



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

January 1979
Vol. 25, No. 6

Next deadline: January 8

Meeting: Thurs., Jan. 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, The public is cordially invited to attend.

Field Trips: Sat., Jan. 6, 8:00 a.m., Bay Bridge Toll Plaza Marsh; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Fwy 24, 7:30. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey (254-0486).
Thurs., Jan. 11, 9:00 a.m., Tilden Regional Park; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Fwy 24, 8:30. Leader: Jackie Knisley (685-1709).
Thurs., Jan. 18, 8:30 a.m., Lafayette Reservoir. Leaders: Irene & Erling Hellekson (229-1837).

Sun., Jan. 21, 9:00 a.m., Putah Creek & Lake Solano; carpool: Copper Penny, Sun Valley Center, 7:30. Leader: Tom Steller (881-0581). Date changed to avoid conflict with "Owls of the West" symposium (see page 4).

CHRISTMAS COUNT: Sat., Dec. 30. Compiler: George Scheffel, 1971 Parkside Dr., Concord 94520; 687-7305. Count period: Dec. 27-Jan. 2, inclusive.

Audubon Film: Wed., Jan. 31, 8:00 p.m., The Forum (in library bldg.), Diablo Valley College. "Gifts of an Eagle" by Kent Durden. Admission: adult, \$2; child, \$1. Meet the speaker at NO-HOST DINNER, DVC cafeteria, 6:00 p.m.

Board Meeting: Thurs., Jan. 11, 7:30 p.m., home of Winnie Orcutt, 30 Iris Ln., Walnut Creek; 944-0593. Board meetings are always open to members.

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In the Birdinformation session, Jean Richmond will discuss The Building of a Basic Ornithological Library and will have several volumes on hand. The program will be "Audubon Sanctuaries of the West" by Lyman Fancher, NAS South Bay Sanctuary Warden.

BAY BRIDGE TOLL PLAZA MARSH is excellent for waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls, terns. Approaching the toll plaza keep to the far right lane, take offramp marked "last Oakland exit, Oakland Army Base", follow small signs toward radio stations. Meet a short distance along that road where there is room to park off the pavement.

TILDEN PARK has varied woodland species, some waterbirds, perhaps Hooded Merganser. From Fwy 24 in Orinda take Richmond exit north 2 miles, left on Wildcat Canyon Rd. to Tilden Park and follow signs to the parking lot at the Interpretive Center.

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

At PUTAH CREEK & LAKE SOLANO are Wood Ducks and other waterfowl, Lewis' Woodpecker, Dipper, Rock & Canyon Wren, 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. Meet in the parking lot of the picnic area on the right just before junction with SR 128.

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With this FILM, and in his recent book, Kent Durden tells the marvelous story of Lady, a Golden Eagle which lived with the Durdens for 16 years before her ultimate dramatic return to the wild. This is a unique film with some very rare and beautiful footage.

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FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

The PRINCETON HARBOR and LAKE MERCED trip on November 4 was made by 16 members and guests on a clear, warm day with light wind. We had a Red-Throated Loon still with a bit of red on the throat, a good study of a Surfbird, good comparisons of Glaucous-Winged, Western & Herring Gulls together, and a Common Yellowthroat playing peek-a-boo in the pickleweed. The following 58 species were heard or seen:

Com & Red-Thr Loon, Horned, Eared, West & Pied-Bill Grebe, Brown Pelican, Dbl-Cr, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, Snowy Egret, Gr-Wing Teal, Am Wigeon, scaup sp, Wh-Wing & Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Red-Br Merganser, Red-Tail Hawk, Am Kestrel, Am Coot, Killdeer, Bl-Bellied Plover, Surfbird, Bl Turnstone, Willet, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Glau-Wing, West, Herring, Calif, Rg-Bill, Mew, Bonaparte's & Heerman's Gull, Elegant Tern, Rock & Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, "Red-Sh" Flicker, Black Phoebe, Scrub Jay, Ch-Back Chickadee, Bushtit, Wrentit, Starling, "Audubon's" Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, West Meadowlark, Red-Wing & Brew Blackbird, House Finch, Am Goldfinch, White-Cr, Gold-Cr & Song Sparrow.

Six members went to GOLDEN GATE PARK on November 8 under clear, sunny skies with warm temperature and light wind. Many of the expected species were nowhere to be found as only the following 27 species were tallied:

Pied-Bill Grebe, Mallard, Gadwall, Am Wigeon, North Shoveler, Wood Duck, Calif Quail, Am Coot, Glau-Wing, Calif & Mew Gull, Rock Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Black Phoebe, Ch-Back Chickadee, Pygmy Nuthatch, Am Robin, Ruby-Cr Kinglet, "Audubon's" Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, Red-Wing & Brew Blackbird, House Finch, "Oregon" Junco, White-Cr, Fox & Song Sparrow.

On November 16 at SUNOL REGIONAL PARK chilly, overcast weather greeted 17 members and guests. The good birding included Golden Eagle among the following 38 species heard or seen:

Gr Bl Heron, goose sp (flying over), accipiter sp, Red-Tail Hawk, Golden Eagle, Am Kestrel, Cal Quail, Com Snipe, Mourning Dove, Wh-Thr Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, "Red-Sh" Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Yell-Bellied Sapsucker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Yell-Bill Magpie, Com Crow, Ch-Back Chickadee, Pl Titmouse, Wh-Br Nuthatch, Bewick's Wren, Hermit Thrush, West Bluebird, Ruby-Cr Kinglet, Brew Blackbird, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Ruf-Sided & Brown Towhee, "Oregon" Junco, White-Cr, Gold-Cr, Fox & Song Sparrow.

BODEGA BAY on November 18 was overcast and cold but fortunately windless. The 13 members saw Black Brant, Virginia Rail, 4 Soras at once, & Rock Sandpiper among the following 75 species (plus White-Tailed Kite and Red-Shouldered Hawk en route):

Com Loon, Horned, Eared, West & Pied-Bill Grebe, White & Brown Pelican, Dbl-Cr & Brandt's Cormorant, Gr Bl Heron, Snowy Egret, Black Brant, Mallard, Pintail, Gr-Wing Teal, Lesser Scaup, Com Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Wh-Wing & Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Red-Tail & Marsh Hawk, Am Kestrel, Cal Quail, Virginia Rail, Sora, Am Coot, Black Oystercatcher, Semipal & Snowy Plover, Killdeer, Bl-Bellied Plover, Surfbird, Ruddy & Black Turnstone, Willet, Rock & Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, dowitcher sp, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Am Avocet, Glau-Wing, West, Herring & Rg-Bill Gull, tern sp, Com Murres, "Red-Sh" Flicker, Black Phoebe, Scrub Jay, Com Raven, Com Crow, Lg-Bill Marsh Wren, Hermit Thrush, Ruby-Cr Kinglet, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, "Audubon's" Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, West Meadowlark, Brew Blackbird, House Finch, White-Cr, Gold Cr, Fox & Song Sparrow.

The trip to the SACRAMENTO VALLEY REFUGES on December 2-3 was clear but cold and windy on Saturday, clear and pleasant on Sunday. Thousands of white geese against a clear blue sky were breathtaking. Also seen were a European Wigeon at Sacramento NWR, some Sandhill Cranes doing a bit of dancing at Gray Lodge, among the following 84 species heard or seen on the weekend:

Eared, West & Pied-Bill Grebe, White Pelican, Dbl-Cr Cormorant, Gr Bl & Green Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Am Bittern, Whistling Swan, Canada, Wh-Front, Snow & Ross' Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Gr-Wing & Cin Teal, European & Am Wigeon, North Shoveler, Redhead, Canvasback, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, White-

Tail Kite, Sharp-Sh, Cooper's, Red-Tail & Marsh Hawk, Am Kestrel, Rg-Neck Pheasant, Sandhill Crane, Virginia Rail, Sora, Com Gallinule, Am Coot, Killdeer, Com Snipe, Gr Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Lg-Bill Dowitcher, Am Avocet, Bl-Neck Stilt, Herring & Rg-Bill Gull, Rock & Mourning Dove, Gr Horn Owl, Belted Kingfisher, "Red-Sh" Flicker, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Horned Lark, Yell-Bill Magpie, Bushtit, Bewick's & Lg-Bill Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Ruby-Cr Kinglet, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, "Audubon's" Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-Wing & Brew Blackbird, House Finch, Am & Less Goldfinch, Ruf-Sided & Brown Towhee, "Oregon" Junco, Wh-Cr, Gold-Cr, Fox, Lincoln's & Song Sparrow.

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Our CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT is scheduled for Saturday, December 30, rain or shine. If you plan to participate but have not yet contacted compiler George Scheffel, do so immediately at 687-7305. If you have a feeder within our circle and will count the birds there or allow someone else to do so, contact George for instructions. See the December issue for more details of our CBC.

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 the Women's Club in Walnut Creek. Bring utensils, dishes and server plus enough food for AT LEAST 4 TIMES the number in your family attending. Call Linda LaPointe (933-0168) after Dec. 26 to tell her what you would like to bring and how many are coming.

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REMARKABLE SEABIRDS OF THE FARALLONS, a segment of "Wild Kingdom", will be shown on KRON, channel 4, on Sunday, January 14, at 6:00 p.m. The film features the work being done by PRBO with the birds of the islands.

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CONSERVATION NOTES, by J. P. Hauser.

The Wilderness System gained nearly two million acres when the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 cleared the 95th Congress on October 13 and went to President Carter for his signature. In general, it adds 8 National Park System units, protecting 1,854,000 acres; includes 8 new rivers totaling 620 miles in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, making a total of 2,343 nationwide; adds 21 new units to the National Park System; transfers the 16,000-acre Mineral King Valley to the Park Service, ending Disney's plan to pave over the area with a huge ski resort; and triples the National Trails System to 12,000 miles. You can thank Rep. Phillip R. Burton (D-Calif) for all this, since he skillfully guided and negotiated the package through Congress. It is one of the most comprehensive parks measures in decades, and we all should feel very grateful, especially at this time when all resources are continually "up for grabs".

The Endangered Species Act barely came in under the wire as the 95th Congressional Olympics ended. Congress reauthorized the Act for only 18 months. This act has been under great pressure from development interests, and in the ensuing months will need all the help it can get.

In a few years the horrific problems of shopping, eating out, walking, driving, visiting, commuting, etc., encountered at the present holiday time will be a daily event. If you doubt this, simply read each issue of your newspaper and see the listings, activities, articles, editorials, related to new construction projects in this area. It is staggering. Most of the orchards are gone, and soon the ridgetlands will be hill-to-hill with houses. Too bad. The reason most people moved here is being paved over.

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When apologists for POISON SPRAYS say that the loss of a few birds is unimportant compared to the protection of growing crops, remember that birds are more than just beautiful singers pleasing to eye and ear---they are allies in our war on insects.

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The Tilden Park BOTANICAL GARDEN now must charge an entry fee: adult, 75¢, student, 50¢, child, 25¢. The blooming calendar for January: silk tassels and manzanita.

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It is with great pleasure that we welcome the following new members of MDAS and we hope to greet them at meetings and on field trips:

Antioch: J. Rebstock; Concord: Lynn Mallary, Paul A. Toneman; Danville: William C. Steiger, Martinez: H. Donovan, C. Lendrum, Victor Westman; Walnut Creek: G. Bauer, John Lambert, Bernice A. Mills, Bernice Woolridge.

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An NAS SYMPOSIUM, "Owls of the West; Their Ecology & Conservation," will be held in Morrison Auditorium, Calif. Academy of Science, S.F., Sat., Jan. 20, 9:30 am-5 pm. Presentations will be made by speakers from several universities & public agencies. Much discussion will center on special problems concerning the future of many western owl populations. Admission by advance registration only. Send self-addressed, stamped envelope with check payable to National Audubon Society, to OWLS, Western Education Center, National Audubon Society, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon 94920.

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The biennial NATIONAL CONVENTION of NAS will be June 29-July 1, 1979, at the outstanding conference facilities of the YMCA of the Rookies, near Estes Park, Colorado. Key environmental issues will be addressed, and special sessions for chapter officers and official delegates are planned. There will be an art show, book and gift store, and exhibits open throughout the conference. Pre- and post-convention field trips will be available. If you would like to combine your vacation with the convention, full information and registration forms will be available soon, if you are interested in attending, contact our president, Bruce Moorad.

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COLOR-BANDED SNOWY PLOVERS. Banded by PRBO at Mono Lake and Monterey Bay, plovers are marked with aluminum bands wrapped with colored tape. Each bird has 1-2 color bands on either upper or lower leg and each band has 2 colors. Important: Specify which color(s) are on top & bottom of each band, on which leg a pair of colors occurs, position of band(s) on the leg, date and location of the sighting. Report sightings to Gary W. Page, PRBO, 4990 Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach, CA 94970.

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A WESTERN WILDLIFE SLIDE PROJECT being undertaken by NAS involves the collection of original color slides of wildlife, the first phase emphasizing birds. The collection, developed through donations of 35mm color slides by members and friends, will provide a resource, at minimal cost, to chapters, members, and friends. Please submit high quality original slides for inclusion in the Western Wildlife Collection. Entry forms may be obtained from NAS, Western Education Center, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon, CA 94920. Full credit will be given all donors.

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CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS:

Beginning Birding, an Introduction to Bay Area Birds; Tom Steller; starts Jan. 17; 4 lectures, Wed., 7:30-9:30 p.m.; 4 field trips, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Enrollment limited to 15. Cost: OAM member, \$35, non-member, \$40. Info: Oakland Museum, Natural Science Office, 273-3884.

Introduction to Bird Identification, John A. Davis; Jan.; 1 classroom session; field trips to Eriones Park, Martinez Waterfront, Mt. View Sanitary Dist. Info & registration: Martinez Adult School, 228-3276.

Natural History of Calif. Birds; Philip Gordon; 1st session begins Jan. 3, repeats in Feb.; lecture, discussion & lab workshop; field trips in local area. Info & registration: Acalanes Adult Center, 935-0170.

Bird Sounds; Marie Mans; Wed., Jan. 31-Feb. 28; 7:30-9:30 p.m. Suitable for beginning and intermediate birders and anyone interested in sounds of nature. Cost \$10. Info: Albany Adult School, 526-6811.

PRBO Natural Excursions: California, Arizona, Central America; Feb.-Dec. 1979. The Gordon Bolander Memorial Fund and the PRBO Scholarship Fund offer scholarships to deserving applicants. Info on contributing to or receiving these funds, or for excursion schedule: Bob Stewart, 4990 Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach, CA 94970.

Northeast Birding, expanded 1979 schedule: Alaska, Texas, Arizona, Florida, Mexico, Churchill, Europe, Costa Rica, and more; expert leaders. Also 9 weekends in 1979, relatively inexpensive, 2-6 days, good bird areas coast to coast. Contact your editor or for annotated list, full info: Northeast Birding, Seal Harbor, ME 04675.

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OREGON BIRDING by Fred L. Ramsey, a comprehensive guide to birding that state, has been published by Audubon Society of Corvallis. The portions of the 175-page guide published in their newsletter have been widely field tested and new areas rich in birdlife have been written for this publication. Including identification aids, abundance keys in the 16-page checklist, maps keyed to each site guide, the plastic spiral-comb binding opens flat for easy use. Send \$4.95 plus 75¢ postage and handling, payable to Audubon Society of Corvallis, P.O.Box 148, Corvallis, OR 97330.

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The new CHECKLIST of Marin County birds is on sale at The Book Nest at Richardson Bay Sanctuary and at Pt. Reyes National Seashore headquarters in Olema. Compiled by Dave Shuford, the checklist contains much valuable information. Cost is 20¢.

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PLANT PRINTING, a 16-page step-by-step illustrated booklet by the Bay Area's popular botanist, Ida Geary, is available from Tamal Land Press, 39 Merwin Ave., Fairfax, CA 94930. Price is \$3.50.

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OBSERVATIONS, Nov. 11-Dec. 7. (Also see field trip reports.)

Cattle Egret, up to 5, Inverness Park, Marin Co., Nov. 13-28+--BF, JR, m.ob.

European Wigeon, up to 4, Alameda South Shore, mid-Nov.--m.ob.

Wood Duck, 5--Brooks Pond, Pt. Reyes, Nov. 15--BR.

Redhead, ♂, Lake Merritt, Nov. 11-Dec. 7+--HC, m.ob.; 5, Rodeo Lagoon, Marin Co., Nov. 26--BR.

Barrow's Goldeneye, up to 7 ♂, 3 ♀, Lake Merritt, Nov. 11-Dec. 7+--HC, m.ob.

TUFTED DUCK, ♂, returned Lake Merritt, Nov. 11-Dec. 7+--HC, m.ob. 3rd consecutive year. Another there Nov. 23.

OLDSQUAW, Bay Bridge Toll Plaza, Nov. 18-27--m.ob.

Hooded Merganser, ♀, Lake Merritt, Nov. 11-Dec. 7+--m.ob.; 1 ♂, up to 6 ♀, 5--Brooks Pond, Nov. 15-29--m.ob.; 2 ♀, returned Jewel Lake, Tilden Park, Dec. 5.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK, imm., Carmel River, still there Nov. 16--BR, BF, JR.

Merlin ♂, BPTP, Nov. 14--JR; 2, Doolittle Pond, Nov. 29--PJ, MJG, JR.

Clapper Rail, at least 5 have returned to Alameda South Shore after an oil spill wiped out the rails there a few years ago--PJ, MJG, JR, et al.

Rock Sandpiper, 2 returned Bodega Head, Nov. 13; 1 returned Princeton Harbor, Nov. 30. Species has wintered both places last several years.

EASTERN PHOEBE, Nunes Ranch, Pt. Reyes, Nov. 11--PWh, EM.

Black-and-White Warbler, 2, Carmel River, Nov. 16--BR, BF, JR.

Tennessee Warbler, Nunes Ranch, Nov. 15--BR, BF, MJG, JR.

Nashville Warbler, Carmel River, Nov. 16--JR, BR, BF.

LUCY'S WARBLER, Carmel River, Nov. 11-16--BF, BR, JR, m.ob.

Black-Throated Gray Warbler, Carmel River, Nov. 16--BR, JR, BF.

Prairie Warbler, Nunes Ranch, Nov. 15--BR, JR, BF.

Palm Warbler, Nunes Ranch, Nov. 15--BR, MJG, BF, JR.

HOODED WARBLER, Muir Woods NM, Marin Co., Nov. 13-Dec. 7+--m.ob.

Yellow-Billed Magpie, White Gate area, Danville, Nov. 14--BS.

Great-Tailed Grackle, again at Palace of Fine Arts, S.F., mid-Nov.

White-Throated Sparrow, ad., his Lafayette garden, Nov. 23--JE; ad., their Rossmoon yard, Nov. 25--AKAB.

Swamp Sparrow, Olema marsh, Marin Co., throughout period--m.ob.

2 SNOW BUNTINGS, Mendocino Co., from Nov. 14. Maybe we'll see buntings here again.

PLAIN-CAPPED STARThroat in Phoenix, ROSS' GULL in Chicago. Don't we wish.....!!!

OBSERVERS: Al & Anna Boileau, Herold Connon, Jimm Edgar, Bud Fry, Mary Jane Greene, Pat Jacobson, Eugene Makishima, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Bill Steiger, Peter White, 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 in Mt. Diablo chapter.

Subscription: \$3.00 per year, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, Mrs. Winnie Orcutt, 30 Iris Ln., Walnut Creek, CA 94595.

Address change (send also to NAS): Mrs. Jackie Knisley, 4741 Olive Dr., Concord, CA 94521. Change of chapter affiliation is only upon specific request by member.

First class mailing in envelope rather than bulk mail: \$1.75 per year, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, address above.

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

A 1.3-mile FIRE ECOLOGY TRAIL just below the summit of Mt. Diablo is to be developed with money contributed to the "Restore Mt. Diablo" fund. Originally intended for replanting the burned-over area, which is not practical, the money will be used to build a trail which will help visitors understand the processes evolved over the ages in relationship to fires and plant life. Our own Kent Fickett first proposed this plan at a meeting in Walnut Creek in October then followed up with a letter to the State Parks & Recreation Dept. Congratulations, Kent, for a fine idea!!!

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GREATER BAY AREA SITE GUIDE: Los Banos WMA, San Luis NWR, Merced NWR.

Access: South via I-680, I-580, I-5, east on Henry Miller Ave. about 11 miles to Los Banos WMA, about 2 hours from Walnut Creek (longer if foggy).

Santa Fe Grade Rd.: 10 mi. north of Henry Miller, go east on SR 140 thru Gustine, south on Santa Fe Grade birding all way. May be muddy or flooded if heavy rain. Ends at Mercey Springs Rd., go right $\frac{1}{2}$ mi., left on Henry Miller to Los Banos WMA.

Los Banos WMA: Check in, get free permit. Slowly drive around refuge, checking uplands, wetlands, ponds, lakes. Check sky often for pelicans, waterfowl, hawks. White-Faced Ibis may be anywhere--I most often see them in eastern areas.

San Luis NWR: Go north of Los Banos WMA via Mercey Springs Rd. (SR 165) then NE on Wolfen Rd. 2 mi. to HQ. Birds much the same as Los Banos. Evening, dawn flights of waterfowl, cranes can be spectacular. Swainson's Hawk often near HQ in summer.

Merced NWR: From Los Banos WMA go east on Henry Miller, north on Island Rd., east on Sandy Mush Rd. couple of miles to refuge. Mountain Plover possible all along Sandy Mush in winter. Many geese at Merced, including Ross'---check among white geese for very small Ross' either on ground or flying.

Residents: herons, egrets, night heron, Amer Bittern, several ducks, Curlew, Avocet, Stilt, few woodpeckers, Yellow-Billed Magpie, Marsh Wren, Loggerhead Shrike, black-birds include Yellow-Headed & Tricolored, Song Sparrow. Cattle Egret is appearing.

Winter: White Pelican, White-Faced Ibis, geese, include Ross', many ducks, White-Tailed Kite, several hawks (mostly Red-Tails), Sandhill Crane, Virginia Rail & Sora possible, several shorebirds might include Mountain Plover early winter, gulls mostly Ring-Bills, Water Pipit, Savannah & White-Crowned Sparrow.

Summer: Western Kingbird, many swallows, Northern Oriole; Swainson's Hawk, Wilson's Phalarope, Black Tern, Lesser Nighthawk, Blue Grosbeak all possible.

Bird checklist at HQ or write ahead: Calif. Dept. Fish & Game, Los Banos WMA, Los Banos, CA 93635 (Los Banos); Refuge Manager, P.O.Box 2176, Los Banos, CA 93635; (209) 826-3598 (San Luis and Merced).

Los Banos open daily from end of waterfowl season to Oct. 1; Sat., Sun., Wed. during waterfowl season. San Luis, Merced open daily.

Motels, restaurants in Los Banos, 4-5 miles from Los Banos WMA.

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A WARBLING VIREO banded by PRBO as an adult in June 1966 at Palomarin was recaptured in July 1978! The bird, now in its thirteenth year at least, appeared healthy and had begun to store fat for yet another migratory journey to Mexico.

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February 1979
Vol. 25, No. 7

Next deadline: February 3

Meeting: Thurs., Feb. 1. 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: RAIN on trip day? Call leader---trip might be postponed a week or two.

Sat., Feb. 3, 8:00 a.m., Lafayette Reservoir. Leaders: Helen and Jerry Gentile (228-6297).

Sat., Feb. 10, 9:00 a.m., Lake Hennessey (Conn Dam); carpool: Copper Penny, Sun Valley Center, 7:15. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).

Thurs., Feb. 15, Grizzly Island (meet in Fairfield, 8:15 a.m.); carpool: Copper Penny, Sun Valley Center, 7:30. Leader: Winnie Orcutt (944-0593).

Sat., Feb. 17, 9:00 a.m., Thornton area; carpool: Copper Penny, Sun Valley Center, 7:30. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey (254-0486).

Sat.-Sun., Mar. 3-4, Monterey weekend. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843). Early motel reservations advised. Some of us will be at Del Monte Pines, Monterey; (408) 375-2323. Saturday dinner, 6 p.m., China Row (on Cannery Row); call Sally Steller (837-9061) by Feb. 15 for reservations.

Audubon Film: No Audubon film in February. Details next month for the March 12th film. **IMPORTANT:** As the DVC cafeteria will not be open Jan. 31, the 6:00 p.m. pre-film **NO-HOST DINNER** with Kent Durden will instead be held at Copper Penny in Sun Valley Center.

Board Meeting: Thurs., Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m., home of Norah Bain, 32 Via Farallon, Orinda; 254-4516. Members are always welcome at board meetings.

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Birdinformation will be "Yellowstone Concerto," a film about Wyoming's Yellowstone River. The program, by our own Betty and Harry Adamson, will be a fabulous slide presentation about their 65-day trip to Australia in late 1977 and early 1978.

LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR, with varied habitats, has a wide variety of waterbirds plus landbirds along the trail. Go west on Mt. Diablo Blvd. from downtown Lafayette to the well-marked turnoff. Have 4 quarters or dollar bill for entrance gate or park on Mt. Diablo Blvd. and walk up the hill to the parking lot at the top of the dam.

At LAKE HENNESSEY, where we last birded in 1975, are many waterbirds and landbirds such as woodpeckers, thrushes, kinglets, finches, sparrows; perhaps Hooded Merganser, Pygmy Owl. From Benicia Bridge go north on I-780, east on I-80, west on SR 37, north on SR 29 thru Napa to Rutherford, then right about 3 miles on SR 128 to the picnic area by the dam. If you have time, north of Napa turn right on SR 121 about 2 miles, then left on Silverado Trail, and bird along the 13 miles to SR 128.

GRIZZLY ISLAND has many geese, ducks, hawks, sometimes eagles, Long-Eared or Short-Eared Owls. Take I-680 north, I-80 east to Fairfield exit, then SR 12 a short distance to Allan Witt Park on the right. If you are late, continue on SR 12 for a mile or so east of town then turn south on Grizzly Island Rd. until you find us.

At THORNTON are thousands of Whistling Swans, geese, ducks, Sandhill Cranes, many land and water birds, perhaps Green Heron, Bittern or Barn Owl, and some Cranes may be doing their courtship dance. We will also go to Courtland to look for the Bendire's Thrasher wintering there. 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.

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Our CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT on December 30 was a great success, thanks to our compiler George Scheffel and his assistant Jimm Edgar. The thick early morning fog gave way to mostly clear sky by mid-morning, the temperature was cold early in the day but became comfortable in the afternoon, the wind was generally light. The 56 observers found a total of 130 species (second only to last year's 132) plus 3 additional races, and tallied a total of about 67,300 individual birds which is a bit higher than most recent years. We added 2 new species to our CBC list: 8 Cattle Egrets and an Osprey. Other good finds included Rough-Legged Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Marbled Godwit, Common Raven, Rock Wren, Tricolored Blackbird, Rufous-Crowned & White-Throated Sparrow. Seen during count period but not on count day were Whistling Swan and Thayer's Gull. The following species were tallied:

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

Our sincere THANKS to all those who took part in the CBC, those who assisted with the potluck dinner which followed (especially Linda LaPointe who was in charge), and most of all to George Scheffel and Jimm Edgar who organized the whole count.

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FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

The LAKE MERRITT trip on December 13 was made by 15 members and guests on a clear day which was cool early but warm by noon, and wind which was gusty at times. We found a Cattle Egret atop the aviary, Shoveler, Redhead, Ring-Necked Duck, several Barrow's Goldeneyes & a Hooded Merganser on the lake, and a Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher in the garden. The following 50 species were seen or heard:

Eared & Pied-Billed Grebe, Double Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, CATTLE, Great & Snowy EGRET, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Mallard, Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Redhead, Ring-Necked Duck, Canvasback, Greater & Lesser Scaup, Com & Barrow's Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Hooded Merganser, Red-Tailed Hawk, Amer Coot, Least Sandpiper, Glaucous-Winged, West, Herring, Calif, Ring-Billed & Mew Gull, Rock Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Amer Robin, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Starling, "Audubon's" Warbler, House Sparrow, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Brown Towhee, "Oregon" Junco, White-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

The trip to BAY BRIDGE TOLL PLAZA MARSH & AQUATIC PARK on January 6 was made by 23 members and guests. It was a pleasant day with light overcast and virtually no

wind. Among the many ducks were a male Red-Breasted Merganser at the Toll Plaza and females at Aquatic Park, and there were close views of 2 Clapper Rails. The following 49 species were tallied:

Com Loon, Horned, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Dbl-Cr Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Black-Cr Night Heron, Mallard, Pintail, Canvasback, Greater & Lesser Scaup, Com Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Red-Breasted Merganser, Red-Tailed Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Clapper Rail, Amer Coot, Semipal & Snowy Plover, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Black Turnstone, Long-Billed Curlew, Willet, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, dowitcher sp, West Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Amer Avocet, West, Calif, Ring-Billed, Mew & Bonaparte's Gull, Forster's Tern, Belted Kingfisher, Bushtit, Amer Robin, House Finch, White-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

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CONSERVATION NOTES by J. P. Hauser.

If one should motivate oneself to find and read a quantity of reading material on the subject on conservation, it would soon be apparent that the battle rages on a wide variety of fronts: solid waste disposal; nuclear siting and safety; air pollution standards; oil spills; energy conservation; wilderness protection; suburban sprawl; noise pollution; water pollution; pesticide abuses; ORV problems; chemical wastes disposal; parks expansion. The conservationists/environmentalists organizations are mostly undermanned and underfinanced. The anti-conservationists/destructionists are rich, well organized, and able to afford expensive campaigns. I am firmly convinced that in the very foreseeable future we must all unite within an environmental ethic, one that reminds all people that our resources are finite, that conservation, respect, appreciation and protection of the natural world is essential to our well being and to our very existence. Unless it will be considered desirable to live in a condominium complex somewhere in space, we had better preserve/conservate what we have before it is gone.

At Cornell University, New York, is one of the world's largest bird orientation research programs. One of their current and continuing studies is trying to determine how homing pigeons home. One of the scientists stated, "There's no navigation system that good aboard the 747's or the Air Force jets. We still don't know how the birds do it, but they obviously aren't spending too much time figuring out the way home." Among their tests to try and discover their uncanny powers, the birds were fitted with frosted contact lenses; released in unfamiliar territory 600 miles away; transported on turntables and revolving drums; their olfactory nerves were removed; and, since they fly only during the day, the researchers caused the birds' internal clocks to run fast or slow by manipulating light and dark in the home loft. But still they homed as accurately as ever. The scientists carried on many detailed and complex experiments in trying to solve the mystery, and in a few instances came close to disrupting the navigational system, but in the words of one of the project researchers, "The missing 'map' with which pigeons might be able to integrate their compass information may be hidden in some exotic sense that allows the birds to perceive a world far from human grasp. Twenty years from now, researchers trying to solve the mystery will still be working to break down the "human chauvinism" that assumes the world is as we sense it." (The Conservationist, February, 1979)

Hoping you had a merry Christmas and will experience a happy, successful new year....

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President Carter's campaign to REFORM WATER RESOURCE POLICIES goes far deeper than his headline-making fights with Congress over appropriations for porkbarrel dams, canals and irrigation projects. Nineteen federal task forces are working on various aspects of water conservation and management, from benefit/cost ratios to wetlands, groundwater supplies, flood control, and agricultural practices. More than \$10 billion a year is spent on water resource projects and related programs but only a few programs are directed at water conservation while many other programs encourage consumption. Economic waste and environmental damage have resulted from boondoggle water projects.

Perhaps the most important group--Task Force I.a.--is working on "principles and standards" for planning water projects. This includes revision of benefit/cost evaluation procedures which have so often found that benefits to developers outweigh costs to taxpayers and environment. NAS, National Wildlife Federation and others have joined in hiring a coordinator to keep this task force informed of the conservation community's views on benefit/cost ratios and measures to protect wetlands and the environment: Tom Tamassello, 1412 16th St NW, Washington, D.C. 20036; phone (202)797-6800.

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We extend a warm welcome to the following new members of MDAS and hope we may greet them in person at meetings and on field trips:

Alamo: Mr. & Mrs. Phil Faye; Antioch: the Robert Wilson family; Brentwood: Paul Palmer; Concord: Douglas Barton, Alan Dethlefsen, Jim Pappenfos; Danville: F. W. McChesney, Stephen R. Peck; Lafayette: Stanley E. Hilburger; Pleasant Hill: Mrs. R. S. Dugan, Kimberly L. Edwards, Joy S. Hill, Laura Suendsgaard; Walnut Creek: Mrs. Dorothy Field, Dr. & Mrs. A. Hatoff, Mark Hempstead.

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Please note the EARLY DEADLINE for the March issue--February 3.

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More active members have MOVED. Our Vice President for Programs, Laurie Rask, and husband, Tim, left December 30 for Tampa, Florida. We will miss Laurie's enthusiastic and efficient work and also the quiet assistance given by Tim. We wish them well in their new home and the new job--and good birding always!!

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The 9th annual AUDUBON INSTITUTE OF DESERT ECOLOGY will be held May 3-6 at Boyce Thompson Southwestern Arboretum west of Superior, Arizona. All meals are catered; accommodations either in dormitory or camping. Registration: \$150 for campers, \$160 for dormitory registrants; university credit extra. Open to all adults 18 or over, NAS membership not required. Registration or brochure: Audubon Institute of Desert Ecology, 1642 N. Westridge Ave., Tucson, AZ 85705.

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When BIRDING PT. REYES be very careful to stop only if you have your car completely off the driving lane even where there is a curb, such as along Drake's Beach Rd. (Straddle the curb with your car.) Failure to comply invites a \$7.00 fine!!!

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To bird at FAIRCHILD CORPORATION near Palo Alto Veterans Hospital (White-Throated & Harris' Sparrow winter there) park in the back of the parking lot behind the plant and check in with security (or call ahead: 493-3100, ext. 2144). At the back of the building are stairs to a platform with double, glass doors and the security desk is just inside. They ask that you let them know who you are and that you wish to bird on the property. They have had severe vandalism problems in recent months but we are welcome to bird there as long as we comply with their rules.

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We are pleased to announce the award of our CAMPERSHIP to Audubon Ecology Camp of the West to Katherine Davis, a 6th grade teacher at Meadow Homes School in Concord.

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Among the NON-GAME WILDLIFE CONSERVATION programs for 1978-79 are 4 major projects involving Peregrine Falcons, including captive breeding and reintroduction in historical sites in California. Also on the schedule are funds for furnishing native plants and installing irrigation systems for 75 acres of native oak woodland in San Joaquin County. This year's DECAL, sent to donors to the non-game program, was designed by 14-year-old Pam Poole of Napa. Formerly available only from the Dept. of Fish & Game in Sacramento, the decals can now also be obtained through regional offices as well, including DF&G, Yountville Veterans Facility, P.O. Box 47, Yountville, CA 94599, for a donation of \$5.00 or more.

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CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS.

Natural History of Mt. Diablo (Biology 150-81); Rich Thall; 2 units credit. Class sessions, Feb. 24, Apr. 7; Audubon films, Jan. 31, Mar. 12, Apr. 10; field trips, Mar. 10, 24, Apr. 28, May 12, 19. Info: Rich Thall. Office: LS 216, DVC, Pleasant Hill; 685-1230, ext. 440 or 230 (Sat., 8:30-9:00 a.m.; Mon., 6:30-7:00 p.m.).

American West Expeditions & Short Courses, 1979 brochure from Nature Expeditions International. Led by experts in anthropology, marine biology, nature photography and other fields. Contact NEI: 599 College Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306; 328-6572.

PRBO: Birds of Costa Rica; Feb. 15-Mar. 1; Bill Clow. Cost, \$1150, excludes transportation to and from Costa Rica. Contact Bob Stewart, PRBO, 4990 Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach, CA 94970; 868-1221.

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OBSERVATIONS, Dec. 8-Jan. 10. (Also see Christmas Count and field trip reports.)

Red-Necked Grebe, Bodega Bay, Dec. 12--JR, BF, et al.

CATTLE EGRET, up to 7, field at I-680 and Arthur Rd., Martinez, Dec. 11-Jan. 10--JE, m.ob.; 1, Evora Rd. $\frac{1}{2}$ mi. west of Willow Pass Rd., West Pittsburg, Dec. 30--SS, et al; 15, 1 mi. west of Los Banos on SR 152, Merced Co., Jan. 8--J&RR.

Whistling Swan, imm., field at I-680 and Arthur Rd., Jan. 1-10--H&JG, m.ob.

Blue-Winged Teal, 6 ♂, Palo Alto Baylands Refuge, Jan. 2--JR, BF, et al.

European Wigeon, Alameda South Shore, Dec. 27--JR, BF, et al; Palo Alto flood control basin, Jan. 2--BF, JR, et al; Richardson Bay Sanctuary, Marin Co., Jan. 7--m.ob.

TUFFED DUCK, Richardson Bay Sanctuary, Jan. 5-7--m.ob.

Barnow's Goldeneye, up to 15, Lake Merritt, throughout period--m.ob.; up to 24, off San Rafael Ave., Belvedere, Marin Co., Jan. 1-10--m.ob.

OLDSQUAW, 2, off San Rafael Ave., Belvedere, Jan. 2--m.ob.

Harlequin Duck, off San Rafael Ave., Belvedere, Jan. 7--m.ob.

Black Scoter, ♂, Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes, Jan. 3--JR, BF; 82, Lighthouse, Pt. Reyes, Jan. 3--BR.

Hooded Merganser, 9 ♀, 5-Brooks pond, Pt. Reyes, Jan. 3--JR, BR, BF; 3 ♀, Lake Merritt, Jan. 4--JR, MJG.

Common Merganser, Mallard Reservoir, Dec. 12--JE: 28, Briones Reservoir, Jan. 1--NB.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK, imm., Willow Pass Rd. at Evora Rd., West Pittsburg, at least Jan. 3-7--PB, GM, DE, m.ob.

Rough-Legged Hawk, Hall Ranch, Pt. Reyes, Dec. 19--JR, BF, et al; RCA Station, Pt. Reyes, Dec. 20--JE.

Ferruginous Hawk, Olema, Pt. Reyes, Dec. 20--JE.

Bald Eagle, 2 ad., still at south end Calaveras Reservoir, 3 mi. south of Alameda Co. line, Jan. 9--ST, DR, BF, JR.

Merlin, Benicia SRA on Benicia CBC, Dec. 31--AE, FrB, JR, PW.

MOUNTAIN PLOVER, Drake's Beach Rd., Pt. Reyes, Dec. 19-29--M&PS, m.ob.; across from RCA Station, Dec. 30-Jan. 6--m.ob.

Rock Sandpiper, 3, Bodega Head, Dec. 12--JR, BF, et al.

Northern Phalarope, 2 in winter plumage, 1 ♀ in breeding plumage, refuge area near Dumbarton Bridge, Jan. 10--SFB, DE.

Glaucous Gull, off San Rafael Ave., Belvedere, early Jan.--m.ob.

Burrowing Owl, West Pittsburg, Nov. 15--KF.

SKYLARK, Hall Ranch, Dec. 16-Jan. 10--DE, m.ob. First California record.

Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Fremont, on Hayward-Fremont CBC, Dec. 23--JE, GB; Trestle Glen Blvd., Tiburon, Jan. 6--BR.

SHARP-TAILED SPARROW, refuge area near Dumbarton Bridge, Jan. 10--DE, SFB.

Swamp Sparrow, Olema, Jan. 3--BR, BF, JR, et al.

Lapland Longspur, up to 100, Hall Ranch, throughout period--m.ob.

Chestnut-Collared Longspur, up to 3, Hall Ranch, throughout period--m.ob.

OBSERVERS: Stephen F. Bailey, Norah Bain, George Bing, Frank Beyer, Phil Brylski, Jimm Edgar, Art Edwards, Dick Erickson, Kent Fickett, Bud Fry, Helen & Jerry Gentile, Mary Jane Greene, Greg Miller, Bob Richmond, Jean & Rich Richmond, David Rodman, Margaret & Phil Schaeffer, Stan Sorem, Scott Tsagarakis, Peter Willmann, many observers.

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PLEASE NOTE: Observations do not have to be of rare or exotic species! Please report common birds in uncommon places, at uncommon times, or doing uncommon things.

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Extreme HIGH TIDES on January 26-28 will bring rails into view at such places as Alameda South Shore, where rails are again being seen, and at Bay Bridge Toll Plaza marsh. STAY OUT of the marsh at Benicia SRA as it is closed due to the "Black Rail incident" last winter to protect the birds. Arrive at least an hour prior to peak high tide to see the rails come out of the vegetation as it floods.

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THE QUAIL, published monthly except a combined July-August issue, is sent without additional charge to National Audubon Society members in Mt. Diablo chapter.

Subscription: \$3.00 per year, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, Mrs. Winnie Orcutt, 30 Iris Ln., Walnut Creek, CA 94595.

Address change (send also to NAS): Mrs. Jackie Knisley, 4741 Olive Dr., Concord, CA 94521. Change of chapter affiliation is only upon specific request by member.

First Class mailing in envelope rather than bulk mail: \$1.75 per year, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, address above.

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

ADOPT-AN-ANIMAL at Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum. Proposition 13 brought severe budget cuts including the animal maintenance program. Help care for these special wild creatures which are there for all to enjoy and learn from, by adopting one or more animals for a month or a year. Your name will be displayed by your adopted animal on a special card. Yearly costs range from \$12 for a western toad to \$204 for a racoon, or contribute to their museum funds---they greatly need our help!!! Contact the Museum at 935-1978. Send checks, payable to Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum, to 1901 First Ave., Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

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MDAS tape, AUD-UBON, including upcoming meetings and trips, is changed regularly.

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A MAP showing locations of nearly 200 areas throughout the state which are open to the public for outdoor recreation is available from Wildlife Conservation Board, an adjunct of Dept. of Fish & Game. Included are fishing piers, wildlife areas, boat launching ramps, and access roads which enable the public to reach public lands and waters. We have large tracts to which there is no easy access due to surrounding private lands. Copies of "Public Access Projects of the Wildlife Conservation Board" are available at DF&G offices or write: Conservation Education, Department of Fish & Game, 1416 Ninth St., Sacramento, CA 95814. Enclose a self-addressed legal size envelope with 20 cents affixed. (Outdoor California)

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GREATER BAY AREA SITE GUIDE: Panoche Valley area.

Access: Go south on I-680, east on I-580, south on I-5 about 24 miles beyond Los Banos turnoff (SR 152) to Panoche Rd. (rd. J1), turn west. Watch for hawks, eagles, kingbirds (may include Cassin's) in spring, sparrows along road.

Little Panoche Detention Reservoir is about 5 miles west of I-5. Park, scan lake for waterfowl. Watch for hawks overhead.

Shotgun Pass area is very rocky. Hawks overhead; Chukars sometimes on west slope; Rock Wren usually on left near west end of down grade.

Little Panoche Rd. between pass and Panoche Rd. usually has many Mountain Plovers. Drive slowly, stop often--birds may be spread out and away from road so inspect all "lumps", they may be birds. Also in area: Golden Eagle, Curlew, Mountain Bluebird.

Panoche Rd. (at "T" intersection): go left--Ferruginous Hawk usually along 1st mile or so. Turn right on New Idria Rd. about 2 miles: Mountain Bluebird, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Vesper Sparrow possible along this stretch. Return to Panoche Rd., continue west. Merlin may be in area about 3 miles beyond Little Panoche Rd.; Lewis' Woodpecker usually around Antelope Bridge & Antelope fire station but can be anywhere along road; Mountain Bluebird could be anywhere in Panoche Valley.

Return via I-5 or continue west to Paicines, north on SR 25 to US 101 and home.

Birds: include some waterfowl, several hawks (including White-Tailed Kite, Rough-Legged & Ferruginous Hawk), eagle, Chukar, Mountain Plover, Long-Billed Curlew, Roadrunner, several woodpeckers (including Lewis'), Cassin's Kingbird possible, both phoebes, swallows, Yellow-Billed Magpie, Rock Wren, California Thrasher, Western & Mountain Bluebird, Phainopepla, Loggerhead Shrike, Tricolored may be in blackbird flocks, all 3 goldfinches, both towhees, several sparrows including Lark & Vesper.

Best birding: winter, early spring. Few Mountain Plovers after mid-March. Summer, fall are very warm.

Facilities: none. Have full gas tank; carry lunch, water. AAA map of Monterey and San Benito Counties shows area very well.

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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

March 1979
Vol. 25, No. 8

Next deadline: March 10

Meeting: Thurs., Mar. 1. 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: RAIN on trip day? Call leader---trip might be postponed a week or two. Trips open, members, non-members alike; bring lunch, binocs, field guide.

Sat.-Sun., Mar. 3-4, Monterey weekend; 9:00 a.m. each day; early birds on Sun.: 7:30 a.m., Del Monte Pines Motel. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).

Wed., Mar. 14, 9:30 a.m., Lakes Lagunitas & Bon Tempe; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. north of Fwy 24, 8:15; Leader: Elizabeth Diokey (254-0486).

Sat., Mar. 17, 9:00 a.m., Pigeon Pt.; carpool: El Cerro Blvd. at I-680, 7:15. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).

Sat., Mar. 24, 8:00 a.m., Upper San Leandro Reservoir. Leader: Tom Lee (934-5475). Wear boots, carry lunch.

Audubon Film: Mon., Mar. 12, 8:00 p.m., Diablo Valley College gym, "American Heartland: The Great River Story" by Walter Berlet. Admission: adult \$2, child \$1.

Board Meeting: Thurs., Mar. 8, 7:30 p.m., home of Jean Richmond, 125 Via Serena, Alamo; 837-2843. Board meetings are always open to members.

Birdinformation will be "Yellowstone Concerto", the film on Wyoming's Yellowstone River which did not arrive for last month's meeting. In February Bob Richmond was a last minute substitute and gave a fine talk about gulls. The speaker for this month has had to bow out but an alternate program is being arranged.

On the MONTEREY AREA WEEKEND we will see waterbirds, waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls, landbirds of varied habitats, Moss Landing to Carmel River. Take I-680 to San Jose, US 101 to Prunedale, west on SR 156, north 4 miles on SR 1, west onto Jetty Rd. ($\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of Elkhorn Slough bridge). Allow at least 2 hours driving time. See Feb. issue for motel, dinner information. On Sunday meet on the Coast Guard pier (southeast end of Cannery Row); early birds: Del Monte Pines Motel, 7:30 a.m.

At LAKES LAGUNITAS & BON TEMPE are some waterbirds but mostly woodland birds, hopefully including Pileated Woodpecker. Cross Richmond Bridge, go north 0.6 mile on US 101, take San Rafael exit. At 2nd signal go left on 3rd St., continue west to Bolinas Ave., turn left on Old Bolinas-Fairfax Rd., then left to Lake Lagunitas.

From PIGEON PT. we will be looking for pelagics such as albatross, shearwaters, gulls, alcids. After lunch we may go to Pescadero for marsh and shorebirds. Cross San Mateo Bridge, continue on SR 92 to Half Moon Bay, go left on SR 1 about 20 miles, turn right on Pigeon Pt. Rd. Meet just north of the lighthouse.

At UPPER SAN LEANDRO RESERVOIR, a new area for us, is a 3-mile trail past wintering waterfowl (Ring-Necked Duck, perhaps Wood Duck, Redhead, Osprey), thru pines (White- & Red-Breasted Nuthatch), grassland, evergreen woodland. Wear boots, carry lunch. Meet at ERMUD's Valle Vista staging area on Canyon Rd., 1 mile west of Moraga.

For their FILM, the Berlets traveled the Mississippi from its coastal wintering grounds for migrating birds to its headwaters in Minnesota where they stayed to film the summer life of a pair of nesting loons. They filmed the river, the wild-life and the land along its banks but the beauty of the loons highlights this work.

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FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

The TILDEN PARK trip scheduled for January 11 was cancelled due to pouring rain.

The trip to LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR on January 18 was made by 15 members under mostly overcast skies on a cold day, damp from heavy rain the day before, but luckily windless. We saw few ducks but did see Common Mergansers, heard loudly singing Thrashers nearby, and glimpsed an elusive Lincoln's Sparrow among 48 species tallied:

Horned, Eared & Pied-Billed Grebe, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Common Merganser, Red-Tailed Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Calif & Ring-Billed Gull, Rock Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, "Red-Shafted" Flicker, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, Bewick's & Long-Billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Calif Thrasher, Amer Robin, West Bluebird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, "Audubon's" Warbler, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, "Oregon" Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox, Lincoln's, & Song Sparrow.

Sixteen members went to PUTAH CREEK & LAKE SOLANO on January 21 on a mostly clear day, cold in the morning, cool in the afternoon, with light winds becoming brisk at the top of the dam. We saw 5 Green Herons, several Wood Ducks although waterfowl numbers were extremely low, leisurely views of a "Red-Breasted" Sapsucker, House Wren (rare this time of year), Canyon & Rock Wrens, and Golden-Crowned Kinglets in excellent light in low trees. The following 75 species were seen or heard:

Com Loon, Pied-Billed Grebe, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue & Green Heron, Great Egret, Canada Goose, Mallard, Green-Winged & Cinnamon Teal, Amer Wigeon, Wood & Ring-Necked Duck, Canvasback, Com Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Com Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-Shinned, Red-Tailed (& Red-Shouldered?) Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Com Gallinule, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Herring & Calif Gull, Rock & Mourning Dove, White-Throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, "Red-Shafted" Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, "Red-Breasted" Sapsucker, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Scrub Jay, Yellow-Billed Magpie, Com Raven, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, HOUSE, Bewick's, Canyon & Rock WREN, Mockingbird, Calif Thrasher, Amer Robin, Hermit Thrush, West Bluebird, Golden-Crowned & Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, "Audubon's" Warbler, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged Blackbird, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, "Oregon" Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

The LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR trip on February 3 was made on a clear day, very cold until mid-morning, luckily with no wind. The 24 members and guests found fewer birds than on the January trip, probably due to far too many joggers and not enough warmth. The following 39 species were seen or heard:

Eared & Pied-Billed Grebe, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Green-Winged Teal, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Com Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed Hawk, Calif Quail, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Calif & Ring-Billed Gull, Anna's Hummingbird, "Red-Shafted" Flicker, "Red-Breasted" Sapsucker, Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Wrentit, Mockingbird, West Bluebird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, "Audubon's" Warbler, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Amer Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, "Oregon" Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

* * * * *

Nine WHOOPING CRANES hatched from eggs placed in Sandhill Crane nests in Idaho have returned safely to their wintering grounds in New Mexico. They are the survivors, so far, in an experiment begun 3 years ago. Seven were lost during the fall migration. Rod Drewien, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service biologist on the project, said the loss was "a little higher than anticipated" but he remains optimistic the experiment will succeed in establishing a second wild flock of whoopers.

* * * * *

HAVE YOU HUGGED A TREE TODAY? In the park, recreation and leisure services field, people devoted to wide open spaces of parks are "tree-huggers." To be a genuine East Bay tree-hugger and assure the future of our parks, become an active member of East Bay Regional Park District. Benefits: free entry to EBRPD facilities, waiver of parking and swim fees, receipt of the activities calendar, invitation to special events. Family category also waives family camping fees and provides reservation privileges at Del Valle Reg. Park. Special benefits are given higher categories, and to groups, businesses, corporations. Categories: student, senior citizen, or handicapped, \$15; individual, \$25; family, \$50; sponsor, \$100; contributor, \$250; patron, \$500, endowing, \$1,000, all tax deductible. Check payable to East Bay Regional Park Dist., to EBRPD, Attn.: Memberships, 11500 Skyline Blvd., Oakland 94619.

CONSERVATION NOTES by J. P. Hauser.

This is not a pitch to raise your social awareness, or a fired up message to maintain a positive attitude, or an approach to soften you up for a subscription, or even an attempt to encourage letter writing. Well.....maybe a short thank you note to the President..... It is simply good news:

"December 1, 1978, will go on record as an historic day in the annals of American conservation. In a move of unprecedented sweep and magnitude, President Carter demonstrated his concern for the preservation of America's last great wilderness frontier by signing an executive order creating 17 new national monuments in Alaska covering 56 million acres." (Wilderness Report) The President set aside these lands under the Antiquities Act of 1906, after Alaska National Interest Lands legislation was wiped out by Senator Gravel of Alaska in the closing hours of the 95th Congress.

And more good news: In 1978, the 48,000-acre Redwood National Park was established, and the Omnibus Parks legislation passed, adding about one million acres of wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, and park systems.

Much of this good news can be "blamed" on you who wrote or wired. Some 1500 national, state and local citizens' groups from every state in the Union representing memberships of over 10 million signed a 28-foot telegram to the President urging conservation/protection/preservation of lands in Alaska!!

Condominiums are springing up all over HAWAII and sprawling developments are displacing pineapple and sugarcane fields. Worried conservationists there say Hawaii has a new unofficial state bird: the Building Crane.

THE ELUSIVE SNOWY OWL by Jimm Edgar.

Family business required my flying to Washington on January 10. I would stay only 24 hours but hoped for a little time before leaving to seek winter visitors around Spokane such as Common & Hoary Redpolls, White-Winged Crossbill, Bohemian Waxwing. I wrote to Warren Hall of Spokane Audubon prior to my visit that I would call when I arrived to see if an early morning trip would be worthwhile. When I arrived, a foot of snow was on the ground, by nightfall nearly 18 inches. The thermometer hovered at 0°. (Two days earlier it had been 26 below!) Completing my business, I called Warren about 5 p.m. A Snowy Owl was reported near the airport (perfect!), Gray Partridge were nearly always along roads, but no Redpolls or Crossbills.

Next morning I arrived near the airport before daylight. It was cold but not snowing as I began searching telephone poles and fence posts for owls. Black-Billed Magpies seemed to be on every other pole, dark shapes in trees proved to be beautiful Rough-Legged Hawks. No owls. Back roads were deep with snow and not wanting to get stuck and miss my plane, one eye scanned the landscape, the other the road. A Northern Shrike sparked my interest and a large flock of Bohemian Waxwings was beautiful against a snowy background. I continued to drive country roads watching for Snowy Owls. It was now 8 a.m.—I had to be at the airport at least by 9. I stopped to see a flock of 20 Gray Partridge huddled in low brush along the road, a life bird for me. Not much time now; where is the owl? I headed for the airport hoping for a miracle—it never happened. The morning was certainly not a failure! The shrike and waxwings are not common sights, a lifer was seen with the Partridge, plus I had the joy of being out and the hope of seeing the elusive Snowy Owl.

We are pleased to welcome the following new members of MDAS and hope to greet them in person at meetings and on field trips:

Alamo: W. E. Dent; Concord: Mike Rupp; Danville: Cypress Homes, Fred Merritt; Diablo: Mary Constance Ives; Lafayette: George Bangs, Mary Reif, Mr & Mrs. J. M. Sturman; Moraga: Richard Sintchak; San Ramon: Barbara Grillo; Walnut Creek: Cheryl D. Erwin, Robert Lee Grunder, Ruth J. Newell, Mrs. Virginia Lee Smith, Miss Elizabeth Stypes, John M. Wilder, Mr. Grant J. Winglow.

NAS's Washington office now has a 24-hour TELEPHONE HOTLINE for those wishing to keep up with environmental issues before Congress or federal agencies. Dial (202) 783-1920 for a recorded report. Calls after 11 p.m. cost less than 40¢.

The office has revamped its MAIL HOTLINE, a service to NAS members willing to write letters or make calls when citizen action is needed. The new National Outlook will be issued when an important development breaks too fast for Audubon Leader. To get on the list, write "Outlook", Nat'l Audubon Soc., 1511 K St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20005. Include the name of your Congressman, the number of your Congressional District, and a list of environmental issues which particularly interest you.

PORPOISE DEATHS in tuna nets have declined significantly since passage of the Marine Mammal Protection Act and a conservationist campaign against fishing practices that unintentionally drown these air-breathing animals. In 1971, some 300,000 died in the nets while the estimated figure for 1978 is only 15,000, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The agency has commended the tuna fleet operators for their efforts but hopes to continue reductions.

Richard A. Frank, administrator of NOAA, also reports the Alaskan natives came in safely below their quota of BOWHEAD WHALES, with 12 landed of 18 struck. Bowheads are endangered but they are also a subsistence need for the natives. NOAA believes this season's quota can be safely raised to 18 landed of not more than 27 struck.

The ALUMINUM INDUSTRY has established a toll-free number (800) 223-6830, which will tell you the location of your nearest aluminum recycling center. The more than 2,300 centers in the U.S. will pay about 16¢ a pound for aluminum beverage cans.

THE PERIPHERAL CANAL by Ann Cavanagh.

Senator Ayala has reintroduced into the Legislature his bill for construction of the Peripheral Canal. This 43-mile ditch will divert the Sacramento River just below the city of Sacramento and route it around the east side of the Delta to connect with existing pumps at Clifton Court and Tracy to send it to Southern California.

At the recent Audubon Conference in Sacramento several speakers dealt with this matter. Former Senator Peter Behr said the Canal will have the capacity to divert 80% of the river in years of normal rainfall. Total cost: about \$7 billion, much of it paid by State revenue bonds which are supposed to be paid back by water users, most of them agricultural. With facts and figures, Sen. Behr demonstrated that this water will be too expensive for many crops to be profitable, especially feed and forage crops. If nobody buys the water, the costs of the Canal become the obligation of all California taxpayers.

State Water Resources Director Ron Robie said the Canal is needed to compensate Southern California for the loss of Colorado River water. Since the Ayala bill mentions standards for protection of the Delta from salt water intrusion, we tried to pin him down as to what standards and when they would be "relaxed." He finally made a statement that the standards would vary according to the dryness of the year. (When is a standard not a standard?)

In answer to a question, Mr. Robie said that the Canal would not need water from the Wild Rivers. It was pointed out to him that the Ayala bill refers to possible deletion of the Eel River from the Wild Rivers system. No reply.

Mr. Sweeney, from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, said we must have tight legal standards for Delta protection, backed by public understanding, not adjustable standards. If the Canal is built, more of the Sacramento River will have to be encased in concrete levees to facilitate water transport. If the Eel River is diverted, it will be disastrous for fish. As for the proposed fish screens in the Delta, no one has succeeded in making similar screens work on the Tehama-Colusa Canal.

CLASSES and EXCURSIONS:

NAS Expedition Institute. June 27-July 28; ages 14-18; Cascade Mts., Puget Sound. Aug. 1-23; ages 11-14; Downeast Maine. Live in and learn about environment of area, its history, cultural heritage, geology, plants, animals, ecology. Info: Expedition Institute, Nat'l Audubon Soc., 950 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022.

PRBO: Birds of Guatemala-Tikal, Mar. 8-24, Bill Clow. Cost: \$1,100, excludes transportation to & from Guatemala. Birds & Whales of Baja Calif., Mar. 13-Apr. 21, Diane Williams. Cost: \$295, excludes transportation. Contact Bob Stewart, PRBO, 4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach, CA 94970; 868-1221.

Pt. Reyes Field Seminars, many courses in natural history, education, arts; taught by recognized professionals. Many offer optional credit through Dominican College. Program is non-profit activity sponsored by Coastal Parks Assoc. through Pt. Reyes National Seashore. Catalogue: Pt. Reyes Field Seminars, Pt. Reyes, CA 94956.

U.C., Berkeley: nature, sports, recreation, field studies. Info, catalogue: Lifelong Learning, U.C. Extension, Univ. of Calif., Berkeley, CA 94720; 642-4111.

* * * * *

OBSERVATIONS, Jan. 11-Feb. 5. (Also see field trip reports.)

Red-Necked Grebe, Lake Merritt, Jan. 23--BF, MJG, JR, et al.

Pink-Footed, FLESH-FOOTED, NEW ZEALAND, Sooty, MANY SHEARWATERS, Cordell Banks off Bodega Bay, WFO pelagic trip, Jan. 13--BR, et al.

CATTLE EGRET, up to 7, still at I-680 and Arthur Rd., Martinez, thru period--m.ob.; 1, Los Banos NWR, Merced Co., Feb. 4--BR.

White-Faced Ibis, 70, Los Banos NWR, Feb. 4--BR.

Northern Shoveler, end of Green Valley Rd. Danville, Jan. 16--BS, JB.

Barrow's Goldeneye, at least 14 ♂, 4 ♀, Lake Merritt, thru period--m.ob.

OLDSQUAW, 2, still off San Rafael Ave., Belvedere, thru period--m.ob.

White-Tailed Kite, over Athenian School, Danville, Feb. 1--BS, JB.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK, imm., still at West Pittsburg, thru period--m.ob.

Rough-Legged Hawk, Laughlin Rd., Alameda Co., Jan. 16--JR, BF; Little Panoche Res., Fresno Co., Feb. 3--B&MJG, JR.

Ferruginous Hawk, Panoche Rd., San Benito Co., Feb. 3--JR, B&MJG, m.ob.

Bald Eagle, 1 ad., 1 imm., Calaveras Reservoir, Santa Clara Co., Jan. 16--JR, BF, et al.

Merlin, Corte Madera, Jan. 26--DB, JR, et al.

Mountain Plover, up to 200, Little Panoche Rd., San Benito Co., Jan. 21-Feb. 4--m.ob.

WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER, ♀, Del Valle Park, Jan. 20-25--AE, GB, m.ob.

SKYLARK, still at Hall Ranch, Pt. Reyes, thru period--m.ob.

BENDIRE'S THRASHER still in their Courtland garden, thru period--A&EP.

Mountain Bluebird, ♀, Patterson Pass Rd., Alameda Co., mid-Jan.--GB, AE; up to 60, New Idria Rd., San Benito Co., Jan. 20-Feb. 4--m.ob.

Wilson's Warbler, ♂, Neary's Lagoon, Santa Cruz, Feb. 2--ED.

ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK, imm. ♂, her El Carrito garden, Jan. 9-22--MM, m.ob.

Red Crossbill, up to 8, Big Springs Trail, Tilden Park, Jan. 19--m.ob; 2, Sea View Trail, Tilden Park, Jan. 25--BR.

LARK BUNTING, at least 3, Little Panoche Rd., Jan. 27-Feb. 4--m.ob.

SHARP-TAILED SPARROW, 2, still in refuge area near Dumbarton Bridge; 1, Palo Alto Baylands; 1, Bolinas Lagoon; all seen during high tides of late Jan.--m.ob.

Vesper Sparrow, at least 50, Little Panoche Rd., Jan. 27-Feb. 4--m.ob.

Harris' Sparrow, Fairchild Corporation, Palo Alto, Jan. 13--JR, BF.

White-Throated Sparrow, still in their Lafayette garden, thru period--H&BA.

Hybrid Golden-Crowned X White-Throated Sparrow, Fairchild Corp., Jan. 13--JR, BF.

LAPLAND LONGSPUR, 2, West Pittsburg, Feb. 5--DE.

OBSERVERS: Harry & Betty Adamson, Dennis Beale, George Bing, Joe Broyles, Elizabeth Dickey, Dick Erickson, Art Edwards, Bud Fry, Bill & Mary Jane Greene, Mary McMullen, Arvil & Ellen Parker, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Bill Steiger, many observers, Western Field Ornithologists.

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THE QUAIL, published monthly except a combined July-August issue, is sent without additional charge to National Audubon Society members in Mt. Diablo chapter.

Subscription: \$3.00 per year, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, Mrs. Winnie Orcutt, 30 Iris Ln., Walnut Creek, CA 94595.

Address change:(send also to NAS): Mrs. Jackie Knisley, 4741 Olive Dr., Concord CA 94521. Change of chapter affiliation is only upon specific request by member.

First class mailing in envelope rather than bulk mail: \$1.75 per year, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, address above.

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: Muir Woods Nat'l Monument---Spotted Owl.

Access: Go north from Golden Gate Bridge on US 101 beyond Sausalito then follow the signs west on SR 1, north on Panoramic Hwy, left on Muir Woods Rd. to the Monument parking lot.

Walk through entrance and take trail on right side of creek. About 50 yards beyond the Kent Memorial, go uphill on right fork of trail (toward Camp Eastwood). Owls roost on this hillside. Trail shortly reaches a "T". Take right trail through a double curve. Just beyond the "S" curve, in a grove of tall redwoods, is a tree on the left edge of the trail with 2 small white insulators imbedded in the trunk about 12-15 feet off the ground. The owls are most often found in the 100 yards or so up from the top of the "S" curve. They may be high or low, close to or away from the trunk. These owls are not skittish and can be in conspicuous places but, sitting quietly, they can be hard to spot unless their call reveals their location. Imitation of their call or whistle often gets them to answer.

February through April is the best time to look for Spotted Owls here.

Also found around the parking lot, along the creek, or up the hill: Band-Tailed Pigeon, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Flicker, Western Flycatcher (summer), both Jays, Raven, Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Pygmy Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Varied Thrush, both Kinglets, Hutton's Vireo, Purple Finch, "Oregon" Junco, White-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

Weather often cool or wet, jacket advised. Trails slippery when wet. Poison oak, nettles common, stay on trails. No picnicking, camping facilities (available at adjacent Mt. Tamalpais State Park). Restrooms, snack bar at visitor center. AAA Mill Valley map shows area. Walk through the redwoods is relaxing, interesting.

FLICKER FRICASSE: Into an 8"x8" cake pan, put 1 cup Grape Nuts, 1 cup raisens, 1 cup peanuts, 1/4 tsp. sand; set aside. Put 1-1/3 cup suet through meat grinder, melt down in double boiler, set aside to cool and harden slightly. Reheat and pour over dry ingredients. Refrigerate until firm, cut in pieces. Serve in plastic-coated wire basket on tree trunk. (Wanda Wolf, The Western Grebe, Redbud Audubon Soc.)

AUDUBON CANYON RANCH opens the first weekend in March and continues to be open to the public on weekends, holidays and during Easter week through July 4. Great Egrets and Great Blue Herons nest in the tops of the redwood trees and can be observed from the overlook which is accessible by an easy trail. From mid-April to mid-June the nesting season is at its height, the wildflowers are out, and the grass is still green.

The first PRBO BIRDATHON raised over \$11,000 to support PRBO research programs. Suann Hosie and Barry Sauppe, birding in the state of Washington, managed to observe 105 species on the October 7 Birdathon date. The highest count was tallied by the team of Laurie Binford, Benjamin Parmeter, John Parmeter and Don Roberson. They observed 156 species in Monterey County. (The Sequoia, Sequoia Aud. Soc.)

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
938-4446 or 938-9100

April 1979

Vol. 25, No. 9

Next deadline: April 8

Meeting: Thurs., Apr. 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: Trips open, members, non-members alike; bring lunch, binocs, field guide. Rain on trip day? Call leader---trip might be postponed a week or two.

Wed., Apr. 4, 8:15 a.m. } Adamson home, Lafayette. Limited: 15 each day;
Sat., Apr. 7, 7:30 a.m. } call Sally Steller (837-9061) to attend.

Thurs., Apr. 19, 9:00 a.m., north Briones Park wildflower walk. Leader: John Davis (228-2509).

Sat., Apr. 21, 8:00 a.m., Mines Road; carpool: El Cerro Blvd. at I-680, 7:15. Leader: Art Edwards (447-3720).

Thurs., Apr. 26, 9:15 a.m., Glen Ellen; carpool: Copper Penny, Sun Valley Center, 8:00. Leader: Winnie Orcutt (944-0593).

Audubon Film Tues., Apr. 10, 8:00 p.m., Diablo Valley College gym, "Grassroots Jungle" by Fran Hall. Admission: adult, \$2; child, \$1. Meet the speaker at a NO-HOST DINNER, DVC cafeteria, 6:00 p.m.

Board Meeting: Thurs., Apr. 12, 7:30 p.m., home of Kent Fickett, 5270 Concord Blvd., Concord; 798-7421. Board meetings are always open to members.

Checklist Meeting: Thurs., Apr. 19, 7:30-10:00 p.m., location not yet set. Open to anyone interested. Call Sally Steller (837-9061) for location.

BIRDINFORMATION will be a slide presentation by John Davis on the wildflowers of Briones Park. The PROGRAM, Transect of California by David Gaines, shows habitats and wildlife from the Farallons across the Central Valley & Sierras to Mono Lake. Dave, with an MS in Ecology from U.C. Davis, leads the fight to save Mono Lake. Many thanks to Jack & Sally Steller for an excellent Galapagos program last month!!

The ADAMSONS, graciously opening their home, provide for new birders to study "yard" birds and for us all to see myriad ways Harry & Betty made their garden attractive to so many birds (and racoons, skunks). If you can visit Wed. leave Sat. for those who work weekdays. Take Pleasant Hill Rd. south from SR 24 Fwy, west 0.4 miles on Mt. Diablo Blvd., left on Carol Ln. to Our Savior's Luthern Church, 1035 Carol Ln., park at south (far) end of south parking lot. We meet there, walk to 995 Carol Ln.

The morning BRIONES WILDFLOWER WALK, 2-3 miles, also has good birding. Bring warm jacket, may be windy. Carry lunch, liquid if you wish and a "sit-upon" as ground may be damp. Trail may be muddy if rain the day before. Just west of intersection of Alhambra Valley & Reliez Valley Rds. go south on Briones Rd. to the park.

On MINES ROAD should be eagles, Lewis' Woodpecker, flycatchers, swallows, magpie, 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 Ave. and 7th St.

Main objective at GLEN ELLEN: Yellow-Breasted Chat; also woodpeckers, flycatchers, warblers, etc. From I-80 east of Vallejo go west on SR 37, north on SR 121, north on SR 116, follow signs to El Verano, Glen Ellen. Meet in Jack London Lodge parking lot. Time permitting we will bird Three Springs Ranch just outside Glen Ellen.

Itineraries available, May 5-13 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA trip: variety of sites, Mojave & Colorado Deserts, Salton Sea, Mt. Pinos, Morro Bay. Limit: 20 persons. Provide own transportation, meals, lodging. Call Sally Steller (837-9061) if interested.

This final FILM is an incredible and beautiful amalgam of life in a bizarre world of insects where millions can be born, can live and die within the space of a small pond and a single week---a treasury of insect life and behavior.

* * * * *

FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

The LAKE HENNESSEY trip Feb. 10 was made on a mostly overcast day, cool but with no wind. We saw Great Blue Herons apparently beginning nesting procedures, Bald Eagle adult & immature, Osprey, Rock Wren, and heard a Pygmy Owl call, but highlight of the day was several pairs of Western Grebes rushing across the water in courtship dance. Twelve members and guests heard or saw the following 67 species:

Horned, Eared, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue & Green Heron, Canada Goose, Mallard, Cinnamon Teal, ♂ Ring-Necked Duck, Canvasback, Greater & Lesser Scaup, ♀ Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Com Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed & Red-Shouldered Hawk, Bald Eagle, Osprey, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Calif & Ring-Billed Gull, Rock Dove, Pygmy Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, "Red-Breasted" Sapsucker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Violet-Green & Tree Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Com Crow, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, Bewick's & Rock Wren, Amer Robin, Hermit Thrush, West Bluebird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Hutton's Vireo, "Audubon's" Warbler, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, "Oregon" Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox & Song Sparrow.

At GRIZZLY ISLAND on February 15 the weather began clear but then clouded over. Many waterfowl were seen but best bird of the day was a cooperative Rough-Legged Hawk. The 10 members tallied the following 63 species:

Pied-Billed Grebe, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Amer Bittern, Canada Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-Winged & Cinnamon Teal, Amer Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Greater & Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, White-Tailed Kite, Red-Tailed, Rough-Legged & Marsh Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Com Gallinule, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, dowitcher sp., Marbled Godwit, Black-Necked Stilt, Herring & Bonaparte's Gull, Rock & Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, White-Throated Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Black Phoebe, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Com Crow, Long-Billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, "Audubon's" Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Amer Goldfinch, Savannah Sparrow, "Oregon" Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

The trip to THORNTON on February 17 started cold but warmed somewhat by noon, the sky was mostly clear. The 17 members and guests saw few waterfowl but many Sandhill Cranes, some dancing, 2 Burrowing Owls, and best of all, the Bendire's Thrasher at the Parkers' home in Courtland, among the following 60 species:

Pied-Billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Amer Bittern, Whistling Swan, Canada & White-Fronted Goose, Mallard, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Cooper's, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Sandhill Crane, Amer Coot, Killdeer, sandpiper sp, Herring & Calif Gull, Rock & Mourning Dove, Burrowing Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Black Phoebe, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Scrub Jay, Com Crow, Bushtit, Bewick's & Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, BENDIRE'S THRASHER, Amer Robin, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, "Audubon's" Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, "Oregon" Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox, Lincoln's & Song Sparrow.

The MONTEREY PENINSULA weekend March 3-4 was a great success. Leaving home in a drizzle, we had foggy mornings, clear afternoons, quite windy at times especially by the water. We saw Red-Necked Grebe at the Coast Guard pier; Black Brant, Ross' Goose, Sora at Crespi Pond; Harlequin Duck, Black-Legged Kittiwake, many Rhinoceros Auklets at Pt. Pinos; 2 more Kittiwakes at Carmel River Beach; Palm Warblers at El Carmelo Cemetary and Greenwood Park; owling in Robinson Canyon produced only a

calling Screech Owl; but we did not find the Laughing Gull at Moss Landing despite thorough searching. The 33 members and guests tallied the following 113 species:

Com, Arctic & Red-Throated Loon, Red-Necked, Horned, Eared, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Double-Crested, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Black Brant, ROSS' GOOSE, Mallard, Cinnamon Teal, Northern Shoveler, Canvasback, Greater & Lesser Scaup, Com Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Harlequin Duck, White-Winged & Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Red-Breasted Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Sora, Com Gallinule, Amer Coot, Black Oystercatcher, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Surfbird, Ruddy & Black Turnstone, Com Snipe, Long-Billed Curlew, Spotted Sandpiper, Wandering Tattler, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Short-Billed & Long-Billed Dowitcher, Western Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Amer Avocet, Black-Necked Stilt, Glaucous-Winged, West, Herring, Calif, Ring-Billed, Mew, Bonaparte's & Heermann's Gull, Black-Legged Kittiwake, Forster's & Com (?) Tern, Com Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Rhinoceros Auklet, Rock & Mourning Dove, Screech Owl, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Acorn & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black & Say's Phoebe, Violet-Green & Tree Swallow, Scrub Jay, Com Raven, Com Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Pygmy Nuthatch, Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Amer Robin, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, "Myrtle", "Audubon's", Townsend's & PALM WARBLER, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Brown Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, "Oregon" Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox & Song Sparrow.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS will be held at the April meeting. The nominating committee has not yet chosen a slate to be presented to the membership at that time. There will also be nominations accepted from the floor at the time of the election.

JOIN THE BURROW BRIGADE! Tortoises and other wildlife seek year-round protection from immense temperature extremes in the Mojave. Shrubs, slow to grow, easy to destroy, and holes or burrows, readily ruined by man or vehicles, provide multiple housing. A tortoise needs 5-6 burrows, from winter den at least 3 feet underground to fragile spring, summer pallets with a 1-3 inch roof. Digging for himself, the tortoise helps others as rodents, snakes, lizards may shelter there and Burrowing Owls take over burrows.

Burrows modify temperatures, protect desert wildlife from predators, shelter desert creatures. The Desert Preserve in the Rand Mountain area would provide safe haven. Tax-deductible checks, payable to The Nature Conservancy, earmarked Desert Tortoise Preserve, P.O.Box 921, South Pasadena, CA 91030.

CONSERVATION NOTES by J. P. Hauser.

"Business Shedding Crocodile Tears Over Regulation" (Contra Costa Times, Jan. 5)

That is a headline which concisely and accurately describes the on-going gripes of industry complaining about alleged over-regulation. Historically, regulations from government have been brought about because of corporate irresponsibility, especially in the areas of public safety, health and the environment. With the advent of the Industrial Revolution, industry's lack of concern and complete disregard for the general welfare became a disgrace. It was a matter of property and profits ahead of people. It has been in the past 10 to 15 years that the business/industrial community---thanks to the environmental movement---has begun to clean up their act, begrudgingly.

Most of the attacks are directed against environmental laws. The complaints range from minor to major, and often long lists of vast sums of money are recited as proof of losses, of increasing inflation, of raising taxes, of increasing competition unfairly, of causing unemployment. I'm sure most are exaggerated and propagandistic, and seem to be part of a wide plan to discredit, weaken or abolish environmental regulations and laws.

Like all large issues referred to briefly, generalizations are made and exceptions prevail. Americans have enjoyed the best standard of living in the world, due to our free market economy and technological advances. I doubt if it will ever be duplicated anywhere else. Over-regulation, bordering on a socialistic economy, is unthinkable, but keep in mind, that if business is complaining of too many government regulations, it must look to itself for the root cause.

ONE BRICK IN EVERY L.A. TOILET WOULD SAVE MONO LAKE!

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

Concord: Bertha M. Riley; Danville: Richard Winger family; Diablo: Bill Skinner; Lafayette: Richard O. Buxton, Mary J. Hosteny, Mr. & Mrs. Don J. Morae, Mrs. Arnold C. Sanders; Martinez: Hedy Huntsman, Virginia Peterson Morison; Pittsburg: Dianne Grijalua; San Ramon: Carol O. Martin; Walnut Creek: Jerry Bonebrake, Michael Glass, Robert Hubbell family, W. H. Parrish, Norm Robinson.

The MEMBERSHIP in MDAS reached the thousand-member mark a few months ago and as of the end of February our total stood at 1053 members.

SHELL RIDGE BIRD COUNT. A.E.P. Associates, doing a land use development plan for Shell Ridge, requires a complete inventory of all resources, including bird census. We desperately need the help of Audubon members. Contact Kent Fickett, 798-7421, for info. Future wildlife habitat improvement programs are planned to make the Shell Ridge a terrific birding area!! Please lend a hand to this project.

A FREE, NARRATED SLIDE PROGRAM about the Delta will be given in the Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum Library, 1901 First Ave., Walnut Creek, on Wed., Mar. 28, at 8:00 p.m. Richard Thall, a biology instructor in Concord, is very familiar with this unique flood plain, relatively unknown to many of us. He will include a brief history then go into the wealth of wildlife and how best to see them in person.

A recent letter to Gary Bogue's WILDLIFE column in the Contra Costa Times discussed the birds in the writer's yard and suggested that others do likewise. Gary's response was a request that others participate by sending their yard lists to him c/o the Times. Include your address so he can keep a record of where the birds were seen. If response is great enough he will make a fact sheet available at nominal cost. Address Gary Bogue, c/o The Times, 2640 Shadelands Dr., Walnut Creek 94598.

Dr. Edgar Wayburn, past president of Sierra Club, will address the annual meeting of John Muir Memorial Assn. in Martinez on April 23. Subject: Alaska. Dinner is \$7.00 per person. Call John Davis at 228-9516 for tickets.

SOUTH FORK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION is devoted to saving the South Fork, Kern River, both protected and unprotected sections. Last fall a wildlife area was designated by the Corps of Engineers, protecting the lower 2 miles. Send letters to 1 or more of the following to express appreciation for approval of South Fork Wildlife Area at Isabella Lake: Norman G. Delbridge, Jr., Brigadier General, So. Pacific Div., U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 630 Sansome St., S.F., CA 94111; Donald O'Shei, Colonel, Sacramento Dist., U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 650 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, CA 95814; Mr. Aaron Smith, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Sacramento address. The tone of letters could spur positive action on behalf of wildlife at other Corps projects. For more info, to receive their newsletter, or to assist SFWA, write to P.O.Box 749, Porterville, CA 93258 or phone (209) 784-4477.

CLASSES and EXCURSIONS:

Wildflower Identification, starts week of Mar. 26, one evening orientation class, 3 on-site classes in north Briones Park; through Martinez Adult School; for info call John Davis, 228-9516.

Flora & Fauna of Las Trampas Park, Mon., 7-10 p.m., 8 weeks, starts Apr. 16; birds, reptiles, amphibians, mammals, insects, trees, wildflowers; \$25. Birding Field Trips, Sat., 9 a.m.-noon, 8 weeks, starts Apr. 21; bird identification and natural history; \$25. Both classes: instructor, Pat Jacobson; Community Center, Danville; call 837-8235 or Pat at 846-2022.

Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute: Lower Canyons of the Rio Grande float trips, Mar. 31-Apr. 7, Aug. 18-25, Sept. 22-29, Nov. 10-17, \$425; Behavioral Ecology, birds, especially Roadrunner, Big Bend NP, Apr. 9-13 and/or Apr. 16-20, \$75/week; Birds of Big Bend, May 7-11, \$150; Chihuahuan Desert to Tropical Forest, an Ecological Transect, May 11-June 3, \$450. Info: contact your editor or write Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute, P.O.Box 1334, Alpine, TX 79830; phone (915) 837-2475.

270 BLACK BRANT were color-marked at summer moulting areas in Alaska, yellow or pink-red located in the normally white rump feathers. Auduboners are asked to report winter or spring sightings to Dr. Dirk Derksen, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 1011 E. Tudor Rd., Anchorage, AK 99503 or Paul Springer, Wildlife Research Field Station, Humboldt State Univ., Arcata, CA 95521; (707) 826-4759 or 822-3867.

S.F. BAY NWR. The San Francisco Federal Dist. Court last fall granted possession to U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service of 15,000 acres in the south Bay, mostly salt ponds used by Leslie Salt Co. Use of the ponds for salt production will continue but Refuge administration will post and patrol the area, managing it for Refuge purposes. No entry will be permitted until it is safe and ready for public use and no hunting will be permitted until F&WS approves a Public Use Plan. Information: Refuge Manager, S.F. Bay NWR Complex, 3849 Peralta Blvd., Fremont, CA 94536; 792-0222.

Winter, when the leaves are gone, Shows nests in each bare tree. It also shows how many birds were there - I didn't see. (Eoks Nesbitt, The Observer, Sacramento Audubon Soc.)

OBSERVATIONS, Feb. 6-Mar. 10. (Also see field trip reports.)

- Cattle Egret, 12, Merced NWR, Merced Co., Feb. 18--R&JR.
- "Common" Teal" north end Bolinas Lagoon, Marin Co., early Mar.--m.ob.
- Wood Ducks, moved to Elk Glen Lake, Golden Gate Park, Mar. 6--ED.
- Harrow's Goldeneye, Bay Front Park on San Leandro Bay, Feb. 8--MJG, JR.
- TUFTED DUCK, ♂, Limantour Estero, Limantour Natural Area, Feb. 27--JM, et al.
- Hooded Merganser, up to 12, 5-Brooks Pond, Pt. Reyes, thru period--m.ob.
- BROAD-WINGED HAWK, imm., still in West Pittsburg, thru period--m.ob.
- Rough-Legged Hawk, 2, near Merced NWR, Feb. 18--R&JR.
- Ferruginous Hawk, Byron Hot Springs Rd. near Byron, Feb. 21--BR; near Merced NWR, Feb. 18--R&JR.
- Florence Bennett writes that 68 ad, 6 imm WHOOPIING CRANES wintered at Aransas NWR, Texas. On a Whooping Crane boat trip Feb. 10, she & her dad saw 28 of them.
- Mountain Plover, several still in Panoche Valley, San Benito Co., thru period--m.ob.
- Red Knot, Bay Front Park, Feb. 8--JR, MJG.
- Rook Sandpiper, at least 1, still at Bodega Head, Mar. 6--JR, BF, AF, et al.
- LAUGHING GULL, imm., Moss Landing, Feb. 17-18--m.ob.; Feb. 27--BR.
- Western Kingbird, Whitaker Bluff Rd., Sonoma Co., Mar. 6 (early)--JR, et al.
- SKYLARK, still at Hall Ranch, Pt. Reyes, at least thru Feb. 19--m.ob.
- BENDIRE'S THRASHER, still in their Courtland garden thru period--A&EP
- Mountain Bluebird, ♀, Vasco Rd. 3.1 mi. north of Alameda Co. line, Feb. 21--BR; 30 still along New Idria Rd., San Benito Co., thru period-- m.ob.
- PAIM WARBLER, 2, MDAS trip Mar. 3-4, could have wintered locally but with another at Mendoza Ranch, Pt. Reyes, Mar. 4, indicative of spring passage--Joe Morlan.
- NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH, 5-Brooks Pond, Marin Co., Feb. 10 thru period--m.ob.
- GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE, ♂, Aquatic Park, San Francisco, mid-Feb. thru period--m.ob.
- LARK BUNTING, 2, still along Little Panoche Rd., Fresno Co., thru period--m.ob.
- Vesper Sparrow, several still along Little Panoche Rd., thru period--m.ob.
- SHARP-TAILED SPARROW, Baylands Refuge, Palo Alto, Feb. 10, 23-25--m.ob.; up to 4, Bolinas Lagoon, Mar. 4--m.ob. All seen during high tides.
- White-Throated Sparrow, Athenian School, Danville, Mar. 5--JB.
- LAPLAND LONGSPUR, 2, still in West Pittsburg, Feb. 8--BR.

OBSERVERS: Joe Broyles, Elizabeth Dickey, Ann Follis, Bud Fry, Mary Jane Greene, Joe Magee, Arvil & Ellen Parker, Bob Richmond, Rich & Jean Richmond, many observers.

THE QUAIL, published monthly except a combined July-August issue, is sent without additional charge to National Audubon Society members in Mt. Diablo chapter. Subscription: \$3.00 per year, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, Mrs. Winnie Orcutt, 30 Iris Ln., Walnut Creek, CA 94595. Address change (send also to NAS): Mrs. Jackie Knisley, 4741 Olive Dr., Concord, CA 94521. Change of chapter affiliation is only upon specific request by member. First Class mailing in envelope rather than bulk mail: \$1.75 per year, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, address above.

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: Briones Regional Park.

Access: From Freeway 24 in Lafayette go north on Upper Happy Valley Rd., left on Happy Valley Rd. about 2 miles, right $\frac{1}{2}$ mile on Bear Creek Rd., right into the Park.

Alexander Creek. Western Bluebirds around road, parking lots. At end of paved road walk right at vehicle barrier. Along creek, birds of oaks, riparian, Wood Duck is possible. Near hiker's stile check creek to right: vireos, warblers, flycatchers, etc. In open valley check creeks, trees on hillsides, aerial; sometimes good birding near archery range. Bear south then west across small creek, follow stream checking for woodpeckers, flycatchers, vireos, warblers. Much poison oak here.

Cascade Creek. From westmost parking lot walk trail north (more open than Alexander Creek area): woodpeckers, flycatchers, White-Breasted Nuthatch, thrushes, bluebird, vireos, warblers, oriole, tanager, grosbeak, bunting, etc. From Abrigo Valley (a group shelter here) return to car or continue north or east up Briones Crest ridge.

Natural Area. Return to Bear Creek Rd., drive north to Alhambra Valley Rd., east to Briones Rd., right to Park. Walk fire road. Good wildflower area, birds of woodlands. In about a mile are open hillsides, ponds. Fire road (for hiking only) connects north end of the Park with picnic areas at south end near Bear Creek Rd.

Picnic facilities or carry lunch, liquid & eat on trail. Map: Park District office or Tilden Park Environmental Center. Park ideal for hiking. Poison oak in places. Spring-early summer best birding; summer-early fall too warm; winter may be muddy.

Birds: Wood Duck may be on creeks, hawks, Golden Eagle sometimes, Band-Tailed Pigeon, hummingbirds, woodpeckers (Flicker, Nuttall's mostly), flycatchers (Ash-Throated, both phoebes, Willow, Western, Western Pewee), both jays, Chickadee, Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, Calif. Thrasher, Varied & Hermit (winter) & Swainson's (summer) Thrush, Western Bluebird, both kinglets, our 3 vireos, several warblers, especially in migration, "Bullock's" Oriole, Western Tanager, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Purple & House Finch, Siskin, both goldfinches (Lawrence's has been seen), both towhees, sparrows (Lark, Chipping, Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, White-Throated has been found, Fox, Song.

* * * * *

PUBLICATIONS:

Cavity Nesting Birds of North American Forests, much info on those species, pictures from Robbins' Birds of No. Amer., not as full-page plates but individual picture with text, \$2.75. Stock #001-000-03726-9; check to Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 29402.

Invite Birds to Your Home, interesting, beautiful booklet on how and what to plant to attract birds to your garden, is Program Aid 1094 of Soil Conservation Service, USDA, 85¢. Stock #0100-03307. Order as above from Superintendent of Documents.

Wetlands & Water Cycle, Mass Audubon booklet: mechanics, geology of wetlands; their relation to water supply, quality; flooding; environmental concerns. Single: 15¢ in stamps, 11 or more, 50¢ each; Massachusetts Audubon Society, Lincoln, MA 01773.

Endangered Species Technical Bulletin, published monthly by U.S. F&WS, informative source of actions occurring under Endangered Species Program. Free: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Dept. of Interior, Wash., D.C. 20240; Attn: Marshall R. Jones, Editor.

Islands of Life; Nat'l Audubon Sanctuaries, beautifully illustrated, 32 pages, describes preserve system; lists 63 NAS sanctuaries nationwide; section on chapter sanctuaries. \$1.00; Info Dept., Nat'l Audubon Soc., 950 3rd Ave., N.Y., NY 10022.

* * * * *

APRIL ON THE MOUNTAIN, Apr. 21-22 overnight, Live Oak campground, Mt. Diablo, sponsor: Mt. Diablo Interpretive Assn. Sat.: 2:30 p.m., program, "Wildflowers of Mt. Diablo"; bring your own dinner, charcoal provided. Sun.: 6:00 a.m., bird walk, Lynn Farrar; 9:00, breakfast, Ohlone Audubon; 10:00, program; Black Hawk fossil site trip. Watch local newspapers for many April activities. Info: Elsie Richey, 357-2477.

* * * * *

MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY
P. O. Box 53
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

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My representative in Congress is _____.

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Please return completed form to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, P O Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. We will forward the information to the Washington Office of the National Audubon Society.



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
938-4446 or 938-9100

May 1979
Vol. 25, No. 10
Next deadline: May 12

Meeting: Thurs., May 3. 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: Trips open, members, non-members alike; bring lunch, binocs, field guide. May 5-13, Southern California. There are still 3-4 openings. Call Sally Steller (837-9061) if interested.

Sun., May 6, 7:00 a.m., Morgan Territory Road. Leader: Kent Fickett (798-7421). Please call him if you are going.

Wed., May 16, 9:00 a.m., Las Trampas Regional Park; carpool: El Cerro Blvd. at I-680, Danville, 8:30. Leader: Jimm Edgar (283-3510).

Sun., May 20, 7:00 a.m., Shell Ridge Open Space. Leader: Kent Fickett (798-7421).

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

Board Meeting: Thurs., May 10, 7:30 p.m., home of Tom Lee, 3071 Walnut Blvd., Walnut Creek; 934-5475. Board meetings are always open to members.

Checklist Meeting: Thurs., May 17, 7:30-10:00 p.m., home of Sally Steller, 591 Fulton Way, Danville; 837-9061. Open to anyone interested.

BIRDINFORMATION will be a discussion by Erling and Irene Hellekson on Developing a Backyard Sanctuary. Jane Helrich will present the PROGRAM, Fur Seals and Birds of the Pribilof Islands, which are located in the Bering Sea. The focus of this presentation will be on the calving season in August, the height of wildflowers blooming, and nesting birds.

MORGAN TERRITORY ROAD, a new area for us, at this time of year should be good for warblers, other migrants and summer visitors. Meet in the Bank of America parking lot, corner of Ygnacio Valley and Clayton Rds. with lunch, drink and hiking shoes.

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.

At SHELL RIDGE, another new area for us, MDAS has been asked to do a survey of the birds and this trip will introduce members to it. Join us and let's see what we can find. From Ygnacio Valley Rd. go south on Homestead Ave., left on Marshall Dr. to its end.

BRIONES PARK has woodpeckers, flycatchers, thrushes, vireos, warblers, oriole, grosbeak & Lazuli Bunting among woodland birds, many nesting. From Fwy 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 the park, continue to parking lot on right.

* * * * *

FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

The trip to LAKES LAGUNITAS and BON TEMPE on March 14 was made on a cool, mostly overcast day with occasional breezes. The 15 members and guests heard Red-Shouldered Hawks calling overhead, saw an early Warbling Vireo, several spring-plumaged Townsend's Warblers, and best of all had excellent views of Pileated Woodpeckers. The following 51 species were seen or heard:

Pied-Billed Grebe, Double-Crested Cormorant, Mallard, Common Goldeneye, ♀ Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-Shinned, Cooper's, Red-Tailed & Red-Shouldered Hawk, gull sp., Band-Tailed Pigeon, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, "Red-Shafted" Flicker, PILEATED & Acorn WOODPECKER, "Red-Breasted" Sapsucker, Hairy & Downy Woodpecker, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Com Raven, Com Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted & Red-Breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Amer Robin, Varied & Hermit Thrush, West Bluebird, Golden-Crowned & Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Hutton's & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, "Audubon's" & Townsend's Warbler, Purple & House Finch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, "Oregon" Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Fox Sparrow.

At PIGEON PT. and PESCADERO on March 17 we had clear but cold weather with gusty wind, strong at times, and a beautiful sea before us. A Pomarine Jaeger and a few alcids at Pigeon Pt., an Orange-Crowned Warbler singing from a wire at Bean Hollow, and an imm. Whistling Swan, Virginia Rail and many swallows at Pescadero were among these 89 species tallied by 12 members and guests:

Com, Arctic & Red-Throated Loon, Horned, Eared, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Sooty Shearwater, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, Whistling Swan, "Black" Brant, Mallard, Green-Winged & Cinnamon Teal, Amer Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Lesser Scaup, Com Goldeneye, Bufflehead, White-Winged & Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Red-Breasted Merganser, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Red-tailed & Marsh Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Virginia Rail, Amer Coot, Black Oystercatcher, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Ruddy & Black Turnstone, Com Snipe, Long-Billed Curlew, Whimbrel, Wandering Tattler, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Dunlin, Short-Billed Dowitcher, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Black-Necked Stilt, Pomarine Jaeger, Glaucous-Winged, West, Herring, Calif, Ring-Billed & Mew Gull, Com Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Marbled Murrelet, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Rock Dove, Allen's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, "Red-Shafted" Flicker, Black Phoebe, Tree, Rough-Winged, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Scrub Jay, Bushtit, Wrentit, Marsh Wren, Amer Robin, Starling, Hutton's Vireo, Orange-Crowned & "Audubon's" Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Purple & House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Savannah, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

The trip to UPPER SAN LEANDRO RESERVOIR on March 24 was made on a clear, warm day with some light breeze. The 12 members and guests found Ring-Necked Ducks, Hooded Merganser and Rufous Hummingbird among the following 52 species:

Pied-Billed Grebe, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, goose sp., Mallard, Ring-Necked & Ruddy Duck, ♀ Hooded Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, gull sp, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Anna's & Rufous Hummingbird, Red-Shafted" Flicker, "Red-Breasted" Sapsucker, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, West Flycatcher, Rough-Winged Swallow, Scrub Jay, Com Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Wrentit, Amer Robin, West Bluebird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Starling, Hutton's & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned & "Audubon's" Warbler, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, "Oregon" Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

In the ADAMSONS' GARDEN on April 4 and 7 the weather was clear and warm with gentle breezes. The 29 members had good close-up views of the birds and also learned how to go about attracting our feathered friends. Our gracious host and hostess, while not having a Lincoln's or White-Throated Sparrow on the trip days, did show the members the following 30 species:

Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed Hawk, Calif Quail, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, White-Throated Swift, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Mockingbird, Amer Robin, Cedar Waxwing, "Audubon's" Warbler, House Sparrow, "Bullock's" Oriole, Black-Headed Grosbeak, House Finch, goldfinch sp., Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

* * * * *

The OFFICERS for 1979-80 elected at the April membership meeting are: President - Elizabeth Dickey; Vice-President, Program - Kent Fickett; Vice-President, Conservation - Bruce Moorad; Secretary - Marian Stelzer; Treasurer - Bill Scheffel. We hope you will accept if you are asked to serve with a committee as we would like to add new people to the Board of Directors. Please contact Elizabeth Dickey if there is some area in which you have particular interest.

ADAMSONS' SEED CAKE: cook 2 c. cornmeal, 3 c. water until thick; stir constantly as it burns easily. Grease the bottom of the pot so it does not stick. Remove; add 1 1/2 c. melted grease (1 c. in summer). Do NOT use any containing tomato sauce as birds do not like it. Do in a mixer or let grease congeal first if done by hand. Add 1 1/2 c. flour then 1 1/2 c. sugar. Anything can be added: nuts, seed, etc. Refrigerate. Betty and Harry have long used this to attract many birds to their garden.

CONSERVATION NOTES by J. P. Hauser.

Last year the Alaska Lands legislation was embodied in the House bill, HR-39 (Udall). From there it became SB-1500 in the Senate, and was wiped out by Senator Gravel in the last minutes of the 95th Congress, but President Carter staved off total defeat by invoking the Antiquities Act of 1906, transferring nearly 60 million acres into National Monuments. This Congress must now review the whole package again, and the battle is on. HR-39 (Udall) is once again up for passage, but a substitute bill has been introduced by Rep. Huckaby (D-LA), and carries the same number, HR-39---and it is worthless.

It is certain that the huge, well-financed propaganda barrage about to be unleashed by proponents of the status quo for Alaska lands will confuse the issue by repeatedly referring to HR-39 as the conservation bill for Alaska. Be not fooled. When writing in support, always refer to HR-39 (Udall). Every letter, telegram, phone call is much more important this year than last, because the opposition is formidable. The State of Alaska and development interests have geared up for a truly impressive lobbying campaign. With Governor Hammond's assistance, the Alaska State Legislature has appropriated \$2 million dollars to bankroll a nation-wide campaign against conservation-backed legislation, and to revoke Pres. Carter's establishment of National Monuments. The battle lines:

HR-39 (Udall)

- Establish 85 million acres of protective Wilderness,
- Establish 43 million acres of National Parks,
- Protect calving grounds of caribou in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge,
- Establish 68 million acres of NWR,
- Protect National Forest Wilderness in Admiralty Island, Misty Fjords, and West Chichagof-Yokaobi.

HR-39 (Huckaby)

- Cut Wilderness acreage by 35 million acres,
- Cut Park acreage by 9 million acres to allow mining, roads, pipelines,
- Promote oil, gas exploration in the calving grounds of caribou in ANWR,
- Cut Refuge acreage by 23 million acres,
- Cut these Wilderness areas in half.

Fired of "BINOCULAR NECK"? If you have a long enough strap, you can save yourself that nagging ache in the back of your neck by wearing the binoculars in this way:

Lengthen the strap then instead of putting it over your head as usual, also put one arm through the loop and let the binoculars hang toward one side of your body at about waist level. This puts the weight on your shoulder but the binocs hang at an angle. Shift them around a bit until they hang in the spot where they will be on target with your eyes when you lift them up. (San Bernardino Valley Audubon Soc.)

A fund-raiser, SCENES OF WILD PLEASURE, will feature works by wildlife artists, including our own Harry Adamson. This event will be held Sunday, May 20, 1-6 p.m. in an historic building located next to the marina in Alviso which is just north of Hwy 237 on the north side of San Jose. Sponsored by the Clark Foundation of Pebble Beach and the Youth Science Institute Guild (associated with Alum Rock Park), a percentage of the proceeds from sales will go to the Interpretive Center at the new South Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

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

Brentwood: Lynn Gursky; Concord: Ken H. Hofmann, Dan Kroger, Shirley LaLoggia, Michael Wallace; Danville: Mr. & Mrs. Douglas A. Leich; Lafayette: Mrs. Vera C. Ramm; Martinez: Christina Mack; Orinda: Joan Leslie, Irene Wilkenson; Walnut Creek: Burton F. Alexander, Robert C. Christensen, Mr. & Mrs. J. Robert Ellis, Kim Erickson, Miss Elizabeth J. Green, George R. Johnson, Mrs. M. Mayes, Mrs. James K. O'Melveny, Donald Olmstead, Ruth Runzo, Mrs. Anne R. Willmer.

Wildlife artist HARRY ADAMSON, a long-time member of MDAS has achieved yet another honor. He has been selected "Artist of the Year" for 1979 by Ducks Unlimited. We know the high quality of his work and are extremely pleased and proud that he has been singled out for this award. Our heartiest congratulations to you, Harry!!!

6378 or FIGHT. Coyotes and probably rabbits and mice have crossed a newly exposed landbridge to Mono Lake's Negit Island, jeopardizing the survival of 38,000-40,000 California Gulls which migrate from the coast each spring to rear their young at Mono Lake, a saline, but life-productive inland sea immediately east of Yosemite. The plight of the gulls is the direct result of diversion of the principal tributary streams by the Los Angeles Dept. of Water and Power. The island was formerly protected by two miles of water but since 1941, when diversions began, the lake has fallen over forty feet. A channel was blasted through the landbridge last year and the runoff was 160% of normal but by the end of September the lake had fallen about two feet, draining the channel and leaving Negit Island a peninsula again.

Blasting another channel will be futile unless Mono Lake is stabilized at 6378 feet or above. If diversions continue unabated, not only will the lake's islands become peninsulas, but its waters will become too salty and alkaline for birds and the aquatic life on which they feed. Affected are not only gulls but also hundreds of thousands of other birds including Eared Grebes and many species of shorebirds who rest and feed here in migration. The Mono Lake Committee seeks an equitable solution that will safeguard biological, scenic and recreational values of Mono Lake's environment. The committee needs your support in letter writing and in contributions. Contact them at P. O. Box 2764, Oakland 94602 or Gray Brechin, 843-7392.

MONO LAKE FIELD TRIPS from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. are scheduled every Saturday or Sunday from June 9 through September 9. The trips are free but limited to 40 people. To sign up, send a preferred and an alternate date along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Mono Lake Field Trips, P. O. Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541.

The 10th annual SPRING WILDFLOWER SHOW, sponsored by the California Native Plant Society and the Oakland Museum, will be held Sat.-Sun., May 5-6, in the Natural Science Gallery of the Museum, 1000 Oak St., Oakland. There will be floral specimens from around the state and a special display on broom, the "killer weed".

A slide presentation, THE BALD EAGLE AND THE KILLER WHALE by Michael Modzelewski, will be shown Sat., Apr. 28, at 9:30 a.m., in the Acalanes High School gym. Filmed during 2 years of study on a wilderness island in the Inside Passage, British Columbia, the slides show life cycles of the eagle and whale, scenery of the area, and totem poles and culture of the Haida and Kwakiutl Indians. The \$1.50 donation is partly for the cost of his continuing study and partly for the scholarship fund of California Science Association (high school science clubs of northern California).

CLASSES and EXCURSIONS:

Birding Seminars, Yosemite, 3 & 5-day courses, June-Aug., David Gaines & Bob Stewart, instructors. Info: Yosemite Natural History Association, P.O.Box 545, Yosemite National Park, CA 95389; phone (209) 372-4532.

PRBO: Owls of Calif--Carmel Valley, May 18-20, Bill Clow, \$45. Owls of Northern Calif.--Humboldt & Trinity Co., May 25-27, Bill Clow, \$45. Birds & Mammals of the Gulf of the Farallons, May 6 or June 3, Ron LeValley, \$30. Bird Song - Sierra Nevada, June 1-3, Marie Mans, Bob Stewart, \$45. Contact Bob Stewart, 4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach, CA 94970.

The brand new CHECKLIST OF BIRDS of the LAKE TAHOE BASIN is now available. The booklet lists the birds, their seasonal abundance, and the habitats in which they are found. There are also a dozen columns in which to record birding trips there. Send a dollar to Sheryl Lanier, P.O.Box 13932, South Lake Tahoe, CA 95702.

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The excellent BIRDS OF SONOMA COUNTY by Benjamin D. Parmeter and the late Gordon L. Bolander is a 90-page booklet which uses bar-graphs to indicate the time birds are expected there and their abundance. Also included is information on where to bird in the county and notes on the birds. Send check for \$4.74, payable to Redwood Region Ornithological Soc., to Dr. John Arnold, 199 Calistoga Rd., Santa Rosa, CA 95404.

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Proceedings of the NAS SYMPOSIUM ON PEREGRINE FALCON POPULATIONS, held in Oakland, October 22, 1977, includes papers from representatives of the Peregrine Falcon Recovery Teams, and a special report on the first-known nesting in the wild of a captive-bred bird. Send check for \$4.95, payable to National Audubon Society, to NAS, Western Education Center, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon, CA 94920.

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OBSERVATIONS, Mar. 11-Apr. 9. (Also see field trip reports.)

Black-Footed Albatross, 4, Pigeon Pt., San Mateo Co., Mar. 21--BR.

Northern Fulmar, Pigeon Pt., Mar. 20--JR, et al.

Manx Shearwater, Pigeon Pt., Mar. 20--JR, et al.

Cattle Egret, Jersey Island, eastern Contra Costa Co., Apr. 1--BR.

Green Heron, Mt. View Sanitary Dist., Mar. 28--WO.

White-Fronted Geese, 2,500, Jersey Island near Bradford Is. ferry, Apr. 1--BR.

Red-Shouldered Hawk, 2, Morgan Territory Rd. near Curry Creek Park, Apr. 4--BR, DE.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK, still in West Pittsburg at least thru Mar. 27--m.ob.

Swainson's Hawk, 3, Kasson Rd., San Joaquin Co., near Caswell St. Pk., Mar. 31--BR

Golden Eagle, over their Orinda home, Apr. 5--H&NB.

Mountain Quail, near Twin Peaks, South Lake Tahoe, Mar. 26--R&JR.

BLACK-HEADED GULL, Stockton Sewer Ponds on SR 4, Mar. 21-Apr. 4--DE, m.ob.

LITTLE GULL, Stockton Sewer Ponds, Mar. 21 thru period--DR, m.ob.

Great Horned Owl, ♀, on nest, 3 different sized young, Coyote Hills, Mar. 13--JR, et al.

Burrowing Owl, 2, Jersey Island, Apr. 1--BR.

Vaux's Swift, 2, Pt. San Quentin, Marin Co., Mar. 29--JR.

COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD ♂, her Alamo garden, Apr. 7--JR.

Rufous Hummingbirds, gardens of many members, mid-Mar. thru period. At least 3, her Alamo garden, Apr. 7--JR.

Hummingbirds, far larger numbers than usual in their gardens, reported by several members, late Mar. thru period.

Pileated Woodpecker, near Twin Peaks, South Lake Tahoe, Mar. 26--R&JR.

Lewis' Woodpecker, near east summit on Lucas Valley Rd., Marin Co., Apr. 8--BR, AE.

BENDIRE'S THRASHER, still in their Courtland garden thru early Apr.--A&EP

Common Yellowthroat, his Walnut Creek garden, Apr. 5--TL.

Yellow-Headed Blackbird, Jersey Island, Apr. 1--BR.

Hooded Oriole, her Walnut Creek garden, Mar. 23--WO; at least 2 returned to her garden, Apr. 5 thru period--JR.

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE, ♂, still at Aquatic Park, San Francisco, thru period--m.ob.

Western Tanager, Muir Woods, Mar. 29--BR, JR.

HARRIS' SPARROW, still at Fairchild Corp., Palo Alto, at least thru Mar. 28--MC, JR.

White-Throated Sparrow, still in their garden thru Apr. 6--H&BA.

OBSERVERS: Harry & Betty Adamson, Hugh & Norah Bain, Maxine Clason, Art Edwards, Dick Erickson, Tom Lee, Winnie Orcutt, Arvil & Ellen Parker, Bob Richmond, Rich & Jean Richmond, Don Roberson, 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 in Mt. Diablo chapter.

Subscription: \$3.00 per year, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, Mrs. Winnie Orcutt, 30 Iris Ln., Walnut Creek, CA 94595.

Address change (send also to NAS): Mrs. Jackie Knisley, 4741 Olive Dr., Concord, CA 94521. Change of chapter affiliation is only upon specific request by member.

First Class mailing in envelope rather than bulk mail: \$1.75 per year, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, address above.

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: Lakes Bon Tempe & Lagunitas---Pileated Woodpecker.

Access: Cross San Rafael Bridge, go north 0.6 mile on US 101, take San Rafael exit. At 2nd signal go left on 3rd St., continue west just past "Fairfax Welcomes You" sign, turn left then right onto Broadway 1/2 block, left on Bolinas Ave., left on Old Bolinas-Fairfax Rd. to parking lot at Lake Lagunitas at the end of the road.

Pileated Woodpeckers at both lakes in denser trees. Listen for the loud, insistent calls, drumming. Check trees around parking area; tall lone trees on west side of creek near parking lot; around southeast end of Lake Bon Tempe; up fireroad just west of that area; south end of Lake Lagunitas in vicinity of first footbridge.

Between parking lot & Bon Tempe in trees, shrubs, grassy area are hummingbirds, Pileated and other woodpeckers, swallows, Red-Breasted Nuthatch, Creeper, thrushes, Western Bluebird, kinglets, vireos, warblers, sparrows.

Bon Tempe: follow north shore about 1/2 mile to fireroad uphill on right. About 100 yards up road are hummingbirds, Pileated & other woodpeckers, nuthatches, Creeper, Varied & Hermit Thrush, kinglets, vireos, warblers, sparrows. Continue uphill to open grassland, scattered trees, overlook of northeast arm of lake. Return along shore to parking lot. Go west along south shore for same kinds of birds as above.

Lagunitas: from picnic area walk up along creek to top of dam, look for waterbirds. Take trail to right, following shore. Dense trees at south end have Pileated Woodpecker, Creeper, thrushes, kinglets, etc. South side of east arm has more open growth, more varied birds, good views of lake. East end of lake has open trees, grassy areas, many birds including woodpeckers, vireos, warblers, towhees, sparrows. North shore has varied habitats, many species such as woodpeckers, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Creeper, thrushes, vireos, warblers, sparrows.

Birds include a few ducks, hawks, Quail, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Kingfisher, several woodpeckers including a few Pileated, several flycatchers, swallows, both Jays, Raven, Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White- & Red-Breasted Nuthatch, Varied & Hermit Thrush, Bluebird, 3 vireos, several warblers, Black-Headed Grosbeak, 2 finches, 2 goldfinches, both towhees, several sparrows.

Picnic facilities, restrooms. Open daily 8 a.m.; fee \$2/vehicle (up to 8 people).

* * * * *

Birders are sometimes the WORST ENEMIES of the creatures they profess to love. The rapid expansion of the sport of birding combined with the eagerness of some enthusiasts presents a danger to habitats and to their wildlife. A Great Gray Owl in Massachusetts brought hordes of birders, some of whom trampled seedlings and broke fences in their search for the bird. The farmer was about to kill the bird to protect his property. In Arizona, zealous photographers who wanted closer shots drove hawks from their nest site near Patagonia. Unthinking birders caused closure of an exciting bird area west of Patagonia. Close to home, a Black Rail was trampled to death at Benicia State Recreation Area in December of 1977.

The Bird Alert for the New York area no longer gives specific information on the location of some birds. South Fork Trail in Cave Creek Canyon, Arizona, is posted against the use of tape recordings which have seriously affected the Trogons there. The marsh at Benicia is closed to birders. The local Bird Alert is very careful to protect the birds. We must behave ourselves and try to convince the thoughtless ones to do likewise.

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COYOTES LOSE AGAIN! Tahoe Nat'l Forest's Environmental Impact Analysis of its predator control program reports that in the 1977 grazing season, May-Sept., 51 sheep were lost, most supposedly to coyotes, while they trapped (killed) 93 coyotes!!!

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Walnut Creek, CA 94596

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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
938-4446 or 938-9100

June 1979
Vol. 25, No. 11
Next deadline: June 15

Meeting: Thurs., June 7, 6:30 p.m., Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek. Annual POTLUCK DINNER, Linda LaPointe, coordinator (673-5352).

Field Trips: Trips open, members, non-members alike; bring lunch, binocs, field guide.

Sat., June 9, 8:00 a.m., Outer Pt. Reyes; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. at Fwy 24, 6:30. Leader: Bob Richmond (447-0248).

Wed., June 13, 9:00 a.m., Redwood Regional Park; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. at Fwy 24, 8:15. Leader: Jimm Edgar (283-3510). Parking fee: \$1.00.

Sat.-Sun., June 16-17, Yuba Pass & Sierra Valley. Leader: Sally Steller (837-9061). Make motel reservations immediately. Camping: Yuba Pass.

Fri., July 6, 7:00 p.m., Del Valle Regional Park, Picnic and 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.

SPECIAL PLACE YOU WOULD LIKE TO BIRD? TRIP YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEAD? We visited 7 new areas in 1978-79 but there are other good places we have not yet discovered. Call Sally Steller (837-9061) with trip suggestions, especially those nearer home due to possible gasoline problems.

Board Meeting: Thurs., June 14, 7:30 p.m., home of Sally Steller, 591 Fulton Way, Danville; 837-9061. Outgoing and incoming officers are requested to attend.

Checklist Meeting: Thurs., June 21, 7:30-10:00 p.m., home of Sally Steller (address above). Open to anyone interested.

The POTLUCK DINNER is our last formal meeting of the year. Bring dishes, utensils, and salad, casserole, dessert (and serving spoon) or bread for 4 times the number in your family attending. Tea, coffee, punch provided; milk drinkers bring your own. Call Winnie Young (685-6168) by June 4 to tell her what you wish to bring and how many are coming. The PROGRAM will be slides and exhibits by members. Please limit slides (birds, mammals, flowers, scenery, etc.) to a dozen or so, your commentary to a reasonable length. Members may also show photographs and exhibits of anything relating to nature, thus allowing all members to actively participate.

OUTER PT. REYES in June has eastern vagrants (breeding plumage and singing) rare in our area. Cross San Rafael Bridge, north on US 101 0.6 mile, take San Rafael exit 2 blocks to 3rd St., turn left and go out thru Fairfax to SR 1, right $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, left to Pt. Reyes Seashore Headquarters. 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 Fwy 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 1/3 mile to the main parking lot. Parking fee is \$1.00.

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 Saturday morning at Yuba Pass, afternoon at Sardine Lakes, looking for mountain species such as Mountain Quail, White-Headed & Black-Backed 3-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 (others farther west along SR 49).

DEL VALLE PARK, south of Livermore, is reached from I-580 via Livermore Ave., Tesla Rd., Mines Rd., then Del Valle Rd. Drive across the bridge to the west side of the lake, turn right to the north end of the parking lot---MDAS signs will guide you. Bring a picnic dinner and come as early as you like but we will eat about 7:00. We will try again for the elusive Poor-Wills on nearby Mendenhall Rd. toward dusk.

* * * * *

FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

The wildflower walk in BRIONES PARK on April 19 was on a warm, sunny day with very light wind. The 23 members and guests saw many lovely flowers and 44 species of birds on the morning walk.

Flowers: False Solomon Seal, Giant Trilium, Blue Dicks, Blue-Eyed Grass, Red Maids, Miner's Lettuce, Chickweed, Delphinium, Calif Buttercup, Larkspur, Creamcups, Mustard, Milkmaids, Peppergrass, Calif Saxifrage, Woodland & Prairie Star, Lupine (3 sp), Bur Clover, Tomato Clover, Hill Lotus, Spring Vetch, Snakeroot, Purple Sanicle, Sweet Cicely, Cow Parsnip, Shooting Star, Calif Gilia, Baby Blue Eyes, Varileaf Nemophila, Fiddleneck, Forget-Me-Not, Purple Nightshade, Chinese Houses, Paintbrush, English Plantain, Wild Cucumber, Rotund Plectoris, Mule Ears, Com Yarrow, Wild Artichoke, Shepherd's Purse, Wild Radish, Poison Hemlock, Shepherd's Needle, Pineapple Weed, Calif Poppy, Curly Dook, Sheep Sorrel, Geranium, Fillaree, Scarlet Pimpernel, Dutchman's Pipe, Wormwood, Clematis, Currant, Blackberry, Coffeberry, Bird's Foot Fern, Goldback Fern, Poison Oak, Calif Buckeye; also many Toyon berries.

Birds: Mallard, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-Shinned & Red-Tailed Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Mourning Dove, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Horned Lark, Violet-Green, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Com Crow, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, House & Bewick's Wren, Calif Thrasher, Amer Robin, West Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, Hutton's & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned & Wilson's Warbler, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Lazuli Bunting, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Savannah & Lark Sparrow, "Oregon" Junco, Chipping Sparrow.

The trip to MINES ROAD April 21 was made by 31 members and guests on a warm, mostly clear day with some high overcast. We saw Wild Turkey, Rufous Hummingbird, Lewis' Woodpecker, Hammond's Flycatcher, many Phainopeplas, Nashville Warbler, Chat, Lawrence's Goldfinch, and heard Pygmy Owl, Canyon Wren among these 80 species:

Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-Shinned, Cooper's & Red-Tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Wild Turkey, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Rock & Mourning Dove, Barn, Great Horned & Pygmy Owl, White-Throated Swift, Anna's, Rufous & Allen's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, "Red-Shafted" Flicker, Acorn, Lewis' & Nuttall's Woodpecker, West Kingbird, Ash-Throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Hammond's & West Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Violet-Green, Tree & Barn Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Yellow-Billed Magpie, Com Raven, Com Crow, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, House, Bewick's, Canyon & Rock Wren, Mockingbird, Calif Thrasher, Amer Robin, West Bluebird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Phainopepla, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Nashville & "Audubon's" Warbler, Yellow-Breasted Chat, Wilson's Warbler, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged Blackbird, "Bullock's" Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, Black-Headed Grosbeak, House Finch, Lesser & Lawrence's Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Lark & Rufous-Crowned Sparrow, "Oregon" Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

The GLEN ELLEN trip on April 26 was made by 10 intrepid members on a cool, drizzly day with some light rain but no wind. The weather was far from ideal but we saw 9 species of warblers and a Western Tanager among the following 56 species tallied:

Turkey Vulture, Cooper's & Red-Shouldered Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Rock Dove, Anna's & selsaphorus Hummingbird, Acorn & Nuttall's Woodpecker, West Kingbird, Ash-Throated & West Flycatcher, West Wood Pewee, Violet-Green, Rough-Winged & Barn Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Com Crow, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, Calif Thrasher, Amer Robin, Swainson's Thrush, West Bluebird, Starling, Hutton's & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Nashville, Yellow, "Audubon's", Black-Throated Gray & Hermit Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, Yellow-Breasted Chat, Wilson's Warbler, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, "Bullock's" Oriole, West Tanager, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Purple & House Finch, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Lark Sparrow, "Oregon" Junco, Chipping & Song Sparrow.

The trip to MORGAN TERRITORY ROAD on May 6 was made by 15 members and guests on a day which began under threatening skies but soon turned to beautiful weather. A thrush, probably Swainson's but perhaps something rarer, singing Lazuli Buntings at close range, 6 warbler species were among the following 51 species seen or heard:

Turkey Vulture, accipiter sp, Red-Tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Rock & Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, "Red-Shafted" Flicker, Acorn, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Ash-Throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, West Flycatcher, Violet-Green Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Com Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, House & Bewick's Wren, Amer Robin, Swainson's (?) Thrush, West Bluebird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Starling, Hutton's & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Nashville, Yellow-Rumped, Townsend's, Hermit & Wilson's Warbler, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, "Bullock's" Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, West Tanager, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Lark Sparrow, "Oregon" Junco.

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CONSERVATION NOTES by J. P. Hauser.

The Alaska legislative action is quite hectic and difficult to report on a monthly basis. In general, the news is not good. With a state subsidy of \$2 million, plus the vast amounts of money from timber, oil, and mining companies, there will be a lobbying/propropaganda blitz seldom seen (even today) for passage of a bill to "lock up" huge areas of natural parks, refuges, etc, for development. If you refer to past newsletters and issues of Audubon, it's clear the package assembled by the Alaska Coalition was equitable for all interests. This is one of the most critical environmental issues of all time. For a current report (daily), call the Audubon hot line at (202) 783-1920, or the Alaska Coalition hot line at (202) 547-5550, and listen. I did. It's excellent (and only 40¢ after 11:00 p.m.).

Since, by now, you should be convinced that the oil monopolists are ripping us all off, on a scale unprecedented, you could be interested in knowing of a ballot initiative petition getting underway called the California Energy Control and Development Initiative. It's aim is to make the oil companies a part of our free enterprise, competitive system by breaking up their vertical integration and horizontal expansion---separating producers, refiners, distributors, retailers, solar, geothermal, coal, nuclear, hydroelectric. The oil companies huge profits (not reasonable profits) derive from a long chain of public ripoffs, dating from before the Teapot Dome scandals, right on through the oil depletion allowance, and low fixed fee leases on public lands. They do not operate in a competitive environment, but through a monopolization of an essential resource. They pump it out of our lands, and sell it back to us at ripoff prices. This new initiative attempt needs lots of help. If you want more information or just want to sign a petition, call Jim Warren at 851-7075.

There are 3 sites off the California coast being considered by the Federal Government as possible marine sanctuaries: Santa Barbara Channel Islands, Monterey Bay, and the Point Reyes/Farallones offshore area. Reports are to be prepared and the State Coastal Commission will hold public hearings near the end of the year.

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NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF YOUR PEN! Helping shape conservation legislation is not difficult. You don't have to be politically powerful, technically trained, or devote a lot of time, to play an important, effective role. All you need is the concern and willingness to take a few minutes to do it. National Wildlife Federation has prepared a grass-roots primer telling how Congress works, how to write a congressman, and how NWF keeps its members informed about what Congress is doing. To obtain this packet, write "Citizens' Conservationist Packet", National Wildlife Federation, 1412 16th St., NW, Washington, DC 20036. (National Wildlife)

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This is a LOCK-UP??? Opponents of the Alaska public interest lands bill allege it would "lock up" vitally needed natural resources: timber, oil, gas, minerals. Conservationists cite these statistics: 95% of all high-potential oil and gas lands in Alaska would be open for possible development; 100% of federal lands would be open to mineral assessment for geological information by Dept. of Interior; 88% of land could be open to sport hunting, in HR-39 it would be slightly less; 70% of lands with metallic mineral potential would be outside conservation system units; 40% (149 million acres) of land in the state would become property of state, native corporations or private owners; 21% (80 million acres) would be federal land open to mineral entry, logging, other multiple uses; 36% (137 million acres) would be in conservation units already existing or designated by the bill. (Audubon Leader)

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

Alamo: Burnell G. West; Antioch: Jane Campos; Concord: Bruce W. Brown, Maxine Burnworth, Diane Dalbey, Mr. & Mrs. John H. Tregilgas; Danville: Mr. R. E. Peterson; Lafayette: Mr. Karlo D. Bartle, Jr., Peggy Morrison, Anne Pulver, Terri Rawson, Marloe Woollett; Martinez: Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Ludlum, Emily B. Nesmith, Louise Thomas; Pleasant Hill: Otto Haubensak, Donald R. Ortolan; Walnut Creek: Geraldine L. Braun, Katy Christiansen, Mr. & Mrs. Edward Hase, Mr. Elmo Morgan, Michael P. McKillip, Ms. L. R. Wynne.

* * * * *

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

* * * * *

A rare WHOOPIING CRANE chick hatched April 26 at the San Antonio, Texas, zoo from one of three eggs tended by bantam jungle fowl hens acting as foster mothers. The chick is "doing fine," said David McKelvey, senior aviculturist at the zoo. It is not yet possible to determine the sex of the chick, he said.

Ektu, mate of the late Crip, produced eight eggs in March, five of which were fertile. Crip died in March after living three decades in captivity. One chick died after poking its bill through its shell, another egg was sent to the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland for incubation. (S.F. Chronicle)

* * * * *

A sure SIGN OF SPRING is Florida Audubon Society's annual press release telling the public that a baby bird found on the ground is most likely not an orphan. Do not take the bird home and try to care for it; put it back in the nest if you can. If that is not possible, put it nearby, somewhere out of harm's way, where its parents can take care of it. Above all, don't believe that old tale: parent birds will not desert their young if they have been touched by humans. (Audubon Leader)

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Some 60 BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATIONS from the 4th International Exhibition of Twentieth Century Botanical Illustrations will be shown through July 1 in the Natural Science Special Gallery at Oakland Museum, 1000 Oak St., one block from the Lake Merritt BART station. The 1978 exhibit included over 300 watercolors, drawings and prints of flowers, plants, trees, gardens and fields submitted by over 130 artists from around the world. Admission is free.

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WINTER'S WILDLIFE TOLL. A U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service survey reports that it has been an exceptionally hard winter for wildlife in Western states and some other parts of the country. Colorado officials estimate that as much as 60% of that state's 350,000 deer and 30-40% of its 125,000 elk have been lost. A Bighorn Sheep herd near Gunnison was reduced to a remnant. In parts of the Midwest quail, rabbits, and wintering song birds were hard hit, and in New Jersey the bitter cold snap in February froze coastal marshes and brought Black Duck losses. The federal agency noted that, although wildlife has been surviving harsh winters for eons, the losses become more serious as development continues to destroy habitat, and animals try to survive in more restricted ranges. (Audubon Leader).

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CLASSES and EXCURSIONS:

Altacal Nature Seminars: Nesting Birds of Honey & Eagle Lakes, June 9-11, Stephen Laymon, \$25. Riparian Woodlands: Their Birds & Natural History, June 30-July 1, July 14-15, July 28-29, or Aug. 11-12, Stephen Laymon, \$25. Field Sketching in Lassen Volcanic National Park, July 21-22, Denise Robertson Devine, \$27. Check, payable to Altacal Audubon Society, to Stephen Laymon, 3290 Ackley Rd., Lakeport, CA 95453; phone (707) 263-6710.

PRBO: Transect of California, June 12-21, Bob Stewart & Janine Haller, \$110; Birds of the High Sierra, June 25-29, Bob Stewart, \$50. Contact Bob Stewart, 4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach, CA 94970.

* * * * *

Local Fish & Game Department warden JEAN JONES, shot by possible poachers while on patrol near McAvoy Harbor in West Pittsburg, died May 14. A fine young man, he recently declined a promotion in order to continue his work here. We send our deepest sympathy to his wife and family. Contributions in his memory are requested for the non-game wildlife conservation program of the Dept. of Fish & Game. Send check payable to Non-Game Wildlife, to Dept. of Fish & Game, Yountville Veterans' Facility, P O Box 47, Yountville, CA 94599, noting that the funds are in memory of Jean Jones. Contributions will help continue the work he so strongly endorsed.

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OBSERVATIONS, Apr. 10-May 14. (Also see field trip reports.)

Arctic Loon, Clifton Court Forebay, east Contra Costa Co., Apr. 12--BR. Black-footed Albatross, Pigeon Pt., San Mateo Co., May 4--BR. LAYSAN ALBATROSS, Pigeon Pt., Mar. 30--BS. Manx Shearwater, Pigeon Pt., Apr. 20--BR. LITTLE BLUE HERON, returned to Palo Alto Flood Control Basin, May 13--BR. Cattle Egret, Clifton Court Forebay, Apr. 12--BR. Tufted Duck X Scaup hybrid, Rodeo Lagoon, Apr. 12--JR, MJG.

White-Tailed Kite, Mt. Diablo St. Pk., May 6--BR. Surfbirds, 52, Pescadero, San Mateo Co., Apr. 19--BR. LITTLE GULL still at Stockton Sewer Ponds, San Joaquin Co. at least thru Apr. 19--m.ob; ad., Pigeon Pt., Apr. 19--BS, BR. Least Terns returned to S.F. Bay late Apr.--m.ob; Palo Alto Flood Control Basin, May 13--BR. TUFTED PUFFIN, Pigeon Pt., May 13--BS, BR.

SPOTTED OWL, Arroyo Trail near PRBO, Marin Co., Apr. 29--LL, et al. Saw-Whet Owl, FRBO, May 3--H&NB. Poor-Wills returned to Big Springs Trail, Tilden Reg. Pk. early Apr.--m.ob. Vaux's Swift, 2, over her Alamo home, Apr. 15--JR; 2, Stage Rd., San Mateo Co., May 4--BR.

Black-Chinned Hummingbird, ♂, her Alamo garden, Apr. 26-27--JR. COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD, ♂, their Alamo garden, Apr. 29 thru period--R&JR, et al. Rufous Hummingbird, her Walnut Creek garden, Apr. 27--WO; up to 2 still in her Alamo garden thru Apr. 26--JR. Calliope Hummingbirds returned to Tilden Reg. Pk., Apr. 15 at least thru early May--m.ob.; his Lafayette garden, Apr. 19--LF; Mt. Diablo St. Pk., May 6--BR.

Lewis' Woodpecker, his Lafayette garden, Apr. 18-19--LF; Lower Del Puerto Cyn. Rd. 7.9 mi. west of I-5, Stanislaus Co., Apr. 24--JR, et al. CASSIN'S KINGBIRD, lower Del Puerto Cyn. Rd. 2.7 mi. west of I-5, Apr. 24--JR, et al. Bank Swallows returned to Lake Merced & Ft. Funston areas, S.F., early Apr.--m.ob. Dipper, Gazos Creek Rd., San Mateo Co., Apr. 20--BR. Rock Wren, 13, Devil's Elbow Trail, Mt. Diablo St. Pk., May 5--BR. Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, 5, Mt. Diablo St. Pk., Apr. 29--BR.

Nashville Warbler, Mt. Diablo St. Pk., Apr. 29--BR. Black-Throated Gray Warbler, Sunol Reg. Pk., Apr. 17--JR, et al; Mt. Diablo St. Pk., Apr. 29 & May 6--BR. Townsend's Warbler, Mt. Diablo St. Pk., 1 on Apr. 29, 24 on May 6--BR. Hermit Warbler, 4, Mt. Diablo St. Pk., May 6--BR. MacGillivray's Warbler, Sunol Reg. Pk., Apr. 17--JR, et al; Mt. Diablo St. Pk., Apr. 29--BR. Yellow-Breasted Chat, his Lafayette garden, Apr. 17-19--LF; Alpine Rd. at Skyline Blvd., San Mateo Co., May 13--BR.

Hooded Oriole, her Walnut Creek garden, Apr. 17--WO; pair, his Concord garden, Apr. 18 thru period--KF; at least 2 pairs still in their Alamo garden thru period--R&JR. Great-Tailed Grackle still at Aquatic Pk., S.F., thru period--m.ob. Brown-Headed Cowbirds reported from many gardens, also in larger numbers from gardens where they have been seen in prior years. Purple Finch, ♀, her Walnut Creek garden, Apr. 22--WO. Grasshopper Sparrow, at least 3, returned to Las Trampas Reg. Pk., Apr. 16--BR; lower Del Puerto Cyn. Rd. 2.9 mi. west of I-5, Apr. 24--JR.

OBSERVERS: Hugh & Norah Bain, Lynn Farrar, Kent Fickett, Mary Jane Greene, Linda LaPointe, Winnie Orcutt, Bob Richmond, Rich & Jean Richmond, Barry Sauppe, 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 in Mt. Diablo chapter. Subscription: \$3.00 per year, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, Mrs. Winnie Orcutt, 30 Iris Ln., Walnut Creek, CA 94595. Address change (send also to NAS): Mrs. Jackie Knisley, 4741 Olive Dr., Concord, CA 94521. Change of chapter affiliation is only upon specific request by member. First Class mailing in envelope rather than bulk mail: \$1.75 per year, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, address above.

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: Annadel State Park.

Access: From Benicia Bridge go north on I-780, east on I-80, west on SR 37, north on SR 121, left on SR 12 for about 17 miles beyond Sonoma. Just after reaching divided road turn left on Los Alamos Rd., right on Melita, left on Montgomery Dr. for 0.6 mile then left on Channel Dr. 2 miles to parking lot at end of road.

Along Channel Dr. at a fair-sized pond look for Wood Ducks, shorebirds, kingfisher; vireos, warblers in surrounding trees; swallows overhead. Many birds along road-side---drive slowly, watch and listen. Chats found along the creek.

Parking area. Many species around parking lot & along creek: woodpeckers, flycatchers, nuthatches, Creeper, wrens, thrushes, kinglets, vireos, warblers including Chat by creek. From parking lot entrance walk trail east along creek: Red-Shouldered Hawk overhead & in trees, hummingbirds (especially around homes across creek), woodpeckers, swallows, nuthatches, wrens, thrushes, kinglets, vireos, warblers including Chat, oriole, grosbeak, bunting, goldfinches, sparrows. Near end of park: Common Snipe in creekbed, Meadowlark, blackbirds, etc., in grassy area.

Lake Trail. From far end of parking lot walk trail up hill. Many woodland species along trail. Grassy area with scattered trees: hawks, swift, flycatchers, swallows, thrushes, bluebird, oriole, bunting, etc. Around junction with Two Quarry Trail check for Pileated Woodpecker.

Lake Ilsanjo is 2.7 miles out Lake Trail; Ledsen Marsh, 2.5 miles from Lawndale Rd. (off SR 12): in arid area, draws much wildlife including ducks, geese.

Birds include some waterbirds, White-Tailed Kite, hawks, both eagles have been seen, a few shorebirds, owls include Pygmy, swift, hummingbirds, kingfisher, woodpeckers include Pileated & Lewis', flycatchers, swallows, nuthatches, Brown Creeper, several wrens, thrushes, Western Bluebird, kinglets, our 3 vireos, several warblers including Yellow-Breasted Chat, Northern Oriole, Western Tanager, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Evening Grosbeak, both goldfinches, several sparrows.

Good birding spring, fall; summer is too warm; trails may be too muddy in winter. Minimum facilities; no water, carry your own. Map at entrance or Dept. of Parks & Recreation, P O Box 167, Sonoma 95476. Trails, traversing Douglas fir, redwood, oak woodland, chaparral, mostly of moderate grade; Steves "S" rises sharply.

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When birding SUNOL REGIONAL PARK (see The Quail, March, 1977) do not park at Welch Creek Rd. If you wish to bird along that road you must first get a parking permit at park headquarters then park only in designated parking areas at MP 2.2 or 2.7.

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ENVIRONMENTAL LITMUS PAPER. Birds are not just creatures who brighten our lives or become marks on birders' lists, they indicate the condition of our environment. Their way of living and their high metabolic rate cause rapid reaction to environmental changes. When things go wrong, the birds become our early warning system and therefore ARE very important to humans. We are not more for birds than people, we and the birds are both links in the same chain!

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The AMERICAN BLUEBIRD SOCIETY is aiding the conservation of our 3 bluebird species. Info: North American Bluebird Soc., P O Box 6295, Silver Spring, MD 20906.

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MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY
P. O. Box 53
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

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(415) AUD-UBON

Pres.: Elizabeth Dickey
113 Hillcrest Dr.
Orinda, CA 94563
phone 254-0486

July-August 1979
Vol. 26, No. 1

Next deadline: August 10



PICNIC: Third annual picnic, Fri., Aug. 3, 7:30 p.m., Tilden Park, Lone Oak area near the Playfield. There will be plenty of time for any latecomers.

Field Trips: Trips open, members, non-members alike; bring lunch, binocs, field guide. **NOTE:** call trip leader or Sally Steller (837-9061) a few days before any trip you plan to attend in case gasoline situation forced cancellation.

Fri., July 6, 7:00 p.m., Del Valle Regional Park, Picnic and Poor-Wills. If coming, call Sally Steller (837-9061). Details in the June Quail.

Sat.-Sun., July 14-15, Yosemite Nat'l Park, meet Sat. behind Crane Flat Chevron station, 7:00 & 10:00 a.m. (we bird meadow behind station & Crane Flat area 7-10 then Tioga Pass Rd., 1st stop Siesta Lake); Sun., Badger Pass (sign says road closed), 8:00 a.m. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).

Sat.-Sun., July 28-29, Gualala Point Regional Park, meet at the Visitor's Center, Sat., 9:30 a.m., Sun., 9:00. Leader: Tom Steller (881-0581).

Sat., Aug. 11, 8:30 a.m., San Mateo County coast; carpool: El Cerro Blvd. at I-680, Danville, LEAVE at 7:00. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).

SPECIAL PLACE YOU WOULD LIKE TO BIRD? TRIP YOU WOULD LIKE LEAD? Call Sally Steller (837-9061) with trip suggestions.

Board Meetings: Thurs., July 12, 7:30 p.m., home of Norah Bain, 32 Via Farallon, Orinda; 254-4516. Board meetings are always open to members.

Thurs., Aug. 9, 7:30 p.m., budget session, home of Marian Stelzer, 801 Orange Blossom Way, Danville; 837-7119.

Following the PICNIC dinner we will do some owling or perhaps look for Poor-Wills so bring binocs and flashlight as well as supper. From Fwy 24 in Orinda take the Richmond exit north 2 miles, left on Wildcat Cyn. Rd. to the park, follow signs toward the Interpretive Center. Turn right about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile beyond the merry-go-round.

At YOSEMITE are Blue Grouse, Mt. Quail, Great Gray Owl, Black Swift, Black-Backed 3-Toed Woodpecker, Pine Grosbeak, Gray-Crowned Rosy Finch. Go east via I-580 then I-205, briefly north on I-5, then SR 120 thru Manteca all the way to the Park (or SR 140 east from Merced). Campers: Hodgdon Meadow (on left at Big Oak Flat Entrance). Non-campers: Yosemite Park & Curry Co., (209) 373-4171; motels at El Portal (see AAA book); also Dell-Hart Lodge, (209) 379-2451. Approx. 150 miles, 4 hours.

GUALALA POINT REGIONAL PARK, where the Gualala River meets the sea, includes many varied habitats with Green Heron, Common Merganser, Osprey, Pigeon Guillemot, Purple Martin. The Park has limited campsites, 2 private campgrounds, Gualala River Redwoods and Anchor Bay, a few miles north. Motels at Sea Ranch and Gualala. Take SR 12 or 116 west from US 101 then SR 1 north to park. Approx. 140 miles, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

The SAN MATEO COUNTY COAST has waterbirds, waterfowl, shorebirds (possibly Baird's, Pectoral Sandpipers), gulls, etc. San Mateo County Park is good for camping. Cross San Mateo Bridge, continue on SR 92 to Half Moon Bay, turn left on SR 1 about 15 miles to Pescadero Rd., then turn right into the parking area.

* * * * *

The SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA trip May 5-13 was a highly successful tour to several of that area's better birding spots. Weather was beautiful except for two windy days and a couple of cold nights. The 14 members had a great time and tallied some very good birds including these 191 species (space limitation requires abbreviation):

Com Loon, Eared, West & P-B Grebe, Wh Pelican, Dbl-Cr, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, Gr Bl Heron, Cattle, Great & Snowy Egret, Bl-Cr Night Heron, Least Bittern, Snow Goose, Fulvous Whistling Duck, Mallard, Pintail, Gr-Wing & Cin Teal, Am Wigeon, Shoveler, Lesser Scaup, Wh-Wing, Surf & Black Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Cooper, Red-Tail & Red-Sh Hawk, Golden & Bald Eagle, Prairie & Peregrine Falcon, Am Kestrel, Calif, Gambel & Mt Quail, Clapper & Virginia Rail, Com Gallinule, Am Coot, Black Oystercatcher, Semipal Plover, Killdeer, Bl-Bel Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Lg-Bill Curlew, Whimbrel, Spotted Sandpiper, Wand Tattler, Willet, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Lg-Bill Dowitcher, West Sandpiper, Marb Godwit, Sanderling, Am Avocet, Bl-Neck Stilt, Wilson & Northern Phalarope, West, Rg-Bill & Bonaparte Gull, Gull-Bill, Forster, Caspian & Black Tern, Bl Skimmer, Pigeon Guillemot, B-Tail Pigeon, Rock, Wh-Wing, Mourning & Ground Dove, Roadrunner, Barn, Gr Horn, Burrowing & Lg-Ear Owl, Less Nighthawk, Vaux's & Wh-Thr Swift, Bl-Chin, Costa, Anna, Rufous & Allen Hummer, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Acorn, Hairy, Ladder-Back, Nuttall & Wh-Head Woodpecker, West Kingbird, Ash-Thr Flycatcher, Black & Say's Phoebe, West Flycatcher, Wood Pewee, Ol-Side & Vermillion Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Violet-Gr, Tree, Rough-Wing, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Steller & Scrub Jay, Yellow-Bill Magpie, Raven, Crow, Clark Nutcracker, Mt & Ch-Back Chickadee, Pl Titmouse, Verdin, Bushtit, Wh-Br, Red-Br & Pygmy Nuthatch, Br Creeper, Wrentit, House, Bewick, Cactus, Marsh, Canyon & Rock Wren, Mockingbird, Bendire, Calif, LeCont & Crissal Thrasher, Robin, Swainson Thrush, West Bluebird, Bl-Tail Gnatcatcher, Ruby-Cr Kinglet, Phainopepla, Logger Shrike, Starling, Hutton, Bell, Solitary & Warb Vireo, Orange-Cr, Yellow, "Audubon", Townsend, Hermit & MacGillivray Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, Yel-Br Chat, Wilson Warbler, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Yel-Head, Red-Wing & Tricol Blackbird, Scott & "Bullock" Oriole, Brew Blackbird, Gr-Tail Grackle, Br-Head Cowbird, West & Summer Tanager, Bl-Head Grosbeak, Purple, Cassin & House Finch, Amer, Lesser & Lawrence Goldfinch, Green-Tail, Ruf-Sided, Brown & Abert Towhee, Lark & Black-Thr Sparrow, "Oregon" Junco, Chipping, Brewer, Wh-Crown, Fox & Song Sparrow.

The trip to LAS TRAMPAS REGIONAL PARK on May 16 was made on a clear, warm day by 8 members. Found were Solitary and Warbling Vireo, Western Tanager, Lazuli Bunting, and, after climbing far up the hill, Grasshopper Sparrow, among these 37 species:

Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed Hawk, Calif Quail, Mourning Dove, White-Throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Com Flicker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Ash-Throated Flycatcher, West Wood Pewee, Barn Swallow, Steller's Jay, Com Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Wrentit, Calif Thrasher, Amer Robin, Swainson's Thrush, West Bluebird, Starling, Solitary & Warbling Vireo, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged Blackbird, "Bullock's" Oriole, West Tanager, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Grasshopper, Lark & Chipping Sparrow.

Our first-ever trip to SHELL RIDGE OPEN SPACE on May 20 was made by 13 members and guests who had a lovely day to explore this "back-yard" area on the hills behind Walnut Creek. The following 38 species were heard or seen:

Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Rock & Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Acorn, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Ash-Throated Flycatcher, Violet-Green, Tree & Cliff Swallow, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Mockingbird, Amer Robin, West Bluebird, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Wilson's Warbler, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged Blackbird, "Bullock's" Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, West Tanager, Lazuli Bunting, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Brown Towhee, Lark Sparrow, "Oregon" Junco.

The walk in BRIONES REGIONAL PARK on May 24 was on a clear, quite warm day with no breeze. No unusual birds appeared but 16 members and guests found many Lazuli Buntings and several nesting birds including Nuttall's Woodpecker, Violet-Green Swallow and Bushtit among the following 35 species seen or heard:

Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, Calif Quail, Mourning Dove, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Ash-Throated Flycatcher, West Wood Pewee, Violet-Green Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, Am Robin, Swainson's Thrush, West Bluebird, Starling, Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned Warbler, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged Blackbird, "Bullock's" Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, House Finch, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Lark Sparrow.

The OUTER PT. REYES trip on June 9 was made by 14 members and guests on a warm, sunny, windless day---poor "vagrant weather". Found were a pair of Black Scoters, 4 adult and 5 immature Great Horned Owls, a late Varied Thrush, an immature ♂ American Redstart, a Tricolored Blackbird, an adult ♂ Rose-Breasted Grosbeak, and a Grasshopper Sparrow among the following 72 species seen or heard:

Com & Arctic Loon, Dbl-Crested, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, White-Winged, Surf, & Black Sooter, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Cooper's, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Willet, Glaucous-Winged, West & Bonaparte's Gull, Com Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Allen's Hummingbird, Acorn Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, West Flycatcher, West Wood Pewee, Violet-Green, Tree, Rough-Winged, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Com Raven, Com Crow, Brown Creeper, Wrentit, Mockingbird, Amer Robin, Varied & Swainson's Thrush, West Bluebird, Starling, Orange-Crowned, "Audubon's" & Wilson's Warbler, Amer Redstart, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Tri-colored Blackbird, "Bullock's" Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, West Tanager, Rose-Breasted & Black-Headed Grosbeak, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Amer Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Grasshopper & Lark Sparrow, "Oregon" Junco, White-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

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Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory's 2nd annual BIRDATHON, a bird count to raise funds for bird research, conservation (\$12,000 last year), will be held Sat., Sept. 29. Ten percent of the money goes to the endowment fund, the rest to PRBO'S studies. Sponsored birders spend all day looking for birds and record each species identified. For info and forms, write Birdathon, 4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach, CA 94970.

* * * * *

CLASSES & EXCURSIONS:

Mono Ecology Seminars: Ecology of Mono Lake, July 20-23 or Sept. 7-10, \$40. Natural History of Mono Lake-Tioga Pass, July 27-30 or Sept. 14-17, \$30. Flowers, Shrubs, Trees of Mono Lake-Tioga Pass, July 13-16, \$30. Birds of Mono Lake-Tioga Pass, Aug. 17-20, \$30. Ecology of Bird Migration, Aug. 31-Sept. 3, \$40. Mammals of Mono Lake-Tioga Pass, Aug. 10-14, \$30. Instructors: David Gaines, David Winkler, John Harris. Class size limited. Check payable to Altacal Audubon Soc. to Stephan Laymon, 3290 Ackley Rd., Lakeport, CA 95453; (707) 263-6710. Your editor has some course info.

PRBO: Birds, Natural History of SE Arizona, July 26-Aug 2, \$275. Birds of Ecuador, July 31-Aug. 21, \$1390. Birds of Monterey Bay, Aug. 25-26, \$50. Bird Migration at Humboldt Bay, Sept. 7-9, \$25. Bob Stewart, 4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach 94970.

Rancho del Cielo in SW Tamaulipas, Mexico, Aug. 5-11, wilderness experience, comfort of home, in northernmost tropical cloud forest, \$200 from Gomez Farias. Info, reservations: Fred S. Webster, Jr., 4926 Strass Dr., Austin, TX 78731; (512) 415-1669.

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OFFICERS OF MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY, 1979-80. (Save for future reference.)

Pres.: Elizabeth Dickey, 113 Hillcrest Dr., Orinda 94563; 254-0486.

VP (Program): Kent Fickett, 5270 Concord Blvd., Concord 94521; 798-7421.

VP (Conservation): Bruce Moorad, 1445 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek 94598; 938-4446.

Secretary: Marian Stelzer, 801 Orange Blossom Way, Danville 94526; 837-7119.

Treasurer: Bill Scheffel, 1894 1/2 5th St., Concord 94520; 682-6159.

Field Trips: Sally Steller, 591 Fulton Way, Danville 94526; 837-9061.

Membership: Merv & Norma Ortez, 1010 Walnut Dr., Lafayette 94549; 283-3072.

Hospitality: Winnie Young, 780 Oak Grove Rd., #320, Concord 94518; 685-6168.

Publicity: Norah Bain, 32 Via Farallon, Orinda 94563; 254-4516.

(Scrapbook: Bea Latham, 1301 Montego, #56, Walnut Creek 94598.)

Exhibits: Russ Jones, 2816 San Antonio Dr., Walnut Creek 94598; 933-6889.

Education: Tom Lee, 3071 Walnut Blvd., Walnut Creek 94596; 934-5475.

Birdinformation: will have co-chairmen, only one named at press time.

Irene Hellekson, 1320 Warren St., Martinez 94553; 229-1837.

Christmas Bird Count: not yet filled. If you wish to volunteer, call the President.

Editor: Jean Richmond, 125 Via Serena, Alamo 94507; 837-2843.

(Circulation: Jackie Knisley, 4741 Olive Dr., Concord 94521; 685-1709. Not an officer but an extremely important assistant who maintains our mailing list.)

On behalf of our members, MANY THANKS to all who served so well this past year!! Due to the very fine job done by each of our officers we had a superb year and now look forward to another. If you are called upon to help in any capacity or to assist on a committee we sincerely hope you will agree to lend a hand.

* * * * *

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

Antioch: Mrs. Lindsley Quistgard, L. O. Troxell; Concord: V. Frey, C. White; Danville: Ms. Martha C. Slavin, Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Stelzer, John N. Wilson; Lafayette: P. & C. Kromschroder; Martinez: Miss Caroline Hiner, Ms. Kim Wogan; Pleasant Hill: J. M. H. Read, Robert H. Schueneman; San Ramon: James Fenolio; Walnut Creek: Phil Crane, Mary B. Madison, Mrs. Janet A. Maisels, Ronald L. Meyer, Patricia A. Mincks, Mrs. Dorothy F. Wallace; Oconomowoc, WI: Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Warner.

The AUDUBON FILM series will be presented again this year, all to be shown in The Forum, a comfortable theater on the DVC campus. Dates are Fri., Sept. 21, Nov. 9 and Feb. 22, Thurs., Apr. 3. Probable cost: \$2.00 per film.

COLOR-MARKED SHOREBIRDS. The US F&WS is studying fall migration routes and strategies of shorebirds from Yukon Delta & Alaska Peninsula. Western & Rock Sandpipers, Dunlins, Black Turnstones will be color-banded and/or color-dyed. If seen, note species, age, location, date, time; color bands: color(s), left or right leg, above or below "knee"; color dyes: color, part(s) dyed; metal bands: left or right leg, above or below "knee". Report to Robert Gill, Jr., c/o U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 1011 E. Tudor Rd., Anchorage, AK 99503. All reports will be acknowledged.

CONSERVATION NOTES by J. P. Hauser.

Being negative, unless as an adjunct to argumentation, is essentially self-defeating and counter-productive. Negativism, heard daily in relation to our problems, is used widely to influence opinion. The positive approach ultimately should prevail as it represents a constructive outlook and encourages optimism. In my reading of abuses past, present and planned, of our natural resources (is not arrogant, irresponsible waste itself negative?) the record is so dismal that to become negative is easy. A letter from Jon Williams reminded me that there is much to be positive about in the conservation/environmental field and compromise is "the name of the game". Although I believe that abusers and exploiters should be exposed, accused and condemned, being constantly negative can be a hinderance in attempting changes.

The enduring theme of anti-clean air writers is that we must accept certain levels of pollution to maintain a continued level of economic growth. Industry has spent billions in pollution control measures and in many industrial areas there is a significant improvement in air quality--since the Clean Air Act of 1970. I seriously doubt that the "private sector" would have voluntarily spent such vast sums unless forced to. Continued economic growth is essential for obvious reasons but we can have a healthy economy and a healthy environment. Resources must be conserved by every segment of our society, and we all must be aware that the environment is not just for "environmentalists", but absolutely vital for life.

A new coalition is being formed to protect our coastlines. Called the Coast Alliance, it is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation, and is concerned with all of our coasts: Atlantic, Pacific, Gulf and Great Lakes. Should you want more information, write to: Year of the Coast, 620 C St., SE, Washington, D.C. 20003.

The Michigan State Supreme Court ruled to block oil drilling projects in the last semi-wilderness tract in the Lower Peninsula region. It is an ecologically diverse area in which can be found bobcats, bears, osprey and eagles.

President Carter has directed several pertinent agencies to undertake a review of federal water policy. National Audubon Society has published an Interim Guide to Implementation of President Carter's Water Policy. Copies are available from NAS, 1511 K St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20005.

The Udall-Anderson bill, HR-39, the Alaska National Interest Conservation Act of 1979, cleared the House by a wide margin and Senate hearings are underway.

WOLF DEFENDERS. Last November an Audubon magazine story about Loboland in Washington started publicity which brought contributions from all over but such outpouring often is short-lived while the work goes on. Send tax-deductible checks to Dr. E. H. McCleery, Lobo Wolf Foundation, Inc., P.O.Box 344, Gardiner, WA 98334.

AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY fosters research and education concerning foot trails in America. It lobbies for hikers' interests and publishes a newsletter. Dues: \$15, students/senior citizens, \$5. Write: A.H.S., 18600 157th Ave., Miami, FL 33187.

CONDOR SURVIVAL: COST AND BENEFIT. "Wouldn't it be better to spend money trying to preserve an endangered species with a better chance for survival than pouring money down a 'rat hole' to save an obviously doomed species?" or "Haven't they just come to the end of the line?" or "Do you think it's right to let a few birds stand in the way of human needs?" or "Aren't other species more important biologically?"

In Washington, D.C., I thought about the symbolic significance of the Condor apart from environmental and ecological implications surrounding its survival. Jobs could be created if we pulled back and let nature (human nature) take its course. I looked at the Washington Monument, the open Mall leading to the reflecting pool and on to the Lincoln Memorial. Jobs and human needs could be met by developing the Mall into condominiums. After all, we are only dealing with the preservation of man-made symbols. Think of the families we could feed on the cost of maintaining these monuments. Imagine the furor that would result if a decision was made to abandon these symbols that reside in our nation's capitol!!!

Symbols are vital and California has many: highest mountain in the "Lower 48", lowest spot in the nation, tallest trees in the world, most National Parks, smallest and largest bird in the nation. Symbols inspire stewardship, remind us of our human and natural history, unify us when we speak of "our" trees, landmarks, or birds.

The mystique of the California Condor has given widespread public sympathy but conversely, the species has been elevated to a point where it is viewed as a biological anomaly; a view that has tended to hinder much needed research. We are close to the wire in efforts to save the Condor as a comprehensive program to save them will be submitted in January. Then we must convince lawmakers that it is indeed important to the people that our Government assist us all in the preservation of a truly important symbol of our nation's natural heritage. (John Borneman, Condor Newsletter)

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OBSERVATIONS, May 15-June 15. (Also see field trip reports.)

Black Sooter, ♀, off Ft. Funston, S.F., June 4--ED. Red-Shouldered Hawk, imm., Morgan Territory Rd., June 10--KF, EH. Osprey, Lake Christopher, South Lake Tahoe, May 24--R&JR. Clapper Rail, Martinez Waterfront marsh, May 26--BR. Spotted Sandpiper, 17, Clifton Court Forebay, east Contra Costa Co., mid-May--BR. Least Terns, Alameda South Shore & Bay Bridge Toll Plaza marsh, thru period--m.ob. Great Gray Owl, Evergreen Rd. near Yosemite NP, June 10--BD. Short-Eared Owls, possibly nesting, West Pittsburg, May 22--DE.

CHIMNEY SWIFTS turned up in town of Sonoma in early June. COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD, ♂, their Alamo garden, thru June 3--R&JR. Dipper, apparently nesting again this year behind waterfall at fountain between Sierra City & Yuba Pass, May 25--R&JR. Sage Thrasher, 2, Dyson Ln. in Sierra Valley, Plumas Co., May 25--R&JR. NORTHERN PARULA, singing ♂, North Lake, Golden Gate Pk., June 2-5--m.ob. Black-Throated Gray Warbler, ♂, Morgan Territory Rd. 2.6 mi. so. of Curry Creek Pk., May 28--EH. Yellow-Breasted Chat, 2, Bethel Island, mid-May--BR.

Hooded Oriole, 1st-year ♂, her Walnut Creek garden, June 6 thru period--WO; pair, his Walnut Creek garden thru period--BD; 3, their Concord apartment balcony feeder, thru period--G&WY; several adults, 1st-year males, young, their Alamo garden, thru period--R&JR; pair, 3 young, his Concord garden, thru period--KF. COMMON GRACKLE, West Pittsburg, May 25--DE. Blue Grosbeak, West Pittsburg, May 22--DE. INDIGO BUNTING, ♂, returned to Limantour Rd., Pt. Reyes, early June, for 4th year. Lawrence's Goldfinch, Morgan Territory Rd. so. of Curry Creek Pk., 6 on May 26--BR, 12 on May 28--EH. Black-Chinned Sparrow, singing ♂, Laurel Cyn., Tilden Pk., May 29--JR.

OBSERVERS: Bob Delareulle, Elizabeth Diokey, Dick Erickson, Ed Hase, Kent Fickett, Winnie Oroutt, Bob Richmond, Rich & Jean Richmond, Gifford & Winnie Young, 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 in Mt. Diablo chapter.

Subscription: \$3.00 per year, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, Bill Scheffel, 1894½ 5th St., Concord, CA 94520.

Address change: (send also to NAS): Mrs. Jackie Knisley, 4741 Olive Dr., Concord, CA 94521. Change of chapter affiliation is only upon specific request by member. First Class mailing in envelope rather than bulk mail: \$1.75 per year, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, address above.

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: Edmonston Pumping Plant & Mt. Pinos---CALIF. CONDOR.

Access: Go south on I-5 to Grapevine below Bakersfield, follow Edmonston signs to Visitor's Overlook at end of road. For Mt. Pinos, return to I-5, go south to Frazier Park turnoff, west thru Frazier Park, right on Cuddy Valley Rd., left at Mil Potrero Rd. junction up Mt. Pinos to parking lot at end of paved road, 20 miles from I-5. Going west from parking lot is rough but passable dirt road (closed in winter) 1.8 miles to Condor Lookout at summit.

Road to & at Edmonston: Vulture, CONDOR, hawks, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Western Kingbird, Say's Phoebe, swallows, Rock Wren, Shrike, blackbirds may include Tricolored or Yellow-Headed, oriole, goldfinches may include Lawrence's, sparrows.

Ft. Tejon State Park, I-5 south of Grapevine: CONDOR sometimes, woodpeckers, nuthatches, kinglets, warblers, oriole, grosbeak, Lawrence's Goldfinch, sparrows, etc.

Approach to Mt. Pinos. Purple Martin near Frazier Park; Cuddy Valley Rd.: Golden Eagle, birds of Pinyon Pine/Juniper area including Pinyon Jay, Sage Thrasher; area of Mil Potrero Rd. junction: Lazuli Bunting, Purple & Cassin's Finch, several sparrows including Brewer's & Black-Chinned. Mt. Quail anywhere along road up mountain.

McGill Campground: Band-Tailed Pigeon, Pygmy Owl, hummingbirds, Hairy & White-Headed Woodpecker, Clark's Nutcracker, wrens, Townsend's Solitaire, Purple Finch, Siskin, Green-Tailed Towhee, several sparrows including Lincoln's. Just up road beyond entrance to campground: Saw-Whet Owl, goldfinches may include Lawrence's.

Mt. Pinos Campground: Clark's Nutcracker, Western Tanager.

Fir Ridge Rd., on right just above Mt. Pinos Campground, is dirt road, 0.7 mile long, may have "Red-Naped" as well as Williamson's Sapsucker.

Iris Meadow & Chula Vista Picnic Area (north side of parking lot): hummingbirds including Rufous & Calliope, flycatchers include Dusky & Pewee, House Wren, several warblers, Red Crossbill (erratic), Green-Tailed Towhee, several sparrows.

Road to Lookout: hawks, woodpeckers, swallows, House & Rock Wren, several warblers, Cassin's Finch, Lawrence's Goldfinch, sparrows include Vesper & Chipping.

Condor Lookout: vulture, CONDOR, several hawks, Golden Eagle, White-Throated Swift, hummingbirds, Clark's Nutcracker, House & Rock Wren, bluebirds, Cassin's Finch.

Other birds possible anywhere on Mountain include Mountain Quail, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Common Flicker, Western Wood Pewee, Olive-Sided Flycatcher, Steller's Jay, Mountain Chickadee, White-Breasted & Pygmy Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Western & Mountain Bluebird, Cassin's Finch, Pine Siskin.

CONDORS at Mt. Pinos mostly July-September, mid-August best; at Edmonston mostly Fall thru spring. Bird elsewhere in morning, Condors seldom seen before noon. The Condor population is dropping and a captive breeding program is to be implemented.

Facilities: McGill & Mt. Pinos Campgrounds; restaurants, motels on I-5 at Gorman.

An 8-page ENERGY CONSERVATION GUIDE to help sort through the maze of federal programs promoting energy conservation is offered free by Sen. Gary Hart of Colorado, co-chairman of the Congressional Environmental Study Conference. The programs described range from tax credits for homeowners to grant programs for development of energy conservation technologies. Write him at Room 254, Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510, mark it Attention: Dawn Alexander. (Audubon Leader)

LET MONO LAKE LIVE! Financial support is greatly needed. Check, payable to Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society, to Mono Lake Committee, P.O.Box 2764, Oakland, CA 94602.

MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY
P. O. Box 53
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

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The QUAIL

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY

P. O. BOX 53

WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94596

(415) AUD-UBON

Pres.: Elizabeth Dickey

113 Hillcrest Dr.

Orinda, CA 94563

phone: 254-0486

September 1979

Vol. 26, No. 2

Next deadline: September 10



Meeting: Thurs., Sept. 6. 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: Trips open, members, non-members alike; bring lunch, binocs, field guide. Call trip leader or Sally Steller (837-9061) a few days before any long trip you plan to attend in case gasoline situation forced cancellation.

Sat., Sept. 8, 9:00 a.m., Bodega Bay; carpool: Copper Penny, Sun Valley Center, 7:00. Leaders: Helen & Jerry Gentile (228-6297).

Wed., Sept. 12, 9:15 a.m., Coyote Hills Regional Park; carpool: El Cerro Blvd. at I-680, Danville, 8:15. Leader: Norah Bain (254-4516).

Sat., Sept. 22, 8:30 a.m., outer Pt. Reyes; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Fwy 24, 6:30. Leader: Bob Richmond (447-0248).

Thurs., Sept. 27, 9:30 a.m., Lands End & Golden Gate Park; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. at Fwy 24, 8:30. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).

Audubon Film: Fri., Sept. 21, 8:00 p.m., Diabolo Valley College Forum, "Papua New Guinea: Twilight of Eden" by Greg and Linda McMillan. Tickets from MDAS or at the door: adult \$2 (series \$7), under-12 \$1 (series \$3). NO-HOST DINNER with the speakers will be arranged, 6 p.m. Call our tape, AUD-UBON, for info.

Board Meeting: Thurs., Sept. 13, 7:30 p.m., home of Jean Richmond, 125 Via Serena, Alamo; 837-2843. Board meetings are always open to members.

Checklist Meeting: Thurs., Sept. 20, 7:30-10:00 p.m., home of Sally Steller, 591 Fulton Way, Danville; 837-9061. Open to anyone interested.

BIRDINFORMATION begins its 5th year of informing experienced as well as inexperienced but eager-to-learn birders with a varied schedule, continuity and interest for all. Jimm Edgar will deal with field lists, various field guides and how to record life lists. The PROGRAM, "Natural History of Black Diamond Mines Regional Park," will be presented by Joanne Dean, a naturalist at that park. The narrated slide program discusses local flora, fauna, geology, and their ties with local history.

With varied habitats, BODEGA BAY has many species of waterbirds, ducks, shorebirds, landbirds, possibly including Red-Necked Grebe and "Black" Brant. 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 town of Bodega Bay. Strong, cold wind is possible so come prepared with warm clothing available.

COYOTE HILLS, with varied habitats, has water and shorebirds as well as land birds. Go down Nimitz Fwy (SR 17) to Jarvis Rd., turn west to the signal at Newark Blvd., turn right $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, then left into the park and meet in the parking area on the right just inside the entrance booth.

At OUTER PT. REYES in September are eastern vagrants. 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 2 miles then left on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. for 14 miles then left 2 miles to Drake's Beach parking area.

LAND'S END, a new area for us, has birds of sea and land; possibly vagrants, After

lunch in GOLDEN GATE PARK, we will look for such birds as Wood Duck, gulls, Pygmy Nuthatch, possible vagrants. Go through the Park to Great Highway, north to Pt. Lobos Ave. and meet in the parking area on Pt. Lobos Ave. just east of Cliff House.

The first FILM in the new series examines the worlds of the people and of the very strange forms of wildlife on New Guinea. Lying north of Australia, its tropical situation governs the land, natural history and people. This is the first Audubon film of this fascinating, unfamiliar, and wild island.

* * * * *

FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

The trip to REDWOOD REGIONAL PARK on June 13 was on a clear, cool day with some breeze. The 10 members and guests enjoyed the morning walk as they heard or saw the following 36 species:

Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed Hawk, Calif Quail, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Rock & Mourning Dove, Allen's Hummingbird, Com Flicker, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Ash-Throated & Olive-Sided Flycatcher, Violet-Green Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Red-Breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, Amer Robin, Swainson's Thrush, Starling, Hutton's & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned & Wilson's Warbler, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Purple Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed Junco, Song Sparrow.

On the YUBA PASS-SIERRA VALLEY weekend June 16-17 the weather was sunny at times but also produced wind, rain, hail and snow. Despite the somewhat wild weather the 14 members and guests tallied Black Tern, Pygmy & Short-Eared Owl, Dipper, Mountain Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire and Green-Tailed Towhee among these 65 species:

Pied-Billed Grebe, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Amer Bittern, Mallard, Cinnamon Teal, Cooper's, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Sandhill Crane, Virginia Rail, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Com Snipe, Willet, Amer Avocet, Black-Necked Stilt, Wilson's Phalarope, Ring-Billed Gull, Black Tern, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Pygmy & Short-Eared Owl, Com Nighthawk, Allen's Hummingbird, Com Flicker, "Red-Breasted" Sapsucker, Hairy & White-Headed Woodpecker, West Wood Pewee, Horned Lark, Violet-Green, Tree, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Steller's Jay, Black-Billed Magpie, Mountain Chickadee, Red-Breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Dipper, Long-Billed Marsh Wren, Amer Robin, Mountain Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, Starling, Warbling Vireo, Yellow, "Audubon's", Hermit, MacGillivray's & Wilson's Warbler, West Meadowlark, Yellow-Headed, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, West Tanager, Evening Grosbeak, Cassin's Finch, Green-Tailed Towhee, Vesper Sparrow, Dark-Eyed Junco, Chipping & Fox Sparrow,

The picnic at DEL VALLE PARK on July 6 was enjoyed by 29 members on a clear, cool evening, quite breezy during dinner. Calling, but not seen, were Barn, Screech and Great Horned Owls and several Poor-Wills among these 41 species heard or seen:

Great Blue Heron, Mallard, Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Killdeer, Forster's & Caspian Tern, Mourning Dove, Barn, Screech & Great Horned Owl, Poor-Will, White-Throated Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, West Kingbird, Ash-Throated Flycatcher, Violet-Green, Rough-Winged, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Scrub Jay, Yellow-Billed Magpie, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Bewick's Wren, Amer Robin, West Bluebird, Starling, West Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Dark-Eyed Junco.

At YOSEMITE on the July 13-15 weekend the weather was clear and very warm with gentle breezes except in the Tioga Pass area where it was quite windy. The 12 members missed Blue Grouse and Great Gray Owl but did find Mountain Quail, Black Swift, Calliope Hummingbird, several Williamson's Sapsuckers, Black-Backed 3-Toed Woodpecker, Townsend's Solitaire, Warbling Vireo feeding a young Cowbird, Pine Grosbeak, Gray-Crowned Rosy Finches feeding young, among these 66 species seen or heard:

Red-Tailed Hawk, Mountain Quail, Calif Gull, Com Nighthawk, Black & White-Throated Swift, Rufous & Calliope Hummingbird, Com Flicker, "Red-Breasted" & Williamson's Sapsucker, Hairy, Downy, White-Headed & Black-Backed 3-Toed Woodpecker, Willow, Hammond's & Dusky Flycatcher, West Wood Pewee, Olive-Sided Flycatcher, Violet-Green, Tree & Barn Swallow, Steller's Jay, Com Raven, Clark's Nutcracker, Mountain Chickadee, Red-Breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, House & Canyon Wren, Amer Robin, Hermit & Swainson's Thrush, Townsend's Solitaire, Golden-Crowned & Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Starling, Solitary & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Nashville, "Audubon's", Black-Throated Gray, Townsend's, Hermit, MacGillivray's & Wilson's Warblers, Red-Winged

& Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, West Tanager, Black-Headed & Evening Grosbeak, Purple & Cassin's Finch, Pine Grosbeak, Gray-Crowned Rosy Finch, Pine Siskin, Lesser Goldfinch, Green-Tailed Towhee, Dark-Eyed Junco, Chipping, Fox, Lincoln's & Song Sparrow. Also seen were several Marmots and a Pika.

FIELD TRIPS SCHEDULE, Oct. 1979-Aug. 1980. (Changes may occasionally be made.)

We have an excellent schedule of trips again this year thanks to Sally Steller and her committee who planned them and to our members who will lead them. Included are five weekends, six new areas, and one area we have not visited for several years.

*--Weekend may be done either day alone.		Apr. 10 Thurs.	Briones Reg. Pk. (north)--wildflowers
?--Date depends on the tides.		*12 Sat.	Pinnales Natl. Mon.
Oct. 7 Sun.	Rodeo Lagoon, Bunker Hill	13 Sun.	"
10 Wed.	Alameda South Shore	19 Sat.	Three Springs Ranch, Glen Ellen
20 Sat.	5-Brooks, Bolinas Lagoon	23 Wed.	Ft. Funston, Lk. Merced
25 Thurs.	Sunol Reg. Pk.	26 Sat.	Caswell Mem. St. Pk.
Nov. 3 Sat.	Palo Alto Baylands	May 3 Sat.	Mines Rd., Del Puerto Cyn.
14 Wed.	Mt. View Sanitary Dist.	7 Wed.	Mt. Diablo St. Pk. (south Gate)
17 Sat.	San Mateo County coast	17 Sat.	Morgan Territory Rd.
29 Thurs.	Lk. Merritt	22 Thurs.	East Contra Costa Co.
Dec. 8 Sat.	Niles Cyn. Gravel Pits	31 Sat.	Mitchell Cyn.
12 Wed.	Lafayette Reservoir	June 7 Sat.	Pt. Reyes
Jan. 6 Sun.	Lafayette Reservoir	11 Wed.	Briones Reg. Pk. (west)
?9 Wed.	Bay Bridge Toll Plaza	19 Thurs.	Redwood Reg. Pk.
19 Sat.	Lk. Solano, Putah Creek	*21 Sat.	Yuba Pass
?24 Thurs.	Benicia Marsh	22 Sun.	Sierra Valley
Feb. *2 Sat.	Los Banos WMA	July 12 Sat.	Woodson Bridge St. Pk.
*3 Sun.	Panoche Valley	18 Fri.	Tilden Reg. Pk. picnic
6 Wed.	Thornton	*26 Sat.	Yosemite Natl. Pk.
16 Sat.	Abbott's Lagoon	27 Sun.	"
21 Thurs.	Tilden Reg. Pk.	Aug.*17 Sat.	Bodega Bay
Mar. 8 Sat.	Limantour Estero	18 Sun.	Salmon Creek
12 Wed.	Lks. Lagunitas & Bon Tempe		
22 Sat.	Upper San Leandro Res.		
27 Thurs.	Veterans Pk., Livermore		

A PACK RAT RUMMAGE SALE by Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum will be held Oct. 6-7 in the old Safeway store at Newell and South Main in Walnut Creek. Budget cuts as a result of Prop. 13 threaten the services of the museum to Bay Area people--particularly our youngsters involved in the youth programs, and the wildlife that benefit greatly from the Wildlife Rehabilitation programs. Donations for the sale may be dropped off at the store Mondays & Saturdays, 10-1 p.m., Thursdays, 1-4 p.m. For pickup call Nancy Shira, 676-5686. Everything is tax deductible. Any suggestions to help the sale (consignment sales, overstocked merchandise, split-commission on truckload items, etc.) call the coordinator. Please help all you can!!

The JUNIOR MUSEUM ASSOCIATION is conducting a membership campaign. Since you obviously share a concern for wildlife, will you join this exciting, vital work? Students, \$5; single, \$10; family, \$20, all tax deductible. Send check to Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum Assoc., Larkey Park, 1901 First Ave., Walnut Creek 94596.

CLASSES and EXCURSIONS:

Susanne Luther classes, birders all levels. Field Ornithology, Wed or Thurs, 9-noon, start Sept 19/20, prime Bay Area spots. Ornithology, Tues, 7-9:30 pm, start Sept 18, biology, field identification, weekend field trips. Info: Orinda Community Center, 254-2445 (Wed class); Piedmont Adult School, 653-9454 (Tues, Thurs classes).

Natural History of California Birds, emphasis on Contra Costa & Alameda Counties, Phil Gordon, Wed., 7:30-9:30 pm, Sept. 12-Dec. 12, Acalanes High School, rm. 403, \$20, register at 1st class. Info: Acalanes Adult School, 935-0170.

Monterey Bay Excursions, Sept. 22, Oct. 6, Nov. 11, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., depart Sam's, Fisherman's Wharf, \$16/person; spectacular seabird migration. Debi Love Milllichap, 935 Lighthouse Ave., #2, Pacific Grove, CA 93950; (408) 375-0767.

San Diego Pelagic Trips: San Clemente Is., Sept. 15, 5:30 am-7 pm, \$20/person; Cortez Banks, Sept 15, 11 pm-Sept 16, 8 pm, \$30/person. Great pelagic birds, marine mammals. Check to W.R. von Bergen, Jr., P O Box 81604, San Diego 92138; with name address, phone, plus self-addressed, stamped envelope. Info: (714) 448-5064.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome the following new members of MDAS and we hope to meet them at meetings and on field trips:

Alamo: Mrs. Barbara Johnston; Brentwood: Mrs. Sue M. & Robert Boesch; Concord: Beverly O. Barnes, Mrs. Robert Cahill, Jack C. Dumas, Gudrun Erickson, Mrs. Edward A. Grindle, Janice Pachelbel; Danville: Barbara G. Bialock, William H. Gust, James E. Spencer, Chan Wong; Diablo: Ron Reed; Lafayette: Mrs. Grace E. Castner, Dr. Edward A. Free, Catherine Kent, Mr. & Mrs. William R. LaForce, Andy Pilara, Michael Rosenblum, Dennis J. Salvo, Don Turner, Dorothy Turner; Martinez: Michael Cuddy, Liz Laben Cunningham, Mr. & Mrs. Eric Schaefer, Margaret H. Stewart; Pacheco: C. Partridge; Pittsburg: Charles Duffy, Jon A. Smee; Pleasant Hill: Mr. R. Bruce, Velda Lee Coffin, L. James, DVM; San Ramon: John Bartlett, Frank Mahoney, Shelley Reynolds; Walnut Creek: Helen D. Armstrong, Ellis E. Champlin, Mrs. J. B. Condliffe, Mr. & Mrs. Donald M. Frank, Janet Goodban, Karin Grillo, Mrs. Robert R. Grinstead, Dave Hanson, H. T. Jarrett, C. M. & H. P. Johnson, Diane Knight, Mrs. K. MacCosham, Dr. R. Marks, John H. & Violetta Moyle, Thelma A. Pokorny, Carolyn B. Read, Lisa Reynolds, Mrs. William Shreve, Mrs. Albert Vollmer.

* * * * *

CONSERVATION NOTES by J. P. Hauser.

In California one of the richest habitats is along the Tuolumne River. It is home to eagles, mountain lions, badgers, black bears, and one of the finest fishing and white water streams in the state. "That anyone would try to destroy such a place seems incredible; but sad experience shows that there are people good enough and bad enough for anything"...John Muir, commenting on the damming of Tuolumne River. The "bad people" in this case are the City of San Francisco, the Modesto Irrigation District, and the Turlock Irrigation District who want to build 3 new dams on the river and a tributary. Should they succeed, it will raise the total of dams in California to 1203. If you feel that wiping out miles of our scenic and endangered natural environment is unnecessary, send a note to Wild River Study Team, US Forest Service, 19777 Greenley Rd., Sonoma, CA 95370, to express your opposition/concern.

The U.S. Senate is putting off any vote on the Alaska legislation until after the August recess. This kind of delay could give rise to another defeat similar to the one last year when one senator from Alaska was able to stop years of legislative efforts. The House in May voted 268-157 to adopt the Udall-Anderson Bill that closely resembles HR-39 passed so readily last year in the House. The Senate version is now S-222. The development interests are spending millions to defeat it, \$2 million in tax money from Alaska alone.

In all anti-environmental arguments will now be heard constant references to energy crisis, energy independence, energy shortages, etc., all used to support the weakening of environmental restraints. Most such arguments are spurious. The bottom line to the entire energy controversy is Conservation. By even reasonably intelligent use of resources, we can continue our economic growth and enjoy a desirable environment for all.

Oil spills have occurred again, as expected, and getting bigger (Mediterranean, Gulf of Mexico). Perhaps widespread intelligent conservation may end such spills?

* * * * *

MONO LAKE is at the disaster stage! The April attempt to protect the nesting California Gulls on Negit Island with blasting (see the May issue) failed---the resulting channel is 8 feet wide but only 3 inches deep, giving predators access to gull nests and forcing the gulls to abandon their ancestral breeding ground. Write, phone or wire public servants and elected representatives that we must act NOW to halt the ongoing destruction of Mono Lake. Emphasize the urgent need, proven by this gull disaster, to an immediate moratorium on water diversions.

A LAW SUIT has been filed against the L.A. Dept. of Water & Power by the Mono Lake Committee, National Audubon Society, Friends of the Earth, and several Mono County property owners. NAS and the Mono Lake Committee are sharing responsibility for raising the necessary funds. Send tax-deductible checks, payable to Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society, to Mono Lake Committee, P.O.Box 2764, Oakland, CA 94602.

LATE FLASH! The Interagency Mono Lake Task Force, following hearings last spring, recommends stabilizing the lake at its 1970 level of 6388' (14' higher than present). HEARINGS on this report: Thurs., Sept. 20, 7:00 p.m., Lucy Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto. From Bayshore Fwy take Embarcadero Rd. west to Middlefield then right about a block. Attendance is important to the lake!

WALK-A-THON for Mono Lake: Sept. 3 near Lee Vining. Walkers will fill containers with water near the diversion dam, carry it 4 miles, dump it into Mono Lake. Meet 1 mile north of Lee Vining on US 395 between 9 & 10:30 a.m. for this walk.

* * * * *

Long-awaited, revised BIRDS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA is out, an up-to-date distributional analysis (areas of occurrence, seasonal abundance, arrival/departure dates, extensive field identification notes) enabling determination if sightings are unusual. This edition is easy to use as bar graphs and field notes are on facing pages. Available for \$5.83 from Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum in Larkey Park, Walnut Creek, at some book stores, or from Golden Gate Audubon Society, 2718 Telegraph Ave., #206, Berkeley 94705. Proceeds go to conservation activities of GGAS. I highly recommend this book and my copy will be at the meeting for inspection.

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

Pink-Footed Shearwater, Pescadero, San Mateo Co., Aug. 7--JR. Sooty Shearwater, 6, Bodega Head, July 22--BR; 2500+, Pescadero, Aug. 7--BF, JR, et al. MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD, 6+, around Bay Area, sporadically July 14-28--RBA. RED-TAILED TROPICBIRD, Farallon Islands, July 3--RBA, 1st Calif. record. Least Bitterns, Gray Lodge WMA, July-early Aug.--RBA. Wood Stork, 27, Ramar Lk, Imperial Co., June 11--BR.

European Wigeon, ♂, still at Charleston Slough, Santa Clara Co., at least thru July 31--m.ob. Redhead, ♂, Palo Alto Flood Control Basin, seen again July 31--JR, BF, et al. Harlequin Duck, 2, Año Nuevo St Res, San Mateo Co., July 4 thru period--m.ob. Black Scoter, ♀, Bodega Head, July 22--BR.

Lesser Yellowlegs, 2, Pescadero, Aug. 7--BP, BF, JR, et al; 1, Waterfront Rd. at I-680, Martinez, Aug. 7--BR. Wandering Tattler, 2, east end Dumbarton Bridge, July 31--SB, m.ob. Red Phalarope, Pescadero, Aug. 7--BP, BF, JR, et al. Northern Phalarope, Alameda South Shore, July 17--JR, et al.

Western Gull, Yellow-Legged race, 2, Salton Sea, June 12--BR. Common Tern, 4, BBTP, July 9--JR, MJG; 2, BBTP, Aug. 9--JM, JR, MJG, JK. Least Tern, 1, BBTP, July 9--JR, MJG; 3, west end Dumbarton Bridge, Aug. 7--JR. Elegant Tern, 2, BBTP, July 9--JR, MJG; 12, BBTP, July 17--JR, et al; 150+, BBTP, Aug. 9--JR, JK, MJG. BLACK TERN, BBTP, Aug. 4--JMo; Aug. 9--JR, MJG, JK, JM. Tufted Puffins, Arch Rock near Goat Rock, mouth of Russian River, Sonoma Co., late July-early Aug.--RBA.

Great Gray Owl, Crane Flat Meadow, Yosemite NP, June 16--BR. Black Swift, 2, Año Nuevo St Res, July 4--PW; 6+, Año Nuevo St Res, Aug. 7--BP, BF, JR, et al. Black-Backed 3-Toed Woodpecker, Siesta Lk, Yosemite NP, June 15--BR; Lukens Lk, Yosemite NP, July 3--WO. Purple Martin, 2♀, US 50 near Stockton Blvd., Sacramento, July 20--JR; 1♂, 2♀, Año Nuevo St Res, Aug. 7--JR, BF, et al; 30 imm., over Lafayette Ridge, July 22--LF. Cedar Waxwings, 30, over his Lafayette garden, July 1--LF.

Northern Parula, ♂, Muddy Hollow trailhead, Pt. Reyes, June 24--BR, JR. YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER, singing ♂, Nunes Ranch, Pt. Reyes, June 22-July 3--GH, m.ob. HOODED WARBLER, singing ♂, Muddy Hollow trailhead, June 23--JL; singing ♂, Stow Lk, Golden Gate Pk, June 27--m.ob. American Redstart, singing ♂, Land's End, S.F., June 26--AH, JR, et al.

Hooded Oriole, several, their Alamo garden thru period--R&JR; pair, her Walnut Creek garden thru period--WO. Blue Grosbeak, singing ♂, Rd. 124, 2 mi. south of I-5 NW of Sacramento, July 22--R&JR. INDIGO BUNTING, 2, Limantour Rd., Pt. Reyes, thru period--m.ob. Grasshopper Sparrow, 3 singing, Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes, June 19--JR, et al.

OBSERVERS: Steve Bailey, Lynn Farrar, Bud Fry, Alan Hopkins, Mary Jane Greene, George Hugenberg, Jackie Knisley, Jeri Langham, Joe Morlan (JM), Jim Morris (JMo), Winnie Orutt, Bill Pursell, Bob Richmond, Rich & Jean Richmond, Peter Willmann, many observers; Bay Bridge Toll Plaza, Bay Area Rare Bird Alert.

THE QUAIL, published monthly except a combined July-August issue, is sent without additional charge to National Audubon Society members in Mt. Diablo chapter. To join NAS: individual \$18 per year, family \$22, other categories available; check payable to National Audubon Society, to Treasurer, Bill Scheffel, address below. Subscription: \$3 per year, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, Bill Scheffel, 1894 1/2 5th St., Concord, CA 94520. Address change (send also to NAS): Mrs. Jackie Knisley, 4741 Olive Dr., Concord, CA 94521. Change of chapter affiliation is only upon specific request by member. First Class mailing in envelope rather than bulk mail: \$1.75 per year, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, address above.

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

IMPORTANT!!! Read the LATE FLASH, page 4, then attend the hearing Sept. 20.

GREATER BAY AREA SITE GUIDE: Lake Hennessey.

Access: From Benicia Bridge go north on I-780, east on I-80, west on SR 37, north on SR 29 thru Napa to Rutherford, then right about 3 miles on SR 128 to turnout on left at spillway. More scenic: north of Napa turn right on SR 121 about 2 miles then left on Silverado Trail and bird along the 13 miles to SR 128.

Spillway. From road check pond for Yellowthroat, Song Sparrow; large rocks below road & across pond for Rock Wren. Cross creek, walk up dirt road to top of spillway: Common Loon, Eared & Western Grebes, Canada Goose, ducks, gulls on & over the water; scope for Bald Eagles on power towers & treetops around lake (winter).

Picnic area (may be closed to vehicles). Walk along stream to foot of dam, return to car along road. Hawks, hummingbirds, woodpeckers, thrushes, vireos, warblers on hillsides, along creek, in trees along road; Canada Geese, hawks may be overhead.

Overlooks east of dam. Pull into turnouts, check lake for waterfowl, gulls.

Parking area on left about a mile east of dam. Great Blue Herons nest along shore across this arm of lake; waterfowl; Pygmy Owl in trees across road (private property, stay outside of fence); woodpeckers, kinglets, vireos, warblers, sparrows.

Junction with Chiles-Pope Valley Rd. Great Blue Herons across water, waterfowl including Ring-Necked Duck & Greater Scaup east of bridge, sparrows. Just north of junction is small parking area on left: woodpeckers, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Bewick's & Marsh Wren, warblers, towhees, sparrows.

Northeast end of lake is marshy. Waterfowl, Pygmy Owl on hillside across water, woodpeckers, White-Breasted Nuthatch, wrens, vireos, warblers, finches, sparrows. Return to Silverado Trail, turn right 3.3 miles, right on Howell Mountain Rd., right again on Conn Valley Rd. to parking area when reach lake.

Northwest arm of lake. Western Grebes dancing late winter, Green Heron, waterfowl, hawks, gulls, hummingbirds, woodpeckers, swallows, Rock Wren, vireos, warblers, several sparrows. Trail to right along west shore of lake. At road's end, a short distance along road, trail along east shore of lake.

Among other birds: waterbirds include Horned (sometimes) & Pied-Billed Grebe, Double-Crested Cormorant, ducks include both scaup, possibly Hooded & many Red-Breasted Mergansers, Tufted Duck has been seen; several hawks, Osprey, a few shorebirds, gulls mostly Calif. & Ring-Billed, hummingbirds, Kingfisher, several woodpeckers, Black Phoebe, several swallows, both jays, chickadee, titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Creeper, Wrenit in chaparral, Bewick's Wren, Varied & Hermit (winter) & Swainson's (summer) Thrush, Western Bluebird, both kinglets, 3 vireos, several warblers, Northern Oriole, Western Tanager, Black-Headed Grosbeak, goldfinches, both towhees, several sparrows including Rufous-Crowned & Lincoln's.

Best birding late fall thru spring; summer can be warm. Facilities minimal especially if picnic area closed. Latrines, many places around lake, may not be clean.

* * * * *

The handsome NEW LETTERING on our front page is thanks to Tom Lee who suggested a change then undertook the job of finding a replacement. I hope you are as pleased as I am with the new type which so beautifully matches the plume on the Quail.

* * * * *

The new SAN FRANCISCO BAY NWR opened to the public on August 17. The Interpretive Center, open Wednesday-Sunday, 10-5, has displays, auditorium, book sales, bird list. A one-mile loop trail from the Center leads to sloughs, salt marshes, salt ponds. Eventually there will be many hiking and bicycling trails, fishing piers, etc. Just east of the Dumbarton Bridge toll plaza turn south, pass the commuters parking area and continue on to the large Refuge parking lot beyond.

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MFF. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY
P. O. Box 53
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

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The QUAIL

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 53
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94596
(415) AUD-UBON

Pres.: Elizabeth Dickey
113 Hillcrest Dr.
Orinda, CA 94563
phone: 254-0486

October 1979
Vol. 26, No. 3
Next deadline: October 8



Meeting: Thurs., Oct. 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. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Field Trips: Trips open, members, non-members alike; bring lunch, binocs, field guide. Call trip leader or Sally Steller (837-9061) a few days before any long trip you plan to attend in case gasoline situation forced cancellation.

Sun., Oct. 7, 8:30 a.m., Rodeo Lagoon area; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Fwy 24, 7:30. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).

Wed., Oct. 10, 9:00 a.m., Alameda South Shore; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Fwy 24, 8:15. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey (254-0486).

Sat., Oct. 20, 9:00 a.m., 5-Brooks & Bolinas Lagoon; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. at Fwy 24, 7:15. Leaders: Helen & Jerry Gentile (228-6297).

Thurs., Oct. 25, 9:15 a.m., Sunol Regional Park; carpool: El Carro Blvd. at I-680, Danville, 8:30. Leader: Merv Ortez (283-3072).

Board Meeting: Thurs., Oct. 11, 7:30 p.m., home of Elizabeth Dickey, 113 Hillcrest Dr., Orinda; 254-0486. Board meetings are always open to members.

Checklist Meeting: Thurs., Oct. 18, 7:30-10:00 p.m., home of Sally Steller, 501 Fulton Way, Danville; 837-9061. Open to anyone interested.

BIRDINFORMATION: Owen Durden of The Odd Assortment Shop will present "Tuning in on the How of Binocs and Scopes." He will have various types for your review. The **PROGRAM** will be a narrated slide presentation by John Borneman, Audubon's Condor naturalist. He will explain the problems of the Condors and the upcoming captive breeding program to be undertaken by the Condor Recovery Team.

RODEO LAGOON has waterbirds, shorebirds; **BATTERY WALLACE** often has vagrants; **BUNKER HILL** has hawks, sometimes including Broad-winged, swifts, possibly vagrants. Just north of Golden Gate Bridge take Alexander Ave. exit, follow signs to Forts Baker & Cronkhite in Golden Gate NRA. Meet just west of the signal-lighted tunnel.

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 the foot of Broadway.

We bird the pond at **5-BROOKS** then seek land birds on a good trail. After lunch we go to **BOLINAS LAGOON** to take advantage of ebbing tide to look for rarities among water and shorebirds. 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 thru Fairfax to SR1, turn left about 5 miles then right to the 5-Brooks Trailhead parking lot.

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.

Add to the list of **OFFICERS** of MDAS (July-August issue) the name of the co-chairman for Birdinformation: Helen Gentile, 827 Robinson St., Martinez 94553; 228-6297.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

The GUALALA POINT weekend July 28-29 was clear, warm and beautiful. The 17 members saw 4 Ospreys at once and nesting Purple Martins among these 53 species:

Loon sp, Pied-Billed Grebe, Brown Pelican, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue & Green Heron, Com Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed Hawk, Osprey, Calif Quail, Black Oystercatcher, Killdeer, Black Turnstone, Whimbrel, Willet, Least Sandpiper, dowitcher sp, West Sandpiper, West & Heermann's Gull, Com Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, murrelet sp, Mourning Dove, Vaux's Swift, Allen's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Violet-Green, Tree, Rough-winged, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Purple Martin, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Com Raven, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Wrenit, Amer Robin, Starling, Purple & House Finch, Pine Siskin, Amer Goldfinch, Lark, White-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

On the SAN MATEO COUNTY COAST it was overcast and cool the morning of August 11 but clear and warmer in the afternoon, wind was gentle but quite gusty at times. The 9 members and guests saw 3000+ Sooty Shearwaters, 2 Harlequin Ducks, 5 Snowy Plovers, 3 Lesser Yellowlegs, Rhinoceros Auklet, 8 Black Swifts, and a Bank Swallow among the following 87 species seen or heard:

West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Sooty Shearwater, Brown Pelican, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, Harlequin Duck, White-Winged & Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, accipiter sp, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Amer Coot, Semipalmated & Snowy Plover, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Surfbird, Ruddy & Black Turnstone, Long-Billed Curlew, Whimbrel, Wandering Tattler, Willet, Greater & Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, dowitcher sp, West Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Black-Necked Stilt, Northern Phalarope, West, Calif, Ring-Billed, Bonaparte's & Heermann's Gull, Forster's & Caspian Tern, Com Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Marbled Murrelet, Rhinoceros Auklet, Rock & Mourning Dove, Black Swift, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Black Phoebe, Violet-Green, Bank, Rough-winged, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Steller's Jay, Com Raven, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Wrenit, Bewick's & Marsh Wren, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Orange-Crowned Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, West Meadowlark, Red-winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Purple & House Finch, Pine Siskin, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, White-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

Around BODEGA BAY on September 8 it was foggy early but by mid-morning it was clear and warm, the wind was light except very breezy on the Head. Seen by the 22 members were 22 Night Herons, American Bittern, Osprey at close range, 2 Virginia Rails, many shorebirds, among these 75 species heard or seen:

Red-Throated Loon, Eared & Pied-Billed Grebe, White & Brown Pelican, Double-Crested, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Amer Bittern, Pintail, White-Winged Scoter, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, Osprey, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Virginia Rail, Amer Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Ruddy & Black Turnstone, Long-Billed Curlew, Whimbrel, Wandering Tattler, Willet, Least Sandpiper, Short-Billed Dowitcher, West Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Northern Phalarope, Glaucous-winged, West, Calif, Ring-Billed & Heermann's Gull, Forster's Tern, Com Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Rock Dove, Anna's & selasphorus Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Black Phoebe, empidonax sp, Barn Swallow, Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Wrenit, Amer Robin, Swainson's Thrush, Starling, Orange-Crowned, Yellow & Yellow-Rumped Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, House Sparrow, Red-winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Black-Headed Grosbeak, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, Savannah, White-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

The weather at COYOTE HILLS PARK on September 12 was clear and warm, not as hot as expected. The 3 members were treated to many Snowy Egrets, a strange-plumaged Red-Tailed Hawk, and 3 female Pheasants perched in a tree, among these 51 species:

Pied-Billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Mallard, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Amer Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Sora, Com Gallinule, Amer Coot, Killdeer, peep sp, Amer Avocet, Black-Necked Stilt, Ring-Bill Gull, Caspian Tern, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black & Say's Phoebe, empidonax sp, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Scrub Jay, Bushtit, Bewick's & Marsh Wren, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Warbling Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Red-winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Amer Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Dark-Eyed Junco, Lincoln's & Song Sparrow.

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Remember the RUMMAGE SALE to be held by Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum Oct. 6-7 in the old Safeway store at Newell and South Main in Walnut Creek. (See Sept. issue)

The 1st Calif. Audubon BIRD-A-THON will be Nov. 24. Individuals obtain sponsors to donate for each species seen (commonly 5-25¢) and find as many species as possible on that date. Pledges are collected and sent to NAS West. Region Office to qualify for great prizes. Funds raised go toward Audubon efforts to save Mono Lake and to protect the Calif. Condor, the top priorities selected at a statewide meeting of Audubon chapters. See June/July Audubon Conservation Topics, West for details.

Sale of MONO LAKE T-SHIRTS will help defend the beleaguered lake and its wildlife. The emblem is a view of the lake emblazoned with "Mono Lake - It's Worth Saving." Colors: blue or beige. Men S, M, L, XL, \$6.50; women S, M, L, \$7.50; child S, M, L, \$5.50. CONDOR T-SHIRTS will benefit NAS' Calif. Condor Fund which sponsors on-going research in efforts to preserve the species. The t-shirt features a Condor in flight with "Nothing is quite so final as total extinction." Color: navy/white only. Sizes S, M, L, \$6.95. Either t-shirt add \$1.25 postage/handling (Calif. residents add 6% tax, 6 1/2 in BART counties). Check payable to National Audubon Society to NAS, Western Education Center, 375 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon, CA 94920.

A SOUTH SIERRA REGIONAL CONFERENCE will be held Oct. 6-7 at Kernville School in Kernville, 1 hour northeast of Bakersfield on Lake Isabella. Discussed will be issues affecting the diverse wild lands of the region and ways concerned people may become involved. Limited to 350 persons, pre-registration is appreciated. Send check (tax deductible \$3 donation) to Kern Plateau Assoc., to Bob Barnes, P.O.Box 749, Porterville, CA 93258; (209) 784-4477. Info will be mailed to pre-registrants.

As much as 40% of the original WETLANDS of the lower 48 states has been irreversibly altered or destroyed and losses continue at the rate of about 300,000 acres a year, according to an interagency report released by Council on Environmental Quality. Our Nation's Wetlands explains the value of wetlands, describes the problems they face and tells about steps being taken to protect them. Free copies from Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Printing and Management (PM-215), 401 M St. SW, Washington, D.C. 20460; enclose a self-addressed mailing label.

The first fall meeting of the Northern Section of COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY will be held Monday, October 8, at 8:00 p.m., Room 2503 Life Sciences Bldg., U.C. Berkeley. Dr. Michael Frye, U.C. Davis, will speak on "Assessing hormonal conditions of California Condors and other birds in the field." The meeting is open to anyone with strong interest in avian biology. It will be preceded by a business meeting for COS members at 7:30. Parking: free off-campus, \$2.00 on-campus.

Endangered CALIFORNIA LEAST TERNS nested on 2 man-made islands at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, Orange County. Paul Kelly, Dept. of Fish & Game specialist, says this is the first time to his knowledge that Least Terns immediately used such nest sites. The islands, created by DFG last year, were overgrown and unsuitable when terns were due to arrive in April. Students from Marina High School, Huntington Beach, came forward and in one day removed all surplus vegetation from the half-acre islands which were promptly used by the terns for courtship and nesting.

1980 CALIFORNIA BIRDER'S CALENDAR, published by Golden Gate Audubon, has beautiful black-and-white drawings by wildlife artist Pedro J. Gonzales. The 11"x14" calendar features notes by Stephen Bailey of rare birds seen in California 6 times or fewer plus suggestions for productive birding areas at various times of year and a bargraph of annual migratory distribution of birds. Available through GGAS office for \$4.80 (tax included), mail order for \$5.50; or from local Bay Area bookstores.

Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus refused to permit a RUNWAY EXTENSION at the airport within Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming, and told officials the permit to operate the airport probably will not be renewed when it expires in 1995. Approval had been sought to lengthen the main runway from 6305 feet to 8000 feet. (S.F. Chronicle)

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

Antioch: Mrs. Charles E. Fredericks; Berkeley: Verna Manty; Brentwood: Ed & Marilyn Simons; Concord: Candy Davis, Mrs. Marcelline Goins, J. D. Lawrence, Mrs. B. L. O'Hare, June C. Turnidge; Danville: Mrs. Virginia O'Neil, Jeannette Seiberlich, J. K. Wheeler; Lafayette: W. C. Fletcher, Ms. Suzy Gullett, Stella Shields, Inez M. Wright; Martinez: Ms. Lita J. Gloor, Miles & Susan Young; Pittsburg: Virginia Buhr, Mrs. Glenna Shaeffer, Lori L. Sieber; Pleasant Hill: Mr. Dale A. Powell, Mr. & Mrs. James D. Quigg, Jr.; Walnut Creek: Mrs. Bjarne Aanning, Cora C. Burnette, D. Cox, Beverly H. Elliott, Don E. Techel; Calabasas, CA: Natalie V. Richards.

To provide opportunity for MDAS members to BECOME MORE ACTIVELY INVOLVED in conservation matters, 2 new projects are being planned. First is a "phone tree" through which members get info on conservation/environmental issues with short lead time for action. Once operating, each participant receives from one member the information being distributed then phones it to several others in prearranged sequence, thus spreading news quickly with minimum effort for each. Second is activation of a Conservation Committee which will meet regularly, scope and involvement depending largely on wishes of participants. Anyone interested or wanting info on either or both projects, call Conservation Chairman Bruce Moorad at 938-4446.

CONSERVATION NOTES by J. P. Hauser.

A ban was imposed in 1976 on possession of game fish from Lake Ontario, reducing fishing by 70% and causing much economic hardship along its entire south shore.

The above condenses the lead paragraph of "How to Make Fish Safer to Eat" in the latest issue of The Conservationist, publication of New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation. After a detailed account of how biologists traced toxic substances since 1976 through the food chain to man, the conclusion was (verbatim):

HEALTH ADVISORY: To minimize potential adverse health impact, the N.Y.S. Dept. of Health recommends that: *You eat no more than one meal (1½ pound) per week of fish from any water in the state (emphasis is mine); *Pregnant women, nursing mothers, infants and young children should not eat fish with elevated levels of mirex, PCB, and/or mercury; *You eat no eels from the Hudson River, Lake Ontario and its tributaries to the first barrier impassable to fish, or the St. Lawrence River; *You eat no lake trout, chinook salmon, coho salmon over 21", rainbow trout over 25", brown trout over 18" between 7/1 and 2/28, or catfish, from Lake Ontario and its tributaries to the first barrier impassable to fish; *You eat no smallmouth bass over 12" taken from the St. Lawrence River or from Lake Ontario, east of Oswego Harbor, and no smallmouth bass taken from Lake Ontario west of Oswego Harbor.

AP wire release, July 1979: High levels of mercury were found in fish from 7 Calif. waterways in a 2-year state study. "I don't think I'd eat a lot of fish from the Yuba River," said spokeswoman Jill Dunlap for the Water Resources Control Board. The board examined fish in 27 streams and rivers and found various levels of arsenic, DDT, dieldrin, cadmium, copper and lead. Perhaps the companies responsible for the tragic polluting of our land should be closely regulated. But then again, keep in mind the golden rule: Those With the Gold Make the Rules.....

Some random statements to think about on these beautiful autumn days:
At 3% annual energy growth, world oil supplies will be exhausted in 50 years.
The cost of energy from a nuclear plant built today is more than 4 times the cost of heat from oil at OPEC prices.
The present tax code favors investments to increase energy supply rather than investments that would encourage energy conservation.
Conserving a unit of energy costs 10-50% of the cost of generating that same unit.
Insulating new homes reduces fuel consumption in a typical house by 1/3 or more.

Man-made TOXIC CHEMICALS are a significant source of death and disease in the U.S., according to a government report issued in August. The draft report now available for public review and comment, recommends legislation and a number of other federal actions to deal with these growing problems. Copies of the Toxic Substances Strategy Committee's draft report are available from Council on Environmental Quality, 722 Jackson Pl. NW, Washington, D.C. 20006; enclose a self-addressed mailing label.

A warm WELCOME HOME to Florence Bennett who recently moved back to Walnut Creek from Houston. We are delighted to have you back with us---we missed you very much!

Motorcycles, dune buggies and other OFF-ROAD VEHICLES are inherently destructive and are causing severe, sometimes irreversible damage to public lands---and provide recreation for 40 million people and are here to stay. We must face up to the magnitude of the problem and decide what to do about it. A thorough, dispassionate report, Off-Road Vehicles on Public Land, was issued by the Council on Environmental Quality after a 9-month study. Lack of enforcement of restrictions, due largely to lack of manpower, has allowed destruction of millions of acres of soil, increased erosion, loss of vegetation and wildlife and disrupted outdoor experience of other recreationists. Ways must be found to accommodate ORVs without sacrificing the integrity of the natural environment or the rights of others.

There are seven recommendations including a tax on off-road equipment and/or fees to use ORVs on public lands to provide funds to develop off-road areas and trails and to reclaim lands already damaged. Free copies from Council on Environmental Quality, 722 Jackson Pl. NW, Washington, D.C. 20006.

* * * * *

OBSERVATIONS: Aug. 11-Sept. 11. (Also see field trip reports.)

Red-Necked Grebe, Fish Docks & Drake's Beach, Pt. Reyes, Aug. 21--JR, BF, AF, et al. Bufflehead, ♀, Drake's Beach, Aug. 21--BF, JR. Black Scoter, 4 ♀, Fish Docks, Aug. 21--BF, JR, et al. Golden Eagle, imm., low over their Orinda Home, Sept. 3--H&NE.

Sora, 2, Rodeo Lagoon, Sept. 3--J&JE. Golden Plover, 4, RCA Station, Pt. Reyes, Sept. 9--A&WG. Solitary Sandpiper, Watsonville Sewage Plant, Santa Cruz Co., Sept. 9--RBA. Lesser Yellowlegs, Moss Landing, Monterey Co., Aug. 18--BR, R&JR. Semipalmated Sandpipers, Lake Earl, Del Norte Co., Arcata, Humboldt Co., Watsonville Sewage Plant, during period--RBA. Buff-Breasted Sandpiper, Salinas River mouth, Monterey Co., Sept. 1--AE; Arcata Marina, Aug. 31--RBA; Doran Park, Bodega Bay, Sept. 7 & 2 there Sept. 9-11--RBA. Ruff, Watsonville Sewage Plant, Sept. 9-11--RBA. Northern Phalarope, Mt. View Sanitary Dist., Aug. 16--DE.

Common Tern, Moss Landing, Aug. 18--BR, JR. ARCTIC TERN, Año Nuevo Pt., Aug. 19--KY, et al. BLACK TERN, BBTP, sporadic thru period--m.ob. Vaux's Swift, 3, Land's End, S.F., Sept. 11--JR. Black-Chinned Hummingbird, 3, Bethel Island, Aug. 13--HR. Bank Swallow, Bradford Island, 50, Aug. 11; 23, Aug. 13--BR; Mt. View Sanitary Dist., Aug. 16--DE. Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, up to 2, Land's End, Aug. 28 thru period--JR, BF, et al. WHITE WAGTAIL, Watsonville Sewage Plant, Aug. 15 thru period--CF, m.ob.

Black-and-White Warbler, 3, Land's End, Aug. 27--AH, BF. Tennessee Warbler, Land's End, Aug. 26--AH. Northern Parula, 2 ♂, Land's End, Sept. 1-9--BF, m.ob.; Tilden Park, Sept. 9--DE. Black-Throated Gray Warbler, up to 2, Land's End, Sept. 4-11--m.ob. Blackpoll Warbler, Land's End, Sept. 11--JR. Prairie Warbler, Fish Docks, Sept. 9--A&WG. American Redstart, 2, Land's End, Sept. 1-4--AH, m.ob. Also many Orange-Crowned, Yellow, Townsend's, Wilson's Warblers, Land's End, Aug. 26-Sept. 11.

ORCHARD ORIOLE, Watsonville Sewage Plant, Sept. 9--RBA. Hooded Orioles, 4, their Alamo garden, Aug. 25-31--R&JR. Western Tanager, 8-10, Land's End, Aug. 28 thru period--m.ob. SUMMER TANAGER, ♂, Land's End, Aug. 29-Sept. 9--AH, m.ob. Indigo Bunting, ♂, Middle Lake, Golden Gate Park, Aug. 21-23--JH, DL, m.ob.; ♀, Land's End, Aug. 26--AH. Red Crossbill, up to 12+, Land's End, Aug. 28-Sept. 11--JR, m.ob. Fox Sparrow, Land's End, Sept. 4 & 11 (early)--KY, BF, JR, et al.

OBSERVERS: Hugh & Norah Bain, Florence Bennett, Glen Coleman, Art Edwards, Dick Erickson, Jimm & Joan Edgar, Ann Follis, Carol Fredrikson, Bud Fry, Al & Wilma Ghiorso, Alan Hopkins, Mary Jane Greene, John Hall, Jackie Knisley, David Lawrence, Bob Richmond, Rich & Jean Richmond, Peter Willmann, Keiko Yamane, many observers, Bay Area Rare Bird Alert, Bay Bridge Toll Plaza.

* * * * *

THE QUAIL, published monthly except a combined July-August issue, is sent without additional charge to National Audubon Society members in Mt. Diablo chapter. To join NAS: individual \$20 per year, family \$25, other categories available; check payable to National Audubon Society, to Treasurer, Bill Scheffel, address below. Subscription: \$3 per year, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, Bill Scheffel, 1894½ 5th St., Concord, CA 94520. Address change (send also to NAS): Mrs. Jackie Knisley, 4741 Olive Dr., Concord, CA 94521. Change of chapter affiliation is only upon specific request by member. First Class mailing in envelope rather than bulk mail: \$1.75 per year, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, address above.

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: Limantour area (Pt. Reyes Nat'l Seashore).

Access: Cross San Rafael Bridge, north 0.6 mile on US 101, take San Rafael exit 2 blocks, left on 3rd St. out thru Fairfax to SR 1, right 1/4 mile, left on Bear Valley Rd. 1 1/4 miles, left on Limantour Rd. to parking lot at end. Indigo Bunting (summers 1976-79) 1/4-1/2 mile west of Bear Valley Rd., Red Crossbills may be found atop ridge.

Limantour Spit. Walk paved road west, pond on left: bittern, waterfowl, rails, Yellowthroat. Trail north on west side of Estero: grebes, herons, egrets, geese (included 3 Emperor, Dec. 1977-Apr. 1978), ducks, hawks, many shorebirds on mudflats, gulls, terns. Return along beach: many of same species plus loons, grebes including Red-Necked, Brant, possibly Black-Legged Kittiwake, alcids.

Muddy Hollow Trail goes north below parking lot. Slough & small pond on left: Pectoral Sandpiper & Ruff among shorebirds Sept. 1978. Along Estero check water for waterfowl, mudflats for many shorebirds (Semipalmated Sandpiper has been here). Continue east to Muddy Hollow Pond: grebes, cormorants, herons, waterfowl, hummingbirds, Kingfisher, swallows, Wrentit & Bewick's Wren (in chaparral), thrushes, warblers, sparrows. Trail eventually reaches Muddy Hollow (see below).

Another pond NE of parking lot. Go east to 1st road, go right until road turns to left, walk trail to pond: grebes, bittern, waterfowl, Marsh Wren, Yellowthroat.

Muddy Hollow. Return east 1 1/4 miles on Limantour Rd., left to Muddy Hollow parking lot. Purple Martin may be here, warblers. Trail west to Muddy Hollow Pond good in spots. Trail east goes thru a wet area with open canopy, birds such as Winter Wren, thrushes, warblers. Trail reaches small pond: waterfowl, swallows, sparrows.

5-Brooks, 5 miles south of Olema on SR 1, pond (picnic tables) & nearby trails: Pied-Billed Grebe, Great Blue & Green Heron, several ducks include Ring-Necked Duck & Hooded Merganser, swifts include Vaux's in migration, hummingbirds, woodpeckers include Pileated (Stewart Trail), flycatchers, swallows, Purple Martin possible, Western Bluebird, warblers included Northern Parula (nested summer 1977) & Northern Waterthrush (Feb.-Mar. 1979), finches, sparrows.

Birds: 3 loons, 5 grebes possible, 3 cormorants, herons, egrets, Amer. Bittern, many waterfowl (Tufted Duck on ponds & Estero recent winters), hawks, rails, Com. Gallinule, many shorebirds, gulls, terns, several alcids, Anna's, Rufous & Allen's Hummingbirds, Belted Kingfisher, some woodpeckers, a few flycatchers, swallows, Purple Martin sometimes, nuthatches, Wrentit, several wrens, Calif. Thrasher, thrushes, West. Bluebird, kinglets, shrike, vireos, warblers, meadowlark, blackbirds, Purple & House Finch, goldfinches, Red Crossbill (erratic), towhees, several sparrows.

Best birding fall thru spring; waterfowl in winter. Facilities minimal; good facilities, picnic area at Headquarters, Olema. Map (\$1), checklist (10¢) at HQ.

STARLING FOR DINNER? Starlings are nonprotected, nongame birds, can be taken any time, in any manner except poison and certain traps, in any number. See 1979 Hunting Regulation, Part I, for taking of nongame animals. Starlings feed on fruit and vegetables and are edible, some compare them to dove, quail, blackbirds. (July-August Outdoor California, Dept. Fish & Game) For their recipes (Starling Breasts on Peanut Dressing, Roast Starling, Casserole of Starling) contact your editor.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 1978 CRANE WORKSHOP held in Rockport, Texas, are available for \$5.00 per copy from National Audubon's Western Environmental Science Program, 620 Miller Ct., Lakewood, CO 80215. Included are papers on ecology of cranes, their distribution and status, and a special section on cranes along the Platte River.

MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY
P. O. Box 53
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

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The QUAIL

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY

P. O. BOX 53

WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94596

(415) AUD-UBON

Pres.: Elizabeth Dickey
113 Hillcrest Dr.
Orinda, CA 94563
phone: 254-0486

November 1979
Vol. 26, No. 4

Next deadline: November 10

Meeting: Thurs., Nov. 1. 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: Trips open, members, non-members alike; bring lunch, binocs, field guide. Rain on trip day? Call leader---trip might be postponed a week or two.

Sat., Nov. 3, 8:30 a.m., Palo Alto Baylands; carpool: El Cerro Blvd. at I-680, Danville, 7:15. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey (254-0486).

Wed., Nov. 14, 8:30 a.m., Mt. View Sanitary District & Waterfront Rd. If arrive late, group easy to find. Leader: Irene Hellekson (229-1837).

Sat., Nov. 17, 9:00 a.m., San Mateo County coast; carpool: I-680 at El Cerro Blvd., Danville, 7:15. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).

Thurs., Nov. 29, 9:00 a.m., Lake Merritt; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Fwy 24, 8:30. Leader: Winnie Orcutt (944-0593).

CHRISTMAS COUNT: Sat., Dec. 29; novice, expert alike. Compiler: John Davis, 21 Wanda Way, Martinez 94553; 228-9516. Contact John and mark your calendar now.

Audubon Film: Fri., Nov. 9, 8:00 p.m., Diablo Valley College Forum (in Library Bldg.), "Bermuda--Land and Sea" by Janet Jahoda. Adult, \$2; under 12, \$1. NO-HOST DINNER with the speaker, The Maglo Pan, Sun Valley Center, 6:00 p.m. Call Russ Jones (933-6889) by Nov. 1 if you plan to attend.

Board Meeting: Thurs., Nov. 8, 7:30 p.m., home of Bruce Moorad, 1445 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek; 938-4446. Board meetings are always open to members.

Checklist Meeting: Thurs., Nov. 15, 7:30-10:00 p.m., home of Sally Steller, 591 Fulton Way, Danville; 837-9061. Open to anyone interested.

BIRDINFORMATION will be "Obvious and subtle field marks of common local birds" by John Davis, long-time MDAS member. Hugh and Norah Bain and Kent Fickett, also of MDAS, will present a slide PROGRAM on Audubon Camp of the West in Wyoming: the camp, its scenery, flora and fauna, and how they change as summer progresses.

At PALO ALTO BAYLANDS are waterfowl, shorebirds and gulls, hopefully including European Wigeon, Blue-winged Teal, Thayer's Gull. Along Frontage Road we will look for Short-eared Owls. Cross Dumbarton Bridge to US 101, south to Embarcadero Rd., east to the Yacht Harbor and meet just past the duck pond on the left.

At MT. VIEW SANITARY DISTRICT we will see waterbirds, some landbirds. Take Pacheco Blvd. exit from I-680 in Martinez, go east on Arthur Rd. under the freeway a few blocks. At the sharp right turn to Acme Fill dump (WATCH OUT FOR TRUCKS) turn left to Mt. View Sanitary District. A sign will be posted for latecomers.

We go to SAN MATEO COUNTY COAST to see birds of sea, shore and marsh. Cross San Mateo Bridge, continue on SR 92 to Half Moon Bay, turn left on SR 1 about 15 miles to Pescadero Rd., turn right into the parking lot. Weather may be cold and windy.

LAKE MERRITT is excellent for studying grebes, waterfowl, gulls. Here in winter are Barrow's Goldeneyes, sometimes Hooded Merganser, Tufted Duck. Park in the lot between the boat dock and aviary. Meet by the aviary for a leisurely lakeside walk.

The AUDUBON FILM takes us to the warm Gulf Stream for a fascinating look at the land of Bermuda and the underwater world surrounding it. Beneath the sea, among strangely beautiful coral reefs, are found many aquatic wonders.

* * * * *

FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

The trip to OUTER PT. REYES on September 22 was made by 20 members with weather a little cold and mostly overcast, very foggy at the Lighthouse, but luckily no wind. Tallied were 6 Red-Necked Grebes, Black Scoter, 8-9 White-Tailed Kites, Peregrine Falcon, a Merlin harrassing a Kestrel, 2 Golden Plovers, BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER, 4 Barn Owls, 2 Lapland Longspurs in this record-setting (for MDAS) 114 species:

Com & Arctic Loon, Red-Necked, Eared, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Brown Pelican, Dbl-Crested, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Mallard, Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, ♀ Bufflehead, White-Winged, Surf & ♀ Black Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Sharp-Shinned, Cooper's, Red-Tailed, Red-Shouldered & Marsh Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Virginia Rail, Amer Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Golden & Black-Bellied Plover, Long-Billed Curlew, Whimbrel, Spotted Sandpiper, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Least & BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER, Short-Billed Dowitcher, West Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Northern Phalarope, Glaucous-Winged, West, Herring, Calif, Ring-Billed & Heermann's Gull, Com & Elegant Tern, Com Murre, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Rock & Mourning Dove, Barn & Great Horned Owl, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Acorn & Downy Woodpecker, Black & Say's Phoebe, Horned Lark, Tree, Rough-Winged & Barn Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Com Raven, Com Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Red-Breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Wrentit, Winter, Bewick's, Marsh & Rock Wren, Amer Robin, West Bluebird, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Yellow, Yellow-Rumped & Townsend's Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, House Sparrow, Red-winged, Tricolored & Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, Brown Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, "Oregon" Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox & Song Sparrow, Lapland Longspur.

The LAND'S END trip on September 27 (we did not go on to Golden Gate Park) was made by 23 members and guests on an overcast, cool day, somewhat windy along the water. Found were Wandering Tattler, Common Tern, 2 American Redstarts, SUMMER TANAGER and 25+ Red Crossbills among the following 62 species seen or heard:

West Grebe, Brown Pelican, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Killdeer, Ruddy & Black Turnstone, Wandering Tattler, Willet, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Glaucous-Winged, West & Heermann's Gull, Forster's, Com & Elegant Tern, Com Murre, Rock & Mourning Dove, swift sp, Anna's & selasphorus Hummingbird, Com Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, West Flycatcher, Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Red-Breasted & Pygmy Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Bewick's Wren, Amer Robin, Swainson's Thrush, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Hutton's & Warbling Vireo, Yellow, "Audubon's", Townsend's, Hermit & Wilson's Warbler, Amer Redstart, West Meadowlark, blackbird sp, SUMMER TANAGER, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, Red-Crossbill, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox & Song Sparrow.

The trip to the RODEO LAGOON area on October 7 was on a cold, windy day with a fog cover which shrouded the top of Bunker Hill. When the fog lifted a little we went to the ridge but visibility had dropped again and few birds were seen. The 13 members did find returning waterfowl, Gallinule, migrating Vaux's Swifts and a Black-Throated Gray Warbler among these 77 species seen or heard:

West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Brown Pelican, Dbl-Crested, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Mallard, Pintail, Amer Wigeon, Redhead, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, White-Winged & Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-Shinned, Cooper's, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Com Gallinule, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Willet, West Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, West, Ring-Billed & Heermann's Gull, Elegant Tern, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Rock & Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Vaux's Swift, hummingbird sp, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Black Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Scrub Jay, Com Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Red-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, Winter, Bewick's & Marsh Wren, Hermit Thrush, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, Orange-Crowned, "Audubon's" & Black-Throated Gray Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Purple & House Finch, Amer Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Savannah, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox & Song Sparrow.

* * * * *

Interested in a RARE BIRD HOTLINE? All that is required is willingness to phone a few others and desire to go looking for rare or unusual birds reported to or seen by a member of the alert. If you wish to participate, contact your editor.

* * * * *

We bid FAREWELL to Helene and Frank Beyer who have moved north to Washington. We will miss them greatly and wish them good birding around their new home.

* * * * *

Auduboners are invited to a RECEPTION honoring NAS President Russell Peterson on October 30, 5-7 p.m., at Western Region Office, 555 Audubon Place, Sacramento. Dr. Peterson will be touring California specifically to learn of Audubon programs and priorities here. This reception provides a good opportunity to meet our new president and to share your perceptions of local Audubon concerns.

* * * * *

To keep pace with inflation, NAS regretfully raised MEMBERSHIP DUES to \$20 for individual membership, \$25 for family, effective Oct. 1. None of the increase goes for new programs. NAS President Russ Peterson hopes current and potential members realize that work done by Audubon at local & national levels is so vital to our children's & grandchildren's well-being that they will go along with the decision.

* * * * *

SEARS ROEBUCK is aiding Least Terns in downtown Ft. Pierce, Florida. This is the 3rd year terns nested atop their store under the watchful eyes of Helen and Bill Dowling of St. Lucie Audubon. Lonely stretches of beach are getting harder to find but flattop buildings with tarpaper and gravel roofs are becoming more common. The Dowlings found a colony of 200 pairs settling in at Sears where the management was already pro-tern. Parent terns dive-bombed customers but the manager said, "Sorry, it can't be helped; we aren't going to bother those birds." Some chicks fall off the roof so Dowling edged it with 2x4's which keep most chicks aboard. For those that still manage to fall off, some of the store staff was shown how to return them safely. Part of the Sears roof slants, part is flat. Most terns prefer to nest on the slanted part (beachlike?). That instinct pays off as with heavy rain some flat area nests are drowned out but those on the slant have a far better survival rate.

* * * * *

PUBLICATIONS:

Give a CHRISTMAS GIFT of Audubon membership. You give beautiful Audubon magazine and also aid the conservation cause. Applications are in each issue of Audubon. Send the application with your check, payable to National Audubon Society, to our Treasurer, Bill Scheffel (address page 5) for forwarding to NAS.

BIRDING NEWS SURVEY, a quarterly magazine edited by Jon Rickert, is full of interesting articles for birders reprinted from excellent newsletters of Audubon chapters and other bird-oriented clubs. Included in the latest issue are items on the Ornithology Group of Houston, attracting birds, field techniques, equipment, photography, identification problems, site guides, publications, club ideas and selected ornithology events. With each new or renewal subscription before Dec. 31 you can also get the excellent A Guide to North American Bird Clubs (see The Quail, Oct., 1978) at half price. Send \$6.00 for subscription plus \$7.50 for the book to Avian Publications, Inc., P.O. Box 310, Elizabethtown, KY 42701. I highly recommend both.

Brand new is A BIRDER'S GUIDE TO NORTH DAKOTA by Kevin Zimmer, \$5.00. Also available are the James Lane revised editions: Southeastern Arizona, 1977, \$4.50; Rio Grande Valley of Texas, 1978, \$4.50; Texas Coast, available about Dec. 1, \$5.00; Southern California, 1979, \$4.50; Eastern Colorado, 1979, \$5.00; plus 60¢ for 1-2 books, 22¢ each additional 2. The appropriate book is almost indispensable for a successful birding trip to these areas. Order from L&P Press, Box 21604, Denver, CO 80221. Also from NAS, The Book Nest, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon 94920.

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CLASSES and EXCURSIONS:

PRBO: Special Bird Identification Workshop, Nov. 3-4, Rich Stallcup, \$30; Birds of San Blas, Mexico, Nov. 16-24 or Dec. 21-29, Arthur Earle & Bob Stewart, \$375. Info & registration; Bob Stewart, PRBO, 4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach, CA 94970.

Audubon Ecology Workshop Tours: Eagles, Alaska & Audubon, Nov. 8-13; Birds of Western Mexico, Mar. 13-25; California in the Spring, Apr. 15-29. Southeast Arizona, July; Hawaii, Oct.; China, spring & fall 1980. Detailed itineraries: National Audubon Society, Western Education Center, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon, CA 94920.

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

Brentwood: Mrs. Kenneth Dwelley; Danville: Mrs. R. B. Burroughs; Concord: Mrs. Janell Caruso, Albert R. Pappenhagen, Julia Rosenstein, Elizabeth A. Viehmann; Lafayette: Edwin F. Katibah, C. Matuk; Pleasant Hill: Ronald L. Gammon, Ruth E. King; San Ramon: Jennifer Tegfeldt; Walnut Creek: Beth Dahl, Ron Smith.

In July the MONO LAKE VISITOR CENTER, funded by National Audubon Society, was opened by the Mono Lake Committee in the town of Lee Vining on Hwy 395. Staffed by volunteers, the Center provides a valuable educational experience for thousands of tourists passing through the area. The MLC needs a tremendous amount of assistance in promoting the value of Mono Lake and the many important reasons for preserving this unique ecosystem. If you can help in this project by working at the Center, presenting or organizing programs or displays on the Lake, distributing literature, helping to raise funds, or in any other way, call the Committee at Lee Vining at (714) 647-6383 or write them at P.O.Box 2764, Oakland, CA 94602.

CONSERVATION NOTES by J. P. Hauser.

President Carter has abandoned conservation and conservationists for politics in his support of the status quo of energy consumption as evidenced in his "hard path" solution to a complicated and real energy problem. Over vehement objections of conservationists and local government representatives, the Senate has approved his Energy Mobilization Board and Energy Security Corporation. The powers granted to these groups rival many of the emergency powers of agencies during World War II, and involves investing huge sums of money in unproven and costly technologies to produce synthetic fuels at great environmental risks. There is an attitude of arrogance and indifference here that is frightening. If Carter should gain enough political strength from this move to help him be reelected, then the environmental cause in this land will be in deep trouble. I suggest you re-read PERSPECTIVE in Audubon magazine, September, 1979. It is an excellent analysis.

Starting 8:00 a.m. Thursday, October 9, the Senate began considering Alaska lands legislation by first taking up the very undesirable bill sponsored by development interests and Alaskan senators. The desirable bill, S-222, passed handily by the House last session, needs heavy support. In light of President Carter's about-face on conservation, he, plus administration lobbyists, plus industry lobbyists, will bring massive pressure to swing votes away from S-222 when it comes up for consideration. Senator Alan Cranston's address is Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. Mailgrams are \$2.95 each by phoning (800) 648-4100, and good for 100 words. Or should you want the latest info, call the Alaska Coalition hot line at (202) 547-5550 in Washington. Between 11:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. cost is 39 cents.

Small, comprehensive "GUIDE FOR CITIZEN ACTION" compiled by NAS's Washington, D.C. staff, discusses all aspects of how Congress works, how to write a letter to your representatives, how to organize, how to deal with the press and much more. Send check for \$1, payable to National Audubon Society, to National Audubon Society, National Capitol Office, 1511 K St., NW, Suite 926, Washington, D.C. 20005.

POLLUTION SOLUTION. Autos, especially poorly maintained ones, are major air polluters. A proposed state law would require annual inspection of emission controls and necessary repairs, primarily engine tune-ups or replacement of catalytic devices to meet emission standards. Vehicle Inspection/Maintenance (I/M) programs reduce pollution in many states, pay for themselves in improved gas mileage and longer engine life. Federal law requires I/M be authorized for heavily polluted areas or federal highway and sewer funds will be withheld. Info on I/M: Jessica Radolf, Sierra Club-Bay Chapter, 6014 College Ave., Oakland, CA 94618; 981-8634.

A national magazine wishes stories about CONSERVATIONIST high school seniors or juniors who through some Audubon Society project have "helped make democracy work" by directly or indirectly influencing a government decision bearing on the environment - perhaps documenting a pollution problem that led to local clean-up action, or helping campaign for a national wilderness area. Send information to Richard Beamish, National Audubon Society, 950 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022.

OBSERVATIONS, Sept. 12-Oct. 8. (Also see field trip reports.)

Observations need not be rare birds but may be of common birds in uncommon places, at uncommon times, or doing uncommon things. Rarities must be confirmed by one or more of our more competent birders, however. A phone call gets information to me quickly but please send pertinent info by postcard whether or not you also call.

HOT SPOTS were at Pt. Reyes starting Sept. 23. FD: Fish Docks; HR: Hall Ranch; LH: Lighthouse; MR: Mendoza Ranch; NR: Nunes Ranch. Many sightings involved too many observers to name but all are listed below. Many warblers were at so many spots during the period that the places are listed with only extreme dates given.

Black-Footed Albatross, Monterey Bay pelagic, Sept. 22--J&JE, LAAS. Flesh-Footed Shearwater, 3, Monterey Bay pelagic, Sept. 22--J&JE, LAAS. TUFTED DUCK, returned to Muddy Hollow pond, Limantour area, Pt. Reyes, Sept. 29--m.ob. BROAD-WINGED HAWK, up to 9/day, Bunker Hill, Marin Co., last week of Sept.--m.ob. Rough-Legged Hawk, Drake's Beach Rd., Pt. Reyes, Oct. 7-8--BR, et al. Ferruginous Hawk, 1-2, Drake's Beach Rd., Sept. 23-Oct. 8--m.ob.

Golden Plover, up to 3, RCA station, Pt. Reyes, thru period--m.ob.; NR, Oct. 8--BR, et al. Pectoral Sandpiper, 3, Bodega Bay, Sept. 16--m.ob.; 4, MR, Oct. 7--RS, et al. BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER, HR, Sept. 22-23--J&MP, m.ob. RUFF, Watsonville sewer plant, thru Sept. 17--m.ob.; Zmudowski State Beach, Monterey Co., Sept. 25-30--m.ob. Parasitic Jaeger, Bodega Bay, Sept. 16-18--m.ob. Ancient Murrelets, Agate Beach, Marin Co., early Oct.--RS, m.ob. Burrowing Owl, MP 35.82 near Abandoned Ranch, Pt. Reyes, Oct. 1-8--BR, et al. Black Swift, Bodega Bay, Sept. 17--BR, RH. Vaux's Swift, Bodega Bay, Sept. 17--BR, RH; Land's End, S.F., Oct. 4--KF, EH. Williamson's Sapsucker, ♀, MP 16.66, Mines Rd., Oct. 7--AE. LEAST FLYCATCHER, LH, Sept. 27--JM, et al; FD, Oct. 6-7--RS, m.ob. GRAY CATBIRD, FD, Oct. 5-6--m.ob. WHITE WAGTAIL, Watsonville sewer plant, thru Sept. 22--m.ob.

Black-and-White Warbler, LH, Sept. 19--m.ob.; Land's End, S.F., Sept. 22--m.ob.; FD, Oct. 6-8--m.ob. Tennessee Warbler, FD, MR, NR, Sept. 25-Oct. 1--m.ob. Nashville Warbler, NR, Oct. 6-8--m.ob. NORTHERN PARULA, FD, Sept. 23-30--m.ob.; Land's End, Sept. 30--EH, SH. MAGNOLIA WARBLER, FD, LH, Sept. 27-Oct. 8--m.ob. CAPE MAY WARBLER, FD, LH, NR, Sept. 27-Oct. 1--m.ob. Black-Throated Blue Warbler, LH, MR, NR, Sept. 27-Oct. 7--m.ob. Blackburnian Warbler, FD, MR, NR, Sept. 30-Oct. 8--m.ob. Chestnut-Sided Warbler FD, Sept. 30--JIE, m.ob.; NR, Oct. 8--BR. BAY-BREASTED WARBLER, FD, Oct. 1--BR, JR. Blackpoll Warbler, FD, LH, MR, NR, Sept. 18-Oct. 7--m.ob.; Land's End, Sept. 30--EH, SH. PRAIRIE WARBLER, FD, LH, MR, NR, Sept. 18-Oct. 8--m.ob. Palm Warbler, FD, LH, MR, NR, Sept. 23-Oct. 8--m.ob.; Land's End, Sept. 29-Oct. 6--m.ob. Ovenbird, FD, LH, NR, Sept. 23-Oct. 2--m.ob. MaoGillivray's Warbler, LH, Sept. 23-25--m.ob.; FD, Oct. 6--RS. MOURNING WARBLER, FD, Sept. 27-Oct. 1--RS, m.ob. HOODED WARBLER, returned to Muir Woods, Marin Co., Sept. 24, where it wintered last year. American Redstart, Land's End, Sept. 18-29--m.ob.; FD, LH, MR, NR, Sept. 19-Oct. 8--m.ob.

BOBOLINK, LH, Sept. 27--RS. SUMMER TANAGER, ♂, still at Land's End thru period--m.ob. Red Crossbill, Land's End, at least 25, thru period--m.ob. LARK BUNTING, LH, Oct. 6--RS. Sage Sparrow, LH, Sept. 27-30--RS, et al. Brewer's Sparrow, NR, Oct. 6-8--JM, m.ob. White-Throated Sparrow, imm, her Alamo garden, Oct. 3--JR. Lapland Longspur, 1-2, HR, Sept. 21-Oct. 8--m.ob.

OBSERVERS: Florence Bennett, Jimm & Joan Edgar, Art Edwards, Dick Erickson, Kent Fickett, Bud Fry, Helen & Jerry Gentile, Mary Jane Greene, Ed Hase, Shari Hase, Alan Hopkins, Ralph Hudgins, Jackie Knisley, Linda LaPointe, Jeri Langham, Joe Moran, John Parmeter, Mike Parmeter, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Rich Stallcup, Los Angeles Audubon Society, many observers, Northern California Rare Bird Alert.

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THE QUAIL, published monthly except a combined July-August issue, is sent without additional charge to National Audubon Society members in Mt. Diablo chapter. To join NAS: individual \$20 per year, family \$25, other categories available; check payable to National Audubon Society, to Treasurer, Bill Scheffel, address below. Address change (send also to NAS): Mrs. Jackie Knisley, 4741 Olive Dr., Concord, CA 94521. Change of chapter affiliation is only upon specific request by member. Subscription: \$3 per year, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, Bill Scheffel, 1894½ 5th St., Concord, CA 94520. First class mailing in envelope rather than bulk mail: \$1.75 per year, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, address above.

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: Lake Merced.

Access: Cross Bay Bridge, continue west to US 101, go south via US 101 then I-280 past Geneva Ave., take next exit (S.F. State Univ.) about a block, turn right on Sagamore St., right on Brotherhood Way to Lake Merced Blvd.

South Lake. Turn left on Lake Merced Blvd. to small parking lot on right. Water-bird concentration on lake heaviest in this area; Tropical Kingbird here winters of 1976 & 1977; grebes, several ducks including Ring-Necked & both scaup, gallinule, many gulls, swallows, Marsh Wren, Yellowthroat. Check lake & shore from concrete Fishing bridge. Walk loop around lake between bridge and south end of lake.

Boathouse area. Drive around south end of lake then north on John Muir Dr., continue north on Skyline Blvd. to Harding Rd., turn right toward golf course, park near boathouse. European Wigeon may be on grass or water nearby (winter). Check shore for herons; waterfowl, gulls on water, swallows overhead. Walk path, between South Lake and road, back toward Skyline to small pumphouse. Trees here often have eastern vagrants in migration. Also check trees, shoreline beyond boathouse.

North Lake. Return to Skyline, right to Lake Merced Blvd., right to large parking lot at Sunset Blvd. Trees, shrubs to west harbor migrants plus quail, hummingbirds, woodpeckers, thrushes, vireos (Yellow-Green, Oct. 1978), warblers, Purple Finch, sparrows; swallows over water. Take paved path to small wooden footbridge, look for herons, bittern, rails, gallinule, Marsh Wren, Yellowthroat. Up hill across bridge is Harding Park club house. Either section of North Lake may be circled on foot.

Lakeside marshes: Night Heron, bittern, Yellowthroat; waterbirds near reeds.

From nearby Ocean Beach have been seen Sooty Shearwater, Brown Pelican, cormorants, sooters (including Black), Common Murre, Bank Swallow.

Birds include loons, grebes sometimes including Red-Necked, Great Blue & Green Heron, egrets may include Cattle, Black-Crowned Night Heron, American Bittern, several ducks (mostly divers), Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Gallinule, Red Phalarope (May 1976), many gulls (included Franklin's Nov., 1977), Band-Tailed Pigeon, Belted Kingfisher, Common Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Western Flycatcher & Pewee (summer), swallows include Bank which nest at nearby Ocean Beach (summer), Marsh Wren, Brown Thrasher (Mar. 1976), thrushes, kinglets, shrike, several warblers have included Black-&-White, Tennessee, Northern Parula, Blackburnian, Chestnut-Sided, Blackpoll, Northern Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Purple & House Finch, Red Crossbills sometimes in Monterey Pines, several sparrows.

Picnic area: east end of fishing bridge; restrooms: boathouse, golf course. Scope valuable for seeing birds out on lake. Best birding: fall thru spring; waterbirds in winter. Map of San Francisco showing details of Lake Merced is helpful.

Watch for NECK-COLLARED SNOW GEESE this winter. Russian, Canadian and U.S. scientists are cooperating in a banding and resighting study of the declining population which summers on Wrangel Island, Russia, and winters along the Pacific Coast. Pilchuck Audubon Society is coordinating the Audubon efforts, distributing brochures, and will send resighters banding and resighting information on birds they report. Anyone interested in project materials and/or more info, contact Pilchuck Audubon, Martha Jordan, 527 - 212th St., SW, Bothell, WA 98011; (206) 775-0137.

MDAS tape, AUD-UBON, including upcoming meetings and trips, is changed regularly. Northern California Rare Bird Alert, 843-2211, is changed weekly.

MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY
P. O. Box 53
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

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The QUAIL

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 53
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94596
(415) AUD-UBON

Pres.: Elizabeth Dickey
113 Hillcrest Dr.
Orinda, CA 94563
phone: 254-0486

December 1979
Vol. 26, No. 5
Next deadline: December 6

Meeting: Thurs., Dec. 6. 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: Trips open, members, non-members alike; bring lunch, binocs, field guide. Rain on trip day? Call leader---trip might be cancelled.
Sun., Dec. 9, 9:00 a.m., Niles Canyon gravel pits; carpool: El Cerrito Blvd. at I-680, Danville, 8:00. Leader: Jimm Edgar (283-3510).
Wed., Dec. 12, 8:30 a.m., Lafayette Reservoir. Leaders: Irene and Erling Hellekson (229-1837).

CHRISTMAS COUNT: Sat., Dec. 29. Compiler: John Davis, 21 Wanda Way, Martinez 94553; phone: 228-9516. We welcome participants from brand-new birder to expert.

Board Meeting: Thurs., Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m., home of Merv and Norma Ortez, 1010 Walnut Dr., Lafayette; 283-3072. Board meetings are always open to all members.

Conservation Mtg: Thurs., Dec. 20, 7:30 p.m., home of Bruce Moorad, 1445 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek; 938-4446. Open to all interested in conservation matters.

BIRDINFORMATION, discussion by John Davis on the urgency of accuracy in reporting rare and unusual birds during the Christmas Count period, is vital for those participating in the CBC and of interest to those wishing to learn about details of a CBC. The PROGRAM presented by Richard Martyr, NAS Western Region representative, will be a discussion of Audubon affairs in the west followed by the film, "Rare and Endangered Species."

New, for us, NILES CANYON GRAVEL PITS has varied habitats, many birds including waterbirds, Green Heron, Spotted Sandpiper, landbirds. Take I-680 south 9 miles past Dublin, right 7 miles on SR 84, right into Vallejo Mill Historic Park. After the trip you might browse nearby antique shops or walk a bit of Alameda Creek Trail.

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

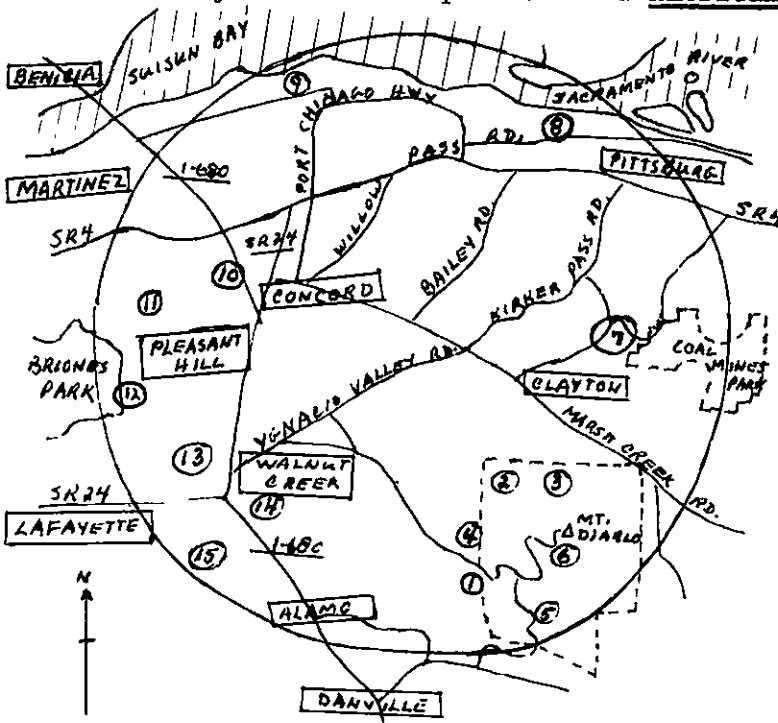
Our CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, scheduled for Saturday, December 29, rain or shine, will be compiled by John Davis. The object is to find as many birds as possible within our 15-mile diameter circle centered at the intersection of Cowell and Ygnacio Valley Roads. We average about 120 species but with good coverage and weather conditions should reach 140. Last year 56 observers found 130 species, 67,300 birds.

We welcome inexperienced birders to assist the more expert. We need counters at feeders and gardens within our circle. Contact John for information and instructions. If you have a special species staked out, let John 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. 26-Jan. 1, if you should see within our CBC area a species uncommon or rare for this area, contact John 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/Summerville area
8. North county marshes--east
9. North county marshes--west
10. Diablo Valley College area
11. Central county area
12. Briones Hills
13. Reliez Valley
14. Walnut Creek
15. Rossmoor/Tice Valley

Contact the team leader of the area in which you would like to work. Also call John Davis so he will know the composition of the teams and can assign extra people if needed.

21 Wanda Way, Martinez 94553
228-9516

Area 1: Merv Ortez, 283-3072; Area 2: Winnie Orutt, 944-0593; Area 3: Marty Morrow, 832-7141; Area 4 & Area 6: Joe Broyles, 837-1279; Area 5: Seaver Ballard, 376-3481; Area 7: Bob Doyle, 685-4007; Area 8: Kent Fickett, 798-7421; Area 9: Jean Richmond, 837-2843; Area 10 & Area 11: Jimm Edgar, 283-3510; Area 12: Bill Scheffel, 682-6159; Area 13: George Monheit, 284-4261; Area 14 & Area 15: please call John Davis if you can lead either area. Also call John if you wish to work with either group.

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

THE LIST:

Common Loon
Red-Throated Loon
Cattle Egret
Black-Crowned Night Heron
Snow Goose
Blue-winged Teal
European Wigeon
Wood Duck
Red-Shouldered Hawk
Rough-Legged Hawk
Ferruginous Hawk
Bald Eagle
Osprey
Prairie Falcon
Peregrine Falcon
Sandhill Crane

Virginia Rail
Sora
Semipamated Plover
Spotted Sandpiper
Lesser Yellowlegs
Black-Necked Stilt
Glaucous Gull
Western Gull
Thayer's Gull
Burrowing Owl
Long-Eared Owl
Poor-Will
Common Flicker
(Yellow-Shafted race)
Lewis' Woodpecker

Common Raven
Red-Breasted Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
Winter Wren
Townsend's Solitaire
Orange-Crowned Warbler
Black-Throated Gray Warbler
Townsend's Warbler
Tricolored Blackbird
Brown-Headed Cowbird
Lawrence's Goldfinch
Sage Sparrow
Dark-Eyed Junco
(Slate-Colored race)
White-Throated Sparrow

Join the fun at the post-count POTLUCK and COUNTDOWN whether or not you take part in the count. There are stories about the day's events plus the preliminary report of how well the count has gone. Come cheer "goodies" found, groan at "sure things" missed. Dinner is at 6:30 at the Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek. You need not change after working the count as birding clothes are very acceptable. Bring utensils, dishes, serving spoon and food for AT LEAST 4-5 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 sign up for food assignments will be at the December meeting or contact Winnie Young, (707)-745-4134, or Winnie Orcutt, 944-0593, preferably before December 15, to advise what you would like to bring and how many in your family are coming.

We need VOLUNTEERS, hopefully those not working the count, to help set up chairs and tables about 5:30. Call Winnie Young or Winnie Orcutt, phone numbers above.

OTHER CBC DATES: Dec. 15: Ano Nuevo (Sequoia), Pt. Reyes; Dec. 16: Oakland (Golden Gate), Santa Rosa (RROS), San Jose (Santa Clara Valley), Putah Creek (Davis); Dec. 19: Mt. Hamilton, Auburn; Dec. 22: Woodfords; Dec. 27: Monterey; Dec. 29 (our date): Hayward-Fremont (Ohlone), Southern Marin; Dec. 30: Benicia (Napa-Solano), Western Sonoma (Madrone), Crystal Springs (Sequoia), Folsom; Jan. 1: Moss Landing (Santa Cruz Bird Club), Angwin.

For compilers of these counts and their phone numbers, contact your editor. You may work as many bird counts as you wish

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CONSERVATION COMMITTEE. All members interested in conservation are encouraged to attend a meeting of the MDAS Conservation Committee on December 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Bruce Moorad, 1445 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek. Further information will be available at the regular December membership meeting or by calling Bruce at 938-4446. Future meetings will be held on the fourth Thursday each month.

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FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

Six members made the trip to ALAMEDA SOUTH SHORE on October 10 on a sunny day with only gentle breezes. Few ducks had yet arrived but many shorebirds were studied, a Clapper Rail and 2 Common Terns were found among the following 49 species:

Pied-Billed Grebe, Brown Pelican, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Canada Goose, Mallard, Pintail, Amer Wigeon, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Amer Kestrel, Clapper Rail, Amer Coot, Semipalmated & Snowy Plover, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Long-Billed Curlew, Whimbrel, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, dowitcher sp, West Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Amer Avocet, Black-Necked Stilt, West & Ring-Billed Gull, Forster's & Common Tern, Anna's Hummingbird, Com Flicker, Scrub Jay, Bushtit, Red-Breasted Nuthatch, Starling, Yellow-Rumped Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Brown Towhee, white-Crowned & Golden-Crowned Sparrow.

The trip to 5-BROOKS and BOLINAS LAGOON on October 20 was made by 11 members with cool, variable weather, clear at times, sprinkles in the morning, light rain turned to a heavy shower in the afternoon then sparkling skies again. Wind was gentle except at Agate Beach where it was blowing hard and the sea was very heavy. Seen were Green Heron, Pileated Woodpecker at 5-Brooks, Palm Warbler at close range at Bolinas Lagoon, Virginia Rail heard at both areas. Talled were these 92 species:

Com Loon, Eared, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Brown Pelican, Double-Crested & Brandt's Cormorant, Great Blue & Green Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Mallard, Pintail, Green-Winged Teal, Amer wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Surf Scoter, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-Shinned, Red-Tailed & Red-Shouldered Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Virginia Rail, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Black Turnstone, Long-Billed Curlew, Whimbrel, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Least & West Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sand-erling, Amer Avocet, Northern Phalarope, Glaucous-winged, West, Ring-Billed & Heermann's Gull, Forster's Tern, Com Murre, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Rook & Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Pileated & Acorn Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Com Raven, Com Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Red-Breasted & Fygmny Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Wrentit, Winter, Bewick's & Marsh Wren, Amer Robin, Varied & Hermit Thrush, West Bluebird, Golden-Crowned & Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, "Myrtle", "Audubon's", Townsend's & PALM WARBLER, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-winged, Tricolored & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Amer Goldfinch, Red-Crossbill, Brown Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Dark-Eyed Junco, white-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox & Song Sparrow.

The trips to SUNOL REGIONAL PARK on Oct. 25 and PALO ALTO BAYLANDS on Nov. 3 were cancelled due to too much rain. Our many activities prevent rescheduling.

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Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum is sponsoring a 1-day CANOE TRIP to Little Frank's Tract in the Delta on December 15. Led by Phil Gordon, this will be a birder's delight. Fee: \$10. Further information from the Museum at 935-1983.

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

Concord: Lori Benadum, Ronald Cabral, Mrs. John L. Dana, M. Donia, Karen D. Moura; Lafayette: Alice M. Johnson, R. C. Kelley, Kris Stiles; Los Altos: V. K. Mitchell; Martinez: Wana L. Agresta, Gary Brown, Ronald L. Dawson, Gary J. Jackson; Pleasant Hill: Dr. Robert J. Luepke, Alice Price; San Francisco: David A. Dodson; Walnut Creek: Franz Fehrer, Sandy Goss, Gerald Mackey, Frank Michels, Russell Miller, Jr., Jane W. Moore, Harold & Judith Newman, Marsha A. Townsend, Mrs. Vesta Vetter.

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1200 of MONO LAKE'S YOUNG CALIFORNIA GULLS were color-banded this summer with a metal F&WS band and either a red or light green plastic band. With the current debate on the lake's future it is important to gather as much data as possible on the gulls' biology at all seasons. Search the California Gulls you see for banded ones and note the color and location of the bands on the gulls' legs. Send any observations to David Winkler, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, U.C., Berkeley, CA 94720 or Bird Banding Laboratory, Office of Migratory Bird Management, Laurel, MD 20811.

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Available at our meetings: BIRDS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, \$5.33 (see Sept. Quail) and 1980 CALIFORNIA BIRDERS' CALENDAR, \$4.80 (see Oct. Quail), prices include tax. Both MDAS and Golden Gate Audubon will benefit from our sales. These make great gifts.

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FUNGUS FAIR, Dec. 9 from 10-5, Ft. Mason, Bldg. 312, provides an opportunity to see and learn about mushrooms of this area: displays by habitat, species, how to cook; special display of those to be avoided. Sponsored by San Francisco Mycological Society, admission is \$1.50 adult, 50¢ child. (The Sequoia, Sequoia Audubon Society)

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NAS symposium, BIRDS OF MEXICO, Their Ecology & Conservation, Morrison Auditorium, Calif. Academy of Sciences, S.F., Sat., Feb. 23. Admission only by advance registration: self-addressed, stamped envelope, \$4.50 check payable to Natl Audubon Soc., to BIRDS, Western Education Center, NAS, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon, CA 94920.

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CONSERVATION NOTES by J. P. Hauser.

A few excerpts from a review of "Energy Future; Report of the Energy Project at the Harvard Business School": Not sacrifice but sufficiency, not no-growth but sustained growth will be the rule if the move is made soon enough and vigorously enough toward these two sources: The millions of decisions by which people decide whether or not to conserve energy or squander it. The other prime source is gloriously and symbolically visible--the sun. The Harvard report estimates that a realistic program of government subsidies and incentives could bring savings of the equivalent of 8 million barrels of oil a day by the late 1980's. Total U.S. oil production is about 10 million and not expected to get much higher. Conservation and solar have been advocated by many. Here they are backed for sound business reasons from a business school source. For example, in the year 2010, the U.S. could use almost 20% less energy than today and provide the same standard of living along with economic growth as by using twice as much as today. The choice is clear.

In the event an anti-environmentalist refutes your desire to see more park/national forest lands established by claiming that such policies "lock up" the land, ask him how many of the following are not allowed on land administered by the National Park Service and Forest Service: water skiing, commercial logging, hard rock mining, horseback riding, grazing, snow skiing, fishing, car camping, hiking, backpacking, sailing, jeeping, motor biking, prospecting, vacation homes, duck shooting, canoeing, cutting firewood, big game hunting, hiking with your dog, swimming, surfing, birdwatching, snorkeling, rafting, photography, mountaineering, motorboating, snowshoeing. The answer is that all are allowed.

And if that same antagonist claims that there is enough land already in parks, remind him that the National Park Service administers less than 1.4% of the total land area of the U.S.

And next time you are asked to help in efforts to stop the building of a dam, keep in mind that the Bureau of Reclamation and the Army Corps of Engineers together have drowned over 16,000,000 acres of land, larger than the state of West Virginia. The Bureau of Reclamation alone has been responsible for impounding enough water to flood all of New England to a depth of more than three feet.

Happy, happy, happy, happy Happy Holidays!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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OBSERVATIONS: Oct. 9-Nov. 10. (Also see field trip reports.)

FD=Fish Docks; HR=Hall Ranch; MR=Mendoza Ranch; NR=Nunes Ranch; SR=Spaletta Ranch.
Fulmars, Pt. Pinos, Monterey Co., Oct. 28--m.ob. Bodega Head, Nov. 10--LB, JP, MP.
Brown Pelican, Southamptn Bay, Solano Co., Nov. 4--RH. GREAT FRIGATEBIRD, Monterey Bay pelagic trip, Oct. 13--RS, m.ob. If accepted, 1st No. Amer. record. Cattle Egret, 2, HR, Nov. 4-10--m.ob. Flamingo, 2 (escapes), Coyote Hills, Nov. 6--JD, et al. Black Brant, Bodega Bay, Oct. 29-30--H&JG, BF, JR. TUFTED DUCK, Muddy Hollow pond & Limantour Estero, Pt. Reyes, thru period--m.ob. Oldsquaw, ♂, Bodega Bay, Nov. 10--LB, JP, MP. Harlequin Duck, ♂, Moss Landing, thru period--m.ob. Rough-Legged Hawk, SR, Nov. 4--BR. Ferruginous Hawk, 1-3, FD, HR, MR, NR, SR, RCA Station (all Pt. Reyes), thru period--m.ob.

Golden Plover, 1-3, RCA, thru Oct. 24--m.ob.; SR, mid-Oct.-Nov. 10--m.ob.; 3, FD turnoff, Nov. 4--BR. Lesser Yellowlegs, Moss Landing, Oct. 27--m.ob. Red Knot, Pt. Isabel, Nov. 4--BR. SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER, Moss Landing, Oct. 27--RS, m.ob. RED PHALAROPE, huge invasion all along coast & in Bay, late Oct.-Nov. 10--m.ob. FRANK-LIN'S GULL, imm, Bodega Bay, Nov. 3--JM, et al. Black-Legged Kittiwake, Bodega Bay, Nov. 10--LB, JP, MP. Marbled Murrelet, Bodega Head, Nov. 3--JM, et al. ANCIENNE MURRELETS, Pigeon Pt. & Bodega Head, Oct. 30--m.ob.; 4-5, Bodega Head, Nov. 10--LB, JP, MP. Cassin's Auklets, Bodega Head, Nov. 3--JM, et al; 2 there Nov. 10--LB, JP, MP.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE, Salmon Creek, Sonoma Co., Nov. 4-5--BMcC, et al. POOR-WILL, Lincoln Park, S.F., Nov. 8--AH, et al. Tropical Kingbird, FD turnoff, Oct. 13-15--JW, JE, m.ob.; Lincoln Park, Oct. 17--AH. ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER, Bodega Bay, Nov. 10--AE, PW, et al. EASTERN PHOEBE, Salmon Creek, Nov. 4--BMcC. COMMON SKYLARK, returned to HR, Oct. 25-Nov. 10--JL, m.ob. SAGE THRASHER, FD turnoff, Oct. 13--JW, JE, m.ob.; west end Golden Gate Park, Nov. 7-10--DE, m.ob. Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, FD turnoff, Oct. 9-13--m.ob. Philadelphia Vireo, Carmel River, Oct. 26--m.ob.

Black-and-White Warbler, FD, MR, Oct. 9-20--m.ob.; Muddy Hollow, Oct. 13-31--JuE, et al; 2, Carmel Riv., Oct. 25-Nov. 1--m.ob. Tennessee Warbler, FD, MR, NR, Oct. 13-20--m.ob.; Carmel Riv, Oct. 27-28--m.ob. Nashville Warbler, FD, Oct. 9--m.ob.; Salmon Creek, Nov. 5--JR, BR, BF, et al; Bodega Bay, Nov. 10--LB, JP, MP. VIRGINIA'S WARBLER, Carmel Riv, Oct. 24-26--DR, m.ob. MAGNOLIA WARBLER, FD, Oct. 9--m.ob. Lincoln Park, Oct. 11-20--AH, m.ob. Black-Throated Blue Warbler, 2 ♀, FD, Oct. 9--m.ob.; ♂, MR, Oct. 13-21--m.ob. BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER, MR, Oct. 16--JR, BR, JM, BF, et al; Lincoln Park, Oct. 12-19--AH, m.ob.; Carmel Riv, Oct. 27--RS, m.ob. CERULEAN WARBLER, Carmel Riv, Oct. 25--DR, et al. Blackburnian Warbler, 2, FD, Oct. 9--m.ob.; Lincoln Park, Oct. 11--AH, m.ob.; Carmel Riv, Oct. 27--RS, m.ob. Black-poll Warbler, FD, Oct. 9--m.ob.; NR, Oct. 13--m.ob.; MR, Oct. 16-21--m.ob. Palm Warblers, 1-6, Salmon Creek, FD, MR, NR, Lincoln Park, Pt. Pinos, Carmel Riv, et least thru Nov. 7--m.ob. HOODED WARBLER, Carmel Riv, Oct. 27-29--RS, m.ob. CANADA WARBLER, Bodega Bay, Nov. 10--LB, JP, MP. American Redstart, FD, Oct. 16--m.ob.; NR, Oct. 28--m.ob.; 2, Carmel Riv, Oct. 29--BR.

ORCHARD ORIOLE, ♀, NR, Oct. 9--BF, WO, JR. "BALTIMORE" ORIOLE, ♂, Greenwood Park, Pacific Grove, Oct. 27--m.ob. Rose-Breasted Grosbeak, Muddy Hollow, Oct. 13--JuE; Lincoln Park, Oct. 11--AH, et al. BREWER'S SPARROW, NR, Oct. 9-16--m.ob. CLAY-COLORED SPARROW, Crespi Pond, Pt. Pinos, Oct. 27--RLeV, m.ob. White-Throated Sparrow, his Walnut Creek garden, Oct. 16-17, Nov. 3-5--RH; Lincoln Park, Oct. 20--AH. CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR, 1-6, HR, Oct. 14-Nov. 10--m.ob.; 1-2, Salmon Creek, Nov. 4-5--BMcC, et al. Lapland Longspur, up to 15, HR, thru period--m.ob.

OBSERVERS: Florence Bennett, Laurence Binford, Jane Dang, Art Edwards, Dave Edwards, Jimm Edgar, Jules Evens, Bud Fry, Helen & Jerry Gentile, Alan Hopkins, Ralph Hudgins, Jeri Langham, Ron LeValley, Joe Morlan, Brian McCaffery, Winnie Orcutt, John Parmeter, Mike Parmeter, Bill Pursell, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Don Roberson, Rich Stallcup, Peter Willmann, Jon Winter, No. Cal. Rare Bird Alert, 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 in Mt. Diablo chapter. To join NAS: individual \$20 per year, family \$25, other categories available; check payable to National Audubon Society, to Treasurer, Bill Scheffel, address below. Address change (send also to NAS): Mrs. Jackie Knisley, 4741 Olive Dr., Concord, CA 94521. Change of chapter affiliation is only upon specific request by member. Subscription: \$3 per year, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, Bill Scheffel, 1894½ 5th St., Concord, CA 94520. First Class mailing in envelope rather than bulk mail: \$1.75 per year, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, address above.

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GREATER BAY AREA SITE GUIDE: Sacramento NWR and Gray Lodge WMA.

Access; Sacramento: north via I-680, I-80, I-505, I-5 to Norman Rd. 18 miles north of Williams, north on old hiway 2 miles, right to Refuge. Gray Lodge: north via I-680, I-80, SR 113, SR 99 to Live Oak, follow Refuge signs on Pennington Rd. About 2½ hours to either. Between Refuges: east on Norman Rd., north on Princeton Rd., east on SR 162, south on Rd. Y, zig-zag south & east to Gridley-Colusa Hwy, east to Pennington Rd., south to Refuge. If Princeton Ferry running, cross river, go east to Rd. Y.

Sacramento: Display Pond on right as enter Refuge, many ducks usually include European Wigeon. Walk or slowly drive Tour Route. Available at HQ: Refuge map, birdlist, "Self-Guiding Tour Route" & "Recreation Guide"; or write Refuge Manager, Rte. 1, Box 311, Willows, CA 95988. Open daily, dawn to dusk.

Gray Lodge. Slowly drive or walk 3-mile tour loop. Park only in designated areas. Walkers may out across about halfway out. Other hiking routes near HQ. Refuge map, birdlist from HQ; or write Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game, 1416 9th St., Sacramento, CA 95814. Open daily 8:00 a.m. to ½ hour after sunset.

Birds similar at both, some difference in occurrence and abundance, include grebes, White Pelican, Double-Crested Cormorant, herons, egrets include Cattle, Least (occasional, summer) & American Bittern, white-Faced Ibis (rare, winter), swan, several geese include "Blue" (rare) & Ross', many ducks sometimes include Hooded Merganser, several hawks may include Rough-Legged & Ferruginous (winter), either eagle sometimes, Osprey (Gray Lodge), Sandhill Crane (mostly Gray Lodge), rails, several shorebirds may include Lesser Yellowlegs or Baird's Sandpiper, terns include Black (summer), owls may include Long-Eared or Short-Eared (winter), Lewis' may be among woodpeckers, flycatchers, swallows, Purple Martin (rare, summer), magpie, White-Breasted Nuthatch, wrens may include House, Winter & Rock, thrushes & Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher occasionally, kinglets, several warblers, Yellow-Headed & Tricolored among blackbirds, Northern Oriole (summer), goldfinches may include Lawrence's, among sparrows may be Vesper, Lark, White-Throated & Lincoln's.

Best birding late Nov. thru Feb. when waterfowl abound. Refuge roads may be closed to cars after heavy rain. Accomodations: Willows, 4 miles north of Sacramento NWR; Gridley, 8 miles northeast of Gray Lodge. Camping: Colusa State Rec Area, 10 miles east of Williams. Map of Sacramento Valley will aid in getting around area.

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WINTERING WATERBIRDS of the SACRAMENTO VALLEY, Dec. 1-2, David Gaines, at Gray Lodge WMA; waterbirds by pattern, color, call, behavior; & relationship with environment. Details: Catherine Frankeberger, Univ. Extension, U.C., Davis 95616; (916) 752-0672.

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PRE-CHRISTMAS SALE, 9-5 on Wed.-Sun., Dec. 1-21, at The Book Nest, NAS Western Education Center, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon. All Peterson field guides in stock reduced 20%, Bushnell and Bausch & Lomb binocs and scopes purchased or special ordered 25% off list price, savings on binocs and scopes from \$14 to \$143.

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The COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY will meet Mon., Dec. 10, at 8:00 p.m. in room 2503, Life Sciences Building, U.C. Berkeley. Russell Greenberg of U.C. will speak on "Wondering on the winter ways of wood warblers in Panama." The meeting is open to all those interested in avian biology. Parking: free off-campus, \$2 on-campus.

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