



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

January 1978
Vol. 24, No. 6

Next deadline: January 10

Meeting: Thurs., Jan. 5. 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., Jan. 7, 8:00 a.m., Bay Bridge Toll Plaza marsh; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Freeway 24, 7:30. Leader: Tom Steller (837-9061).
Thurs., Jan. 19, 9:00 a.m., Lake Merritt; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Freeway 24, 8:30. Leader: Winnie Orcutt (944-0593).
Sat., Jan. 21, 8:30 a.m., Putah Creek and Lake Solano; carpool: Copper Penny, Sun Valley Center, 7:00. Leader: Tom Steller (834-3633).
Feb. 4-5. Sat., Los Banos and Merced wildlife refuges; Sun., Little Panoche Rd. Leader: Florence Bennett.

CHRISTMAS COUNT: Sat., Dec. 31. Compiler: Bob Richmond, 125 Via Serena, Alamo 94507; phone 837-2843. Count period: Dec. 28-Jan. 3, inclusive.

Screen Tour: Mon., Jan. 23, 8:00 p.m., Diablo Valley College gym. "Wildlife by Day and by Night" by Steve Maslowski. Preceded by no-host dinner, 6:00 p.m.

Board Meeting: Thurs., Jan. 12, 7:00 p.m., home of Jean Richmond, 125 Via Serena, Alamo; phone: 837-2843. Board meetings are always open to members.

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Birdingformation by Tom Steller will be Identification of Ducks, Part 1, a study of diving ducks on the water and in flight. The program will be "Waterfowl Migration" presented by Phil Schaeffer, manager of National Audubon's Richardson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary in Tiburon.

BAY BRIDGE TOLL PLAZA MARSH is excellent for waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls, terns, sometimes rails. The approach is tricky so be very alert. As you approach the toll plaza area keep in the far right lane, take the offramp marked "last Oakland exit and Oakland Army Base" then follow small signs toward the radio stations. We meet a short distance along that road where there is room to park off the pavement.

LAKE MERRITT is an excellent place to study grebes, waterfowl and gulls. A Tufted Duck which wintered there last year has returned as have several Barrow's Golden-eyes. Park in the lot between the boat dock and the large aviary then meet on the lake-side walkway behind Rotary Science Center at the corner of Bellevue and Perkins. If you arrive late we will be easy to find along the walk.

At **PUTAH CREEK** and **LAKE SOLANO** are Wood Ducks and other waterfowl, Lewis' Woodpecker, Dipper, Rock & Canyon Wrens, Phainopepla, possibly Whistling Swan, Osprey, Rufous-Crowned Sparrow. Take I-680 north to I-80, east to Cherry Glen exit, cross the freeway, go about a mile then left on Pleasant Valley Rd. about 14 miles to SR 128. Turn left about 5 miles and meet at the top of Monticello Dam.

The **WEEKEND** at Los Banos and Merced refuges, Little Panoche Rd. will have Bitterns, many waterfowl, hawks, shorebirds, Lewis' Woodpecker, magpie, Phainopepla, blue-birds, hopefully White-Faced Ibis, Ross' Goose, Chukar, Mountain Plover. If you go both days, motel reservation are advisable now. Two possibilities are Pea Soup

Anderson's Inn (Best Western), 12411 South Hwy 33, Santa Nella, CA 95322, just off I-5 about 11 miles from Los Banos; reservations toll free (800) 528-1234; rate for 2, \$24 up. Stardust Motel (AAA, Best Western), 2169 E. Pacheco Blvd., Los Banos, CA 93635, one mile east of town on SR 152 & 33; phone (209) 826-5016; 24-hour coffee shop; rate for 2, \$18 up.

If you would like to join the group at Wool Growers Restaurant in Los Banos Saturday night (Feb. 4) for family style Basque dinner, call Sally Steller (837-9061) by January 28 so she can make the necessary reservations.

The AUDUBON FILM chronicles, through the seasons, the diurnal and nocturnal activities of a wide variety of midwestern wildlife. As groups of animals retire with sunset, others awake and replace them in forests, fields and waterways. Preceding the film, a NO-HOST DINNER will be held to meet and talk with Mr. Maslowski, location to be announced at the January meeting, or call the MDAS phone 284-2260. (see pg. 6)

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Our CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT is scheduled for Saturday, December 31, rain or shine. If you plan to participate but have not yet contacted compiler Bob Richmond, do so immediately at 837-2843. If you have a feeder within our circle and will count birds there or allow someone else to do so, contact Bob for instructions. See the December issue for more details of our Christmas Count.

The \$1.50 per person COST of participating in the count will be paid by MDAS but we will be happy to accept donations from those willing to pay their own. If you are not a subscriber to American Birds and would like a copy of the Christmas Count reports, that issue of the magazine may be purchased for \$5.50. These fees should be paid to the leader of the party with which you work the count.

The post-count POTLUCK and compilation will be that evening at 6:30 at San Ramon Valley Methodist Church, Alamo. Bring cups, plates and utensils plus enough food for AT LEAST 4 times the number in your family attending. Call Olive Chadeayne at 937-3940 after Dec. 26 to tell her what you would like to bring and also how many in your family are coming. The dinner and compilation will end in plenty of time for you to attend any New Year's Eve celebration you may be planning to attend.

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FIELD TRIP REPORTS

At PALO ALTO SALT MARSH and PRINCETON HARBOR on November 5 the weather was clear, cool and calm in the morning but partly cloudy and windy in the afternoon. Rain during the night made some areas too muddy to walk and the lagoon behind the duck pond had a low water level but the birding was still good. We saw no Thayer's Gull or European Wigeon but did see 4 Blue-Winged Teal and 2 Burrowing Owls. Those who went on to Princeton added Black Brant, Rock Sandpiper and Red Phalarope. The following 89 species were seen or heard by 17 members and guests:

(Palo Alto) Eared, Western & Pied-Billed Grebe, Brown Pelican, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-Winged, Blue-Winged & Cinnamon Teal, American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Canvasback, Greater & Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Marsh Hawk, Ring-Necked Pheasant, American Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Long-Billed Curlew, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Short-Billed & Long-Billed Dowitcher, Western Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, American Avocet, Black-Necked Stilt, Glaucous-winged, Western, Herring, California, Ring-Billed, Mew & Bonaparte's Gull, Forster's Tern, Rock & Mourning Dove, Burrowing Owl, Black Phoebe, Barn Swallow, Common Crow, Long-Billed Marsh Wren, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, American Goldfinch, Savannah, White-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

(Princeton) Common & Red-Throated Loon, Western & Pied-Billed Grebe, Brown Pelican, Double-Crested, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Black Brant, Mallard, Greater & Lesser Scaup, White-Winged & Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Red-Breasted Merganser, American Kestrel, American Coot, Black Oystercatcher, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Surf-bird (7), Black Turnstone, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, ROCK SANDPIPER, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin dowitcher sp, Western Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, RED PHALAROPE, Glaucous-winged, Western, California, Ring-Billed, Mew & Heermann's Gull, Forster's & Elegant Tern, Rock & Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Common (Red-Sh) Flicker, Black Phoebe, Scrub Jay, Brewer's Blackbird, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Fox Sparrow.

The trip to MT. VIEW SANITATION DISTRICT on November 10 was made on a cool, mostly clear day with light wind. The discussion by biologist Fran Demgen of the plant and marsh was both interesting and informative. We saw an American Bittern, female Wood Duck and Common Gallinule among the following 36 species seen or heard:

Pied-Billed Grebe, Snowy Egret, American Bittern, Mallard, Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, Wood & Ruddy Duck, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, American Kestrel, Common Gallinule, American Coot, Killdeer, Common Snipe, Greater Yellowlegs, Least & Western Sandpiper, Glaucous-Winged, California & Ring-Billed Gull, Rook & Mourning Dove, Common (Red-Sh) Flicker, Black Phoebe, Long-Billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Starling, Yellow-Rumped (Audubon's) Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Savannah & White-Crowned Sparrow.

BIRDERS ARE WELCOME at Mt. View Sanitary District. Check in at the office when you arrive and when you leave give the personnel a list of birds seen. CAUTION: Avoid edges of paths as they may crumble. STAY AWAY FROM THE EDGE OF THE SLOUGH which looks shallow and innocent but has a bottom of fine, silty mud about 4 feet deep---dangerous if you should slip in.

Eight members went to PALO ALTO SALT MARSH on November 16 on a clear, warm day with light wind. Blue-Winged Teal, European Wigeon and Thayer's Gull were missed as were Short-Eared Owls which were looked for in the Flood Control Basin, but the following 56 species were seen or heard:

Western & Pied-Billed Grebe, Brown Pelican, cormorant sp, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-Winged & Cinnamon Teal, American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Greater & Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck, White-Tailed Kite, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, Ring-Necked Pheasant, American Coot, Killdeer, Common Snipe, Willet, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Long-Billed Dowitcher, Marbled Godwit, American Avocet, Black-Necked Stilt, Glaucous-Winged, Western, California, Ring-Billed, Mew & Bonaparte's Gull, Rook & Mourning Dove, Burrowing Owl, White-Throated Swift, Say's Phoebe, Com Crow, Long-Billed Marsh Wren, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Savannah, White-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

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MORE ON CAVE CREEK CANYON (see December Quail). The Coronado National Forest is doing a Land Use Planning for the entire forest, looking at all resources, weighing their relative importance, and deciding which are to be emphasized and which are secondary. Resources involved include mining, lumber, grazing, watershed protection, wildlife and recreation. Right now, the main local pressures on Cave Creek are for continued grazing, hunting and trapping, a paved and improved campground system, a paved trans-mountain highway, and perhaps a fishing lake!

Cave Creek Basin should be declared a Wildlife Habitat Management Area, managed by the Forest Service primarily for wildlife in the canyon. South Fork should be declared a National Zoological Area, more powerful and restrictive than the one above for the basin, to permit the Forest Service to do anything necessary to preserve its Biological values.

WRITE to the Forest Supervisor in Tucson with a copy to Douglas District Ranger in Douglas. Some important points to make, in your own words: (1) Point out national significance of Cave Creek Canyon as a biological area both for birding and research. Since we go a long distance, mention this. (2) Ask Cave Creek Basin be designated a Wildlife Habitat Management Area. (3) Ask South Fork be designated a National Zoological Area. (4) Ask that the Management Plan (which must be drawn up) emphasize the importance of managing for diversity of wildlife and especially the rarer forms such as Trogon, Zone-Tailed Hawk, Coati Mundi, Banded Rock Rattlesnake. Mention the importance of maintaining the values and conditions that bring birders and scientists to the canyon. (5) Ask how they are complying with the Endangered Species Act requiring Federal Agencies to review their holdings for the presence of endangered and threatened wildlife and its habitats. (6) Request you be informed of any action or proposed action regarding Cave Creek Canyon's future.

Write: Ken Weissenbord, Supervisor	and	Bernard Brunner
Coronado National Forest		Douglas District Ranger
301 West Congress Street		1925 A. Avenue
Tucson, Arizona 85701		Douglas, Arizona 85607

Your editor has further, more detailed information. Those in the Forest Service who will make these decisions are sympathetic and are becoming more aware of the importance of Cave Creek to birders and scientists. They need your support!!!

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

Concord: Julie R. Culver, Blaise Delac, Rod Froke family; Danville: Eric Waisenan; Lafayette: Mrs. Jennifer Al-Faqih, S. K. Freeman, Jack G. Rarig; Martinez: L. R. Hough, Mrs. W. D. Hull; Orinda: M. Smith; Pleasant Hill: Patricia A. Frost, Mrs. Marion McDearmid; San Leandro: Pamela Ferris Olson; San Ramon: H. Edward & Emily Winnie; Walnut Creek: Katherin M. Chapman, Linda Hartung, Ann M. Hurd, Dean M. Lemay, Mrs. Sara Mangels, Matt Schroeder, John & Julie Vincent.

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MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN. We hope that you are encouraging friends and acquaintances to join National Audubon Society. To encourage you in this we are offering a print, "Red-Shafted Flicker" by Guy Coheleach, to those who recruit three new members. These 16"x20" prints are from Regency House Art, Inc. To qualify for a free print send application forms with names and addresses along with checks made payable to National Audubon Society, to Treasurer Winnie Orcutt, 30 Iris Ln., Walnut Creek, CA 94595. You may send gift memberships yourself or new members may give their check and application form to you to send to us for forwarding to New York. NOTE: Checks and applications for the three memberships must be submitted together to qualify you for a print. Application forms are found in every issue of Audubon or you may contact Bruce Moorad, Jimm Edgar (283-3510) or Jean Richmond. There are only a limited number of these prints available, so act soon.

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Mt. Diablo Audubon Society PHONE NUMBER, 284-2260, frequently changed taped message giving information about our coming activities, such as meetings, field trips.

Bay Area RARE BIRD ALERT, 843-2211, changed weekly, usually Wednesday afternoon.

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CONSERVATION NOTES by J. P. Hauser.

While the Redwood National Park Bill languishes in the files of Congress awaiting the next session, the logging interests will lobby on and on with the tired argument that jobs, therefore, profits, should be saved, not trees. In earlier years there was no one around to guide the sardine industry, which once employed 25,000 Californians, in the wise ways of conservation, and so the quest for jobs and profit ruined it; wiped it out. Secretary of the Interior, Cecil Andrus, said it accurately: "If you're really interested in your workers, you'd better get out and start planting trees, or else you'd better give up what you're doing and start organizing shoe clerks, because time is going to be gone." Amazing as it may sound, especially in light of the enormous propaganda spread by the timber companies, there has not been a tradition of planting trees; we passionately save jobs, and ignore reality. There just won't be any trees left.

I wonder who is responsible for trying to make the Guinness Book of Records with the biggest incidence of lung cancer in one area. Statistics show that the rate of lung cancer in Contra Costa County jumped from 41 per 100,000 population in 1969-71 to 51.8 in 1974 and 58.8 in 1975. The national average was 19 per 100,000, while Los Angeles had a rate of 45.5. California is now experiencing a growing cancer epidemic, and more than one-quarter of the people living in our state will develop cancer. Air pollution is responsible, yet the sources of this pollution increase yearly; more cars, more industry. And both of them bitterly fight measures designed to clean up their act. Again, traditionally, property and profits have a higher priority.

Two environmental bills were enacted in California: the sale of fluorocarbon aerosol propellants is prohibited after April, 1979; and the Litter Control, Recycling and Resource Recovery Act of 1977 was passed.

Lest you have forgotten, become discouraged, or apathetic: a savings of 40% can be made by placing two-quart plastic bottles in a five gallon toilet tank; reduce the average number of toilet flushes from five a day to four; placing flow restrictors on spigots; cutting shower time from an average of 5½ to 4½ minutes; and using household "graywater" for landscape watering.

I hope your holidays were merry and the coming year will be successful and happy.

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The new NON-GAME WILDLIFE DECAL is a Peregrine Falcon design by a 14-year-old Atwater girl. Contributors of \$5 or more receive a decal, certificate and Non-Game Wildlife Newsletter. These will be available at our meetings but if you are unable to attend, send check, payable to Non-Game Wildlife, to Box DFG, Sacramento 95801.

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WATERBIRDS OF CALIFORNIA by Dr. Howard L. Cogswell is now available at local bookstores. Introductory chapters treat feeding, flocking, migration, etc.; techniques of observing birds, including record keeping, binoculars and scopes, photography and conservation. The Species Accounts include recognition, habits, range and occurrence in California. The Graphic Calendar summarizes information on actual abundance in preferred habitats and in different districts of the state. There are 12 color plates plus many excellent line drawings. Published by U.C. Press in its California Natural History Guide series, the book sells for \$5.75.

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RAPTORS OF CALIFORNIA is an 85-page, photo-illustrated publication available free from Dept. of Fish & Game. There are descriptions and life histories of 34 species of hawks, eagles, falcons and owls, including areas where they might be seen. Single copies: Conservation Education Branch, Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game, 1416 Ninth St., Sacramento, CA 95814. Larger quantities at 70¢ each (including tax): Office of Procurement, Publications Section, P. O. Box 1015, North Highlands, CA 95660.

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OBSERVATIONS Nov. 10-Dec. 6. (also see field trip reports)

Red-Necked Grebe, 3, Coast Guard Pier, Monterey, Nov. 12--FlB, MC, EM, JR.
Northern Fulmar, intermediate phase, Pt. Pinos, Monterey Co., Nov. 12--JR, FlB.
Cattle Egret, 10, Warren Sod Farm, Cordelia Rd., 3.9 miles east of I-680, Solano Co., Dec. 4--AE, PW; 1, Frank's Tract, Dec. 3--MDAS canoe trip.
Whistling Swan, Lake Solano, Solano Co., Dec. 4--AE, PW.
BRANT, eastern light-bellied race, Bodega Bay, Nov. 22--JR, BF, et al.
Ross' Goose, 2, Frank's Tract, Dec. 3--MDAS canoe trip.
European Wigeon, male, Elk Glen Lake, Golden Gate Park, Dec. 6--JR, BF, et al.
Wood Duck, male, Lake Merritt, Dec. 2-5--m.ob.
Redhead, pair, Lake Solano, Dec. 4--AE, PW.
PUFFED DUCK, 1 male, still at Lake Merritt through Dec. 6--m.ob.
Barrow's Goldeneye, at least 3 males, Lake Merritt, at least through Dec. 3--m.ob.
Oldsquaw, male, Bodega Bay, Nov. 22--JR, BF, et al; 3, Arcata, Nov. 26--FlB, BF.
Hooded Merganser, female, Lake Solano, Nov. 20--JR, FlB, MC, H&JG; female, Lake Anza, Tilden Park, Nov. 19--ED, JR; 1 male, 3 females, 5-Brooks pond, Marin Co. Nov. 19-29--BR, RH, JR, BF, et al.
Common Merganser, Monticello Dam, Yolo Co., Nov. 27--JE.
BROAD-WINGED HAWK, Tiburon, Marin Co., Dec. 5-6--RS, et al.
Red Knot, 100, Bay Bridge Toll Plaza marsh, Dec. 3--FlB, BF, RS, et al.
Red Phalarope, Bodega Bay, Nov. 22--JR, BF, et al.
SNOWY OWL, Arcata, Humboldt Co., Nov. 24-Dec. 3--DA, FlB, BF, m.ob.
Saw-Whet Owl, Battery Wallace, Marin Co., Nov. 25--KY, MJ&BG, JE, BF, et al.
COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD, 2 males, Arcata, Nov. 26--DR, FlB, BF, et al.
Tropical Kingbird returned to Lake Merced, San Francisco, Oct. 16, still there through Dec. 6--m.ob. One wintered there last year.
Dipper, Putah Creek, below Monticello Dam, during period--m.ob.
BENDIRE'S THRASHER, still at Parkers' home, Courtland, Sacramento Co.
Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Carmel River, Monterey Co., Nov. 12--JE, FlB, MC, EM, JR; Putah Creek, Yolo Co., Dec. 4--AE, PW.
Black-and-White Warbler, Carmel River, Nov. 12--JE, FlB, MC, EM, JR.
Lawrence's Goldfinch, Pleasant Valley Rd., 3 miles south of SR 128, Solano Co., Dec. 4--AE, PW.
SHARP-TAILED SPARROW, Bolinas Lagoon, mid-Nov.-Dec. 6--m.ob. Wintered there last year.
SNOW BUNTING, base of Monticello Dam, Nov. 19-Dec. 6--DW, FlB, BF, m.ob.

(Observers: David Allen, Florence Bennett, Maxine Clason, Elizabeth Dickey, Jimm Edgar, Art Edwards, Bud Fry, Helen & Jerry Gentile, Mary Jane & Bill Greene, Ralph Hudgins, Bruce Moorad, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Dave Rudholm, Rich Stallcup Peter Willmann, Dave Winkler, Keiko Yamane, 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 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.)

GREATER BAY AREA SITE GUIDE: Putah Creek and Lake Solano.

Access as on page 1 or go east on I-80 past Vacaville, north on I-505 to Winters, west on SR 128 ten miles to Monticello Dam (a little longer but less driving time).

Lake Berryessa. From parking lot atop dam, scope lake for loons, grebes, herons, waterfowl. Swifts overhead. Townsend's Solitaire sometimes on slope above road in winter.

Base of dam. Return along SR 128 to bridge just below dam, park and walk dirt road along north side of creek to dam. Look for Spotted Sandpiper, Dipper, Canyon and Rock Wrens along creek; Rufous-Crowned Sparrow and "Slate-Colored" Junco along creek and on hillside in winter. Snow Bunting at dam Nov. 19—at least Dec. 6, 1977.

Creek: Drive east along SR 128, checking creek wherever you can get safely off road; also stop at some of large parking areas to check creek and surrounding area. Ducks wintering along here may include Wood Duck, Hooded Merganser. Osprey often fish creek. Vespar Sparrow at largest parking lot (open field across road).

Solano County Park. At Pleasant Valley Rd. turn right, cross bridge, turn left, park in day-use area. Thoroughly check the water (upper end of Lake Solano) especially along shore and island for Wood Duck, Ring-Necked Duck, Hooded Merganser, Common Gallinule among waterbirds. Walk east along lakeshore checking water and riparian vegetation. Hepatic Tanager here Sept. 1976. In area are Osprey, woodpeckers (including Lewis'), Brown Creeper, bluebird, Phainopepla, flycatchers (summer), vireos, many warblers (spring, fall). Walk across road from day-use area to campground, check riparian habitat along creek.

Fishing access. Go south on Pleasant Valley Rd. 1 mile, left on Putah Creek Rd. about 1 mile to fishing access. (Solano County began "improving" area but Davis Audubon has worked out a compromise which should prevent further deterioration of the area.) Birders can walk in to check lake for waterfowl (Whistling Swan, Gadwall, Blue-Winged Teal, European Wigeon, Redhead have been seen) and chaparral species (excellent for California Thrasher). Phainopepla, Rufous-Crowned Sparrow possible along road.

Putah Diversion Dam. Continue east about a mile to dam. Park and check large wintering flock of waterfowl for Whistling Swan, Gadwall, European Wigeon, Redhead. Northern Shrike here in Jan., Feb. 1975.

Watch throughout area for White-Tailed Kite, hawks, eagles, Osprey, Great Horned & Pygmy Owl, bluebird. Birding good all year but weather hot in summer, may be many people on weekends.

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LATE FLASH. Dinner preceding Audubon Film Jan. 23 will be at Lyon's Restaurant in Sun Valley Center next to Macy's.

MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY
Jean Richmond, Editor
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February 1978
Vol. 24, No. 7

Next deadline: February 10

Meeting: Thurs., Feb. 2. 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: RAIN on trip day? Call leader---trip might be postponed a week or two.
Feb. 4-5. Sat.: Los Banos & Merced Wildlife Refuges; meet 8:45 a.m. near Shell Station at I-5, Hwy 140 interchange. Sun.: Little Panoche Rd.; meet 8:00 a.m. in roadside rest on I-5 about 17 mi. south of Hwy 152. Leader: Florence Bennett (837-9061). Come for either or both days.

Wed., Feb. 8, 10:00 a.m., Thornton area; carpool: Copper Penny, Sun Valley Center, 8:30. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).

Sat., Feb. 11, 7:30 a.m., Concord Naval Weapons Station. Meet: parking lot at main gate. Leader: Bob Gallagher (682-2458). Limited to 20.

Wed., Feb. 15, 9:00 a.m., U.C. Botanical Garden; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Freeway 24. Leader: Elizabeth Diokey (254-0486).

Sat., Feb. 18, 4:30 a.m., Redwood Reg. Park; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Freeway 24, 4:00 a.m. Leader: Darrell Peterson (685-1115).

Screen Tour: Mon., Feb. 27, 8:00 p.m., Diablo Valley College gym. "Kangaroos Can't Be Cornered" by Lionel Hudson. Preceded by no-host dinner at 6:00 p.m.
→ **NOTE:** SITE OF THE JAN., FEB. MAR. DINNERS HAS BEEN CHANGED. See pg. 2.

Board Meeting: Thurs., Feb. 16, 7:15 p.m., home of Laurie Rask, 944 Mohr Ln., Concord; phone: 676-9598. Board meetings are always open to members.

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Birdingformation, led by Tom Steller, will be Identification of Ducks, Part 2, a discussion of the surface feeding ducks. Long-time MDAS members Evelyn and Victor Mann will present a slide program, "Butterflies, et al," mostly of butterflies (including metamorphosis) but some slides of birds, spiders, insects, etc.

On the LOS BANOS/MERCED WILDLIFE REFUGES and PANOCHÉ weekend we will look for Bittern, White-Faced Ibis, waterfowl including Ross' Goose, hawks, shorebirds in the refuges, Chukar, Mountain Plover, Lewis' Woodpecker, magpie, Phainopepla, bluebird in Panoche Valley. If you plan to go both days make motel reservations immediately (see January Quail). To join the group for Saturday dinner contact Sally Steller at once (837-9061). Walnut Creek to I-5, Hwy 140 junction is 82 miles, about 1½ hr. (allow more time if any fog). Note: Sun. meeting place differs from Sat. To go from Los Banos take Hwy 165 (Mercey Springs Rd.) to I-5 then south about 5½ mi.

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

CONCORD NAVAL WEAPONS STATION is a new area for us. We hope to see Bittern, waterfowl possibly including Blue-Winged Teal, Rough-Legged Hawk, shorebirds, gulls, se-

veral landbirds hopefully including Tricolored Blackbird. There is NO SMOKING on this trip!!! Those who wish to go must contact Bob Gallagher (only 20 people may go) who will give directions to the meeting place.

The U.C. BOTANICAL GARDEN will be a trip for many interesting plants as well as hawks and several species of land birds. Take SR 24 west then Fish Ranch Rd. to the top of the hill, turn right on Grizzly Peak Blvd. to Centennial Dr., then left down the hill to the Botanical Garden on the left.

The REDWOOD REGIONAL PARK trip is an Owl Prowl. Gates to the south entrance off Redwood Rd. are locked at night and there is little parking outside so carpooling is highly recommended. Bring a good strong flashlight, good strong coffee. With a little luck we should find Barn, Screech, Great Horned and possibly Saw-Whet Owl.

In his AUDUBON FILM Lionel Hudson photographed elusive Red Kangaroos and came back with some rare footage. With sequences on the Dingo, or wild dog, and conveying the spirit of the Australian outback this is a superlative film technically and artistically. Preceding the film meet and talk with Mr. Hudson at a NO-HOST DINNER at Copper Penny in Sun Valley Center. Dinner for the January, February and March films was scheduled for Lyons but that restaurant abruptly closed in mid-January, requiring a last minute switch in our plans.

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Our CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT on December 31 was a great success, with much better weather than we had for the previous count. The morning was foggy or partly cloudy but the skies were mostly clear in the afternoon, the temperature ranged from cold early in the day to comfortable by afternoon, and the winds were light. We added two new species to our list: Red-Throated Loon on Count Day and Peregrine Falcon in the Count Period. Other good "finds" included 4 Blue-Winged Teal, 2 European Wigeon, Wood Duck, Rough-Legged Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Thayer's Gull, Lewis' Woodpecker, Common Raven, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Tricolored Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird and Rufous-Crowned Sparrow. The 70 observers found 132 species which broke last year's record-breaking total of 127. The number of individual birds seen was 91,301 which, if not a record, is at least greater than we have counted in recent years. The following species were tallied:

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

Seen during the Count Period (Dec. 28-Jan. 3) but not on Count Day were Common Merganser and Peregrine Falcon.

Thanks go to all those who took part in the Count, those who assisted with the potluck dinner which followed, and most of all, a big THANK YOU to our compiler, Bob Richmond, for a very well-organized count!!!

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We are very happy to announce that the CAMPERSHIP to Audubon Camp of the West this summer has been awarded to Richard Brewer, a ranger at Mt. Diablo State Park.

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FIELD TRIP REPORTS

The November 19 trip to LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR was made by 31 members and guests on a clear, cold, occasionally breezy day. We had marvelous views of 2 adult Golden Eagles, a Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher was heard and Ruby-Crowned Kinglets were everywhere. We heard or saw the following 57 species:

Pied-Billed Grebe, Canada Goose, Mallard, Ring-Necked Duck, scaup sp., Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Golden Eagle, American Kestrel, California Quail, American Coot, Killdeer, Glaucous-Winged, Western, California & Ring Billed Gull, Rock Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Common (Red-Sh) Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Yellow-Bellied (Red-Br) Sapsucker, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black & Say's Phoebe, Violet-Green Swallow, Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, Bewick's & Long-Billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, California Thrasher, American Robin, Hermit Thrush, Western Bluebird, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Yellow-Rumped (Myrtle & Audubon's) Warbler, Red-winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox & Song Sparrow.

On December 3, our first canoe trip was held at FRANK'S TRACT on a cold day with morning fog which later cleared, and a light wind. The 22 participants, including our members and the leaders from Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum, saw a Cattle Egret and 2 Ross' Geese among the following 58 species:

Pied-Billed Grebe, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Cattle, Great & Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, American Bittern, Whistling Swan, Snow & Ross' Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-Winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Wood Duck, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck, White-Tailed Kite, Sharp-Shinned, Red-Tailed, Red-Shouldered & Marsh Hawk, American Kestrel, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Gallinule, American Coot, Killdeer, dowitcher sp., Glaucous-Winged, California & Ring-Billed Gull, Belted Kingfisher, Common (Red-Sh) Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Violet-Green Swallow, Common Crow, Wrentit, Bewick's & Long-Billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Yellow-Rumped (Myrtle & Audubon's) Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-Headed, Red-winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, House Finch, Rufous-Sided Towhee, White-Crowned, Fox & Song Sparrow.

The trip on OURSAN TRAIL at Briones Reservoir on December 8 was made by 16 members on a day that was foggy and cold in the morning, clear and cool in the afternoon, with light winds. We found 15 Wood Ducks and a female Ring-Necked Duck among the following 53 species seen or heard:

Eared & Pied-Billed Grebe, Double Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Mallard, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Wood Duck, Ring-Necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-Shinned, Cooper's & Red-Tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, American Coot, Spotted Sandpiper, gull sp., Rock & Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Common (Red-Sh) Flicker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, American Robin, Varied & Hermit Thrush, Western Bluebird, Golden-Crowned & Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Yellow-Rumped (Audubon's) Warbler, Western Meadowlark, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

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ASILEMAR - 1978. The new issue of Audubon Conservation Topics, West, which should be in your mail shortly, contains full information about the biennial Western Regional Conference, March 18-21: activities, agenda, accommodations, registration forms, etc. If you do not receive your copy and wish information about the conference, please contact your president or editor. Members and non-members alike are welcome at the conference.

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Conference: DREDGING IN S.F. BAY; OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE, Sat., Feb. 25, 9:30-4:00, at NAS Whittell Education Center, Tiburon. Speakers from Calif. Dept. Fish & Game, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, BCDC, Reg. Water Quality Control Board, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency. Moderator: Dr. Richard Martyr, Western Representative of NAS. No charge, but please register in advance---space is limited. Call Whittell Center at 388-2524 (Wed.-Sun.) to register.

* * * * *

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

Alamo: Paul & Ruth Hallberg, Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Husted, Mrs. R. Reichert;
Antioch: Milt Chakedis, Mollie Sells, Eugene Stonacek; Concord: Mr. & Mrs. Donald DeGolia, Martin Gerber, George & Ida Griffith, William Herments, George & Dorothy Scheffel, Ms. E. J. Stephenson, Michael A. Suchy; Danville: Joe & Kay Broyles, Judith K. Tucker, Donald C. Uber, Ms. Sue Warner; Lafayette: D. G. Park, T. H. Schultz, Miss Eva Stallone; Martinez: Mr. Chris Jorgensen; Pittsburg: Victoria Micu; Pleasant Hill: David Baldwin, Kathleen Fuehr; San Ramon: Mr. & Mrs Avery Goldman; Walnut Creek: Patti Berzel, Mrs. R. Blakeman, Mrs. S. Geary, Mrs. M. M. Heatherley, Joan & Harmon Howard, Mrs. John R. Jaques, Russell D. Jones, Robert Kalbaugh, David Kormel, Stevan C. Mays, Mrs. & Mrs. E. T. McManus, Dr. & Mrs. P. J. Moorad, Mr. & Mrs. David Rogers, Dorothy Wilson.

* * * * *

CONSERVATION NOTES by J. P. Hauser.

Probably the hottest environmental issue to come up this year is the continuing controversy over Alaska National Interest Lands legislation embodied in HR 39 by Representative Morris K. Udall. Last July and August the House Subcommittee on General Oversight and Alaska Lands held hearings and traveled widely in Alaska. It has been well advertised that most Alaskans are rabidly anti-environmental. Results of hearings say otherwise. In Juneau, 200 witnesses split 50-50 over the Udall bill. In Ketchikan, a stronghold of pro-development, the split was 123 against, 46 in favor. In Anchorage, 135 in favor, 131 opposed. In Fairbanks, of 289 witnesses, the score was evenly divided. The frontier mentality was evident in noisy demonstrations, protest signs, and packed hearing rooms, but the real substance that emerged after days of testimony and on-the-ground inspections, was that Alaskans reached almost unanimous agreement that action had to be taken to resolve the years-old issue of federal land management and land preservation. The mandate is clear.

Later this year the big vote will be cast. HR 39 has been marked up; the administration has made a counter proposal, and the days needed for compromising and politicking are upon us. Again, you are urged to write letters to George Miller, our Congressman, House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20510, and to Rep. Morris K. Udall, same address.

If you are wondering where the environmental movement is today, the following poll results should be revealing and hopeful: In a Harris Poll before last year's election, more than two-thirds of the public believed the next President should make air and water pollution control a major concern of his Administration (the top concerns were inflation and peace). In a Harris Survey that year asking which issues relating to the quality of life were "most important to you personally," more people named air pollution than any other issue (over such issues as education and unemployment). In 1969, only 33% of Black Americans felt there was too little support for the environment; in 1976, 58% of them felt that way. Black Americans, especially in the inner city, are worried about the quality of the air they breathe.

After reading arguments supporting mining, timber and related developments in any given area, seldom, if ever, is mentioned the problem of disposing and/or creating the incredible amount of junk accumulated during and after developing. Recently the Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation sent an 86-page report to President Carter describing the huge accumulation of debris caused by oil exploration and military construction. Waste was described as enormous, but the report estimates that its junk list represents less than 20% of all the debris scattered over the State. Cleanup costs (on taxpayers, of course) would run into the millions.

There is a 200-unit subdivision above the hills of Crockett before the various political bodies for approval. It calls for moving huge amounts of earth to level hills and ridges in a large area. The local people have written letters to a long list of organizations asking for support in their opposition to the project. It will probably be approved. The subdivision will no doubt help Crockett economically, but will signal the beginning of a growth that will raise everyone's taxes and lower the environmental quality forever.

* * * * *

RIPARIAN FOREST PROCEEDINGS from the 1977 symposium on Riparian Forests in California are available from Institute of Ecology, 2132 Wickson Hall, Univ. of Calif., Davis, CA 95616. Send check for \$3.50 payable to Univ. of Calif. Regents. Copies of the 1976 proceedings: check for \$2.00 payable to Davis Audubon Society, to Davis Audubon Society, P. O. Box 886, Davis, CA 95616.

* * * * *

PLAYING THE GAME - A PLEA FOR RESPONSIBILITY. Auduboners have long played a game with each other. It is called "Compiling a Life List", keeping a record of all the species of birds seen in one's lifetime. Five hundred birds compose a respectable number, and a thousand birds denote a world traveler and keen observer. Comparing Life Lists may be the part of Audubon our members enjoy the most. All thoughtful participants must admit, however, that it is not our most valuable contribution to the world we live in. That lies in conservation.

Competition, the source of game fun, leads to irresponsible acts. Audubon members have been guilty of playing birdcalls in Arizona canyons and Florida swamps to the extent that the birds they sought found refuge elsewhere. Recently, the Benicia State Park was the scene of such an incident. One of the larger Audubon groups nearby scheduled a hunt for the Black Rail a week before our Christmas Count. Our leader protested. He asked them not to come at such a critical time. Nevertheless, they came, tramped the marsh, flushing one Black Rail. In an attempt to capture the bird, they killed it. Now, Black Rails are timid creatures. Knowing this, most Napa-Solano Audubon members have foregone looking for the birds except at Christmas Count time. Few of us have seen it. This we regret. Perhaps we do not regret it nearly as much as the visiting Audubon Society does their wanton act. That this year we have no Black Rails to report on our Christmas Count is regrettable but no tragedy. Tragic it is, however, that eagerness to add one more bird to a Life List leads people dedicated to conservation to kill the things they love. (Song Sparrow, Genevieve B. Sears, Editor, Napa-Solano Audubon Society)

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OBSERVATIONS Dec. 7-Jan. 14. Also see CBC and field trip reports.

Red-Throated Loon, Benicia SRA, Benicia CBC, Dec. 18--several MDAS members.

Northern Fulmar, several, off Bodega Head, Dec. 30--BR, JR, FLB, AE.

Manx Shearwater, Monterey Bay, Jan. 14--BR, WFO pelagic trip.

Ashy Storm-Petrel, Monterey Bay, Jan. 14--BR, WFO pelagic trip.

Cattle Egret, 16, High School Rd., Sebastopol, Dec. 2--KB; Pleasanton sewage ponds, Dec. 23--AE.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL, Moss Landing CBC, Jan. 1--PG, et al; still there Jan. 14.

EMPEROR GOOSE, 3, Limantour Natural Area, Pt. Reyes, Dec. 28--DR, m.ob.; still there at least through Jan. 11; 1, Moss Landing CBC, Jan. 1--ER, et al.

Ross' Goose, up to 6, Kennedy County Park, Napa, late Nov. at least through Dec. 19--m.ob.

Greater Scaup, Shadow Cliffs Regional Park, Dec. 23--AE.

TUFTED DUCK, female, Muddy Hollow, Pt. Reyes, Jan. 7--RS, FLB, et al.

Barrow's Goldeneye, Muddy Hollow, Jan. 7--RS, FLB, et al.

Oldsquaw, Bodega Bay, Dec. 23--H&JG, FLB.

Harlequin Duck, male, Lovers' Point, Pacific Grove, Jan. 14--BR, et al.

Hooded Merganser, female, Benicia SRA, Benicia CBC, Dec. 18--several MDAS members; male, 3 females, still at 5-Brooks pond, Pt. Reyes--m.ob.

Red-Breasted Merganser, female, Benicia SRA, Benicia CBC, Dec. 18--ED, JR.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK, imm., still at Tiburon, Marin Co.--m.ob.

Rough-Legged Hawk, Port Chicago Rd., Dec. 30--B&JK.

Ferruginous Hawk, 4, Altamont Pass, Dec. 23--AE.

Bald Eagle, imm., High School Rd., Sebastopol, Dec. 7--KB.

Rock Sandpiper, still on rocks below Bodega Head--m.ob.

Red Phalarope, 3, off Bodega Head, Dec. 30--BR, FLB, JR, AE; 50, Monterey Bay, Jan. 14--BR, WFO pelagic trip.

Black-Legged Kittiwake, Bodega Head, Dec. 23--FLB, H&JG.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER, along Pajaro River, Watsonville, on Moss Landing CBC, Jan. 1--EM, et al; still there Jan. 14--m.ob.

Hermit Warbler, along Pajaro River, on Moss Landing CBC, Jan. 1--PG, et al.

Palm Warbler, Bodega Bay, Dec. 23--H&JG, FLB.

Brown-Headed Cowbird, their Concord garden, 1, Dec. 27, 4, Jan. 2--B&BG,

Evening Grosbeak, up to 17, Pajaro River, on Moss Landing CBC, Jan. 1--m.ob; at least 6 still there Jan. 10--JR, BR.

HARRIS' SPARROW has returned to Fairchild Corp, Palo Alto--wintered there last year.

White-Throated Sparrow, Fairchild Corp., mid-Dec. at least through Dec. 24--m.ob.

(Observers: Florence Bennett, Kathy Biggs, Elizabeth Dickey, Art Edwards, Bob & Betty Gallagher, Helen & Jerry Gentile, Phil Gordon, Bob & Jackie Knisley, Eugene Makishima, Elsie Richey, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, David Robinson, Rich Stallcup, Western Field Ornithologists, many observers)

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GREATER BAY AREA SITE GUIDE: Thornton area.

Access: See page 1. On SR 12 watch for birds along both sides of road. Be very careful if you pull over & stop--often much fast traffic here. Geese, ducks can be hard to spot while feeding in stubble fields. Sometimes a detour off SR 12 up Glasscook Rd. produces many Whistling Swans.

Woodbridge Rd. Drive slowly west. Should be thousands of Sandhill Cranes, Whistling Swans, geese, several species ducks. Listen for marvelous calls of Sandhills (one of my favorite sounds)--can be heard quite a distance. This time of year Cranes should be beginning courtship dance which is great fun to see. Watch for Green Heron in drainage ditches. Female Merlin along here in 1976.

Peltier & Blossom Rds. Return to Thornton Rd., turn left to Peltier Rd., turn left. Drive slowly, watch for cranes. Tangles along roadside usually full of sparrows. Just before road makes sharp right turn onto Blossom Rd. park & quietly leave car. Approach slough carefully and you may see Green Heron, Bittern, rails, Common Gallinule, marsh wren, Common Yellowthroat. A Barn Owl has roosted in leafless willows below road right at corner. Long-Billed Curlews sometimes in large flocks in fields here. Tall trees near corner may have hawks, woodpeckers, chickadees, warblers, etc. Walk or slowly drive Blossom Rd., checking fields on left, channel and trees on right. Stop by bridge over Beaver Slough. Check reeds down on right for bittern, rails, gallinules, etc., examine slough and its banks for waterbirds, waterfowl.

Throughout area watch for herons, egrets (Cattle Egret possible), American Bittern, White-Tailed Kite, several hawks including Rough-Legged and Ferruginous, shorebirds, gulls, woodpeckers, early-arriving swallows in Feb., Water Pipit & Horned Larks in grassy areas, magpies; check blackbird flocks for Tricolored Blackbird & Brown-Headed Cowbird; many sparrows including Lincoln's. I have heard that Phainopepla can be found along Cosumnes River north of Thornton.

The only facilities in the area are in the small town of Thornton.

Interesting return trip: south on Thornton Rd. to Hammer Ln., west to I-5, south to SR 4, west toward home. Many birds along Trapper Slough & across Victoria Island.

* * * * *

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.)

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BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY
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938-9100

March 1978
Vol. 24, Vol. 8

Next deadline: March 10

Meeting: Thurs., Mar. 2. 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: RAIN on trip day? Call leader---trip might be postponed a week or two.
Sat., Mar. 4, 8:30 a.m., Golden Gate Park; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Freeway 24, 7:30. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).
Thurs., Mar. 9, 9:00 a.m., Tilden Park; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Freeway 24, 8:30. Leader: Jackie Knisley (685-1709).
Sat., Mar. 11, 9:30 a.m., Bodega Bay; carpool: Copper Penny in Sun Valley Center, 7:30. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).
Wed., Mar. 15, 9:00 a.m., Rockville Hills Park; carpool: Copper Penny in Sun Valley Center, 8:30. Leader: Frank Beyer (707-644-0236).

Audubon Film: Mon., Mar. 20, 8:00 p.m., Diablo Valley College gym. "Land of the Rio Grande" by Charles Hotchkiss. Preceded by a no-host dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Board Meeting: Thurs., Mar. 9, 7:15 p.m., home of Kent Fickett, 5270 Concord Blvd., Concord; phone: 798-7421. Board meetings are always open to members.

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Marie Mans will conduct Birdingformation on the sounds of birds and how to distinguish similar sounds made by different birds. Terry A. Schulz will present a very interesting program on owls and current studies of them. He is a staff research associate in Zoological Medicine and Wildlife Diseases at U.C., Davis.

At GOLDEN GATE PARK we should have closeups of waterbirds and gulls, also Wood Duck and Pygmy Nuthatch, possibly European Wigeon and Red Crossbill. Meet just inside the park at 43rd and Fulton St., at North Lake, Chain of Lakes.

TILDEN PARK has a wide variety of woodland species, some waterbirds. From SR 24 in Orinda take Richmond exit north 2 miles, left on Wildcat Canyon Rd. over the ridge to Tilden Park and follow signs to the parking lot at the Interpretive Center.

With a variety of coastal habitats, BODEGA BAY has numerous species of waterbirds ducks, shorebirds, landbirds, possibly including Red-Necked Grebe, Black Brant, Oldsquaw, Rock Sandpiper. Go north on US 101 to Petaluma, follow signs from the Washington St. exit to SR 1 then north to The Tides Restaurant in the middle of town of Bodega Bay. Strong, chill winds are possible on the headlands so come prepared.

ROCKVILLE HILLS PARK, a new area for us, should have many wildflowers and birds of the oak woodlands, plus 2 small ponds where a Solitary Sandpiper was once found. From I-680 go east on I-80 for 1/2 mile to Suisun Valley Rd. Go north past Solano College to a blinking light at Rockville Corners. Turn left about 0.7 mile. The park entrance is just past the last house on the left. Meet in the parking lot.

The last AUDUBON FILM of this season takes us to the Rio Grande, one of our longest and most scenic rivers, with an incredibly rich variety of habitats and wildlife. Ty and Julie Hotchkiss filmed the Rio Grande, its changing moods and its abundance

of plants, birds and mammals. Preceding the film meet and talk with Mr. Hotchkiss at a NO-HOST DINNER at the Copper Penny in Sun Valley Center beginning at 6:00 p.m.

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The BIRDINGFORMATION SESSION which generally precedes our monthly meetings is devoted to instruction in all phases of birding: field identification, procedures, equipment, photography, birding locations, etc. The purpose is to help experienced birders as well as beginners. As this is instructional in nature, those in attendance are not only permitted, but are urged to ask questions should any arise.

* * * * *

FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

High tide at the BAY BRIDGE TOLL PLAZA MARSH on January 7 brought out the hoped-for Clapper Rails for 18 members and guests. It was a clear, pleasant day and the air was almost still. The following 60 species were found:

Common & Red-Throated Loon, Horned & Western Grebe, Brown Pelican, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Canvasback, Greater & Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, White-Winged & Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Red-Breasted Merganser, White-Tailed Kite, American Kestrel, Clapper Rail, American Coot, Semipalmated & Snowy Plover, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Ruddy & Black Turnstone, Common Snipe, Long-Billed Curlew, Whimbrel, Willet, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, dowitcher sp, Western Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, American Avocet, Black-Necked Stilt, Glaucous-Winged, Western, Herring, California, Ring-Billed, Mew & Bonaparte's Gull, Forster's Tern, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Common (Red-Sh) Flicker, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Western Meadowlark, Red-Winged Blackbird, House Finch, White-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

The second canoe trip to FRANK'S TRACT was made January 11 by 31 participants including our members and leaders from Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum. The day was overcast, cold and breezy, with less visibility than the first trip. An Orange-Crowned Warbler was found among the following 69 species:

Pied-Billed Grebe, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Amer Bittern, Whistling Swan, Canada Goose, Mallard, Pintail, Green-Winged Teal, Amer Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Wood Duck, Common Goldeneye, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-Shinned, Cooper's, Red-Tailed, Red-Shouldered & Marsh Hawk, American Kestrel, Virginia Rail, Sora, American Coot, Killdeer, Glaucous-Winged, Herring, Thayer's, California & Ring-Billed Gull, Rock & Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Common (Red-Sh) Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Scrub Jay, Common Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Bewick's & Long-Billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Amer Robin, Hermit Thrush, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Orange-Crowned & Yellow-Rumped (Aud) Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, House Finch, American Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Savannah, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox & Song Sparrow.

Under threatening skies at LAKE MERRITT January 19 twelve members found a cool day with light wind, brief mid-morning drizzle, then light rain ended the trip in early afternoon. We had good study of Greater vs Lesser Scaup, Common vs Barrow's Goldeneye, and close views of a female Oldsquaw among the following 44 species:

Red-Throated Loon, Horned, Eared, Western & Pied-Billed Grebe, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great & Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Mallard, Northern Shoveler female, Ring-Necked Duck female, Canvasback, Greater & Lesser Scaup, Common & Barrow's Goldeneye, Bufflehead, OLDSQUAW, Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, American Coot, Glaucous-Winged, Western, Herring, Ring-Billed & Mew Gull, Rock Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Scrub Jay, Bushtit, American Robin, Hermit Thrush, Starling, House Sparrow, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, American Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Fox Sparrow.

The trip to PUTAH CREEK and LAKE SOLANO January 21 was made on a cold, overcast day but fortunately there was no wind. There were Hooded Merganser, Canyon & Rock Wren (posing for us), Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers, Phainopepla and an elusive Rufous-Crowned Sparrow. The 33 members and guests heard or saw the following 80 species:

Common & Red-Throated Loon, Eared, Western & Pied-Billed Grebe, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue & Green Heron, Mallard, Amer Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Wood Duck, Redhead, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Hooded & Common Merganser,

Turkey Vulture, Cooper's & Red-Tailed Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Common Gallinule, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, gull sp, Rock & Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, White-Throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Common (Red-Sh) Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Yellow-Bellied (Red-Br) Sapsucker, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black & Say's Phoebe, Scrub Jay, Yellow-Billed Magpie, Common Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Bewick's, Canyon & Rock Wren, Mockingbird, Calif Thrasher, Amer Robin, Varied & Hermit Thrush, West Bluebird, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Phainopepla, Starling, Yellow-Rumped (Aud) Warbler, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Purple & House Finch, PineSiskin, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Lark & Rufous-Crowned Sparrow, Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Lincoln's & Song Sparrow.

The LOS BANOS and PANOCHE VALLEY weekend February 4-5 was fantastic, thanks to the planning by Sally Steller, leadership by Florence Bennett. There were White-Faced Ibis, Ross' Geese, dancing Sandhill Cranes, Mountain Plovers, Lewis' Woodpecker, Yellow-Headed Blackbird. The weather was very foggy and cold but windless on Saturday, the fog lifting enough by late morning for good visibility. Sunday was windy at times, cold, with some sun, the scattered showers turned to rain at noon. The following 94 species were heard or seen by 31 members and guests on Saturday, 22 on Sunday:

Pied-Billed Grebe, White Pelican, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Amer Bittern, White-Faced Ibis, Canada, White-Fronted, Snow & Ross' Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-Winged & Cinnamon Teal, Amer Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, scaup sp, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Sharp-Shinned, Red-Tailed & Rough-Legged Hawk, Golden Eagle, Marsh Hawk, falcon sp, Amer Kestrel, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Sandhill Crane, Virginia Rail, Common Gallinule, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Mountain & Black-Bellied Plover, Common Snipe, Long-Billed Curlew, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, dowitcher sp, Marbled Godwit, Amer Avocet, Black-Necked Stilt, California & Ring-Billed Gull, Rock & Mourning Dove, Barn & Burrowing Owl, Common (Red-Sh) Flicker, Lewis', Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black & Say's Phoebe, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Scrub Jay, Yellow-Billed Magpie, Common Raven, Common Crow, Bushtit, Long-Billed Marsh & Rock Wren, Calif Thrasher, Amer Robin, Hermit Thrush, West Bluebird, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Yellow-Rumped (Aud & Myrtle) Warbler, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Yellow-Headed, Red-Winged, Tricolored & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided Towhee, Savannah & Lark Sparrow, Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Song Sparrow

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CLASSES and EXCURSIONS:

SPRING DESERT IN BLOOM, field program in Mojave Desert & Joshua Tree Nat'l Monument to study variety, forms, adaptations, interrelationships of desert plant life. Led by Paul Covell, long-time Golden Gate Audubon member and for 28 years Oakland's Park Naturalist, and Richard Keator, instructor at U.C. Extension Div. & at Nature School of Oakland. Class Session: Mar. 20, 7-10 p.m., trip: Apr. 3-8. Application deadline Mar. 1. Info: Peralta College for Non-Traditional Study, 841-8431.

NATURAL HISTORY OF MARTINEZ AREA, trees, shrubs, wildflowers, birds. Six evening classes begin Wed., Mar. 29; 6 Sat. field trips, mostly northern Briones Park. Instructor: our own John Davis. Limited to 20 registrants. Martinez Adult School, 150 E St., Martinez 94553; phone 228-3276. Early registration recommended.

SUNDAY SEMINARS FOR ADVANCED BIRDERS, Whittell Education Center, Tiburon, 10-12:30. Jon Winter, instructor. \$6.50 each. Mar. 5: petrels, shearwaters, albatrosses, imm. cormorants, vireos, kinglets, pipits, fem. tanagers. Mar. 12: shrikes, thrashers, finches, sapsuckers, woodpeckers, fem. grosbeaks. National Audubon Society, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon 94920; phone (415) 388-2524.

PT. REYES FIELD SEMINARS, for spring brochure: Seminar Coordinator, Pt. Reyes Field Seminars, Pt. Reyes 94956; phone (415) 663-1200.

PRBO EXCURSIONS. Birds of Costa Rica, Mar. 6-19, \$800. Birds of the Calif. Desert, Mar. 20-23, \$50. Birds & Mammals of the Gulf of the Farallons, Apr. 2, \$30. For information/reservations: PRBO, 4990 Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach 94970.

NATURE EXPEDITIONS INTERNAT'L. Natural Hist. S.F. Bay, Mar. 11, \$20. Channel Islands Expedition, Mar. 17-19, \$160. NEI, 599 College Ave., Palo Alto 94306; 328-6572.

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

Alamo: James Nunan; Concord: Lorna R. Anderson, Ronnie W. Hunt, Mr. Jean K. Jones, Jr., the Lynches, N. Page & Laura Milliken, Lars Sandstrom, William J. Scheffel, A. Shute; Danville: Karen D. Brown, E. D. Love, Kay Miller; Lafayette: Marilyn McComb, Mr. & Mrs. B. T. Rocca, Mary E. Slaughter, E. V. & Anita Turre; Martinez: Lucy Floyd, James B. Wakeman, the Wills; Pleasant Hill: Kenneth C. Appell, F. K. Beyer, Jr., Miss Paula Eisele, B. G. Erbland, Tom Guthrie, Martin Shea; San Ramon: Glenn A. Ruley; Walnut Creek: Addlemans, Donald E. Bahn, Adrion N. Hewett, Virginia Morse, David Muth, George Parrill, Roi Partridge, Mrs. J. Robert Snyder; Yountville: Mrs. Alex R. Monteith.

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CONSERVATION NOTES by J. P. Hauser.

After seeing the revised version of SB 346, the Peripheral Canal Bill, it was good to read that it failed in the Senate. As amended, it was a collection of loopholes and vague assurances of Delta protection. It was a total concession to water contractors down south, and as such, became a political battle. Our governor, who sounded pro-conservationist while campaigning, let us down. Basically, it is an important political issue, not one of real concern for the Delta, notwithstanding the political oratory. The canal itself is part of a comprehensive \$3.4 billion water project, and would eventually cause most of all northern California water to head south, and would mean the damming of the remaining wild rivers in California. As one critic put it: "Who needs another L.A.?"

Latest and best news on the wilderness front, is that the U.S. Senate, by an 83-5 vote and the House by a 333-44 vote, approved the inclusion of 1.2 million acres into wilderness areas in western states. Some of the areas included in California are Golden Trout (306,000 acres), Santa Lucia (21,000 acres), and Ventana Wilderness (additional 61,000 acres).

I am indebted to Gary Bogue for the following information. For every 1,000 people moving into a city, 97.5 acres of land must be converted to meet their needs: 70 acres for homes and apartments, 15 acres for parks, schools and other public buildings, 10 acres for retail and service stores, 1.8 acres for streets, .7 acre for industry, plus 150,000 gallons of water daily. Should you become skeptical or indifferent to claims of wildlife habitat being wiped out, remember these statistics.

Intelligent land use and planning, in spite of various boards and commissions, is missing in our area. On every side we see prime agricultural land being paved over acre after acre. "Leap frog" developments continue as usual, ensuring a kind of growth like that of Santa Clara Valley, a model of destruction.

I recommend an excellent publication, The Conservationist, published by New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation. Although about New York, writers and topics are so diverse it could be considered a collection of writings about much of the natural world of the eastern states. Cost is \$3.50 per year, \$6.00 for 2 years, \$9.00 for 3 years. If interested, call me: 934-0589, evenings.

It was with great relief that I read a description of the plans for Alaska's new capitol city, to be located 70 miles north of Anchorage. Designed for an eventual population of 37,000 by 1994, the city will be located in an existing wilderness but, unlike early and present day visual pollution and haphazard growth, much thought has gone into both site location and building design.

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ALASKA. 1978 is the year of decision for protecting America's wilderness heritage in Alaska. Congress must act by December 18 on this now-or-never opportunity to save a significant portion of Alaska's magnificent wild lands. Earlier administrations supported setting aside 83 million acres of d-2 lands but further study indicated this was too little. Rep. Morris Udall of Arizona and 80 co-sponsors introduced HR 39 asking 114 million acres. As a result of hearings, a compromise proposal, the Seiberling draft, would set aside 102 million acres. A coalition of developers, industry and mining interests is mounting a major effort to undercut this compromise. Write, phone or wire your representative (House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20015) urging adoption of a bill generally following the Seiberling draft.

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The proposed SUNDESERT NUCLEAR POWER PLANT at Blythe (San Diego Gas & Electric) was turned down by a state commission. SDEG is now trying to get legislative exemption from the law requiring solution of the problem of nuclear waste disposal and other safeguards. Let our state legislators hear from you.

* * * * *

GOLDEN EAGLES. The recent conviction of 3 men in Texas for shooting eagles has brought on a concerted counterattack. The Texas Sheep & Goat Raisers Assoc., based in San Angelo, is demanding that ranchers with young lambs be granted "blanket authority" to kill Golden Eagles. The Association is sending to congressmen, governors, and government agency officials copies of a 16-page supplement from the San Angelo Standard-Times. The article included a center-fold of photos of a Golden Eagle killing a lamb---tied to a stake with a 15-foot tether. Dede Armentrout, NAS southwestern representative, points out that the lamb was alone, presumably struggling and bleating, and acting like a "loser"---and eagles, if they take lambs, will take "losers" destined to die anyway. The photos only prove that an eagle will attack a tethered lamb and ranchers do not raise lambs by tethering them, one at a time, for eagle bait. A few ranchers killed over 100 eagles last year when it was highly illegal. Can't you imagine how many will be killed if it is legal? Please write Cecil D. Andrus, Secretary of the Interior, Interior Dept., Washington, D.C. 20240, and urge him to stand by the pledge he made at our convention in Estes Park: "I don't give permits to governors to kill eagles."

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OBSERVATIONS, Jan. 14-Feb. 11. Also see field trip reports.

Flesh-Footed Shearwater, 2, out of Bodega, Feb. 4--BR, WFO pelagic trip.

Short-Tailed Shearwater, 25+, out of Bodega, Feb. 4--BR, WFO pelagic trip.

Green Heron, Mt. View Sanitary Dist., Feb. 6--Jimm Edgar.

Cattle Egret, Chadbourne Rd., Solano Co., Jan. 21--ED, JM, BR, JR.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL, still near Moss Landing & Castroville, Monterey Co., at least through Jan. 29.

Black Brant, 1, Moss Landing, 2, Crespi Pond, Jan. 14--RS, FLB, et al; 1, Princeton Harbor, San Mateo Co., Jan. 21--FLB, RS, et al, & Jan. 23--BR, JR.

EMPEROR GOOSE, 3, still at Limantour marsh, Pt. Reyes--m.ob.

White-Fronted Goose, 12, ponds on Laughlin Rd. east of Livermore, Jan. 29--PW.

European Wigeon, still at Elk Glen Lake, Golden Gate Park--m.ob; Pt. Molate, Richmond, Jan. 22--H&JG, FLB; Bodega Bay, Feb. 4--BR, et al.

TUFTED DUCK, female, still at Muddy Hollow, Pt. Reyes, joined by imm. male Feb. 4.

Oldsquaw, female, Lake Merritt, Jan. 13--at least Feb. 8--HC, m.ob.; male, off Bodega Head, Jan. 24--JD, JR, et al; near Bodega Head, Feb. 4--BR, WFO pelagic trip.

Harlequin Duck, 2 males, Año Nuevo Pt., San Mateo Co., Jan. 21--FLB, et al.

Hooded Merganser, 1 male, at least 2 females, still at 5-Brooks, Pt. Reyes--m.ob.

Ferruginous Hawk, again wintering on Laughlin Rd.--AE, BR, JR.

Golden Eagle, imm., Woodbridge Rd., San Joaquin Co., Jan. 29--B&GS.

Bald Eagle, imm., Pescadero Marsh, San Mateo Co., Jan. 21--FLB, et al; Nicasio Reservoir, Marin Co., Jan. 23, J&JE; imm., Sunol Park, Jan. 31--JR, et al; ad., Laughlin Rd., Feb. 11--JR.

Red Knot, 2, Ano Nuevo Pt., Jan. 21--FLB, et al.

Red Phalarope, 2, east end Dumbarton Bridge, Jan. 25--JR.

Black-Legged Kittiwake, Pt. Pinos, Jan. 28--JR.

Tropical Kingbird, still at Lake Merced, San Francisco--m.ob.

Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker, eastern race, Tiburon, Marin Co., early Jan.--Feb. 11--m.ob.

Tennessee Warbler, Greenwood Park, Pacific Grove, Jan. 14--at least Feb. 8--m.ob.; Bodega, Feb. 4--BR, et al.

Orange-Crowned Warbler, Greenwood Park, Jan. 28--FLB, JR; 2, Bodega, Feb. 4--BR, et al.

Bendire's Thrasher, still at Parkers' in Courtland, Sacramento Co.

Northern Shrike, Nicasio Reservoir, mid-Jan.--at least Feb. 8--m.ob.

Yellow-Headed Blackbird, 3, Woodbridge Rd., Jan. 29--B&GS.

SHARP-TAILED SPARROW, Palo Alto Baylands, Feb. 6--PW; 2 there, Feb. 7--JR, BR, et al.

(Observers: Herold Connon, Jane Dang, Elizabeth Dickey, Jimm & Joan Edgar, Art Edwards, Helen & Jerry Gentile, Joy Meagher, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Bill & George Scheffel, Rich Stallcup, Pete Wendelken, Peter Willmann, Western Field Ornithologists, 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 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.)

THE BOOK NEST at NAS' Whittell Center offers mail-order selection of field guides, children's books, educational material, field accessories from binocs to bug boxes. Free 1978 catalogue: Whittell Center, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon, CA 94920.

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BIRDING GUIDES. Hot off the presses is the newly revised Birder's Guide to the Rio Grande Valley of Texas by James A. Lane, priced at \$4.50. His recently revised Birder's Guide to Southern California is also \$4.50. His guides to southeastern Arizona (\$4.50), eastern Colorado (\$3.25), and the Texas coast (\$3.50) are also available. If you are planning a trip to any of these places, the appropriate book for the area is almost indispensable for a successful birding trip. The books can be found at The Book Nest (see above), from natural history book stores, or from the publisher, L and P Press, P. O. Box 19401, Denver, CO 80219.

* * * * *

GREATER BAY AREA SITE GUIDE: Glen Ellen (Yellow-Breasted Chats)

Access: From I-80 east of Vallejo go west on SR 37, north on SR 121, continue north on SR 116 about 1½ miles then follow signs to El Verano and Glen Ellen. At London Ranch Rd. (sign to Jack London State Park) park in vicinity of bridge.

Check creek from both sides of bridge. Green Heron often along creek, Rough-Winged Swallows nest under bridge. Flycatchers, woodpeckers, vireos, warblers, etc., in trees. Walk upstream ¼ block on right side of creek, checking trees, shrubs for kinglets, vireos, warblers, etc. Turn left across small bridge, street then bends right. Vicinity of bend watch, listen for Chats, other warblers; hummingbirds often here. At next corner turn right. Large oak on right often full of birds. Continue ahead on Henno Rd. which, after crossing Warm Springs Rd., follows left side of small creek. Chats almost always in this area for couple of blocks. About a block past Warm Springs Rd. is large oak on right, at edge of pavement, marking best area of all for Chats, Yellowthroats in trees or in riparian growth in creekbed. Chat's song resembles Mockingbird "with a cold".

Great Blue & Green Heron, hawks include nesting Red-Shouldered, hummers, kingfisher, woodpeckers, flycatchers, swallows, chickadee, titmouse, Bushtit, Wrenit, wrens, thrushes, vireos, warblers (Blackpoll has been seen), oriole, tanager, grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, goldfinches, towhee, sparrows--wide variety of species here.

April, May, June best time--summer may be hot. Facilities at nearby Jack London State Park. Sugarloaf Ridge & Annadel State Parks both only several miles away.

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CORRECTION to last month's Thornton guide: directions to return home via Victoria Island. I-5 freeway is now open north to SR 12, interchange at Thornton Rd.

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Walnut Creek, CA 94598
phone: 938-4446 or
938-9100

April 1978
Vol. 24, No. 9

Next deadline: April 10

Meeting: Thurs., Apr. 6. Doors open 6:30 p.m. Business: 7:00; Industry Citation award: 7:30 followed by social time; program: 8:30. Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek. NOTE: schedule changed this month only.

Field Trips: RAIN on trip day? Call leader---trip might be postponed a week or two.

Sat., Apr. 8, 8:15 a.m., Lakes Lagunitas & Bon Tempe; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Freeway 24, 7:00. Leader: Bob Richmond (447-0248).

Thurs., Apr. 13, 9:15 a.m., Veterans Park, Livermore; carpool: El Cerro Blvd. just west of I-680, Danville, 8:30. Leader: Sally Steller (837-9061).

Sat., Apr. 15, 3-Springs Ranch near Glen Ellen (an "informal" added trip) For information call Winnie Orcutt (944-0593).

Sat.-Sun., Apr. 22-23, Mines Rd. &/or Caswell Memorial Park - either can be done separately. If going to Caswell, call Sally Steller (837-9061) to check remote possibility area is flooded from thaw of Sierra snows.

Sat., 8:00 a.m., Mines Rd.; carpool: El Cerro Blvd. just west of I-680, 7:15. Leader: Art Edwards (447-3720). Trip reaches Del Puerto Canyon Rd. & I-5 about 5 p.m.; caravan from there to Park where the Group Campsite is reserved. Bring a picnic and join us for dinner and campfire.

Sun., 9:00 a.m., Caswell Park; carpool (for those not camping): El Cerro Blvd., 7:30. Leader Gene Hull (525-6893).

Wed., Apr. 26, 8:30 a.m., Mt. Diablo State Park. Meet on El Cerro Blvd. just west of I-680, Danville. Leader: Bob Bary (685-1643).

Board Meeting: Wed., Apr. 13, 7:30 p.m., home of Winnie Orcutt, 30 Iris Ln., Walnut Creek; phone: 944-0593. Board meetings are always open to members.

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During the business meeting we will have ELECTION OF OFFICERS for next year and a vote on proposed BYLAWS AMENDMENTS: Article 7 (standing committees) and Article 11 (our "territory"). Replacing Birdinformation will be our presentation of an Industry Citation to Mt. View Sanitation District for its project in Martinez which has created wildlife habitat. The program, "Raptor Programs in California," will be presented by Gordon Gould of Woodland. Mr. Gould, who has a zoology degree from UC Berkeley and a master's degree in wildlife management from Humboldt State, is head of the California Department of Fish & Game nongame research program.

At LAKES LAGUNITAS & BON TEMPE, a new area for us, we will see some waterbirds but mostly woodland birds, hopefully including Pileated Woodpeckers. Cross Richmond Bridge, go north 0.6 miles on US 101, take San Rafael exit. At the 2nd signal go left on 3rd St. and continue west to Bolinas Ave., turn left on Old Bolinas-Fairfax Rd., then left to the entrance gate for Lake Lagunitas.

VETERANS PARK, with a variety of habitats, should have Wood Ducks, hawks, woodpeckers, swallows, thrushes, orioles, sparrows and others. Go south on I-680, east on I-580, south on N. Livermore Ave., right on 4th St., left on L St. which becomes Arroyo Rd. and continue to Veterans Park.

On MINES ROAD should be eagles, Costa's Hummingbird, Lewis' Woodpecker, flycatchers,

swallows, magpies, Canyon & Rock Wren, Phainopepla, warblers, Lawrence's Goldfinch. Go south on I-680, east on I-580, south on N. Livermore Ave. to Vineyard Shopping Center at S. Livermore and 7th St.

CASWELL PARK combines a fine stand of Valley Oaks, riparian growth and surrounding open fields. Swainson's Hawks are often here, migrating warblers are likely. Go south on I-680, east on I-580 & I-280, north on I-5, east on SR 120 to Manteca, then south on SR 99 to Austin Rd., south on Austin Rd. to the park.

On MT. DIABLO should be many species of warblers, Lazuli Buntings, Rufous-Crowned, Sage and Black-Chinned Sparrows among the many species. If you come late, follow signs out Diablo Rd. from Danville and look for us along South Gate Rd.

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FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

The THORNTON trip Feb. 8 was made on an overcast, cold, windy day - good weather for hawks. There were very few waterfowl but we did see a number of hawks, including Red-Shouldered and Rough-Legged, Sandhill Cranes, many of them dancing, and at Courtland had fantastic views of the Bendire's Thrasher wintering there. The eight members and guest heard or saw the following 48 species:

Pied-Billed Grebe, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Whistling Swan, White-Fronted Goose, Pintail, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Red-Tailed, Red-Shouldered, Rough-Legged & Marsh Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Sandhill Crane, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Ring-Billed & Mew Gull, Rock & Mourning Dove, Com (R-S) Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Horned Lark, Scrub Jay, Com Crow, Bushtit, Bewick's & Long-Billed Marsh Wren, BENDIRE'S THRASHER, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Yellow-Rumped (Aud) Warbler, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

The weather at CONCORD NAVAL WEAPONS STATION on Feb. 11 was clear and cold with not much wind. Although nothing rare was found, a mystery bird provided much study and discussion. The 19 members and guests tallied the following 48 species:

West Grebe, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Mallard, Green-Winged & Cinnamon Teal, Canvasback, Greater & Lesser Scaup, Com Goldeneye, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Red-Tailed, Rough-Legged & Marsh Hawk, Am Kestrel, Calif Quail, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, West & Herring Gull, Rock & Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, White-Throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Com (R-Sh) Flicker, Black Phoebe, Scrub Jay, Com Crow, Long-Billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Robin, Water Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Amer Goldfinch, Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco, White-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

The trip to U.C. BOTANICAL GARDEN was made by nine members and guests on February 15 on a cool, clear day with light wind. We had excellent studies of many of the following 30 species:

Turkey Vulture, Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Com (R-Sh) Flicker, Yellow-Bellied (Red-Br) Sapsucker, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Red-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, Mockingbird, Calif Thrasher, Robin, Varied & Hermit Thrush, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Hutton's Vireo, Orange-Crowned Warbler, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco, Golden-Crowned, Fox & Song Sparrow.

The OWL PROWL in Redwood Park on Feb. 18 was attended by 12 members who climbed out of bed early to reach the park by 4:30 a.m. It was clear and pleasant with no fog and no wind. Pygmy and Saw-Whet Owls failed to put in an appearance either vocally or visually, but Great Horned Owls were seen and a Screech Owl was heard calling during the 3-hour walk.

On March 4 at GOLDEN GATE PARK the weather was cool and overcast with a couple of showers in the morning followed by rain about lunchtime. There was a male European Wigeon at Elk Glen Lake, Ring-Necked Ducks at Mallard Lake and Wood Ducks at North and Metson Lakes. The 12 members and guests found the following 46 species:

Pied-Billed Grebe, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Mallard, European and American Wigeon, Wood & Ring-Necked Duck, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck, Amer Coot, Glaucous-Winged, West, Herring, Calif, Ring-Billed & Mew Gull, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Rock & Mourning Dove, Allen's Hummingbird, Com (R-Sh) Flicker, Black Phoebe, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Pygmy Nuthatch, Bewick's Wren, Robin,

Varied & Hermit Thrush, Golden-Crowned & Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow-Rumped (Aud) Warbler, House Sparrow, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox & Song Sparrow.

The March 9 trip to TILDEN PARK was made by 7 members, accompanied by an Oakland Tribune staff writer, on a cool, overcast day with light rain by late morning. After drying out in the Nature Center then eating lunch in the cars, the birders were out again as the rain had stopped. The following 37 species were heard or seen:

Pied-Billed Grebe, Mallard, Canvasback, Com Goldeneye, Turkey Vulture, Cooper's & Red-Tailed Hawk, Amer Coot, Mourning Dove, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Com (R-Sh) Flicker, Yellow-Bellied (R-Br) Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Brown Creeper, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, Robin, Varied & Hermit Thrush, Golden-Crowned & Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Orange-Crowned Warbler, Red-Winged Blackbird, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed (Or) Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox & Song Sparrow.

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FOR THE TRAVELING BIRDER, a new edition of Tahoma Audubon's OPERATION NATURE GUIDE is available, bigger than ever and now professionally printed. This directory of people across the U.S. - and some overseas - whom nature-seeking travelers can call or write for information on local birding, wildflowers, geology, etc., is priced at \$2.95 including postage. NATURE GUIDE, 34915 4th Ave. So., Federal Way, WA 98003.

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The annual meeting of SAVE MT. DIABLO group will be a family potluck at Heather Farms Community Center on N. San Carlos Dr. just east of John Muir Hospital in Walnut Creek on Sunday, April 30 at 5 p.m. Last names A-F bring dessert; G-P, main dish; Q-Z, salad. Bring food to serve 12 plus your own table service. Bob Doyle will narrate a slide show, "A Panorama of Mt. Diablo." Reservations: Genevieve Sattler, 685-5315. You are cordially invited to attend.

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April PROGRAMS AT WHITTELL AUDUBON CENTER, Sunday afternoons, 3:00 p.m., 376 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon. Apr. 2: The Wildlife of Tikal, Lyman Fancher; Apr. 9: A Journey to Antarctica, Jon Winter; Apr. 16: Puerto Rico, Habitats and Wildlife, Bruce Sorrie; Apr. 23: The Galapagos Islands, Steve Bobzein; Apr. 30: Islands in the Desert, our own Frank Beyer. A guided nature walk is held Sunday mornings at 9:00 and guided tours of Lyford House on Sunday afternoons from 1:00 to 4:00.

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NEAR MISS. Not all pieces of the Soviet spy satellite that crashed in Canada were found, but it appears to have disintegrated over a long swath of wilderness north and east from the east end of Great Slave Lake, spraying some radioactive material along the way. That swath comes uncomfortably close to - but apparently missed - the nesting grounds of the last wild flock of Whooping Cranes, which lies just south of the huge lake.

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CLASSES and EXCURSIONS:

"ORNITHOLOGY, Birding Field Trips in Natural History", Wed., 9-noon, 2 Sat. trips; Mar. 29-May 31; \$4. Beginning birders as well as advanced. Instructor: Pat Jacobson. Contact San Ramon Adult Ed office, 151 Love Ln., Danville; 837-1382.

FIELD ORNITHOLOGY, Tues., 9:30-12:30; 11 weeks beginning Mar. 28; \$4. Instructor: Alice Hoch. Contact Fremont Adult School, 4700 Calaveras Ave., Fremont; 793-6465.

UC, DAVIS COURSES. Wintering Birds of Honey Lake Valley, Apr. 1-2, \$35. Birds of Eagle & Honey Lakes, June 3-5, \$50. Info: UC Davis Extension, Davis, CA 95616.

PRBO EXCURSIONS. Seabird Identification Workshop, Apr. 22, \$15. Avian Field Ecology, Apr. 10-May 22, Mondays, \$40. Information/reservations: PRBO, 4990 Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach, CA 94970.

NORTHEAST BIRDING, operated by Will Russell & Davis Finch, has added Rich Stallcup to the organization. This year's schedule includes California, Alaska (2 trips), Churchill, England & Scotland, Arizona, Canadian islands, Cape May, Monhegan Island (Maine). Information: NEB, o/o Maude Russell, Seal Harbor, ME 04675; phone: (207) 276-3963. For information on ABA Weekends, scheduled for various places across the U.S.: Will Russell, ABA Weekends, Box 631, Bar Harbor, ME 04609; (207) 276-3963.

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A PEREGRINE FALCON CAPTIVE BREEDING PROGRAM is being developed at U.C. Santa Cruz. This program is not experimental. The methods and procedures have been highly successful at Cornell University in New York and in Colorado in recent years in returning Peregrines to the wild. The project has federal funding for the current year from the Endangered Species Fund and also has the endorsement of the Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game and there is hope for funds from that agency in 1978. However there must be additional money from non-governmental sources. Morro Coast Audubon is spearheading a drive for funds to support this important work to reverse the decline of Peregrines in California. Send check payable to The Peregrine Falcon Captive Breeding Fund to Morro Coast Audubon Society, P.O.Box 160, Morro Bay, CA 93442. Contributions are tax-deductible, your check is your receipt.

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CONSERVATION NOTES by J. P. Hauser.

To update the legislative battle over Alaska National Interest Lands, the House Subcommittee on Alaska Lands, by a 10-7 vote, agreed to use the second subcommittee print of HR 39 as the mark up vehicle rather than a substitute measure proposed by Rep. Lloyd Meeds (D-Wash.). Meeds' measure called for only 82 million acres of new parks, forests, wildlife refuges and scenic rivers, while 17 million acres would receive very questionable and limited protection, and would be vulnerable to future development, and in addition, would designate a mere 8 million acres of new wilderness. The second subcommittee print would protect 102 million acres, and would add almost 83 million acres to the Wilderness System. Subcommittee markup was expected to continue through the end of January, with full Interior Committee review to follow in February and March.

Please keep in mind that when I speak of large areas of lands as these, I am referring to land owned by us, as the title of HR 39 states, national lands, under federal control, not private ownership. So the price is right - now. Millions of tax dollars will be saved by acquiring these lands before we give them away to private interests as we did here, and then, belatedly try to buy it back at market prices.

Today, only six-tenths of one percent of the U.S. is protected in its natural condition as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. More than four times that amount, or 2.6% is covered by pavement!

Again, write Rep. Morris Udall, and/or John Seiberling, and ask them to support the strongest possible protection for Alaska wilderness lands, and also thank them for past, strong support they have shown for this measure.

Support for HR 39 has been impressive. Last month a full page ad appeared in the Washington Post announcing the formation, by a group of prominent citizens, of Americans for Alaska. Among the nearly 60 charter members are: James L. Buckley, Marshall Field, General Matthew Ridgeway, and ex-governors Tom McCall, George Romney and Daniel J. Evans.

A coalition to protect Alaska wilderness and to promote HR 39 has just been formed, called the California-Alaska. Initial members include Friends of the Earth, National Audubon Society, Sierra Club and Wilderness Society. For further information, call (415) 835-4027 or 658-7470. Mark Palmer is coordinator.

* * * * *

The November issue of American Birds includes the 1978 BLUE LIST of species not now on the endangered list but which are showing signs of slipping toward that status - an early warning list. It is sad how many raptors are listed! Observers everywhere should be aware of observations, or their lack, of Blue-Listed species. Some listed species are doing well in places while having severe problems elsewhere.

The list: Red-Necked & western Grebe, White Pelican, Double-Crested Cormorant, Reddish Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, American Bittern, Wood Stork, White-Faced Ibis, Fulvous Whistling Duck, Canvasback, Sharp-Shinned, Cooper's, Red-Shouldered, Swainson's, Ferruginous, Harris' & Marsh Hawk, Osprey, Caracara, Prairie Falcon, Merlin, American Kestrel, Sharp-Tailed & Sage Grouse, King Rail, American Oystercatcher, Piping & Snowy Plover, Upland Sandpiper, Gull-Billed, Common, Least & Black Tern, Common Puffin, Yellow-Billed Cuckoo, Barn, Burrowing & Short-Eared Owl, Ruby-Throated Hummingbird, Red-Headed, Lewis' & Hairy Woodpecker, Purple Martin, Florida Scrub Jay, Bewick's Wren, Eastern & Western Bluebird, Loggerhead Shrike, Bell's & Warbling Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-Breasted Chat, Dickcissel, Grasshopper, Henslow's, Vesper & Bachman's Sparrow. (Underlined are new to the list.)

Deleted this year: White Ibis, Cliff Swallow, Common Nighthawk, Mountain Bluebird.

* * * * *

The Federal Energy Administration and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have estimated nationwide use of REUSEABLE BEVERAGE CONTAINERS would 1) mean a 44% reduction in energy needs of the beverage industry, saving 81,000 barrels of oil a day; 2) provide 115,000 new jobs, many of them semi-skilled; 3) save consumers \$1.8-\$2.6 billion a year; 4) reduce roadside litter 40-60%. (Audubon Leader)

* * * * *

A belated report from southeast Arizona's CAVE CREEK CANYON says that the Eared Trogan found there in late October (a first for north of Mexico) brought at least 600 birders from all over the U.S. and Canada within 3 weeks. This is the area in Coronado National Forest birders are trying to protect from mass recreation development (see The Quail, Dec. 1977 & Jan. 1978). The large number of visitors shows that the area does have significant economic and wildlife value to Arizona.

* * * * *

A subscription to THE WESTERN Tanager, excellent bulletin of Los Angeles Audubon, is \$4.00 per year. Included are site guides for southern California, field notes on difficult identification problems, bird sightings, and interesting articles on a variety of topics, local and worldwide. Send check to Los Angeles Audubon Society, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90046.

* * * * *

OBSERVATIONS, Feb. 12-Mar. 15. Also see field trip reports.

Cattle Egret, 2, I-680 just north of Pleasanton, Mar. 5--PW; there Mar. 12--AE, PW.

Black Brant, 1, Moss Landing, Monterey Co., Feb. 17--FLB; 2,000+, near Eureka, Humboldt Co., Mar. 5--FLB.

Black Scoter, male & female, Moss Landing, Feb. 17--FLB.

Sora, Lake Solano, Yolo Co., Mar. 14--JR, et al.

Mountain Plover, 150, SR 25 off US 101, San Benito Co., Feb. 25--AE.

Lesser Yellowlegs, Grizzly Island, Mar. 7--JR, et al.

Glaucous Gull, Benicia State Rec Area, Feb. 14--FrB.

BLACK-HEADED GULL, ad., Arcata, Humboldt Co., Feb. 18--at least Mar. 7--m.ob.

LITTLE GULL, ad., Arcata, Feb. 21--at least Mar. 7--m.ob.

SNOWY OWLS, at least 2, still near Arcata at least through Feb. 26--m.ob.

Long-Eared Owl, Berkeley Marina, Feb. 21-Mar. 7--KY, m.ob.

Saw-whet Owl, their garden in Courtland, Sacramento Co., Jan. 31--at least Mar. 5--B&B, m.ob.; Coyote Hills Park, Mar. 11-16--BL, m.ob.

Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker, eastern race, imm., still in Tiburon, Marin Co., at least through mid-March--m.ob.

Tropical Kingbird, still at Castroville, Monterey Co., sewer ponds, Feb. 18--FLB.

Gray Jay, 3, Patrick's Pt. State Park, Humboldt Co., Mar. 4-8--FLB, BR, m.ob.

BLUE JAY, near Arcata, mid-Feb.--at least through Mar. 8--m.ob.

Black-Capped Chickadee, near Requa, Del Norte Co., Feb. 25-Mar. 8--FLB, BR, et al.

Red-Breasted Nuthatch, 2, his Lafayette garden, early March--MO.

BENDIRE'S THRASHER, still in their Courtland garden, now singing--A&EP, m.ob.

Yellow-Headed Blackbird, Woodbridge Rd., San Joaquin Co., Feb. 21--JR.

White-Throated Sparrow, ad., Arcata, Feb. 26--FLB.

Many Bohemian Waxwings and Snow Buntings, Spokane Washington, Feb. 24--JE.

(Observers: Florence Bennett, Frank Beyer, Jimm Edgar, Art Edwards, Barbara Lucas, Bob & Barbara O'Neill, Merv Ortez, Arvil & Ellen Parker, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Peter Willmann, Keiko Yamane, many observers)

Watch and listen for MIGRANTS and SUMMER RESIDENTS. Spring brings NESTING BIRDS so prune carefully! Put out bits of string, yarn, dryer lint for nest builders.

* * * * *

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.)

ELKHORN SLOUGH - BIRD SIGHTING RECORDS? Please send records of your old or new bird sightings of Elkhorn Slough, Jetty Road-Moss Landing area, or Zmudowski State Beach area to Phil Gordon, 4044 Everett St., Oakland, CA 94602. Bob Ramer, Watsonville, is developing a checklist for a Nature Conservancy project. Include date and group in phylogenetic order under locations, and include your phone number. This can include species sighted within binocular range of shore, but please specify estimated distance. (The Kite Call, Ohlone Audubon)

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GREATER BAY AREA SITE GUIDE: Las Trampas Regional Park.

Access: Go south on I-680 to Crow Canyon Rd., turn west 1 mile to Bolinger Canyon Rd., then north about 5 miles to parking lot at end of road.

Parking area. Check tree in middle of parking lot - House Wrens sometimes nest here! Trees along creek at east end of lot have vireos, warblers, oriole, bunting.

Rocky Ridge (steep). From parking lot go uphill along road. Trees to right usually many birds. Watch from road or walk quietly along edge of trees, stopping often under them to look for birds. Vireos, tanager, buntings often fly to these trees. Where road bends right, stop, check trees, understory. Continue past trees until see guardrail on right side of road. Hillside uphill excellent for Grasshopper Sparrows, Apr., May. Around bend from guardrail is "Cuesta Trail" on left through sparrow area. Listen for high-pitched, insect-like song, search on and near ground for singer - usually on small rock, grass or weed stem, sometimes atop poison oak. Flushed, flies erratically short distance then drops into grass. Near top of hill is gate to EBMUD property requiring permit. Trail south along ridge, view toward Mt. Diablo. Atop ridge, views of S.F. Bay and Mt. Tamalpais. Returning down hill, pass through gate short distance up from parking lot, turn right, cross down to trees. Watch among trees for poison oak. Walk downhill thru trees: vireos, tanager, grosbeak, bunting, Chipping Sparrow, many others here.

Valley Trail. At park entrance is gate on left, trail on east side of creek; check trees along creek. Trails from here up to Las Trampas Ridge to east.

Water, restrooms, at parking area, picnic tables under trees east and west of lot. Best time here: spring but warm day can be hot by 10-11 a.m. Summer too hot!

Birds to see: Vulture, hawks, Golden Eagle, dove, swift, Anna's & Allen's Hummer, woodpeckers, flycatchers, Horned Lark, swallows, both jays, chickadee, titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Creeper, Wren, House & Bewick's Wren, Mockler, Calif Thrasher, Robin, Swainson's Thrush, Bluebird, 3 vireos, warblers, meadowlark, blackbirds, oriole, cowbird, western Tanager, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, finches, Siskin, 3 goldfinches, sparrows including Lark & Grasshopper.

Many beautiful wildflowers throughout park in spring.

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LATE NOTE: Texas trip, Apr. 16-28, 2-3 day extension to Big Bend. \$105. Make own arrangements/reservations. Mike Wihler & Kenn Kaufman. Info: 664-6467.

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MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY
Jean Richmond, Editor
P. O. Box 53
Walnut Creek, CA 94597

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The Quail

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY

P. O. BOX 53

WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94597

Pres.: Bruce Moorad
1445 Marchbanks Dr.
Walnut Creek, CA 94598
phone: 938-4446 or
938-9100

May 1978
Vol. 24, No. 10

Next deadline: April 30

Meeting: Thurs., May 4. Doors open 6:30 p.m. Birdinformation: 7:00; business: 7:30; social time: 8:00; program: 8:30. Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek.

Field Trips: Thurs., May 11, 9:00 a.m., Las Trampas Regional Park; carpool: El Cerro Blvd. just west of I-680, Danville, 8:30. Leader: Jimm Edgar (283-3510).
Sat., May 13, 8:15 a.m., Bolinas Lagoon; 9:45, Audubon Canyon Ranch; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Freeway 24, 6:30. Leader: Kent Fickett (798-7421).

Sat., May 20, 7:00 a.m., Mitchell Canyon. Leader: Kent Fickett (798-7421).

Wed., May 24, 8:30 a.m., Briones Regional Park (west). Leader: Merv Ortez (283-3072).

June 17-25, Northeast California. Coordinator: Sally Steller (837-9061).

Board Meeting: Thurs., May 11, 7:30 p.m., home of Bruce Moorad (address above). Outgoing and incoming officers please attend. Meetings always open to members.

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Birdinformation will be a discussion by Darrell Peterson on Field Identification Problems such as Hermit vs Swainson's Thrush, Hutton's Vireo vs Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, female orioles. Bring field guide, pen and notebook. Ron LeValley will present the program, "Rocks, Seals and Birds - The Farallon Islands." With a degree in biology from Sacramento State, graduate work at Humboldt State, Mr. LeValley has been associated with PRBO for 12 years, a biologist on the Farallons for 2 years.

The north end of BOLINAS LAGOON should be crowded with shorebirds. AUDUBON CANYON RANCH offers great views of nesting Great Blue Herons and Egrets. After lunch we will bird 5-Brooks. From US 101 north of the Golden Gate Bridge follow SR 1 from Mill Valley thru Stinson Beach to the Ranch. Meet in the wide turnout across from the Ranch gate. Weather is variable so wear clothing you can shed in layers.

At LAS TRAMPAS PARK we hope to see Grasshopper Sparrows which nest there and also hawks, woodpeckers, flycatchers, bluebirds, vireos, warblers, orioles, tanagers, grosbeaks, sparrows. Go south on I-680 to Crow Canyon Rd., west 1 mile to Bolinger Canyon Rd., then right about 5 miles to the parking lot at the end of the road.

MITCHELL CANYON, recently added to the State Park, enters Mt. Diablo from the north in a beautiful, gently sloping canyon. Riparian, oak woodland, chaparral offer a variety of species perhaps including Black-Headed Grosbeak and Black-Throated Gray Warbler. Kent will discuss effects of the fire, good and bad, on plant and bird life. Go east on Ygnacio Valley Rd., right on Clayton Rd., right on Mitchell Canyon Rd. to the parking lot at the end. Plan to carry your lunch up the canyon.

At BRIONES PARK are woodpeckers, flycatchers, thrushes, vireos, warblers, oriole, grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, among woodland birds, many nesting. From Freeway 24 in Lafayette take Upper Happy Valley Rd. to Happy Valley Rd., left 2 miles to Bear Creek Rd., right $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, right again into park, continue to parking lot on right.

ITINERARIES for the June 17-25 trip thru NORTHEAST CALIF. are available. Limited

to 20 members, the trip includes the Yuba Pass area, Eagle Lake, Lava Beds Nat'l Monument, Tule & Lower Klamath Refuges, Burney Falls State Park, Lassen Nat'l Park and Woodson Bridge State Rec Area. Call Sally Steller (837-9061) if interested.

* * * * *

FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

Leaving home for BODEGA BAY under threatening skies on March 11, eleven members and guests birded in clear, cold weather with light wind in the morning but strong wind by noon. Showers were encountered only on the way home. Seen were Black Brant among many waterfowl, an Osprey struggling with a flounder only to lose it in the high wind, many shorebirds. The following 68 species were seen or heard:

Com, Arctic & Red-Throated Loon, Horned, Eared, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Double-Crested, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, Snowy Egret, Black Brant, Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, Amer Wigeon, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Com Goldeneye, Bufflehead, White-Winged & Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Red-Breasted Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, Osprey, Amer Kestrel, Amer Coot, Semipalmated & Snowy Plover, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Ruddy & Black Turnstone, Willet, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, dowitcher sp, West Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Glaucous-Winged, Western, Calif, Ring-Billed & Mew Gull, Allen's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Scrub Jay, Com Raven, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Amer Robin, Starling, Yellow-Rumped (Aud) Warbler, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Savannah, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

The ROCKVILLE HILLS trip on March 15 was made by 14 members and guests on a clear, warm day with light breezes. Although there were no unusual birds, stunning wild-flower displays were all over the area. The following 35 species were found:

Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Sharp-Shinned, Cooper's & Red-Tailed Hawk, Killdeer, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Com (Red-Sh) Flicker, Yellow-Bellied (Red-Br) Sapsucker, Hairy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Violet-Green Swallow, Scrub Jay, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Bewick's Wren, Amer Robin, Varied & Hermit Thrush, West Bluebird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet (singing), Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Orange-Crowned & Yellow-Rumped (Aud) Warbler, West Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, Brown Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco.

Flowers: Blue Dick, Red Maid, Filaree, Buttercups (2 kinds), Calif Poppy, Milk Maid, Calif Saxifrage, Woodland Star, Lupine (several kinds), Johnny-Jump-Up, Sun Cups, Purple Sanicle, Bladder Parsnip, Woodland Shooting Star, White Nemophila, Fiddleneck, Popcorn Flower, Common Monkey Flower, Johnny Tuck, Indian Warrior Brass Buttons; also Sticky Monkey Flower, Poison Oak, Astorela (Liverwort).

At LAKES LAGUNITAS & BON TEMPE and MUIR WOODS on April 8 the weather was clear and warm - perfectly gorgeous. At Bon Tempe there were a Common Loon and Horned Grebes in breeding plumage, Pileated Woodpecker, Bushtits nesting low and only 5-6 feet from observers, Orange-Crowned Warbler showing its crown. Muir Woods provided THE bird of the day - a spotted Owl. The 21 members and guests found the following 48 species at the lakes:

Com & Red-Throated Loon: Horned Grebe, Double-Crested Cormorant, Mallard, Com Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser (2), Turkey Vulture, Cooper's & Red-Tailed Hawk, Osprey, gull sp, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Com (Red-Sh) Flicker, Pileated, Acorn & Downy Woodpecker, Violet-Green Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Com Raven, Com Crow, Chestnut Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Brown Creeper, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, Amer Robin, Swainson's Thrush, West Bluebird, Starling, Hutton's & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Yellow, Yellow-Rumped (Aud) & Black-Throated Gray Warbler, West Meadowlark, Purple & House Finch, Pine Siskin, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed (Oregon) Junco, Song Sparrow.

Found at Muir Woods: Turkey Vulture, Band-Tailed Pigeon, SPOTTED OWL, Western Flycatcher, Pygmy Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren.

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PILEATED WOODPECKER eluding you? Near LeGrande, Oregon, the U.S. Forest Service recently concluded a 5-year study which may explain why. It found that each nesting pair requires 320 acres of mature forest that should have, per square mile, 90 snags of a greater diameter than 20 inches, PLUS potential replacement snags, logs, and diseased trees. (Forestry Research, via Madrone Audubon)

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Nesting success of the KIRTLAND'S WARBLER was not as good last summer as in some years, but it was still good, according to Dr. Lawrence Walkinshaw, noted authority on Michigan's unique bird. The 1977 census of the warbler showed a 9.5% gain over the 1976 count, according to preliminary figures. Since each singing male is considered to represent a nesting pair, the count of 219 singing males would make a present population of 438 adult nesting birds, plus the young of the year, and non-nesting adults (if any). Of 31 nests whose outcome was known, 19 were successful. Of the 131 eggs laid, 88 hatched and 66 fledged. According to William Irvine, U.S. Forest Service, the only unexpected (and disappointing) part of the census was the disappearance of the warblers from the McKinley area in Oscoda County. The counts were a little higher than expected at the Dammon area in Ogemaw County.

No other songbird has had such a high percentage of its population studied. Banding and recovery of bands of the warbler over a period of many years has produced much information on the warbler's history. Of 14 males banded in the Lovells area in 1976, 13 returned to their nesting grounds in 1977, of the 13 banded in other areas, 6 returned. Dr. Walkinshaw considers the return of 19 of 27 males a high percentage.

Visits to the warbler's nesting grounds during the nesting season are restricted by law. Guided tours originate in Grayling and Mio, financed by contributions from the MAS Kirtland's Warbler Fund. Expenses incurred in 1977 have reduced the fund to less than the amount needed for one year's operation. Contributions to this fund are needed in anticipation of 1978 needs for guide service, cowbird control equipment and other assistance in the warbler's recovery project. Send checks, designated for the Kirtland's Warbler Fund, to Michigan Audubon Society, 7000 N. Westnedge Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49007. (Michigan Audubon Society)

* * * * *

BIRD CARDS. A set of 10 beautiful Birds of Frey Cards, reproductions of paintings by Louis Agassiz Fuertes, is available. On the reverse side of each 2½ by 4 inch card is information about the bird pictured and about the cards. Send 35¢ and a boxtop from Arm and Hammer Baking Soda to Church & Dwight, Co., Inc., Two Pennsylvania Plaza, New York, NY 10001.

* * * * *

A HUMMINGBIRD was wintering in a Waterloo, Iowa, livingroom. The bird did not go south and was not making it outdoors even though attentive human friends replaced frozen feeders with warm ones; so, the bird was rescued and provided with indoor feeders and the run of the house. The bird's hosts were hoping to find someone who would take the hummer along to Mexico. (White-Tailed Kite, Altacal Audubon)

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MT. DIABLO STATE PARK recently added 530 acres to its existing 11,000 acres. The land, in the North Peak area, was purchased from E. W. Zippe for \$300,000 as part of over \$10 million in purchases approved by the Public Resources Board. The purchase had been approved by the legislature and the governor in 1976. The area will be used for hiking and riding trails and for general preservation of resources.

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SUN POWER FALTERS. Washington's interest in solar energy has lost its momentum and an effort to start things rolling again was launched in March in Congress. A package of bills was introduced with bipartisan support in both houses, calling for more funds for research, development and demonstration programs for solar power and other renewable energy resources, and for more incentives for energy conservation. The Carter budget proposes \$400 million for solar development, yet a recent General Accounting Office study indicates it would cost \$550 million in the coming fiscal year just to fund the solar programs to which the Administration is already committed. Not the least of solar energy's problems in Congress has been a jurisdictional fight over what committees should have authority over which appropriations of the newly formed Department of Energy.

A particularly important bill in the package, H.R. 11510 and S. 2734, would set up a solar energy bank with a \$5 billion revolving fund for long-term, low-interest loans to purchase and install solar energy systems in commercial and residential buildings. One piece of congressional business on solar energy sailed through in March without opposition. A resolution was passed proclaiming May 3rd as sun day, a day to inform the public about solar energy and celebrate the potential uses of the sun. (Audubon Leader)

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

Alamo: Ms. Karen Hanson, Carolyn Litster, Eric Peterson; Berkeley: Jos. J. Schall; Concord: G. E. Barber, David Barnett, Henry N. Donia, Charles A. Hammond, Mr. W. S. Hillman, William S. Hoon, L. Pat Neller, Kathy Potter, Stephen L. Weir, Mr. & Mrs. Gifford A. Young, Gerald Zeigler; Danville: Jim Christl, C. Hutchinson, Miss Andrea Kroll, Mrs. Michael M. Strother, Scott Waldie; Lafayette: Mrs. Marie W. Brown, Mrs. Jack Curtis, Lou & Evelyn Mancini, Sharon Lee Peterson, Paul C. Reece; Martinez: Mr. Jeanne Cusack, T. Farrell, Fletcher Hargrow; Moraga: Richard Hake; Pittsburg: Mr. Kalen Heckathorn; Pleasant Hill: Eleanor P. Busher, Erin E. Farmer, Beverly Hatstrup, Jennifer Jefferson, Mrs. Carol Lewis, Karen Sorensen, James Toney; Walnut Creek: Mr. & Mrs. Michael Ambrose, Thomas C. Bland, Ruth & Bryce Boyer, Mrs. Helen H. Gester, Gary A. Gorman, Sandy Jordan, Dr. M. Y. Kremers, Vern Mirante, I. Overmire, Marta E. Raven, Mr. & Mrs. J. Wesley Rhoades, Dawn Toft, Douglas R. Watterman, Bette Wentzel.

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CONSERVATION NOTES by J. P. Hauser.

".....the tall trees in the area are needed more for timber than for a park. They are a crop, like cabbages. They renew themselves..." by Senator S. I. Hayakawa commenting on efforts to add to Redwood National Park.

Fortunately, the senator's typical simplistic approach has helped. Park legislation has passed the Senate (74-20) and the House (328-60), and increases Redwood National Park by 48,000 acres, making it a total of 106,000 acres. This legislation also contains authority for the Secretary of the Interior to acquire up to an additional 30,000 acres in a park protection zone. If you feel a certain amount of gratitude, you could express your appreciation to Senators Alan Cranston, James Abourezek, Henry Jackson and Clifford Hansen, whose constant support was crucial. The hero in this scenario has to be Rep. Philip Burton who, from the beginning, negotiated many of the compromises necessary for passage.

A recent poll sponsored by the forest industry found that the public is strongly opposed to increased sales of timber from the national forests. The study, conducted by the Opinion Research Corporation, concluded that only 7% of the public felt there was "too much" wilderness, while 32% thought there was "too little."

"Anytime you have to make this kind of investment merely for ecological improvements, it's a burden. There's only so much GNP to go around. It just seems wrong somehow to spend so much of it to solve a problem that is a concern to such a small segment of the population..." by Matthew R. Banoretz, executive vice president of Reserve Mining, in opposing spending of company money to halt deposits of teconite into Lake Superior.

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KERN REFUGE THREAT. In a move which could set a dangerous precedent, private duck hunting clubs surrounding the Kern National Wildlife Refuge (60 miles north of Bakersfield) are applying political pressure to have the entire refuge thrown open to hunting. At present, all but 100 acres of the refuge are open to hunters; if the hunt clubs' efforts succeed, this last remaining sanctuary will be lost. The clubs apparently are close to success, because there is little local opposition (other than from the refuge manager and employees).

The implications of this move for other federal and state-administered refuges are obvious. Letters to Senators Cranston and Hayakawa, your own congressman, and to Area Manager William D. Sweeney of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 2800 Cottage Way, Room E 2740, Sacramento, CA 95825, are needed. (The Sandpiper, Redwood Region Audubon)

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CLASSES and EXCURSIONS:

PRBO: Bird Song, May 20-21, \$25; Owls of Calif., May 27-28, \$40. Info: PRBO, 4990 Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach, CA 94970.

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Inc.: worldwide coverage with specialization in Texas tours. Info: 1603 West Clay, Houston, TX 77019; phone (713) 528-3725.

Nature Expeditions, International: worldwide coverage. Info: 559 College Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306; phone (415) 328-6572.

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The MDAS PHONE NUMBER was recently changed. Just dial "AUDUBON" for our tape which lists upcoming meetings, field trips, and other activities.

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The CALIFORNIA CONDOR NEWSLETTER, a quarterly publication, contains information about this endangered species and the effort being made to save it from extinction. Subscription is \$2.00 per year. Send your check to National Audubon Society, Western Regional Office, 555 Audubon Pl., Sacramento, CA 94825.

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A CONDOR EXHIBIT at the Oakland Museum will remain on view through June 18 in the Natural Science Special Gallery. The exhibit relates the Condor's history by drawing on the entire available photographic record, including glass plate negatives dating from a 1906 trek into the great bird's nesting area. Admission is free.

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COMMON SNIPE IN CALIFORNIA. The California Department of Fish & Game requests support of Auduboners throughout the state in gathering information on the status of Common Snipe. The color of the wing bands indicate the area of the banding: blue--north coast; yellow--northeast; red--Sacramento Valley; Green--San Joaquin Valley. Report observations of color-banded snipe to Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game, Attention: Larry McKibben, P. O. Box 758, Gridley, CA 95948. (Audubon Topics West)

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FOREST FIRE POLICY. Shades of Smokey the Bear notwithstanding, the U.S. Forest Service has officially revised its policy on putting out wildfires. Within certain predetermined areas, fires now will be permitted to run their natural course unless public safety and property is threatened. Biologists have long noted that fire can have beneficial results for forests, helping curb the spread of tree diseases, improving wildlife habitat, and removing dry forest debris that can accumulate and lead to larger and less manageable fires. The Forest Service began experimenting in 1973, permitting some fires to burn within prescribed areas (see Audubon, Sept. 1974). The Service, however, is still proud of its fire-fighting reputation: when it is necessary to put out a forest fire, the announcement said, the Forest Service efforts will still be "fast, safe, thorough and energetic." (Audubon Leader)

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OBSERVATIONS, Mar. 16-Apr. 12. (Also see field trip reports.)

Black-Footed Albatrosses, most following freighters, Pink-Footed & Manx Shearwaters, Pomarine & Parasitic Jaegers, Marbled & Ancient Murrelets, Rhinoceros Auklets, seen from shore at Pigeon Pt., San Mateo Co., through period--BS, PM, m.ob.

Harlequin Duck, Monterey, Mar. 20--JE.

Red-Shouldered Hawk, over his Walnut Creek garden, Mar. 6--RH.

Lesser Yellowlegs, 3, Waterfront Rd. at I-680, Martinez, Mar. 26--FLB. H&JG.

Shorebirds of many species in breeding plumage, Bay Bridge Toll Plaza Marsh, Alameda South Shore, other easily accessible places, late Mar. thru mid-Apr.

Rhinoceros Auklet, Monterey, Mar. 20--JE.

Caspian Terns returned to Doolittle Pond Apr. 5--JR, MJG.

Poor-Will, Squaw Flat, 15 mi. west of Willows, Glenn Co., Mar. 28--JH.

Rufous Hummingbird, his Walnut Creek garden, Mar. 6--RH.

BLUE-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD, Three Rivers, Tulare Co., hatched 2 young early Apr.

Western Kingbird, lower Del Puerto Canyon, Stanislaus Co., Mar. 24--FLB. BF. JR.

Purple Martin, male, returned to Capitol Ave. & I-80, Sacramento, Apr. 10--JR.

Red-Breasted Nuthatches, still in his Lafayette garden--MO.

Mockingbirds, 15+ singing in a woodland area, Squaw Flat, Mar. 30--JH.

Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, 4, Briones Regional Park (east), Mar. 26--BiS.

Bohemian Waxwings, hundreds, 250+ in one flock, Eugene, Oregon, Mar. 9-12--JH.

Palm Warbler, Walker St. railroad bridge, Pajaro, Monterey Co., Apr. 1--JE, m.ob.

Hooded Oriole, male, returned to our Alamo garden Mar. 29, still here--JR.

"Bullock's" Orioles returned to our garden Mar. 22 (early)--JR.

Tricolored Blackbird, 500+, Mt. View Sanitary Dist., Martinez, Mar. 26--H&JG, FLB.

"Slate-Colored" Junco, Mines Rd., Santa Clara Co., Mar. 24--JR.

(Observers: Florence Bennett, Jimm Edgar, Bud Fry, Helen & Jerry Gentile, Mary Jane Greene, Jim Hale, Ralph Hudgins, Peter Metropolis, Merv Ortez, Jean Richmond, Barry Sauppe, Bill Scheffel, many observers)

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GREATER BAY AREA SITE GUIDE: Mt. Diablo State Park.

Access: From I-680 in Danville, follow signs out Diablo Rd. to Rock City (no parking on South Gate Rd.) 1 mile past Entrance Station (\$1.50 fee, get map, birdlist).

Rock City. Walk to Live Oak Campground: MacGillivray's Warbler, chaparral species. Check little spur roads at Rock City & downhill below restrooms across main road.

Birds here are those of oak woodland, chaparral; Vaux's Swift, several warblers.

Arroyo Picnic Area. Righthand loop: gnatcatcher, several warblers. Walk past table to large open spot: Vaux's Swift possible. Toward bottom of arroyo: House Wren around old wire fence. Streambed: wrens, vireos, warblers, tanager, grosbeak.

Curry Point. Trees on right side of road, Curry Canyon trail: kinglets, vireos, warblers; Horned Larks, goldfinches along road; swallows overhead.

Turnout just beyond Buckeye Campground. Go up hill, trail to left thru trees: woodpeckers, wrens (House Wren has nested), bluebird, vireos, warblers, grosbeak.

Next 1/2 mile. Grassy area: Horned Lark, meadowlark, Lark Sparrow. Barbeque Terrace-Wildcat Campground may be productive. Band-Tailed Pigeon, especially in winter.

Junction. Park Headquarters: pay fee if entrance unattended. Campground: woodpeckers, bluebird, several warblers, oriole. Thrasher across main road in chaparral.

Sunset Picnic Area. Woodpeckers, White-Breasted Nuthatch, thrasher, Swainson's Thrush, bluebird, warblers (last Apr. 30, incredible number warblers, mostly upper side of road). Summit trail to left--crosses main road again at Pioneer.

Blue Oak-Oak Knoll Picnic Areas. Blue Oak: vireos, warblers; gap at end to grassy hillside, may be House Wren near bushes, downed trees; Band-Tailed Pigeon on snags.

Lawrence's Goldfinches have been seen here. Atop knoll: bluebirds among nesters; warblers, Hermit & Swainson's Thrushes in trees; on back side look for pewee, other flycatchers, warblers, have hear Black-Chinned Sparrow. Parking area, upper end of Oak Knoll: nearby trees on downhill side for flycatchers--Hammond's Dusky, Western in migration. Chaparral above parking area: Sage Sparrow. Across road, Summit Trail at bottom of grassy arroyo--Rufous-Crowned Sparrow has nested.

Pioneer area (just beyond Oak Knoll). Road closed to vehicles is easy walk--listen, look for Rufous-Crowned & Sage Sparrows in chaparral.

Juniper Camp. Park at far end. Pewees, other flycatchers, bluebird, warblers in trees; thrasher, thrushes usually in area. Grassy hillside to west: Horned Lark, Lark Sparrow. Deer Flat Trail from here: woodland birds in trees, grassland species further out. Less than 1/2 mile to burn area: fire did considerable damage.

North Gate Rd. Down 3.1 mi. from junction: Horned Lark, meadowlark, Lark Sparrow; 4.6 mi.: Rock Wren on right, thrasher. Lower gate in winter: Say's Phoebe. You may return to I-680 in Walnut Creek via Walnut Ave. & Ygnacio Valley Rd.

Park opens 8 a.m., North Gate closes 6 p.m., South Gate closes 1 hour after sunset. Restrooms: best at Rock City, others privy type. Water throughout the park.

Best birding: mid-April thru early June. Summer too hot, fall and winter rather quiet. Much of park is grasslands, chaparral, oak woodlands. Streams running well this year, will improve riparian areas.

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MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY
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Walnut Creek, CA 94597

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

Pres.: Bruce Moorad
1445 Marchbanks Dr.
Walnut Creek, CA 94598
phone: 938-4446 or
938-9100

June 1978
Vol. 24, No. 11

Next deadline: June 25

Meeting: Thurs., June 1, 6:30 p.m., Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek. Annual POTLUCK DINNER, Laurie Rask, coordinator, phone 676-9598.

Field Trips: Sat., June 3, 8:00 a.m., outer Point Reyes; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd., just north of Freeway 24, 6:30. Leader: Bob Richmond (447-0248).

Thurs., June 8, 9:00 a.m., Redwood Regional Park; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd., just north of Freeway 24, 8:15. Leader: Gen Sattler (685-5315).

Sat.-Sun., June 17-18, Yuba Pass & Sierra Valley. Leader: Sally Steller (837-9061). Make motel reservations immediately. Campgrounds in area.

Sun., June 25, 9:30 a.m., Woodson Bridge State Rec. Area; carpool: Copper Penny, Sun Valley Center, 6:30. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).

June 17-25, Northeastern California trip, joining the Yuba Pass and Woodson Bridge trips. Itineraries available at the meeting or call Sally Steller (837-9061).

Sat.-Sun., July 8-9, Gualala Point Regional Park. Meet at Visitor's Center, Sat. at 9:30 a.m., Sun. at 8:00. Leader: Tom Steller (881-0581).

Board Meeting: Thurs., June 8, home of Elizabeth Dickey, 113 Hillside Dr., Orinda; phone 254-0486. Board meetings are always open to members.

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The annual POTLUCK DINNER is our 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 attending. Tea, coffee and punch are provided but milk drinkers must bring their own. Call Laurie Rask (676-9598) by May 30 to tell her what you would like to bring and how many will be attending. The program will be the showing of slides and exhibits by members. Please limit your slides to a dozen or so, your commentary to a reasonable length. Slides may be of birds, mammals, flowers, scenery, etc. We will have showings by members of photographs and exhibits of anything about nature: nests, rocks, etc. Not all members take slides but all members should be able to actively take part in this program.

Outer Pt. Reyes in June often has eastern vagrants (breeding plumage and singing) rare in our area. Cross San Rafael bridge, go north on US 101 for 0.6 mile, take San Rafael exit 2 blocks to 3rd St., turn left and go out through Fairfax to SR 1. Turn right $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, then left to Pt. Reyes Seashore Headquarters. To avoid parking problems we MUST take a minimum of cars from there.

At Redwood Park we will look for summer residents such as flycatchers, vireos, warblers, grosbeaks. Take Freeway 24 toward Oakland, south on Warren Fwy (SR 13) to Redwood Rd. exit, turn left and go $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles beyond Skyline Blvd. Turn left into the park and drive about $\frac{1}{3}$ mile to the main parking lot.

Yuba Pass weekend: Meet Sat. at 8:30 a.m., Sun. at 8:00, at Yuba Pass (SR 49 between Sierra City and Sierraville) in parking area on south side of road. We will bird Sat. morning at Yuba Pass, afternoon at Sardine Lakes, looking for mountain species such as Mountain Quail, White-Headed & Black-Backed Three-Toed Woodpeckers,

Townsend's Solitaire, Evening Grosbeak, Red Crossbill. Sunday we drop down into Sierra Valley for sagebrush species (Sage Thrasher, Brewer's & Vesper Sparrows) and marsh birds (Wilson's Phalarope, Black Tern). MOTELS in Sierra City: Herrington's Sierra Pines (916-862-1151) or Sierra Chalet (916-862-1110); in Sierraville: Canyon Ranch (916-994-3340). CAMPING: Yuba Pass, Chapman Creek 8 miles west of the summit or Wild Plum Campground just east of Sierra City on SR 49.

The Woodson Bridge trip offers an opportunity for Green Heron, Red-Shouldered Hawk, Yellow-Billed Cuckoo, Chat (all seen last year). We will also bird the Chico Oxidation Ponds for waterfowl, shorebirds, possibly Blue Grosbeak. Campground reservations may be made through Ticketron if you wish to camp at Woodson Bridge Saturday night. From I-80 east of Vacaville go north on I-505 then I-5 to South Avenue near Corning. Turn east and follow signs 6 miles to Woodson Bridge State Rec Area. Turn left and meet at the entrance station.

Gualala Pt. Regional Park, beautifully situated where the Gualala River reaches the coast, includes sea cliffs, coastal prairie, redwood forest, fresh-water marsh and riparian habitats. Last July, 70 species were found including Green Heron, Common Merganser, Osprey, Black Oystercatcher, Pigeon Guillemot, nesting Purple Martins. Good spot for your canoe or kayak. The Park has a limited number of campsites and there are 2 privately owned campgrounds, Gualala River Redwoods and Anchor Bay, a few miles north. Motels available at Sea Ranch and Gualala. Take SR 12 or SR 116 west from US 101 to SR 1 then north to the park. Approx. 140 miles, 3½ hours.

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FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

At VETERANS' PARK in Livermore on April 13 there were no Wood Ducks but the other hoped-for species were found plus Phainopepla. The weather was clear and cool but somewhat windy. The eight members and guests heard or saw the following 44 species:

Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, Amer Kestrel, Forster's & Caspian Tern, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, White-Throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Com (R-Sh) Flicker, Acorn, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, West Kingbird, Black Phoebe, Violet-Green & Rough-Winged Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Yellow-Billed Magpie, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, Amer Robin, Varied & Hermit Thrush, West Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, Phainopepla, Starling, Yellow-Rumped (Aud) Warbler, West Meadowlark, Northern Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, White-Crowned & Golden-Crowned Sparrow.

The 3-SPRINGS RANCH trip April 15 was cancelled due to pouring rain.

On April 22 the weather for the MINES ROAD-DEL PUERTO CANYON trip was clear and warm with light wind - a perfect day for birding - but the CASWELL PARK part of the weekend the next day was cancelled as the park was flooded and closed for the spring. The Costa's Hummingbird apparently has not returned this year and Canyon Wrens were not found but other species we hoped to find were seen. We also found 5 Wild Turkeys, Nashville, Black-Throated Gray & MacGillivray's Warblers, at least 25 Lawrence's Goldfinches. The following 90 species were tallied by 33 members and guests:

Great Blue Heron, Mallard, Pintail, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite (harassing an eagle), Sharp-Shinned, Cooper's & Red-Tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle (6), Marsh Hawk, falcon sp., Amer Kestrel, Wild Turkey, Calif Quail, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Calif Gull, Forster's & Caspian Tern, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Rock & Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, White-Throated Swift, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Com (R-Sh) Flicker, Acorn, Lewis' & Nuttall's Woodpecker, West Kingbird, Ash-Throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, West Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Violet-Green, Rough-Winged, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Scrub Jay, Yellow-Billed Magpie, Com Raven, Com Crow, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, Bewick's & Rock Wren, Mockingbird, Calif Thrasher, Amer Robin, Hermit Thrush, West Bluebird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Phainopepla, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Solitary & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Nashville, Yellow-Rumped (Aud), Black-Throated Gray, MacGillivray's & Wilson's Warbler, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged Blackbird, Northern Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Purple & House Finch, Pine Siskin, Amer, Lesser & Lawrence's Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Savannah & Lark Sparrow, Dark-Eyed Junco, Chipping, White-Crowned & Golden-Crowned Sparrow.

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The trip on MT. DIABLO on April 26 was made by 18 members and guests on a day that was mostly clear and mild with light wind. With parking no longer allowed along South Gate Rd., some species were missed or, as with Lazuli Bunting and Black-Chinned Sparrow, only heard. There was a spirited discussion as to whether a flycatcher was a Pewee or Olive-Sided but the bird was not "talking". There were only 5 warblers: 1 Orange-Crowned, 3 "Audubon's" and 1 Black-Throated Gray. The following 50 species were seen or heard:

Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, White-Throated Swift, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Com Flicker, Acorn & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Ash-Throated Flycatcher, West Wood Pewee or Olive-Sided Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Violet-Green & Cliff Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Bewick's Wren, Amer Robin, Hermit & Swainson's Thrush, West Bluebird, Starling, Hutton's & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Yellow-Rumped & Black-Throated Gray Warbler, Northern Oriole, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Purple & House Finch, Pine Siskin, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Rufous-Crowned & Sage Sparrow, Dark-Eyed Junco, Chipping, Black-Chinned, White-Crowned & Golden-Crowned Sparrow.

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OFFICERS for 1978-79 elected at the April membership meeting are: President - Bruce Moorad; Vice-President - Laurie Rask; Vice-President, Conservation - Kent Fickett; Secretary - Elizabeth Dickey; Treasurer - Winnie Orcutt. If you are asked to serve with a committee, please answer in the affirmative as we are looking for people to add their different ideas and approach to our way of doing things. Contact Bruce Moorad if there is some area in which you would like to help.

Also accepted at the meeting were changes in our BY-LAWS which officially add to our standing committees, Exhibits, Education, Birdinformation, and Christmas Count, the chairmen of which are members of the Board of Directors.

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A TROGAN ETHOS by Richard Taylor. In southeast Arizona canyons such as South Fork in the Chiricahua Mountains, Garden in the Huachuclas, and Madera in the Santa Ritas will draw many birders making their pilgrimage to see the crimson red and tropical green Elegant Trogons visiting from Mexico. All the attention will be focused on approximately 50 birds, assuming that the 1977 population remains stable. A dozen individuals, those most accessible, will have to support almost the full weight of the human landslide. None of us want to be responsible for failure of a Trogan nest. To insure we aren't, I would like to propose the following rules of conduct based on the biology of the species:

1. Do not use tape recorders or other sound devices to attract Trogons.
2. Always use a blind to photograph a nest.
3. Never clip screening vegetation or break limbs that interfere with a clear view of the nest cavity.
4. Never rap, scratch, or tap known or suspected Trogan nest trees.
5. Leave the area any time Trogons sound their alarm call, a W-k-k-k-k which begins shrilly and trails into a series of clucks.
6. Walk quietly when visiting Trogan haunts.

It is time for birders to exercise self-restraints. Consider the life history of this species. Show your appreciation for the Elegant Trogan's future in the United States, and for the future esthetic pleasure of naturalists who follow, by giving the Trogan living room. (The Vermillion Flycatcher, Tucson Audubon Society)

(Editor's note: These same rules should be applied to other nesting species also. These excerpts are from an excellent, comprehensive article which I have kept and from which any of our members may get more details.)

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The Audubon SIERRA NATURAL HISTORY WORKSHOP will again be held at Golden Trout Camp located at 10,000-foot altitude out of Lone Pine. As there is no road in, guests hike 3 miles and carry sleeping bags and personal belongings but meals and tents are provided. Study-hikes in the nearby meadow, forest and alpine regions are led by qualified naturalists.

Three week-long sessions start July 23, July 30, August 6. Cost is \$90. Signup deadline is July 1. For brochure or information contact Mrs. Tomi Sollen, 825 N. Soledad, Santa Barbara, CA 93103; phone: (805) 966-4836.

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

Antioch: Mrs. Sylvain Bordes, Kenneth D. Dempster; Concord: David D. Cornman, Stanley A. Fletcher, Mr. & Mrs. Malcolm Foster, J. and Y. Jacobson, Diane Kavanagh, Dr. Alvin G. Medvin, Shirley Toule, Mike & Lea Zivio; Danville: Carol Felton, Marilyn & Jim Tandrow; Lafayette: Bob J. Capra, John M. & Jean C. Kennedy, Richard C. Smith; Martinez: Jacquelyn L. Chaddock, David Filomed, Ron Kline, Mitchell; Oakland: Joan C. Hanrahan; Orinda: Edith Anne Evans; Pittsburg: Robert S. Harvey; Pleasant Hill: Judith Hampton, Mrs. B. Oas; Walnut Creek: Marlene & George Jouthas, Ms. Linda LaPointe, Mr. & Mrs. Emil E. Palmquist, Karl Satterfield.

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CONSERVATION NOTES by J. P. Hauser.

Those who hike the high country of the Sierras and enjoy the beauties of wildflowers, history, unique ecosystems, should read "The Pacific Crest Trail" by Ann and Myron Sutton (1975). Subtitled "Escape to the Wilderness", it is not a trite tale of miles covered, hardships of hiking, or how to cook what. It is a well-written, refreshing account of some unique, fascinating nature found mainly in California.

"Merchants have no country of their own. Whoever they may be they have no ties with the soil. All they are interested in is the source of their profits"...Thomas Jefferson. This quotation is on the last page of another highly recommended book, "Lost Frontiers; The Marketing of Alaska", an absorbing account by 2 investigative reporters of the sellout of America's last expanse of wild country to the "Great White Fortune Hunters" of this decade, Alaska. John Hanrahan and Peter Gruenstein, formerly of the Washington Post, spent long hours roaming and interviewing, and unfold a report of behind-the-scenes building of the 800-mile pipeline; political maneuvering leading to its approval; monstrous greed of multi-national corporations after ever more oil, gas, minerals, timber, real estate; untiring, well-financed efforts of "development at any cost" mentalities at work in Washington to gut HR39, the Alaska National Interest Lands legislation.

First seen by Spaniards in 1769, there were approximately 2 million acres of a tree growing nowhere else in the world, California Coast Redwoods. Less than 160,000 acres of old growth remain, about 75,000 acres in parks, the rest, privately owned, is being logged at the rate of 10,000 acres a year. Knowing this, we are even more grateful for the recent addition of 48,000 acres to Redwood National Park.

Many of you are aware of The Nature Conservancy, but I only learned recently of its history and impressive conservation record. Incorporated in 1951 in Washington, DC, it now is based in Arlington, VA, has 43,000 members, 4 regional offices, 25 state chapters, a paid staff of 200. It is financed by over 140 corporations, donations, membership dues, foundation grants, has a credit line over \$7 million, a revolving fund of \$4.3 million. In its low profile operations, it has quietly bought, or arranged purchase of thousands of acres of great ecological and environmental value. To keep abreast of this successful arm of the conservation movement costs only \$10.

To update the battle over HR 39, co-sponsored by 80 representatives when introduced in January 1977, early rounds went well for conservationists. Field hearings produced overwhelmingly favorable testimony from thousands across the country. There is enthusiastic momentum, but it could easily run down if we don't maintain our interest. Opponents are becoming super-active with millions to spend (what isn't available with that kind of money?), and key politicians in strategic places. DO write Representatives M.K. Udall and George Miller, House Office Building, Washington, D.C., Senator Alan Cranston, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.

If you procrastinate on this, I will remind you again next month.

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The AMOCO CADIZ. What more can be said after 68 million gallons of crude oil poured from the supertanker? The Council on Environmental Quality says the disaster should arouse a world-wide sense of urgency about prevention of spills. We do not know the long-term effects of massive spills on fish and the ocean as a food supply, biological effects of spills, or even what happens to oil at sea. Some scientists, hopeful about recuperative powers of oceans, say the Torrey Canyon spill wiped out 85% of France's puffins 11 years ago but the population now appears largely recovered. However, Stephen Kress, head of NAS' puffin reintroduction project in Maine, says contacts in France say otherwise. Researchers report that Sept Isles, the only sizable puffin colony in France, had about 2,500 pairs before Torrey Canyon, but not more than 400 pairs since. Of dead birds picked up after the Amoco Cadiz incident, 500 were puffins. People coping with the mess in Brittany are bitter after

the fourth spill in 11 years. "It's not just the birds," said Lois LeCarvanteo, head of the bird rescue effort at Portsall, "It's the whole food chain: algae, plankton, sandworms, shellfish....We will leave a chamber pot for our children."

* * * * *

OPERATION MUSSEL WATCH. In special locations plain, ordinary black mussels, those found attached to rocks and pilings, are the key factor in a new state program to monitor the quality of our coastal waters. These shellfish can accumulate toxic substances such as mercury and pesticides from ocean water and store them in body tissues. That ability plus the fact they remain fixed in one location makes them especially useful as a biological monitor. By chemically analyzing their tissues we get excellent data about the quality of water in which they lived. To the extent possible, stations are located away from known sources of pollutants, such as wastewater discharges. For every sample collected and analyzed, a comparable sample is stored in a tissue bank. Unprocessed samples are preserved by freezing so that chemical analyses may be made "in retrospect" if and when new substances of environmental concern are identified. California's Mussel Watch was developed and is funded by the State Water Resources Control Board and operated by the Department of Fish & Game. Along with another DF&G-operated state board program studying coastal areas of special biological significance, Mussel Watch comprises our quarter-million dollar Marin Monitoring Program. (Outdoor California, DF&G)

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CLASSES and EXCURSIONS. PRBO: Birds of the High Sierra, June 27-July 1, \$50; Birds and the Natural History of Southeast Arizona, July 6-13, \$250. Information: PRBO, 4990 Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach, CA 94970.

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The cost of NOT cleaning up our air now runs about \$10 million a year, says the American Lung Association. That's what air pollution is costing in health bills.

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OBSERVATIONS, Apr. 12-30. (Also see field trip reports.)

Sooty Shearwaters, Northern Phalaropes, Cassin's Auklets, Tufted Puffins, pelagic trip to the Farallons, Apr. 22--GG, et al.

Pink-Footed & Sooty Shearwaters, Red & Northern Phalaropes, Arctic Terns, Cassin's & Rhinoceros Auklets, pelagic trip to the Farallons, Apr. 23--AE, et al.

Black Brant, 5, Moss Landing, Apr. 20--FLB.

GOSHAWK, over their Lafayette garden, Apr. 8--B&HA.

Merlin, in their garden, Apr. 13--B&HA.

Northern Phalarope, 70, Moss Landing, Apr. 20--FLB.

Least Terns, 2, returned to Alameda South Shore, Apr. 21--JR, MJG.

Black-Chinned Hummingbird, returned to their Concord garden, mid-Apr.--A&CE.

BLUE-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD, female, Three Rivers, Tulare Co., feeder, Apr. 15--FLB, JR.

Phainopepla, female, their Rossmoor yard, Apr. 17--A&AB. (Male, same date, 1976.)

Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Las Trampas Park, Apr. 8--B&GS.

Hooded Orioles, still in her Alamo garden--JR.

Harris' Sparrow, Santa Barbara feeder, Apr. 15--PW.

CORRIGENDA: The hatching dates of the Blue-Throated Hummingbird's eggs in Three Rivers were Mar. 26-27, not early April as I had earlier heard.

OBSERVERS: Betty & Harry Adamson, Florence Bennett, Ann & Al Boileau, Agnes & Carl Eckford, Art Edwards, Gen Graves, Mary Jane Greene, Jean Richmond, Bill & George Scheffel, Peter Willmann.

BEST BIRDING SPOT for many eastern vagrants first 2 weeks of June, outer Pt. Reyes, especially New Willows (see June, 1977, Quail) and Weeds in draw just west of Nunes Ranch in flowering poison hemlock. Just up hill beyond turnoff to Fish Docks cross cattle guard and park. Walk down draw to right.

* * * * *

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

GREATER BAY AREA SITE GUIDE: Yuba Pass - Sierra Valley areas.

Access: I-80 east to Truckee, SR 89 north thru Sierraville, SR 49 west to Pass (200 mi., 4 hr.). Scenic route (shorter, winding, 4 hr.): SR 49 east from I-80 in Auburn.

YUBA PASS. Check roadsides near parking area for Evening Grosbeak, Cassin's Finch. Walk thru campground for several forest species. Around meadow: Blue Grouse, woodpeckers (White-Headed, Black-Backed 3-Toed have nested), flycatchers, swallows, Mt. Chickadee, warblers; Lincoln's Sparrow in willow clumps. Drive dirt road south about a mile to point with good view of Sierra Valley to east: Mt. Bluebirds often nest in vicinity. Walk dirt road north of highway: Mt. Quail, Blue Grouse, woodpeckers, Hammond's & Dusky Flycatchers, Clark's Nutcracker, Townsend's Solitaire, warblers, Pine Grosbeak, Red Crossbill (listen for loud, sharp "kip, kip, kip" call) along road and adjacent forest.

Drive west on SR 89, turn right on Gold Lake Rd., left to parking area at Sardine Lakes. Walk road ahead to area between the 2 lakes, checking hillsides & trees: Calliope Hummer, flycatchers, warblers, Green-Tailed Towhee, etc.

Return to SR 49, go west to drinking fountain on right. Check for Dipper around waterfall (have nested) and also along river across highway (often seen along this stretch of river).

SIERRA VALLEY. From Pass, go east on SR 49, SR 89 north 3 mi. (check for Green-Tailed Towhee around MP 31.00), right on A23 to red "Sierra Valley Ranch" sign on right (not far before MP 5.0). Walk area west of road for Sage Thrasher, Vesper & Brewer's (rapid, buzzy song) Sparrows. Continue north about 3.6 mi. beyond county line, turn right on Dyson Ln. (unmarked, dirt), watch for Vesper Sparrow. Park near where road turns left. Marsh area: Night Heron, Black Tern, swallows, Marsh Wren, Yellow-Headed Blackbird. Fields to east: waterfowl, Sandhill Crane, Snipe, Wilson's Phalarope, other shorebirds. Continue on Dyson Ln., stop just beyond next bend (right), check sagebrush for Sage Thrasher. Along road ahead watch water for Coots & Grebes with chicks, Black Tern; swallows around bridges. If still no Sage Thrashers, stay on Dyson Ln. to area about 1/2 mile west of SR 49.

RED ROCK RD. side trip could produce Black-Chinned Hummer, Gray Flycatcher, Pinyon Jay, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher. At east end of Dyson Ln. turn left on SR 49, right on SR 70, left on US 395. Just beyond MP 14.00 turn right on Red Rock Rd. First mile or two should produce those species among others in sage and pinyon pines.

Other mountain birds: Pileated Woodpecker, all 3 nuthatches, Creeper, Hermit and Swainson's Thrushes (lovely songs), Western Tanager, Chipping Sparrow, etc.

Other valley birds: Swainson's Hawk, breeding plumage shorebirds include Avocet, Stilt, Wilson's Phalarope, Common Nighthawk, Black-Billed Magpie, Rock Wren, Tricolored Blackbird, Savannah, Lark & Rufous-Crowned Sparrows, etc.

MOTELS in Sierra City, Sierraville; several CAMPGROUNDS between Pass & Sierra City.

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The Quail

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

Pres.: Bruce Moorad
1445 Marchbanks Dr.
Walnut Creek, CA 94598
phone: 938-4446 or
938-9100

July-August, 1978
Vol. 25, No. 1

Next deadline: August 10

PICNIC: Second annual picnic, Fri., Aug. 4, 6:00 p.m., Lafayette Reservoir. Fee for parking: \$1.00 per car, carpooling encouraged.

Field Trips: Sat.-Sun., July 8-9, Gualala Point Regional Park. Meet at Visitor's Center, Sat. at 9:30 a.m., Sun. at 8:00. Leader: Tom Steller (881-0581).

Fri., July 14, 7:00 p.m., Del Valle Regional Park, Picnic & Poor-Wills. If coming, call coordinator, Sally Steller (837-9061), so she will know how many tables are needed. Entrance fee: \$2.00, carpooling encouraged.

Sat.-Sun., July 22-23, Yosemite National Park. Sat. meet behind the Crane Flat Chevron station, 10:00 a.m.; Sun. at Badger Pass (sign says road closed) at 8:00. If we have left Crane Flat before you arrive, go out Tioga Pass Rd. to Siesta Lake. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).

Sat., Aug. 2, 9:00 a.m., Bodega Bay; carpool: Copper Penny in Sun Valley Center, 7:00. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).

SPECIAL PLACE YOU WOULD LIKE TO BIRD? TRIP YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEAD? We visited 12 new areas in 1977-78 but there are more good places we haven't discovered. Call Sally Steller (837-9061) with trip suggestions.

Board Meetings: July 13, home of Merv Ortez, 1010 Walnut Dr., Lafayette; phone: 283-3072. August, budget session. Date, place to be decided at July meeting. Officers will be notified; others wishing to attend, call Bruce Moorad.

* * * * *

The picnic and tour of Oakland Museum scheduled Aug. 4 was changed--the Museum has had to cancel evening hours. We have arranged to have the picnic at Lafayette Reservoir. We will have dinner, do some birding, and Jean Richmond will share highlights of the fabulous birding trip to Alaska she and Rich recently made. Birding at Attu & Gambell is quite an experience--rather primitive conditions, cold weather, difficult terrain, extensive hiking but exceptional birds as the reward.

Gualala Point: see June "Quail" for details. Take SR 12 or SR 116 west from US 101 to SR 1 then north to the park. Approx. 140 miles, 3½ hours.

Del Valle Park, south of Livermore, is reached from I-580 via Livermore Ave., Tesla Rd., Mines Rd., Mendenhall Rd., then Del Valle Rd. Drive across the bridge to the far (west) side of lake, turn right to far end of parking lot. Watch for MDAS signs to guide you. Bring your picnic dinner and come as early as you like but we plan to eat about 7:00 to allow commute time. We will search for Poor-Wills along Mendenhall Rd. toward dusk. Campsites available (\$5) if you wish to camp.

At Yosemite we will seek Blue Grouse, Mt. Quail, Great Gray Owl, Black Swift, Black-Backed 3-Toed Woodpecker, Pine Grosbeak, Gray-Crowned Rosy Finch, and more. East on I-580 then I-205 past Tracy, briefly north on I-5 then SR 120 east thru Manteca all the way to the Park (SR 140 east from Merced if you prefer). Hopefully there will be space to camp at or near Crane Flat. Non-campers: Yosemite Park & Curry Co., (209) 373-4171; motels at El Portal--see AAA book; also Dell-Hart Lodge, (209) 379-2451. Further info, call Jean Richmond. Around 150 miles via SR 120, 4 hrs.

At Bodega Bay we will look for post-breeding wanderers and early migrants. Go north on US 101 to Petaluma, follow signs from Washington St. exit to SR 1 then north to The Tides Restaurant in middle of town of Bodega Bay. Although it may be hot at home it may be cold and windy there, so come prepared.

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FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

At LAS TRAMPAS REGIONAL PARK on May 11 were nine members on a mostly clear day with light wind. An Orange-Crowned Warbler, the only warbler seen, and a Grasshopper Sparrow, heard but not seen, were among the following 38 species recorded:

Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed Hawk, Calif Quail, Rock & Mourning Dove, Nuttall's Woodpecker, West Kingbird, Ash-Throated & West Flycatcher, West Wood Pewee, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Com Crow, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, Amer Robin, West Bluebird, Hutton's, Solitary & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned Warbler, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged Blackbird, "Bullock's" Oriole, West Tanager, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, House Finch, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Grasshopper & Lark Sparrow, "Oregon" Junco, Chipping Sparrow.

Fourteen members and guests went to BOLINAS LAGOON & AUDUBON CANYON RANCH on May 13 on a clear, warm day with slight wind. Among the following 77 species found was a Green Heron which was a study in slow motion as it stalked its prey:

Com Loon, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue & Green Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Mallard, Pintail, Greater Scaup, Surf Scoter, Red-Breasted Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed & Red-Shouldered Hawk, Osprey, Calif Quail, Amer Coot, Sempalmated Plover, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Long-Billed Curlew, Whimbrel, Spotted Sandpiper, Willet, Dunlin, Marbled Godwit, West, Ring-Billed & Bonaparte's Gull, Forster's & Caspian Tern, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Rock & Mourning Dove, Anna's & Rufous Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Acorn & Downy Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, West & Olive-Sided Flycatcher, Violet-Green, Tree, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Com Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Wrentit, Winter, Bewick's & Long-Billed Marsh Wren, Amer Robin, Swainson's Thrush, West Bluebird, Starling, Orange-Crowned & "Audubon's" Warbler, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Black-Headed Grosbeak, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Amer Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, "Oregon" Junco, Chipping, Fox & Song Sparrow.

The trip up MITCHELL CANYON was made May 20 on a clear, warm, breezy day by 16 members and guests at times through some of the area badly burned in last year's fire. Among the following 34 species found were 4 species of warblers:

Turkey Vulture, Calif Quail, Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Com Flicker, Acorn & Downy Woodpecker, Ash-Throated Flycatcher, West Wood Pewee, Cliff Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, House & Bewick's Wren, Mockingbird, Starling, Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Nashville, Townsend's & Hermit Warbler, West Meadowlark, blackbird sp, West Tanager, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Song Sparrow.

The BRIONES REGIONAL PARK trip on May 24 provided a good study of many woodland birds for twelve members and guests on a cool, partly cloudy day with brisk winds. The following 44 species were seen or heard:

Mallard, Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Com Flicker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Ash-Throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, 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, Amer Robin, West Bluebird, Starling, Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned Warbler, Red-Winged Blackbird, "Bullock's" Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, House Finch, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Lark Sparrow, "Oregon" Junco, Song Sparrow.

Those who went to OUTER PT. REYES & 5-BROOKS on June 3 really hit the jackpot! Ten members and guests found a cold day with light wind, foggy in the morning, overcast in the afternoon, but also found Pileated Woodpecker, YELLOW-THROATED VIREO, Black-and-White Warbler, Bay-Breasted Warbler, Rose-Breasted Grosbeak and Indigo Bunting among the 71 species heard or seen. At outer Pt. Reyes:

Com & Arctic Loon, Brown Pelican, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Cinnamon Teal, White-Winged & Surf Scoter, Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed & Red-Shouldered Hawk, Calif Quail, Amer Coot, West Gull, Com Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Allen's Hummingbird, Black Phoebe, Horned Lark, Rough-Winged, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Com Raven, Com Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bewick's, Long-Billed Marsh & Rock Wren, Amer Robin, Swainson's Thrush, West Bluebird, Starling, YELLOW-THROATED & Warbling VIREO, Black-and-White, Orange-Crowned & Bay-Breasted Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, Rose-Breasted & Black-Headed Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Amer Goldfinch, Brown Towhee, Savannah, White-Crowned & Song Sparrow. Added at 5-Brooks: Pied-Billed Grebe, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Rock Dove, Pileated, Acorn & Downy Woodpecker, West Flycatcher, Violet-Green Swallow, Bushtit, Pygmy Nuthatch, Wrentit.

On June 8 the trip to REDWOOD REGIONAL PARK was made by 13 members and guests on a clear, warm day with light winds. During the walk many woodland birds were heard or seen, including the following 33 species:

Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed Hawk, Calif Quail, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, White-Throated Swift, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Com Flicker, Ash-Throated, West & Olive-Sided Flycatcher, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Red-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, Mockingbird, Amer Robin, Swainson's Thrush, Starling, Hutton's & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned Warbler, West Tanager, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Amer Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, "Oregon" Junco, Song Sparrow.

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OFFICERS OF MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY, 1978-79. (Save for future reference.)

Pres.: Bruce Moorad, 1445 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek 94598; 938-4446 or 938-9100.
 VP (Program): Laurie Rask, 944 Mohr Ln., Concord 94518; 676-9598.
 VP (Conservation): Kent Fickett, 5270 Concord Blvd., Concord 94521; 798-7421.
 Secretary: Elizabeth Dickey, 113 Hillcrest Dr., Orinda 94563; 254-0486.
 Treasurer: Winnie Orcutt, 30 Iris Ln., Walnut Creek 94595; 944-0593.
 Field Trips: Sally Steller, 591 Fulton Way, Danville 94526; 837-9061.
 Membership: Merv Ortez, 1010 Walnut Dr., Lafayette 94549; 283-3072.
 Hospitality: Linda LaPointe, 1011 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek 94598; 933-0168.
 Publicity: Norah Bain, 32 Via Farallon, Orinda 94563; 254-4516.
 Exhibits: Jimm Edgar, 3611 Chestnut St., Lafayette 94549; 283-3510.
 Education: Tom Lee, 3071 Walnut Blvd., Walnut Creek 94596; 934-5475.
 Birdinformation: George Scheffel, 1971 Parkside Dr., Concord 94520; 687-7305.
 Editor: Jean Richmond, 125 Via Serena, Alamo 94507; 837-2843.

On behalf of the membership of MDAS, a BIG THANK YOU to all the people who served us so well during the past year! We had an outstanding year in all of our endeavors due to the excellent job done by each of our officers and we look forward to another highly successful year. If any of our officers call upon you for help in any capacity or if you are requested to assist on any of our committees we sincerely hope you will agree to lend a hand.

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Betty and Harry Adamson would appreciate anyone saving CLEAN GREASE for them such as bacon drippings or grease from roasts, etc., but not the juices from roasts as it thins out the bird cake when they make it. They would be glad to collect the grease at the meetings. They are out of the grease and now have to buy it---such a waste when people are throwing it away and they do not have that much meat to keep them going. Their sanctuary-like garden is home or stopover for many birds which requires a great deal of food for the avian guests. Thanks very much.

* * * * *

We are happy to welcome the following new members of MDAS and hope to meet them at meetings and field trips:

Antioch: Sharon Ward; Concord: Mark S. Miller; Lafayette: Mignone Allen, Bradford James Kelly; Orinda: Alton Sprague family; Pittsburg: Dick & Viola Breitigam, Michele Troia; Pleasant Hill: Shirley Miller; Walnut Creek: Mrs. J. Alan Campbell, Alan N. Kopke, Judith S. Smith, Rotha Wilhite.

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CONSERVATION NOTES by J. P. Hauser.

If you wrote a letter you should be congratulated for helping to influence legislators in the House who voted on HR 39, the Alaska Lands Legislation, and passed it 277-31 in favor of setting aside 100 million acres of new National Conservation Lands. If you didn't write, please write now. Letters are important and effective. In the absence of any constituent pressure, legislators tend to vote with the home (in this case, Alaska) delegation. The two Alaskan senators, Ted Stevens and Mike Gavel, have vowed to filibuster the bill to death. As a result, Senator Byrd, majority leader, stated that he will not even allow the bill to be heard in the Senate. You better write now, (my letter is in the mail) and urge them to keep HR 39 alive, without any weakening amendments. Write as an individual, not as a member of any conservation group. If you prefer not to write, send a brief message by way of mailgram. Call toll-free information number, 800-555-1212, to find your local Western Union office. There is a limit of 100 words for \$2.95, and it is delivered overnight. Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. December 1978 is the deadline for this legislation. It is now a last ditch stand to save the last of some of the greatest wilderness left on this continent.

I recently heard a representative from Gerson Bakar and Associates describe their proposed plans for the development of the Ellinwood Farm, Pleasant Hill (that big "cabbage patch" by I-680). His firm has won awards for multi-housing projects in the Bay Area, and their projects contain many desirable environmental amenities, i.e., open space, water, jogging/bicycle trails, preserved views, and good site planning. This project is a major development of almost 90 acres, and will become one of the most desirable places to live/shop/work in this area. The estimated completion time is 5 years. Within that same 5 years a 200-room hotel, 3 shopping centers, a 100-unit apartment complex, and two high-rise office buildings will also be completed, all in the same general area. All of these projects in themselves are attractive, but the additional environmental problems will be monumental.

It was good to read that the House Interior Committee approved a \$1.3 billion parks bill by Congressman Phillip Burton of San Francisco. Some of the park areas affected in California are: acquire part of the site of the old Playland-at-the-Beach area for the GGNRA, expand Pt. Reyes National Seashore by 2057 acres, make Mineral King part of Sequoia National Park, and authorize \$5 million in development funds for Redwood National Park. Progress through the House is expected to be smooth. The Senate may take much more time, and effort.

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DUCKS UNLIMITED is in the midst of a 5-year program, ending in 1981, calling for fund-raising efforts to produce \$68 million to be used by DU (Canada) for restoration and preservation of wetland habitat. This is the largest commitment of its kind in the world today by a private conservation organization. The goal for 1978 is \$11.1 million to develop and improve critical wetland breeding habitat throughout Canada this year and nearly a quarter million to Ducks Unlimited de Mexico for development of prime wintering waterfowl habitat there. Our own Harry Adamson has contributed his artistic talent to DU over the years by donating wildlife paintings and prints to be auctioned off at fund-raising dinners.

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CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS. PRBO: August, Birds of Ecuador; Aug. 26-27, Birds of Monterey Bay, \$45; Sept. 2-3, Owls of Calif., \$40; Sept. 11-Oct. 23, Avian Ecology---Fall, \$40. Info: PRBO, 4990 Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach, CA 94970.

BIRDING WORKSHOP, CAPE MAY, NEW JERSEY, Sept. 22-26, \$150, field study plus informal lectures and discussions. Led by Will Russell, Davis Finch and Rich Stallcup, three of the best bird experts in the U.S., this should be an exceptionally fine session. Info: your editor has an outline. Full details: Northeast Birding, Seal Harbor, ME 04675: (207) 276-3963.

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FREE FIELD TRIPS TO MONO LAKE, day-long trips exploring the geology, botany, zoology, and human history of the Mono Lake region, are being offered by the Mono Lake Committee this summer. Led by David Gaines and David Winkler, 2 persons familiar with the biological and political environment of this unique high desert lake (remember the program Dave Winkler presented for us in April, 1977?), the outings are scheduled for Sat., July 22; Sun., Aug. 6; Sat., Aug. 19; Sun., Sept. 10. Trips are free, but limited to 30 people. To sign up, send a preferred and an alternate date, and a stamped, addressed envelope to Mono Lake Field Trip, Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541. In addition to the natural history value of Mono Lake, participants will see firsthand the effects of large scale water diversion on the lake shoreline and the insular habitats of Negit and Paoha Islands.

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MORE ON MONO LAKE. Calif. Fish & Game and BLM have blasted a channel between Negit Island and the mainland, for which they should be commended. Over 50,000 Calif. Gulls nest on the island and are now protected by the channel from predators. During late summer shorebirds, waterfowl and grebes descend on the lake to rest and feed during their migration. Brine flies crowd the shores in solid mats a yard wide and great clouds of brine shrimp drift in its water. The spectacular bird population is being jeopardized by the unrestricted diversion of Mono Basin water by Los Angeles. Since 1941, the lake level has fallen by more than 30 feet and the salinity has almost doubled. Unless diversion is curtailed, the lake will become a lifeless chemical broth. An annual diversion of 25,000 acre-feet would stabilize the lake and preserve the integrity of Negit and Paoha Islands. To offer praise and urge long-term solution write: Charles Fullerton, Director, Calif. Fish & Game, 1419 9th St., Sacramento, CA 95814, AND Ed Hasteley, Director, Bureau of Land Management, Federal Building, Sacramento, CA 95825.

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SANTA CRUZ ISLAND. Dr. Carey Stanton is selling his beautiful, unspoiled island 23 miles off the Santa Barbara coast for \$50 an acre. The \$2.5 million purchase price is millions less than would be paid by developers for his 82-square-mile property, largest of the Channel Islands. The Nature Conservancy, buyer of this gem, will maintain it as a wilderness.

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OBSERVATIONS, May 1-June 24. (Also see field trip reports.)

Gadwall, pair with 8 chicks, Skaggs Island, Solano Co., June 10--FlB, GC.
Blue Grouse, Olmsted Pt., Yosemite, June 21--FlB, GC.
Mountain Quail, 2, Badger Pass, June 20, 1, Siesta Lake, Yosemite, June 21--FlB, GC.
WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER, Carmel River State Beach, Monterey Co., June 2 at least thru June 6--m.ob. 1st Northern Calif. record, 3rd record for state.
Caspian Tern, 2, Toulumne Meadows, Yosemite, June 21--FlB, GC.
Williamson's Sapsucker, nesting pair, Siesta Lake, June 21-22--FlB, GC.
Black-Backed 3-Toed Woodpecker, nesting pair, Tioga Pass Rd., June 21-22--FlB, GC.
Townsend's Solitaire, Glacier Pt. parking lot, Yosemite, June 20--FlB, GC.
WHITE-EYED VIREO, Mendoza Ranch, Pt. Reyes, May 18-21--FlB, GC, A&WG, m.ob. 3rd Northern Calif. record.
Northern Parula, male, Mendoza Ranch, May 18-21--FlB, GC, m.ob.
GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE, male, Palace of Fine Arts, San Francisco, June 18 at least thru June 24--m.ob. 1st Northern Calif. record.
Indigo Bunting, singing male, returned to Limantour Rd., Pt. Reyes, May 11 for 3rd consecutive year, still there.
Pine Grosbeak, Tioga Pass Rd., June 22--FlB, GC; 3, Siesta Lake, June 22--BF.
Gray-Crowned Rosy Finch, near Tioga Pass entrance station, Yosemite, 5 on June 21, 2, June 22--FlB, GC.

Observers: Florence Bennett, Glenn Coleman, Bud Fry, Al & Wilma Ghiroso, m.ob.

Frank & Helen Beyer, on vacation at Salton Sea, southeastern Arizona and southern Texas, had some excellent birding in May: GREEN VIOLET-EAR, White-Eared Hummingbird, Montezuma (Harlequin) Quail, Black Hawk, Mississippi Kite, Mourning Warbler, Ringed & Green Kingfisher. Frank adds that the Condor is "still extinct".

Rich & Jean Richmond, birding with Bird Bonanzas at Attu & Gambell in Alaska, added some exciting life birds in May and June: Bean Goose, Smew, Gyrfalcon, Ringed Plover, Wood Sandpiper, Gray-Tailed Tattler, Long-Toed & Rufous-Necked Stints, Black-Tailed Godwit, Ivory Gull, WHITE-THROATED NEEDLETAIL (a swift), 2nd No. Amer. record, Dusky Thrush, EURASIAN BULLFINCH, McKay's & Rustic Buntings among 39 lifers.

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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.

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

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GREATER BAY AREA SITE GUIDE: Woodson Bridge SRA---Yellow-Billed Cuckoo.

Access: From I-80 east of Vacaville go north on I-505 then I-5 to South Ave. near Corning. Follow signs east 6 miles to Woodson Bridge State Recreation Area.

Campground area. Walk thru campground for birds of oak woodland. Return to campground entrance, turn right to turnaround at end of paved road, go right on dirt road atop levee, check river, banks, islands for herons, Com. Merganser, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, etc.; swallows overhead; watch, listen for cooing of CUCKOO. Thick riparian on left--mouth of Deer Creek. Wide gap in vegetation where road bends right: stop, look, listen for CUCKOO, Com. Yellowthroat, Yellow-Breasted Chat, Blue Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting; Great Blue & Green Herons, kingfisher along creek.

Natural Preserve. Drive to Park entrance, go right, cross river, turn right on Old Gardner Ferry Rd. At "Y" bear right on Dale Rd. short distance to Sevillano Ln., turn right to end of gravel rd., walk to river. Backtrack a bit, look for trail to right (may be hard to spot & follow), go thru large, thick riparian to open area beyond. CUCKOO & other species as above may be found in these areas.

Other birds. Park, in beautiful oak woods along Sacramento River, attracts species of that habitat--herons, geese (winter), some ducks, hawks, quail, owls, kingfisher, woodpeckers, swallows, jays, Yellow-Billed Magpie, several warblers (spring), orioles, tanager, goldfinches (sometimes Lawrence's). Checklist available at Park.

Summer very warm but Cuckoos here then, not many so usually must work for them. Good campground. One-day trip possible but is 3-hr. drive each way.

Another area for CUCKOO. Return to I-5, go south 12 mi., east on SR 32 about a mile beyond Sacramento River, right on River Rd. couple of miles to Sacramento Ave. Turn right on dirt roadway, park by slough. Cuckoo, Chat, etc., along this area, especially north end of slough. Birds of oak habitat in trees.

Another area of good birding: continue south on River Rd. to end, left on Chico River Rd. short distance, right into Chico Oxidation Ponds. Park, walk around ponds. Many species here: shorebirds in migration, waterfowl; Blue Grosbeak in trees at south end.

MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY
P. O. Box 53
Walnut Creek, CA 94597

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The Quail

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

Pres.: Bruce Moorad
1445 Marchbanks Dr.
Walnut Creek, CA 94598
phone: 938-4446 or
938-2100

September 1978
Vol. 25, No.2

Next deadline: September 10

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

Field Trips: Sat., Sept. 9, 8:30 a.m., San Mateo County coast; carpool: El Cerro Blvd. just west of I-680, Danville, 7:00. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey (254-0486).
Wed., Sept. 13, 9:00 a.m., Alameda South Shore; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Freeway 24, 8:15. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey (254-0486).
Thurs., Sept. 21, 9:00 a.m., Tilden Regional Park; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Freeway 24, 8:30. Leader: Jimm Edgar (283-3510).
Sat., Sept. 23, 8:30 a.m., outer Pt. Reyes; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Freeway 24, 6:30. Leader: Bob Richmond (447-0248).
Sun., Oct. 1, PELAGIC TRIP out of Monterey. Kent Fickett (798-7421).

Board Meeting: Thurs., Sept. 14, 7:30 p.m., home of Bruce Moorad, 1445 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek; 938-4446. Board meetings are always open to members.

* * * * *

Birdinformation will be a session led by Lynn Farrar on fall warblers, those confounding little creatures which drive us all out of our minds this time of year. Bring field guide (Peterson & Robbins especially) and pencil. The program will feature The Natural History of the Mt. Diablo Area, speaker not yet confirmed.

SAN MATEO COAST in fall has waterbirds, waterfowl, shorebirds (Baird's & Pectoral are good possibilities), gulls, and more. San Mateo County park is good for camping. Cross San Mateo Bridge, continue on SR 92 to Half Moon Bay, go left about 15 miles on SR 1 to Pescadero Rd., then turn right into the parking area.

At ALAMEDA SOUTH SHORE & DOOLITTLE POND are many waterbirds, 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 to Broadway.

TILDEN PARK, with a wide variety of woodland species, some waterbirds, may have eastern vagrants rare in our area. From SR 24 in Orinda take Richmond exit north 2 miles, left on Wildcat Canyon Rd. over the ridge to the Park and follow signs to the parking area at the Enterpretive Center.

OUTER PT. REYES in Sept. has eastern vagrants. Cross San Rafael Bridge, go north on US 101 for 0.6 miles, take San Rafael exit 2 blocks to 3rd St., turn left and go out through Fairfax to SR 1. Turn right 2 miles then left on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. for 14 miles, then left 2 miles to Drake's Beach parking area.

On Sun., Oct. 1, we will have a PELAGIC TRIP out of Monterey, leaving the dock at 8:00 a.m., returning about 3:00 p.m. We will see shearwaters, storm-petrels, al-cids, etc. We have had Wilson's & Fork-Tailed Storm-Petrels, Pomarine & Parasitic Jaegers, Sabine's Gulls, Arctic Terns, Xantus' Murrelets. The trip is limited to the first 36 paid reservations, on a first-come, first served basis, so do not delay if you want to be sure of going. Send check for \$15 per person (payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society) to Kent Fickett, 5270 Concord Blvd., Concord 94521, with name, address and phone number of those going. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped

envelope so complete information may be mailed to you. A waiting list will be made to fill any cancellations. NO REFUNDS will be made unless replacements can fill cancelled reservations. If you must cancel for any reason, contact Kent Fickett immediately so a replacement can be notified (or provide your own). For further information contact Kent at the above address or phone him at 798-7421.

* * * * *

FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

The NORTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA trip June 17-25 was attended by 16 members and guests with 12 others either at Yuba Pass or Woodson Bridge. The weather was beautiful but temperatures were cool at Yuba Pass then hot at Woodson Bridge. A wonderful time was had by all and the great birding included the following 166 species:

Eared, West & P-Bill Grebe, Wh Pelican, Dbl-Cr Cormorant, Gr Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Bl-Cr Night Heron, Canada & Snow Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Gr-Wing, Bl-Wing & Cin Teal, Am Wigeon, No Shoveler, Redhead, Rg-Neck Duck, Canvas-back, Less Scaup, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, accipiter sp, R-Tail & Swainson's Hawk, Gold & Bald Eagle, Marsh Hawk, Osprey, Prairie Falcon, Kestrel, Calif & Mt Quail, Rg-Neck Pheasant, Sandhill Crane, Am Coot, Killdeer, Com Snipe, Lg-Bill Curlew, Spot Sandpiper, Willet, Gr Yellowlegs, Am Avocet, Bl-Neck Stilt, Wilson's Phalarope, Calif, Rg-Bill & Bonaparte's Gull, Forster's, Caspian & Black Tern, Band-Tail Pigeon, Rock & Mourning Dove, YEL-BILL CUCKOO, Gr Horn, Burrowing & Sh-Ear Owl, Com Nighthawk, Black & Vaux's Swift, Bl-Chin, Anna's, Rufous & Calliope Hummer, Kingfisher, "Red-Sh" Flicker, Pileated, Acorn & Lewis' Woodpecker, "Red-Br" Sapsucker, Hairy, Downy, Nuttall's & Wh-Head Woodpecker, West Kingbird, Ash-Thr Flycatcher, Black & Say's Phoebe, Dusky & Gray Flycatcher, West Wood Pewee, Ol-Sided Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Violet-Gr, Tree, Bank, Rough-Wing, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Purple Martin, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Bl-Bill & Yel-Bill Magpie, Raven, Crow, Clark's Nutcracker, Mt Chickadee, Pl Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Br, Red-Br & Pygmy Nuthatch, Br Creeper, Dipper, House, Bewick's, Lg-Bill Marsh & Rock Wren, Mocker, Sage Thrasher, Am Robin, Hermit & Swainson's Thrush, West & Mt Bluebird, Town Solitaires, Bl-Gray Gnatcatcher, Gold-Cr Kinglet, Starling, Sol & Warb Vireo, Orange-Cr, Nashville, Yellow, "Audubon's", Black-Thr Gray, Hermit & MacGillivray's Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, Yel-Br Chat, Wilson's Warbler, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Yel-Head & Red-Wing Blackbird, "Bullock's" Oriole, Brew Blackbird, Br-Head Cowbird, West Tanager, Bl-Head & Blue Grosbeak, Laz Bunting, Eve Grosbeak, Purple, Cas & House Finch, Pine Siskin, Am & Less Goldfinch, Gr-Tail, Ruf-Sided & Brown Towhee, Savannah, Vesper, Lark & Sage Sparrow, "Oregon" Junco, Chip, Brew, Fox, Linc & Song Sparrow.

The trip to GUALALA REGIONAL PARK July 7-9 was made by 13 members and guests with varied weather, cool to warm, foggy to sunny. Fascinating were 13 mergansers zip-ping around on the river. The following 59 species were seen or heard:

Arctic & Red-Thr Loon, Eared & West Grebe, Br Pelican, Dbl-Cr, Brandt's & Pacific Cormorant, Gr Blue & Green Heron, Wh-Wing & Surf Scoter, Com Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Red-Tail Hawk, Osprey, Am Kestrel, Calif Quail (& young), West & Heermann's Gull, Pigeon Guillemot, Band-Tail Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Gr Horned Owl (& 2 young), Vaux's Swift, Anna's & Rufous Hummer, "Red-Sh" Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, "Red-Br" Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Violet-Gr, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Purple Martin, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Raven, Ch-Back Chickadee, Bushtit, Wrentit, Winter Wren, Am Robin, Swainson's Thrush, Starling, Orange-Cr, Yellow & Wilson's Warbler, House Sparrow, Brew Blackbird, Br-Head Cowbird, Bl-Head Grosbeak, Purple & House Finch, Pine Siskin, Am Goldfinch, White-Cr & Song Sparrow.

At DEL VALLE PARK July 14 the weather was clear with gentle breezes and shirtsleeve temperature. "Picnic & Poor-Wills" produced a marvelous picnic and NO Poor-Wills but a "mystery bird" that left the 20 members and guests buzzing for days. Thorough research found the bird to be Yellow-Fronted Canary (*Serinus mozambicus*), an African bird sometimes kept as a cage bird. We also found these 23 species:

Gr Blue Heron, Vulture, Gold Eagle, Caspian Tern, Mourning Dove, Wh-Thr Swift, Selasphorus sp hummer, "Red-Sh" Flicker, Acorn & Nut Woodpecker, Violet-Gr & Cliff Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Yel-Bill Magpie, Pl Titmouse, Wh-Br Nuthatch, Mockingbird, Am Robin, West Bluebird, House Finch, Less Goldfinch, "Oregon" Junco.

The YOSEMITE WEEKEND was attended by 17 members and guests and many mosquitoes in clear, very warm weather. We missed some hoped-for species but saw a hooting male Blue Grouse at Olmsted Pt. and a female and chicks near Bridalveil Campground, imm. Great Gray Owl at Crane Flat, pair of Pine Grosbeaks at White Wolf, Dipper and Gray-Crowned Rosy Finches near Tioga Pass among the following 65 species:

Vulture, R-Tail Hawk, Blue Grouse, Mt Quail, Spot Sandpiper, Calif Gull, Pygmy & Gr Gr Owl, Black & Wh-Thr Swift, Rufous & Calliope Hummingbird, "Red-Sh" Flicker, "Red-Br" & Williamson's Sapsucker, Hairy & Wh-Head Woodpecker, Ash-Thr, Hammond's, Dusky & West Flycatcher, West Wood Pewee, Ol-Side Flycatcher, Violet-Gr & Barn Swallow, Steller's Jay, Raven, Clark's Nutcracker, Mt Chickadee, Wh-Br, Red-Br & Pygmy Nuthatch, Br Creeper, Dipper, Bewick's Wren, Am Robin, Hermit & Swainson's Thrush, Mt Bluebird, Gold-Cr Kinglet, Sol & Warb Vireo, Orange-Cr, Nashville, "Audubon's", Black-Thr Gray, Hermit & Wilson's Warbler, Red-Wing & Brew Blackbird, Br-Head Cowbird, West Tanager, Bl-Head & Evening Grosbeak, Cassin's Finch, Pine Grosbeak, Gr-Cr Rosy Finch, Pine Siskin, Am & Less Goldfinch, "Oregon" Junco, Chipping, White-Cr, Fox, Lincoln's & Song Sparrow.

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FIELD TRIPS SCHEDULE, 1978-79---Sally Steller.

This year we again have a full schedule of field trips thanks to the many willing members (especially Sally!--ed.) who are sharing the responsibility of planning and leading them. Included are 5 weekends, 7 new areas, a week-long trip to southern California to include Yucca Valley, Big Morongo Canyon, Salton Sea, Finney Lake, Mt. Pinos and Morro Bay.

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

Oct. 1 Sun.	Monterey pelagic trip	Mar. *3-4 Sat.-Sun.	Monterey weekend
8 Sun.	Oliver Bros. Salt Ponds (or Coyote Hills Pk)	14 Wed.	Lks. Lagunitas & Bon Tempe
11 Wed.	Pleasanton water treatment plant, golf course	17 Sat.	Pigeon Pt.
21 Sat.	PRBO, Bolinas Lagoon	24 Sat.	San Leandro Res.
25 Wed.	Aquatic Pk., Bay Bridge Toll Plaza marsh	Apr. 4 Wed.	Harry & Betty Adamson's Lafayette garden
Nov. 4 Sat.	Princeton Harbor, Lk Merced	7 Sat.	Lafayette garden
8 Wed.	Golden Gate Pk	19 Thurs.	Briones Pk. (north)---wildflowers
16 Thurs.	Sunol Pk, Calaveras Res.	26 Thurs.	Glen Ellen
18 Sat.	Bodega Bay	28 Sat.	Mines Rd.
Dec. *2 Sat.	Sacramento NWR	May 5-13	1-week trip to So. Calif.
*3 Sun.	Gray Lodge WMA	5 Sat.	Morgan Territory Rd.
30 Sat.	CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT	16 Wed.	Las Trampas Pk.
Members are encouraged to also help other chapters with CBC during Dec.		20 Sat.	Pine Canyon
Jan. 6 Sat.	Bay Bridge Toll Plaza (the date depends on tides)	24 Thurs.	Briones Pk. (west)
or 13		June 9 Sat.	Outer Pt. Reyes
11 Thurs.	Tilden Pk	13 Wed.	Redwood Pk
18 Thurs.	Lafayette Res	16 Sat.	Yuba Pass
20 Sat.	Lk Solano, Putah Creek	17 Sun.	Sierra Valley
Feb. 3 Sat.	Lafayette Res.	July 6 Fri.	Pionico--Del Valle Pk
10 Sat.	Conn Dam, Lk. Hennessey	14 Sat	Lassen NP, Caples Lk, or
15 Thurs.	Grizzly Island	15 Sun.	Yosemite NP weekend
17 Sat.	Thornton	28-29 Sat.-Sun.	Gualala Pt.
		Aug. 11 Sat.	San Mateo County coast

*Weekend may be done either day alone.

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PROGRAM SCHEDULE, 1978-79---Laurie Rask.

Oct. 5	Rare Birds of California.	Mar. 1	Bird Courtship Behavior, Plumage.
Nov. 2	Audubon Camp of the West.	Apr. 5	Birds of Yosemite.
Dec. 7	Oil Spills: What's Happening & What to do about It.	May 3	Desert Wildlife.
Jan. 4	Audubon Sanctuaries of the West.	June 7	Potluck Dinner, members' slides.
Feb. 5	Adamsons' trip to Australia.	July ?	Picnic.
		Aug. ?	Not yet planned.

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The planning by Sally and Laurie promises MDAS an exciting and interesting year. Put these dates on your calendar now (and check each Quail for possible changes) then join us at meetings and on field trips. We particularly invite new members to attend our various activities. All Audubon functions are open to the public.

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Free ADDED MONO LAKE TRIP (see July-Aug. Quail), Sat., Sept. 9, NO reservations necessary. Meet either 7 or 9 a.m., Mono Lake County Park just off US 395 6 miles north of Lee Vining at NW corner Mono Lake. Bring hat, sun lotion, lunch, liquid. Lasts to 2-3 p.m. Campgrounds and motels nearby.

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

Antioch: Sharon Ward; Concord: Richard W. Ermel, Carole Del Grande, Mr. & Mrs. Bronson Jones and family, Mark S. Miller, Amod Patwardham, C. E. Stone; Denville: Bea & Bob Moore, Kenneth Rich, Errol Woolen; Diablo: Jean Blackmor; Lafayette: Mignone Allen, J. Fox, Orra C. Hyde, III, Bradford James Kelly, Gloria Magee, Mrs. Pat Riggs, Stanley S. Soren; Martinez: Phil Snyder; Moraga: James A. Fulford; Orinda: Barbara M. Gillis, Alton Sprague family; Pittsburg: Dick & Viola Breitigam, Michele Troia; Pleasant Hill: Shirley Miller, Sam Rapisardo; Vallejo: Sharon L. McCoy; Walnut Creek: Robert Agazzi, Mabel Black, Marianne Bodily, Mrs. J. Alan Campbell, Michael W. Cochrane, Jay Y. Crum, James M. Dahl, Sandra L. Duckert, Marvin Hansen, Alan N. Kopke, Mary Jadrach, Derek M. Lofquist, Ninfa G. Lopez, Judith S. Smith, Rotha Wilhite, Dr. Hugh R. Winig.

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CARPOOL COSTS have been revised this summer by the Board of Directors to more accurately cover expenses incurred by those driving on field trips. It is recommended that those riding with someone else contribute 3¢ per mile to help with the cost of gasoline. The driver will pay all bridge tolls and entry fees which will then be split equally among driver and riders. It is hoped that this will be more equitable for those who drive frequently and those who do not.

* * * * *

AUDUBON DUES, unhappily, are going to increase effective September 1. With the cost of goods and services skyrocketing as they are NAS has no choice but to raise rates. The schedule is as follows: student, \$13.50; senior citizen individual, \$13.50; senior citizen family, \$15.00; individual, \$18.00; family, \$21.00. The higher categories of memberships will remain the same.

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CONSERVATION NOTES---J. P. Hauser.

I just returned from a 10-day visit to Colorado, during which we traveled by car over a long, representative section of the southwest area of that state, driving twice over the Continental Divide. Due to limited time, and the nature of our visit, we stayed on traveled highways, but even then saw spectacular country. We saw mostly settled/exploited country which gave us a good sampling of the way in which the bulk of Colorado has been used over the years. Reading the history of Colorado it seems every inch has been explored, mined, logged or grazed. However, there are still many back country, roadless, primitive areas left that should be preserved, not only in Colorado, but in all states.

In California alone there are 343 areas identified as roadless, containing over 6 million acres.

The Forest Service has compiled the second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation, known as RARE II. The first one identified 1449 roadless areas across the country, involving 56 million acres, but only 274 areas totaling 12.3 million acres were recommended for wilderness study. Hearings on the report are being held this summer. Industry lobbying is fierce since they want decisions this year because they fear public support for wilderness protection is growing. And it is, but it needs to be concentrated and outspoken on this particular issue. The exploitive industries (mining, timber, oil) have extremely sophisticated technology and can move into an area rapidly. But probably the biggest threat to wild places is ORV's, a euphemism for motorcycles, jeeps, dune buggies and four-wheelers. They can go anywhere except the extremely inaccessible places, and they number in the millions, and growing daily. Like Alaska, this is a real opportunity to keep much of our natural heritage intact and we must write, phone or mailgram to any or all of the following:

President Jimmy Carter, The White House, Washington, D.C. 20500.
Hon. Bob Berglund, Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.
Hon. Cecil Andrus, Secretary of the Interior, Dept. of the Interior,
Washington, D.C. 20240.
Governor Edmund G. Brown, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814.

For decades our land has been viewed as a money resource and nothing more. It was out and run all the way. 250 years ago there were 600 million acres of almost unbroken forest from the Atlantic coast west, now 300 fragments remain, a mere 2.3 million acres, or less than half of one percent!

Recently Gov. Brown is reported to have said: "Are you sure there are any environmentalists out there?" TAKE PEN OR PHONE IN HAND IMMEDIATELY!

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CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS.

Marine Biology of S.F. Bay Area, tide pool plants, animals, Mon., 7-10 p.m., 10 wks, beginning Sept. 25, Monte Vista High, Danville, 2 trips to ocean, \$25. Field Ornithology--Birding Field Trips & Natural History, Wed., 9-noon field trips, 8 wks beginning Sept. 27, approx. \$22.50, beginning & advanced birders. Instructor both classes, Pat Jacobson. Registration info: Community Center, Danville, 837-8235.

PRBO: Owls of Calif., Sept. 2-3, \$40; Avian Field Ecology - Fall, Sept. 11-Oct. 23, \$40; Bird Migration at Humboldt Bay, Sept. 23-25, \$20. Info: PRBO, 4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach, CA 94970.

* * * * *

Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory 1st annual BIRD-A-THON, new kind of bird count to raise funds for bird research, conservation, will be Sat., Oct. 7. Ten percent of income goes to PRBO permanent endowment fund, the rest to several specific projects. Sponsored birders spend all day anywhere in California looking for birds, then record each species identified. For info & forms, contact your editor.

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OBSERVATIONS, June 25-Aug. 10. (Also see field trip reports.)

Sooty Shearwater, 6, Pigeon Pt., San Mateo Co., July 8--FLB, GC.

LITTLE BLUE HERON, 2 ad., Charleston Slough, Palo Alto, July 26--at least Aug. 8--BR, JR, R&FN, BF, m.ob; 2 imm. there July 30--BF, KY.

Harlequin Duck, 2, Año Nuevo State Reserve, San Mateo Co., July 8--FLB, GC.

Black Scoter, Bay Bridge Toll Plaza (BBTP), June 29--MJG, JR.

Goshawk, Yosemite NP, June 28--BR.

Sandhill Crane, 3, Sierra Valley, July 15--FLB, GC.

UPLAND SANDPIPER, near Spokane, Wash., June 29--JE.

Solitary Sandpiper, Pleasanton Sewer Ponds, Aug. 5--AE.

Baird's Sandpiper, Alameda South Shore, July 18--JR, et al.

SPOON-BILLED SANDPIPER, Iona Island Sewer Ponds, Vancouver, B.C., July 30-Aug. 3--BS, m.ob.

Stilt Sandpiper, Iona Island Sewer Ponds, July 30-Aug. 2--BS, m.ob.

Ruff, Iona Island Sewer Ponds, July 30-Aug. 3--BS, m.ob.

Red Phalaropes, Dumbarton Bridge & Palo Alto Baylands, early Aug.--JR, m.ob.

Franklin's Gull, 3-4, Iona Island, B.C., Aug. 6-7--BS, FLB.

Elegant Tern, BBTP, June 29--JR, MJG.

Least Tern, 2, Alameda South Shore, 1, BBTP, July 18--JR, et al; up to 9, Charleston Slough, July 26--at least Aug. 8--m.ob.

RINGED TURTLE DOVE, their Belmont garden, most days early Aug.--R&FN.

Black Swift, nesting female, Santa Cruz, June 27--JR, et al; still there Aug. 10--TD; 6, Año Nuevo State Reserve, July 8--FLB, GC; 2 nesting females & young, Año Nuevo State Reserve, July 30--AE.

Black-Backed 3-Toed Woodpecker, Sand Flat, Tuolumne Co., July 4--JR.

Northern 3-Toed Woodpecker, near Spokane, Wash., June 29--WH, JE.

Bank Swallow, Año Nuevo State Reserve, July 8--FLB, GC.

Sage Thrasher, 6, Sierra Valley, July 15--FLB, GC.

WORM-EATING WARBLER, Tilden Park, July 11--at least Aug. 5--PG, m.ob.

Nashville Warbler, their Belmont garden, July 31--R&FN.

Hooded Oriole, male, their Concord garden, July 26--R&JK; several still in her Alamo garden through period--JR.

Brewer's Sparrow, Sand Flat, July 3--JR.

Observers: Florence Bennett, Glenn Coleman, Ted Davis, Jimm Edgar, Art Edwards, Bud Fry, Phil Gordon, Mary Jane Greene, Warren Hall (Wash.), Bob & Jackie Knisley, Roy & Fran Nelson, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Barry Sauppe (now of Vancouver, B.C.), Keiko Yamane, many observers.

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

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GREATER BAY AREA SITE GUIDE: Monterey Peninsula Area, part 1.

Access: South on I-680 & US 101 to Pinedale, west on SR 156, south on SR 1 or south from San Jose on SR 17 to Santa Cruz, south on SR 1. Street map of Monterey Peninsula cities very helpful: AAA or Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce.

Municipal Wharf #2. Take Del Monte exit about 5 mi. to Monterey Marina at Figueroa St. Good views of loons (perhaps Yellow-Billed), gulls, sometimes alcids in winter; at times many Fulmars; King Eider has occurred.

Coast Guard Wharf. From Del Monte Ave. take Lighthouse Ave. thru tunnel, right on Cannery Row, park near base of pier, walk out on pier. Loons, Red-Necked Grebe, Brandt's Cormorant (end of pier along with many Sea Lions), sea ducks, gulls, alcids easily seen, often quite close; sometimes pelagics after storms or high winds.

Pacific Grove Museum. In a block or 2 turn left back to Lighthouse, turn right (at city limits, becomes Central) to Forest Ave. Small but excellent bird display. Monterey Peninsula Bird Checklist available here.

Lover's Pt. Go north on Forest, left on Ocean View Blvd., park near Pt. Check rocks for shorebirds, gulls, etc., scope Bay for waterbirds, gulls, etc.

Crespi Pond. Continue on Ocean View to just beyond Asilomar Ave., pond on left. Park across street or beyond pond on left. BE CAREFUL OF GOLFERS. Check pond from edge of street for rails, snipe, gulls; Solitary Sandpiper has been seen.

Pt. Pinos (just beyond Crespi Pond). Stop in bayside overlooks in Crespi Pond-Pt. Pinos area. Check shore for rocky shorebirds including Black Oystercatcher, Surf-birds, Tattlers, gulls; scope Bay for loons, grebes, pelagics (Fulmar, Kittiwake, Ancient Murrelet, Rhinoceros Auklet; Black-Footed Albatross has been seen), (Black) Brant, scoters & other sea ducks, phalaropes, gulls, terns, especially Oct.-Nov.; shearwaters, mostly Sooty, some Pink-Foots, sometimes others, Apr.-Oct.; best time early morning, late afternoon.

El Carmelo Cemetery. Return to Asilomar Ave., turn right a few blocks, turn left into cemetery. Follow road to right, park near grove of large trees. Check these trees and surrounding area; scattered trees toward railroad tracks; walk tracks as far as golf course; other trees around edge of cemetery. Many warblers, other vagrants in migration. Also hummingbirds, woodpeckers, Pygmy Nuthatch, sparrows, etc.

Other places to check. **Greenwood Park**, between Central & Ocean View, 12th & 13th: warblers, other vagrants; **Foot of Sea Palm Ave.** at Ocean View about ½ mi. beyond Lover's Pt.: Ruff has been here with Turnstones, Surf-bird, Tattler. **Esplanade Park**, Ocean View ½ mi. beyond Sea Palm Ave.: warblers, other vagrants.

Good birding except June & July. Weather can be very warm or very cold, wet or windy, come prepared for anything. Many birds can be seen with binocs but scope almost a necessity. Many motels in vicinity; camping at Veteran's Memorial Park (arrive early, it often fills early), other campgrounds out Carmel Valley.

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MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY
P. O. Box 53
Walnut Creek, CA 94597

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The Quail

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

Pres.: Bruce Moorad
1445 Marchbanks Dr.
Walnut Creek, CA 94598
phone: 938-4446 or
938-9100

October 1978
Vol. 25, No. 3

Next deadline: October 10

Meeting: Thurs., Oct. 5. Doors open 6:30 p.m. Birdinformation: 7:00; business: 7:30; social time: 8:00; program: 8:30. Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Field Trips: Sun., Oct. 1, Monterey Bay pelagic trip. Leader: Dr. Howard Cogswell.
Sun., Oct. 8, 8:15 a.m., Oliver Bros. Salt Ponds; carpool: El Cerro Blvd. just west of I-680, Danville, 7:30. Leader: Sally Steller (837-9061).

Wed., Oct. 11, 9:00 a.m., Dublin, San Ramon, Pleasanton Water Treatment Plants, Castlewood Ponds; carpool: El Cerro Blvd. just west of I-680, Danville, 8:30. Leader: Sally Steller (837-9061).

Sat., Oct. 21, 8:30 a.m., Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory, Bolinas Lagoon; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Fwy. 24, 6:30. Leader: Kent Fickett (798-7421).

Wed., Oct. 25, 9:00 a.m., Bay Bridge Toll Plaza Marsh; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Fwy. 24, 8:30. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey (254-0456).

Audubon Film: Wed., Oct. 25, 8:00 p.m., Diablo Valley College gym. "Superior - Land of the Woodland Drummer" by Tom Sterling. Meet the speaker at NO-HOST DINNER preceding the film. Call our tape, "AUDUBON" (283-8266), for details.

Board Meeting: Thurs., Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m., home of Jean Richmond, 125 Via Serena, Alamo; 837-2843. Board meetings are always open to members.

* * * * *

In the Birdinformation session Bill Scheffell will discuss & illustrate use of lenses, macro through 700 mm telephoto. The program will be a narrated slide presentation of The Rare Birds of California by Don Roberson, one of the area's most active birders and just-retired Observations Editor for Golden Gate Audubon Society.

The MONTEREY BAY PELAGIC TRIP (details, see Sept. issue) may have openings left. We have been fortunate to obtain as leader Dr. Howard Cogswell, an exceptionally fine pelagic birder and author of The Waterbirds of California. Contact Kent Fickett (798-7421) about the possibility of joining us.

The dikes at OLIVER BROS. SALT PONDS are an easy half-day walk to see shorebirds, gulls and terns. From Nimitz Fwy. (SR 17) take SR 92 toward San Mateo Bridge. Take Clawiter exit (last one before bridge), turn left at Breakwater (just past signals and freeway onramps). Follow Breakwater to the end, about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile.

The trip to the TREATMENT PLANTS & CASTLEWOOD PONDS offers a variety of habitats and birds and is to new birding areas close to home. Go south on I-680, east on I-580, south on Hopyard Rd. then right on Stoneridge Dr. to the Treatment Plant. If weather is pleasant, lunch at the Cheese Factory afterwards is suggested.

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

The BAY BRIDGE TOLL PLAZA MARSH is excellent for waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls and terns. The approach is tricky so be alert! As you approach the toll plaza keep in the far right lane, take the offramp marked "last Oakland exit and Oakland Army Base" then follow small signs toward the radio stations. We meet a short distance along that road where there is room to park off the pavement.

The first FILM of the new series is of Lake Superior, Isle Royale and lush north-woods. Beginning with burgeoning life at water's edge, it moves through the summer of bears and wolves to August wildlife on Isle Royale, thru fall with a loon family and tracks of a Fisher in winter woods. The finale in spring finds the solitary and thrilling ritual of Ruffed Grouse drumming deep in the woods. Admission free.

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FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

The trip to BODEGA BAY on August 12 was on a cold, foggy day with wind varying from calm to moderate. Over 50 White Pelicans were seen as were Pectoral, Baird's and Semipalmated Sandpipers. The 26 members and guests found the following 59 species:

Com, Arctic & Red-Thr Loon, West Grebe, White & Brown Pelican, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, Am Bittern, duck sp (flock in the fog), White-Winged & Surf Scoter, Turkey Vulture, Marsh Hawk, Osprey, Am Kestrel, Virginia Rail, Sora, Black Oystercatcher, Semipal & Snowy Plover, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Ruddy & Black Turnstone, Wandering Tattler, Willet, Pectoral, Baird's, Least & SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER, dowitcher sp, West Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Am Avocet, Wilson's Phalarope, Glauc-Wing, West, Ring-Bill & Heermann's Gull, Forster's & Caspian Tern, Com Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Great Horned Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, Downy Woodpecker, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Scrub Jay, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Am Goldfinch, White-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

On September 9 at SAN MATEO COUNTY COAST the weather was miserable but 15 members and guests turned out. It was cold and very windy then it began to get wet after lunch but the birding had been good. Pink-Footed and Sooty Shearwaters and a pair of Harlequin Ducks were among the following 68 species found:

West & Pied-Bill Grebe, Pink-Footed & Sooty Shearwater, Brown Pelican, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, teal sp, Harlequin Duck, Surf Scoter, Red-Breasted Merganser, White-Tailed Kite, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, Am Kestrel, Am Coot, Black Oystercatcher, Semipal Plover, Killdeer, Bl-Bellied Plover, Surf-bird, Black Turnstone, Whimbrel, Spotted Sandpiper, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Least & West Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Am Avocet, Wilson's & Northern Phalarope, Glauc-Wing, West, Bonaparte's & Heermann's Gull, Com Tern, Com Murre, Marbled (?) Murrelet, Band-Tail Pigeon, Rock & Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Violet-Green, Tree, Rough-Wing & Barn Swallow, Bewick's & Long-Bill Marsh Wren, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Com Yellowthroat, Red-Wing & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Am Goldfinch, Brown Towhee, Savannah, White-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

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CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS:

Marine Mammals & Birds of Calif., lectures Jan. 17 & 24, 7-9 p.m., Acalanes High; Field trips Jan. 20 & 27; fee: \$20 plus \$15/person for boat trip; preregistration required Sept. 18-Oct. 31; Acalanes Adult Center, 1200 Pleasant Hill Rd., Lafayette 94549, phone 935-0170.

U.C.DAVIS: field course, Wintering Waterbirds of the Sacramento Valley, Dec. 2-3, at Gray Lodge WMA; instructor: David Gaines. Course #: X425.8, enrollment requested by Nov. 24: U.C. Davis, Davis, CA 95616.

* * * * *

QUAKES & THINGS---mountain lovers beware. There have been a number of recent news stories concerning earthquakes and possible volcanic activity along the West Coast. Scientists with the U.S. Geological Survey feel that 9,671-ft. Mount St. Helens in the Cascades of Washington is one of the most likely to erupt, possibly before the turn of the century. The mountain has been dormant since 1857 and over the last 2,000 years has seldom remained so for a period of more than 100-150 years, only twice for over 200 years. If it does erupt it could be quite a blow as evidence shows that one early eruption produced far more ash than that with which Vesuvius buried Pompeii in 79 B.C.

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Just off the press is A GUIDE TO NORTH AMERICAN BIRD CLUBS by Jon E. Rickert. The book lists over 800 birding-oriented clubs, many of them Audubon chapters, from Alaska to Panama. The section for each state and province includes a map showing the location of each club. The format makes it very quick and easy to locate a club in any area in which a birder might have an interest. Club listings contain local birding contacts, information about membership and newsletter (including cost of subscription), time and place of meetings, general ideas of field trips and some favorite birding areas. For birders this will be a valuable book both while planning a trip and while traveling. Available for \$15.00 postpaid from Avian Publications, Inc., P. O. Box 310, Elizabethtown, KY 42701. Later this year a quarterly supplement, BIRDING NEWS SURVEY, will begin publication to update information in the book plus timely articles from club publications and other sources on a wide range of subjects. Cost will be \$4.00 per year from Avian Publications.

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TRESPASS! Each year recreation seekers meet more trespass signs in the outdoors. Reactions vary widely to the closing of favorite recreation spots---apathy, anger defiance, and revenge are often reflected in the actions of restricted people. Unfortunately, some people fail to demonstrate maturity in judgement and take their anger, defiance or revenge out on the landowner by destroying his property, cutting fences, or letting livestock out of fields. Most people control their feelings and attempt to do something constructive about the increasing number of such signs.

Many organizations are trying, successfully, to improve citizen-landowner relations and have been able to enter into agreements for entry rights. Individuals have taken time to contact owners or tenants of posted areas to convince them they will use good judgment and caution while enjoying the area without causing problems for landowners. As a result, relations are improved and many posted areas are open to the public if they ask permission.

We must realize that there is usually a good reason why property is posted, in many cases to protect crops, livestock or range and to prevent the land from being used as a garbage dump. Others wish to reserve recreation on the land for family and friends. Whether private lands remain open or are closed depends on how well people respect property rights. ALWAYS obtain permission before entering private property; NEVER leave a mess behind. Remember, unauthorized entry on enclosed or cultivated lands for any purpose and trespass on unenclosed or uncultivated lands properly posted are misdemeanors. (Outdoor California)

* * * * *

The third annual NAS symposium, OWLS OF THE WEST, Their Ecology and Conservation, will be held at the California Academy of Sciences Morrison Auditorium in Golden Gate Park on Sat., Jan. 20. Detailed program description and ticket information will be announced later but put the date on your calendar now.

* * * * *

A LESSON IN BIRDING by Jimm Edgar.

Being from Spokane, Washington, I have had an ongoing interest in birds that are seen in the Inland Empire. I was recently in Spokane at the time when the Upland Sandpiper (formerly Upland Plover) is known to nest, singular, in a small piece of land east of the city. I had gotten specific information on how to locate this unusual visitor to the Northwest. Although common in the midwest, the Upland Sandpiper is rare this far west, and indeed, it is the only known nesting area in the entire Pacific Northwest.

I arrived at 5:30 a.m. to begin hiking around the grassy field area that perhaps covers 500 acres. By 7:30 a.m. I had criss-crossed the field several times without a glimpse of the Sandpiper, although Grasshopper Sparrows and Horned Larks abounded. At one point I thought I heard the call of a bird I had never heard. I checked my Peterson Field Guide and thought it could be the Upland Sandpiper, but no sighting. I returned to my car somewhat disappointed at 8:30, and the impossible happened. A pair of the beautiful Sandpipers circled right over my head and one landed 20 yards from my car. The other (the male, I assume, since it continued to call) circled high overhead. I watched the female for about 20 minutes, then she flew across the road and out of sight. I don't know what lesson is to be learned from this experience---diligence pays off, don't go so early, make the effort, or just sit in your car and drink coffee---but the reward was worth all the effort.

* * * * *

We warmly welcome the following new members of MDAS and hope to meet them at our meetings and on field trips:

Alamo: P. Atwater; Concord: Franklin Chan, Robert J. Davidson, Charles Knapp, Larry L. Manuel; Lafayette: Claudia L. Bubeck, G. D. Mallory, John & Sue Otto, Mr. & Mrs. T. M. Whaley; Pacheco: D. A. Nelson; Pittsburg: J. W. Abraham; Pleasant Hills: Ms. Jana Moss Elkins, Victor & Joyce Myers; San Ramon: L. M. Newins; Walnut Creek: W. B. Brown, Perry Christiansen, Neil H. Ellis, Ron Guiley, R. D. Reich, Ernest H. Romine, J. Sanchez.

* * * * *

The latest edition of the NATURE GUIDE, produced by Tahoma Audubon Society, Tacoma, Washington, is bigger and even better than ever. For those unfamiliar with this publication, Nature Guide brings nature-seeking travelers together with people who have registered as willing to assist with information, or perhaps a short tour of good birding spots and other wildlife areas, worldwide. Put together over a period of 14 months, the list of guides has been updated and expanded with listings now in many overseas areas. There is information on nature centers and national parks in the U.S. and Canada and of our National Wildlife Refuges. New is a section devoted to choice birding spots and bird-finding materials throughout the U.S. and Canada. Send \$3.95 (plus \$1 for foreign postage & handling) to Nature Guide, Ilene Marckx, Editor, 34915 4th Ave. So., Federal Way, WA 98003.

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A 10% DISCOUNT is now given on most items in The Book Nest at Audubon's Richardson Bay Sanctuary for NAS members who show their up-to-date membership card at the time of purchase. With the holiday season ahead of us, please keep The Book Nest in mind when making your Christmas gift selections.

* * * * *

Have trouble with BIRD SEED spilling from your feeders and germinating? With the return of our winter residents this can be quite a problem from now through spring. MDAS member Russell Jones offered his solution earlier this year. Spread the seeds evenly (not necessarily one layer thick) on a cookie sheet and place in the oven at 300° for 5 minutes then cool before replacing in the bag. By using several sheets a 10-pound bag of seed can be done in about 45 minutes.

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CONSERVATION NOTES by J. P. Hauser.

The rare Jersey tar snipe is threatened with extinction by low quality of sludge in New Jersey coastal waters, but fresh petroleum spills from Baltimore Canyon offshore drilling will aid in improving the bird's habitat.

New York and New Jersey area environmentalist organizations are reportedly pleased with the court-ordered go-ahead for oil companies to begin exploratory offshore drilling for oil in the Baltimore Canyon region near the shoreline of those states. Accidental spills of natural crude petroleum are expected to displace extensive concentrations of sewage sludge and chemical pollutants, thereby improving the quality of water at New Jersey and Long Island beach resorts by as much as 45 percent over the next five years.

It looks to be a busy month for environmentalists. The California Legislature is voting on a proposal that will allow up to 70 percent of that state's famous red-wood trees to be turned into patio furniture....A Miami ecology group will attempt once again to gain protected status for the mottled fever pigeon, a smallish brown-green dove known as a carrier of at least 600 diseases. Malarial swamps that are the breeding grounds of the bird are being filled in to make room for low-cost housing projects. The group wants the construction halted....ChemAmerica says it accidentally released a substance consisting of what are known as "intelligent heli-spores" into the Ohio River. The substance has thus far eluded all attempts to recover it. Several local and national groups are seeking action against Chem-America.

A newly registered Congressional lobbyist, Elliot Panfry, says that he will lobby solely for himself and intends to ask for immediate Congressional action on the woeful condition of the lawn next door to his home in Indianapolis; his wife's driving; and the crowd of kids his teenage daughter, Sally, is forever bringing home.

.....Anonymous.....

* * * * *

Work on a CENTRAL COUNTY CHECKLIST is now underway with formation of a committee to work from extensive preliminary data compiled by Sally Steller. The area includes the waterfront between Martinez and Antioch on the north, Black Diamond Mines Preserve and Mt. Diablo State Park on the east, Alameda County line on the south, the Moraga area and San Pablo Reservoir on the west. If you have any bird records from this area please contact Sally Steller at 591 Fulton Way, Danville 94526; 837-9061.

* * * * *

Unfortunately for us, DARRELL PETERSON and his family moved to Chesterfield, Virginia this summer. A note from him listed real goodies for us westerners such as Barred Owl, Whip-Poor-Will, Pileated Woodpecker, Summer & Scarlet Tanagers in his yard---on the day they moved into their new home in a wooded area! If anyone is headed to the east coast he says to be sure to give him a call, so if you are going to be anywhere near Chesterfield contact your editor for his address and phone.

* * * * *

MT. VIEW SANITARY DISTRICT is doing a study of the birds at their Martinez facility and asks MDAS to assist. This very important project is to gather evidence to present to the Regional Water Quality Control Board proving the value of the wetlands created there. Taking a census of the birds should not take more than 2-3 hours on any given day but would be interesting and enjoyable as well as valuable. If you would like to join us on either a regular or occasional basis contact your editor.

* * * * *

OBSERVATIONS, Aug. 10-Sept. 10. (Also see field trip reports.)

Red-Necked Grebe, Bodega Bay, Aug. 29--JR, BF, et al.

White Pelicans, at least 500, westernmost pond on SR 37, Solano Co., Aug. 26--FLB, BR, JR.

Pelagic Cormorant, still with white flanks, Bodega Head, Aug. 29--JR, BF.

"Black" Brant, 4, Bodega Bay, Aug. 26, 29--JR, BR, FLB, BF; 2, Bolinas Lagoon, Sept. 2--BS.

Golden Eagle, 2, over her Danville home, Aug. 19--SS, TS.

Lesser Yellowlegs, 2, Pescadero Marsh, Aug. 15--JR, BF, et al; 1, Caldwell Ponds, Tulare Co., Aug. 17--BB, JR; 5, Doran Park, Bodega Bay, Aug. 29--BF, JR, et al.

Pectoral Sandpiper, Limantour Natural Area, Pt. Reyes, Sept. 1-5 (at least)--m.ob.

Baird's Sandpiper, 4, Visalia Sewer Ponds, Tulare Co., Aug. 17--BB, JR; 1, Bodega Bay, Aug. 26--JR; 1, Bodega Bay, Aug. 29--JR, BF, et al.

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER, Limantour Natural Area, Aug. 29--BP, AM, et al; Aug. 30--BR.

BUFF-BREADED SANDPIPER, 7, Ocean Shores, Wash., Aug. 24--JE; 1, Bodega Bay, Aug. 26-29--m.ob.; up to 11, near Tomales Pt., Marin Co., Aug. 26-Sept. 10--m.ob.

RUFF, imm. female, Limantour Natural Area, Sept. 1-at least Sept. 5--m.ob.

Poor-Will, Mendenhall Rd. just off Del Valle Rd., Alameda Co., Aug. 10--TD.

Vaux's Swift, 3, 5--Brooks, Pt. Reyes, Aug. 22--JR, BF, et al.

Purple Martin, up to 5, 5--Brooks, Aug. 14-22--BP, AM, JR, BF, et al.

BENDIRE'S THRASHER, returned to their Courtland, Sacramento Co., garden Aug. 25 for the 4th consecutive year--A&EP.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS, found in Trinity Co. Sept. 1 (1st Calif. record); also reported invading the northwestern states.

Observers: Bob Barnes, Florence Bennett, Bud Fry, Ted Davis, Jimm Edgar, Alice Maricourt, Arvil & Ellen Parker, Bill Pursell, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Bill Scheffell, Sally Steller, Tom Steller, many observers.

Lesser Yellowlegs & Baird's Sandpipers seen in many places; a number of Buff-Breasted Sandpipers found; Red-Eyed Vireo, Northern Waterthrush, American Redstarts at Pt. Reyes; warblers in Tilden Park; 2 Redstarts in Golden Gate Park---fall migration is underway. Outer Pt. Reyes is my favorite birding spot mid-September thru at least mid-October as so many goodies are to be found there.

* * * * *

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 Oregutt, 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.)

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GREATER BAY AREA SITE GUIDE: Monterey Peninsula, part 2 (part 1 last month).

Carmel River. Go south on SR 1 to river, park just south of bridge or in SW corner of nearby shopping center. Go down into riverbed (dry in summer, fall), walk west checking vegetation. "Green pipe" area very productive. Can be several inches water farther west, wear high rubber boots or go barefoot. White-Winged Dove last year; Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher; Philadelphia, Red-Eyed Vireos have been here; several "eastern" warblers seen, including Black-Throated Green, Yellow-Throated; White-Throated, Swamp Sparrows; many other species of riparian habitat.

Carmel River State Beach. North of river go west on Rio Rd., left on Lucia Ave., left on Camino Real to Park. Check area around mouth of river for shorebirds; land birds in willows, etc.

Robinson Canyon. Return to SR 1, turn left; go east 6 miles on Carmel Valley Rd., right on Robinson Canyon Rd., park just beyond 3rd bridge. At dark or very early morning in area, Pygmy, Saw-Whet Owls. Road winds thru redwoods, oak forest, then oak-grassland. Winter Wren, a few others in redwoods; many in oaks (hawks, flycatchers, thrushes, vireos, warblers, etc.); grassland species include White-Tailed Kite, Say's Phoebe (winter), Yellow-Billed Magpie, Western Bluebird.

Roberts Lake: Take SR 1 north from Monterey, go east on SR 126 a block to Roberts Ave., go right, park. Check gulls around lake. Sabine's Gull here last fall.

Salinas River. Continue north on SR 1 to 1/4 mile south of river, go west about a block, turn right, park just beyond house, walk unused runway to river. Among water and shorebirds were Franklin's Gull, Black Tern last fall; Sharp-Tailed Sandpiper has been seen. Return to intersection, turn right, continue past sign "Boundary State Wildlife Area--Dept F&G", go thru gate, turn right at "T"--ratted road goes to river. Sometimes road closed and cannot drive all the way so must walk. Shorebirds, gulls, terns at mouth of river; Buff-Breasted Sandpiper has been seen.

Castroville Sewer Ponds. Go north on SR 1 to Castroville, east on SR 156 to Castroville Blvd. Just beyond interchange, turn left about 3/4 mile to fenced, grassy ponds on right. Several ducks, shorebirds (has included Sharp-Tailed Sandpiper).

Moss Landing. Return to SR 1, go north to Jetty Rd., turn left, park along road. Check marshy area on right, water on left: grebes, herons, egrets; many ducks, shorebirds, gulls, terns; Burrowing Owl has been here. Cross dunes, check beach for shorebirds, gulls; ocean for pelagics. At end of road, check harbor channel, ocean for loons, grebes, cormorants, waterfowl (Emperor Goose last winter), some shorebirds. Back at SR 1, cross to east side of highway, scope area for water and shorebirds--many Stilts, Bonaparte's Gulls, etc.

Zmudowski State Beach. Continue north on SR 1, turn west on Struve Rd., left on Giberson Rd. to end. Just before end is large pond with waterbirds, gulls, terns; Little Gull has been here. Dirt road on west side of pond leads to mouth of Pajaro River where sometimes good birding; Borrowing Owl has been seen along road.

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BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY
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Pres.: Bruce Moorad
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phone: 938-4446 or
938-9100

November 1978
Vol. 25, No. 4
Next deadline: November 10

Meeting: Thurs., Nov. 2. Doors open 6:30 p.m. Birdinformation: 7:00; business: 7:30; social time: 8:00; program: 8:30. Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Field Trips: Sat., Nov. 4, 9:00 a.m., Princeton Harbor & Lake Merced; carpool: El Cerro Blvd. at I-680, Danville, 7:30. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).

Wed., Nov. 8, 9:15 a.m., Golden Gate Park; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. at Freeway 24, 8:15 a.m. Leader: Betty Gallagher (682-2458).

Thurs., Nov. 16, 9:15 a.m., Sunol Regional Park; carpool: El Cerro Blvd. at I-680, Danville, 8:30. Leader: Merv Ortez (283-3072).

Sat., Nov. 18, 9:30 a.m., Bodega Bay; carpool: Copper Penny, Sun Valley Center, 7:30. Leader: Sally Steller (837-9061).

Sat.-Sun., Dec. 2-3, Sacramento Valley refuges. If you plan to go for the weekend it is advisable to make reservations now. Markay's Motel, Gridley (916)-846-3768; Pacific Motel, Gridley (916)-846-9915; or Buckner's Motel, Biggs (916)-868-5410.

Audubon Film: Tues., Nov. 21, 8:00 p.m., Diablo Valley College gym. "Wilderness Alberta" by Albert Karvonen. Admission: adult \$2, child \$1---due to Prop 13 cuts. Meet the speaker at a NO-HOST DINNER at DVC cafeteria, 6:00 p.m.

Board Meeting: Thurs., Nov. 9, 7:30 p.m., home of Laurie Rask, 944 Mohr Ln., Concord; 676-9598. Board meetings are always open to members.

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Sally Steller will present Birdinformation on Trip Tips: what to wear, birding gear, how to locate the bird, etc. The program, by Carol Patterson of Bird Rescue in Berkeley, on Oil Spills--What's Happening, will be a discussion on how to avoid spills or what to do about it if one does occur, research, bird treatment.

At PRINCETON HARBOR & LAKE MERCED we hope to see waterbirds and shorebirds as well as landbirds. Cross San Mateo Bridge, continue on SR 92 to Half Moon Bay, go right on SR 1 about 5 miles, left at Capistrano Rd., then left into the pier parking lot.

GOLDEN GATE PARK should provide closeups of waterbirds and gulls, also Wood Ducks, Pygmy Nuthatches, possibly European Wigeon, Red Crossbills. Meet just inside the park at 43rd and Fulton St., at North Lake, Chain of Lakes.

Hawks and landbirds are in good numbers at SUNOL REGIONAL PARK. Golden Eagles are often seen on the easy walk up along Alameda Creek. Go south on I-680 about 9 mi. 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.

With varied habitats, BODEGA BAY has many species of waterbirds, ducks, shorebirds, landbirds, possibly including Red-Necked Grebe, Black Brant, Oldsquaw, Rock Sandpiper. Go north on US 101 to Petaluma, follow signs from Washington St. exit to SR 1 then north to The Tides Restaurant in the town of Bodega Bay. Strong, cold wind is possible so come prepared with warm clothing available.

For his FILM Mr. Karvonen explored on cross-country skis the boreal forests documenting winter lives of hardy species then backpacked south through the pristine alpine world of Banff and Jasper National Parks. Admission charge, see page 1.

* * * * *

FIELD TRIP REPORTS.

At ALAMEDA SOUTH SHORE & DOOLITTLE POND on September 13 the weather was sunny and cool with light wind. Some ducks and many shorebirds were seen, including a Pectoral Sandpiper. The 12 members and guests heard or saw the following 45 species:

Pied-Bill Grebe, Br Pelican, Dbl-Cr Cormorant, Gr Bl Heron, Snowy Egret, Bl-Cr Night Heron, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Am Wigeon, No Shoveler, Turkey Vulture, Am Kestrel, Am Coot, Semipal & Snowy Plover, Killdeer, Bl-Bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Willet, Pectoral & Least Sandpiper, dowitcher sp, West Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Am Avocet, Bl-Neck Stilt, West, Calif, R-Bill & Heermann's Gull, Forster's & Elegant Tern, Rock & Mourning Dove, swallow sp, Starling, Orange-Cr & Yellow Warbler, House Sparrow, R-Wing & Brew Blackbird, House Finch & Sav Sparrow.

The trip to TILDEN PARK on September 21, a warm, clear, windless day, was made by 9 members and guests. Yellow and Townsend's Warblers were among the following 41 species heard or seen:

Mallard, Pintail, Red-Tail Hawk, Calif Quail, Am Coot, gull sp, Band-Tail Pigeon, Anna's Hummingbird, "Red-Sh" Flicker, Acorn, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Bl Phoebe, empidonax flycatcher, West Wood Pewee, swallow sp, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Com Crow, Ch-Back Chickadee, Bushtit, Red-Br Nuthatch, Br Creeper, Wrentit, Calif Thrasher, Am Robin, West Bluebird, Ruby-Cr Kinglet, Starling, Warbling Vireo, Yellow & Townsend's Warbler, Red-Wing & Brew Blackbird, House Finch, Am Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, "Oregon" Junco, White-Cr & Song Sparrow.

OUTER PT. REYES on September 23 was clear and very warm with little wind. Seen were Black Scoter, a possible Rough-Legged Hawk, 2 Pectoral Sandpipers, a Great Horned Owl perched on a thistle (!), Blackpoll Warbler and many Tricolored Blackbirds. The following 89 species were seen or heard by 33 members and guests:

Com, Arctic & Red-Thr Loon, Horned & Eared Grebe, Br Pelican, Dbl-Cr, Brandt's & Pel Cormorant, Gr Bl Heron, Mallard, Surf & Black Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Wh-Tail Kite, Sharp-Shin, Cooper's, Red-Tail, Red-Sh, Rough-Leg (?) and Marsh Hawk, Am Kestrel, Calif Quail, Virginia Rail, Am Coot, Semipal Plover, Killdeer, Bl-Bellied Plover, Lg-Bill Curlew, Willet, Gr Yellowlegs, Pectoral & Least Sandpiper, Lg-Bill Dowitcher, West Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, No Phalarope, Gl-Wing, West, Rg-Bill, Bonaparte's & Heermann's Gull, Forster's Tern, Com Murre, Band-Tail Pigeon, Rock & Mourning Dove, Gr Horned Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Bl Phoebe, Dusky (?) & West Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Violet-Green, Tree & Barn Swallow, Scrub Jay, Com Raven, Wrentit, Winter, Bewick's & Rock Wren, Swainson's Thrush, West Bluebird, Ruby-Cr Kinglet, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Hutton's & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Cr, "Audubon's", Black-Thr Gray, Townsend's, Hermit & Blackpoll Warbler, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-Wing, Tricol & Brew Blackbird, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Am Goldfinch, Savannah, Wh-Cr, Fox & Song Sparrow.

The October 1st MONTEREY BAY PELAGIC trip was made on a cold and foggy day, not too windy but with somewhat rough sea. Although some hoped-for species were not found, seen were a New Zealand Shearwater, Red-Phalarope, excellent views of 2 Sabine's Gulls, Cassin's & Rhinoceros Auklets, followed on shore by a BOBOLINK at Crespi Pond. The 33 members and guests found the following 33 species:

Com Loon, Pink-Foot, New Zealand & Sooty Shearwater, Ashy & Black Storm-Petrel, Br Pelican, Brandt's & Pel Cormorant, Gr Bl Heron, Surf Scoter, Bl-Bellied Plover, Black Turnstone, Willet, Red & North Phalarope, Pom & Par Jaeger, Glauco-Wing, West, Herring, Calif, Mew, Bonaparte's, Heermann's & Sabine's Gull, Com & Elegant Tern, Com Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Cas & Rhino Auklet, Belted Kingfisher, BOBOLINK.

The trip October 8th to OLIVER BROS. SALT PONDS & west end of WINTON AVE. was made by 7 members under clear skies with warm temperature and no wind. The morning walk produced hordes of shorebirds among the following 41 species seen or heard:

West & Pied-Bill Grebe, Br Pelican, Dbl-Cr Cormorant, Gr Bl Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Pintail, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Red-Tail & Marsh Hawk, Semipal Plover, Killdeer, Bl-Bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Com Snipe, Willet, Gr Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, West Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Amer Avocet,

Bl-Neck Stilt, North Phalarope, Herring, Calif & Rg-Bill Gull, Forster's Tern, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-Wing & Braw Black-bird, House Finch, Savannah, White-Cr & Song Sparrow.

* * * * *

Our CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT is scheduled for Sat., Dec. 30, rain or shine. COMPILER this year is George Scheffel who has done this job in past years while living in the east. Being relatively new to MDAS he has not yet met a number of our members so it will simplify his planning if you phone him to tell him you wish to participate. We need all the people we can get---expert and novice alike---to cover our area. Each party includes at least one expert but as that one cannot see in all directions at once there is need for assistants to help find birds and to tally them. Call George right NOW at 687-7305.

OTHER CBC DATES. Napa-Solano will conduct the BENICIA count on Sun., Dec. 31. If you can assist Frank Beyer contact him at 409 Rollingwood Dr., Vallejo 94590; phone (707) 644-0236. Members of Napa-Solano help us, so let's do the same for them.

Dec. 16: Pt. Reyes; Dec. 17: Oakland (Golden Gate), Western Sonoma (Madrone), Davis; Dec. 23: Hayward-Fremont (Ohlone), Clear Lake (Redbud); Dec. 30 (our date): Marin. Other local dates were not available at press time.

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Give a CHRISTMAS GIFT of Audubon membership. You will give beautiful Audubon magazine and also help the conservation cause. Membership applications are in each issue of Audubon. Mark the application clearly that you are a member of Mt. Diablo Audubon or better still, send it and your check to Treasurer Winnie Orcutt, address page 5, for forwarding to NAS so we receive credit for securing the new member.

* * * * *

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL. A new natural pesticide to control gypsy moths is under test and is expected to be available for use in a year or two according to a joint announcement by the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. Called Gypchek, it is a virus believed to have no ill effects on other insects or on wildlife and humans. (Audubon Leader)

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GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS. The Wood Storks at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, Florida, had another bad year--they didn't even make a start toward nesting, much less raise any young. These big birds are dependent on a highly specialized set of conditions for breeding, including water levels rising and falling at the right time; south Florida's drainage practices have long been upsetting these condition.

At Alafia Banks, one of the NAS Tampa Bay, Florida, sanctuaries, about 125 pairs of Least Terns and 10 pairs of Black Skimmers nested this season and 6-7 pairs of Caspian Terns showed interest in the site.

The number of the endangered Kirtland's Warbler dropped about 10% in the past year, from 438 to about 400. However, the birds which returned last spring to their nesting area in Michigan had a healthy breeding season, and experts say there is reason to hope that the losses were due to bad weather during migration or other such "normal" setbacks, and do not indicate a long-term trend. Another hopeful report is that 4 Kirtland's--all apparently breeding males--were reported far from the 100-mile stretch of the peninsula which heretofore has been the Kirtland's only known breeding place, 2 were spotted in Canada and 2 in Wisconsin, giving rise to hope that the species may be finding new nesting areas. (Audubon Leader)

* * * * *

WILDLIFE FOR ART benefit, an exhibit and sale of paintings, sculptures, porcelains, photo prints and Christmas crafts, will be held Tues., Nov. 14, 7-10 p.m., at the Adobe Art Center, 20395 San Miguel Ave., Castro Valley. Co-sponsored by Ohlone Audubon Society and Hayward Area Recreation District, the event is to help raise funds for Ohlone Audubon and HARD.

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CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS.

PRBO: Nov. 18-19, Special Bird Identification Workshop, Rich Stallcup, \$30; Nov. 17-25 or Dec. 22-30, Birds of San Blas, Mexico, Arthur Earls, Bob Stewart, \$350. Info: PRBO, 4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach, CA 94970.

* * * * *

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members of MDAS and hope to meet them at meetings and field trips:

Antioch: S. Vaughan; Concord: Leo & Mickey Collins; Martinez: Edwin Giltzow; Pleasant Hill: Karen D. Henry; Walnut Creek: Peggy J. Bailey, Hugh M. Delancey, Mr. & Mrs. John W. Harkin, Shari A. Ward, David C. Ziegler, M.D.

* * * * *

MONO LAKE still needs our support and help. (See July-Aug. Quail.) The channel blasted between Negit Island and the mainland protected the gull colony this year, but what of the future? Despite the wet winter which sent snowmelt down Rush and Lee Vining Creeks, the lake continued to shrink. Instead of feeding the lake, most of the heavy snowmelt was shunted south into the Los Angeles aqueduct despite the 150% normal runoff throughout the aqueduct's eastern Sierran watershed!! You can help publicize Mono's plight by arranging talks to interested groups in your community (excellent volunteers with slide programs are available) or by helping get the Lake's story into newspapers, newsletters, magazines (factual materials, photos, etc., are available). You can also circulate a petition requesting stabilization of the lake--I have them for the asking. Bumper stickers LONG LIVE MONO LAKE (a new one LET MONO LAKE LIVE out soon) are \$1. Information, bumper stickers and tax-deductible donations (checks payable to Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society): send to Mono Lake Committee, P. O. Box 2764, Oakland, CA 94602. Contributors of \$10 or more receive their excellent, informative quarterly newsletter.

* * * * *

The new 1979 NON-GAME DECALS will be available the end of November and we hope to have a supply for sale at our December meeting. The \$5.00 cost of a decal goes to the Dept. of Fish & Game for management of non-game wildlife. DFG receives most of its funds for land purchases from hunters, therefore most land is habitat for game. The non-game program is not as strong as it should be and it needs and deserves our wholehearted support.

* * * * *

CONSERVATION NOTES by J. P. Hauser.

Since the 95th Congress adjourned on Saturday, October 14, suggestions for letter writing will be suspended for a while (glad?). The House established a fine record on conservation matters by passing both the Burton Wilderness Omnibus bill and the Alaska National Interest Lands legislation by wide margins. On the Senate side the record was dismal. A Senate Committee, Energy and Natural Resources, very slowly and methodically hacked away at S-1500 (the Senate version of HR-39) which had taken months of leg work and labor by the Alaska Coalition to compile. For example, by a 7-12 vote, wilderness classification for the entire Arctic National Wildlife Range was rejected. Other ecologically complete areas, refuges, wild and scenic rivers, parks, were all but cut in half. It might be well to remember that the land earmarked for preservation in S-1500 (originally) would still leave 60-90% of Alaska land available for developing. (Do you get the impression they want it all?) Burton's bill, HR-12536, would designate nearly 2 million acres of wilderness in 9 national park units and establish 7 new wild and scenic rivers. If this bill ends up in the same committee as S-1500, my suggestions that you write letters will increase perceptively.

The national League of Conservation Voters chart of environmental votes by members of the House of Representatives in 1977 is now available. A copy can be purchased for \$2 from LCV, 317 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, Washington, DC 20003.

Two environmentalist-supported amendments to kill funds for 13 detrimental, wasteful projects, which were attached to the massive Public Works Appropriation bill, were supported very helpfully by 28 of the 36 California representatives. The projects would have cost the taxpayers 564 million dollars. Fortunately, President Carter vetoed the entire bill and was upheld by Congress. This is one case where the extinction of a species would be welcome, namely Pork Barrel Legislation.

I hope many of the members of National Audubon Society read the excellent article in California Living of October 1 by Gary Brechin. It is all about Mono Lake, a critical and age-old migrating and nesting site for a variety of birds nearly unmatched in the world. The lake is dying. "One brick in every L.A. toilet would save Mono Lake. Yet it is so much cheaper to destroy it. For the sake of that illusion, this crystal world shatters." Better read it. I have copies.

* * * * *

Some people are experiencing DELAYED DELIVERY of The Quail. If you receive this issue on or after October 27 please send me a postcard, address below, with your name, address (including zip) and the date the bulletin was delivered. Hopefully we can then find the location of the delays.

* * * * *

The first issue of BIRDING NEWS SURVEY (Oct. Quail) is an exciting mixture of identification notes, bird finding, field techniques, attracting birds, etc. Cost is \$8.00 per year. This copy will be at meetings for scrutiny before you subscribe.

* * * * *

GENERAL WHALE works to save whales, those creatures too fascinating to be just an industrial resource. Their work in whale research, education and fund-raising is founded on one premise: bring whales to people then people will bring protection to whales. Membership, \$10, to General Whale, 9616 MacArthur Ave., Oakland 94605.

* * * * *

OBSERVATIONS, Sept. 11-Oct. 10. (Also see field trip reports.)

South Polar Skua, 2, Monterey Bay, Sept. 30--BR, WFO pelagic trip.

Wilson's Storm-Petrel, Monterey Bay, Sept. 30--BR, WFO pelagic trip.

Broad-Winged Hawk, Bunker Hill hawk lookout, Marin Co., Sept. 30--JR.

Golden Eagle, Bunker Hill hawk lookout, Sept. 30--m.ob.

Peregrine Falcon, Bunker Hill hawk lookout, Sept. 30--m.ob.

Merlin, Bunker Hill hawk lookout, Sept. 30--m.ob; Tubbs Island, Solano Co., Oct. 6--FRB; over Danville, Oct. 7--SS.

Mountain Plover, RCA station, Pt. Reyes, Sept. 11-13--m.ob, Sept. 21--BR.

American Golden Plover, RCA station, Sept. 19--BF, AF, JR, et al; 2, road to Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes, Sept. 26--JR, BF, AM, BP; 1 there Oct. 6 & 10--m.ob.

Pectoral Sandpiper, Mendoza Ranch, Pt. Reyes, Sept. 19--JR, BF, AF, et al.

Common Tern, 120, Bay Bridge Toll Plaza marsh, Sept. 28--JR, MJG, et al.

Vaux's Swift, Mendoza Ranch, Sept. 19--JR; 73, Bunker Hill lookout, Sept. 30--m.ob.

Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, 4, Bunker Hill hawk lookout, Sept. 30--m.ob.

RED-THROATED PIPIT, Mendoza Ranch, Sept. 30--RS; 2, Hall Ranch, Pt. Reyes, Oct. 7-10--RS, m.ob.

Red-Eyed Vireo, Fish Docks, Sept. 19--JR, BF, AF, et al.

WORM-EATING WARBLER, Mendoza Ranch, Oct. 5-7--KY, m.ob.

Blackpoll Warbler, Fish Docks, Sept. 17--BR; Fish Docks, Sept. 19--AF, BF, JR, et al; Mendoza Ranch, Sept. 26--JR, BF, AM, BP.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER, Lighthouse, Pt. Reyes, Oct. 6--TB, DD, JR, BF, MJG; a different one there, Oct. 10--KY, DM, MC, BF, JR.

Chestnut-Sided Warbler, Lighthouse, Oct. 6--TB, BF, MJG, JR, DD.

OVENBIRD, Fish Docks, Oct. 6--EG, TB, DD, BF, MJG, JR.

CANADA WARBLER, Washington St. near Webster, San Francisco, Oct. 5-6--DM, m.ob.

Yellow-Headed Blackbird, RCA station, Sept. 19--BF, JR; Drake's Beach pond, Pt. Reyes, Sept. 26--JD, JR, BF, et al.

ORCHARD ORIOLE, female or imm., Middle Lake, Golden Gate Park, Oct. 2 & 8--m.ob.

Lapland Longspur, 2, Hall Ranch, Oct. 7--BR.

Addenda: The Crossbills, 12-15, Trinity Co. (Oct. Quail), were found by Phil Gordon.

Observers: Frank Beyer, Tony Briggs, Maxine Clason, Jane Dang, Dave DeSante, Ann Follis, Bud Fry, Ed Greaves, Mary Jane Greene, Dianne McClung, Alice Mericourt, Bill Pursell, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Sally Steller, Rich Stallcup, Keiko Yamane; many observers, Western Field Ornithologists.

The Bay Area RARE BIRD ALERT tape, 843-2211, is changed weekly, usually late on Wednesday afternoon. This tape will keep you abreast of rarities in No. Calif.

The TELEPHONE for MDAS, AUD-UBON (283-2866), has a frequently changed taped message giving information about our upcoming activities such as meetings and field trips.

* * * * *

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.)

* * * * *

GREATER BAY AREA SITE GUIDE: Bolinas Lagoon.

Access: From US 101 north of Golden Gate Bridge follow SR 1 from Mill Valley thru Stinson Beach to just past Elwood's Restaurant (MP 12.79). WARNING: Park only on right side of road as Marin Co. tickets cars parked facing wrong direction!!

Mudflats begin at MP 13.0. Large turnout at MP 13.32: water, marsh, mudflats (depends on tide) for herons (have seen Green), egrets, waterfowl, rails; trees for warblers, goldfinches, sparrows, etc. Lower lagoon begins at MP 13.5: loons, grebes, waterfowl on water; shorebirds along shore. Little Blue Heron seen from MP 15.15 in 1976 but scope necessary to check far shore.

Audubon Canyon Ranch (MP 16.0) open to public without charge 10 a.m.-4 p.m. weekends, holidays, early March-July 4; best time Apr. 15-June 15. Overlook: good view of nesting herons, egrets. Trails thru trees, chaparral: woodpeckers, chickadee, Bushtit, Wrentit, thrushes, vireos, warblers, goldfinches, towhees, sparrows. Turnout across from Ranch gate: open water, shore: Brown Pelican (summer, fall), cormorants, herons, egrets, waterfowl (Blue-Winged Teal, European Wigeon have been seen), shorebirds (possibly Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral & Baird's Sandpipers, Red Phalarope), gulls, terns.

Short "loop" road on left, MP 16.29: good spot to scan lagoon, check shore. North end lagoon, MP 17.00: mudflats or shallow water depends on tide. East side of road often muddy puddle for shorebirds. At Fairfax-Bolinas Rd. to east, closed by gate at moment: Western Bluebird, Say's Phoebe, blackbirds may include Tricolored, sparrows. Grasshopper Sparrows have been found about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile up road. Willows around intersection: kinglets, vireos, warblers, sparrows.

Turn west on Olema-Bolinas Rd. MP 01.02: eucalyptus grove on left. Cross meadow (carefully, please!!): European Wigeon, Bald Eagle, Sharp-Tailed Sparrow have been seen. MP 01.51: Cattle Egrets have been both sides of road in vicinity of church.

Continue to Mesa Rd., turn right. Sewage plant across from firehouse has had Baird's Sandpiper, phalaropes among shorebirds. Go left on Overlook Dr. to parking lot at end: check ocean for grebes, diving ducks, gulls, terns; alcids include Ancient Murrelet at Duxbury Reef in 1977. Backtrack a block, go left on Elm to parking lot at end, walk to Agate Beach: Black Oystercatcher, Surfbird, etc., possible. Return to Mesa Rd., turn left to PRBO Palomarin Station. Banding demonstrations sometimes given. Good birding for chaparral species.

Birds of area: loons, grebes, cormorants, herons, egrets, many waterfowl in winter, White-Tailed Kite, Red-Shouldered Hawk, eagles, Osprey often over lagoon, hordes of shorebirds in migration, gulls, terns, alcids, Kingfishers usually along SR 1, many swallows; birds of grassland, chaparral, woodland on hillsides.

Facilities at Stinson State Beach, Audubon Canyon Ranch (in season), Agate Beach, 5-Brooks Trailhead farther north on SR 1 at MP 22.81.

Weather varies from very warm to cold, wet, windy--be prepared for anything.

* * * * *

MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY
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The Quail

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

Pres.: Bruce Moorad
1445 Marahbanks Dr.
Walnut Creek, CA 94598
phone: 938-4446 or
938-9100

December 1978
Vol. 25, No. 5

Next deadline: December 5

Meeting: Thurs., Dec. 7. Doors open 6:30 p.m. Birdinformation: 7:00; business: 7:30; social time: 8:00; program: 8:30. Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Field Trips: Sat.-Sun., Dec. 2-3, 9 a.m. each day, Sacramento Valley refuges. Leader: Sally Steller (837-9061). Motel info: Nov. issue (Markay's is closing). Wed., Dec. 13, 9:00 a.m., Lake Merritt; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Freeway 24, 8:30. Leader: Winnie Orcutt (944-0593).

CHRISTMAS COUNT: Sat., Dec. 30. Compiler: George Scheffel, 1971 Parkside Dr., Concord 94520; phone 687-7305.

Board Meeting: Thurs., Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m., home of Merv Ortez, 1010 Walnut Dr., Lafayette; 283-3072. Members are always welcome at board meetings.

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

* * * * *

Birdinformation, a discussion by George Scheffel of our Christmas Bird Count, will be of interest whether or not you take part in the CBC. The program will be a presentation by Rick Brewer about Audubon Camp of the West. A ranger on Mt. Diablo, Rick was recipient of our Campership last summer.

At SACRAMENTO VALLEY REFUGES will be thousands of waterfowl including Ross' Geese and hopefully European Wigeon. On Saturday meet at Sacramento NWR headquarters: north via I-680, I-80, I-505, I-5 to Norman Rd. (between Williams and Willows), go north on the old highway about 2 miles, turn right into the Refuge. On Sunday meet at Gray Lodge WMA headquarters: I-680, I-80, SR 113, SR 99 to Live Oak then follow Refuge signs on Pennington Rd. Allow about 2½ hours driving time. If you cannot go both days, by all means drive up for either one. We will eat dinner together Saturday evening at Western Smorgy in Gridley at 6:30 p.m.

LAKE MERRITT is excellent for studying grebes, waterfowl, gulls. Here in winter are Barrow's Goldeneyes, Hooded Merganser (sometimes), Tufted Duck (returned Nov. 11 for 3rd consecutive year). Park in the lot between the boat dock and the large aviary then meet on the lake-side walkway behind the Rotary Science Center at Bellevue and Perkins. If you arrive late we will be easy to find along the walk.

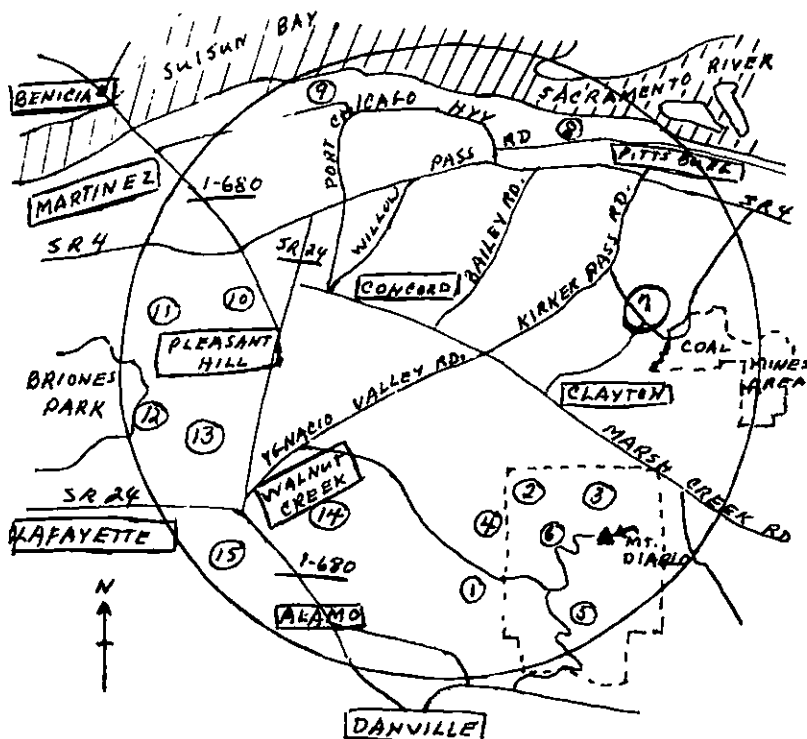
If you CARPOOL on a field trip please remember our Chapter policy that each rider contributes 3¢ per mile to the driver to help defray expenses. (See Sept. Quail.)

* * * * *

Our CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, scheduled for Saturday, December 30, rain or shine will be compiled by George Scheffel. The object of the CBC is to find as many birds as possible within our 15-mile diameter circle, centered at the intersection of Cowell and Ygnacio Valley Roads. We have averaged about 120 species but with good coverage and weather conditions should reach 140. In 1977, 70 observers found a record-breaking 132 species with a good count of 91,301 individual birds.

We welcome inexperienced birders to assist the more expert. We need counters at feeders and gardens within our circle. Contact George for information and instruc-

tions. If you have a special species staked out, let George know ahead of time. MDAS will pay the COST of participating in the Bird Count (\$1.50 per participant) but will very gladly accept donations from those willing to pay their own. During our COUNT PERIOD, Dec. 27-Jan. 2, if you should see within our CBC area a species uncommon or rare for this area contact George as soon as possible with full information. These sightings are included in our 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 George 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.

1971 Parkside Dr., Concord
687-7305

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 George as soon as possible---rarities must be confirmed.

THE LIST:

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

Whether or not you take part in the count, be sure to join the fun at the post-count POTLUCK and COUNTDOWN. Good stories are always told about the day's events and there is much laughter along with the preliminary report of how well the count has gone. Come and cheer "goodies" found and groan at "sure things" missed. Dinner is at 6:30 at the Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek. You need not go home and change after working the count as birding clothes are quite acceptable. Bring utensils, dishes, serving spoon and food enough for AT LEAST four times the

number in your family attending as a day on a CBC makes birders very hungry. Tea, coffee and punch are provided, milk drinkers bring their own. A signup for food assignments will be at the December meeting or contact Linda LaPointe (933-0168) preferably before December 15 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 about 5:30. It would be great if those not working the count would do this. Call Linda LaPointe (as above).

CONGRATULATIONS to Bob Richmond, our CBC compiler the last two years. In American Birds, July 1978, containing CBC reports from last winter, the editor notes, "neat with details for all unusual species." Such comments are not easy to get!

MORE CBC DATES (also see Nov. issue): Dec. 16: Red Bluff; Dec. 17: San Jose (Santa Clara), Santa Rosa (RROS), Putah Creek (Davis), Chico (Altacal); Dec. 21: Peace Valley (Gray Lodge); Dec. 28: Monterey Peninsula, Honey Lake, Folsom Lake; Dec. 29: Lake Almanor; Dec. 30 (our date): Sacramento, Crystal Springs (Sequoia); Dec. 31, not Dec. 17: Western Sonoma (Madrone).

For compilers of these counts and the phone numbers, contact your editor. You may work as many bird counts as you wish---and have the energy for.

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FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

The trip to the TREATMENT PLANTS and CASTLEWOOD PONDS on October 11 was made on a clear, warm day with little wind, by 14 members and guests. These new (for us) areas produced a flock of Snipe resting, a flock of Curlews feeding, Lesser Yellowlegs, and a good study of a Pectoral Sandpiper among the following 40 species:

Mallard, Turkey Vulture, Red-Tail Hawk, Am Kestrel, Killdeer, Com Snipe, Lg-Bill Curlew, Willet, Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral & Least Sandpiper, dowitcher sp, gull sp, Rock Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, "Red-Sh" Flicker, Acorn & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Com Crow, Ch-Back Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Wh-Br Nuthatch, Mockingbird, Am Robin, Ruby-Cr Kinglet, Water Pipit, Starling, West Meadowlark, Red-Wing & Brew Blackbird, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, White-Cr & Song Sparrow.

The BOLINAS LAGOON and PRBO trip on October 21 was made by 15 members and guests on a beautiful, clear, warm day with very little wind. Long and careful studies were made of the many shorebirds, including a Golden Plover and a Pectoral Sandpiper, among the following 62 species:

Eared Grebe, Brandt's Cormorant, Gr Bl Heron, Com & Snowy Egret, Mallard, Pintail, Gr-Wing Teal, Am Wigeon, scaup sp, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Wh-Tail Kite, Sh-Shin, Red-Tail & Red-Shoulder Hawk, Am Kestrel, Calif Quail, Virginia Rail, Am Coot, Killdeer, Am Golden Plover, Lg-Bill Curlew, Willet, Gr Yellowlegs, Pectoral & Least Sandpiper, Lg-Bill Dowitcher, West Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Am Avocet, West, Calif, Rg-Bill & Bonaparte's Gull, Forster's Tern, Anna's Hummingbird, "Red-Sh" Flicker, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Com Crow, Wrenit, Hermit Thrush, Golden-Cr & Ruby-Cr Kinglet, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Yellow-Rump Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Red-Wing & Brew Blackbird, House Finch, Am & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, "Oregon" Junco, White-Cr, Gold-Cr, Fox & Song Sparrow.

On October 25 the BAY BRIDGE TOLL PLAZA MARSH trip was made on a clear, sunny, warm day with light breezes. The 16 members and guests saw a Red-Necked Grebe, a Kestrel feeding on a small rodent, 4 Clapper Rails, Common & Elegant Terns, and 15 Red Knots among the following 55 species:

Com Loon, Red-Necked, Horned & Eared Grebe, Dbl-Cr Cormorant, Com & Snowy Egret, Mallard, Pintail, Bufflehead, Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Red-Tail Hawk, Am Kestrel, Clapper Rail, Am Coot, Semipal & Snowy Plover, Killdeer, Bl-Bellied Plover, Ruddy & Black Turnstone, Lg-Bill Curlew, Whimbrel, Willet, Gr Yellowlegs, Red Knot, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Sh-Bill & Lg-Bill Dowitcher, West Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Am Avocet, Glauc-Wing, West, Herring, Calif, Rg-Bill, Mew, Bonaparte's & Heermann's Gull, Forster's, Com & Elegant Tern, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Black Phoebe, Starling, West Meadowlark, Red-Wing Blackbird, House Finch, Am Goldfinch, Savannah, White-Cr, Gold-Cr & Song Sparrow.

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Our loss is Houston's gain---FLORENCE BENNETT was transferred November 1st. We all wish her well in her new job but hope to see her off and on both here and in Texas. As long as she had to leave us, we're glad she was sent to a fabulous birding area!

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We are happy to welcome the following new members of MDAS and hope to meet them at our meetings and field trips:

Concord: Mrs. John Brodie, Barbara Field; El Cerrito: Tom Castro; Lafayette: Mrs. Sheila P. Craig, Mrs. Phoebe T. Force, Sydney Jo Spencer; Martinez: Mrs. C. Smith; Moraga: Mrs. Elizabeth V. Hansell; Pacheco: Mary Matienzo; Pittsburg: Frank Martinez; Walnut Creek: Dr. & Mrs. Alexander Hatoff, Dr. Santiago Luppoli, Carla Main, Dr. & Mrs. Fran Wassermann.

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YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, one of our richest natural resources, is an important part of our heritage. After 3 years of public workshops and study, the Nat'l Park Service proposes a General Management Plan aimed at "de-urbanizing" the park. "This is a plan for the beginning of a new era at Yosemite," the report states. "The goal is not to change the kinds of activities people have been enjoying there, but rather to improve the quality of their experience by rectifying an overzealous attempt to civilize the park. The major concerns of the plan are to reduce, and in some areas eventually exclude, automobile traffic, eliminate chronic overcrowdedness, remove nonessential facilities and restore as much of the natural scene as possible." Copies may be examined at all main branch libraries in California. Public meetings: Nov. 27, Yosemite; Nov. 28, Fresno; Nov. 29, Bishop; Nov. 30, Sacramento; Dec. 4, San Francisco; Dec. 5, Oakland. All begin at 7:30 p.m., with park officials on hand 2-4 p.m. and 6:30-7:30 p.m. on meeting days. Written comments: Superintendent, P. O. Box 577-GMP, Yosemite National Park, CA 95389. Deadline for comments is January 15. (Motorland, CSAA, Nov./Dec. 1978)

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CONSERVATION NOTES by J. P. Hauser.

After a prodigious effort over many months by the Alaska Coalition to create well defined environmental and ecological areas in Alaska for classified preservation, one man, Senator Gravel of Alaska, in a few hours, wiped it all out. His effective technique was to simply threaten a filibuster on the National Interest Lands legislation (S-1500) in the waning days of the 95th Congress. It was enough to scuttle the bill before the December 18, 1978 deadline, and by timing it as he did, there was no effort or interest to call for cloture. (Whereby a certain number of members can call for an end to debate and ask for an immediate vote.) So we are forced to hope for crumbs. President Carter can still save some lands under the Antiquities Act, whereby he can protect certain areas from development by declaring them national monuments. Write to President Jimmy Carter, The White House, Washington, D.C. 20500, and ask him to do what he can.

Following are excerpts from a news release from the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), of September, 1978:

Charles Warren, Chairman of the CEQ announced today that Nevada and California officials have agreed to a new bistate compact which would "assure the preservation and enhancement of Lake Tahoe as one of the world's great natural assets."..... Lake Tahoe, the biggest high-mountain lake in North America and one of the clearest lakes in the world, has been suffering increasing environmental degradation as a result of intensified developmental pressures.....The agreement must be ratified by the legislatures of both states and consented to by Congress before it becomes official.....Warren also noted that "for several years, attempts to save Lake Tahoe have ended in failure and frustration...."....Congress is expected to appropriate funds to acquire two sites recently approved for development. Warren stressed that under the proposed agreement new casino development is prohibited and growth of all kinds is to be carefully moderated to meet environmental requirements..... Included among the major revisions of the Compact are those which:

- prohibit the future siting and construction of additional casinos;
- provide that a proposed project can be approved by TRPA only by a majority of each state's delegation;
- deny all projects which are unable to pass specific environmental screening criteria.....

If you would like to be persistently entertained, highly informed and possibly angered about pesticide abuses in this country, read, "The Pesticide Conspiracy" by Robert van den Bosch (Doubleday and Co.). As the reviewer in Natural History magazine stated: "This is a gut-fighter's book, one that will surely offend not only its wide range of targets, but also more detached observers in the scientific world..... What is one to think of a professor who openly compares the administrators of the great university that shelters him to a "flock of frightened barnyard chickens"?....

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OBSERVATIONS: Oct. 11-Nov. 10. (Also see field trip reports.)

Fall migration, slow starting, was more quality than quantity---many usual vagrants were fewer in number, some exceptional birds came through. "Hot spots", as usual were outer Pt. Reyes & Monterey. Many sightings involved too many observers to list.

Northern Fulmar, Pt. Pinos, Monterey Co., Oct. 28--m.ob. Pink-Footed, 3, NEW ZEALAND, 2, Sooty, 25, & MANX, 4, SHEARWATERS, Pt. Pinos, Oct. 28--m.ob. Pink-Footed, 3, & Sooty, 10, Shearwaters, Pt. Reyes Lighthouse, Oct. 31--RS, R&JR, BF, et al. STREAKED SHEARWATER, Monterey Bay pelagic trip, Oct. 14, 3rd No. Amer. record. Black Storm-Petrel, Pt. Pinos, Oct. 28--RS. American Bittern, Carmel River, Monterey Co., Oct. 28--m.ob. Black Scoter, Pt. Pinos, Oct. 28--m.ob.

Broad-winged Hawk, Bunker Hill hawk lookout, Marin Co., Oct. 11--BR; 2, Carmel River, Oct. 27-29--m.ob. Peregrine Falcon, Pt. Reyes, Oct. 12--NB et al. Merlin Pt. Reyes, Oct. 21--W&GY; ♀, Pt. Reyes, Oct. 31--JR, et al, ♂, Pittsburg, Nov. 1--KF.

Common Snipe, their Rossmoor yard, Nov. 2--A&AB. SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER, 3 Pectoral Sandpipers, Carmel River, Oct. 14-28--m.ob. Pectoral Sandpiper, Rodeo Lagoon, Oct. 11--BR. Pomarine, 2, & Parasitic, 2, Jaegers, Pt. Pinos, Oct. 28--m.ob.

Lewis' Woodpecker, near Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes, Oct. 31--BF, R&JR, et al. Willow Flycatcher, Middle Lake, Golden Gate Park, Oct. 11--JR, BR, BF. GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH, Pt. Reyes Lighthouse, Oct. 31--RS, BF, R&JR, et al. RED-THROATED PIPIT, up to 4, still at Hall Ranch, Pt. Reyes, thru Nov. 1--m.ob. YELLOW-GREEN VIREO, Lake Merced, S.F., Oct. 22-25--DE, m.ob., 1st No. Calif. record.

Black-and-White Warbler, 2, Carmel River, Oct. 18-29--m.ob. Tennessee Warbler, Nunes Ranch, Pt. Reyes, Oct. 15--JR; ♀ there, Oct. 31--m.ob.; Carmel River, late Oct.--m.ob. VIRGINIA'S WARBLER, Middle Lake, found Sept. 17, seen sporadically thru Oct. 11--m.ob. Magnolia Warbler, Mendoza Ranch, Pt. Reyes, Oct. 12--NB, RS, BR, et al. Black-Throated Blue Warbler, ♀, Middle Lake, Oct. 15-19--DM, JR, MJG, et al. BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER, Carmel River, Oct. 27-29--m.ob. CERULEAN WARBLER, old schoolhouse, Pt. Reyes, Oct. 15-16--AF, m.ob.; Carmel River, Oct. 27--SFB. Blackburnian Warbler, Nunes Ranch, Oct. 17, 22, 28-29--m.ob.; Carmel River, late Oct.--m.ob. Chestnut-Sided Warbler, Nunes Ranch, Oct. 14-15, 17-18--m.ob.; Mendoza Ranch, Oct. 22--BR; Carmel River, Oct. 20-28--m.ob. Blackpoll Warbler, Nunes Ranch, Oct. 15, Nov. 7--m.ob.; Mendoza Ranch, Oct. 14-21--m.ob.; Lake Merced, Oct. 24--m.ob.; their Rossmoor yard, Nov. 4--A&AB. Palm Warbler, up to 3, Nunes Ranch, Oct. 14-31--m.ob.; Mendoza Ranch, Oct. 14-21--m.ob.; Pt. Reyes Lighthouse, Nov. 7--m.ob.; Carmel River, Oct. 26--BR. American Redstart, up to 3, Carmel River, Oct. 20-29--m.ob.

Tricolored Blackbird, Middle Lake, Oct. 11--BR. RUSTY BLACKBIRD, 2, Nunes Ranch pond, Nov. 4-8--JL, m.ob. SUMMER TANAGER, ♀, near Rogers Ranch, Pt. Reyes, Oct. 27-29--m.ob. Vesper Sparrow, Nunes Ranch pond, Nov. 8--BR. CLAY-COLORED SPARROW, 2, Nunes Ranch, Oct. 10-29--m.ob. White-Throated Sparrow, Battery Wallace, Marin Co., Oct. 12--MLR, WO; ad., imm., below Nunes Ranch trees, Oct. 14-22--m.ob.; Olema marsh, Marin Co., Oct. 28-Nov. 8--m.ob.; their Lafayette garden, Oct. 31-Nov. 1--H&BA. MCCOWN'S LONGSPUR, Hall Ranch, Oct. 18-Nov. 7 (mostly late afternoon)--JM, m.ob. Lapland Longspurs, Hall Ranch, Oct. 10-Nov. 10--m.ob. Chestnut-Collared Longspurs, Hall Ranch, Oct. 15-Nov. 10--m.ob.

OBSERVERS: Harry & Betty Adamson, Norah Bain, Stephen F. Bailey, Florence Bennett, Al & Anna Boileau, Maxine Clason, Jimm Edgar, Dave Edwards, Kent Fickett, Ann Follis, Bud Fry, Phil Gordon, Bill & Mary Jane Greene, Jeri Langham, Joe Morlan, Dan Murphy, Roy & Fran Nelson, Winnie Orcutt, Bob Richmond, Rich & Jean Richmond, Mary Louise Rosegay, Rich Stallcup, Winnie & Gifford Young, many observers.

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To receive The Quail by FIRST CLASS in an envelope rather than bulk mail: \$1.75 per year. Check, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, address below.

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.

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.)

MDAS is pleased to offer a CAMPERSHIP to Audubon Camp of the West in Wyoming's Wind River Mountains for 2 weeks next summer. We seek a person such as a youth leader or teacher to bring a better understanding of nature to local residents, primarily children. Application letter deadline: Dec. 10. For information call Tom Lee, 934-6746 (day), 934-5475 (eve.) or Bruce Moorad, 938-9100 (day), 938-4446 (eve.).

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CHRISTMAS IDEAS. Wild Wings of Lake City, Minn., offers Christmas cards and wild-life items including excellent prints and cards by our own renowned Harry Adamson. Ordered by phone, payed by charge card, shipped by UPS, should insure quick delivery. Contact the Adamsons at 283-2164 for catalogue. (Your editor has one copy.)
New member Santiago Luppoli, a retired professor, now devotes his time to painting. See Nov. 1978 Audubon, pg. 116, for info on his prints. Available in Walnut Creek.
Sacramento Street Christmas Store, 3067 Sacramento St., S.F., offers a wide variety of bird ornaments. Open Nov. 15-end of Dec., 11-6, Tues.-Sun., this shop offers true-to-life colors on fired clay for \$1-\$3. (Marin Audubon)

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ADVANCED BIRDING CLASSES, by Jon Winter, Jan. 6, 13, 21, 27, Feb. 3, 10; fall warblers, gulls, flycatchers, petrels, shearwaters, etc. Course: \$36, \$7.50 any session. Information/registration: 388-2524 or write NAS, Western Education Center, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon 94920. Enclose self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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Monterey Bay PELAGIC TRIPS: Dec. 10, Jan. 6, 13, Feb. 13; from Fisherman's Wharf, on Benji's "Spirit of '76" at 8 a.m., return 3 p.m., prominent pelagic leader on each trip. Reservation: \$15/person, payable to DEBI ROBINSON, 935 Lighthouse Ave., Pacific Grove, 93950, with self-addressed, stamped envelope. Info: (408) 375-0767.

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1st annual BALD EAGLE SURVEY, Sat., Jan. 20 (Jan. 21 if inclement weather). An accurate, meaningful survey of wintering Eagles needs nationwide effort. Inquiries, comments: Raptor Information Center, National Wildlife Federation, 1412-16th St., NW, Washington, DC 20036. Your editor has some info and a Survey Field Form.

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GREATER BAY AREA SITE GUIDE: Calaveras Reservoir---wintering Bald Eagles.
Access: I-680 south 9 mi. beyond Dublin to Calaveras Rd., go left about 10 mi. to south end of Reservoir. Scope almost necessity as birding is from the road.
Check shores, treetops as well as aerial. At least 8 Bald Eagles here 1977---also Golden Eagles, so be careful. Work back along Reservoir, stopping in turnouts, if Eagles not here---they may be at dam at north end or anywhere in between.
In water and on shore at south end: many Canada Geese, Snow Goose in 1977. On Reservoir: grebes, Double-Crested Cormorant, herons, several species ducks. Along road watch for birds of oak woodland: hawks, White-Thr. Swift, woodpeckers, jays, Magpie, White-Br. Nuthatch, bluebird, kinglets, meadowlark, towhees, sparrows.
Best time is January, February. Road is narrow, winding---bird with caution!

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