Aug. 29--WO, et al; ad., Fish Docks, imm., Drake's Beach, Sept. 2--MJG, FLB, BF, JR.

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH, Tilden Park, Sept. 9--HJ; seen at least through Sept. 13--m.ob.

American Redstart, Tilden Park, Sept. 3--BR; Fish Docks, Sept. 6--FLB, BR, JR, et al; 15, Mendoza Ranch, Lighthouse, Fish Docks, Nunes Ranch, Sept. 13--FLB, BR, JR, et al.

(Observers: Hugh & Norah Bain, Florence Bennett, Helen & Frank Eeyer, Elizabeth Dickey, Bud Fry, Mary Jane Greene, Jim Hale, Edith & Henry Hallberg, Hans Johanson, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Frieda Shackelford, Winnie Orcutt, Bernice & Mark Van Dort, many observers; Bay Bridge Toll Plaza)

Birding from a Cessna Skyhawk is an unusual way to see birds but Jim Hale and a friend did just that on Sept. 4 between Watsonville and Half Moon Bay. Among the sightings: 3 Laysan Albatross, 13 Black-Footed Albatross, 150 Pink-Footed Shearwaters, 10 New Zealand Shearwaters, 3,000 Sooty Shearwaters, 1 Ashy Storm-Petrel, 3 adult Parasitic Jaegers, 2 Black-Legged Kittiwakes.

Even a casual look at the observations will reveal many excellent sightings at Pt. Reyes. The migration will run through the month of October although the peak will be late September or early October. I highly recommend birding outer Pt. Reyes this time of year, especially Mendoza and Nunes Ranches, the Lighthouse, Fish Docks, New Willows, and Drake's Beach. (see The Quail, Sept. 1976 and June 1977)

* * * * *

GREATER BAY AREA SITE GUIDE: San Mateo County coast.

Access: Cross San Mateo Bridge, continue on SR 92 to Half Moon Bay. Turn left on SR 1, (this intersection is about MP 29.00) and drive south.

Redondo Beach Rd. (about MP 27.00, just before golf course on south side of Half Moon Bay). Go to end of road. Scope ocean for pelagics. Pasturelands just back from parking lot had wintering Golden Plovers last year among Black-Bellied. Stage Rd. (MP 19.45). Summer, listen for insect-like buzz of Grasshopper Sparrows. San Gregorio Beach (MP 18.00). Check near mouth of creek--Harlequin Duck there last winter. Many gulls around beach, also shorebirds.

Pescadero Lagoon (about MP 14.50). Check both ponds for waterfowl, shorebirds. Baird's & Pectoral Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs in migration, Semipalmated Sandpiper rarely. Walk trail up hill to overlook: waterbirds, shorebirds in water below. American Bittern here, hard to find. Return to road, walk south to bridge and down to creek. Trail to left through marsh; walk east along creek for gulls, terns,

waterbirds, shorebirds.

Pescadero Beach (MP 13.80 at Pescadero Rd.). From parking lot look for birds on beach, rocks, ocean: pelagics, waterfowl, gulls, shorebirds. A scope helps.

Pescadero Rd. Go east from SR 1, park on right at MP 0.66 or on left at MP 0.80. Marsh north of road: marsh birds, rails, shorebirds. Return to SR 1.

Bean Hollow, Lake Lucerne. Just beyond Bean Hollow State Beach (MP 11.07) turn left on Bean Hollow Road, park just beyond bridge. Marshy pond on west, lake on east. Lake property is posted so just look from road.

MP 12.00. Park, walk south on trail atop bluffs. Rock Sandpiper here last 2 years.

Pigeon Pt. Rd. (MP 08.73). Turn right, go nearly to lighthouse. Some shorebirds along rocks, beach. Good pelagics from here including Laysan Albatross (rare) and Black-Footed Albatross (check behind any passing freighters), shearwaters, Fulmar, jaegers, gulls (including Sabine's), terns, alcaids (including Ancient Murrelet).

Año Nuevo State Reserve (MP 1.00). Turn right on New Year's Creek Rd. to end of road. Trail from NW corner of parking lot. Pond: gulls, some ducks, phalaropes, swallows. Trail atop bluffs overlooking ocean: cormorants (nest on cliffs). Harlequin Ducks (check large rocks just offshore), Black Swift, Bank Swallow (nest near top of bluffs). Near Año Nuevo Pt.: shorebirds along beaches, sometimes Black Brant. Outer areas closed during winter except to ranger-led walks to see Elephant seals and their pups.

Princeton Harbor. North from Half Moon Bay on SR 1 about 5 miles, turn left to the pier: waterfowl in harbor among boats. Yellow-Billed Loon, Oldsquaw have been seen. Continue on Capistrano Rd. along Bay, checking for birds. Turn left on Prospect, left on Broadway, right on Princeton, right on West Point to the willows: vagrants in migration. Pond on left (dry at present) for shorebirds. Kites are overhead. Continue to very rutted dirt road to left. Park here and walk (drive if you dare) to bay. Loons, ducks here. Walk right along water to breakwater: Rock Sandpiper here last winter. Gulls, shorebirds along bay and on ocean

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THE QUAIL, published monthly except a combined July-August issue, is sent without additional charge to National Audubon Society members affiliated with Mt. Diablo chapter. Subscription to non-member: \$3.00 per year, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, Mrs. Winnie Orcutt, 30 Iris Ln., Walnut Creek, CA 94595. Address changes (send also to NAS): Mrs. Jackie Knisley, 4741 Olive Dr., Concord, CA 94521. NOTE: Address changes sent to National do not change chapter affiliation unless such change is specifically requested by the member.

Jean Richmond, Editor---125 Via Serena, Alamo, CA 94507---phone 337-2843
(Exchange bulletins for MDAS to this address, please.)

MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY
Jean Richmond, Editor
125 Via Serena
Alamo, CA 94507

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The Quail

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

Pres.: Bruce Moorad
1419 Marchbanks Dr.
Walnut Creek, CA 94598
phone: 938-4446 or
938-9100

November 1977
Vol. 24, No. 4

Next deadline: November 10

Meeting: Thurs., Nov. 3. Doors open 6:30 p.m. Birdingformation: 7:00; business: 7:30; social time: 8:00; program: 8:30. Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek.

Field Trips: Sat., Nov. 5, 8:30 a.m., Palo Alto salt marsh; carpool: Alamo Market Plaza, 7:15. Leader: Tom Steller (837-9061).

Thurs., Nov. 10, 9:00 a.m., Mountain View Sanitation District, Martinez. Leader: Irene Hellekson (229-1837).

Wed., Nov. 16, 9:30 a.m., Palo Alto salt marsh; carpool: Alamo Market Plaza, 8:15. Leader: Elizabeth Diokey (254-1486).

Sat., Nov. 19, 8:00 a.m., Lafayette Reservoir. Leaders: Helen and Jerry Gentile (228-6297).

Sat., Dec. 10, Frank's Tract canoe trip tentatively scheduled.

Screen Tour: Wed., Nov. 30, 8:00 p.m., Diablo Valley College gym. "Palm Springs to Lake Louise" by Norm Wakeman. Preceded by no-host dinner, Copper Penny.

Board Meeting: Thurs., Nov. 10, 7:00 p.m., home of Norma and Merv Ortez, 1010 Walnut Dr., Lafayette; phone 283-3072. Board meetings are always open to members.

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Birdingformation, led by Frank Beyer, will be another session on shorebirds, probably the most difficult group of birds to learn. The program will be presented by Marianne Danielson, Chief of Interpretation and Resource Management for San Mateo County Park and Recreation Division. "Following Plumage Changes From Here to the Tundra" recounts a journey she and Jean-Marie Spoelman made into tundra and forest of the Yukon this summer. The program includes other wildlife and flora as well as showing the contrast between winter and summer plumages of birds.

At PALO ALTO SALT MARSH we will see waterfowl, shorebirds and gulls, hopefully including European Wigeon, Blue-Winged Teal and Thayer's Gull. Along Frontage Road we will look for Short-Eared Owls. Cross Dumbarton Bridge to US 101, go south to Embarcadero Rd., then east to the Yacht Harbor and meet at the duck pond on the left. Note the weekend trip and also midweek trip when the area is less crowded.

At MOUNTAIN VIEW SANITATION DISTRICT, a new spot for a field trip, we will see waterbirds and some landbirds, perhaps the American Bittern. We will also have a short demonstration and discussion about the plant by a biologist/analyst. Take Pacheco Blvd. & Arthur Rd. exit from I-680 in Martinez, go east under the freeway a few blocks to a sharp right turn to the Acme Fill dump. A directional sign will be posted there for any latecomers.

LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR is host to a wide assortment of water and landbirds as there are varied habitats along the trail. Go west on Mt. Diablo Blvd. from downtown Lafayette to the well-marked turnoff. Have 4 quarters for the entrance gate or park on Mt. Diablo Blvd. and walk up the hill to the parking area at the top.

As the Dec. 3 FRANK'S TRACT CANOE TRIP is oversubscribed, a second is tentatively scheduled for Dec. 10. The trip is sponsored by Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum which provides canoes and leadership. Send check for \$10, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to Sally Steller, 591 Fulton Way, Danville 94526 (837-9061).

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The AUDUBON FILM follows spring through the southern California desert, the Sierras, northern California and the Cascades, to Crater Lake, Grand Teton, Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks to Lake Louise in Canada. This area holds some of the most awesome scenery in the world and is home to plentiful wildlife. There is no admission charge for the film. Preceding the film a NO-HOST DINNER will be held at the Copper Penny in Sun Valley Center beginning at 6:00 p.m. We will have an opportunity to meet and talk with Mr. Wakeman during dinner. If you plan to attend, Mark Van Dort would like to hear from you so he will have an idea of how many to expect. Call him at 938-8079 or send him a card at 100 Devon Ave., #47, Pleasant Hill 94523 by November 20, or you may talk to him at our November meeting.

* * * * *

FIELD TRIP REPORTS.

The trip to PT. REYES on September 24 was made by 26 members and guests on a cool, sunny day which was sometimes windy. Many birders enjoyed the great birding as 4 other chapters and 4 birding classes plus numerous individuals were in the area. The number of cars at the Fish Docks around noon was unbelievable!!! We saw a Harlequin Duck and nine species of warblers including Black-Throated Gray, Townsend's, Blackpoll, Palm and OVENBIRD among the following 104 species seen or heard:

Common Loon, Western Grebe, Brown Pelican, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Pintail, Harlequin Duck, White-Winged, Surf & Black Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-Shinned, Cooper's, Red-Tailed, Red-Shouldered & Rough-Legged Hawk, American Kestrel, California Quail, rail sp., American Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Long-Billed Curlew, Wandering Tattler, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, dowitcher sp., Western Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Northern Phalarope, Glaucous-Winged, Western, Ring-Billed, Bonaparte's & Heermann's Gull, Forster's & Caspian Tern, Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Rock & Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, hummingbird sp., Belted Kingfisher, Common (Red-Shafted) Flicker, Acorn, Hairy & Downy Woodpecker, Black & Say's Phoebe, willow, Western & Olive-Sided Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Common Raven, Common Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Red-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, Bewick's, Long-Billed Marsh & Rock Wren, American Robin, Western Bluebird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Loggerhead Shrike, Hutton's & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Yellow, Black-Throated Gray, Townsend's, Blackpoll & Palm Warbler, OVENBIRD, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-Winged, Tricolored & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Savannah Sparrow, Dark-Eyed (Slate-Colored) Junco, Chipping, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox & Song Sparrow.

On September 29 eleven members and guests went to GOLDEN GATE PARK and CLIFF HOUSE on a cold, overcast day with a brief drizzle in the morning and some wind on the cliff overlooking the ocean in the afternoon. Highlight of the day was a Pied-Billed Grebe which caught a fish which we thought was too large to be swallowed but after a great deal of effort the bird managed to prove us wrong. We also saw 11 lovely Wood Ducks and watched a Sora feeding and bathing. We heard a Virginia Rail which we could not find. We saw or heard the following 46 species:

Pied-Billed Grebe, Brown Pelican, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, Mallard, American Wigeon, Wood Duck, Surf Scoter, Virginia Rail, Sora, American Coot, Surfbird, Black Turnstone, Western, California, Ring-Billed & Heermann's Gull, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Rock Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Common (Red-Shafted) Flicker, Yellow-Bellied (Red-Breasted) Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Willow Flycatcher, Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Pygmy Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, American Robin, thrush sp, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Starling, Orange-Crowned & Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, House Sparrow, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox & Song Sparrow.

The MONTEREY BAY PELAGIC trip on October 2 was made by 38 members and guests on a clear, sunny, cool day. In the morning high rollers caused the boat to roll as well as pitch and in the afternoon the wind came up, causing quite a lot of chop on the water. Although we did not find the Galapagos Storm-Petrel which was being seen in the area we had a great day. We saw a Manx Shearwater, Fork-Tailed & Wilson's Storm-Petrels, Skua, Sabine's Gull, Arctic Tern and Thick-Billed Murre among the following 41 species:

Common Loon, Eared & Western Grebe, Northern Fulmar, Pink-Footed, New Zealand Sooty & Manx Shearwater, Fork-Tailed, Ashy, Black & Wilson's Storm-Petrel, Brown Pelican, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Pintail, Red-Breasted Merganser, Black Turnstone, Willet, Northern Phalarope, Pomarine & Parasitic Jaeger,

Skua, Glaucous-Winged, Western, Herring, California, Mew, Bonaparte's & Heermann's Gull, Black-Legged Kittiwake, Sabine's Gull, Common, Arctic & Elegant Tern, Common & Thick-Billed Murre, Cassin's & Rhinoceros Auklet, and Belted Kingfisher.

Ten members and guests were at ALAMEDA SOUTH SHORE and DOOLITTLE POND on October 5 on a cool day that was overcast in the morning but clear after lunch. Among the many Red Knots was one still in partial breeding plumage showing much red on the underparts. The following 59 species were seen or heard:

Pied-Billed Grebe, Brown Pelican, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Canada Goose, Mallard, Pintail, Green-Winged & Cinnamon Teal, American Wigeon, Canvasback, Bufflehead, Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, American Coot, Semipalmated & Snowy Plover, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, turnstone sp., Long-Billed Curlew, Whimbrel, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Red Knot, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, dowitcher sp., Western Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, American Avocet, Black-Necked Stilt, Glaucous-Winged, Western, California & Ring-Billed Gull, Forster's, Common & Elegant Tern, Rock & Mourning Dove, Common (Red-Shafted) Flicker, Scrub Jay, Bushtit, Starling, Warbling Vireo, Yellow-Rumped (Audubon's) Warbler, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Savannah & White-Crowned Sparrow.

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CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. Our compiler, Bob Richmond, will soon be busy planning our CBC which will be held on Saturday, December 31. We hope you are planning to participate this winter to help us cover our territory very completely. We set a record high last year in spite of very rainy weather but with decent conditions we should overwhelm that record. Contact Bob at 125 Via Serena, Alamo 94507, phone 837-2843, and let him know that you will be joining us.

A NEW CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT being developed in the Mt. Hamilton area is tentatively scheduled for Monday, December 19 and our members are invited and encouraged to take part. Contact Donald E. Schmoldt, 230 Buena Vista Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95060; phone (408)-427-3754.

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On the LIST OF OFFICERS (June, 1977, Quail) change Kent Fickett's address to 5270 Concord Blvd., Concord 94521.

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CONSERVATION NOTES by J. P. Hauser.

It is widely assumed that, after a devastating fire as occurred on Mt. Diablo, the only way to accelerate natural re-vegetation is to plant exotic species of grasses, etc. Not so. Already young growth is appearing in many areas and, if left alone, nature will do a totally adequate job greening the mountain again. In fact, the introduction of non-native species will hinder natural growth and/or overwhelm native plants.

More lasting damage was done by the bulldozers in their valiant, but hasty, attempt to create firebreaks.

For an in-depth analysis and highly readable account of nature's wonders, read the article in the September issue of Here's Diablo Living by Mary Bowerman, one of the most long-time and most dedicated friends of the mountain. Dr. Bowerman's book, "The Flowering Plants and Ferns of Mount Diablo", is considered to be the definitive work on the subject. She currently has an excellent slide show presentation on the after effects of the big fire, which is available for showing to any interested groups. The publication Here's Diablo Living is a local, free, monthly publication found at banks, community centers, chambers of commerce, city offices, etc.

The fund being collected by The Contra Costa Times newspaper might well be used to acquire more land for Mt. Diablo, either by association with the State Parks Department or "Save Mount Diablo" group, who already have added 117 acres to the park, an organization in which Mary Bowerman has long been active.

Last month I mentioned that the Golden Trout Wilderness Area was in deep trouble. After a vote of 40 to 4, and intense lobbying by the timber industry, the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee sent to the House a bill designating 16 wilderness areas. In the final mark-up, California's 410,800-acre Golden Trout area was slashed back to 179,000 acres. Representative Krebs of California offered a compromise amendment of 327,000 acres, but in vain. Lost are critical fisheries habitat in the lower Little Kern watershed and the Horseshoe Meadows area slated by the Forest Service for intensive recreational development.

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

Alamo: Mr. & Mrs. Robert H. Barclay; Berkeley: Jeanne Dolese; Concord: Walton H. Barrett; Lafayette: Mr. & Mrs. R. Frederick Christmann, Christine Kaplan, Eric C. Woychik; Martinez: Mr. & Mrs. F. Ronald Jessen; FPO, New York: Raymond F. Olsen; San Ramon: Edward & Kathleen Westley; Walnut Creek: James C. Morrison, MD, A. A. Nickel, DDS, Donald D. Ricketts, Ronald M. Sidell, Terry Anne Stephens.

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BIRDS OF THE YOSEMITE SIERRA by David Gaines has just been published by Cal-Syl Press. The book contains a great deal of information about the birds of Yosemite National Park, and also of the adjacent lowlands to the east, from Bridgeport through Mono Basin to Crowley Reservoir. Included is material on the habitats, tips about bird-finding, bar graphs indicating seasonal abundance of most species, identification of empidonax flycatchers, and much more. Send check or money order for \$5.00 plus 75¢ postage and handling (California residents add 30¢ state sales tax) to Cal-Syl Press, 1494 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, CA 94602.

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A NEW BIRDLIST for the Monterey Peninsula is available at Point Lobos or at the Museum of Natural History in Pacific Grove for 10¢ each. By mail, include a self-addressed, stamped, legal-size envelope to P. O. Box 5656, Carmel, CA 93921.

* * * * *

National Audubon Society participation in a BOYCOTT OF JAPANESE AND SOVIET PRODUCTS was voted by the board of directors in April, 1974. Our boycott was formally suspended following the dramatically successful June 1977 meeting of the International Whaling Commission. The original purpose was to pressure Japan and the Soviet Union to accept whaling quotas set by the IWC. "It is now clear that our boycott has finally achieved its goal," said President Elvis J. Starr. Japan and the Soviet Union accepted the progressively restrictive quotas set in 1974, 1975 and 1976. In 1977 the IWC tied up two remaining loopholes concerning dealings in whale products and whaling equipment between member and non-member nations.

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ASILOMAR - 1978. "A Question of Stewardship" will be the theme of the NAS Western Regional Conference in 1978. The Conference will feature wildlife resources of the states of Hawaii and Alaska, and the unique issues facing our 49th and 50th states. Dates have been set for March 18-21 at the Asilomar Conference Grounds in Monterey. Plan now to attend.

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HELP BRING BACK THE PEREGRINE. Since 1973 the Peregrine restoration project of the Cornell Laboratory has produced 234 young Peregrine Falcons at its facilities and 133 of these have been introduced into the wild in 12 states. Several adults have returned to the spot where they were released the previous year. While no released birds have yet formed pairs, a 2 year old male behaved like a parent, catching prey and feeding young falcons put out at his release site. It is just a matter of time until we have nesting Peregrines in the East again.

The Peregrine Falcon was eliminated from the eastern U.S. by 1964 as the direct result of DDT contamination. There are a few Peregrine populations in the west and Alaska. Cornell has a special Peregrine Fund that helps support breeding and research facilities at Cornell and Fort Collins, Colorado. Contributions should be sent to Peregrine Fund, 159 Sapsucker Woods Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850.

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NON-GAME BILLS. The House and Senate have now completed subcommittee hearings on bills to establish a funding program for financial and technical aid to states for conservation programs for wildlife not now protected as endangered or managed as game species. Currently, relatively few states have sufficient funds or programs to aid these so-called "non-game" species, though all have strong game management departments and programs, and many are beginning programs for management of endangered and threatened species.

The bills, H.R. 8606 and S. 1140, would establish a program under which states would develop programs for management of non-game wildlife via substantial assistance in matching grants from the federal government. The programs would provide habitat acquisition, research, education, and law enforcement. A long-range goal of the legislation, of course, would be to bring about a decrease in the number of species that reach the threatened or endangered status.

* * * * *

SUNDAY PROGRAMS at Whittell Center, Richardson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, 3:00 p.m. Nov. 6, Birds of the Galapagos Islands; Nov. 13, The California Condor; Nov. 20, The Incredible Birds of New Zealand; Nov. 22, Private Life of the Kingfisher.

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TRICKS TO CONTROL BIRDS, a leaflet helpful to homeowners and gardeners, includes ways to keep birds from nesting where they shouldn't, keep woodpeckers from damaging buildings, scare birds from fruit trees. A falcon silhouette can be cut out--- it saves birds from flying into windows or glass doors. Write Dept. of Interior, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240. (Portland Audubon Society)

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Oakland Museum now has a DESERT EXHIBIT in the science gallery. In this permanent exhibit are sand dunes, scrub alkali sinks, Joshua tree woodlands and Pinon-Juniper woodlands, also the "Desert Diorama" of not so barren land highlighted by Desert Bighorn, a rare mountain sheep. Other sections will be added in the future. Admission to the gallery on Friday nights and weekends in October is free.

* * * * *

Most OBSERVATIONS come from a handful of people although we have many members. We hope you will share your sightings with all of us as the observations column will be improved if we get information from a wider range of people. It does not have to be of a rare bird but may be of a more common species doing something unusual. Rarities must be confirmed by one of our more competent birders, however. A phone call gets the information to me quickly but I would appreciate the pertinent information on a card whether or not you also phone me.

OBSERVATIONS: (also see field trip reports)

Flesh-Footed Shearwater, Oct. 1, Monterey Bay--BR, WFO.

Manx Shearwater, Oct. 13, Monterey Bay--MC, PR, BR, JR, et al.

STREAKED SHEARWATER, Oct. 9, Monterey Bay--AE, GGAS. Second North America record.

Virginia Rail, Sept. 23, North Lake, Golden Gate Park--FLB.

Golden Plover, Sept. 21, Alameda South Shore--ED; Sept. 22, Alameda--LM, WO, et al.

Pectoral Sandpiper, 2, Oct. 1, Carmel River mouth--VR, JR, ED, et al.

Long-Tailed Jaeger, Oct. 1, Monterey Bay--BR, WFO.

Skua, Oct. 1, Monterey Bay--BR, WFO; 3, Oct. 13, Monterey Bay--PR, MC, BR, JR, et al.

FRANKLIN'S GULL, 2, Oct. 5, Salinas River mouth--BR.

Sabine's Gull, Oct. 13, Monterey Bay--BR, JR, MC, PR, et al.

Arctic Tern, Sept. 22, Alameda South Shore--WO, LM, et al.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE, Oct. 1, Carmel River mouth--VR, JR, ED, et al.

Black Swift, Oct. 8, Rodeo Lagoon (MDAS trip)--JR.

Red-Eyed Vireo, Sept. 19, Mendoza Ranch, Pt. Reyes--FLB, JR, H&JG, et al.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO, Sept. 27, Drake's Beach, Pt. Reyes--FLB, JR, et al.

Black-and-White Warbler, Oct. 5, Carmel River mouth--BR.

Blackburnian Warbler, Sept. 19, Mendoza Ranch--JR, et al; Oct. 5, Carmel River--BR.

Blackpoll Warbler, 4, Sept. 19, Mendoza Ranch, Nunes Ranch, Fish Docks--FLB, H&JG,

JR, et al; 4, Sept. 27, Mendoza, Nunes, Fish Docks--BR, FLB, JR, et al; 1,

Crespi Pond, Pacific Grove--BR.

Prairie Warbler, Sept. 27, Fish Docks--FLB, BR, JR, et al.

OVENBIRD, Sept. 27, Nunes Ranch--BF, et al.

Hooded Orioles, finally left feeders at Richmonds Sept. 19, Eckfords Sept. 23.

Western Tanager, female, Sept. 19, Nunes Ranch--JR, et al.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK, Oct. 2, their Martinez garden--H&JG.

White-Throated Sparrow, Oct. 11, her Alamo garden--JR.

White-Crowned Sparrows arr. Sept. 16, Concord--BG; Golden-Crowns Sept. 26, Orinda--ED

(Observers: Florence Bennett, Maxine Clason, Elizabeth Dickey, Bud Fry, Betty Gallagher, Helen & Jerry Gentile, Golden Gate Aud Soc, Lorraine Mueller, Winnie Orcutt, Van Remsen, Bob & Jean Richmond, Peter Rosmarin, Western Field Ornithologists)

* * * * *

THE QUAIL, published monthly except a combined July-August issue, is sent without additional charge to National Audubon Society members affiliated with Mt. Diablo chapter. Subscription to non-member: \$3.00 per year, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer Mrs. Winnie Orcutt, 30 Iris Ln., Walnut Creek, CA 94595. Address changes (send also to NAS): Mrs. Jackie Knisley, 4741 Olive Dr., Concord, CA 94521. NOTE: Address changes sent to National do not change chapter affiliation unless such change is specifically requested by the member.

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

CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA - give an Audubon membership. Not only will you be giving beautiful Audubon magazine but you will be helping the cause of conservation. A gift membership application is in each issue of Audubon just before the yellow pages.

* * * * *

GREATER BAY AREA SITE GUIDE: Bodega Bay.

Access: From US 101 in Petaluma take Washington St. exit, follow signs toward town of Bodega Bay.

Just before town turn left toward Doran Park. Park just beyond entrance to sewer plant, walk trail to hillside above sewer ponds: ducks, shorebirds. Mudflats below plant usually productive. Northern Shrike occasionally in this area.

Continue to Doran Park, checking large shallow pond on right for shorebirds, especially at high tide. Park in first parking lot, cross road, walk trail into marsh, check mudflats, grass for shorebirds (Short-Eared Owl last winter). Proceed to end of road checking bay, ocean & their shores. Check jetties for Surfbird, Black Oystercatcher, Black-Legged Kittiwake, channel for waterbirds including Red-Necked Grebe, sometimes Oldsquaw, Yellow-Billed Loon. Return to SR 1, turn left.

Shortly a side road angles off to left. Stop along this road, check mudflats for shorebirds. Morning light is best.

On north side of town go left on Bay Flat Rd., stop often, check bay. Near Cypress Dunes Campground check cypresses for vagrants. Just beyond, 2 small ponds on right for Virginia Rail, Sora, Snipe, phalaropes, Marsh Wren, Yellowthroat, some ducks; Red-Shouldered Hawk in area, Purple Martin has been seen. Continue to another cypress grove. "The Gulch" is on right shortly before road goes up hill. Vagrants often here. Walk trail up gulch; vegetation somewhat dense. Gray Catbird here a few years ago.

At bottom of hill park on left, check channel. Walk trail along shore, checking shore, channel. May see Oystercatchers here.

Drive up hill, turn left at fork, drive short distance, park. Look down into "Hole in the Head". Wood Ducks have been here, willows may have vagrants. Drive to end of this road, walk trail on hillside above harbor entrance, check jetties, shore.

Return to main road, turn left to parking lot at end atop Bodega Head. Nov.-Mar. a few Rock Sandpipers here, usually with Turnstones, Surfbirds. If not on rocks below parking lot, walk bluff north or south. Tattlers, Oystercatchers, cormorants, guillemots, sometimes Ancient Murrelet, Northern Fulmar; Tufted Puffin, Sabine's Gull possibly. Pelagics seen through scope. Often very windy, cold on the Head!!

Birding excellent all year (slow mid-summer but Magnificent Frigatebird late July 1973). Bay shallow, creates vast mudflats; low tide, birds too far away. On bay, ocean: loons, grebes (incl. Red-Necked), sometimes geese (incl. Black Brant), many ducks, Osprey, many shorebirds incl. Pectoral & Baird's Sandpiper (Ruff, Sharp-Tailed Sandpiper, Bar-Tailed Godwit have been reported), gulls incl. Kittiwake, Sabine's at times, several alcids. Many varied landbirds.

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MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY
Jean Richmond, Editor
125 Via Serena
Alamo, CA 94507

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The Quail

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

Pres.: Bruce Moorad
1419 Marchbanks Dr.
Walnut Creek, CA 94598
phone: 938-4446 or
938-9100

December 1977
Vol. 24, No. 5

Next deadline: December 5

Meeting: Thurs., Dec. 1. Doors open 6:30 p.m. Birdingformation: 7:00; business: 7:30; social time: 8:00; program: 8:30. Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek.

Field Trips: Sat., Dec. 3 & Sun., Dec. 11, Frank's Tract canoe trips. Both are full.
Thurs., Dec. 8, 8:30 a.m., Oursan Trail, Briones Reservoir. Plan to carry knapsack lunch and water. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).

Board Meeting: Thurs., Dec. 8, 7:00 p.m., home of Jimm Edgar, 3611 Chestnut St., Lafayette; phone: 283-3510. Board meetings are always open to members.

CHRISTMAS COUNT: Sat., Dec. 31, all day, rain or shine. Compiler: Bob Richmond, 125 Via Serena, Alamo 94507; phone: 837-2843.

Film: No Audubon films in December. Details next month for the January film.

* * * * *

Birdingformation, by Bob Richmond, will concern the Christmas Bird Count. This will be of interest even if you are not planning to work the CBC. Frank Beyer will narrate a slide program on the "Ecology of a Salt Marsh---Benicia". He will discuss ecology in general and specifically the ecology of the Benicia marsh.

Both the FRANK'S TRACT CANOE TRIPS are full.

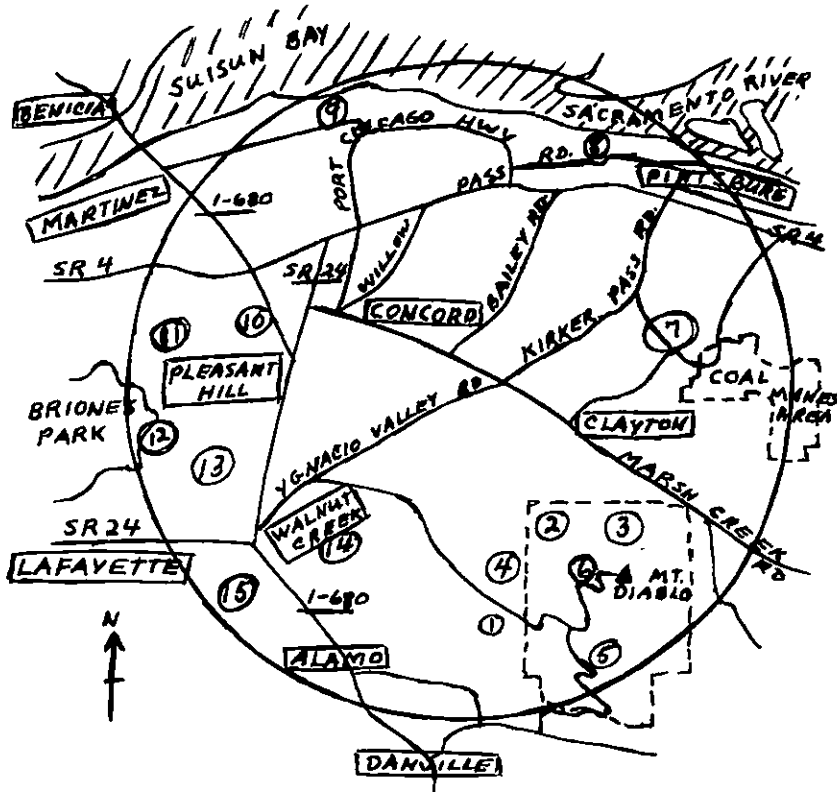
The OURSAN TRAIL at Briones Reservoir is a new area for our field trips. There should be Wood Ducks among the waterbirds on the lake and a variety of woodland birds along the trail. Take Upper Happy Valley Rd. exit from Freeway 24 in Lafayette, continue to Happy Valley Rd., turn left 2 miles to Bear Creek Rd., turn right across the creek and turn left into the staging area. Bring knapsack lunch, water.

* * * * *

Our CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, scheduled for Saturday, December 31, rain or shine, will again be compiled by Bob Richmond. 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 Roads, runs from Suisun Bay to Alamo, Camp Stoneman and most of Mt. Diablo State Park to east Lafayette and Briones Hills. We have averaged about 120 species on our CBC but with better coverage could run 130-140. Last year we had the personnel but the dreadful weather kept the count down. Inexperienced birders are welcome to assist on the count as there are things they can do to help the more expert. We also need people to count birds at feeders and gardens within our circle---contact Bob for information and instructions. If you have some special species staked out somewhere let Bob know about it ahead of time.

MDAS will pay the COST of participating in the Bird Count (probably \$1-\$1.50 per participant) but will gladly accept donations from those willing to pay their own.

During our COUNT PERIOD (Dec. 28-Jan. 3) if you should see within our CBC area a species uncommon or rare for this area contact Bob as soon as possible with full information. These sightings are included in our CBC report which is sent to National Audubon Society and will be published in American Birds next July.



TERRITORIES

1. Pine Canyon
2. Mitchell Canyon
3. Donner Canyon
4. Mt. Diablo--North Gate area
5. Mt. Diablo--South Gate area
6. Mt. Diablo--summit
7. Nortonville/Somerville area
8. North county marshes--east
9. North county marshes--west
10. Diablo Valley College area
11. Central county area
12. Briones Hills area
13. Reliez Valley area
14. Walnut Creek
15. Rossmoor/Tice Valley
16. Special assignments

Contact Bob as soon as possible and tell him which area you would prefer to work. If you have no preference he will assign you to the group most in need of people.

If you should find any bird which is RARE for our area, including those on the list which follows, write down all details, preferably before consulting a field guide:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. When and where seen and by whom | 5. Habitat |
| 2. Field marks actually seen (size, shape, color pattern, etc.) | 6. Distance |
| 3. Voice, if heard | 7. Optical equipment used |
| 4. Behavior | 8. Lighting, weather |
| | 9. Familiarity with that and similar species |

Then contact Bob as soon as possible---rarities have to be confirmed.

THE LIST:

Common Loon	Semipalmated Plover	Red-Breasted Nuthatch
Black-Crowned Night Heron	Spotted Sandpiper	Brown Creeper
Snow Goose	Lesser Yellowlegs	Winter Wren
Blue-Winged Teal	Black-Necked Stilt	Townsend's Solitaire
European Wigeon	Glaucous Gull	Orange-Crowned Warbler
Wood Duck	Western Gull	Black-Throated Gray Warbler
Red-Shouldered Hawk	Thayer's Gull	Townsend's Warbler
Rough-Legged Hawk	Burrowing Owl	Tricolored Blackbird
Ferruginous Hawk	Long-Eared Owl	Brown-Headed Cowbird
Bald Eagle	Poor-Will	Lawrence's Goldfinch
Prairie Falcon	Common Flicker	Sage Sparrow
Sandhill Crane	(Yellow-Shafted race)	Dark-Eyed Junco
Virginia Rail	Lewis' Woodpecker	(Slate-Colored race)
Sora	Common Raven	White-Throated Sparrow

Whether or not you take part in the count, be sure to join the fun at the post-count POTLUCK and COUNTDOWN. There are always good stories to be told about the day's events and much laughter along with the preliminary report of how well the count has gone. Come and cheer for the "goodies" found and groan 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 on the count need not go home and change as birding clothes are quite acceptable. Bring dishes and utensils. Coffee, tea and punch are provided but milk drinkers bring their own. Bring food for AT LEAST four times the number in your family attending as a day on the CBC makes birders hungry. A signup for food assignments will be at the December meeting or contact Olive Chadeayne at 937-3940 (before Dec. 20 or after Dec. 26) to advise her of what you would like to bring. We also would like to know about how many people to expect.

We need VOLUNTEERS to help set up chairs and tables beginning about 5:30. It would be a great service if those not working the count would do this for us. Call Olive Chadeayne (as above).

OTHER CHRISTMAS COUNTS. Dec. 17: Pt. Reyes, Sacramento, Red Bluff; Dec. 18: Putah Creek (Davis), Oakland, Santa Rosa, Benicia (Napa-Solano), Chico, South Lake Tahoe; Dec. 19: Peace Valley (Gray Lodge); Dec. 20 (not Dec. 19 as earlier noted): Mount Hamilton (new count); Dec. 26: Crystal Springs (Sequoia), Santa Clara Valley; Dec. 29 (?): Honey Lake; Dec. 31:(our date): Hayward-Fremont (Ohlone), Western Sonoma (Madrone), Año Nuevo (Sequoia), Oroville; Jan. 1: Marin, Angwin; Jan. 2: Redding. If you would like to work any of these counts (you may do as many as you wish) contact your editor for information.

Frank Beyer would like help on the BENICIA COUNT on Dec. 18. If you can assist him contact him at 409 Rollingwood Dr., Vallejo 94590; phone (707)-644-0236. Members of Napa-Solano will be helping us, so let's do the same for them.

* * * * *

FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

The trip to RODEO LAGOON, BATTERY WALLACE AND BUNKER HILL on October 8 was made by 26 members and guests. The day was mostly overcast, with some wind, but on Bunker Hill it was very foggy with a stiff, cold wind blowing. We saw no "eastern" vagrants or Broad-winged Hawks but did see White-Tailed Kites, a Black Swift, a flock of Golden-Crowned Kinglets and several warblers among the following 75 species:

Eared, Western & Pied-Billed Grebe, Brown Pelican, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Mallard, Pintail, American Wigeon, Canvasback, Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Sharp-Shinned, Cooper's, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, American Kestrel, California Quail, American Coot, Killdeer, Willet, Least Sandpiper, Sanderling, Glaucous-Winged, Western, Ring-Billed & Heermann's Gull, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Rock & Mourning Dove, Black Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Common (Red-Sh) Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Black & Say's Phoebe, Scrub Jay, Common Raven, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Wrentit, Bewick's & Long-Billed Marsh Wren, American Robin, Hermit Thrush, Golden-Crowned & Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Starling, Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Nashville, Yellow-Rumped (Audubon) & Townsend's Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Purple & House Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox & Song Sparrow.

On October 22 the trip to BOLINAS LAGOON, PRBO and 5-BROOKS was made by 21 members and guests on a beautiful, warm day with no wind. Although we had no unusual birds we did see a Townsend's Warbler fly into a net at PRBO, also 4 White-Tailed Kites, 6 Red-Shouldered Hawks, and at 5-Brooks we were treated to a very close view of a Winter Wren busily hunting insects on the undersides of picnic tables. The trip was rather leisurely but we found the following 91 species:

Horned, Eared, Western & Pied-Billed Grebe, Brown Pelican, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, American Wigeon, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Sharp-Shinned, Cooper's, Red-Tailed & Red-Shouldered Hawk, American Kestrel, California Quail, American Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Common Snipe, Long-Billed Curlew, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Long-Billed Dowitcher, Western Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, American Avocet, Glaucous-Winged & Ring-Billed Gull, Forster's Tern, Rock & Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Common (Red-Sh) Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Black & Say's Phoebe, Horned Lark, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Common Raven, Common Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Red-Breasted & Pygmy Nuthatch, Wrentit, Winter, Bewick's & Long-Billed Marsh Wren, American Robin, Varied & Hermit Thrush, Western Bluebird, Golden-Crowned & Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Hutton's Vireo, Yellow-Rumped (Myrtle & Audubon's) & Townsend's Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-Winged, Tricolored & Brewer's Blackbird, Purple & House Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox & Song Sparrow.

On October 26 eleven members went to SUNOL REGIONAL PARK where the morning was warm and clear but by midafternoon the skies became partly cloudy and a cold wind began to blow. We saw a dark-phase Red-Tailed Hawk, at least 2 adult and 2 immature Golden Eagles, 2 Prairie Falcons and a Dark-Eyed Junco with all the usual markings of an "Oregon" except that the entire face on both sides of the head was white. The following 47 species were seen or heard:

Turkey Vulture, Cooper's & Red-Tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, California Quail, gull sp, Rock Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Common (Red-Sh) Flicker, A-

corn Woodpecker, Yellow-Bellied (Red-Br) Sapsucker, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black & Say's Phoebe, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Yellow-Billed Magpie, Common Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Wrentit, Bewick's & Rock Wren, California Thrasher, American Robin, Varied & Hermit Thrush, Western Bluebird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, Yellow-Rumped (Audubon's) Warbler, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox & Song Sparrow.

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CAVE CREEK CANYON NEEDS HELP. Birdwatchers travel hundreds of miles to Cave Creek Canyon in southeast Arizona to see Mexican Chickadees, Zone-Tailed Hawks, Painted Redstarts, several hummingbirds and Coppery-Tailed Trogons. It is a birders' paradise, but it won't be much longer if the Forest Service gives in to current pressure to give the area over to mass recreation that would destroy its natural values.

At present, the canyon has no roads, only hiking trails. Rocky Mountain NAS Regional Representative Robert K. Turner has written to the Regional Forester, 517 Gold Avenue SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102, and urged him to put the canyon under some classification that will continue to protect its natural values, and keep out roads and off-road vehicles. Birders who want to help save Cave Creek Canyon are urged to follow Turner's lead. (Audubon Leader)

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BIRDING IN THE SACRAMENTO AREA, a 30-page booklet published by Sacramento Audubon, describes over 20 areas and includes 7 maps to aid in finding many of the over 300 species recorded there. Send check for \$3.00 (includes postage & handling) payable to Sacramento Audubon Society, to Betty Coppola, 1640 8th Ave., Sacramento 95818.

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CONSERVATION NOTES by J. P. Hauser.

In 1976 there were 268 million visitations to the 37 national parks (up 25% from just 10 years ago), a number exceeding the entire population of the United States.

Of the 7 top attractions to visitors from abroad, 6 are parks: Grand Canyon, Everglades, Mt. McKinley, Redwood, Hawaii Volcanoes and Yellowstone.

Great Smokey National Park in North Carolina and Tennessee has 8 million visitors a year.

The above statistics are listed to emphasize how used (and abused) our parks are. Statistics for other public lands would be as impressive. Our outdoors are being utilized as never before. The big, ongoing shift in recreation in this country is to the outdoors, and it involves big numbers of people and big money.

The last remaining frontier and last chance to set aside land for future generations in parks, refuges, wildernesses, etc., is in the big 50th, Alaska. House Bill H.R. 39, sponsored by Rep. Morris Udall, and S. 1500, by Sen. Lee Metcalf, would set aside 115 million of the 375 million acres in Alaska, and the bills are titled the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. A group of 13 conservation organizations banding together, the Alaska Coalition, support this legislation, National Audubon included.

At every turn, as members of one of the most prestigious and effective conservation organizations, you are asked to write a letter to somebody: somebody in Washington, or Sacramento, or Martinez. To eventually get the message to most people, this urging will continue. The conservation/environmental movement is the only one that will ensure a viable environment for all. Our abused and exploited technology by those greedy and those apathetic will easily destroy the very forces we all need to survive, let alone live.

Write a supporting letter to Representative Udall, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515 and to Senator Lee Metcalf, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. Simply state that you support their measures and/or add a few sentiments of your own. Letters help.

In "Democracy in America", Alexis de Tocqueville wrote of the United States he visited in 1831: "The Americans themselves never think about (the wilds). They are insensible to the wonders of inanimate nature....their eyes are fixed upon another sight, (they) march across these wilds, draining swamps, turning the course of rivers, peopling solitudes, and subduing nature."

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

Alamo: Mr. & Mrs. Walter H. McFarland; Concord: Helen Deman, Daniel I. Wilkowsky; Danville: Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Griswold, the R. W. Overfield family; Lafayette: Sterling Albert, Jr., Dave Gaus; Martinez: Mrs. A. Hulene Donovan; Orinda: Jene L. Lawson; walnut Creek: Bill Crouch, Mrs. William Huskamp, Dorothy Lowery, Paul Newell, Sue Paustian, Mrs. Francis Powell.

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THE PUBLIC TRUST IN THE BAY, biennial conference of the Save the San Francisco Bay Association, will be at Boalt Hall, Univ. of Calif., Berkeley, Sat., Dec. 10, 9:30-2:30. Speakers from BCDC, the State Lands Commission and other organizations will highlight this workshop on the public's rights to both the Bay and its shoreline. Contact Elaine Anderson, Program Coordinator, Save San Francisco Bay Association, P. O. Box 925, Berkeley 94701; 849-3053; for information and reservations.

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OBSERVATIONS Oct. 14-Nov. 9. (also see field trip reports)

Black Brant, 1, Princeton Harbor, San Mateo Co., Nov. 5--MDAS field trip.

Blue-winged Teal, 4, Palo Alto salt marsh, Nov. 5--MDAS field trip.

TUFFED DUCK, 2 males, returned to Lake Merritt Oct. 27 & 28, still there at least through Nov. 8--m.ob. "wintered there a year ago.

Barrow's Goldeneye, male, Lake Merritt, Nov. 8--JR, et al.

Oldsquaw, Bodega Bay, Nov. 1--JR, et al.

Hooded Merganser, female, off Bodega Head, Nov. 1--JR, et al.

Rock Sandpiper, Princeton Harbor, found Oct. 29--seen at least through Nov. 5 on MDAS field trip.

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER, Castroville sewer pond, Monterey Co., Oct. 16--LB, J&MP, DP, et al; Oct. 17--BR, JR.

Red Phalarope, 1, Princeton Harbor, Nov. 5--MDAS field trip.

Glaucous Gull, 2nd year, Pescadero Creek mouth, San Mateo Co., Oct. 25--JR, et al.

FRANKLIN'S GULL, 2, Salinas River mouth, Monterey Co., Oct. 18-29--m.ob.

SABINE'S GULL, imm., Roberts Lake, Seaside, Monterey Co., Oct. 27--DR; Oct. 29--MC, FLB, BR, JR, MAS.

Elegant Tern, 12, Princeton Harbor, Nov. 5--MDAS field trip.

Black Tern, Salinas River mouth, Oct. 18--AE, P#; Oct. 24--BR; Oct. 29--FLB, MC, BR, JR, MAS.

SAW-WHET OWL, Tilden Regional Park, Oct. 26--HJ, JR, FLB, ED, et al. JR watched it being mobbed by 8 Chestnut-backed Chickadees, 3 Hermit Thrushes, 2 Golden-crowned Kinglets, 25 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 2 "Audubon's" warblers, 1 Rufous-sided Towhee, 3 Fox Sparrows and 2 Song Sparrows for about 20 minutes.

Tropical Kingbird, Princeton sewage plant, Oct. 25--ED et al; "Hole-in-the Head", Bodega Bay, Nov. 1--JR, et al; Hall Ranch, Pt. Reyes, Nov. 2--BR.

BLUE JAYS have been found in California, 1 heard at Bunker Hill, Marin Co., Oct. 21 and 2 seen & photographed at Pt. St. George, Del Norte Co., Nov. 3-6.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO, Carmel River, Oct. 29--JR, BR, FLB, MC, MAS.

Black-and-white Warbler, Carmel River, Oct. 29--MC, FLB, BR, JR, MAS.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER, Carmel River, Oct. 17--BR, JR.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER, Carmel River, Oct. 27--DR; Oct. 29--MC, JR, BR, MAS.

Palm Warbler, several around Pt. Reyes and also at Carmel River and El Carmelo Cemetery, Pacific Grove, during the period--m.ob.

Lawrence's Goldfinch, 1, Crespi Pond, Pacific Grove, Oct. 24--BR.

Lapland Longspur, Hall Ranch, throughout the period--m.ob.

(Observers: Florence Bennett, Lawrence Binford, Elizabeth Dickey, Jimm Edgar, Art Edwards, Hans Johansen, John & Mike Parmeter, Darrell Peterson, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Debi Robinson, Peter Willmann, Marin Audubon Society, many observers)

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THE QUAIL, published monthly except a combined July-August issue, is sent without additional charge to National Audubon Society members affiliated with Mt. Diablo chapter. Subscription to non-member: \$3.00 per year, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer Mrs. Winnie Oroutt, 30 Iris Ln., Walnut Creek, CA 94595. Address changes (send also to NAS): Mrs. Jackie Knisley, 4741 Olive Dr., Concord, CA 94521. NOTE: Address changes sent to National do not change chapter affiliation unless such change is specifically requested by the member.

MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY NEW YEAR AND GOOD BIRDING TO ALL FROM THE RICHMONDS
Jean Richmond, Editor---125 Via Serena, Alamo, CA 94507---phone 837-2843
(Exchange bulletins for MDAS to this address, please.)

A series of BIRD IDENTIFICATION SEMINARS for advanced birders will be presented by Jon Winter, instructor of ornithology with more than 25 years of field experience and regional co-editor of American Birds. Six workshops, covering such subjects as fall warblers, gulls, flycatchers, petrels, shearwaters, etc., will be presented as illustrated lectures at NAS Whittell Education Center, Tiburon, 10:00 a.m.-12:30 on Sundays, Jan. 8, 22, Feb. 5, 12, Mar. 5, 12. Registration is \$30.00 or \$6.50 for any single session. Full descriptions and registration forms: National Audubon Society, Whittell Education Center, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon, CA 94920. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

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WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM TASK FORCE. Responding to widespread criticism by conservationists that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has been neglecting the National Wildlife Refuge System, Asst. Secretary of Interior Robert L. Herbst has appointed a 10-member task force to review the status of refuges and to recommend policy guidelines for future management. The team is considering such topics as haying, grazing, mining and mineral leases, predator control, land acquisition, hunting and trapping. Particular attention is being given to organization, administration, staffing and financing. C. Eugene Knoder, director of NAS Western Environmental Sciences Program and a member of the task force, is especially interested in hearing the views of Audubon chapters and members on: 1) whether to create a separate agency within Interior to administer the refuges; 2) whether the refuge system should continue to be open to sport, commercial and subsistence hunting and fishing. Write to him at 9250 West Fifth Ave., Lakewood, CO 80226.

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NEW SYMBOL USED. When reading scientific or detailed works on wildlife we often see symbols to denote the sex of the subject. The most often used are "Mar's arrow" denoting a male, "Venus' mirror" denoting a female. At times you may find these with two dots above them to denote it is of that sex and is also an immature. One major drawback to these symbols is that they cannot be duplicated adequately on a typewriter. Perhaps someday this will be rectified.

A recently devised symbol is found with increasing frequency. In many life forms, especially many species of birds, it is easy to tell male from female but immatures look like females. So at certain times of year it is impossible to tell female and immature birds apart. The symbol "Ø" is now used to denote life forms that may be either male or female immatures or adult female. (Portland Audubon Society)

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Due to the space needed for information concerning the Christmas Bird Count there is no Greater Bay Area Site Guide this month. That column will return next month.

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