

The QUAIL

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

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

January, 1980
Vol. 26, No. 6

Next deadline: January 10

Meeting: Thurs., Jan. 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. Rain on trip day? Call leader---trip might be cancelled.

Sun, Jan. 6, 8:00 a.m., Lafayette Reservoir. Leaders: Helen and Jerry Gentile (228-6297).

Wed., Jan. 9, 9:00 a.m., Bay Bridge Toll Plaza marsh; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Fwy 24, 8:30. Leader: Elizabeth Diakey (254-0486).

Sat., Jan. 19, 9:00 a.m., Putah Creek & Lake Solano; carpool: southeast corner Sun Valley Center, 7:30. Leader: Tom Steller (881-0581).

Thurs., Jan. 24, 9:00 a.m., Benicia State Recreation Area; carpool: southeast corner Sun Valley Center, 8:30. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).

Sat.-Sun., Feb. 2-3, Los Banos & Merced wildlife refuges, Panoche Valley. Make motel reservations now. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).

CHRISTMAS COUNT: Sat., Dec. 29; compiler: John Davis, 21 Wanda Way, Martinez 94553; phone: 228-9516. Count period: Dec. 26-Jan. 1, inclusive.

Board Meeting: Thurs., Jan. 10, 7:30 p.m., home of Winnie Young, 1451 Janet Ct., Benicia; (707) 745-4134. Board meetings are always open to all members.

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

Conservation Mtg. Thurs., Jan. 24, 7:30 p.m., home of Bruce Moorad, 1445 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek; 938-4446. Open to all interested in conservation matters.

BIRDINFORMATION will be "New approach and tips on sounds in spring" by Marie Mans. **The PROGRAM** concerns work by Dept. of Fish & Game wardens, goals of local wardens, and how we can help DFG accomplish them. The speaker will be a DF&G warden.

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 2 dollars (bills) for the entrance gate or park on Mt. Diablo Blvd. and walk up the hill to the parking lot at the top.

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.

At **PUTAH CREEK & LAKE SOLANO** are Wood Ducks and other waterfowl, Lewis' Woodpecker, Dipper, Rook & 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.

BENICIA SRA has many waterbirds, waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls, birds of land, marsh. Take I-680 north over Benicia Bridge then I-780 toward Vallejo. Take Military West exit under freeway, across street, then a sharp right into the parking area.

The WEEKEND at Los Banos and Merced refuges, Panoche Valley will have bitterns, many waterfowl, hawks, shorebirds, Lewis' Woodpecker, magpie, Phainopepla, blue-birds, hopefully White-Faced Ibis, Ross' Goose, Mountain Plover. Suggested motels: Bonanza Motel, 349 W. Pacheco Blvd., Los Banos 93635, (209) 826-3871, rate for 2 \$25 up, restaurant adjacent; Stardust Motel (AAA, Best Western), 2169 E. Pacheco Blvd., Los Banos 93635, (800) 528-1234, rate for 2 \$22 up, coffeeshop adjacent.

If you would like to join the group at Wool Growers Restaurant in Los Banos Saturday night, Feb. 2, for family style Basque dinner, call Sally Steller (837-9061) by January 26 so she can make the necessary reservations.

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Our CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT will be Sat., Dec. 29, rain or shine. If you plan to take part but have not contacted compiler John Davis, do so immediately!!! We urgently need your help. If you have a feeder within our circle and will count birds there or allow someone else to do so, contact John for instructions. See December Quail for details. Area 14 (Walnut Creek) leaders: Helen & Jerry Gentile, 228-6297.

The \$1.50 per person COST of participating in the CBC will be paid by MDAS but we will gladly accept donations from those willing to pay their own. If not a subscriber to American Birds you may purchase the CBC issue 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, server plus food for AT LEAST 4-5 TIMES the number in your family attending. Call Winnie Croutt (944-0593) or Winnie Young (707-745-4134) after Dec. 26 about food assignment and how many are coming.

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FIELD TRIP REPORTS.

The trip to MT. VIEW SANITARY DISTRICT and WATERFRONT RD. on November 14 was made by 14 members. The morning was cool with slightly hazy skies and a light breeze. Seen were a ♀ Common Goldeneye, 2 Yellowthroats, Tricolored Blackbird, 4 Lincoln's Sparrows, plus a Sora heard, among these 52 species:

Pied-Billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Mallard, Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, Common Goldeneye, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Sora, Com Gallinule, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Com Snipe, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Long-Billed Dowitcher, Amer Avocet, Black-Necked Stilt, Glaucous-Winged, Herring, Calif, Ring-Billed & Bonaparte's Gull, Rock & Mourning Dove, Black Phoebe, Scrub Jay, Mockingbird, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, "Audubon's" Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged, Tricolored & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Amer Goldfinch, Savannah, White-Crowned, Lincoln's & Song Sparrow.

On the SAN MATEO COUNTY COAST November 17 the weather was clear and comfortable, wind light except rather brisk at Año Nuevo Pt. The 11 members found Black Scoter, ♀ Merlin, Rock Sandpiper, thousands of Red Phalaropes, 200+ Ancient Murrelets (many extremely close to shore at Pigeon Pt.), among these 84 species seen or heard:

Com, Arctic & Red-Throated Loon, Horned, Eared, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Brown Pelican, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Amer Bittern, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-Winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Lesser Scaup, White-Winged, Surf & Black Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Red-Breasted Merganser, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Sharp-Shinned, Cooper's, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, Merlin, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Amer Coot, Black Oystercatcher, Black-Bellied Plover, Surfbird, Ruddy & Black Turnstone, Whimbrel, Wandering Tattler, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Rock Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Red & Northern Phalarope, Glaucous-Winged, West, Calif, Ring-Billed, Mew, Bonaparte's & Heermann's Gull, Com Murre, Marbled & ANCIENT MURRELET, Rock & Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Black & Say's Phoebe, Com Raven, Com Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Wrentit, Bewick's & Marsh Wren, California Thrasher, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, "Audubon's" Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged, Tricolored & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

At LAKE MERRITT on November 29 the weather was clear and mild with a slight breeze. There were Redhead, 11 ♂, 6 ♀ Barrow's Goldeneyes, ♂ Hooded Merganser, and 2 Red-Breasted Nuthatches among the following 57 species seen:

Horned, Eared, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great & Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Mallard, Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Redhead, Canvasback, Greater & Lesser Scaup, Com & Barrow's Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Hooded Merganser, Amer Kestrel, Amer Coot, Spotted Sandpiper, Glaucous-Winged, West,

Calif, Ring-Billed, Mew & Bonaparte's Gull, Forster's Tern, Rock & Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, "Red-Shafted" Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Red-Breasted Nuthatch, Amer Robin, Hermit Thrush, Rubv-Crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, "Audubon's" Warbler, House Sparrow, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, House Finch, Amer Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Fox Sparrow.

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WILDLIFE CALIFORNIA (WildCal) is a foundation, organized to assist Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game in native nongame wildlife species projects but independent of the department. Incorporation is being prepared, tax-exemption sought. Donations to help establish WildCal: Wildlife California, P.O.Box 13154, Sacramento, CA 95813.

This fiscal year funds are to go to seven proposed projects (final disposition of money is up to the legislature): guarding Morro Rock's falcon aerie, augmentation of Peregrine Falcon population, reintroduction of Bald Eagles on Santa Cruz Island, reintroduction of Harris' Hawks along the Colorado River, reintroduction of California bighorn sheep in some of their historic range, habitat enhancement for Morro Bay kangaroo rats, habitat enhancement for Bell's Vireo.

Last year nongame wildlife bought native plants for a park near Stockton; placed young in Peregrine Falcon nests with poor history of hatching success, fledging 5 young. California Wildlife Conservation Board acquired 1,500-acre wetlands near Crescent City, including Lakes Earl & Talawa, and 72-acre high desert marshland in Inyo County. DF&G now manages 240-acre Pine Hill, El Dorado County, which contains several rare or endangered plants. Refuge ponds have been established in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

A great response came to a call for donations to the Nongame Program in memory of DFG Warden Jean Jones of Concord (see June Quail) with over \$2,000 being donated.

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Report color-banded WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS to Dr. Lewis Petrinovich, Dept. of Psychology, U.C. Riverside or Anthony James, 1538 Lake St., S.F. 94118. Include colors & combinations of bands, which leg, when & where seen, your name and address.

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CANADA GEESE were fitted with red plastic neck collars on northeastern California breeding grounds to learn relationships between local breeding areas and wintering grounds. Report sightings to Waterfowl Studies Project, DFG, 1416 9th St., Sacramento 95814 (916-445-6896) or P.O.Box 758, Gridley 95948 (916-846-3569). Include where seen and, if possible, the collar's black numerals, a K followed by 3 digits.

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Possible PG&E COAL-FIRED POWER PLANT sites were approved by the Energy Commission in Butte County and at Montezuma Slough near Collinsville, Solano County, the latter within the protected management zone of Suisun Marsh. Despite expert, intensive presentations by citizen groups & public agencies like BCDC and DF&G, Collinsville was permitted because "adequate mitigation" could reduce biological damage.

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CLASSES and EXCURSIONS. Plan vacation trips now---they fill up early. Your editor has a copy of the brochure from NEB, BB, VENT, Mass Aud., has taken NEB, BB tours. Golden Gate Audubon: Hawaii, Maui, Kauai, Apr. 5-14; \$400+ air fare; native birds & plants, volcanic geology. Information & reservations: South American Wilderness Adventures, 1760 Solano, #203, Berkeley, CA 94707; 524-5111.

Northeast Birding: Alaska, "Lower 48" (fabulous Florida trip last May), Canada, Mexico, Central & South America, Hawaii, western Europe; birding workshops. Annotated schedule: Northeast Birding, Seal Harbor, ME 04675; (207) 276-3963.

Bird Bonanzas: Alaska (great in 1978), "Lower 48", Canada, world-wide. Info: Bird Bonanzas, Inc., 12550 Biscayne Blvd., North Miami, FL 33181; (305) 895-0607.

Merlin Birding Tours: Texas, Arizona, California, Canada, Mexico, Central America, Europe. Info: 1736 Albans, Houston, TX 77005; (713) 524-4712.

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours: Alaska, "Lower 48", Canada, Mexico, Central & South America, Africa. Brochure: P.O.Box 4429, Austin, TX 78765; (512) 454-0576.

Mass Audubon: U.S., Canada, Mexico, world-wide. Brochure: Natural History Tours, Massachusetts Audubon Society, Lincoln, MA 01773.

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Anonymous Londoner's description of WILDERNESS: "...a large damp place where birds fly about---uncooked." (The Nature Conservancy News via The Sequoia, Sequoia Aud)

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: Robert J. Magliano; Brentwood: Mario J. Rapozo; Concord: Joe DeMello, Mrs. Joann A. Duckworth, Mrs. Robert C. Shurig, Jr.; Diablo: Nicky Rhino; Lafayette: Robert W. Berg, II, Ruth N. Christmann, Charles E. Petersen, Dr. Richard Philbert; Martinez: Ludwig Gottlieb, M. S. White; Pleasant Hill: Brendan Ruff; San Ramon: K. R. Fitzsimmons, William A. Smith; Walnut Creek: Glenda Dugan, Marsha Wenne, R. J. Monahan; Windsor, CA: Lesley J. Hosfeld.

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"The GOOD LIFE exists only when you stop wanting a better one. It is the condition of savoring what is, rather than longing for what might be. The itch for things--so brilliantly injected by those who make and sell them--is a virus draining the soul of contentment. A man never earns enough, a woman is never beautiful enough, clothes are never new enough, the house is never furnished enough, the food is never fancy enough. There is a point at which salvation lies in stepping off the escalator, of saying: "Enough: what I have will do...what I make of it is up to me." Mayra Mannes, at Audubon Camp of the West this summer. (Western Grebe, Redbud Aud)

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South Lake Tahoe's OSGOOD SWAMP, drained 15 years ago as mosquito control, is being restored. Purchased last spring by the US Forest Service, encroaching pines have been cut out and carried away by hand, and debris removed. The drainage ditch is being filled to allow water levels to rise several feet. The restored ecosystem provides habitat for various mammals and birds including Pileated Woodpeckers which are in the vicinity. After construction is finished the many logging roads in the area will be permanently closed. There are high hopes for success with the swamp.

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CONSERVATION NOTES by J. P. Hauser.

By spring Bureau of Land Management will be well on the way to deciding the fate of some 170 million acres of public lands in western states. Much of this arid and semi-arid land is still untrampled: Red Rock Canyon, Eureka Dunes, Continental Range, etc. Conservationists are working feverishly to see that the finest wildland jewels are preserved as wilderness. For a year now the agency has been doing a huge land inventory, picking out areas that "clearly and obviously" lack wild character and will drop them from further consideration. Citizen participation, from activists doing field checks on BLM recommendations to people simply writing a letter to BLM in favor of wilderness protection, has been very low. We are, it seems, continuing to ignore the ignored lands. The opposition is hot, heavy, and growing. Hardrock miners, energy development interests, even ranchers and hunters are rallying to oppose BLM wilderness recommendations. The single most important factor in determining whether BLM will recommend wilderness preservation will be presence or absence of local support. The wilderness review program is proceeding rapidly. The final inventory is to be done by September 1980 with many districts finished before then. In the next couple of years BLM will complete its formal wilderness studies, reaching detailed recommendations for all areas identified in the final inventory. Then it's on to Congress. But there's still time to influence the results. As Charles Watson, author of The Land No One Knows, pointed out: "Congress is not a self-starting machine; its key is the public. We must turn that key, and turn it now.

Castle Rock, second most important seabird rookery on the California coast, has just been purchased by The Nature Conservancy. The 14-acre island, just offshore from Crescent City, supports as many as 100,000 resident and migratory seabirds. Harbor seals, elephant seals, and California sea lions use it regularly on their migratory trips. It will be managed cooperatively with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

A grizzly bear was found in Colorado for the first time in 30 years---dead. It was shot by a hunter it allegedly molested.

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Watch the "SAGEBRUSH REBELLION", one of the boldest land grabs in history, if Nevada and some other western states have their way. Its roots go back to Bureau of Land Management Organic Act of 1976 which, for the first time, gave BLM meaningful regulatory power over what people do on public lands. Rebellion supporters claim the government has "mismanaged" millions of acres rich in timber, coal, uranium, pasture for sheep and cattle. (Translated: the government will not allow private economic interests to do as they please.) Consequently, states dominated by grazing and mining interests are going to pressure Congress to transfer much or all BLM lands to the states for "management." The idea is grotesque! All we worked for in passage of the BLM Organic Act could be lost. (Sketches, San Diego Audubon)

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The annual MONARCH BUTTERFLY MIGRATION is depicted in a free exhibition now through March 16 in the Natural Sciences Special Gallery at Oakland Museum, 1000 Oak St., near Lake Merritt. An informative text along with George D. Lepp's color photographs take generally known facts about butterfly development and add information and illustrations of migration patterns, body chemistry and mating rituals.

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CENTRAL VALLEY WILDLIFE RESERVE at Davis is being built by Davis Audubon creating vernal pools, planting native plants, wildflowers, bunch grasses, resulting in an excellent refuge for birds, mammals. Much has been accomplished toward their goal with many creatures already using the property as residents or migrants.

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OBSERVATIONS, Nov. 11-Dec. 5. (Also see field trip reports.)

Common Loon, Clifton Court Forebay, east Contra Costa Co., Nov. 26-Dec. 3--BR. Red-Throated Loon, Clifton Court, Nov. 18, 26--BR. Red-Necked Grebe, 2, Bodega Bay, Nov. 27--m.ob.; 1 there, Dec. 1--JR, FB, BF. PETRELS: COOK'S, probable STEJNEGER'S, possible BLACK-WINGED, Davidson Sea Mount off Monterey Co., Nov. 17, 24, Dec. 1--RBA. White Pelican, 4, over Tilden Park, Nov. 20--BR. Cattle Egret, 7, Martinez Waterfront Park, Nov. 21--H&JG; 1, Waterfront Rd., Martinez, Nov. 25--JG; 4, Clifton Court, Nov. 26, 5 near there, Dec. 3--BR; 3, MP1.44, SR 1, Valley Ford, Sonoma Co., Dec. 2--DW, GL. Whistling Swan, 4, Bodega Harbor entrance, Dec. 1--FB, JR, BF. Canada Goose, on rock off Pescadero Beach, San Mateo Co., Nov. 20-24--m.ob. "Black" Brant, 2, Princeton Harbor, Nov. 24--m.ob.; 2, Bodega Bay, Dec. 1--FB, BF, JR. Wood Duck, ♂, Lake Anza, Nov. 15, 20--BR; 4, Jewel Lake, Nov. 20--BR. Redhead, 6, Clifton Court, Dec. 2, 3--BR. PUFFED DUCK, still at Muddy Hollow & Limantour, Marin Co., thru period--m.ob. Barrow's Goldeneye, up to 11♂, 6♀, Lake Merritt, thru period--m.ob. Oldsquaw, George Miller Regional Shoreline, Richmond, Nov. 20--BR. Black Scoter, ♂, Goat Rock near Jenner, Sonoma Co., Dec. 1--FB, BF, JR. Hooded Merganser, up to 2♂, 1♀, Lake Merritt, thru period--HC, m.ob.; ♀, Pescadero Lagoon, Nov. 24--JR, et al.

Red-Shouldered Hawk, Briones Park, Nov. 15--BR. Bald Eagle, 2 ad, Calaveras Reservoir, Nov. 17--JM, et al. Rock Sandpiper, 2, Pebble Beach, San Mateo Co., Nov. 20--JR, BF, AF, et al; 1 there, Nov. 24--m.ob.; 3, Bodega Head, Dec. 1--JR, FB, BF. Western Sandpiper, Clifton Court, Nov. 26--BR. Red Phalarope, many still all along the coast thru period--m.ob.; up to 10, Lake Merritt, thru Nov. 13--m.ob. Western Gull, Clifton Court, Nov. 26--BR. ANCIENT MURRELET, 4, Lincoln Park, S.F., Nov. 14--AH; Goat Rock, Nov. 14--BR; 2, inside Bodega Harbor, Nov. 17--BF, GGAS; 4, Pigeon Pt., Nov. 20--JR, BF, AF, et al; 50 there Nov. 24--m.ob.; 1, Bodega Head, Nov. 27--JR, et al; 3 there, Dec. 1--JR, FB, BF.

BURROWING OWL, Heather Farm, Nov. 18--E&TL. Dipper, Tilden Park, Nov. 12-15--m.ob. SAGE THRASHER, still in Golden Gate Park thru Nov. 28--m.ob. Phainopepla, ♂, their Rossmoor yard, Nov. 17--A&AB. Solitary Vireo, Diekmann's Store, Bodega Bay, Dec. 1--FB, BF, JR. Nashville Warbler, Diekmann's, Nov. 14--BR; Hole-in-the-Head, Bodega Bay, Nov. 27--JR, BF, et al. Palm Warbler, 3, Doran Park, Bodega Bay, Dec. 2--DW, GL. CANADA WARBLER, still at Diekmann's, thru Nov. 14--m.ob. GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE, ♂, Sacramento NWR, Nov. 17-28--TS, m.ob.; Gray Lodge WMA, Nov. 10-Dec. 2--m.ob.

OBSERVERS: Florence Bennett, Al & Anna Boileau, Harold Connan, Ann Follis, Bud Fry, Helen & Jerry Gentile, Bill & Mary Jane Greene, Ed Hase, Shari Hase, Alan Hopkins, Elaine & Tom Lee, Gerry Lindo, Joe Morlan, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Tom Steller, David Wharton, NoCal Rare Bird Alert, Golden Gate Audubon Soc., many observers.

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

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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, 1894 1/2 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.

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

GREATER BAY AREA SITE GUIDE: Benicia State Recreation Area.

Access: Drive I-680 north over Benicia Bridge then I-780 toward Vallejo, take Military West exit under freeway, across the street, then a sharp right turn into the parking area. Stay out of the saltmarsh---view it from the edges and beyond.

Southampton Bay (morning is best). On water: huge rafts of waterfowl in winter, many gulls usually closer to shore here. Mudflats on ebbing tide: many shorebirds. Scope edge of tules at north end for dabbling ducks; if tide far out check little channels on mudflats. Walk path north between fennel and bay; check water, tules, mudflats. If lucky, rails around tules, especially in open spot full of driftwood; may also be Snipe. In fennel, bushes, willows: Shrike, Yellowthroat, winter blackbird flocks may include many immatures lacking red patches, goldfinches, Savannah Sparrow. Trail skirts edge of marsh, eventually reaching park entrance gate. Take paved walk parallel to freeway back to car. Drive I-780 toward Vallejo, take next exit (Columbus Pkwy) about a mile, turn left to Park. Have 6 quarters for gate.

Northern Park area. Park off road near residences. Lincoln's Sparrow often in small cattails by road or channel to east. Hawks, Great Horned Owl may be in eucalyptus. Drive to north end of park, road makes sharp left bend. Turn right, park, walk east to small marsh: American Bittern has been here, Snipe, Yellowthroat, Lincoln's Sparrow possible.

Picnic area. Continue on road to picnic area, park: Anna's Hummingbird, Scrub Jay, Bushtit (rare), Mockingbird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet (uncom), Yellow-Rumped Warbler, Junco, sparrows include White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Lincoln's (around fence), Song. On left just beyond picnic area, good view of marsh: rails (often directly below), Marsh Wren, Yellowthroat, blackbirds, Song Sparrow. Scope open water.

River bank. Drive to end of road, park. Go down to edge of water, walk to right. Out on river waterfowl may include Goldeneye, Red-Breasted Merganser has been seen, gulls may include Bonaparte's. West of Dillon Pt. look for Say's Phoebe, Water Pipit in grassland hills bordering shoreline. Rock Wren may be on bluff or among tideline boulders. Continue west, go thru fence at stile. Around cable crossing: good area for Spotted Sandpiper, Say's Phoebe, Rock Wren. In Driftwood Cove: many waterfowl (Red-Breasted Merganser has been here), shorebirds. Large blackbird flocks on hillsides. Return to car by climbing hill to power towers, follow hillside along river; or straight over hill, checking clumps of trees along the way.

Birds: grebes (mostly Western), Great Blue Heron (uncom), egrets, Night Heron, American Bittern (rare), many waterfowl in winter, White-Tailed Kite over marsh, a few hawks, many Pheasants, rails (Clapper-rare, Virginia, Sora, Black-rare), many shorebirds, many gulls, Forster's & Caspian Tern (summer), Mourning Dove, Kingfisher (rare), Flicker (rare), a few swallows, Marsh & Rock (rare) Wren, Mockingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, Yellow-Rumped Warbler (winter), Yellowthroat, Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, American & Lesser (uncom) Goldfinch, Savannah Sparrow (uncom), Junco (rare), White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Lincoln's (uncom), & Song Sparrow.

Facilities. Restrooms at picnic area and Dillon Pt. From many picnic tables are beautiful views of marsh, bay, river. Scope almost necessity for birds out on water. Benicia map shows area well. Walking mostly easy, level. Birdlist available from Benicia Capitol State Historic Park, First & G Sts., Benicia, CA 94510.

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A revised edition of MIGRATION OF BIRDS, published by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, is available for \$4.25 from Supt. of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, N. Capitol & H Sts., Washington, D.C. 20402.

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

February 1980
Vol. 26, No. 7
Next deadline: February 10



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

Field Trips: Trips open, members, non-members alike; bring lunch, binocs, field guide. Rain on trip day? Call leader--trip may be cancelled or put off a week. A few days before any long trip you plan to attend call trip leader or Sally Steller (837-9061) in case gasoline situation forced cancellation.

Feb. 2-3. Sat.: Los Banos & Merced Wildlife Refuges, Merced Co.; meet 8:45 a.m. at Shell Station, east side of I-5, Hwy 140 interchange; Sun. Panoche Valley; meet 8:00 a.m. on I-5 in roadside rest 17 miles south of Hwy 152. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843). Come either or both days.

Wed., Feb. 6, 10:00 a.m., Thornton area; carpool: southeast corner Sun Valley Center, 8:30. Leaders: Merv & Norma Ortez (283-3072).

Sat., Feb. 16, 8:30 a.m., Abbott's Lagoon; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. at Fwy 24, 7:00. Leaders: Jerry & Helen Gentile (228-6297).

Thurs., Feb. 21, 9:00 a.m., Tilden Park; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. at Fwy 24, 8:30. Leader: Jackie Knisley (685-1709).

Audubon Film: Fri., Feb. 22, 8:00 p.m., Diablo Valley College Forum (in Library Bldg.), "Return to the Tetons" by Charles Hotchkiss. Adult, \$2; under 12, \$1. NO-HOST DINNER with the speaker, The Magic Pan, Sun Valley Center, 6:00 p.m. Call Russ Jones (933-6889) by Feb. 15 if you plan to attend.

Board Meeting: Thurs., Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m., home of Sally Steller, 591 Fulton Way, Danville; 837-9061. Board meetings are always open to members.

Checklist Meeting: Thurs., Feb. 21, 7:30-10:00 p.m., home of Sally Steller, 591 Fulton Way, Danville; 837-9061. Open to anyone interested.

Conservation Mtg: Thurs., Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m., home of Bruce Moorad, 1445 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek; 938-4446. Open to all interested in conservation matters.

For BIRDINFORMATION Gordon Lane, curator of Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum, will give a museum update and talk about volunteers and community assistance in emergency situations. The PROGRAM will be by Tom Huntington of Friends of the River who will give a slide presentation on the Stanislaus River and discuss efforts by Friends of the River to preserve free-flowing rivers in the west, emphasizing California.

LOS BANOS/MERCED WILDLIFE REFUGES and PANOCHÉ VALLEY have Bittern, White-Faced Ibis, Ross' Goose and other waterfowl, hawks, shorebirds in the refuges, Mountain Plover, Lewis' Woodpecker, Phainopepla, bluebirds in Panoche Valley. If going both days make motel reservations immediately (see Jan. Quail). To join in Saturday dinner call Sally Steller at once (837-9061). Walnut Creek to I-5, Hwy 140 junction is 82 miles, 1½ hours (longer if foggy). NOTE: Sun. meeting spot differs from Sat. From Los Banos take Hwy 165 (Merced Hot Springs Rd.) south to I-5 then south 5½ miles.

At THORNTON are thousands of Whistling Swans, geese, ducks, Sandhill Cranes, many land and water birds, perhaps Green Heron or Bittern, and some Cranes may be doing their courtship dance. Go north on SR 24, east on SR 4, cross Antioch Bridge and

continue on SR 160 to SR 12. Turn right 16 miles to Thornton Rd., then left 3 miles and meet at the junction with Woodbridge Rd.

ABBOTTS LAGOON, a new area for us, involves a comfortable, level 4 mile walk to see waterfowl, shorebirds, some landbirds. Cross San Rafael Bridge, north on US 101 0.6 mile, take San Rafael exit 2 blocks to 3rd St., go left out through Fairfax to SR 1, right $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, left to Pt. Reyes Seashore Headquarters.

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

The AUDUBON FILM, shot in Grand Teton National Park, shows the abundant wildlife and the beautiful alpine scenery which repeatedly drew Ty and Julie Hotchkiss back to the park over the years. Also shown are the changes which have occurred since he was a seasonal Ranger-Naturalist there in the early 50's.

* * * * *

Our CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT on December 29 was highly successful thanks to compiler John Davis. The weather was rather cold all day and made worse in the afternoon by wind gusts to about 25 mph. The lowlands were quite foggy early but the fog lifted somewhat by noon although it never disappeared. We had a record-breaking number of observers, 92, with 87 in field parties, 5 at feeders. Found were 131 species second only to the 132 seen in 1977, plus 1 additional race. The 16,730 individual birds counted was a little lower than last year. Good finds included 4 Cattle Egrets and 3 Snow Geese in the marshes, Rough-Legged & Ferruginous Hawks, Marbled Godwit, Short-Eared Owl, Red-Breasted Nuthatch, Winter & Rock Wren, TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE at Rock City on Mt. Diablo, Tricolored Blackbird, White-Throated Sparrow at a Walnut Creek feeder. The following species were found:

Horned, Eared, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, CATTLE, Great & Snowy EGRET, Amer Bittern, Whistling Swan, Canada, White-Fronted & SNOW GOOSE, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-Winged & Cinnamon Teal, Amer Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Com Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Sharp-Shinned, Cooper's, Red-Tailed, ROUGH-LEGGED & FERRUGINOUS HAWK, GOLDEN EAGLE, Marsh Hawk, 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, BLACK-NECKED STILT, Glaucous-Winged, West, Herring, Thayer's, Calif, Ring-Billed, Mew & Bonaparte's Gull, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Rock & Mourning Dove, Barn, Great Horned & SHORT-EARED OWL, WHITE-THROATED SWIFT, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Com (YEL-SH & RED-SH) FLICKER, Acorn Woodpecker, Yellow-Bellied (Red-Br) Sapsucker, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black & Say's Phoebe, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Com Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted & RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH, Wrentit, Winter, Bewick's, Long-Billed Marsh & Rock Wren, Mockingbird, Calif Thrasher, Amer Robin, Varied & Hermit Thrush, West Bluebird, TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE, Golden-Crowned & Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Yellow-Rumped (Aud) 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 (Oreg) Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, WHITE-THROATED, Fox, Lincoln's & Song Sparrow.

Seen during the COUNT PERIOD (Dec. 26-Jan. 1) but not on count day: COM LOON, Ring-Necked Duck, PRAIRIE FALCON, Merlin, Semipalmated Plover, Com Raven, Hutton's Vireo, Townsend's Warbler, HARRIS' SPARROW.

Our sincere THANKS to all who participated, those who assisted with the potluck dinner (especially Winnie Young who was in charge), and most of all to John Davis!!

* * * * *

FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

The trip to the NILES CANYON GRAVEL PITS on December 9 was made by 22 members and guests. The weather was cool and cloudy but the sun came out in late morning. Found were Green Heron and Virginia Rail among these 67 species:

Horned, Eared & Pied-Billed Grebe, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue & GREEN HERON, Great & Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Amer Wigeon, Lesser Scaup, Com Goldeneye, Ruddy Duck, Com Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-Shinned, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, VIRGINIA RAIL, Com Gallinule, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Com Snipe, Spotted Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Short-Billed Dowitcher, West Sandpiper, Amer Avocet, Black-

Necked Stilt, Calif, Ring-Billed & Bonaparte's Gull, Rock & Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, "Red-Shafted" Flicker, Black Phoebe, Scrub Jay, Bushtit, Mockingbird, Amer Robin, Hermit Thrush, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Orange-Crowned & "Audubon's" Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, West Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, Purple & House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, "Oregon" Junco, White-Crowned & Golden-Crowned Sparrow.

The LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR trip December 12 was on a perfect day---sunny and comfortable with little wind. Although the 16 members and guests found no unusual birds, a delightful morning walk was enjoyed by all. These 40 species were seen:

West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Double-Crested Cormorant, Mallard, Com Goldeneye, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-Shinned & Red-Tailed Hawk, Calif Quail, Amer Kestrel, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Calif Gull, Rock Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, "Red-Shafted" Flicker, "Red-Breasted" Sapsucker, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, Mockingbird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, "Audubon's" Warbler, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, "Oregon" Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

The January 6 trip to LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR was on a cloudy, cold day but luckily with no wind. No unusual birds were seen but a cooperative Thrasher put on quite a show for our 32 members and guests who found the following 37 species:

West & Pied Billed Grebe, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose, Mallard, Northern Shoveler, Ruddy Duck, Red-Tailed Hawk, Calif Quail, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Ring-Billed Gull, Rock Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, "Red-Shafted" Flicker, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, Calif Thrasher, Amer Robin, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, "Audubon's" Warbler, blackbird sp, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, "Oregon" Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

The January 9 trip to BAY BRIDGE TOLL PLAZA was washed out by winter rains.

Congratulations to JACK STELLER who was presented the Silver Beaver at a Mt. Diablo Council, Boy Scouts of America, dinner on January 12. This distinguished award is the highest honor which can be given a volunteer Scouter by a local council and must be approved by the National Council. The award was in recognition of his many years' contribution of time, talents, and energy to the youth of our area.

If you visit the CENTRAL VALLEY WILDLIFE RESERVE, one mile north of Covell Blvd. on the west side of Poleline Rd. in Davis (see January Quail), do not walk on the second north-south levee west of the entrance gate. This levee is not paved and is in the main nesting area of Burrowing Owls. Walking on this levee could collapse the ground squirrel burrows in which the owls live. (Davis Audubon, Burrowing Owl)

ENVIRONMENTALISTS WIN! The wheels of justice ground to a happy conclusion recently for a group of 5 Sacramento area defendants (3 Auduboners and 2 other community leaders) in a lawsuit over land-use planning. McKeon Construction, a Sacramento developer, sued the environmentalists, asking 80 million dollars in damages charging that this was the value of property rights they were conspiring to deprive it of in opposing the firm's "new town" Stone Lake Development. Four of the original five sued the developer and his lawyer for malicious prosecution.

A \$550,000 out-of-court settlement ended five years legal maneuvering and brought a healthy \$1,400 injection into Sacramento Audubon's coffers, repayment of a \$1,000 loan given to help finance the legal process. (Sacramento Audubon, The Observer)

PAVEMENT vs PARKS: urban, highway, road, railroad, airport land uses in the contiguous 48 states involve 61 million acres while park, wildlife, recreation land has only 57 million acres--6% less than paved-over land. Robert L Herbert, Asst. Sec. of Interior for Fish, Wildlife and Parks. (Altaoaal Audubon, White-Tailed Kite)

The new NONGAME WILDLIFE DECAL, designed by 18 year old Laurence Peters, Pleasanton, features a Condor coming in for a landing near a craggy mountain. Funds in this program assist nongame species. Checks to Wildlife, Box DFG, Sacramento, CA 95801.

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

Alamo: Mrs. Ray E. Kelly; Antioch: Kenneth Castleman, Mr. L. Erickson, Jr.; Danville: Mr. Kurt Gusinow; Lafayette: Mrs. Phyllis J. Bowers, the Roger C. Steele Family, Thomas S. Stenstrom, Ms. Pat Strong; Martinez: Dr. Rosalie Auster, Mr. H. Heuer, Sr., Margot Dimbat Larsen, Mr. P. Ryan; Pleasant Hill: Felisia Bogdan; Walnut Creek: Shirley S. Cam, Faye Elliott.

RECYCLING, which saves materials and energy, reduces pollution and environmental damage, has not caught on "for lack of a market" so we must increase demand for recycled products. National Recycling Coalition is trying to do just that. NAS is one of many organizations, unions, business, civic and conservation groups to join. Education will dispel the idea that such products are inferior and persuade industry to invest in needed equipment. We need enforcement of laws requiring federal agencies and contractors on federally funded projects to give preference to recycled products. The Defense Dept. and GSA could supply a market making recycling big business. Individuals may join: \$20 regular, \$5 student. For application or info: National Recycling Coalition, Rm. 2350, 45 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020.

CHEMICAL COMPANIES are protesting EPA suspension of 2,4,5-T use and new USFS policy away from chemical brush control. To counter this aggressive campaign, you are encouraged to write Zane Smith, US Forest Service, 630 Sansome St., San Francisco, CA 94111, in support of non-chemical brush control policies.

CONSERVATION NOTES by J. P. Hauser.

In the event you need to translate some of your environmental reading to friends or need reminders yourself, following is a list of "environitions" which may help:

BLM - Bureau of Land Management, Dept. of Interior, manages 170 million acres of public land in western states; now analyzing its lands for potential wilderness candidates. Address: Frank Gregg, Director, BLM, Dept. of Interior, Washington, DC 20240.

FLPMA - Federal Land Policy/Management Act, passed 1976, mandates current BLM wilderness review; requires during review that BLM protect wilderness character of its lands so as not to impair suitability of such areas for preservation as wilderness.

Interim management - How BLM manages its lands between now and when Congress considers wilderness designations. Improper interpretations of FLPMA and/or inadequate enforcement could ruin potential wilderness areas prior to Congressional action.

National Wilderness System - established 1964 by the Wilderness Act, now contains 20 million acres. Look for sizeable additions from Alaska Lands Legislation, and Forest Service and BLM wilderness reviews.

Roadless Area - a natural area lacking road or other man-made scars but not yet officially recognized as wilderness. Also called de facto wilderness.

RARE - Forest Service's Roadless Area Review & Evaluation program, after which BLM review is somewhat patterned. Conservationists were critical of RARE and hope its deficiencies are corrected in the BLM process.

Sagebrush Rebellion - A western movement to transfer federal public lands to states and ultimately to private interests. Ranchers, upset with BLM grazing rules on public lands, are at the forefront, conservationists are rallying to oppose them.

WSA - Wilderness Study Area: a roadless area identified in BLM initial inventory and to be studied in detail for possible inclusion into the system.

Wilderness - official units of National Wilderness System: areas of minimum acreage "where earth and its community of life are untrampled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain" and designated by Congress.

Wilderness myths - include the misconception that hunting, mining and grazing cannot occur in wilderness areas. Hunting is restricted only by state law; the latter, subject to environmental safeguards, are also allowed.

(Sierra Club, Environmental News Service)

CLASSES and EXCURSIONS:

Pt Reyes/Audubon Cyn Rch, Fri., May 16, \$10; Castro Valley Ad. Sch. charter bus nature tour; 10+ from here, Walnut Creek pickup. Take potluck picnic lunch, liquids, hiking clothes, binocs. Check payable to Adult School (mark it Audubon Canyon Ranch) to: Tours, P O Box 2146, Castro Valley, CA 94546. Info: Chris (MDAS member), 283-8943.

AÑO NUEVO INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION, a new non-profit organization dedicated to protection/preservation of the Año Nuevo coast, supports educational and interpretive activities for the public and historical and scientific endeavors of interest. ANIA works in conjunction with the State Parks System. Dues: \$5 individual, \$10 family, \$50 supporting, \$100 sponsor. Info: 95 Kelly Ave., Half Moon Bay, 94019; 726-6238.

GOLDEN VALLEY ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY, founded 1978, works toward preserving the few remaining wild lands of the southern San Joaquin Valley and its wildlife: Blunt-Nosed Leopard Lizard, Burrowing Owl, Kit Fox, vernal pools, marshes, riparian habitat, Kangaroo Rat, Giant Garter Snake, Black-Tailed Jackrabbit, alkali flats. For info write them at P. O. Box 709, Clovis, CA 93613.

OBSERVATIONS, Dec. 6-Jan. 10 (Also see field trip and CBC reports)

Common Loon, 2, Clifton Court Forebay (hereafter CCF), east Contra Costa Co., Dec. 10--BR; Sacramento Riv., West Pittsburg, Dec. 26--BR, JR; CCF, Jan. 10--BR. Red-Necked Grebe, Berkeley Pier, Dec. 24-Jan. 6--m.ob.; Pt. Isabel Reg. Shoreline, Jan. 1--JR, BR. Green Heron, Mt. View Sanitary Dist., Jan. 3--BR; Jersey Is., Jan. 10--BR. CATTLE EGRET, Calaveras Rd. east of San Jose, Dec. 22--EH, SH; SR160, Sherman Is., Jan. 4--EH; 9, CCF; 2, Discovery Bay; 8, Jersey Is.; (all east Contra Costa Co.), Jan. 10--BR.

Blue-winged Teal, 7♂, 3♀, Palo Alto Baylands, Jan. 3--JR, BF, et al. Redhead, 5♂, 2♀, Palo Alto Flood Control Basin, Jan. 3--JR, et al; 12, Emeryville Marina, Jan. 5--A&WG; 2+, CCF, Jan. 10--BR. Canvasback, est. 6,000, CCF, Jan. 10--BR. TUFTED DUCK, ♂, still at Muddy Hollow, Pt. Reyes, at least thru Dec. 27--m.ob. Barrow's Golden-eye, up to 12♂, 8♀, Lake Merritt, thru period--m.ob.; 1, Berkeley Aquatic Park, Dec. 15--EH, SH; 3♂, 2♀, Richardson Bay, Marin Co., Jan. 5--FB, B&MJG, JR, et al. Oldsquaw, several around S.F. Bay Area thru Dec.--RBA, m.ob.; Richardson Bay, Jan 5--FB, B&MJG, JR. Hooded Merganser, ♀, Lake Merritt, Dec. 8--EH, SH; 1♂, 8♀, 5--Brooks Pond, Pt. Reyes, Dec. 11--BF, JR, et al. Red-breasted Merganser, ♀, Lake Merritt, Dec. 8--EH, SH; ♀, CCF, Jan. 10--BR.

Rough-Legged Hawk, SR 12 near Rio Vista, Solano Co., Jan. 4--EH; 8-9, various east Contra Costa Co. spots, Jan. 10--BR. Ferruginous Hawk, Briones Valley Rd. (east Contra Costa Co.) & Jersey Is., Jan. 10--BR. HAIRD EAGLE, 2 ad, still at Calaveras Reservoir, Alameda Co., thru period--m.ob. BLACK RAIL, Benicia SRA, Dec. 30--JR. Surfbird, Pt. Isabel, Jan. 1--BR, JR. Wandering Tattler, Pt. Isabel, Jan. 1--BR, JR, DE. Red Knot, 7, Pt. Isabel, Jan. 1--JR, BR. Rook Sandpiper, still at Bodega Head thru period--m.ob. Marbled Godwit, 13, Benicia SRA, Dec. 30--JR, et al. Red Phalarope, 4, Limantour, Pt. Reyes, Dec. 11--BF, JR, et al; 2, Emeryville Marina, Jan. 8--BF, JR, et al. Has been excellent winter for this species!

GLAUCOUS GULL, 2, Richardson Bay, Dec. 29--RBA; 1, Berkeley Pier, Jan. 5--A&GW. Marbled & ANCIENT MURRELETS, many around S.F. Bay, mid-Dec. thru early Jan.--m.ob. Has been tremendous winter for Ancients all along our coast. Short-Eared Owl, CCF, Dec. 10--BR; 2, Palo Alto Flood Control Basin, Jan. 3--JR, et al. Red-breasted Nuthatch, their Walnut Creek garden, mid thru late Dec.--EH, SH. HARRIS' SPARROW, imm, their Lafayette garden, Dec. 24-25, 30-31--L&RF, et al.

OBSERVERS: Florence Bennett, Dick Erickson, Lynn & Ruth Farrar, Bud Fry, Al & Wilma Ghiorso, Bill & Mary Jane Greene, Ed Hase, Sheri Hase, Bill Pursell, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, NorCal Rare Bird Alert, many observers.

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

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, 1894 1/2 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: eastern Contra Costa County.

Access: From I-680 or SR 24 north of Concord go east on SR 4 through Oakley.

Jersey & Bethel Islands. From Oakley go east on Cypress Rd., left on Jersey Island Rd. across Dutch Slough to island. Blackbirds may include Yellow-Headed, Tricolored. Left at fork: Burrowing Owl has been $\frac{1}{2}$ mile beyond fork, Barn Owls around farm buildings at end of road. Right fork: Swainson's Hawk possible (May). At end of road, ferry to Bradford Island (Mon.-Sat. 8-5 on the hour; Sun. 8 & 10 am, 4 & 5 pm): roads are dirt (may prefer to walk), no unusual birds. Return south, cross slough, turn left on Dutch Slough Rd. Sewer ponds on right: shorebirds may include Godwit, Lesser Yellowlegs. At Bethel Island Rd. turn left to Gateway Rd., turn right to end, right on N. Stone Rd.: Black-Chinned Hummingbird may be in area. Return to Bethel Island Rd., turn right to end. Chats in riparian along Piper Slough. Walk levee west, look across slough into Little Frank's Tract: ducks, gulls (winter). Return to Cypress Rd., turn right to Knightsen Ave., left to Delta Rd.

Holland & Byron Tracts. East on Delta Rd.: Long-Billed Curlews. Cross Rock Slough, turn right on Holland Tract Rd. White-Fronted Geese in area where road makes sharp left turn at river (after pheasant season), Sandhill Crane. Return to Byron Hwy, turn left to SR 4, east on SR 4 to Old River Bridge: many swans, geese, ducks in flooded fields along road in winter. Return to Byron Hwy, go south.

Clifton Court Forebay. Take Byron Hwy (J4) thru Byron, left on Clifton Rd., park at end, walk levee east. Look northeast onto Victoria Island: swans, geese, ducks (winter). In trees along north levee or on water, many birds, rarities possible: Arctic & Red-Throated Loon (rare, fall), Horned & Western Grebe, Night Heron, Cattle Egret possible, several ducks, Spotted Sandpiper, sometimes other shorebirds, many gulls, kingfisher, Ash-Throated Flycatcher, Blue Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting. Return to Byron Hwy, turn left, then right on Holey Rd., left on Byron Hot Springs Rd.; re-turn north to Armstrong Rd., turn left: Ferruginous Hawks possible on these roads.

Marsh Creek Rd. Return north on Byron Hot Springs Rd. to SR 4, left to Byron, left on Camino Diablo Rd., right on Marsh Creek Rd. about a mile to Marsh Creek Reservoir. Among water, marsh birds: some waterfowl, Yellowthroat, many blackbirds include Tricolored. Go west on Marsh Creek Rd.; where habitat looks interesting, stop off road (caution: fast traffic). Turn left on Morgan Territory Rd. to Curry Creek Park entrance: birds in area may include Lawrence's Goldfinch; Red-Shouldered Hawk within a couple of miles south from park. Stop along road near streambeds, corrals, clumps of trees: woodland birds similar to those on Mt. Diablo.

Drive backroads east of Brentwood, look for anything. Vasco Rd., south from Camino Diablo Rd.: Lewis' Woodpecker near Alameda Co. line; Mt. Bluebird (uncom., winter).

Birds: grebes, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue & Green Heron, egrets, Night Heron, American Bittern (Little Frank's Tract, Clifton Court), Whistling Swan, geese, several ducks (waterfowl in winter), White-Tailed Kite, several hawks include Rough-Legged & Ferruginous in winter, Sandhill Crane (winter), several shorebirds in winter, Avocet & Stilt nest, several gulls include Thayer's (Mew, Bonaparte's uncommon), Forster's & Caspian Tern, doves, owls include Barn, Burrowing (uncommon), Long-Eared & Short-Eared possible, Anna's Hummingbird, Black-Chinned & Allen's Hummers (summer), kingfisher, flicker, Acorn & Downy Woodpecker (Bethel Island), several flycatchers mostly in Morgan Territory, Horned Lark, swallows, jays, Crow, Bushtit, Bewick's & Marsh Wren, bluebirds, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet (winter), Water Pipit (winter), Cedar Waxwing (winter), a few warblers, meadowlark, blackbirds may include Yellow-Headed & Tricolored, Northern Oriole (summer), cowbird, Black-Headed Grosbeak (summer), Lazuli Bunting (summer), goldfinches, both towhees, sparrows include Savannah, Lark, White-Crowned & Golden-Crowned (winter), Song.

Facilities: city park on SR 4 in Brentwood, Bethany Reservoir SRA (fee) south of Clifton Court Forebay (take Bruns Ave. from SR 4). Best birding fall thru spring (summer very warm). Pheasant season: many species, including waterfowl, hard to find. Duck hunting at Clifton Court, Sat., Sun., Wed. in season, scatters birds.

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

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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

March, 1980
Vol. 26, No. 8

Next deadline: March 10



Meeting: Thurs., Mar. 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 may be cancelled or put off a week.
Wed., Mar. 12, 9:30 a.m., Lake Lagunitas; carpool: El Nido Ranch Rd. at Acalanes Rd. just north of Fwy 24, Orinda, ³/₄ Leader: Norah Bain (254-4516).

Sat., Mar. 15, 9:00 a.m., Limantour Estero; carpool: as per Lagunitas trip, 7:30. Leaders: Hugh & Norah Bain (254-4516). NOTE date change.

Sat., Mar. 22, 8:00 a.m., Upper San Leandro Reservoir. Leader: Tom Lee (934-5475). Wear boots, carry lunch.

Thurs., Mar. 27, 9:00 a.m., Veterans Park, Livermore; carpool: El Cerro Blvd. just west of I-680, Danville, 8:15. Leader: Sally Steller (837-9061).

Board Meeting: Thurs., Mar. 13, 7:30 p.m., home of Marian Stelzer, 801 Orange Blossom Way, Danville; 837-7119. Board meetings are always open to members.

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

Conservation Mtg. Thurs., Mar. 27, 7:30 p.m., home of Bruce Moorad, 1445 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek; 938-4446. Open to all interested in conservation matters.

BIRDINFORMATION will be "Warblers in Spring" by Lynn Farrar. Bring field guide (especially Robbins), notebook, pencil. Mr. Lyle Bennitt will present the PROGRAM, a discussion of whales, the Gray Whale in particular, followed by a slide show on Gray Whales. Mr. Bennitt, Education Director of the Whale Center in Oakland, does research on whales and also presents programs to schools and organizations.

At LAKES LAGUNITAS & BON TEMPE are some waterbirds but mostly woodland birds, hopefully Pileated Woodpecker. Cross Richmond Bridge, north 0.6 mile on US 101, take San Rafael exit 2 blocks, turn left. Shortly beyond Marin Country Club sign in Fairfax turn left then right on Broadway $\frac{1}{2}$ block, left on Bolinas Ave., left on Old Bolinas-Fairfax Rd. to Lake Lagunitas parking lot at end of the road. \$2 fee/car.

At LIMANTOUR are waterbirds, waterfowl (Tufted Duck has wintered), shorebirds, some woodland birds. Cross San Rafael Bridge, north 0.6 mile on US 101, take San Rafael exit 2 blocks, go left out thru Fairfax to SR 1, right $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, left to Pt. Reyes Seashore Headquarters. Come prepared for possible cold, windy, or foggy weather.

At UPPER SAN LEANDRO RESERVOIR 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. Meet at the ERMUD Valle Vista staging area on Canyon Rd., 1 mile west of Moraga. Wear boots, carry lunch.

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

FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

The trip to PUPAH CREEK & LAKE SOLANO on January 19 was made on a crystal clear, cold day with brisk wind at Solano County Park but otherwise only gentle breezes. The 28 members and guests had excellent views of Osprey, Canyon and Rock Wren, and Phainopepla among the following 78 species seen or heard:

Com Loon, Eared, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Dbl-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue & Green Heron, Mallard, Amer Wigeon, Wood Duck, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Com Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-Shinned, Cooper's, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, Osprey, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Com Gallinule, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Com Snipe, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Calif Gull, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Rock & Mourning Dove, White-Throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, "Red-Shafted" Flicker, Acorn, Lewis', Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black & Say's Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Scrub Jay, Yellow-Billed Magpie, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Bewick's, Canyon & Rock Wren, Mockingbird, Calif Thrasher, Amer Robin, Hermit Thrush, West Bluebird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Phainopepla, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Hutton's Vireo, Yellow-Rumped (Myrtle & Audubon's) Warbler, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Purple & House Finch, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Lark Sparrow, "Oregon" Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

At BENICIA STATE RECREATION AREA on January 24 were 19 hardy members who found such cold, foggy, damp, windy weather that the trip was terminated right after lunch. However, these 50 species were seen or heard during the morning:

West Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Mallard, Pintail, Green-Winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Canvasback, Ruddy Duck, merganser sp, Cooper's, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Virginia Rail, Sora, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Com Snipe, Spotted Sandpiper, Willet, Least Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Glaucous-Wing, West, Herring & Calif Gull, Rock & Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, "Red-Shafted" Flicker, Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, "Audubon's" Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Brown Towhee, "Oregon" Junco, White-Crowned, Lincoln's & Song Sparrow.

The highly successful LOS BANOS/MERCED NWR and PANOCHE VALLEY weekend February 2-3 was attended by 19 members (17 on Saturday, 14 on Sunday). It was cold and foggy but windless Saturday morning but visibility was reasonably good and the fog lifted by noon while temperatures remained down. Sunday was clear but fog followed behind us along the road, temperature was pleasant and wind gentle. Seen were Cattle Egret, Ferruginous Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Merlin, Mountain Bluebird, White-Throated Sparrow among these 97 species found (74 species Saturday, 61 Sunday):

Eared & Pied-Billed Grebe, White Pelican, Dbl-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, CATTLE, Great & Snowy EGRET, Amer Bittern, White-Faced Ibis, Canada, White-Fronted, Snow & Ross' Goose, Mallard, Pintail, Green-Winged & Cinnamon Teal, Amer Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck, White-Tailed Kite, Sharp-Shinned, Cooper's, Red-Tailed & Ferruginous Hawk, Golden Eagle, Marsh Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Merlin, Amer Kestrel, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Sandhill Cranes dancing, Virginia Rail, Sora, Com Gallinule, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Mountain & Black-Bellied Plover, Com Snipe, Long-Billed Curlew, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Long-Billed Dowitcher, West Sandpiper, Amer Avocet, Black-Necked Stilt, Calif & Ring-Billed Gull, Rock & Mourning Dove, Roadrunner, Barn & Short-Eared Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, "Red-Shafted" Flicker, Lewis' & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black & Say's Phoebe, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Yellow-Billed Magpie, Com Raven, Com Crow, Bewick's, Marsh & Rock Wren, Mockingbird, Calif Thrasher, West & Mountain Bluebird, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, "Audubon's" Warbler, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged, Tricolored & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, Brown Towhee, Savannah & Lark Sparrow, "Oregon" Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, White-Throated & Song Sparrow.

The THORNTON trip on February 6 was made by 11 members on a day which began cold and foggy but improved to cool and clear, light wind was around all day. These 50 species, including MANY Sandhill Cranes (some dancing), were seen or heard:

Pied-Billed Grebe, Great-Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Amer Bittern, Whistling Swan, Canada & White-Fronted Goose, Pintail, scaup sp, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Sharp-Shinned, Red-Tailed, Red-Shouldered & Marsh Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Sandhill Crane, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Ring-Billed Gull, Rock Dove, Barn Owl, Belted Kingfisher, "Red-Shafted" Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Horned Lark, swallow sp, Scrub Jay, Com

Crow, Mockingbird, Rubv-Crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, "Audubon's" Warbler, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Amer Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided Towhee, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

* * * * *

Our CONSERVATION COMMITTEE now has a monthly newsheet on environmental matters of particular interest to members and which generally require some sort of immediate action. If you have any such information, please let the committee know. To obtain your copy of the newsheet, you are encouraged to attend our regular monthly membership meetings. Free printing of the material has been obtained through Print-N-Stuff in Concord, however there are no funds available for mailing it.

* * * * *

A dinner honoring STATE SENATOR JOHN NEJEDLY for his many years' service to our county, will be held at 7:00 p.m., April 20, at Pleasant Hill Park and Rec Center, Civic Dr., Pleasant Hill. John Zierold, Sierra Club lobbyist in Sacramento, will speak about conservation in general and interesting stories he's heard about Sen. Nejedly in particular. A catered dinner, sponsored by Mt. Diablo Group of Sierra Club and "Save Mt. Diablo" organization, will be \$6.75 per person. There is space for only 250 people so send check now, payable to Sierra Club, to Joseph E. Hipple, 3377 Reliez Highland Rd., Lafayette, CA 94549.

* * * * *

CHEMICAL FERTILIZER PELLETS, which birds may mistake for grit, pose potential danger to birds as in the death of 10,000 songbirds in New York. According to Dr. Ward B. Stone, EnCon Wildlife Pathologist, ingestion of 1-2 such pellets high in nitrate can be fatal. If spread on lawns or gardens they should immediately be well watered into the soil or applied just before a rain and never used near bird feeders or other areas where birds feed regularly. (Albany County Audubon, NY, newsletter)

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The 10th annual AUDUBON INSTITUTE OF DESERT ECOLOGY will be held May 16-20 at Boyce Thompson Southwestern Arboretum west of Superior, Arizona. All meals are catered; accomodations either in dormitory or camping. Registration: 4 days, \$143; extended 5 days, \$168; 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, AS 85705.

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The New Melones Dam, if filled, will flood the STANISLAUS RIVER canyon and destroy one of our most precious areas. A recent state audit shows that the dam will not pay for itself but cost taxpayers an additional \$1 billion. Next year one of our most popular river areas may be ruined. HR 4223, before the House now, would save the lovely Stanislaus by designating its upper canyon a Wild & Scenic River. Write Honorable Phillip Burton, Chairman, Subcommittee on National Parks & Insular Affairs, House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515, with copies to your congressman, House Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20515; Senator Alan Cranston, Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20510; Friends of the River, Ft. Mason Center, San Francisco, CA 94123. For more info: Friends of the River office, 771-0400.

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AUDUBON CANYON RANCH is open to the public March 1-July 4, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., weekends, holidays, and during Easter Week; no charge. Parking, picnic tables available. For public transportation call Golden Gate Transit, 453-2300, for schedule.

* * * * *

CLASSES and EXCURSIONS:

BIRD SOUNDS, Marie Mans, 7-9 p.m., Apr. 9-May 7, beginning & intermediate birders, \$10. Local field trips may be arranged. Details: Albany Adult School, 526-6811.

UCD EXTENSION. Northern Calif Raptors, Mar. 22-23, \$50. Nesting Birds of Lassen Co. (Honey, Eagle Lakes), June 14-16, \$50. Both by Steve Laymon. Info or enrollment: Wilderness Extension, Univ. Extension, U.C., Davis, CA 95616; (916) 752-0880.

PRBO: Birds of Guatemala-Tikal, Mar. 9-24, Bill Clow, \$1240; Pelagics From Shore, Apr. 19-20, Rich Stalloup, \$35. Contact Linda Parker, 4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach, CA 94970; 388-2286.

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October's PACK RAT RUMMAGE SALE raised \$25,000 for Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum. Continued financial help and volunteer workers are vital to the Museum's work.

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

Concord: Sherry Agnew, Gerry I. Fisher, Clyde M. Griffith, R. Hauge, Geoffry Johnson, Kenneth Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Richard J. McPeak, Mr. Sean McVey, Mr. Wilson Sharp, Julie Traynor; Danville: Cynthia R. Waldie; Lafayette: C. O. Berggren, Carol Jessen, Mrs. Mary Kelly, Mr. & Mrs. E. H. Sangwine; Martinez: M. Anselmo, Cynthia Chotard, Mr. & Mrs. William A. Whitesell; Pittsburg: P. Hill; Pleasant Hill: Ruth A. Johnson, Steve Swaffer, Evarista F. Tyler; San Ramon: Fran Scott; Walnut Creek: Alice Barnes, Mr. & Mrs. J. Craig Bedell, Betty S. Cash, Mr. Adrian I. Dalsey, John Albert Davis, Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Eiffert, Virginia M. Gould, Gordon & Sylvia Lisser, Nadine Lockwood, George M. Maddox, Mrs. Carolyn J. McClung, Mrs. Ollie McGillivray, Fred Safier, Mrs. D. Underwood, Lucie & Larry Wiesner.

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INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE on MONO LAKE recommends raising Mono 15 feet to its 1970 elevation of 6,388 feet. Modest water conservation and wastewater reclamation can do this, save water & energy, yet cost the average LA resident only 54¢ a year. Urge your Assemblyman & State Senator to co-sponsor AB 2235 (Assemblyman Norman Waters) to implement those recommendations--this may be Mono's last chance--and oppose AB 2182 (Assemblyman Mike Roos at instigation of DPW) to prevent any reduction of water diversions during a 5-year research--leaving nothing to save! Hearings by Assembly Committee on Water, Parks & Wildlife will be crucial--Daniel Boatwright, Concord, is a member. Wire, write your Assemblyman & Senator, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814: SUPPORT AB 2235 and OPPOSE AB 2182!

Urge your Congressman, Senators to co-author HR 6916 (Norman Shumway) implementing federal role in Task Force Plan P. Wire or write your Congressman, House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515; Senators Alan Cranston and S. I. Hayakawa, Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510.

Join MONO LAKE HOTLINE! Tell No. Cal. Coordinator Sam Mayhew, (415) 849-4727, you will contact legislators at a moment's notice--you'll be phoned whenever letters, telegrams, screams are needed. Snow is deep in the watershed but unless we speak out, water will go into the LA Aqueduct, not because needed, but since it is cheap.

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CONSERVATION NOTES by J. P. Hauser.

ON DAMS. Today millions are starving because they do not have enough water for their crops. Some 1.2 billion are without safe drinking water. Another 200 million suffer abysmal indignity and disease for lack of sufficient quantities to cleanse away their wastes. (How easy it is to write--and read--about millions or billions of people as a statistic. Try to visualize just one million, if you can.) The problem is not lack of fresh water, the problem is how to make it available. The U.N. Water Conference met in March, 1977, in Argentina and came up with the startlingly new, revolutionary, innovative concept that the best way to supply water to people was either by irrigation or impounding it behind dams! It has been known for years that when a free-flowing stream/river is dammed, the problems multiply, not resolve.

Take Egypt's huge Aswan Dam. It is neither enriching the land nor its people. Consider these facts:

- A. It has concentrated insecticides and herbicides, producing massive fish kills.
- B. The Egyptians are no longer getting the former flood's priceless gift of millions of tons of silt that made the Nile Delta so fertile. It is now dropping to the bottom of Lake Nasser.
- C. Lake Nasser, designed to hold 35.2 billion gallons of water is only half full.
- D. Evaporation alone takes 3.3 billion gallons of water annually (50% more than the engineer's estimate).
- E. Annually, the lake loses about one-third of the water flowing into it.

Worldwide, some 61.7 million acres of productive land have been destroyed, with the loss running at the rate of 741,000 yearly. Silting has cut the storage capacity of America's Lake Austin in Texas by 95.6% in 13 years.

The best the water experts could suggest at the U.N. Conference was to explore for more technology. Why is it not becoming more and more obvious that living in harmony with nature is the bottom line, not more massive inputs of technology?!

* * * * *

"If a man walk in the woods for love of them half of each day, he is in danger of being regarded as a loafer; but if he spends his whole day as a speculator shearing off those woods and making the earth bald before her time, he is esteemed an industrious and enterprising citizen." Thoreau.

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The informative CHECKLIST of NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BIRDS is available at the Humboldt State Univ. Bookstore, Arcata, or by mail: send 25¢ and a self-addressed, stamped long envelope to Redwood Region Audubon Society, P O Box 1054, Eureka, CA 95501.

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

Common Loon, still at Clifton Court Forebay (hereafter CCF), thru period--BR, JR.
Red-Throated Loon, CCF, Jan. 22 thru period--BR, JR. Red-Necked Grebe, 1, Drake's Beach, & 1, Limantour, Pt. Reyes, Jan. 26--FB, B&MJG, BR, JR. White Pelican, Bethel Island, Feb. 11--BR. CATTLE EGRET, 6, Sutter Buttes, Sutter Co., Jan. 19--DW, GL; CCF, Jan. 22--BR; CCF, Jan. 29--SS, TS; Jersey Is., Feb. 11--BR. White-Fronted Goose, 2,000, Bradford Is., Feb. 11--BR. ROSS' GOOSE, CCF, Jan. 28--BR, JR. Blue-Winged Teal, 7, Palo Alto Baylands, Jan. 18--JE, MR. European Wigeon, Drake's Estero, Pt. Reyes, Jan. 20--AE. Redhead, up to 8, CCF, thru period--BR, JR, DE. Lesser Scaup, est. 5,000, CCF, Feb. 11--BR. TUFTED DUCK, Coyote Hills Reg. Park, Jan. 19-Feb. 3--m.ob. Common Goldeneye, est. 1,700, CCF, Jan. 22--BR; 1,500 there, Jan. 28--BR, JR. White Winged Sooter, CCF, Jan. 22--BR. Hooded Merganser, ♂, 4♀, 5-Brooks pond, Pt. Reyes, Jan. 26--FB, B&MJG, BR, JR; ♂, ♀, Jewel Lk., Tilden Reg. Park, Feb. 6--NB, et al. Duck sp., est. 9,000, CCF, Feb. 11--BR.

Rough-Legged Hawk, CCF, Jan. 22--BR; Mt. House Rd., Alameda Co., Jan. 28--JR, BR; CCF, Feb. 5--JR, BR. Ferruginous Hawk, CCF, Jan. 28--JR, BR; several, Patterson Pass Rd., Alameda Co., Feb. 2--AE, GB, BR; Laughlin Rd., Alameda Co., Feb. 2--AE, GB; Collier Cyn Rd., Contra Costa Co., Feb. 8--BR. BALD EAGLE, 2, Lk. Success, Tulare Co., Jan. 18-19--BR. Sandhill Crane, CCF, Jan. 28--JR, BR; Jersey Is., Feb. 11--BR. BLACK RAIL, Palo Alto Baylands, Jan. 17--AE, TC. RED PHALAROPE, Palo Alto Baylands duck pond, Jan. 18--JE, MR, et al. BLACK-HEADED GULL, Stockton Oxidation Ponds, San Joaquin Co., Feb. 4 thru period--JL, m.ob. LITTLE GULL, Stockton Oxidation Ponds, Feb. 4 thru period--JL, m.ob.

Snowy Owl, Seattle, WA, Feb. 7--JE (his lifer at long last!). Burrowing Owl, CCF Jan. 28-Feb. 8--JR, BR, SS, TS; Jersey Is., Feb. 11--BR. Short-Eared Owl, 2, CCF, Jan. 29 thru period--SS, TS, BR; 2, Bethel Is., Feb. 11--BR; 14, Jersey Is., Feb. 11--BR. COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD, heard near her Alamo home, Jan. 23 & 30--JR. Allen's Hummingbirds, returned to Alamo, Feb. 1, Lafayette, Feb. 2--JR, LF.

Mountain Chickadee, Porterville, Tulare Co., garden, Jan. 18--BR. Pygmy Nuthatch, 3, near Lafayette library, Jan. 31--BR. Mountain Bluebird, 20, MP 6, Patterson Pass Rd., Feb. 2--AE; 15-18, Armstrong Rd. near CCF, Feb. 5--JR, BR; 4, Armstrong Rd. a mile beyond previous site, Feb. 8--BR. Northern Shrike, Wilson Hill Rd. at Pt. Reyes-Petaluma Rd., Marin Co., Jan. 19--RS. Yellow Warbler, Walton Park, S.F., thru period--m.ob. Yellow-Headed Blackbird, 2, in flock of 15-20,000 blackbirds & 5,000 crows (!), Jersey Is., Feb. 11--BR. Tricolored Blackbird, 2, Bethel Is., Feb. 11--BR. GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE, ♀, Walton Park, thru period--m.ob. EVENING GROSBEAK, 20+, College of Marin, Kentfield, thru period--m.ob.; 3, Lafayette library, Jan. 29 -Feb. 2--NB, JR, BR. RED CROSSBILL, flying over her Alamo home, Feb. 6--JR. Vesper Sparrow, CCF, Jan. 22--BR.

OBSERVERS: Norah Bain, Florence Bennett, George Bing, Ted Chandik, Art Edwards, Dick Erickson, Jimm Edgar, Lynn Farrar, Al & Wilma Ghorso, Bill & Mary Jane Greene, Jeri Langham, Gerry Lindo, Marv Reif, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Rich Stalloup, Sally Steller, Tom Steller, David Wharton, many observers, NorCal Rare Bird Alert.

Last September 27, Rich Stalloup found 19 DIFFERENT WARBLER SPECIES at Pt. Reyes, surely a California record for one day!!! (Kite Tales, Redwood Reg. Ornith. Soc.)

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, 1894 1/2 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: Lincoln Park (Land's End), San Francisco.

Access: From Kennedy Dr. in Golden Gate Park go north on 30th Ave. to Clement St., left to 34th Ave., right on Legion of Honor Dr. Just beyond Palace of the Legion of Honor turn right on El Camino Del Mar about 1/4 block and park.

El Camino Del Mar. Slowly walk east along road checking trees, especially on north side: chickadee, nuthatches, creeper, thrushes, kinglets, vireos, many warblers in migration (Black-and-White, Tennessee, Northern Parula, Magnolia, Blackburnian, Chestnut-Sided, Blackpoll, Palm, Redstart have been seen), Western & Summer (Aug.-Oct. 1979) Tanager, siskin, Red Crossbill, sparrows may include White-Throated.

Bluff area. On north side of El Camino Del Mar near 32nd Ave. take dirt trail heading west. On open water, rocks, shoreline: water & shorebirds. Hillside above boardwalk: hummingbirds, flycatchers, warblers, sparrows. In vicinity of dense tree cover across trail, look upslope for same birds. When reach overgrown ravine take narrow path up west side, check open area on left, eucalyptus trees on right: birds listed below. Bluff trail continues along bluffs to west end of golf course.

Ravine. From El Camino Del Mar just NE of Legion of Honor take unpaved trail west: hummingbirds, flicker, flycatchers, swallows, Bushtit, wrens, gnatcatcher, warblers, Western & Summer (1979) Tanager, Black-Headed Grosbeak, finches, goldfinches, sparrows. At bottom of hill, dirt path to right to bluff trail, paved walk ahead thru golfcourse (be courteous to golfers, use caution for golfballs!). Trees on right: creeper, thrushes, kinglets, vireos, warblers.

Willows on left at end of golfcourse: hummingbirds, Downy Woodpecker, flycatchers, wrens, thrushes, kinglets, vireos, warblers (Black-Throated Green, Oct. 1979), Indigo Bunting (Aug. 1979), finches, goldfinches, towhees, sparrows.

Ocean overlook: Beyond willows go left on broad unpaved trail (trail to right follows bluffs to ravine above). On water, rocks: waterbirds, shorebirds, gulls, terns, aloids (Guillemots nest, summer); bushes: flycatchers, goldfinches, sparrows.

Ravine below V.A. Hospital: From ocean, narrow dirt path uphill toward hospital. Trees on right: wrens, thrushes, kinglets, vireos, warblers (include Hermit, Palm), finches, goldfinches, sparrows. Continue up thru willows bearing left: flycatchers, wrens, thrushes, kinglets, vireos, warblers, finches, goldfinches, sparrows (Swamp Sparrow at little wooden bridge Oct. 1978). Railroad tie steps lead up to west end of El Camino Del Mar. Check trees (Magnolia Warbler, Oct. 1979) as return to car.

Birds: grebes, Brown Pelican, cormorants, scoters, some hawks, Quail, shorebirds may include Tattler, several gulls, Forster's, Common, Elegant & Caspian Tern, Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Vaux's Swift (migration), hummingbirds, flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Tropical Kingbird (Oct. 1979), several flycatchers, swallows, both jays, chickadee, Bushtit, Red-Breasted & Pygmy Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Winter & Bewick's Wren, Robin, Hermit (winter) & Swainson's (summer) Thrush, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Hutton's & Warbling Vireo, 18 warbler species, meadowlark, tanager, Black-Headed & Rose-Breasted (migration) Grosbeak, Purple & House Finch, siskin, 2 goldfinches, Red Crossbill, 2 towhees, Dark-Eyed Junco, sparrows include Chipping, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, White-Throated, Fox, Swamp, Song.

Good birding during migration. Restrooms: Cliff House (at Ocean Beach) or Phelan Beach east of park. Picnic area: west side of VA Hospital (or sit on ground along El Camino Del Mar under trees). Excellent Golden Gate NRA map from U.S. Park Service at Cliff House or Ft. Funston, or write to GGNRA, U.S. Park Service, Ft. Mason, San Francisco, CA 94123. Muni bus service reaches area, call 673-MUNI for info.

ELKHORN SLOUGH ESTUARINE SANCTUARY at Moss Landing, Monterey Co., is being established with a million dollar federal grant. The 1500 acres of marsh, uplands will be managed by Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game for research, education, but other uses including wildlife observation, will be permitted when compatible. (Madrone Aud Soc)

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

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

April, 1980
Vol. 26, No. 9

Next deadline: April 5



Meeting: Regular meeting for April 3 cancelled due to conflict with the Audubon Film. We meet for dinner at 6:00 p.m. then attend the film. See below.

Field trips: Trips open, members, non-members alike; bring lunch, binocs, field guide. Rain on trip day? Call leader---trip may be canceled or put off a week.

Thurs., Apr. 10, 9:00 a.m., north Briones Park wildflower walk. Leader: John Davis (228-9516). Carry lunch.

Sat., Apr. 12, 9:15 a.m., 3-Springs Ranch & Glen Ellen; carpool: southeast corner of Sun Valley Center, 8:00. Leader: Winnie Orcutt (944-0593).

Sat., Apr. 19, 8:15 a.m., Sunol Regional Park; carpool: El Cerro Blvd. at I-680, Danville, 7:30. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843). Carry lunch.

Wed., Apr. 23, 9:30 am, Lake Merced & Ft. Funston; carpool: El Nido & Acalanes Rds. north of Fwy 24, Orinda, 8:15. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey (254-0486).

Sat., Apr. 26, 8:30 a.m., Caswell Memorial Park; carpool: El Cerro Blvd. at I-680, Danville, 7:00. Leaders: Merv & Norma Ortez (283-3072). If going, call them a day or two ahead as the area is sometimes flooded.

Audubon Film: Thurs., Apr. 3, 8:00 p.m., Diablo Valley College Forum (in Library Bldg.), "Galapagos" by John Wilson. Adult, \$2; under 12, \$1. NO-HOST DINNER, with the speaker, The Magic Pan, Sun Valley Center, 6:00 p.m. Call Russ Jones (933-6889), preferably by March 27 if you plan to attend.

Board Meeting: Thurs., Apr. 10, 7:30 p.m., home of Jean Richmond, 125 Via Serena, Alamo; 837-2843. Board meetings are always open to all members.

Checklist Meeting: Thurs., Apr. 17, 7:30-10:00 p.m., home of Jean Richmond, 125 Via Serena, Alamo; 837-2843. Open to anyone interested.

Conservation Mtg: Thurs., Apr. 24, 7:30 p.m., home of Bruce Moorad, 1445 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek; 938-4446. Open to all interested in conservation matters.

The Board cancelled our scheduled April 3 MEETING as it conflicts with the Audubon Film. We meet for NO-HOST DINNER (see Film, above) then adjourn to the college for the film. Urgent business, if any, will be conducted in a brief session after dinner. Election of officers, usually held in April, will be held at the May meeting.

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.

At GLEN ELLEN and nearby 3-SPRINGS RANCH we look for Yellow-Breasted Chat, woodpeckers, flycatchers, warblers, etc. From I-680 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.

On the easy walk along Alameda Creek at SUNOL PARK we see hawks, eagles, woodpeckers, Magpie, thrushes, warblers, sparrows. Go south on I-680 about 9 miles past Dublin to Calaveras Rd., turn left under freeway about 4 miles to Geary Rd., then left about 2 miles to Park Headquarters. Carry lunch, liquids.

At LAKE MERCED and FORT FUNSTON are waterbirds, some ducks (possibly Black Sooter), landbirds including Bank Swallow, warblers, etc., sometimes Red Crossbill. Cross Bay Bridge to US 101, go south via US 101 & I-280 past Geneva Ave., take next exit (S.F. State Univ.) about a block, turn right on Sagamore St., right on Brotherhood Way, right on Lake Merced Blvd. At Sunset Blvd. turn left into the parking area.

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

The FILM is the last to be shown here, due to Prop 13 and its budget cuts. The 60 widely scattered Galapagos Islands are tempting for photographers as well as birders. Amid albatrosses, iguanas, flamingoes, sea lions, et al, John Wilson filmed on several of the islands the special wildlife and wilderness of a unique world.

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FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

The ABBOTT'S LAGOON trip February 16 was attended by 4 hale and hardy members. The 30-35 mph winds resulted in driving rains. How "driving", well even my waterproof mascara "ran", having me resemble a Dark-Eyed Junco (which we didn't get) or a birder who refused to switch. The 4 birders walked out only to the lagoon, each birder observing 2.5 species namely: Eared & Western Grebe, Ruddy Duck, Bufflehead, 1 each of cormorant, Red-Tailed Hawk, Coot, Common Flicker, Meadowlark and White-Crowned Sparrow. As our binocs are not equipped with windshield wipers we doggedly strained our pupils for each. We returned to our cars, geared down from rain wear bid each other fond adieu, and returned to the coziness of our homes. If the translation of this is printed thusly, Abbott's Lagoon: rained out, why, I'll just yell fowl, fowl, and more fowl! (This delightful report from leader Helen Gentile.)

The TILDEN PARK trip scheduled February 21 was cancelled, not from rain but due to muddy conditions on the trails following heavy rains the day and night before.

The trip to LAKES LAGUNITAS & BON TEMPE on March 12 was made by 9 members on a gorgeous day, clear and cool with light wind. The Pileated Woodpecker failed to show but we did have 6 other woodpecker species and had a great view of a Red-Shouldered Hawk calling as it circled overhead. The following 45 species were seen or heard:

Pied-Billed Grebe, Dbl-Crested Cormorant, Mallard, Com Goldeneye, Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed & Red-Shouldered Hawk, gull sp, Mourning Dove, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, "Red-Shafted" Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, "Red-Breasted" Sapsucker, Hairy, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Tree Swallow, Scrub Jay, Com Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted & Red-Breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Bewick's Wren, Amer Robin, Varied & Hermit Thrush, Golden-Crowned & Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Starling, Hutton's Vireo, Orange-Crowned & Townsend's Warbler, Evening Grosbeak, Purple & House Finch, Pine Siskin, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, "Oregon" Junco, White-Crowned & Golden-Crowned Sparrow.

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It's NESTING TIME so prune carefully and don't forget to put out bits of string, colored yarn and dryer lint to help the nest builders.

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The ENVIRONMENTAL BILL of RIGHTS Initiative will appear on the November ballot if enough signatures are obtained before April 15. The proposal, backed by retired State Senator Peter Behr, would write into the California State Constitution legal recognition of the right of all citizens to a "healthy and productive environment." Included are rights to clean air, unpolluted water, safe and renewable energy, freedom from involuntary exposure to toxic substances, livable environments, farmland protected from urban sprawl, protected flora and fauna. The proposal also would prohibit regulations or laws which unreasonably impair the right of people to a healthy, productive environment. It specifies means by which the government should seek to implement these rights. Contact Al Burton (9 Chadima Ct., Pleasant Hill, CA 94523; 934-5716) for a petition to circulate or to volunteer to help man tables in the petition drive. Or contact The Alliance for a Healthful and Productive California, 717 K St., Suite 209, Sacramento, CA 95814; (916) 444-8727.

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The NOMINATING COMMITTEE (Tom Lee, Florence Bennett, Jimm Edgar) will present candidates at the May election. They will welcome names you might suggest to them.

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Reclassification of the southwest flock of WHOOPING CRANES from endangered to experimental has been requested by New Mexico's Natural Resources Dept. Apparently they feel "endangered" clouds continued and perhaps expanded hunting at Bosque del Apache NWR where the birds winter. These Whoopers hatched from eggs taken in Canada and put in Sandhill Crane nests at Grays Lake NWR, Idaho, in an effort to establish a second wild flock. They migrate with Sandhills to Bosque, where there were 15 of them at last report. Hunting is allowed where endangered species are found, thus Snow Geese are hunted at Bosque, subject to extraordinary restrictions. If the system failed and a Whooper classed as endangered was shot, US Fish & Wildlife Service would likely close the refuge to hunting. If effective restrictions continue, chances of expanded hunting are slim while the endangered label remains.

The New Mexico agency, feeling its first duty is to hunters, asked for reclassification, contending New Mexico is not in the species' historic range thus they do not qualify for protection as endangered but should be "experimental." NAS biologists and other scientists dispute this claim. A national wildlife refuge should serve broad national interest and protection of an endangered species should not be second to adding some game for New Mexico hunters. Lynn A. Greenwalt, director of USF&WS, agreed, and turned down the request. Reportedly New Mexico's wildlife officials are urging their congressional delegation to pass a law reclassifying the birds. Write your congressmen (House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515; U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510) asking them to support Greenwalt and to resist attempts to put local hunting before national interests at national wildlife refuges. Send a copy to Greenwalt at US Fish & Wildlife Service, Washington, DC 20240.

EARTH DAY, '80: victories won, new challenges ahead. Ten years ago we had no Environmental Protection Agency, no national clean air and water legislation, conservation was mostly Smokey the Bear and contour plowing. On April 22, 1970, came the first Earth Day, bringing new confidence to conservationists and new notice from the public, followed by the Environmental Decade: major rivers are recovering economic and recreational health; air in some major cities is getting cleaner; energy conservation and recycling are now household words.

Other environmental problems continue and new ones develop: man-made cancer-causing chemicals pollute the world; safe disposal of toxic waste and radioactive material is unsolved; endangered plants and animals face extinction at an alarming rate; coastlines are threatened; urban sprawl eats up farmlands.

A citizens' committee is organizing Earth Day '80, a nationwide observance on the anniversary date to celebrate past achievements and to forge a new commitment to environmental goals as we enter the 80's. NAS President Russ Peterson is a member of the advisory board. Watch local papers for Earth Day events.

A FEDERAL COURT RULING, believed to be without precedent, declared that state and federal governments are protectors of our migratory waterfowl and may sue polluters for environmental disasters that harm birds. The District Court ruling in Norfolk came in a case growing out of the worst oil spill in Chesapeake Bay history--a 1976 accident that killed 30,000 waterbirds. A Maryland company whose sinking oil barge was blamed for the deaths argued that it could not be sued because no one owned the dead birds. But U.S. District Court Judge J. Calvitt Clarke, Jr., in a ruling hailed by environmental groups, held that ownership is irrelevant. (S.F. Chronicle)

WALK THE COAST WITH AUDUBON, celebrate the Year of the Coast, 1980: coastal walks, bike rides, canoe trips, and other events to draw attention to the value of our coastal lands and the need to protect them. One goal of the Year of the Coast is to get the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act strengthened and reauthorized. A tentative schedule is being made, subject to revision as ideas come in, kickoff is May 8. Potential volunteers seeking information, contact Mary Ellen Vollbrecht, NAS, 1511 K St. NW, Washington, DC 20005; (202) 466-6600. Walks will generate publicity and offer fund-raising to finance both the program and further education.

BIRDS IN SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA, a 126-page book with information on the 446 species seen within easy driving distance of Tucson, includes maps, directions to the best birding areas. Published by Tucson Audubon Soc., 30A N. Tucson Blvd, Tucson, AZ 85716, it is available to Audubon members for \$4 (\$6 non-members) plus 50¢ mailing.

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

Antioch: Mr. Jerry Reed; Concord: Melinda Burggraf, Diane Fisher, Mrs. Charles W. Tobin, Tom Wright; Danville: Christopher S. Marker, Susie Monson; Lafayette: Mr. & Mrs. Joseph R. Herr, Doris N. Kroger, J. P. Marchant, Dwight M. Rutherford; Pleasant Hill: Stephen Gerber, Richard Jones, Jackson C. & Max K. Miers; San Ramon: Beverly Gray, Kris Moline; Walnut Creek: Diane M. Beck, James A. Benson, Walter R. Bradford, R. A. Buonaccorsi, Jack B. Bushman, Boyd J. Carter, James Chow, Ted & Alice Clay, T. Helbig, Mr. & Mrs. Fred Kosling.

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CONSERVATION NOTES by J. P. Hauser.

Walnut Creek Open Space, 2,500 acres of oak woodland and grassland savannah nestled in the foothills of Mt. Diablo, consists of Shell, Lime, Acalanes and Sugarloaf Ridges, with an extensive trail system and numerous park land banks for future community parks. Concerned citizens saved this land to provide breathing space, solitude, outdoor recreation near, but seemingly far from, a crowded urban area as Walnut Creek and environs is fast becoming. Shell Ridge, in the advanced planning stage, by summer should be developed for various outdoor activities.

One of the unique areas is the Old Barges Children's Farm and Campground. This special "one-of-kind" ranch will offer the full environmental live-in experience of what it was like on an old-time working ranch around the turn of the century. Small groups such as Girl Scouts, 4-H, Boy Scouts, and even adult organizations whose members may want to relive earlier life, can reserve a campground adjacent to the ranch and wake up to the cacophony of numerous farm animals awaiting morning feeding. Chores during the day include gathering hay, making soap, blacksmithing, mending fences, and tending livestock. To date, grazing grass has been planted, about 1000 acorn and buckeye seeds planted, a memorial redwood grove to the memory of Paul Williamson has been planted and fences, signs, trails, and hitching posts erected. There is much more to be done before it can be a complete working ranch.

However, plans have been announced for an April 20th Open Space Dedication Day. It will be a full day's fun for the whole family. Some of the possible activities will be log splitting, old time turkey shoot, sheep shearing, wool spinning, western drama skits, country and bluegrass bands with square dancing, and fund-raising auction. You can help this totally worthwhile endeavor by becoming a member of the newly-created Open Space Foundation, giving a tax-deductible gift of cash or personal property, or a donation of much-needed new and/or old farm equipment and supplies. For information call Ron White, Open Space Ranger, or Marnie White, at 934-6990, or write The Ranger Station, 1035 Castle Rock Rd., Walnut Creek, CA 94598.

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An election-year PORK-BARREL of water projects, HR 4788, passed the House of Representatives in February. Sponsors tried to slip it through but several amendments were introduced to force debate on individual proposals, making headlines. But a 10-year-old project, partially complete Columbia Dam on Tennessee's Duck River, is "Most Blatant Pork Barrel Project." It will flood 12,600 acres of farmland to protect 3,700 acres from occasional flooding, evict 260 families to protect 43 buildings in the town of Columbia. Sponsors never claimed favorable cost/benefit ratio: agricultural products of \$14 million a year exceed all claimed benefits. Phosphates in the area will over-fertilize the water and produce eutrophication--a lifeless, smelly lake. Seasonal drawdown will leave 4,000 acres of mudflat. There are now 9 lakes within 50 miles of Columbia. 24,000 acres of fish/wildlife habitat will go.

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A Florida developer who illegally filled a SALT MARSH in Volusia County has removed 50,000 cubic yards of fill from a 7-acre marsh and planted 12,000 plugs of cord-grass. The action came after the U.S. Corps of Engineers filed a civil suit against Golden Bay Colony for excavating and filling a wetland without a permit.

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CLASSES and EXCURSIONS.

Audubon SIERRA NATURAL HISTORY WORKSHOP, Golden Trout Camp at 10,000 feet, July 27-Aug. 2; Aug. 3-9; adult \$125, under 11 \$90. Hike in 2 1/2 miles, carry sleeping bag, personal gear; meals, tent provided. Study alpine regions. Signup by July 5. Info, brochure: Mrs. Tomi Sollen, 825 N. Soledad, Santa Barbara, CA 93103; (805) 966-4836.

PRBO: Owls of Calif (Carmel Valley); May 16 (evening), 17, 18, Bill Clow, \$60; Birds, Mammals of Gulf of Farallons, May 18, Harriet Huber, \$35; Owls of Calif. (Humboldt, Trinity Cos., May 30 (evening), 31, June 1, Bill Clow, \$60. Contact Linda Parker, 4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach, CA 94970; 388-2286.

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OBSERVATIONS, Feb. 11-Mar. 10. (Also see field trip reports.)

YELLOW-BILLED LOON, Pt. Richmond, Feb. 17-Mar. 9--HJ, m.ob. Red-Throated Loon, 2, Clifton Court Forebay (CCF), Mar. 8--DE. Red-Necked Grebe, Home Bay, Pt. Reyes, Mar. 1--BF, GC, MC; Drake's Beach, Pt. Reyes, Mar. 4--JR, BF, et al; Moss Landing, Monterey Co., Mar. 8--JR, FB, GC. Northern Fulmar, light phase, Santa Cruz muni pier, Mar. 7--BR. Short-Tailed Shearwater, 2, Monterey Bay pelagic, Feb. 24--BR SAS. Manx Shearwater, 30, Monterey Bay pelagic, Feb. 24--BR, SAS. Cattle Egret, 36, near Castroville, Monterey Co., Feb. 23-24--FB, GC, et al; I-80 at Midway Rd., Solano Co., Mar. 1--JR; 12, Zmudowski St Bch, Monterey Co., Mar. 7--BR; 10+, SR 132 at San Joaquin Riv., Stanislaus Co., Mar. 9--R&JR.

Whistling Swan, 6, Pt. Reyes Station, Marin Co., Mar. 2-8--m.ob. Blue-Winged Teal, ♂, Isabel Pond, Livermore, early Mar.--AE. Cinnamon Teal, 75, Castroville sewer ponds, Monterey Co., Feb. 23--FB, GC. TUFFED DUCK, ♂, Richardson Bay, Mill Valley, thru period--m.ob. Oldsquaw, ♀, Santa Cruz muni pier, Mar. 7-9--BR, et al. Harlequin Duck, Moss Landing, Mar. 7--BR. Black Scoter, 2♂, 3♀, Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes, Mar. 4--JR, BF, et al; pair, Santa Cruz muni pier, Mar. 7--BR; ♂, Cypress Pt., 2♂, Pt. Isabel, Mar. 9--BR. Hooded Merganser, 2♀, 5-Brooks, Pt. Reyes, Mar. 1--FB, GC, MC.

Red-Shouldered Hawk, pair, his Lafayette yard, Mar. 2--LF. Swainson's Hawk, SR 132 at San Joaquin Riv., Stanislaus Co., Mar. 9--JR. Rough-Legged Hawk, 9, CCF area, Feb. 29--BR, JR. Ferruginous Hawk, 2, CCF area, Feb. 29--JR, BR. BALD EAGLE, ad., Greenville Rd., Alameda Co., Feb. 24-26--AE, GB; imm., Laughlin Rd., Alameda Co., Feb. 29--JR. Clapper Rail, mouth of San Pablo Cr., early Mar.--DE. Golden Plover, 8, Spaletta Ranch, Pt. Reyes, Mar. 4--BF, JR, et al. SOLITARY SANDPIPER, Isabel Pond, Livermore, Mar. 8--AE. Red Knot, 2, Pt. Isabel, Mar. 9--BR. Red Phalarope, Moss Landing, Mar. 7--BR. Western Gull, 1st year, CCF, Feb. 29--BR, JR. Marbled Murrelet, Cypress Pt., Mar. 1--BR; 1-2 there, Mar. 6--JR.

COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD, ♂, her Alamo garden, Feb. 20--JR. Rufous Hummingbird, arrived her garden, Feb. 18--JR. "Yellow-Shafted" Flicker, her Walnut Creek yard, Feb. 13--WO. EASTERN PHOEBE, Cowell & W. Cliff, Santa Cruz, Feb. 24-Mar 4--SG, et al, Bank Swallow, Aho Nuevo St. Res., Mar. 8--FB, GC, JR. Red-Breasted Nuthatch, her Walnut Creek yard, thru Feb. 24--WO. Nashville Warbler, Middle Lake, Golden Gate Pk., Mar. 1--BF, et al; Cowell & W. Cliff, Santa Cruz, Mar. 7--BR. Yellow Warbler, still in Walton Pk., SF, thru period--m.ob. Northern Oriole, arrived their Lafayette garden, Mar. 10--H&BA. GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE, ♀, still in Walton Pk., thru period--m.ob. WESTERN TANAGER, ♀, her Walnut Creek yard, Feb. 13-Mar. 3--WO, et al. Red Crossbill, 3, Inverness Ridge, Pt. Reyes, Feb. 26--JR. LARK BUNTING, Drake's Estero trailhead, Pt. Reyes, Mar. 1--FB, MC, GC; Mar. 4--JR. HARRIS' SPARROW, imm., their Lafayette garden, Feb. 12 thru period--M&NO, m.ob.

DELETE Vesper Sparrow, CCF, Jan. 22 in March, 1980, Quail.

Many GRAY WHALES, close to shore at MP 32.74 on SR 1, Santa Cruz Co., included one which breached 5 times in succession, Mar. 8--FB, GC, JR.

OBSERVERS: Harry & Betty Adamson, Florence Bennett, George Bing, Joe Broyles, Maxine Clason, Glenn Coleman, Jimm Edgar, Art Edwards, Dick Erickson, Lynn Farrar, Bud Fry, Steve Getty, Hans Johanson, Winnie Orcutt, Merv & Norma Ortez, Bob Richmond, Rich & Jean Richmond, Sacramento Audubon Soc., many observers, NoCal Rare Bird Alert.

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Tom Lee took his ANIMAL BEHAVIOR class at Pleasant Hill High School along the creek behind the school one day recently. One of the students asked, "What's this bird that looks like a stick?" The aptly described American Bittern stood a while "hiding" then proceeded to slowly stalk prey in the creek. Tom could not have planned a display better than what the bird provided on its own.

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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, 1894 1/2 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: Pt. Isabel, Pt. Richmond, Pt. Molate.

Access: From I-80 or SR 17 (Hoffman Blvd.) in El Cerrito, go west on Central Ave. to Pt. Isabel Regional Park at the end of the road.

Pt. Isabel. Along the shore, scope Bay for loons, grebes, ducks (Black Sooter has been seen). Take paved walk to north corner of park, scan breakwater to northwest: thousands of shorebirds at high tide have included Surfbird, Tattler, Red Knot. Walk east along channel (Pipits on lawn); where paved walk bends right, continue along channel on dirt path, cross channel on old railroad bridge. Check marsh to east: shorebirds include Snipe. Walk west to shore: sparrows and such in bushes; breakwater close here for thorough scrutiny. On water to north may be both scaup.

Pt. Richmond. Return to SR 17, go north toward San Rafael Bridge. At Garrard Blvd. follow Pt. Richmond signs thru tunnel to Keller Beach Park & Miller Regional Shoreline. Park just beyond tunnel, scope Bay from this elevated spot: Oldsquaw, alcids possible. Continue to end of Garrard, check ducks, gulls (Franklin's, Jan. 1977). Return north 1 block, go east on Brickyard Cove Rd. to Pelican Way. Explore coves in area for loons (Yellow-Billed, Jan-Mar, 1980), grebes, ducks (Oldsquaw possible). Return north on Garrard, turn left on Western Dr. just before tunnel. Check Bay from Cypress Pt., other Bay viewpoints along shore (Marbled Murrelet possible).

Pt. Molate. Return to SR 17, go toward bridge. Just before toll plaza take Pt. Molate exit, go left at fork toward Red Rock Marina, park at edge of Bay beneath the bridge: loons, grebes, cormorants include Pelagic, many ducks may include Barrow's Goldeneye, Oldsquaw. Return to main road, turn left to Pt. Molate Beach Park, look for ducks, shorebirds, gulls; landbirds in trees, bushes.

Birds: 4 loons, 5 grebes, both pelicans, 3 cormorants, Great Blue Heron, egrets, Brant has been seen, ducks can include both wigeon, both scaup, both goldeneye, 3 scoters, Oldsquaw, mergansers, Vulture, Red-Tailed Hawk, Kestrel, many shorebirds include plovers, Surfbird, both turnstones, Snipe, Spotted & other Sandpipers, Tattler, Red Knot, several gulls, terns, alcids possible, doves, Anna's Hummingbird, Kingfisher, Black Phoebe, Scrub Jay, Raven, Bushtit, Mockingbird, Robin, Pipit, Shrike, Yellow-Rumped Warbler, Meadowlark, blackbirds, House Finch, sparrows include Savannah, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Song.

Best birding: late fall thru early spring, morning light is best. Check anywhere along the shore you find an observation spot. Full facilities: parks in all three areas listed. Free booklet, SF Bay Public Access & Recreation Areas, will again be available in August from BCDC, 30 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco, CA 94102; 557-3686. Weather can be cold, damp, windy any time of year.

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WEST PETALUMA REGIONAL PARK, Sonoma County, on Chileno Valley Rd. off Western Ave., is 177 acres of rolling grassy hills and oak woodland, presently natural except for a fence, small pond and parking area. Open weekends only, due to vandalism.

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WILDLIFE and FIRE have long co-existed. Prior to timber cutting, fire, insects and disease provided necessary vegetative diversity for diversity of wildlife. Some of our finest wildlife habitat is old burns. Fire is set deliberately in some areas to eliminate old, unproductive vegetation to improve wildlife habitat. Wilderness, Congress decreed, is "an area of undeveloped federal land retaining its primeval character and influence without permanent improvement or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions..." Wilderness is not set aside to preserve trees, or scenic beauty, although it may do that. Fire is one of the primeval influences that creates natural conditions vital to wilderness. It may destroy some trees and mar scenic beauty, but those events are only temporary.... (Outdoor News Bulletin, via Madrone Leaves, Madrone Audubon Society)

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<p>MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY P. O. Box 53 Walnut Creek, CA 94596</p>	<p>Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Alamo, CA Permit No. 19</p>
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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

May 1980
Vol. 26, No. 10
Next deadline: May 10

Meeting: Thurs., May 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.

Sat., May 3, Mines Road; carpool: El Cerro Blvd. at I-680, Danville, 6:45 a.m. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843). Carpooling imperative, see below.

Wed., May 7, 8:30 a.m., Mt. Diablo State Park. Meet on El Cerro Blvd. at I-680, Danville. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843). Call leader a day or two before the trip in case road problems require changes.

Sat., May 17, 7:00 a.m., Morgan Territory Road. Leader: Kent Fickett (798-7421). Call him if going. Carry lunch, liquid; wear hiking shoes.

Thurs., May 22, 8:45 a.m., East Contra Costa County; carpool: southeast corner Sun Valley Center, 8:00. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).

Sat., May 31, 7:00 a.m., Mitchell Canyon. Leader: Winnie Orcutt (944-0593). Carry lunch, liquid.

Sat.-Sun., June 21-22, Yuba Pass & Sierra Valley. Leader: Sally Steller (837-9061). Primarily a camping trip, non-campers make reservations at once. Sierra City: Herrington's Sierra Pines (916) 862-1151 or Sierra Chalet (916) 862-1110; Sierraville: Canyon Ranch (916) 944-3340.

Sat.-Sun., July 26-27, Yosemite. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843). Motels: Yosemite Park & Curry Co. (209) 373-4171; motels in El Portal (see AAA book) or Dell-Hart Lodge (209) 379-2451. Camping at Hodgdon Meadow.

Board Meeting: Thurs., May 8, 7:30 p.m., home of Tom Lee, 3071 Walnut Blvd., Walnut Creek; 934-5475. Board meetings are always open to members.

Conservation Mtg: Thurs., May 22, 7:30 p.m., Home of Bruce Moorad, 1445 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek; 938-4446. Open to all interested in conservation matters.

BIRDINFORMATION will be group participation. Bring your favorite, most unusual, humorous, worst or best birding, wildlife or any aspect of nature object, to share with the group. ELECTION of OFFICERS will be held at the meeting. The PROGRAM will be "Yosemite Wildflowers" by Genevieve Sears of Napa-Solano Audubon Society. Slides include many taken on our 1979 weekend trip plus a few of Gen's other excellent photos.

On MINES ROAD should be eagles, Lewis' Woodpecker, flycatchers, swallows, magpie, Canyon & Rock Wren, Phainopepla, warblers, Lawrence's Goldfinch; Costa's Hummingbird has been in Del Puerto Canyon in the past. NOTE: Safe parking is limited at some stops, and also in a long car caravan those in back miss too many birds, so we must take as few cars as possible on this trip.

On MT. DIABLO are hawks, hummingbirds, woodpeckers, flycatchers, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, several warblers, Lazuli Bunting, Rufous-Crowned, Sage and Black-Chinned Sparrows. If going, call leader a day or two prior to the trip.

MORGAN TERRITORY ROAD should have warblers, other migrants, summer visitors; possibly Lawrence's Goldfinch. Meet in Bank of America parking lot, corner of Ygnacio Valley and Clayton Roads. Carry lunch, liquids; wear hiking shoes.

Around EAST CONTRA COSTA COUNTY are hawks (Swainson's possible), shorebirds, hummingbirds may include Black-Chinned, flycatchers, swallows, Chat among the warblers, Tricolored Blackbird, orioles, Black-Headed & possibly Blue Grosbeak. Go east on SR 4 to just beyond Oakley to the Short Stop Market parking lot at Cypress Rd.

MITCHELL CANYON, on Mt. Diablo's north side, is gently sloping with riparian, oak woodland, chaparral, and a variety of species including several warblers, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting. Go east on Ygnacio Valley Rd., right on Clayton Rd., right on Mitchell Canyon Rd. to parking lot at the end. Carry lunch, liquid.

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CARPOOL COSTS on field trips have been increased by the Board of Directors to 5¢ a mile per person to help cover skyrocketing fuel prices. The driver pays any bridge tolls and entry fees which are split equally at trip's end by driver and all riders.

CARPOOLING is very strongly urged, to save fuel as well as money. Some trips have limited safe parking available, making carpools virtually a mandate. Please carpool if at all possible on all trips---there are people who leave for home early as well as die-hards who bird to day's end. We must conserve energy.

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FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

The trip to LIMANTOUR on March 15 was made on a beautiful day, clear and cool, but somewhat windy. The 17 members and guests had fascinating views of Ospreys, one of which had a fish in its talons. These 80 species were seen or heard:

Red-Throated Loon, Horned, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron Great & Snowy Egret, Mallard, Gadwall, Cinnamon Teal, Amer Wigeon, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, White-Winged & Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-Shinned, Red-Tailed, Red-Shouldered & Marsh Hawk, Osprey, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Black Turnstone, Long-Billed Curlew, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Dunlin, Short-Billed Dowitcher, West Sandpiper, Warbled Godwit, Sanderling, Glaucous-Winged, West & Ring-Billed Gull, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, "Red-Shafted" Flicker, Acorn & Downy Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Com Raven, Com Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Red-Breasted & Pygmy Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, Amer Robin, Varied & Hermit Thrush, Golden-Crowned & Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Starling, Hutton's & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned & Townsend's Warbler, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Purple & House Finch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, "Oregon" Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

At UPPER SAN LEANDRO RESERVOIR on March 22 the weather was glorious, clear and cool, windy at times. Many Ruby-Crowned Kinglets were singing as was the one Lark Sparrow. Only a few glimpsed a pair of Wood Ducks. The 14 members tallied these 59 species:

Pied-Billed Grebe, Dbl-Crested Cormorant, Mallard, Wood Duck, Ring-Necked & Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-Shinned & Red-Tailed Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, gull sp, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, "Red-Shafted" Flicker, Hairy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Violet-Green & Tree Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Com Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Red-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, Amer Robin, Varied & Hermit Thrush, West Bluebird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Starling, Hutton's, Solitary & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, "Audubon's" & Wilson's Warbler, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, Purple & House Finch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Lark Sparrow, "Oregon" Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

The VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PARK trip March 27 was made by 9 members with cool, variable weather, partly overcast and a bit threatening in mid-morning but clear before noon, with light breezes. Seen were at least 3 Golden Eagles, one of which barrel-rolled with talons thrust up at an attacking Red-Tail, several active nests including a well-hidden Junco nest which was nearly stepped upon. These 54 species were found:

Dbl-Crested Cormorant, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Red-Tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Rook & Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, White-Throated Swift, Anna's & selasphorus sp Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, "Red-Shafted" Flicker, Acorn, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, West Flycatcher, Violet-Green, Rough-Winged & Cliff Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Yellow-Billed Magpie, Com Crow, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, Mockingbird, Calif Thrasher, Amer Robin, Hermit Thrush, West Bluebird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, Orange-Crowned, "Myrtle" & "Audubon's" Warbler, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged Blackbird, "Bullock's" Oriole, Brewer's

Blackbird, Purple & House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, "Oregon" Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

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HARRY ADAMSON has a painting, "Resplendent Quetzal", hanging in the Exhibition of Art Depicting Birds at the National Collection of Fine Arts, Smithsonian Institution, in Washington, D.C. The exhibition, which opened February 1 and runs through May 6, includes 47 contemporary paintings, watercolors, drawings and woodcarvings by 47 talented artists. Besides Harry, the distinguished artists include Coheleach, Eckelberry, Landsdowne, Peterson, Scott, Singer, Sutton and Tudor. The National Collection of Fine Arts, at 8th and G Sts. NW - at Gallery Place Metro Station - is open every day of the week, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., no admission charge. Our very heartiest congratulations to you, Harry!!!

* * * * *

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's 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 GUIDE TO THE BEHAVIOR OF COMMON BIRDS by Donald W. Stokes (1979, Little, Brown, 336 pp. Illustrations by Fenwick Landsdowne, \$9.95). This book not only presents the behavior of 25 common birds (all but 7 are frequent in the Bay Area) but also explains the joy of discovering bird behavior-watching. As both a reference and a stimulus this guide is highly recommended to all who would like to know more about what birds do and hope to observe many of these behaviors personally. (Stephen F. Bailey, The Gull, Golden Gate Audubon Society)

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The Bureau of Reclamation is now called WATER & POWER RESOURCES SERVICE. Commissioner R. Keith Higginson says the original aim of reclaiming arid land has been replaced with the need for more efficient use of, and new programing for, renewable resources and alternative energy.

* * * * *

COASTAL WETLANDS of CALIFORNIA will be the topic of the 17th Annual Life Science Symposium, Fullerton College, May 2. The conference will focus on both physical and biological aspects of coastal wetlands; also restoration and management. Information: Division of Life Sciences, 321 E. Chapman Ave., Fullerton, CA 92634; phone (714) 871-8000, Ext. 266 or 267.

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SF BAY NWR has Saturday, Sunday programs at the Headquarters near Dumbarton Bridge: nature walks, 11 am; films, slides, talks, 1 & 2 pm; sometimes additional offerings.

Bay Adventure Seminars, a new program to be offered this summer, is a variety of weekend courses in natural history, education, the arts; sponsored by the Coastal Parks Association and US Fish & Wildlife Service. To get on the mailing list and receive course descriptions and registration materials, call (415) 792-3271.

Spring Orientation for Teachers will be held at NWR Environmental Education Center, Alviso, May 15, 6-9 pm or May 31, 9-12 am. Info, registration: (408) 262-5513.

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CLASSES and EXCURSIONS:

Mono Basin Ecology, Mono Lake & Tioga Pass, sponsored by Davis Aud. Soc. & Mono Research Group: Linnology, June 27-30 or Aug. 29-Sept. 1; Ornithology, July 11-14; Entomology, July 18-21; Natural History, July 25-28, Aug. 15-18 or Sept. 5-8; Mammals, Aug. 1-4; Botany, Aug. 8-11; Vertebrates Aug. 22-25. Enrollment for each is limited; cost, \$35 per course. Course descriptions from your editor. Information or enrollment, Davis Audubon Soc., John Harris, P O Box 273, Lee Vining, CA 93541.

PRBO. Natural History of Calif., a Transect, June 9-18, Bob Stewart, \$200. Breeding Birds of Northern Calif, June 14-21, Bill Clow, \$100. Birds of the High Sierra, June 23-27, Bob Stewart, \$100. Contact Linda Parker, 4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach, CA 94970; 388-2286.

San Diego Aud. Soc. Guadalupe Island, May 4-8, \$370. Baja's Pacific Islands, June 6-10, \$370. Info, reservations: San Diego Audubon Society, Bill Everett, 6225 Dowling Dr., La Jolla, CA 92037; (714) 459-4404, evenings.

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

Alamo: W. S. Soike; Concord: Michael T. Brown, Mrs. Alma Dolen, Ellie M. Franks, Frank Frisch, Mrs. Ludwig Mosheim, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Schultz; Danville: Nancy Krajoar, Gary Passey; Lafayette: L. Hill, Michael Preisler; Martinez: Charlie Meyer; Pleasant Hill: Rosalie Ackerson, Donald R. Merchant; Walnut Creek: Margaret A. Black, Ms. Doris Coury, Kelly Fleming, Mrs. John C. McCabe, Annelies Novolio, Lyle S. Powell, Jr., Mrs. Claire S. Small, E. Tonningesen, Stewart Winchester.

The House passed a strong ALASKA BILL, the Senate Energy, Natural Resources Committee approved a weak one opening much of the wilds to development/exploitation. The Senate threatens to postpone the matter until the end-of-session rush, with no time for full, reasoned debate, repeating last year's fiasco. Under Senate agreement, when the legislation reaches floor debate, the substitute Tsongas-Roth bill with strong environmental provisions, can be debated. That and 5 proposed amendments to the Energy Committee bill will provide for developing acceptable legislation on the floor. The Senate bill would go to conference to resolve differences with the House bill. This can produce a strong, fair bill only if the bill reaches the Senate floor in time for full, open debate. Meet with our Senators if possible; or leave messages in local & Washington offices (Capitol switchboard is (202) 224-3121); or write (US Senate, Washington, DC 20510); urge them to cosponsor the Tsongas-Roth Substitute and the strengthening amendments. For latest info on this legislation, call NAS's Washington office (202) 466-6600 or Alaska Coalition (202) 543-3663.

CONSERVATION NOTES by J. P. Hauser.

There have been three major developments recently in the fight to save Lake Tahoe: 1) The EPA has released a study of the decline in the environmental quality of the basin, 1970-1978. 2) The State Water Resources Control Board has proposed a restriction on development on unsuitable lands and has issued a "Lake Tahoe Draft Water Quality Plan." 3) At long last, the battle has been carried to Washington with Congressman Vic Fazio introducing a bill to create Lake Tahoe National Scenic Area.

Studies show, predictably, that the natural systems have not changed but the "amenities" of man have increased dramatically. The population on an average summer day in 1978 reached 159,000. Nearly half were permanent residents, more than double the number of 8 years before. On a peak summer day, the population soared to an estimated 223,000 people! Congestion is the rule. Highway 50 reaches peak capacity by 10:00 a.m. and remains until midnight. The automobile is responsible for 88-95% of the air pollution, and carbon monoxide standards are violated regularly.

Urban development has had a disastrous effect on wildlife habitat. Endangered species, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Wolverine, are seldom, if ever, seen. A typical drop of water entering Lake Tahoe will remain there about 650 years; in Lake Erie about 7 years. The actions of today that pollute Lake Tahoe will take centuries to undo; in Lake Erie, a few years. The Draft Plan has created an uproar among development interests and others who fail to see the damage that has been done.

The 15-page summary of the Plan is available from Office of Public Affairs, State Water Resources Control Board, P O Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95801. Also available from that address is a summary of "Report on Water Use & Water Rights, Lake Tahoe Basin."

Write a note of encouragement/support to The League to Save Lake Tahoe, P O Box 10110, South Lake Tahoe, CA 95731, for their uphill fight to save what's left. Their fight is against developers, the opportunists, who see Tahoe as a source of money, nothing else.

ORME DAM. Floods in Arizona this winter put pressure on Gov. Bruce Babbitt to urge President Carter to withdraw his opposition to the \$290 million Orme Dam, one of the original hit list. Recently in Washington Babbitt backed off slightly and asked for "a flood control structure at the Orme site" but was turned down. Now he says he'll await the outcome of the Army Corps of Engineers study of alternatives.

Maricopa Audubon Society recommends that 6 existing irrigation dams upstream from Phoenix be used partly for flood control. Full at the time, storing water for irrigation, no room was left for flood waters. MAS also recommends moving 2 small communities from the frequently inundated floodplain, an expensive alternative except compared to the cost of Orme Dam. MAS needs funds to continue its fight against the boondoggle Central Arizona Project, part of which is Orme Dam. Send tax-deductible contributions, payable to CAP Fund, to Box 15451, Phoenix, AZ 85060.

DUCKS UNLIMITED broke all annual records by raising over \$20 million last year, but that private international conservation organization feels much more is needed in the 80's to meet habitat challenges affecting the future of North American waterfowl. The U.S. government spends \$100 million annually on waterfowl conservation, \$20 million of which is mainly for acquiring wetland breeding grounds that provide for only 20% of North America's production. Much more is needed in Canada where most of the birds are produced. Last year, of the \$16 million spent in Canada on all phases of waterfowl management, \$15½ million came from DU, far less than needed to stop loss of critical Canadian wetlands. DU's 1980 goal is over \$24 million.

OBSERVATIONS, March 10-April 7. (Also see field trip reports.)

Red-Necked Grebe, Bodega Bay, Mar. 18--JR, BF, et al. Green Heron, Bay Farm Island, Alameda, Mar. 16 at least thru Mar. 22--m.ob.; 3, Dutch Slough Rd. sewer ponds east Contra Costa Co., Apr. 7--BR. Cattle Egret, 2-4, Bethel Is., Mar. 31--JR, BR; 22, Bethel Is., levee, Apr. 7--BR.

Canada Goose, 200, Jersey Is., Mar. 31--BR, JR. "Black" Brant, 150, Bodega Bay, Mar. 18--JR, BF, et al; 150+ there, Mar. 23-25--H&JG; 2, Pt. Isabel Reg. Pk., Mar. 29--BR. White-Fronted Goose, 5,000, Jersey Is., Mar. 24--BR; 1,000 there, Mar. 31--BR, JR; 30 there, Apr. 7--BR. TUFTED DUCK, ♂, still at Richardson Bay, Mill Valley, thru period--m.ob. Hooded Merganser, 2, 5-Brooks Pond, Pt. Reyes, Mar. 22--FB, GC. Common Merganser, 2, Delta-Mendota Canal at Byron Hwy, Contra Costa Co., Mar. 11--BR.

Red-Shouldered Hawk, over her Alamo home, Mar. 15--JR. Rough-Legged Hawk, 4, Armstrong Rd., east Contra Costa Co., Mar. 11--BR; 1, Bethel Is., Mar. 31--BR, JR; 1, Jersey Is., Apr. 7--BR. Ferruginous Hawk, 2, Bethel Is., Mar. 20--BR. Golden Eagle, 2 ad., over her Alamo home, Mar. 14--JR. WILD TURKEY, 4♂, 5♀, Mines Rd., Alameda Co., Mar. 29--FB, JR, GC, MC.

Whimbrel, 5, Byron Hwy at Sunset Rd., east Contra Costa Co., Apr. 7--BR. Rock Sandpiper, 2, Bodega Head, Mar. 18--JR, BF, et al. BLACK-HEADED GULL, still at Stockton oxidation ponds at least thru Apr. 3--m.ob. Now in breeding plumage. LITTLE GULL, still at Stockton oxidation ponds at least thru Apr. 3--m.ob. Caspian Tern, returned to Del Valle Reservoir, Alameda Co., Mar. 24--SS, NB, ED, JR.

Roadrunner, Pine Creek State Wildlife Area, Glenn Co., Mar. 18--H&JG; heard at MP 6.14, Mines Rd., Mar. 29--JR, FB, GC, MC. Burrowing Owl, 5, Clifton Court Forebay (hereafter CCF), east Contra Costa Co., Mar. 11--BR; 23, Delta Rd., east Contra Costa Co., Apr. 7--BR; 1, near Bethel Is., Apr. 7--BR. Short-Eared Owl, 2, Jersey Is., Apr. 7--BR; 1, Hartford Rd., Livermore, Apr. 7--BR.

Rufous Hummingbird, ♂, Pt. Pinole Reg. Pk., Mar. 13--BR. CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD, ♂ Paak Rat Trail, Tilden Reg. Pk., Mar. 30--A&WG. EASTERN PHOEBE, still near Cowell & W. Cliff Dr., Santa Cruz, at least thru Apr. 6--m.ob. Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, CCF, Apr. 6--BR. Rare that far east. SAGE THRASHER, Bay Farm Island, Mar. 16 at least thru Apr. 6--DR, LFe, m.ob. Nashville Warbler, Bay Farm Island, Mar. 16-19--m.ob. Black-Throated Gray Warbler, Pt. Pinole Reg. Pk., Mar. 13--BR. Yellow-Headed Blackbird, 50, Bethel Is., Mar. 20--BR; 266, Jersey Is., Mar. 24--BR; 6+ there Mar. 31--BR, JR; 6 there, Apr. 7--BR. Tricolored Blackbird, up to 250 at CCF, Bethel Is., Jersey Is., Armstrong Rd., thru period--BR, JR. Hooded Oriole, 1st-year ♂, her Alamo garden, Mar. 17--JR; 2 ad. ♂ there, Apr. 3 thru period--J&RR. Lawrence's Goldfinch, 2♂, 2♀, Solano Co. Pk., Apr. 1--EM, et al.

OBSERVERS: Norah Bain, Florence Bennett, Maxine Clason, Al & Wilma Ghiorso, Glenn Coleman, Elizabeth Dickey, Leora Feeney, Bud Fry, Helen & Jerry Gentile, Beverley MacIntosh, David Rice, Bob Richmond, Jean & Rich Richmond, Sally Steller, many observers, NoCal 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 \$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: Yosemite National Park.

Access: From I-5 south of Stockton, go east on SR120 (Big Oak Flat Rd.) to Park (or SR140 from Merced). Entry: \$3.00. AAA Yosemite map helpful. Excellent reference: Birds of the Yosemite Sierra by David Gaines. A meadow is sensitive, DON'T trample!

Hodgdon Meadow. Near entrance station go left to campground, walk to meadow beyond: Pygmy Owl possible, woodpeckers, several flycatchers, swallows, sparrows.

TIOGA PASS RD. at Big Oak Flat Rd. is 0.0 miles. Chevron Meadow (0.0) behind gas station: Great Gray Owl around edges; Vaux Swift, Williamson Sapsucker, House Wren, kinglets, Lincoln Sparrow. Crane Flat Meadow (0.5). Left toward Tuolumne Grove, promptly left again on short 1-way loop back to highway, park. Meadow both sides of road: Great Gray Owl; meadow, surrounding forest: Rufous & Calliope Hummers, Williamson Sapsucker, Pileated Wdpr, flycatchers, House Wren, kinglets, Lincoln Sparrow.

Siesta Lake (13.5): Mt. Quail, woodpeckers incl. Williamson Sapsucker & Black-Backed 3-Toed, flycatchers, swallows, Purple & Cassin Finch, Pine Grosbeak, sparrows. Hill-side across road: 3-Toed Woodpecker, Solitaire, Green-Tailed Towhee, White Wolf area (turnoff 14.3). Store, corral areas: woodpeckers, flycatchers, kinglets, Finches, Evening & Pine (around corral) Grosbeak. Turnout on left (15.5), meadow area downhill: Williamson Sapsucker, Hairy & 3-Toed Woodpecker, Pine Grosbeak. Olmsted Pt. (29.0): Blue Grouse in/near trees atop small dome just below overlook;

Nutcracker. Tioga Pass (46.0) area: Nutcracker, Rosy Finch. Ellery Lake (49.1): Rosy Finch (rocks above road). Green Bridge (49.7): hummingbirds, Nutcracker, Dipper (creek in canyon below), Mt. Bluebird, Rosy Finch (nest in cliffs above road).

GLACIER PT. RD. at Chinquapin is 0.0 miles. Badger Pass (turnoff 5.0): around parking loop, meadow: Mt. Quail, Rufous & Calliope Hummers, woodpeckers include "Red-Breasted" Sapsucker, flycatchers, 3 nuthatches, House Wren, kinglets, Evening Grosbeak, goldfinches, Green-Tailed Towhee, Lincoln Sparrow. Bridalveil Campground (turnoff 7.8). Road to cmpgr.: woodpeckers include Williamson Sapsucker & 3-Toed, Pine Grosbeak. From phone booth at cmpgr. entrance walk fireroad west to stream & Westfall Meadow trail: right toward highway (3-Toed Woodpecker) or left toward meadow (Goshawk, Blue Grouse, Great Gray Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Pine Grosbeak).

Edge of Peregrine Meadow (between campground & highway): Great Gray Owl. Campground area: Williamson Sapsucker, 3-Toed Woodpecker, flycatchers, kinglet, Evening Grosbeak. Sentinel Dome (13.6) area: Blue Grouse, Pileated & 3-Toed Woodpecker. Washburn Pt. (15.0): swifts. Glacier Pt. (15.9): Goshawk in area; Blue Grouse, Black & White-Throated Swifts, Pileated Woodpecker, Solitaire, Pine Grosbeak.

OTHER SPOTS. Bridalveil Falls: Black & White-Throated Swifts fly along cliff face. Wawona Tunnel: Black & White-Throated Swifts, swallows. Heness Ridge (1/4 mi. south of Chinquapin go west on 3rd left turn, drive to wire across road, walk to Fire Look-out): excellent owl. Tamarack Flat Campground (3 mi. out Tioga Pass Rd.): Blue Grouse, owls. Ackerson Meadow (1 mi. west of Big Oak Flat Entrance go east on Evergreen Rd.): Great Gray Owl, Mt. Bluebird, possibly Lawrence Goldfinch.

OTHER BIRDS: accipiters, Red-Tailed & other hawks, Calif. Gull, Band-Tailed Pigeon, several owls, Poor-Will, Flicker, White-Headed Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, flycatchers (Hammond's, Dusky, Western, Pewee, Olive-Sided), several swallows, Steller Jay, Raven, Clark's Nutcracker, Mt. Chickadee, Bushtit, Creeper, several Wrens, Robin, Hermit & Swainson Thrush, both kinglets, Solitary & Warbling Vireos, several warblers (7 species known to nest), blackbirds, Cowbird, Western Tanager, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Purple & Cassin Finch, Siskin, Red-Crossbill (erratic), several sparrows.

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OUR ATTITUDES TOWARD WILDLIFE, by Dr. Stephen Kallert of Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, is the result of a 3-year study. Single copy: Publications Unit, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Dept. of Interior, Washington, DC 20240.

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MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY
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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

June 1980

Vol. 26, No. 11

Next deadline: June 10



Meeting: Thurs., June 5, 6:30 p.m., Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek. Annual POTLUCK DINNER, Winnie Young, coordinator, (707) 745-4134.

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

Sat., June 7, 8:30 a.m., Outer Pt. Reyes; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. at Fwy 24, 6:30. Leader: Bob Richmond (447-0248). Carpooling imperative.

Wed., June 11, 8:30 a.m., Briones Regional Park (west). Leader: Merv Ortez (283-3072).

Thurs., June 19, 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 21-22, Yuba Pass & Sierra Valley. Leader: Sally Steller (837-9061). Make motel reservations immediately. Camping: Yuba Pass.

Sat.-Sun., July 26-27, Yosemite. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843). Make reservations immediately - see May issue for information.

SPECIAL PLACE YOU WOULD LIKE TO BIRD? TRIP YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEAD? New areas are welcome, especially near home. Call Sally Steller, 837-9061, or join our trip planning session on Tues., July 8.

Board Meeting: Thurs., June 12, 7:30 p.m., home of Norah Bain, 32 Via Farallon, Orinda; 254-4516. Outgoing and incoming officers are requested to attend.

The POTLUCK DINNER is our last formal meeting of the year. Bring dishes, utensils (and serving spoon); salad, casserole, dessert or bread for 4 times the number in your family attending. Tea, coffee, punch provided; milk drinkers bring your own. Call Winnie Young, (707) 745-4134, Winnie Orutt, 944-0593, or Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486, by June 2 as to what you wish to bring and how many are coming. We will Vote on proposed BYLAWS AMENDMENTS to conform to NAS policy: Article 3, Section 6 (Treasurer), delete "keep the rolls of the membership" and Article 6 (Membership Committee), add "keep the rolls of the membership". The PROGRAM will be slides 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 all members may 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 2 miles then left on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. 14 miles then left 2 miles to Drake's Beach.

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 the right.

At REDWOOD PARK we 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 bind

Saturday morning at Yuba Pass, afternoon at Sardine Lakes, 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). Motel info: see May issue. Camping: Yuba Pass.

* * * * *

FIELD TRIP REPORTS.

The wildflower walk in BRIONES PARK on April 10 was made by 15 members on a clear, warm, windless day. Seen on the morning walk were many lovely flowers plus 46 species of birds seen or heard. A 3-foot gopher snake was also found.

Flowers: False Solomon Seal, Giant Trilium, Blue Dicks, Blue-Eyed Grass, Red Maids, Miner's Lettuce, Chickweed, Calif Buttercup, Larkepur, Cream Cups, Milk Maids, Peppergrass, Calif Saxifrage, Woodland Star, Lupine (2 sp), Tomcat Clover, Vetch, Snake Root, Purple Sanicle, Hog Fennel, Cow Parrot, Bedstraw, Baby Blue Eyes, Nemophila, Fiddleneck, Hedge Nettle, Purple Nightshade, Chinese Houses, Sticky Monkey Flower, Paintbrush, Wild Cucumber, Mule Ears, Yarrow, Sow Thistle, Wild Radish, Poison Hemlock, Shepherd's Needle, Pineapple Weed, Calif Poppy, Carolina Geranium, Red-Stemmed & White-Stemmed Filaree, Scarlet Pimpernell, Dutchman's Pipe (& Pipevine Swallowtail butterfly), Clematis, wild blackberry, gooseberry in fruit, Pennyroyal, goldback & bracken fern, Poison Oak, Elderberry, Calif Buckeye, Madrone.

Birds: Mallard, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Cooper's & Red-Tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, Marsh Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Anna's & Selasphorus sp Hummingbird, Com Flicker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Violet-Green Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Com Crow, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, Calif Thrasher, Hermit Thrush, Western Bluebird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Starling, Hutton's Vireo, Orange-Crowned, "Audubon's" & Wilson's Warbler, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged Blackbird, Purple & House Finch, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Savannah & Lark Sparrow, "Oregon" Junco, White-Crowned & Golden-Crowned Sparrow.

Weather at GLEN ELLEN and 3-SPRINGS RANCH on April 12 was clear and warm with no wind. The 19 members and guests saw a Green Heron 30 feet up in a tree, 6 Red-Shouldered Hawks flying at once, nesting Red-Tailed Hawk and Anna's Hummingbird, several warblers (but no Chats) among these 61 species seen or heard:

Green Heron, Turkey Vulture, accipiter sp, Red-Tailed & Red-Shouldered Hawk, Calif Quail, gull sp, Mourning Dove, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Acorn & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, West Flycatcher, Violet-Green, Tree & Rough-Winged Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Com Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, House & Bewick's Wren, Mockingbird, Calif Thrasher, Amer Robin, Swainson's Thrush, West Bluebird, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Hutton's, Solitary & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Yellow & "Audubon's" Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged Blackbird, "Bullock's" Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Purple & House Finch, Pine Siskin, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, "Oregon" Junco, Chipping, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

SUNOL PARK on April 19 was clear and warm, too warm after lunch, with delightful breezes at times. The 19 members saw a pair of Common Mergansers, Golden Eagles, probable Merlin, Canyon Wren, and returning migrants and summer birds among 60 species seen or heard. Also seen was a beautiful gopher snake at least 4 feet long.

Com Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-Shinned, Cooper's & Red-Tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, Merlin (?), Calif Quail, gull sp, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Acorn & Nuttall's Woodpecker, West Kingbird, Ash-Throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Hammond's/Dusky sp & West Flycatcher, Violet-Green & Tree Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Yellow-Billed Magpie, Com Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, House, Bewick's & Canyon Wren, Amer Robin, West Bluebird, Starling, Hutton's & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Yellow & Wilson's Warbler, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged Blackbird, "Bullock's" Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, Black-Headed Grosbeak, House Finch, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Rufous-Crowned Sparrow, "Oregon" Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

The trip to LAKE MERCED and FT. FUNSTON on April 23 was made by 5 members on a day that was foggy early but clear by noon, wind was light but gusty. Seen were Green Herons, Black Scoters, Bank Swallows among these 59 species seen or heard:

Com, Arctic & Red-Throated Loon, Eared, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Dbl-Crested & Pelagic (?) Cormorant, Green Heron, Mallard, White-Winged, Surf & Black Sooter, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed Hawk, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Willet, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, West, Calif & Bonaparte's Gull, Forster's & Caspian Tern, Pigeon Guillemot, Mourning Dove, White-Throated Swift, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Violet-Green, Tree, Bank, Rough-Winged, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Scrub Jay, Com Raven, Com Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Pygmy Nuthatch, Marsh Wren, Amer Robin, Starling, "Audubon's" Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, House Sparrow, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, Purple & House Finch, Amer Goldfinch, White-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

At CASWELL STATE PARK on April 26 the day was clear and warm with gentle breezes. The 22 members and guests saw both light and dark phase Swainson's Hawks, Bank Swallow, House Wrens singing all over the place, a California Thrasher on a nest beside the trail, and Lincoln's Sparrows among these 59 species seen or heard:

Mallard, Pintail, Turkey Vulture, Cooper's, Red-Tailed, Red-Shouldered & Swainson's Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Killdeer, Long-Billed Curlew, Whimbrel, Rock & Mourning Dove, hummingbird sp, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Acorn, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Ash-Throated Flycatcher, Violet-Green, Tree, Bank, Rough-Winged, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Scrub Jay, Yellow-Billed Magpie, Com Crow, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, House & Bewick's Wren, Calif Thrasher, Amer Robin, Starling, Hutton's, Solitary & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, "Audubon's", Townsend's & Wilson's Warbler, blackbird sp, Brown-Headed Cowbird, West Tanager, Black-Headed Grosbeak, House Finch, Amer Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Lincoln's & Song Sparrow.

On MINES ROAD May 3 the morning began overcast and chilly but soon became clear and warm, afternoon was quite warm with pleasant breezes. The 22 members and guests saw Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Turkey, Roadrunner, Pygmy Owl, MacGillivray's Warbler, Chat, and Lawrence's Goldfinch among these 84 species seen or heard:

Great Blue Heron, Mallard, Wood Duck, Turkey Vulture, Cooper's & Red-Tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Wild Turkey, Killdeer, Rock & Mourning Dove, Roadrunner, Barn, Great Horned & Pygmy Owl, White-Throated Swift, Black-Chinned/Costa's ♀ & Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Acorn, Lewis', Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, West Kingbird, Ash-Throated Flycatcher, Black & Say's Phoebe, West Wood Pewee, Horned Lark, Violet-Green, Tree, Rough-Winged, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Scrub Jay, Yellow-Billed Magpie, Com Raven, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, House, Bewick's, Canyon & Rock Wren, Mockingbird, Calif Thrasher, Amer Robin, Swainson's Thrush, West Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, Phainopepla, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Solitary Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Yellow & MacGillivray's Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, 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, Lazuli Bunting, Purple & House Finch, Amer, Lesser & Lawrence's Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Lark & Rufous-Crowned Sparrow, "Oregon" Junco.

OFFICERS for 1980-81 elected at the May membership meeting are: President, Elizabeth Dickey; Vice-President, Programs, Jimm Edgar; Vice-President, Conservation, Ed Hase; Secretary, Marian Stelzer; Treasurer, Florence Bennett. 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 (254-0486) if there is some area in which you have particular interest.

1980 PACIFIC FLYWAY WATERFOWL FESTIVAL will be held June 28-29, beginning at 9:30 each day, at the El Rancho-Tropicana Hotel in Santa Rosa. On display will be hand-carved decoys and shorebirds, decorative carvings and decoys, and wildfowl art. Harry Adamson will be one of the judges of the decorative carvings. Many items in the show will be for sale. A decoy painting demonstration will be held at 3 pm Saturday, a duck-head whittling demonstration at 1 pm Sunday. An antique decoy auction will be conducted at 10:30 am Sunday. Raffle drawings will be held throughout the show. As people come from all over to display their work, this is the finest of its kind in the Western states. There is no admission charge.

The Exhibition of Art Depicting Birds, including a Harry Adamson painting (see May issue), has been so popular that it has been extended through June 6.

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

Alamo: Kathy Evans; Concord: Tom & Denise Boggess, Leif Bronson-Krauss, Linda Canan, Melissa Galli, Diane Sprouse; Danville: Gloria Thomas; Lafayette: Mrs. Sharee Bermudez, A. G. Ducey, Mona Fisher; Pleasant Hill: Mrs. Bill Romine, John C. Rutledge, Marney Woytek; San Ramon: Ms. E. K. Crandall, Trudy Strahl; Walnut Creek: Christine Czerkies, Sue Donald, Sharon Larsen, Mrs. Mary C. Muerle.

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MONO LAKE UPDATE by Linda LaPointe, MDAS Mono Lake Coordinator.

The status of AB 2235 (Mono Lake) is currently experiencing a state of flux due to the several committee hearings and subsequent bill revisions underway. Meanwhile, you can effectively help the grassroots effort. 1) Call/write local Assembly members encouraging them to support strengthening the Waters bill, AB 2235. Urge them to vote for recommendations akin to those in the original Task Force Plan calling for release of 85,000 acre feet of water per year to Mono Lake with only 15,000 acre feet diverted to DWP in Los Angeles. 2) Join the Mono Lake Committee, P O Box 2764, Oakland, CA 94602, and receive current info via their newsletter. Regular membership, \$10; all donations appreciated. 3) Sponsor a birder, or participate in the 3rd Annual Mono Lake Bird Count, Mon., June 23, in Lee Vining. 4) Contact Linda LaPointe (673-3943) to receive free mailings of updated info thru the summer.

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CONSERVATION NOTES by J. P. Hauser.

- Random, accurate, real-world, startling, impressive notes re energy:
- Whoever controls world resources controls the world in a way that mere occupation of territory cannot match.
- A world of scarcity is a world of inevitable struggle.
- Mechanize agriculture to make it efficient and 40 calories of energy are needed to produce and deliver one calorie of food.
- In the 35 years since the end of World War II, the industrial world has used more petroleum and non-fuel minerals than had been consumed in all previous history.
- The U.S. has bent, burned, or melted about 40% of the world's non-renewable materials in those years.
- The world uses 31,000 gallons of petroleum every second; about 10,000 gallons a second are consumed in the U.S.A.
- Multinational companies control almost 40% of the world's oil flow, and act as the world's rationers, distributing oil as profits and politics dictate.
- It costs less than a penny to drill and pump a gallon of Saudi Arabian oil and transport it to a Persian Gulf port. At that point, mark-up, over 10,000%, begins.
- In the last century, the petroleum industry took a lease on a fourth of all the privately owned land in this country.
- At some point in this generation, probably in this decade, the oil era will come to an end. That means not that oil will disappear but, rather, that the demand for it will exceed the available supply.
- The world continues to spend over \$400 billion a year on armaments; statesmen still make a religion of "national security" but meanwhile the riches of the earth are being bought up, milled, melted, canned, shipped, dammed, and piped. More than diplomatic talk or chronic warfare, these activities are shaping our civilization and our future.
-from Richard J. Barnet.

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NOISE POLLUTION. The world's largest, newest windmill is a sore subject for people in Boone, North Carolina, who say the rotating 200-foot blades make a "swishing sound", rattling windows and dishes for miles. Baffled Dept. of Energy engineers say the noise could be "aerodynamic instabilities" created when wind blows from behind the tower. They hope the noise subsides when blade rotation is cut from 35 to 23 rpm. Meanwhile, the windmill will be shut off nights, early morning, weekends.

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CLASSES and EXCURSIONS.

PRBO. Birds & Natural History, SE Arizona, July 25-Aug. 2, Rich Stallcup & Peter Warshall, \$350. Contact Linda Parker, 4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach 94970; 388-2286.
SF Bay NWR. Birdwatching, June 1, 22; 11 am. Marsh Adventure, June 8, 15, 29, 11 am; beachcomb, collect specimens, bird, botanize. Reservations: 792-0222. Weekend natural history classes, June-Sept., \$31 each, advance registration required. For brochure: Melinda Marks, Bay Adventure Seminars, PO Box 524, Newark 94560; 792-3271.

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OBSERVATIONS, April 8-May 11. (Also see field trip reports.)

Common Loon, Clifton Court Forebay (CCF), Apr. 29--BR. Arcotic Loon, CCF, Apr. 24--BR, JR. Manx Shearwater, Pigeon Pt., San Mateo Co., Apr. 21--BR. Green Heron, 1-2, Bethel Is., Apr. 14-May 8--BR, JR; 1, Jersey Is. Rd., Apr. 27-May 8--BS, BR, JR; 2, Dutch Slough Rd., May 8--BR, JR; 1, near his Walnut Creek home, May 4--EH; 1, 50 feet up in tree, Glen Ellen, May 6--JR, BF, et al. Cattle Egret, 52, San Felipe Lake, San Benito Co., Apr. 13--AE; SR 152 just east of Los Banos, Merced Co., May 9--J&RR.

Red-Breasted Merganser, CCF, Apr. 14--BR. Osprey, CCF, Apr. 14--BR. Semipalmated Plover, CCF, Apr. 20--BR. Red Knot, 15, CCF, Apr. 29--BR.

LAUGHING GULL, Doran Park, Bodega Bay, Apr. 15. FRANKLIN'S GULL, San Gregorio Beach, San Mateo Co., Apr. 20. Common Tern, Airport Channel, San Leandro Bay, Apr. 17--JR, MJG; 24, Pigeon Pt., Apr. 21--BR. ARCTIC TERN, 2, Pigeon Pt., Apr. 21--BR. Least Tern, Airport Channel, Apr. 17--JR, MJG; up to 8, Alameda South Shore, Apr. 29 thru period--RBA. BLACK TERN, SR 137 east of Tulare, Tulare Co., May 11--JR.

Burrowing Owl, 10 Delta Rd., east Contra Costa Co., Apr. 14--BR; 3 there, May 8--BR, JR; 4, CCF area, Apr. 14, 1 there, Apr. 20-May 7--BR. Short-Eared Owl, 2, near CCF, Apr. 20--BR; 1, Bethel Is., Apr. 24--JR. Poorwills returned to Big Springs Tr., Tilden Park, early May--RBA. BLACK SWIFT, I-680 at Stone Valley Rd., Alamo, Apr. 14--JR; 2, I-680 at El Pintado Rd., 2, at Livorna Rd., 2, over Diablo Keys, Walnut Creek, all Apr. 16--FB. Vaux's Swift, 3, Armstrong Rd., east Contra Costa Co., Apr. 20--BR.

Black-Chinned Hummingbird, 1-3, CCF, Apr. 20 thru period--BR, JR; 1, Dutch Slough Rd., east Contra Costa Co., Apr. 21--BR; 1 there, May 8--JR, BR. Olive-Sided Flycatcher, Piper Slough levee, Bethel Is., May 8--JR, BR. Bank Swallow, Armstrong Rd., Apr. 20--BR. Purple Martin, CCF, Apr. 29--BR.

SAGE THRASHER, Bay Farm Island, Alameda, thru Apr. 16--m.ob. Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, 2, Morgan Territory Rd., Apr. 29--BR; several, Las Trampas Park, Apr. 19--BR; 1, Mt. Diablo State Park, Apr. 29--JR. Nashville Warbler, Del Puerto Cyn. Rd., Santa Clara Co., Apr. 15--JR. Black-Throated Gray Warbler, CCF, Apr. 24--JR, BR; Mt. Diablo SP, Apr. 30--JR; Tilden Park, May 1--MJG, JR; MP 4.7, Morgan Territory Rd., May 7--EH, CH. Hermit Warbler, Trinity Rd., Sonoma Co., May 6--BP, et al. Yellow-Breasted Chat, 1-3, Piper Slough levee, Apr. 27 thru period--BS, BR, JR; 1, CCF, May 7--BR; arrived Glen Ellen, Sonoma Co., about 2 weeks late this spring--BF.

Hooded Oriole, pair, their Alamo garden, thru period--J&RR; ♀, CCF, Apr. 24--BR, JR; 2♂, 1♀, her Walnut Creek garden, May 6 thru period--WO. Blue Grosbeak, 1-2, CCF, Apr. 20-May 7--BR; 2♂, Jersey Is. Rd., Apr. 27-May 8--BS, BR, JR; ♀, there May 8--BR, JR; ♀, Piper Slough levee, Apr. 27-May 8--BS, JR, BR; 2♂, Bethel Is. Rd., May 8--JR, BR. Lawrence's Goldfinch, up to 7, her Walnut Creek garden, Apr. 10-May 10, attempted nesting, nest destroyed--WO, et al; 7, Las Trampas Park, Apr. 19--BR; many along Mines Rd., Alameda Co., this year. Grasshopper Sparrows, returned to Las Trampas Park, Apr. 19--BR. Black-Chinned Sparrows, returned to Mt. Diablo SP, Apr. 30--JR, et al. HARRIS' SPARROW, their Lafayette garden thru Apr. 26--N&MO, m.ob.

OBSERVERS: Florence Bennett, Art Edwards, Bud Fry, Mary Jane Greene, Ed Hase, Chuck Hines, Winnie Orcutt, Norma & Merv Ortez, Bill Pursell, Bob Richmond, Jean & Rich Richmond, Bill Scheffel, NorCal Rare Bird Alert, many observers.

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

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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. Winnie Orcutt, 30 Iris Ln., Walnut Creek, CA 94595. 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, 1894 1/2 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: Lafayette Reservoir.

Access: Go west on Mt. Diablo Blvd. from downtown Lafayette to the well-marked turnoff, go uphill to the parking lot atop the dam. Entry gate: weekdays, 4 quarters or dollar bill; weekends, 2 dollars (bills).

Shore Trail, paved, 2.7 miles; walkers, joggers, bikers, especially weekends. From dam, walk east around lake (morning light best). Around dam: Spotted Sandpiper, Pipit. Northeast area of lake: Thrasher, Lincoln's Sparrow. Wooded slope on east side: woodpeckers, nuthatches, thrushes, bluebirds, both kinglets, warblers. Marsh near south end: Marsh Wren, Yellowthroat; has had Sora. Hillside at south end: Lazuli Bunting. Bushes along west side: Lincoln's Sparrow may be in sparrow flocks. Lawn area near west parking lot: Pipit, goldfinches; Shrike across road.

Rim Trail, dirt, 4.3 miles, off beaten path, quiet, restful. Well-graded access trails connect the two trails at several points. Kites over grassy areas; Thrasher, Gnatcatcher in chaparral. Overhead: hawks, eagles, Swift, swallows.

Birds include: 4 grebes, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose (most not wild), several ducks (winter), White-Tailed Kite, accipiters, Red-Tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle (uncom), Kestrel, Sora (rare), Snipe, Spotted Sandpiper, several gulls, Caspian Tern (summer), Band-Tailed Pigeon, White-Throated Swift, Anna's, Rufous (spring) & Allen's (summer) Hummingbird, Kingfisher, several woodpeckers, Western Kingbird (summer), Ash-Throated Flycatcher (summer), Black & Say's Phoebe, swallows, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Creeper, Wrentit, wrens (House, Winter, Bewick's, Marsh), Calif Thrasher, Varied (winter), Hermit (winter) & Swainson's (summer) Thrush, Western Bluebird, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, both kinglets, Water Pipit, Hutton's Vireo, warblers (Orange-Crowned, Yellow, Yellow-Rumped, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's), Northern Oriole, Western Tanager (spring), Black-Headed Grosbeak (summer), Lazuli Bunting (summer), finches, Siskin, goldfinches, both towhees, sparrows (White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox, Lincoln's in winter; Song is resident).

Open during daylight, about 7 am-9 pm summer, 8 am-5 pm winter. Large pionio areas near dam, smaller ones elsewhere on Shore Trail. Restrooms: latrines at frequent intervals along lower trail. Brochure, EBMUD Trails, at HQ, and East Bay Municipal Utility Dist., P O Box 24055, Oakland, CA 94623, or at their local offices.

BIRDS OF PREY NATURAL AREA, with spectacular cliffs of the Snake River Canyon in Idaho, is the world's densest known nesting area of birds of prey. In 1971 when Cecil Andrus was governor, 26,000 acres of the nesting area was set aside. Andrus, now Secretary of the Interior, and John V. Evans, Idaho's current governor, are trying to protect the raptors' hunting areas by designating 61,000 acres as a "conservation area." Most of the land is already federally owned, the rest could be acquired by trades with the state. Grazing and other present uses could continue.

Conservationists feel it is a painless way to protect a national treasure but some local ranchers believe it is government meddling and a threat to a proposed irrigation project, one which most observers consider unrealistic. Gov. Evans champions the conservation area at political risk, and Andrus has sent Congress recommendations for needed legislation. Write your senators (U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510) and representative (House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515) urging them to support this bill and ask it be brought promptly to the floor for passage. Send copies of letters to Sec. Andrus, Dept. of Interior, Washington, DC 20240.

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
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July-August 1980
Vol. 27, No. 1

Next deadline: August 10



Picnic: Annual picnic, Fri., July 18, 7:30 p.m., Tilden Park, Mineral Springs area west of Inspiration Point. Bird walk leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).

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

Sat., July 12, Tilden Park, 7:00 a.m. for breakfast, 7:30 if you breakfast at home. Leader: Florence Bennett (820-7028, days).

Sat.-Sun., July 26-27, Yosemite, meet Sat. behind the Crane Flat Chevron station, 7:00 & 10:00 a.m. (we bird the meadow behind the 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., Aug. 16, 9:00 a.m., Bodega Bay; carpool: southeast corner Sun Valley Center, 7:00. Leaders: Helen & Jerry Gentile (228-6297).

Trip Planning: Tues., July 8, 7:30 p.m., home of Sally Steller, 591 Fulton Way, Danville; 837-9061. Call or bring field trip suggestions for next year's calendar.

Board Meetings: Thurs., July 10, 7:30 p.m., home of Winnie Young, 1451 Janet Ct., Benicia; (707) 745-4134. Board meetings are always open to members.

Thurs., Aug. 14, 7:30 p.m., budget session, home of Marian Stelzer, 801 Orange Blossom Way, Danville; 837-7119.

Conservation Mtg: Thurs., July 24. Both at 7:30 p.m., home of Ed Hase, 1291 Walden Rd., Walnut Creek; 944-5659. Open to all interested.

Following the PICNIC dinner we will look for Poor-Wills and perhaps do some owling, so bring binocs and flashlight as well as supper. From Fwy 24 in Orinda take the Richmond exit north 2 miles, left on Wildcat Canyon Rd. to the park. The Mineral Springs picnic area is on the right 0.8 mile beyond Inspiration Point.

TILDEN PARK has many woodland birds around Jewel Lake and along Wildcat Creek. Bring doughnuts or rolls and a thermos of coffee and join us for breakfast or come just for the morning walk. Follow directions above to the park then follow signs to the parking lot at the Interpretive Center.

With varied habitats, BODEGA BAY has many species of waterbirds, shorebirds, land-birds, possibly post-breeding wanderers and early migrants. 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. It may be cold and windy, so come prepared.

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.

Have a pleasant, bird-filled summer. The next issue of The Quail will be out late in August. Please note the deadline is August 10.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

The trip to MT. DIABLO on May 7 was on a clear, warm day with gentle breezes in the morning but it was windy at times after lunch. The 11 members found Dusky Flycatcher, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, several warbler species, and Black-Chinned Sparrow among the following 60 species seen or heard:

Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Rock & Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Com Flicker, Acorn, Hairy, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Ash-Throated & Dusky Flycatcher, West Wood Pewee, Horned Lark, Violet-Green, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Com Crow, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wren, Bewick's Wren, Mockingbird, Calif Thrasher, Amer Robin, Swainson's Thrush, West Bluebird, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Starling, Hutton's, Solitary & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, "Audubon's", Townsend's, Hermit & Wilson's Warbler, West Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, West Tanager, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, House Finch, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Lark, Rufous-Crowned & Sage Sparrow, Dark-Eyed Junco, Black-Chinned & Golden-Crowned Sparrow.

On MORGAN TERRITORY ROAD May 17 it was clear and warm with welcome gentle breezes. The 8 members saw 3 young Red-Shouldered Hawks fed by an adult, adult and immature Golden Eagles, Nashville and Black-Throated Gray Warbler, Lawrence's Goldfinches, several nesting birds, among these 64 species seen or heard:

Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed & Red-Shouldered Hawk, Golden Eagle, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Killdeer, Rock & Mourning Dove, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Common Flicker, Acorn, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, West Kingbird, Ash-Throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Hammond's/Dusky & West Flycatcher, West Wood Pewee, Violet-Green, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Com Crow, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wren, House & Bewick's Wren, Amer Robin, Swainson's Thrush, West Bluebird, Starling, Hutton's, Solitary & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Nashville, Black-Throated Gray & Wilson's Warbler, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged Blackbird, "Bullock's" Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, West Tanager, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Purple & House Finch, Amer, Lesser & Lawrence's Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Dark-Eyed Junco, Chipping Sparrow.

It was a clear day in EAST CONTRA COSTA COUNTY on May 22, cool early in the morning then warm by noon, and quite windy. The 11 members found Black-Chinned Hummingbird, an elusive, singing Chat which would not come out into view, Tricolored Blackbird, and Blue Grosbeak among these 56 species tallied:

Pied-Billed Grebe, Great Blue & Green Heron, Mallard, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Com Gallinule, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Calif & Ring-Billed Gull, Rock & Mourning Dove, Burrowing Owl, White-Throated Swift, BLACK-CHINNED & Anna's HUMMINGBIRD, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, West Kingbird, Black Phoebe, Tree, Rough-Winged, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Scrub Jay, Com Crow, Bewick's Wren, Mockingbird, Amer Robin, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Warbling Vireo, Com Yellowthroat, Yellow-Breasted Chat, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Tricolored Blackbird, "Bullock's" Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, West Tanager, Black-Headed & BLUE GROSBEAK, House Finch, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided Towhee, Song Sparrow.

We had a marvelous trip up MITCHELL CANYON on May 31 on a lovely, clear, sometimes breezy day which was a bit nippy in the early morning but soon became comfortably warm. The nine members and guests found Golden Eagles, Vaux's Swift, several Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers, 2 male Lazuli Buntings in a "singing duel", Lawrence's Goldfinch, Black-Chinned Sparrow, a number of nesting birds among these 59 species:

Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Cooper's & Red-Tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Mourning Dove, Vaux's & White-Throated Swift, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Com Flicker, Acorn, Hairy, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Ash-Throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, West Flycatcher, West Wood Pewee, Olive-Sided Flycatcher, Violet-Green & Cliff Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wren, House & Bewick's Wren, Mockingbird, Calif Thrasher, West Bluebird, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Starling, Hutton's, Solitary & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned & Wilson's Warbler, West Meadowlark, "Bullock's" Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, West Tanager, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Purple & House Finch, Lesser & Lawrence's Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Rufous-Crowned & Sage Sparrow, Dark-Eyed Junco, Black-Chinned Sparrow.

At OUTER PT. REYES on June 7 it was clear and warm with only light breezes. Although no eastern vagrants were found (a Lark Bunting was there the previous day!) the ten members had very good birding with thousands of Murres in the nesting colony at the Lighthouse and a total of 78 species of birds seen or heard:

Com & Red-Throated Loon, Red-Necked, Eared & West Grebe, Brown Pelican, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Mallard, Cinnamon Teal, White-Winged & Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Amer Coot, Black Oystercatcher, Killdeer, Glaucous-Winged & West Gull, Com Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Rock & Mourning Dove, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Acorn Woodpecker, "Red-Breasted" Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, West Wood Pewee, Horned Lark, Violet-Green, Tree, Rough-Winged, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Com Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Brown Creeper, Wrentit, Bewick's, Marsh & Rock Wren, Amer Robin, Swainson's Thrush, West Bluebird, Starling, Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Yellow & Wilson's Warbler, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged, Tricolored & Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Purple & House Finch, Pine Siskin, Amer Goldfinch, Brown Towhee, Savannah, White-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

The trip to BRIONES PARK on June 11 was made on a partly cloudy, cool day which was breezy at times. As eight members watched, an Anna's Hummingbird gathered thistle down, a Robin fed half-grown young, and a Lazuli Bunting sang persistently from an exposed perch. The following 55 species were seen or heard:

Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Mourning Dove, White-Throated Swift, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Com Flicker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Ash-Throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, West Flycatcher, West Wood Pewee, Olive-Sided Flycatcher, Violet-Green & Cliff Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, Mockingbird, Amer Robin, Swainson's Thrush, West Bluebird, Starling, Hutton's, Solitary & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Yellow & Wilson's Warbler, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged Blackbird, "Bullock's" Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, West Tanager, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Purple & House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Dark-Eyed Junco, Chipping & Song Sparrow.

SPECIAL PLACE you would like to bird? TRIP you would like to lead? New areas are welcome, especially near home. Call Sally Steller with your ideas or join the field trip planning session at her home. (See the calendar, page 1.)

The second annual PACK RAT SALE to benefit Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum will be held August 23-24 at Del Valle High School on Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. Donations for the sale may be dropped off at the school--call the Museum, 935-1978, for days and times. All contributions are tax-deductible. Last year's successful sale helped the Museum maintain its vital programs. Please assist again this year by contributing your rummage and patronizing the sale and also by encouraging your friends and neighbors to do likewise.

CLASSES and EXCURSIONS:

Birding Field Trips, Phil Gordon, \$30. Summer classes, Mon., Wed., Fri., June 23-July 18; 10 trips include an overnight weekend. Each trip meets 9 a.m., room 403, Acalanes High School, Walnut Creek. Although already started, call Acalanes Adult School, 935-0170, or Phil Gordon, 278-6720, if interested.

Summer Birding with Susanne Luther. Tues. evenings, June 24-July 29, 7-9:30; or Thurs. mornings, June 26-July 31, 9-noon; to variety of habitats for breeding birds, migrants, possible vagrants. Either series, \$18 or \$3.50 per class. Contact Susanne Luther at 20 Buckingham Dr., Moraga, CA 94556, or phone 376-9422.

PRBO. Condors and Storks, Aug. 3-6, Rich Stallcup, \$95. Natural & Unnatural History of Mono Lake, Aug. 30-31, David Gaines/David Winkler, \$50. Owls of Calif.--Carmel Valley, Sept. 12-14, Bill Clow, \$60. Fall Migration, Humboldt Bay, Sept. 19-21, Bill Clow, \$40. Contact Linda Parker, 4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach, CA 94970; phone 388-2286.

It is with great pleasure that we greet these new members of MDAS and hope to meet them at our meetings and on field trips.

Concord: K. Corriea, Colleen McClendon; Danville: Mrs. Paul E. Raver; Lafayette: Mrs. Evaughn Manning, Mr. & Mrs. Kevin McConner; Livermore: Miss Marietta Miller; Martinez: Everett M. Riehl, L. J. Struer; Pleasant Hill: David A. Chance, Edward Klein; Walnut Creek: Arthur Clarke, Harry Miller, Michael S. Vogus, Sr., John B. Wagner.

* * * * *

MONO LAKE UPDATE by Linda LaPointe, MDAS Mono Lake Coordinator.

AB 2235, the bill to protect Mono Lake by limiting water diversions to Los Angeles, was defeated in the State Assembly late in May. The bill was sent from the Ways and Means Committee to the General Assembly May 21. The votes cast were 39 ayes, 34 nays. A two-thirds majority (54 votes) was needed. Assemblyman Norman Waters, the bill's sponsor, obtained a reconsideration hearing for Thursday, May 22. Los Angeles Audubon, The Mono Lake Committee, et al, were in Sacramento to make a final effort to secure the 15 needed votes, but unfortunately, they were unsuccessful. Information about the future of Mono Lake and what new efforts are underway to save the Lake in its plight will be available shortly from Linda LaPointe, 673-3943. To those who made phone calls and wrote letters, thank you! A note to your local Assembly member, and also to Assemblyman Norman Waters, thanking him for their support of AB 2235 would be greatly appreciated.

* * * * *

ALASKA LANDS BILL by Ed Hase, MDAS Conservation Chairman.

The Senate floor debate on Alaska Lands Legislation has begun to take shape as Paul Tsongas (D. Mass.), Mike Gravel (D.-Alas.), Ted Stevens (R.-Alas.) and Henry Jackson (D.-Wash.) exchanged the amendments they will be permitted to offer. The exchange was part of a time agreement in which the Senate scheduled to begin debate July 21 after the Republican Presidential Convention.

The exchange of amendments was arranged so that no Senator would be surprised in debate by last minute proposals, although no unexpected measures came out of the revelations. The final product will be the Senate's version of how much land should be designated national parks, wildlife refuges and wilderness and how much should be opened to settlers and timber and mining companies. Write now to Senator Cranston thanking him for his support of ammendments strengthening conservation provisions of the bill and urging him to continue leadership in this area.

* * * * *

CONSERVATION NOTES by J. P. Hauser.

As I read the depressing statistics on acres lost each year to development, nationwide in the millions, I wonder how many natural resources are locked up under square miles of asphalt, concrete, buildings. Who knows what riches lie under Sun Valley parking lot, the W. R. Grace development in San Ramon, or the sprawling Blackhawk development? These areas at one time were prime farm land, so we do know that fruits of the soil were obliterated, probably forever. But is there mineral wealth below? Instead of disrupting/destroying wild areas in search of energy sources, why not explore "downtown"? If, as the energy corporations claim, exploratory work today is clean and environmentally acceptable, then structures, etc., required to mine should be very compatible with the urban environment.

The Forest Service has released a study of the devastating effects human activity has on the Lake Tahoe Basin, astride the California/Nevada border. Environmentalists maintain that the area's degeneration can be halted only by tough federal action and determined leadership. They say that in light of ten years of bi-state mismanagement, more compromises will simply further the accelerating deterioration. HR 6338, introduced by Representative Vic Fazio (D-Calif.) to protect the region as a National Scenic Area, now has 40 cosponsors in the House. If your representative is not yet a sponsor, he or she should be strongly urged to sign on.

A proposal to help preserve Georges Bank, one of the world's richest marine life areas, by designating it a marine sanctuary, has been thwarted by the Administration. The Interior Department wants to make the area off the coast of New England available for offshore oil, gas leasing so the Commerce Department dropped the proposed sanctuary. The decision followed hearings which showed overwhelming public support for the sanctuary, and environmentalists are outraged. The Commerce Department proposes an interdepartmental advisory task force to monitor the area.

* * * * *

OBSERVATIONS, May 12-June 10. (Also see field trip reports.)

Green Herons, nested near her Walnut Creek home, early June--SE; near their Walnut Creek home, May 26-June 2--EH, SH. Black-Crowned Night Heron, flying along Walnut Creek near his home, May 25--EH. Blue-Winged Teal, 4, pond near Drake's Beach Visitors' Center, Ft. Reyes, June 5 & 9--BR. Osprey, South Lake Tahoe, May 24--JR

Mountain Quail, 2, calling, Robert Louis Stevenson State Park, Sonoma Co., May 27--JR, et al. UPLAND SANDPIPER, Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley, May 24--m.ob., BR. Stilt Sandpiper, Furnace Creek Ranch, May 24, 25--m.ob., BR. Red Phalarope, ♀, Abbott's Lagoon, Ft. Reyes, June 5--BR; 2♂, 3♀ there, June 9--BR. Wilson's Phalarope, 2, Waterfront Rd. at I-680, Martinez, May 29--DE; 1 there May 30--BR, JR. Tufted Puffins, Lighthouse area, Ft. Reyes, sporadically late April thru period--m.ob.

roadrunner, 2, MP 4.1, Del Puerto Cyn Rd., Stanislaus Co., May 24--EH, SH, CH. Great Gray Owl, Crane Flat, Yosemite, May 23--EH, SH. Black-Chinned Hummingbird, 1-2, Clifton Court Forebay (CCF), May 29, June 8--BR. Pileated Woodpecker, Muddy Hollow parking lot, Ft. Reyes, May 20--JD, JR, et al.

Weid's Crested Flycatcher, Mesquite Springs, Death Valley, May 20, 21--m.ob., BR. Gray Flycatcher, 4, Wyman Canyon, Inyo Co., May 23--BR. Purple Martins, back at 29th & Capitol, Sacramento, May 26--JR. Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, CCF, June 8--BR.

Black-and-White Warbler, 1-2, Mendoza Ranch, Ft. Reyes, May 30-June 1--GH, m.ob. Tennessee Warbler, Fish Docks, Ft. Reyes, June 1--RBA; Nunes Ranch, Ft. Reyes, June 5--BR. Virginia's Warbler, Toll House Springs, Inyo Co., May 20--BR; Wyman Canyon, May 23--BR. Lucy's Warbler, Furnace Creek Ranch, May 19, 25--m.ob., BR; Mesquite Springs, Death Valley, May 19--BR. Cape May Warbler, Pt. Reyes Lighthouse, June 1--RBA. Ovenbird, Pt. Reyes Lighthouse, May 30--RBA. Northern Waterthrush, Scotty's Castle, Death Valley, May 21--m.ob., BR. Yellow-Breasted Chat, CCF, May 29--BR.

Bobolink, Pt. Reyes Lighthouse, May 27--RBA; Furnace Creek Ranch, May 19--m.ob., BR. COMMON GRACKLE, Furnace Creek Ranch, May 24-25--m.ob., BR. Summer Tanager, Scotty's Castle, May 19--m.ob., BR. Blue Grosbeak, CCF, May 29--BR. Indigo Bunting, ♀, his Lafayette garden, April 30--LF; Pt. Reyes Lighthouse, June 1--RBA; several, Death Valley, May 21-24--m.ob., BR; several along our coast, late May-early June--RBA.

Evening Grosbeak, 2♂, 1♀, his Lafayette garden, April 27--LF; several, Death Valley, May 20-25--m.ob., BR. Pine Grosbeak, several, Fallen Leaf Lake, South Lake Tahoe, May 17--JE; 2, Angora Ridge, South Lake Tahoe, May 24--JR. Lawrence's Goldfinch, pair, her Walnut Creek home, thru period, renesting?--WO; pair, west entrance, Briones Park, May 25--H&NB, F&AM. Lark Bunting, Fish Docks road, May 25--DS, m.ob.

OBSERVERS: Hugh & Norah Bein, Jane Dang, Jimm Edgar, Shirley Ellis, Dick Erickson, Lynn Farrar, Ed Hase, Shari Hase, Chuck Hines, George Hugenberg, Frank & Augusta McClure, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Dave Shuford, NorCal Rare Bird Alert, many observers.

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

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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, F. G. Bennett, address below. Address change (send also to NAS): Mrs. Winnie Orutt, 30 Iris Ln., Walnut Creek, CA 94595. Change of chapter affiliation is only upon specific request by member. Subscription: \$3.00 per year, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, F. G. Bennett, P. O. Box 5428, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. 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: San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

Access: From Nimitz Fwy (SR 17) in Fremont go west on Jarvis Rd. to Thornton Ave., turn right toward Dumbarton Bridge. Just before the bridge toll plaza turn left, pass the commuters parking area, continue to the large Refuge parking lot beyond.

Loop Trail. From the Interpretive Center a mile-long trail leads to sloughs, salt marshes, salt ponds. Eventually 2 bridges will cross Newark Slough below the Center to levees beyond, making much more of the marsh accessible to walkers.

Bay Shore. Return on Jarvis Rd. to signal at Newark Ave., turn left $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles, left on Patterson Ranch Rd. into Coyote Hills Regional Park. About $\frac{1}{2}$ mile past entrance gate (fee) park in large unpaved parking lot on left. Walk west past the marsh, over the hill to the water. Cross the new bridge to a graveled levee, walk west along salt ponds to the Bay, go north on a dirt levee (too muddy after heavy rains) to Alameda Creek Trail, walk east to Coyote Hills, turn south to return to your car. Eventually there will be a pedestrian bridge crossing the highway from the Interpretive Center to connect with the trail leading north to the new bridge.

Alviso Slough Trail. Go south on SR 17 to San Jose, west on SR 237, north on Taylor St., turn right on Hope St. to Alviso Marina parking lot. Walk the trail northwest along the slough toward the Bay and return. The trail will some day continue east along Coyote River and Gray Goose Slough then south back to the marina.

Only parts of the Refuge are open to the public at present. In the future there will be many hiking and bicycling trails, fishing piers, etc. As work on the new Dumbarton Bridge and its eastern approach is completed there may be changes in roads. This Refuge was opened to the public in August 1979, so I would greatly appreciate input from anyone birding there to add information to my files.

No wading! It's easy to get stuck in deep, soft mud beneath the salt marsh, especially dangerous with a rising tide. Stay on established trails!!!

Birds: loons (occ), grebes (mostly winter), White & Brown (occ) Pelican, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue & Green (rare) Heron, egrets, Night Heron, American Bittern, geese (rare, winter), many ducks in winter include Gadwall, Blue-Winged Teal (rare), Redhead (occ), both scaup, Barrow's Goldeneye (rare), sometimes mergansers, Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, accipiters (occ), Red-Tailed & Rough-Legged (rare) Hawk, Golden Eagle (occ), Marsh Hawk, Prairie Falcon (rare), Merlin (rare), Kestrel, Pheasant, rails include Clapper, Virginia, Sora & Black (rare), many shorebirds include Snipe, Curlew, Whimbrel (occ), Tattler (occ), Greater & Lesser (occ) Yellowlegs, Red Knot (occ), Pectoral & Baird's Sandpiper (both rare), both dowitchers, many Avocets & Stilts, phalaropes may include Red (numerous some years), gulls sometimes include Glaucous (winter), terns include Least (rare), Burrowing & Short-Eared (uncom) Owl, White-Throated & Vaux' (occ) Swift, hummingbirds, Kingfisher, Black & Say's Phoebe, swallows, Bewick's & Marsh Wren, Pipit, Shrike, Yellow-Rumped Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Meadowlark, blackbirds may include Tricolored, House Finch, goldfinches, sometimes towhees, sparrows include Savannah, Sharp-Tailed (rare), Lark (rare), White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox (uncom), Lincoln's (uncom) Swamp (rare) & Song. Winter has the greatest concentration and variety of birds.

Trails open every day. Interpretive Center, open Wed.-Sun. (except Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years), 10 am-5 pm: displays, book sales, auditorium, restrooms; picnic tables nearby; nature walks: Sat., Sun., 11 am & 2:30 pm; film, interpretive talks: Sat., Sun. 1 & 4 pm. Information, bird list: at Interpretive Center or write Refuge Manager, San Francisco Bay NWR, P O Box 524, Newark, CA 94560; phone (415) 792-3178 (recorded information). Picnic tables, restrooms at Coyote Hills.

SF BAY NWR interpretive programs presented Wed.-Sun., July 2-Sept. 1: nature walk, 11 am; films, slides, talks, 2 & 4 pm. Call a day or two in advance, 792-0222, to make sure weather has not caused cancellation. For monthly bulletin, including topics of walks & presentations, write SF Bay NWR, P O Box 524, Newark, CA 94560.

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 1980
Vol. 27, No. 2

Next deadline: September 7

Meeting: Thurs., Sept. 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.
Sat., Sept. 6, 8:45 a.m., San Mateo County coast; carpool: El Cerro Blvd. at I-680, Danville, 7:00. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).
Wed., Sept. 10, 9:15 a.m., S.F. Bay Refuge & Coyote Hills; carpool: El Cerro Blvd. at I-680, Danville, 8:15. Leader: Norah Bain (254-4516).
Thurs., Sept. 18, 9:30 a.m., Land's End & Golden Gate Park; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. at Fwy 24, 8:30. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).
Sun., Sept. 28, 8:30 a.m., outer Pt. Reyes; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Fwy 24, 6:30. Leader: Bob Richmond (447-0248).

Board Meeting: Thurs., Sept. 11, 7:30 p.m., home of Merv & Norma Ortez, 1010 Walnut Dr., Lafayette; 283-3072. Board meetings are always open to members.

Conservation Mtg: Thurs., Sept. 25, 7:30 p.m., home of Ed Hase, 1291 Walden Rd., Walnut Creek; 944-5659. Open to all those interested in conservation matters.

BIRDINFORMATION, by Jean Richmond, will be on fall vagrants. Bring field guide (especially Robbins). The slide PROGRAM, "Alaska - Wildlands for Tomorrow", presents a sample of wildlife and wildlands which would be protected with passage in Congress of the Alaska National Interest Land Conservation Act. The speaker, Glenn Olson, is NAS assistant regional representative from the Sacramento office.

Along SAN MATEO COAST are birds of sea, shore and marsh, perhaps Baird's, Pectoral Sandpipers. Cross San Mateo Bridge, continue on SR 92 to Half Moon Bay, left on SR 1 about 15 miles to Pescadero Rd., turn right into parking lot. May be cold, windy.

At the new S F BAY REFUGE we will walk the Loop Trail to see what the refuge has to offer then move to COYOTE HILLS after lunch to bird the Bay shore. From Nimitz Fwy (SR 17) in Fremont go west on Jarvis Rd. to Thornton Ave., turn right toward Dum-barton Bridge. Just before the toll plaza turn left, pass the commuters parking area, continue to the large Refuge parking lot beyond. Could be windy.

LAND'S END has birds of sea and land, possibly vagrants. After lunch in GOLDEN GATE PARK, we will look for such birds as Wood Duck, Pygmy Nuthatch, possible vagrants. From Kennedy Dr. in Golden Gate Park go north on 30th Ave., to Clement St., left to 34th Ave., right on Legion of Honor Dr. Just beyond the Palace of the Legion of Honor turn right on El Camino Del Mar about 1/4 block and park.

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. May be cold, windy.

PLEASE NOTE: Above carpool times are departure times!! It is unfair to require those who are on time to wait for late arrivals, so hereafter latecomers will be on their own. Be ON TIME and join the group, enjoy the company, save gasoline.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

At REDWOOD REGIONAL PARK on June 19 the day was overcast and chilly with light wind. The 9 members and a guest found a wide variety of woodland birds among these 41 species heard or seen:

Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed Hawk, Calif Quail, Caspian Tern, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Ash-Throated & West Flycatcher, West Wood Pewee, Olive Sided Flycatcher, Tree Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Red-Breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Wren, Bewick's Wren, Calif Thrasher, Amer Robin, Swainson's Thrush, Starling, Hutton's & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned & Wilson's Warbler, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Purple & House Finch, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, "Oregon" Junco, Song Sparrow.

The YUBA PASS & SIERRA VALLEY weekend on June 21-22 was clear and warm. The 12 members noted Mountain Quail, many Virginia Rails, Black Tern, Calliope Hummingbird, nesting Black-Backed 3-Toed Woodpecker, Hammond's & Dusky Flycatchers, several warblers, Vesper & Brewer's Sparrows, among these 70 species seen or heard:

Pied-Billed Grebe, Amer Bittern, Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed Hawk, Mountain Quail, Virginia Rail, Sora, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Com Snipe, Willet, Black Tern, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Calliope Hummingbird, Com Flicker, "Red-Breasted" & Williamson's Sapsucker, Hairy, White-Headed & Black-Backed 3-Toed Woodpecker, Hammond's & Dusky Flycatcher, West Wood Pewee, Olive-Sided Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Violet-Green, Tree, Rough-Winged, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Steller's Jay, Black-Billed Magpie, Clark's Nutcracker, Mountain Chickadee, White-Breasted & Red-Breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Marsh Wren, Sage Thrasher, Amer Robin, Hermit Thrush, Mountain Bluebird, Golden-Crowned & Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Starling, Warbling Vireo, Yellow, "Audubon's", Hermit, MacGillivray's & Wilson's Warbler, West Meadowlark, Yellow-Headed, Red-Winged, Tricolored & Brewer's Blackbird, West Tanager, Cassin's Finch, Pine Siskin, Green-Tailed Towhee, Savannah & Vesper Sparrow, "Oregon" Junco, Chipping, Brewer's, White-Crowned, Fox, Lincoln's & Song Sparrow.

TILDEN PARK on July 12 was cold and overcast early but clearing and warmer by the end of the morning trip. Although the 17 members and a guest from Kansas did not see the Hooded Warbler, they enjoyed a lovely walk and found these 38 species:

Cooper's & Red-Tailed Hawk, Calif Quail, Amer Coot, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Rook & Mourning Dove, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Downy Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, West Flycatcher, West Wood Pewee, Olive-Sided Flycatcher, Violet-Green & Barn Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Red-Breasted Nuthatch, Wren, Bewick's Wren, Amer Robin, Swainson's Thrush, Hutton's & Warbling Vireo, Wilson's Warbler, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Purple & House Finch, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, "Oregon" Junco, Song Sparrow.

Although mostly hot at YOSEMITE with gentle breezes, around Tenaya Lake there was a thunder storm with rain and light snow creating magnificent cascading runoffs down granite slopes, near Ellery Lake it was cold and windy. The 21 members and guests found Blue Grouse, Pileated Woodpecker, Western Kingbird at 8000', Townsend's Solitaire, several warblers, Evening and Pine Grosbeaks, Gray-Crowned Rosy Finch, Red Crossbill at several spots, among these 69 species seen or heard:

Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed Hawk, ♀ Blue Grouse, Calif Gull, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Black & White-Throated Swift, Anna's & Rufous Hummingbird, Com Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, "Red-Breasted" & Williamson's Sapsucker, Hairy, Downy & White-Headed Woodpecker, West Kingbird, Willow, Hammond's & Dusky Flycatcher, West Wood Pewee, Olive-Sided Flycatcher, Violet-Green & Barn Swallow, Steller's Jay, Com Raven, Mountain Chickadee, Bushtit, White-Breasted & Red-Breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Winter & Bewick's Wren, Amer Robin, Hermit & Swainson's Thrush, Townsend's Solitaire, Golden-Crowned Kinglet, Solitary & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Nashville, Yellow, "Audubon's", Black-Throated Gray, Townsend's, Hermit & MacGillivray's Warbler, 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, Red Crossbill, Green-Tailed & Rufous-Sided Towhee, "Oregon" Junco, Chipping, White-Crowned, Fox, Lincoln's & Song Sparrow.

* * * * *

BOB BARY, longtime member and past officer of MDAS, suffered very serious injuries in an accident early this summer. He is making progress but still faces a lengthy recovery. Cards or brief notes would boost morale for Bob and his wife, Cordelia. Send them to him at 1812 Tobi Ct., Concord 94521. We also send you our collective wishes for complete recovery, Bob!!!

* * * * *

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

Antioch: Anne R. Reinke & family, H. W. Rubin, Teena Steele; Concord: Impact, J. Williams; Danville: Wanda J. Krueger; Lafayette: John Kirsten, Mr. & Mrs. Frances L. Singer; Martinez: J. Kreag; Moraga: Douglas E. & Sandra Landin, Maxine W. Wilson; Oakland: Nan Elizabeth Giddings, Kathleen & James Karol; Orinda: Mr. & Mrs. Lon F. Israel, Frank E. & Augusta McClure; Pittsburg: E. L. Ahrendt & family; Pleasant Hill: Mr. W. Louis Bailey, Sandra L. Siegel; San Ramon: Fran Bilon, Kevin Hintze, George E. Tomaskie; Walnut Creek: Julia E. Allaga, Mrs. Raymond R. Best, Jr., Katherine T. Coakley, M. Dahlstrom, Mr. C. Gardiner, Jr., & family, Mr. W. J. Holliday, Marilyn O'Connor, Donald H. Oliphant, Bob Rix family, Miss Katherine Sherman, Harold A. Smith.

SUBSCRIBERS (& LOCAL memberships), check your label for expiration date---MDAS will no longer mail renewal notices to you. Your cancelled check is your receipt.

FIELD TRIPS SCHEDULE, Oct. 1980-Aug. 1981. (Changes may occasionally be made.)

We have an excellent schedule, thanks to Sally Steller and her planning committee and to members who will be leaders. Five weekends, three new (N) areas are listed.

*--weekend may be done either day alone.		?--date depends on the tides.	
Oct. 4	Sat.	Rodeo Lagoon, Bunker Hill	11 Wed. N-Hayward Reg. Shoreline-??
8	Wed.	Sunol Reg. Pk.	21 Sat. San Leandro Reservoir
16	Thurs.	Alameda South Shore	26 Thurs. Lks. Lagunitas, Bon Tempe
25	Sat.	5-Brooks, Bolinas Lagoon	Apr. 11 Sat. N-Coal Mines Reg. Pk.
Nov. 8	Sat.	Bodega Bay	16 Thurs. Las Trampas Reg. Pk.
13	Thurs.	Lake Merritt	22 Wed. Lk. Merced, Ft. Funston
19	Wed.	Mt. View Sanitary Dist.	*25 Sat. Mines Rd.
22	Sat.	Niles Cyn Gravel Pits	26 Sun. Caswell State Pk.
Dec. *6	Sat.	Sacramento NWR	May -- possible Colorado River week
7	Sun.	Gray Lodge WMA	6 Wed. Mt. Diablo
13	Sat.	Lafayette Reservoir	9 Sat. 3-Sprgs Ranch, Glen Ellen
27	Sat.	CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT	16 Sat. Morgan Territory Rd.
Jan. ?7	Wed.	Bay Bridge Toll Plaza	21 Thurs. East Contra Costa Co.
17	Sat.	Lk. Solano, Putah Creek	30 Sat. Mitchell Cyn-wilflowers
22	Thurs.	Lafayette Reservoir	June 6 Sat. Audubon Cyn. Ranch
31	Sat.	Palo Alto Baylands	10 Wed. Briones Reg. Pk.
Feb. 7	Sat.	Abbott's Lagoon	18 Thurs. Chabot Reg. Pk.
12	Thurs.	Thornton area	*20 Sat. Yuba Pass
22	Sat.	Conn Dam, Lk. Hennessey	21 Sun. Sierra Valley
25	Wed.	Berkeley Aquatic Pk & Marina	July *11 Sat. Yosemite
		N-Pts. Isabel, Richmond, Molate	12 Sun. "
Mar. *7	Sat.	Monterey & Carmel area	25 Sat. Tilden Reg. Pk.
8	Sun.	" "	Aug. 15 Sat. Bodega Bay

OFFICERS OF MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY, 1980-81. (Save for future reference.)

Pres.: Elizabeth Dickey, 113 Hillcrest Dr., Orinda 94563; 254-0486.
VP (Program): Jimm Edgar, 3611 Chestnut St., Lafayette 94549; 283-3510.
VP (Conservation): Ed Hase, 1291 Walden Rd., Walnut Creek 94596; 944-5659.
Secretary: Marian Stelzer, 801 Orange Blossom Way, Danville; 837-7119.
Treasurer: F. G. Bennett, P. O. Box 5428, Walnut Creek 94596; 820-7028 (weekdays).
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, 1451 Janet Ct., Benicia 94510; (707) 745-4134.
Publicity: Norah Bain, 32 Via Farallon, Orinda 94563; 254-4516.
Scrapbook: Linda LaPointe, 2360 Van Ness Ave., #11, San Francisco 94109; 673-3943.
Editor: Jean Richmond, 125 Via Serena, Alamo 94507; 837-2843.
Circulation: Winnie Orutt, 30 Iris Ln., Walnut Creek 94595; 944-0593.

On behalf of our members, MANY THANKS to those who served so well this past year!!! Due to their very fine job, we had a superb year and look forward to another. If asked to help in any capacity or assist on a committee, we hope you will do so.

The CONSERVATION COMMITTEE was active through the summer, partly on local issues including expansion of Martinez Waterfront Park and developing ideas for bird habitat enhancement at Shell Ridge Open Space. Other active issues are Mono Lake, Alaska Lands Bill Amendments, the BLM Desert Plan, and the Peripheral Canal.

New issues likely to be considered this year include Wild & Scenic River designations, riparian habitat protection, coastal wetlands protection. They welcome all who wish to contribute ideas toward a more effective conservation program for MDAS.

* * * * *

CONSERVATION ACTIVITY, by Ed Hase, Conservation Chairman.

An activity unrelated to the CAPTIVE BREEDING PROGRAM caused the death June 30 of a California Condor chick due to shock and acute heart failure while being weighed, measured, and examined by 2 biologists for disease, parasites, or malnutrition. Most of the program was suspended and permits withdrawn pending full investigation by the State Fish & Game Commission. No new permits for contact with Condors will be authorized until completion of the investigation. A public hearing will be held at a future date. Western Regional Audubon officers indicate the Andean Condor portion of the recovery program will continue as scheduled at Pautuxent Refuge.

SB 200 (PERIPHERAL CANAL) was passed and signed into law with inadequate protection for the Bay and Delta, inadequate emphasis on water conservation and ground water management, and no reduction in subsidies to users of State Water Project water.

ACA 90 (DELTA PROTECTION), Proposition 8 in November, would place protections of SB 200 and existing Delta Protection Act into the constitution and add protections to existing wild & scenic rivers. The Secretary of Interior is studying our governor's request that our state wild & scenic rivers be included in the Federal system.

SB 1361 (SB 200 CLEAN-UP from amendments to SB 200) now carried by Sen Nejedly, cleans up some problems but does not go far enough in 1) prohibiting new reservoirs until Bay studies are done, 2) strong groundwater and water conservation programs, 3) reducing water user subsidies. The measure is important but reforms are weak.

A petition-gathering campaign for a REFERENDUM on SB 200 is underway. The referendum would repeal SB 200--and eliminate ACA 90 as it is linked to SB 200 taking effect. If successful, the referendum would be on the ballot in June, 1982, or there could be a special election. If passed, the issue of the Peripheral Canal and state water development would return to the Legislature. We recommend referendum support.

* * * * *

CONSERVATION NOTES by J. P. Hauser.

Bob Bergland, Secretary of Agriculture: Failure to protect our agriculture and natural resources upon which it depends will put us on collision course with disaster.

Each day 4 square miles of our prime farmlands are shifted to non-agriculture uses. The thief is urban sprawl. Ten years from now, Americans could be as concerned over loss of prime and important farmlands as they are today over oil shortages.

One million acres of prime land and a total of 3 million acres of farmland are being converted to non-agricultural uses every year. That's the equivalent of a mile and a half wide strip of land from New York to California annually, or 320 acres an hour! Every time a baby is born in the United States, agriculture loses one and a third acres of farmland; a mathematical comparison, but dramatizes the problem of available farmland shrinking, and our per acre crop yields leveling off.

The demand for food from the United States that caused a big jump in grain prices was not the result of hunger in the future, but for grain to produce the meat supply of the newly affluent working class. A decade ago, U.S. farmers exported the product of about one out of every five acres harvested. Today it is one out of three.

The above statistics and statements are from experts and analysts within and without the government. These are only a sampling. To read more astonishing statistics concerning the loss of our farmlands and diminishing production, send for State Agricultural Land Issues by Leonard Wilson, Iron Works Pike, Lexington, KY 40578; cost: \$4.00. Locally, excellent material is available from People For Open Space, 46 Kearney St., San Francisco 94108; 781-8729. In the Bay Area alone, projections show that with our current style of sprawling development, 196,000 acres of land (6 times the size of San Francisco!) will be consumed by the year 2000.

* * * * *

WALK FOR MONO LAKE on Sept. 1. Walkers will fill containers with water near the diversion dam, carry it 4 miles downhill, dump it into Mono Lake. Meet 1 mile north of Lee Vining at Sneaker Flat just east of US 395 between 9 & 11 am. Take a small container for the water, lunch, sign with appropriate slogan to carry. Take picnic dinner to Mono Lake County Park 5 miles north of Lee Vining at 5 pm. More info: Mono Lake Committee, P O Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541; (714) 647-6386 or 647-6483.

An L.A.-MONO BIKATHON will be held Aug. 27-Sept. 7 (tentative), to fight gravity and politics by bicycling water from L.A. back to Mono Lake and to raise needed funds by soliciting pledges for each mile ridden. To participate on all or any part of the trip, contact David Heine, 5461 W. 99th Pl., Los Angeles, 90045; (203) 649-2838.

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OBSERVATIONS, June 11-August 10. (Also see field trip reports.)

Green Heron, Bethel Island, July 3--BR. Possible LEAST BITTERN, Tahoe Keys, South Lake Tahoe, July 5--R&JR. LITTLE BLUE HERONS returned to Charleston Slough, Palo Alto, mid-July; several, Alviso, Santa Clara Co., late July; Gray Lodge, Butte Co., July 28-31--RBA.

Golden Plover, Pescadero Marsh, San Mateo Co., May 30-July 13--AE, GB, JF, m.ob. Lesser Yellowlegs, Pescadero Marsh, Aug. 8--JR, FB; Bodega Bay, July 28--BR; Waterfront Rd. at I-680, Martinez, Aug. 4--BR. Red Knot, 2-3 in breeding plumage, Alameda South Shore, July 22--BP, JR, BF, et al; 2 there, Aug 5--BF, RG. Pectoral Sandpiper, Bodega Bay, July 28--BR. Baird's Sandpiper, Año Nuevo Pt., San Mateo Co., July 26--BR; Waterfront Rd. at I-680, Aug. 5--BR; MP 7.64, Pierce Pt. Rd., Pt. Reyes, Aug. 9--JR, BF. Red Phalarope, Bodega Bay, Aug. 9--H&JG. Wilson's Phalarope, Waterfront Rd., at I-680, July 3 & Aug. 4--BR. Northern Phalarope, Waterfront Rd. at I-680, July 28--BR.

Common Tern, 2, Alameda South Shore, July 22--BP, JR, BF, et al; 1, Pt. Isabel, July 31--BR. Common Murre, Cypress Pt., Richmond, July 11--BR. Tufted Puffin, 2, Lighthouse, Pt. Reyes, June 17--JR, BP; 6 there, June 24--JR, BF, BP, et al.

Yellow-Billed Cuckoo, River Rd., Chico, Butte Co., July 18--BR. FLAMMULATED OWL, Garland Rd. east of Chico, July 12--JH, FB, BF, B&MJG, JR, SAS; still there, July 18--BR, JE. Burrowing Owl, 1-2, several east Contra Costa Co. spots, July 3-Aug. 9--BR.

LESSER NIGHTHAWK, SR 4 east of Bixler Rd., east Contra Costa Co., Aug. 10--BR. Black Swift, 4, Año Nuevo Pt., July 26--BR. Black-Chinned Hummingbird, up to 3♂, 2♀, Clifton Court Forebay, thru period--BR; ♂, ♀, Dutch Slough Rd., east Contra Costa Co., Aug. 5--BR. Pileated Woodpecker, 2, Lk. Lagunitas, Marin Co., July 15--BP, BF, JR, et al. Black-Backed 3-Toed Woodpecker, easy to see near Bridalveil Campgr., Yosemite, mid-June thru early July, missed on MDAS trip.

SISSON-TAILED FLYCATCHER, Patrick's Pt. near Aroata, Humboldt Co., July 18-21; Bodega Head, July 27; Pierce Pt. Rd., Aug. 6--all RBA. Bank Swallow, 2, Dutch Slough Rd., Aug. 4 & 10--BR. WHITE WAGTAIL, returned, Watsonville Sewage Treatment Plant, Santa Cruz Co., late July thru period--m.ob. Magnolia Warbler, singing ♂, Mendoza Ranch, Pt. Reyes, June 7--JD, BF, BP, JR, et al. HOODED WARBLER, singing ♂, Tilden Park: Wildoat Creek, July 4-10 then Jewel Lake Nature Trail, thru period--m.ob.

Hooded Oriole, several still in their Alamo garden thru period--R&JR. GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE, pair, unsuccessful nest attempt, Aquatic Pk. S.F., this summer--RBA. Lawrence's Goldfinch, her Walnut Creek garden, renested, fledged young, thru June 22--WO. Red Crossbill, 12, So. Lake Tahoe, July 5--JR.

OBSERVERS: Florence Bennett, George Bing, Jane Dang, Jimm Edgar, Art Edwards, Jan Fisher, Bud Fry, Ruth Gibbs, Helen & Jerry Gentile, Bill & Mary Jane Greene, Joel Hornstein, Bill Pursell, Bob Richmond, Rich & Jean Richmond, NoCal Rare Bird Alert, Sacramento Audubon Society, 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. To join NAS: individual \$20 per year, family \$25, other categories available; check payable to National Audubon Society, to Treasurer, F. G. Bennett, address below. Address change (send also to NAS): Mrs. Winnie Orcutt, 30 Iris Ln., Walnut Creek, CA 94595. Change of chapter affiliation is only upon specific request by member. Subscription: \$3 per year, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, F. G. Bennett, P. O. Box 5428, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. 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: Niles Canyon Gravel Pits and Alameda Creek Trail.

Access: Go south on I-680 about 9 miles past Dublin, west on SR 84 to Mission Blvd. in Fremont. Go straight ahead at the signal, under the railroad tracks then right on Niles Blvd., left on H St., then right on 3rd St. to Niles Community Park.

Small ponds surrounded by trees, immediately west of tennis courts. Trees: wrens, warblers, sparrows. Ponds: waterfowl, Green Heron, rails, Gallinule, Spotted Sandpiper. Pines west of ponds: roosting Black-Crowned Night Herons.

Alameda Creek Trail follows the Flood Control Channel. Walk west, check for ducks. Green Heron, Spotted Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, other shorebirds, Yellowthroat.

Gravel ponds both sides of Channel. One on north side, east of railroad tracks: waterfowl, Spotted Sandpiper. Cross railroad bridge, walk east of tracks to ponds: waterfowl, shorebirds. Beneath the bridge: excellent for Green Heron, Bittern, rails, etc. Recross bridge, head west.

Large lakes, north side of Channel, west of bridge: grebes, Double-Crested Cormorant, Common Merganser, rails around water; wrens, Gnatcatcher, warblers, etc., in surrounding brushy willows. Above lakes: flying ducks, raptors. Continue along Channel to west end of lakes. Brushy willows at extreme north-northwest side of lakes: Great Blue Heron, both egrets, roosting Black-Crowned Night Herons.

Other birds: Red-Throated Loon, 4 grebes, many ducks (may include Blue-Winged Teal, Redhead, Greater Scaup, Common Merganser), Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, hawks, Golden Eagle, Merlin, several shorebirds (including Snipe, Curlew, Avocet, Stilt), several gulls, doves, White-Throated Swift, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Kingfisher, several woodpeckers (including Sapsucker), Black Phoebe, swallows, jays, Yellow-Billed Magpie, Crow, Chickadee, Titmouse, Bushtit, wrens, Mockingbird, Robin, Varied & Hermit Thrush (both winter), kinglets, Pipit, Shrike, several warblers, Meadowlark, blackbirds, finches, Siskin, goldfinches, towhees, several sparrows.

Best birding is winter. Facilities: Niles Community Park; restrooms also at the staging area west of the lakes at Isherwood Way.

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The California NONGAME WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROGRAM, doing only modestly well, needs donations in any amount. Every donated dollar goes directly for wildlife or public education about wildlife. Funding will continue for assistance of Peregrine Falcons, and to continue a successful effort to reintroduce Harris Hawks to historic Colorado River habitat. Send donations to Wildlife, Box DFG, Sacramento, CA 95801.

* * * * *

CLASSES and EXCURSIONS.

S F BAY NWR, closed Labor Day & Sept. 21-Oct. 4 for new exhibits. Bay Adventure Seminars, 8 field study courses offered this fall, some earn college credit. Phone Melinda Marks, (415) 792-3271, for info. Orientation for teachers, youth group leaders; mid-Sept. Call (408) 262-5513 for info.

Trees of Sunol Regional Wilderness, Sat., Sept. 20, 9 am-3 pm; Birds of Sunol Reg. Wilderness, Sat., Oct. 11, 9 am-3 pm; each \$9; Patricia Jacobson, instructor. Pre-register by mail: Ohlone College, Community Services, P O Box 3909, Fremont, CA 94538 (enclose self-addressed, stamped envelope).

PRBO. Birds of Monterey, Sept. 27-28, Rich Stalloup, \$50. Birds of Central Coastal Calif., Oct. 1 (eve.), 2-5, Dave DeSante, John Kipping, Ane Rovetta, Rich Stalloup, \$175. Contact Linda Parker, 4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach, CA 94970; 388-2286.

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MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY
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BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY
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(415) AUD-UBON

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

October 1980
Vol. 27, No. 3

Next deadline: October 10



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

Field Trips: Trips open, members, non-members alike; bring lunch, binocs, field guide. Carpool times are departure times. Carpool expense: 5¢ per mile per rider is suggested; entry fees or tolls, shared equally by driver, riders.
Sat., Oct. 4, 8:30 a.m., Rodeo Lagoon area; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Fwy 24, 7:30. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey (254-0486).
Wed., Oct. 8, 9:15 a.m. Sunol Regional Park; carpool: El Cerro Blvd. at I-680, Danville, 8:30. Leader: Sally Steller (837-9061).
Thurs., Oct. 16, 9:00 a.m., Alameda South Shore; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Fwy 24, 8:15. Leader: Winnie Orutt (944-0593).
Sun., Oct. 26, 9:00 a.m., 5-Brooks and Bolinas Lagoons; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. at Fwy 24, 7:15. Leader: Sally Steller (837-9061).
Sat.-Sun., Dec. 6-7, Sacramento Valley refuges. Make motel reservations early. Pacific Motel, Gridley (916) 846-9915; Buckner's Motel, Biggs (916) 868-5410.

Board Meeting: Thurs., Oct. 9, 7:30 p.m., home of Sally Steller, 591 Fulton Way, Danville; 837-9061. Board meetings are always open to members.

Checklist Meeting: Thurs., Oct. 16, 7:30-10:00 p.m., home of Sally Steller, 591 Fulton Way, Danville; 837-9061. Open to anyone interested.

Conservation Mtg: Thurs., Oct. 23, 7:30 p.m., home of Ed Hase, 1291 Walden Rd., Walnut Creek; 944-5659. Open to all those interested in conservation matters.

BIRDINFORMATION, by Jean Richmond, will be part 2 on fall vagrants. Bring field guide (especially Robbins). Ted Chandik will present a **PROGRAM** on hawks, their identification, migration, feeding patterns, etc. Mr. Chandik is the director of Baylands Interpretive Center in Palo Alto. This program will be excellent preparation for our trip to the hawk lookout at Bunker Hill.

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.

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.

At **ALAMEDA SOUTH SHORE** and **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 Dr. 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, then left on 3rd St. out thru Fairfax to SR 1. Turn left about 5 miles then right to the 5-Brooks Trailhead parking lot.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

The trip to BODEGA BAY on August 16 was on a cool, mostly overcast day but with good visibility, light wind. The 14 members saw an Osprey, 4 Virginia Rails, many shorebirds including a Lesser Yellowlegs, and only one warbler among these 82 species seen or heard:

Com, Arctic & Red-Throated Loon, Pied-Billed Grebe, Sooty Shearwater, Brown Pelican, Double-Crested, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Mallard, Cinnamon Teal, Lesser Scaup, Com Goldeneye, White-Winged & Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, Osprey, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Virginia Rail, Black Oystercatcher, Semipalmated & Snowy Plover, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Surfbird, Ruddy & Black Turnstone, Wandering Tattler, Willet, Greater & Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, dowitcher sp, West Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Northern Phalarope, Glaucous-Winged, West, Calif, Ring-Billed & Heermann's Gull, Forster's & Caspian Tern, Com Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Marbled Murrelet, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Rock & Mourning Dove, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Black Phoebe, Tree, Rough-Winged, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Scrub Jay, Com Raven, Com Crow, Marsh Wren, Amer Robin, Starling, Orange-Crowned Warbler, House Sparrow, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Black-Headed Grosbeak, House Finch, Amer Goldfinch, Brown Towhee, White-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

The September 6 trip to SAN MATEO COUNTY COAST was on a cool day, overcast in the morning, sunny until mid-afternoon then overcast again, with light wind until mid-afternoon when it became rather breezy. The 14 members and guests tallied Lesser Yellowlegs, 5 Red Knots, 4 Pectoral and 4-5 Baird's Sandpipers, and a beautiful winter-plumage RUFF, among these 87 species seen or heard:

Com, Arctic & Red-Throated Loon, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Sooty Shearwater, Brown Pelican, Double-Crested, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Mallard, Pintail, Com Goldeneye, Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Red-Breasted Merganser, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, Merlin, Amer Kestrel, Virginia Rail, Amer Coot, 9 Black Oystercatchers, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Surfbird, Ruddy & Black Turnstone, Com Snipe, Whimbrel, Spotted Sandpiper, Wandering Tattler, Willet, Greater & Lesser Yellowlegs, Red Knot, Pectoral, Baird's & Least Sandpiper, dowitcher sp, West Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, RUFF, Sanderling, Northern Phalarope, Pomarine (?) Jaeger, Glaucous-Winged, West, Calif, Ring-Billed & Heermann's Gull, Forster's & Com Tern, Com Murre, Marbled Murrelet, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Rock & Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Black Phoebe, Violet-Green & Barn Swallow, Com Raven, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Wrentit, Marsh Wren, Calif Thrasher, Starling, Yellow Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, Savannah, White-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

The trip to S.F. BAY REFUGE and COYOTE HILLS on September 10 was made on a day that was overcast and cool early but became warm as skies cleared. The 8 members saw Virginia Rail, a very cooperative Sora, Lesser Yellowlegs among these 67 species:

Pied-Billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, Amer Wigeon, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Virginia Rail, Sora, Com Gallinule, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Willet, Greater & Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, dowitcher sp, West Sandpiper, Amer Avocet, Black-Necked Stilt, Northern Phalarope, Calif & Ring-Billed Gull, Rock & Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, West Flycatcher, Violet-Green, Rough-Winged & Barn Swallow, Scrub Jay, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, House, Bewick's & Marsh Wren, Swainson's Thrush, Golden-Crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Yellow Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Dark-Eyed Junco, Song Sparrow.

SUBSCRIBERS (& LOCAL memberships), check your label for expiration date---NDAS does not mail you a renewal notice. Your cancelled check is your receipt.

PHIL SCHAEFFER, long-time director at the Western Education Center and Richardson Bay Wildlife Refuge in Tiburon, is now director of the Audubon Center in Greenwich, Connecticut. He and his wife, Margaret, left for the east a few weeks ago. We wish them well in their new assignment while at the same time we look forward to meeting Phil's replacement, Alan M. Ruppert, and his wife, Estelle. Mr. Ruppert is former director at the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary in Oyster Bay, New York.

PRBO and Mono Lake Committee are sponsoring a BIRD-A-THON on Sat., Sept. 27, hoping to raise \$20,000 each for PRBO and Mono Lake. Time is very short (info was too late for September's issue due to mail delay) so phone PRBO at 868-1221 and pledge whatever amount you can to sponsor yourself or your favorite person or any one of the PRBO/Mono Lake counters. If your Quail arrives too late, send a check to the PRBO/Mono Lake Bird-a-thon, 4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach, CA 94970. Mono Lake desperately needs funds. Long live Mono Lake!!!

How to SAVE OIL. During the Senate debate on proposed loans for weatherizing homes, Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin said: "There is no quicker, cheaper, or more painless way for us to find more than two million barrels of oil a day than right in the houses in which we live." (Audubon Leader)

The 1981 CALIFORNIA BIRDER'S CALENDAR again includes black and white drawings by Bay Area wildlife artist Pedro J. Gonzales. Also featured are notes by Dr. Stephen F. Bailey on rare birds in this state, suggested birding locations at various times of year, and a bar graph of migratory distribution of our birds. Most suitable for Christmas gifts, the calendar will be available at our meetings for \$5.00, by mail from Golden Gate Audubon Society in Berkeley, or from local Bay Area bookstores.

YOU WIN SOME, YOU LOSE SOME. While NAS was adding a new sanctuary, Mother Nature was taking away an old one. The Alexander Sprunt Jr. Sanctuary, a sandspit island off the South Carolina coast, encompassed 250 acres when dedicated in 1975. But last year seas from Hurricane David cut through it, and shifting currents began washing away the sand. Now it is completely under water at high tide and the Royal Terns and Brown Pelicans can no longer nest there.

The same currents that eroded that island built a new one some 15 miles north. Emerging first as a sandbar several years ago, the new island - appropriately called Bird Key - is now vegetated, and the pelicans and terns moved in. It is state land protected by state wildlife officials. This season 4,000 pelican chicks fledged.

The moral, in support of pending federal legislation on coastal zone management and protection of barrier islands: Don't try to stop shifting sands from shifting as they are part of a dynamic coastal ecosystem!!! Let them move with changing currents, they will continue to produce healthy beaches, dunes, marshes, nesting areas. Try to anchor them with groins and bulkheads, and the system will be destroyed.

PROPOSITION ONE, California Parklands Act of 1980, on the November ballot, would provide \$285 million to develop and buy local, regional and state parklands, with emphasis on parks near heavily populated areas. Financed by sale of general obligation bonds, the Department of Finance estimates the total cost of bonds and interest at \$509,437,500 or about \$1.17 per person annually - less than a dime a day.

CLASSES and EXCURSIONS:

Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum: several classes for preschool, primary and high school, adult, are offered this fall in the museum, local parks, or farther afield. Preregistration required, reasonable fees. Contact the museum at 1901 First Ave., Walnut Creek, 94596; phone 935-1978, Tues.-Fri. 10-5, Sat. 11-3.

PRBO. Special Bird Identification Workshop, Oct. 25-26, Rich Stallcup, \$35. Introduction to Winter Birds of Marin - a Benefit, Nov. 8-9, Rich Stallcup, Dave DeSante, Jules Evens, Dave Shuford, Lynne Stenzel, Gary Page, donation \$25---all monies will be donated to PRBO. Contact Linda Parker, 4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach, CA 94970; phone 388-2286.

OBSERVATIONS: August 11-September 11. (Also see field trip reports.)

HOT SPOT was outer Pt. Reyes in September, with 16 warbler species there September 9. Many sightings involved too many observers to name but all are listed below. Ablag: Abbott's Lagoon; FDks: Fish Docks; DrBoh: Drake's Beach; Lthse: Lighthouse; MenRoh: Mendoza Ranch; NewWil: New Willows near Fish Docks; NunRoh: Nunes Ranch.

Red-Necked Grebe, DrBoh, Aug. 21--BR. Brown Pelican, Martinez waterfront, Sept. 1--H&JG. Green Heron, Rodeo Lagoon, Aug. 19--m.ob.; 1-3, Mt. View Sanitary Dist., Aug. 12-25--BR; 1, Martinez waterfront, Sept. 1--H&JG. Cattle Egret, 2, MP 25.99, Inverness Park, Sept. 2, earliest by 2 months in Marin Co.--JR, BF, AM, BP. Wood Duck, ♀, Empire Mine Rd., east Contra Costa Co., Aug. 12--BR. Osprey, 5 together, Bodega Bay, Aug. 2--BP, BF, JR, et al; 1, Rodeo Lagoon, Aug. 19--J-MS, et al.

Red Knot, Waterfront Rd. at I-680, Martinez, Aug. 25--BR; 8, Ablag, Aug. 30--BR. Pectoral Sandpiper, pond, DrBoh Rd., Aug. 26--JR, BF, AM, BP; 2, MenRoh pond, Aug. 21--BR; 2-3 there, Sept. 2--BF, BP, JR, et al. Baird's Sandpiper, 4-5, pond just east of town of Bodega, Sonoma Co., Aug. 12--JR, BF, et al; up to 6, Ablag, Aug. 21-30--BR, JR, RS; 2, Alameda South Shore, Aug. 22-23--RS, et al. SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER, juv, Ablag, Aug. 23--FB, BF, H&JG, JR. RUFF, just east of Dumbarton Bridge toll plaza, Sept. 1--HJ. American Avocet, 2, Heather Farms, Aug. 10--FS. Black-Necked Stilt, 4, Heather Farms, Aug. 15--FS. Red Phalarope, 1-2, Ablag, Aug. 21-30--BR, JR, BF, FB, H&JG, RS. Northern Phalarope, 3, Mt. View Sanitary Dist., Aug. 18--BR.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER, Mono Lake, late Aug.--DG. Jaeger sp., Salton City, Imperial Co., Sept. 7--BR. Laughing Gull, 2, south end Salton Sea (SESS), 1, NESS, Sept. 7--BR. Common Tern, 2, Ablag, Aug. 30--BR, RS. Royal Tern, 3, off San Diego, Sept. 6--BR. Black Tern, imm, Sears Pt. Rd. near Vallejo, Solano Co., Aug. 14--BR, PG; Ablag, Aug. 30--BR, RS. Black Skimmer, 2, SESS, Sept. 7--BR.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE, Road Forks Pool, Pt. Reyes, Aug. 30--RSt, DS. Ground Dove, Ramer Lake, Imperial Co., Sept. 7--BR. BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO, NewWil, Sept. 9--11+--MW, JL, m.ob. Yellow-Billed Cuckoo, N. Lake St., Moss Beach, San Mateo Co., Sept. 9--PM. Western Kingbird, Tahoe Keys, So. Lake Tahoe, Aug. 29--R&JR; DrBoh, Aug. 30--BR, FB, RS, BF. Willow Flycatcher, FDks, Aug. 23-Sept. 11+--m.ob.; Lthse, Sept. 2--BF, JR, et al, & Sept. 11--JE, et al. Crissal Thrasher, NESS, Sept. 7--BR. WHITE WAGTAIL, still at Watsonville sewer plant, Santa Cruz Co., at least thru Sept. 8--m.ob., RBA.

Black-&-White Warbler, Abandoned Ranch, Pt. Reyes, Aug. 28--DS. GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER, N. Lake St., Moss Beach, Sept. 10-11+--PM, m.ob. Tennessee Warbler, NunRoh, Sept. 1--DN; Lthse, Sept. 6-7--m.ob.; NewWil, Sept. 9--m.ob.; FDks, Sept. 11--m.ob. VIRGINIA'S WARBLER, NunRoh, Sept. 9-11--m.ob. LUCY'S WARBLER, PRBO, Sept. 3--DS. Northern Parula, Sir Francis Drake Blvd. at Tocaloma Bridge, Marin Co., Sept. 7--DM. MAGNOLIA WARBLER, Lthse, Sept. 6--m.ob.; FDks, Sept. 7-11+--m.ob. Blackburnian Warbler, Lthse, Sept. 6--m.ob.; NunRoh, Sept. 7-11+--m.ob.

Chestnut-Sided Warbler, 3-4, Lthse, Sept. 4-9--m.ob.; NewWil, Sept. 8--m.ob.; 4, FDks, Sept. 9--m.ob. Blackpoll Warbler, Battery Wallace, Marin Co., Aug. 19--BF, BF, JR, et al; DrBoh, Sept. 6--A&WG; FDks, Aug. 26--JR; up to 4 there, Sept. 6-10--m.ob.; NunRoh, Sept. 7-10--m.ob. PRAIRIE WARBLER, FDks, Aug. 20--A&WG; NunRoh, Sept. 1--DN; 2, Lthse, Sept. 2--JR, BF, et al; 1 there, Sept. 6--A&WG; FDks, Sept. 9--JR, BR, et al; Lincoln Park, S.F., Sept. 11--AH. Ovenbird, Lthse, Sept. 8--m.ob.

Northern Waterthrush, NunRoh, Aug. 26--JR, BP, BF; 2, FDks, Aug. 28--DS; NunRoh, Sept. 11--JE, PR, et al. CANADA WARBLER, NewWil, Sept. 6-8--JLa, m.ob.; Lthse, Sept. 9--m.ob. American Redstart, FDks, Aug. 26--JD, JR, BF, et al; up to 3 there, Sept. 4-11+--m.ob.; up to 7, NunRoh, Sept. 6-11+--m.ob. Western warblers of at least 8 species were all over outer Pt. Reyes from Aug. 26 thru Sept. 2.

ORCHARD ORIOLE, ♀, her Alamo garden, Aug. 22--JR; NunRoh, Sept. 11--JE, PR, et al. Hooded Orioles, their Alamo garden thru Aug. 30--R&JR; 2♀, their Martinez garden, Sept. 1--H&JG. ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEEK, FDks, Aug. 20--A&WG. INDIGO BUNTING, imm, Kellogg Creek off Vasco Rd., east Contra Costa Co., Sept. 10-12--DE, BR. DICKCISSEL, near MenRoh, Sept. 1--DN; Lthse, Sept. 6--EHar, et al. Red Crossbill, 2, over her Alamo home, Aug. 14 & 18--JR. Vesper Sparrow, Lthse, Sept. 8-11--m.ob. Brewer's Sparrow, up to 2, Lthse, Sept. 6-11+--A&WG, m.ob.

OBSERVERS: Florence Bennett, Jane Dang, Bud Fry, Jimm Edgar, Art Edwards, Dick Erickson, David Gaines, Helen & Jerry Gentile, Al & Wilma Ghiorso, Phil Gordon, Ed Harper (EHar), Ed Hase, Charlie Hines, Alan Hopkins, Hans Johanson, Jeri Langham (JLa), John Luther, Dianne McClung, Alice Mericourt, Peter Metropolis, Dan Nelson, Bill Pursell, Bob Richmond, Rich & Jean Richmond, Pat Riggs, Fred Safier, Dave Shuford, Rich Sintehak, Jean-Marie Spoelman, Rich Stalloup (RSt), Mike Wihler, Peter Willmann, many observers, NoCal Rare Bird Alert.

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

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

Concord: Parise Arakelian, S. Cooper, Richard J. DeFlessis, Mrs. Kathleen J. Horr, Mr. Dale A. Powell, Dennis J. Sheehan; Lafayette: L. Riley, Aase Schoen, Arthur J. Ungar family; San Ramon: Mr. & Mrs. Steven L. Hudson; Walnut Creek: Alice M. Coates, Ms. Marjorie E. Plant, Cathy M. Reed.

CONSERVATION UPDATE - legislation, by Ed Hase.

The Peripheral Canal trailer bill has been killed in a state senate committee. The bill would have changed the legislation authorizing the peripheral canal, imposing additional terms and conditions on construction of the canal and other facilities and would have mandated new requirements on further water development. According to leaders of the California Coalition Against the Peripheral Canal, over half of the required signatures have been gathered in the effort to qualify the canal referendum for a vote. If the petition effort succeeds, the referendum may be voted upon as early as a special election in March 1981. Although there has been no active campaign on its behalf, Proposition 8 (Delta Protection) on the November ballot is favored 70-14% by Californians in a recent poll.

Wilderness areas proposed for preservation by the U.S. Forest Service were recently approved by the House and should be acted upon by the Senate in the next two weeks. About 2 million acres may be preserved as wilderness by this action.

CONSERVATION NOTES, by J. P. Hauser.

The House of Representatives passed the California Wilderness Bill on August 18. Thank you letters, mailgrams, phone calls should go to Representatives Phil Burton and John Seiberling for putting this bill together and moving it through the House. Thanks are also due to the co-sponsors of Burton's original bill, HR 5578, for their support of wilderness: John Burton, Ron Dellums, George Miller, Pete Stark, and Don Edwards: House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

The action now moves to the Senate, where Senator Alan Cranston is under heavy pressure from the timber industry to delay the bill. Since we all have a real belief in wilderness, it is our place to write to Senator Cranston and remind him that there are a lot of people who still care: Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.

In the November election, California voters will be able to voice their support for the protection of Lake Tahoe by voting yes on Proposition 2. Prop 2 is the Garamendi bill which would authorize \$85 million in bonds for the purchase of environmentally sensitive lands in the Tahoe Basin. In the last 10 years, half of all meadow lands and one-sixth of the critical stream environments have been developed. This development is washing sediment and nutrients into what has been described as the purest natural water in the world. If this deterioration is permitted to continue, Tahoe's blue waters will change to green, and their once-fabled clarity will be only a memory.

Where Tahoe property owners are precluded from using their land because of environmental restrictions, Prop 2 will provide for purchase of those lands at a fair market price while protecting Lake Tahoe's unique scenic qualities for future generations to enjoy. Prop 2 is the only chance for the public to voice their concern....and it's getting late. Yes on 2.

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, F. G. Bennett, address below. Address change (send also to NAS): Mrs. Winnie Orcutt, 30 Iris Ln., Walnut Creek, CA 94595. Change of chapter affiliation is only upon specific request by member. Subscription: \$3 per year, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, F. G. Bennett, P. O. Box 5428, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. 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: Upper San Leandro Reservoir.

Access: From the junction of Moraga Rd. and Moraga Way in the town of Moraga, go west about a mile to the Valle Vista Staging Area on Canyon Rd.

KING CANYON TRAIL, 3 miles. Staging Area, grassland with chaparral hillside to the south, pine trees to north: hawks, Say's Phoebe (winter). Walk trail east, take right fork to willows at water's edge: Canada Goose (winter), Allen's Hummingbird (summer), Ash-Throated Flycatcher (summer), warblers. Return to junction, take left fork through pines: woodpeckers, Western Flycatcher (summer), White-Breasted & Red-Breasted (winter) Nuthatch, warblers, Purple Finch; then riparian area just west of bridge: hummingbirds, flycatchers, wrens, vireos, warblers. Beyond bridge check tangles in water for Black-Crowned Night Heron (uncom), Wood Duck.

Along road, grassy hill to east, thin row of pines to west with reservoir just beyond: Western (winter) and Pied-Billed Grebe, waterfowl (winter), Caspian Tern (summer) on water; woodpeckers, vireos, warblers in pines; both phoebes, Western Bluebird, Meadowlark in grassland. Beyond pines, trail briefly skirts reservoir's shore: Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper; then traverses grassland with scattered fruit and other trees: hummingbirds, Western Bluebird, vireos, warblers, Northern Oriole (summer), Black-Headed Grosbeak (summer), goldfinches, towhees, sparrows.

Bear right uphill, trail goes thru woodland (check uphill draws), some chaparral, sometimes overlooking water: accipiters, hummingbirds, Flicker, "Red-Breasted" Sapsucker (winter), woodpeckers, Western Flycatcher (summer), Varied & Hermit (winter) & Swainson's (summer) Thrush, vireos, warblers, Grosbeak, both goldfinches. Trail enters rolling grassland with areas of chaparral, woodland: Quail, White-Throated Swift, phoebes, California Thrasher, Lazuli Bunting (summer), goldfinches, sparrows.

Trail turns east along edge of reservoir up King Canyon to Tree Farm at end of Camino Pablo: waterfowl, raptors, Spotted Sandpiper, Swift, woodpeckers, Ash-Throated Flycatcher, phoebes, Bluebird, Lazuli Bunting. Retrace route, 2-car shuttle back to Staging Area, or bear left at Camino Pablo onto Rocky Ridge Trail.

ROCKY RIDGE TRAIL, 2 miles. Follow fence north, cross small stream, bear left up a steep grassy hill (trail not well defined on hillside) to junction of 2 wide trails at edge of chaparral, bear right: Quail, Swift, woodpeckers, Say's Phoebe, Thrasher, warblers, Lazuli Bunting. After crossing a small stream, trail is very narrow path but soon rejoins main, wide trail thru chaparral, grassland, some woodland: Quail, Say's Phoebe, Thrasher, thrushes, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Kinglet, warblers. Trail drops down steep slope to grassland: Bluebird, Meadowlark, sparrows. At gate, continue on Rocky Ridge Trail along grassy hilltop then thru woodland as trail drops down to bridge, or go left downhill to King Canyon Trail, turn right to bridge.

Other birds: Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Whistling Swan (rare, winter), winter ducks include Green-Winged Teal, American Wigeon, Ring-Necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Ruddy, Hooded (rare) & Common Merganser, several hawks, Golden Eagle (uncom), Coot, some gulls, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Screech, Great Horned, Pygmy & Saw-Whet Owls possible, Anna's & Rufous (migrant) Hummingbird, Kingfisher, Flicker, Hairy, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, several swallows, both jays, Crow, Chickadee, Titmouse, Bushtit, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, Mockingbird, Robin, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet (winter), Shrike, Hutton's, Solitary (migrant) & Warbling (summer) Vireo, warblers (Orange-Crowned, summer; Yellow-Rumped, Townsend's, winter; others in migration), blackbirds, Cowbird, Western Tanager (migrant), House Finch, Siskin, both towhees, several sparrows (White-Throated, rare).

All trails require Trail Use Permit, available at Lafayette & San Pablo Reservoirs or EBMUD offices (1 year, \$5; 3 years, \$10). Free EBMUD Trails (map, info) also from EBMUD. Latrines only at Staging Area. Carry drinking water. Trails may be very muddy after rain. Recreation area, possibly at Tree Farm, likely in future.

* * * * *

MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY
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BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY

P. O. BOX 53

WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94596

(415) AUD-UBON

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November 1980

Vol. 27, No. 4

Next deadline: November 10



Meeting: Thurs., Nov. 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 may be cancelled or put off a week. Carpool TIME is departure time. Carpool EXPENSE: 5¢ per mile per rider suggested; entry fees or tolls shared equally by driver, riders.

Sat., Nov. 8, 8:30 am, Bodega Bay; carpool: southwest corner Sun Valley Center, 6:30. Leaders: Helen & Jerry Gentile (228-6297).

Thurs., Nov. 13, 9:00 am, Lake Merritt; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Fwy 24, 8:30. Leader: Winnie Orcutt (944-0593).

Wed., Nov. 19, 8:30 am, Mt. View Sanitary District and Waterfront Rd. Leaders: Irene & Erling Hellekson (229-1837).

Sat., Nov. 22, 9:00 am, Niles Canyon gravel pits; carpool: El Cerro Blvd. at I-680, Danville, 8:00. Leader: Jimm Edgar (283-3510).

Sat.-Sun., Dec. 6-7, Sacramento Valley Refuges. Make motel reservations now---see October issue for information.

CHRISTMAS COUNT: Sat., Dec. 27, novice, expert alike. Compiler: Jimm Edgar, 3611 Chestnut St., Lafayette 94549; 283-3510. Contact Jimm and mark your calendar now.

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

Checklist Meeting: Thurs., Nov. 20, 7:30 pm, home of Sally Stleler, 591 Fulton Way, Danville; 837-9061. Open to anyone interested in our county bird list project.

Conservation Mtg: Thurs., Nov. 20, 7:30 pm, home of Joy Hall, 60 Isabella Ln., Pleasant Hill; 939-0122. Open to all those interested in conservation matters.

The BIRDINFORMATION session, Sparrow Identification, will be led by Jean Richmond. Bring field guides. The PROGRAM, "Silver Wires, Golden Wings", outlines efforts by utilities to prevent electrocution of birds of prey, particularly Golden Eagles. Produced by internationally known birds of prey expert Morlan Nelson, the film shows close-up views of eagle flight characteristics never before filmed.

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

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.

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.

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.

* * * * *

FIELD TRIP REPORTS.

The trip to LAND'S END and LINCOLN PARK September 18 was on a cool day with thick fog which lifted to high overcast by noon, and very light breezes. The 13 members saw a Peregrine Falcon, 10 species of warblers including Bay-Breasted, Prairie and Hooded, and a female Western Tanager among these 60 species seen or heard:

Brown Pelican, Dbl-Crested, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, Peregrine Falcon, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Spotted Sandpiper, Wandering Tattler, Willet, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Glaucous-Winged, West, Calif & Heermann's Gull, Com Murres, Pigeon Guillemot, Rock & Mourning Dove, Anna's & selasphorus sp Hummingbird, Downy Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, West Flycatcher, West Wood Pewee, Scrub Jay, Com Raven, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Pygmy Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Winter & Bewick's Wren, Amer Robin, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Hutton's Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Yellow, "Audubon's", Townsend's, Hermit, BAY-BREASTED, PRAIRIE, MacGillivray's, HOODED & Wilson's WARBLER, West Meadowlark, West Tanager, Purple & House Finch, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, Brown Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Dark-Eyed Junco, White-Crowned, Fox & Song Sparrow.

OUTER PT. REYES on September 28 was foggy, cold, damp and windy but the 20 members had excellent birding. Black Sooter, Peregrine Falcon, 16 species of warblers, Orchard Oriole and Lapland Longspur were among these 111 species seen or heard:

Com, Arctic & Red-Throated Loon, Red-Necked, Horned, Eared, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Brown Pelican, Dbl-Crested & Brandt's Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Mallard, white-winged, Surf & Black Sooter, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-Shinned, Cooper's, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Amer Kestrel Calif Quail, Virginia Rail, Sora, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Willet, Sanderling, Glaucous-Winged, West, Herring, Calif, Ring-Billed & Heermann's Gull, Forster's Tern, Com Murres, Rock & Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Acorn, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, West Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Tree, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Com Raven, Com Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Pygmy Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Wren-tit, Winter, Bewick's & Marsh Wren, Calif Thrasher, Amer Robin, Hermit Thrush, West Bluebird, Golden-Crowned & Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Hutton's Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Nashville, Yellow, MAGNOLIA, BLACK-THROATED BLUE, "Audubon's", Black-Throated Gray, Townsend's, Hermit, BLACKBURNIAN, CHESTNUT-SIDED, BLACKPOLL & PALM WARBLER, NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH, Com Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Tricolored Blackbird, ORCHARD ORIOLE, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, Brown Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Dark-Eyed Junco, white-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox & Song Sparrow, LAPLAND LONGSPUR.

On October 4 around the RODEO LAGOON area it was very foggy, cold and windy, so few hawks were seen. The 17 members and guests did find White-Tailed Kite, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher and 2 Palm Warblers among the following 67 species seen or heard:

West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Brown Pelican, Dbl-Crested & Brandt's Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Mallard, Pintail, Amer Wigeon, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Sharp-Shinned, Cooper's & Red-Tailed Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Long-Billed Curlew, Willet, Dunlin, dowitcher sp, West, Ring-Billed & Heermann's Gull, Rock & Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Black & Say's Phoebe, swallow sp, Scrub Jay, Com Raven, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Wren-tit, Winter, Bewick's & Marsh Wren, Amer Robin, Hermit Thrush, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, "Audubon's" & PALM WARBLER, Com Yellowthroat, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Purple & House Finch, Pine Siskin, Amer Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox & Song Sparrow.

At SUNOL REGIONAL PARK it was clear, and warm to hot on October 8. Seven members saw far more than usual numbers of vultures, eagles and hawks, including a Red-Tail which snatched a ground squirrel and flew off with it, several Golden Eagles, both adult and immature, among these 42 species seen or heard.

Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Cooper's & Red-Tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Acorn & Nut-

tall's Woodpecker, Black & Say's Phoebe, swallow sp, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Yellow-Billed Magpie, Com Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Bewick's Wren, Hermit Thrush, West Bluebird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, West Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox & Song Sparrow.

Long-awaited BIRDS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA: Status & Distribution by Kimball Garrett & Jon Dunn, both superb birders, is being published by Los Angeles Audubon Society. Included are species accounts of 500+ birds; seasonal bar graphs; line drawings by Lee Jones; info on biogeography, taxonomy, population trends, bird movements; maps of breeding ranges. Until Jan. 1, pre-publication 10% discount from \$15.95 price. Check payable to LAAS to "Southern California Birds", LAAS, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90046 - \$14.35 plus \$1 postage/handling (Calif. residents, 86¢ tax).

Beautiful MONO LAKE, with shrimp-filled blue water and millions of nesting and migratory birds, is being destroyed by diversion of tributary streams to Los Angeles. To help the fight to save this national treasure send \$5 for a lovely 22"x29" full color poster of the lake to Mono Lake Committee, P O Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541.

Roger Tory Peterson's revised FIELD GUIDE to the BIRDS (east of the Rockies) is out at last. The 136 full-page color plates, 390 range maps and numerous black-&-white drawings are all new. Available in stores for \$15 hard-cover or \$9.95 paperback or 10% members' discount from NAS in New York -- it is in the Christmas catalogue.

IRBO continues the search for color-banded SNOWY PLOVERS this fall and winter. More adults and chicks were banded this summer at Mono Lake and in Monterey County. If willing to look for marked plovers by making casual observations whenever you visit the beach or by looking for birds on a particular beach once a month, contact Gary Page, Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory, 4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach, CA 94970.

National Audubon Society has 2 publications with FACTS & FIGURES needed when writing government officials or to explain environmental issues to friends. Twice-a-month Audubon Leader: \$10/year to Leader, NAS, 950 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022. The free Outlook, an NAS Washington office flyer about national issues, comes out when there is need for an alert or background on a specific environmental issue: send name and address to Outlook, NAS, Suite 602, 2000 K St. NW, Washington, DC 20006.

Secretary of Interior Cecil Andrus deleted from LEASE SALE next May tracts in 4 continental shelf basins: Eel River, Pt. Arena, Bodega, Santa Cruz. Only Santa Maria basin off San Luis Obispo and part of Santa Barbara County is still to be sold to oil companies for oil/gas drilling off northern California. That basin is believed to contain 80% of the estimated oil and gas within these 5 basins studied as part of Lease Sale 53. In the future a different secretary of interior could reverse Andrus' decision so those areas are not permanently off limits. (SF Chronicle)

BIGGEST BIRD? Fossil remains of what is believed to be by far the largest birds to ever fly have been discovered in the Argentine, according to National Geographic Society. Scientists say the birds, called teratorns, had a 25-foot wingspread, measured 11 feet from beak to tail and weighed 160-170 pounds. They are believed to have relied almost exclusively on gliding, rather than wing flapping.

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

Brentwood: Lester A. Moss; Concord: Mr. & Mrs. B. Adams, Mr. Raoul St. John Duncan, Mr. & Mrs. D. Y. Lee, Michelle A. Orso, Eva C. Zander; Danville: S. C. Gridley, Rosemary Russell; Lafayette: Mr. Gene S. Coburn & family, Anne Kauffman, Ms. Melissa C. Morhardt; Martinez: Deanna E. Riek, Peter White & family; Pittsburg: David M. Bonner; San Francisco: P. Nichols & S. Steinke; San Ramon: Mrs. F. P. Staedel, Jr.; Walnut Creek: Mr. & Mrs. Richard K. Brown, Robert F. Lee, Donald & Lois Leaverton.

The Richmonds send best wishes to all of you for a very HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

OBSERVATIONS, September 12-October 15. (Also see field trip reports.)

At Pt Reyes--FDks; Fish Docks; DrBeh: Drake's Beach; Lthse: Lighthouse; MenRoh: Mendoza Ranch; NelRoh: Nelson Ranch; NewWil: New Willows near Fish Docks; NunRoh: Nunes Ranch.

Red-Throated Loon, 3, still with red throat, FDks, Oct. 4--FB. Leach's Storm Petrel, Monterey pelagic, Sept. 14--JG, et al. Green Heron, 2, Mt View Sanitary Dist., Sept. 18--BR; 1-2, Bethel Is, Sept. 18-Oct. 13--BR; Rodeo Lagoon, Sept. 19--BR. Cattle Egret, 3, SR 152, 2 mi. east of Los Banos, Merced Co., Oct. 5--R&JR. LEAST BITTERN, DrBeh pond, Sept. 18--RSt, et al. White-Faced Ibis, SR 152, 2 mi. east of Los Banos, Oct. 5--R&JR. European Wigeon, Muddy Hollow pond, Pt Reyes, Oct. 4--DM, FB, et al. Harlequin Duck, ♂, FDks, Oct. 11-14--FB, BF, JR, et al.

White-Tailed Kite, 10, Aug. 31, increased to 100, Sept. 22-30, only 1 by Oct. 15--near his San Ramon home--KH. Seasonal roost? BROAD-WINGED HAWK, up to 3/day, Bunker Hill, Marin Co., Sept. 17-Oct. 8--m.ob. Rough-Legged Hawk, US 50 at Scott Rd., Sacramento Co., Oct. 12--JR. Ferruginous Hawk, 2, Armstrong Rd., east Contra Costa Co., early Oct.--DE. Golden Eagle, imm, over their Orinda home, Sept. 27--H&NB.

PIPING PLOVER, Atascadero St Beh, San Luis Obispo Co., Oct. 6-7--RBA, BR. MONGOLIAN PLOVER, Moss Landing, Monterey Co., Sept. 13-16--DD, m.ob. Mountain Plover, Atascadero St Beh, Oct. 6-7, RBA, BR. Golden Plover, 2, Hall Roh, Pt Reyes, Sept. 29--BR. Long-Billed Curlew, near his San Ramon home, Sept. 24--KH. Lesser Yellowlegs, Moss Landing, Sept. 15--BR. Pectoral Sandpiper, 2, Rodeo Lagoon, Sept. 19--BR; 1 there, Sept. 30--BP, JR, BF, et al; 2 near DrBeh, 1 MenRoh, Sept. 29--BR; 2, Watsonville sewage plant, Santa Cruz Co., Oct. 4--JE. SEMI-PALMATED SANDPIPER, 2, Limantour Estero, Pt Reyes, Sept. 18--RSt, et al. RUFF, Ato Nuevo St Res, San Mateo Co., thru Sept. 14--m.ob.; Limantour Estero, Sept. 14-22--m.ob.; Moss Landing, Sept. 15-16--HJ, m.ob.

Pomarine, Parasitic & LONG-TAILED JAEGERS, 5 Skuas, Monterey pelagic, Sept. 14--JG, et al. FRANKLIN'S GULL, 2, Stockton sewage plant, Oct. 2--DE; 1 there, Oct. 9--BR; LITTLE GULL there, Oct. 5--EH; SABINE'S GULL there, Oct. 2--DE. Royal Tern, 9, Atascadero St Beh, Oct. 6-7--RBA, BR. Elegant Tern, 147, mouth of Garrity Creek, Pt. Pinole, Sept. 18--BR. Marbled Murrelet, FDks, Oct. 4--FB. CRAVERI'S MURRELET, 2 Monterey pelagic, Sept. 14--JG, et al. Tufted Puffin, 3, Lthse, Oct. 14--JR, BP.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO, NewWil, thru Sept. 15--m.ob. ROADRUNNER, Sunol Reg Pk, Oct. 6--SS, WO. Short-Eared Owl, Clifton Court Forebay (CCF), Oct. 13--BR. Vaux's Swift, 13, CCF, Sept. 18--BR. Downy Woodpecker, in low lupines, NelRoh, Sept. 23--JR, BF, et al. Tropical Kingbird, Rodeo Lagoon, Sept. 25-30--m.ob. Yellow-Billed Magpie, near his San Ramon home, Aug. 24--KH. Pinyon Jay, Fallen Leaf Lake, So. Lake Tahoe, Oct. 11--JR. Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Rodeo Lagoon, Sept. 19--JR; NelRoh, Sept. 23--JR, BF, et al. WHITE WAGTAIL, Watsonville sewage plant, thru Sept. 21--m.ob. PHILADELPHIA VIREO, Watsonville sewage plant, Sept. 14-16--m.ob.; NewWil, Sept. 18--RSt, et al.

Black-&-White Warbler, Carmel River, Oct. 7--BR. PROTHONOTARY WARBLER, ♀, Rodeo Lagoon, Sept. 17-21--TG, m.ob. Tennessee Warbler, FDks, Sept. 22--BR & Sept. 27--FB, BF, H&JG; NunRoh, Sept. 27--m.ob. MAGNOLIA WARBLER, FDks, Sept. 13--BL, FB, BF, JR, m.ob. & Sept. 27-29--FB, BF, H&JG, BR; NewWil, Sept. 29--BR. BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER, ♂, FDks, Sept. 22-29--m.ob. BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER, FDks, Oct. 8-12--RBA. Blackburnian Warbler, FDks, Sept. 22--FB, BF, H&JG; NunRoh, Sept. 27--m.ob.; Lthse, Oct. 11--FB. Chestnut-Sided Warbler, FDks, Sept. 27-29--FB, BF, H&JG, BR.

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER, Stow Lake, Golden Gate Pk, Sept. 17--DM. Blackpoll Warbler, Sept. 22--BR & Sept. 27--FB, BF, H&JG; NunRoh, Sept. 27--RBA. Palm Warbler, FDks, Sept. 13--FB, BF, JR, et al & Oct. 14--JR, BF, BP, JD; NewWil, Sept. 13--FB, BF, JR, et al; NunRoh, Sept. 27--RBA; Lthse, Oct. 11--FB. OVENBIRD, Lthse, Sept. 25--RSt, & Oct. 11--FB. Northern Waterthrush, NewWil, thru Oct. 10--m.ob. American Redstart, NunRoh, Sept. 13--FF, BF, JR; FDks, Sept. 13--FB, BF, JR; 2, Lthse, Oct. 11--FB.

Yellow-Headed Blackbird, ♀, Bethel Is, Oct. 13--BR. Tricolored Blackbird, up to 500, CCF, Oct. 9-13--BR. ORCHARD ORIOLE, NelRoh, Sept. 20--JM, et al. Northern Oriole, Niles Cyn gravel pits, Oct. 5--JE. Black-Headed Grosbeak, his Lafayette garden, Oct. 3--JE. BREWER'S SPARROW, Lthse, Sept. 13--JR, BF, FB. Lincoln's Sparrow, his Orinda garden, Oct. 5-8--RS. Lapland Longspur, up to 15, Hall Roh, Sept. 28 thru period--m.ob.; heard, Lthse, Oct. 11--FB. CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR, Oct. 14--A&WG.

OBSERVERS: Hugh & Norah Bain, Florence Bennett, Jane Dang, Donna Dittmann, Jimm Edgar, Dick Erickson, Bud Fry, Helen & Jerry Gentile, Al & Wilma Ghiorso, Tom Goldbin, Jeffrey Greenhouse, Ed Hase, Kevin Hintsa, Hans Johanson, Bruce LaBar, Joe Morlan, Dan Murphy, Winnie Orcutt, Bill Pursell, Bob Richmond, Rich & Jean Richmond, Rich Sintohak, Rich Stalloup (RSt), Sally Steller, NoCal Rare Bird Alert, many observers.

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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CONSERVATION UPDATE, by Ed Hase.

Local Scene -- Ideas offered by MDAS members for improving bird habitat should, in a few years, increase bird species near ponds and springs in Shell Ridge Open Space. Native shrubs and trees will be planted then protected from cattle by new fences.

State Scene -- Tim Millar's search for background on pros and cons of the Peripheral Canal yielded some very unexpected and interesting insights into special interests other than Metro Water Dist. and valley water users who would reap benefits from the Canal. Presentations such as his report at the Oct. meeting are forthcoming.

The US Supreme Court will hear a case early in 1981 which could clear the way for the Canal or tie it up in court for years -- the issue of Corps of Engineers authority over the Canal. If Corps jurisdiction is upheld, a long permit process including an EIS will result, and suits could be brought to stop the Canal.

The State BLM office has released the final EIS on the Desert Plan for public review and comment. It's a great improvement over the draft EIS, with much stronger resource protection. The Conservation Committee is concentrating on conflicts between ORV areas and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.

The Heritage Conservation & Recreation Service released its draft EIS on including North Coast Rivers in the National Wild & Scenic River System. Five public meetings will be held on the DEIS. Call me (939-5659) for locations and dates if interested.

Attempts to save the Stanislaus River whitewater stretch have failed.

National Scene -- Wilderness area designation and the Alaska Lands Bill are alive & should be considered in a "lame duck" session of Congress which convenes Nov. 12.

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CONSERVATION NOTES, by J. P. Hauser.

I forgot what it was like. I drive downtown and park conveniently, easily; stores are uncrowded, service is personal, relaxed; there is no pervading auto noise from high density traffic; air is clean (I breathe deeply with no trepidation); water is tasty and leaves no marks after drying; residential areas are quiet; crime is minimal (until a few years ago cars and homes were seldom locked), but sadly, it is increasing, yet it is still news if a car is stolen or a house burglarized.

Fall colors are enjoyed by looking out the window, quiet woods are only a few minutes' walk away. We are here to settle an estate, living in my late father-in-law's home in Houlton, Maine, a county seat of 8000 people. It's a great opportunity to experience living in this environment. The employment/unemployment rate fluctuates with success or failure of the potato crop upon which the entire economy depends. If one were financially independent and cared for small town life, including sub-zero winters, but with all attributes of a desirable environment, this is the place.

There are many large, beautiful homes here, built early in the century from money made from logging. But, as usual in a frontier mentality, trees were obliterated, loggers moved on and left a remnant of a once affluent town. Today, despite slick ads to the contrary, there is no sign of reforestation, except in widespread areas owned by lumber/paper companies (who, incidentally, own about half of the state).

The Dickey-Lincoln Dam, proposed at the headwaters of the St. John River north of here, by dam builders and Corps of Engineers, is considered a monumental waste and boondoggle by local people. It would flood a broad, low-lying, uniquely beautiful area of slow-moving streams. It's planned as a source of emergency power to be exported to the Boston area. Enough water would never be impounded to sustain a long power-generating period, so it would only be used in emergencies or peak-load times.

Since it is still being planned, and since feasibility and environmental studies are still going on, it would be very appropriate to write to the President and/or senators and congressmen, urging strong opposition to this damn, dumb, dam.

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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, F. G. Bennett, address below.

Address change (send also to NAS): Mrs. Winnie Orcutt, 30 Iris Ln., Walnut Creek, CA 94595. Change of chapter affiliation is only upon specific request by member.

Subscription: \$3 per year, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, F. G. Bennett, P. O. Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

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 Merritt, Oakland.

Access: Go west on SR 24, south on I-580 to Grand Ave., right to Lakeside Park. Turn left to the sailboat house, right into the parking area. (Weekend parking fee)

Large nearby aviary: excellent place to study waterfowl at extreme close range. A Cattle Egret stood atop it Dec. 1978. Many waterbirds on lake here relatively unafraid, easy to study; also in duck pond near street. Walk east on paved lakeside path checking islands as well as water. Northeast arm of lake covered with birds all winter (Nov.-Mar.), Tufted Duck has been here. Continue around lake beyond the colonnade and along Lakeshore Ave. (light excellent in morning). Barrow's Goldeneyes usually between Lakeshore and islands. Birds thin out south of boom protecting Refuge area. A number of waterfowl often at south end of lake near 12th St. dam and in channel beyond. Look for Barrow's Goldeneye here if not in Refuge area; Oldsquaw in Jan. 1978. To bird northwest arm of lake, return to Bellevue Ave. near bandstand (between Grand Ave. & boathouse), walk paved path along shore. Barrow's Goldeneyes sometimes here.

A number of landbirds are around Lakeside Park, especially between Bellevue Ave. & Perkins St. Check the gardens, the trees along Perkins St. and along lake shore.

Birds: Loons (uncom), Red-Necked (rare) & other grebes, Brown Pelican, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue & Green Heron (uncom) Great & Snowy Egret, Night Heron (res), geese with few exceptions not wild, many ducks of many species (European Wigeon-rare, Redhead-uncom, Ring-Necked Duck-uncom, Barrow's Goldeneye-every winter sometimes in good numbers, Oldsquaw-aoc, scoters-uncom, all 3 mergansers-uncom), a few shorebirds, many gulls, several terns may include Least (summer), Mourning Dove, White-Throated Swift, hummingbirds, Kingfisher, Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, swallows, Scrub Jay, Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Red-Breasted Nuthatch (irreg., winter), Mockingbird, Robin, Hermit Thrush (winter), Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher (aoc., Dec. 1978), Ruby Crowned Kinglet (winter), Yellow-Rumped (winter) & Wilson's (summer) Warbler, many Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbirds, Cowbird, House Finch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox & Song Sparrow.

Small, excellent museum in Rotary Science Center, Bellevue Ave. at Perkins St., open daily 10-5 except Mon., waterbird list available here; info: 273-3739. Restrooms in museum. Snackbar behind aviary. Some landbirds all year; concentrations of waterbirds, waterfowl in winter; boom protecting Refuge enlarged Nov.-Mar.

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CLASSES and EXCURSIONS.

Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum: Delta canoe trips, Nov. 2 & 5 led by Museum Director Sam Smoker, open to 7th graders thru adults; Dec. 7 led by Phil Gordon, for high school thru adults. Fee: \$10/person. Reservations: contact the Museum at Larkey Park, 1901 First Ave., Walnut Creek, 94596.

PRBO. Migrating Waterfowl of the Central Valley, Nov. 22-23, Diane Williams, \$60. Birds of Northwestern Mexico, Bill Clow, Craig Hohenberger: Nov. 14-21, Birds of Barrancas-Mazatlan, \$610; Nov. 21-28, Birds of San Blas, \$645. Winter Birds in Calif. Great Basin Country, Nov. 27-30, Ron LeValley, \$145. Contact Linda Parker, 4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach, CA 94970; 388-2286.

KingBird Tours, headed by Ben King, well-known birder and author of "Field Guide to the Birds of Southeast Asia", specializes in Asian tours. He is also available for designing, operating and leading private tours to Asian destinations. Information: P O Box 196, Planetarium Station, New York, NY 10024; (212) 866-7923.

Northeast Birding has changed its name to WINGS, Inc., and added Jon Dunn, Bob Ridgely and Rich Rowlett as associates. Trips are scheduled all over the world. Contact them at P O Box 287, Seal Harbor, ME 04675; (207) 276-5077.

* * * * *

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phone: 254-0486

December 1980
Vol. 27, No. 5

Next deadline: December 4 ←



Meeting: Thurs., Dec. 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. RAIN on trip day? Call leader--trip may be cancelled or put off a week. Carpool TIME is departure time. Carpool EXPENSE: 5¢ per mile per rider suggested; entry fees or tolls shared equally by driver, riders.

Sat.-Sun., Dec. 6-7, 9 a.m. each day, Sacramento Valley Refuges. Leaders: Betty & Harry Adamson (283-2164). Motel info: see October issue.

Sat., Dec. 13, 8:30 a.m., Lafayette Reservoir. Leaders: Helen & Jerry Gentile (228-6297).

CHRISTMAS COUNT: Sat., Dec. 27. Compiler: Jimm Edgar, 3611 Chestnut St., Lafayette 94549; 283-3510. If unable to reach him, phone Jean Richmond, 837-2843. We welcome all participants from brand-new birder to expert.

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

Checklist Meeting: Thurs., Dec. 18, 7:30 p.m., home of Sally Steller, 591 Fulton Way, Danville; 837-9061. Open to those interested in our county birdlist project.

For BIRDINFORMATION Jimm Edgar will discuss many aspects of our Christmas Count including properly describing a bird, how and why essential - information vital to all bird records. The PROGRAM will be a slide presentation by Doug Herr, "Birds of The Everglades, identification, distribution, habits." He will also discuss the current status of The Everglades water situation, effects and efforts to correct the problems. An MDAS members, Doug was a naturalist in The Everglades last winter.

At SACRAMENTO VALLEY REFUGES are thousands of waterfowl including Ross' Geese and hopefully European Wigeon. On Saturday meet at the display pond at Sacramento NWR: north via I-680, I-80, I-505, I-5 to Norman Rd. (between Williams and Willows) then north on the old highway about 2 miles, turn right into the Refuge. On Sunday meet in parking lot 14 just past Gray Lodge WMA headquarters: I-680, I-80, SR-113, SR-99 to Live Oak then follow Refuge signs on Pennington Rd. Allow about 2½ hours driving time. If unable to go both days, drive up for either one. Dinner Saturday at Casa Lupe in Gridley, 6:30 pm; call Sally Steller (837-9061) if planning to attend.

LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR, excellent for beginners and old hands, has a wide assortment of water and landbirds along a trail over easy terrain. Go west on Mt. Diablo Blvd. from downtown Lafayette to the well-marked turnoff. Have 2 dollars (bills) for the entrance gate or park on Mt. Diablo Blvd., walk up the hill to the top of the dam.

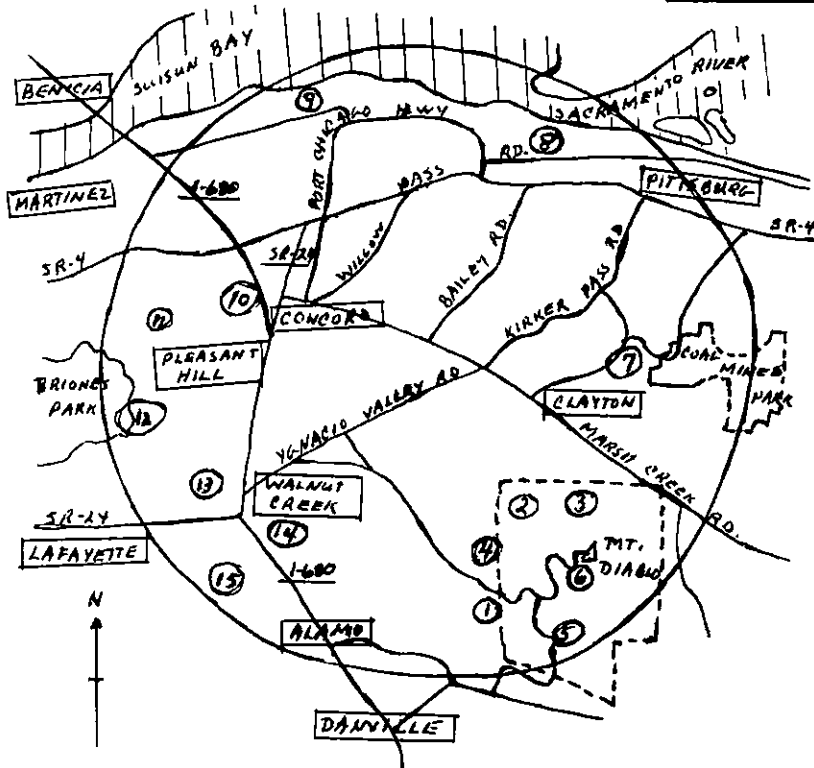
Our CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT on Saturday, December 27, rain or shine, will be compiled by Jimm Edgar. The object is to find as many birds as possible within our 15-mile diameter circle centered near the intersection of Cowell and Ygnacio Valley Roads. We average about 125 species but with good coverage and decent weather conditions should reach 140. Last year 92 observers found 131 species, 61,719 birds.

We welcome inexperienced birders to assist the more expert. We need counters at

feeders and gardens within our circle. Contact Jimm for information and instructions. If you have a special species staked out, let Jimm 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. 24-30, if you should see within our CBC area a species uncommon or rare for this area, contact Jimm as soon as possible with full information. These sightings will be included in our report which is sent to National Audubon Society and will be published in American Birds next July.



TERRITORIES

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

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

3611 Chestnut St., Lafayette
283-3510

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

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

Then contact Jimm as soon as possible---rarities must be confirmed.

THE LIST:

Common Loon	Sandhill Crane	Red-Breasted Nuthatch
Red-Throated Loon	Semipalmated Plover	Brown Creeper
Cattle Egret	Lesser Yellowlegs	Winter Wren
Snow Goose	Marbled Godwit	Townsend's Solitaire
Blue-Winged Teal	Glaucous Gull	Orange-Crowned Warbler
European Wigeon	Western Gull	Black-Throated Gray Warbler
Wood Duck	Thayer's Gull	Townsend's Warbler
Red-Shouldered Hawk	Burrowing Owl	Brown-Headed Cowbird
Ferruginous Hawk	Long-Eared Owl	Lawrence's Goldfinch
Bald Eagle	Poor-Will	Sage Sparrow
Osprey	Common Flicker	Dark-Eyed Junco
Prairie Falcon	(Yellow-Shafted race)	(Slate-Colored race)
Peregrine Falcon	Lewis' Woodpecker	Harris' Sparrow
Merlin	Common Raven	White-Throated Sparrow

Join the fun at the post-count POTLUCK and COUNTDOWN, whether or not you take part in the count, for stories about the day's events plus the preliminary report on how well the count has gone. Come cheer "goodies" found, groan at "sure things" missed. Dinner is 6:30 at a location to be announced in the January issue. You need not change after 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 the CBC makes birders very hungry! Tea, coffee and punch provided, milk

drinkers bring your own. A sign-up for food assignments will be at the December meeting, or contact Winnie Young, (707)-745-4134, 1451 Janet Ct., Benicia 94510, preferably before December 15, to advise her of 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. Contact Winnie Young as above.

OTHER CBC DATES. Dec. 20: Año Nuevo (Sequoia), Hayward-Fremont (Ohlone), Pt. Reyes, Morro Bay; Dec. 21: Oakland (Golden Gate), Santa Rosa (RROS), San Jose (Santa Clara Valley), Putah Creek (Davis); Dec. 22: Palo Alto; Dec. 27 (our date): Auburn; Dec. 28: Benicia (Napa-Solano), Western Sonoma (Madrone), Crystal Springs (Sequoia), Sacramento; Dec. 29: Mt. Hamilton; Folsom; Jan. 1: Moss Landing; Jan. 3: Southern Marin, Woodfords; Jan. 4: Arroyo Cheap Thrills (near Novato), Clear Lake.

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

* * * * *

FIELD TRIP REPORTS.

At ALAMEDA SOUTH SHORE on October 16 the day was clear and cool with light breezes. The 10 members saw many Red Knots, Common Tern and a very cooperative Lincoln's Sparrow among the following 55 species seen or heard:

West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Brown Pelican, Dbl-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Mallard, Pintail, Amer Wigeon, scaup sp, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Amer Kestrel, Amer Coot, Semipalmated & Snowy Plover, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Long-Billed Curlew, Whimbrel, Willet, Red Knot, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, dowitcher sp, West Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Amer Avocet, Black-Necked Stilt, Glaucous-Winged, West, Calif, Ring-Billed & Heermann's Gull, Forster's & Common Tern, Rock & Mourning Dove, Com Flicker, Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Mockingbird, Water Pipit, Starling, "Audubon's" Warbler, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Lincoln's Sparrow.

The trip to 5-BROOKS and BOLINAS LAGOON on October 26 was made on a clear, warm day. The 17 members and guests saw a ♀ European Wigeon, ♀ Redhead, Osprey, and American Redstart among these 90 species seen or heard:

Horned, Eared, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Dbl-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue & Green Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Canada Goose, Mallard, Pintail, Green-Winged Teal, European & Amer Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Redhead, Ring-Necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Sharp-Shinned, Red-Tailed, Red-Shouldered & Marsh Hawk, Osprey, Amer Kestrel, Com Gallinule, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Black Turnstone, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Least & West Sandpiper, Sanderling, Amer Avocet, phalarope sp, Glaucous-Winged, Ring-Billed & Mew Gull, Forster's Tern, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Rock & Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Com Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, "Red-Breasted" Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Com Raven, Com Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Wrentit, Winter & Marsh Wren, Amer Robin, Hermit Thrush, West Bluebird, Golden-Crowned & Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Hutton's Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Yellow-Rumped & Townsend's Warbler, Amer Redstart, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Purple & House Finch, Pine Siskin, Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow

BODEGA BAY on November 8 was clear and cool all day, windy after lunch. From Bodega Head was a view of huge breakers and spectacular surf crashing onto the rocks below. The 20 members found 15 Oystercatchers, Golden Plover, 6 Surfbirds at Doran Park, thousands of shorebirds, Red Phalarope among these 91 species seen or heard:

Com & Red-Throated Loon, Horned, Eared, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, White & Brown Pelican, Dbl-Crested, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Pintail, Green-Winged Teal, Amer Wigeon, Greater & Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, White-Winged & Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Red-Breasted Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-Shinned, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Virginia Rail, Sora, Amer Coot, Black Oystercatcher, Semipalmated & Snowy Plover, Killdeer, Golden & Black-Bellied Plover, Surfbird, Ruddy & Black Turnstone, Wandering Tattler, Willet, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, dowitcher sp, West Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Amer Avocet, Red Phalarope, Glaucous-Winged, West, Herring, Calif, Ring-Billed, Mew & Heermann's Gull, Forster's Tern, Com Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Rock Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Black & Say's Phoebe, Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Bewick's & Marsh Wren, Amer Robin,

Hermit Thrush, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Starling, "Audubon's" Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Purple & House Finch, Amer Goldfinch, Savannah, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox & Song Sparrow.

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OBSERVATIONS, Oct. 16-Nov. 12. (Also see field trip reports.)

Red-Necked Grebe, Pt Lobos, Monterey Co., Oct. 19--H&NB; Bolinas Lagoon, Nov. 11--JR, et al. European Wigeon, ♀, 5-Brooks Pond, Pt Reyes, Nov. 4--BF, JR, et al. Wood Duck, ♂, Rodeo Lagoon, Oct. 18--ED, et al. Redhead, 2 pr, Rodeo Lagoon, Oct. 19--WO, PG, et al; 2♂, 1♀, Muddy Hollow Pond, Pt Reyes, Nov. 4--JR, BF, et al; up to 2, CCF, Oct. 30-Nov. 6--BR. TUFTED DUCK, ♂, Muddy Hollow Pond, Nov. 4--JR, BF, et al. 2 there, Nov. 9--m.ob. Barrow's Goldeneye, ♂, CCF, Nov. 3-6--DE, BR; ♀ there, Nov. 6--BR.

White-Tailed Kite, 25+, Armstrong Rd-Holey Rd area, Oct. 25--BR; large numbers there, Aug. thru early Sept.--BR. BROAD-WINGED HAWK, 2, Bunker Hill, Marin Co., Oct. 18--SB, ED, et al. Swainson's Hawk, Armstrong Rd, Oct. 23--DE. Rough Legged Hawk, Armstrong Rd, Oct. 25--BR. Ferruginous Hawk, up to 6 in one day, including a dark phase, Armstrong Rd, late Sept.--DE; 2 there, Oct. 25--BR; Byron Hot Springs Rd, Nov. 6--BR. Golden Eagle, Armstrong Rd, Oct. 25--BR; 7 at once, 2 ad, 5 imm, Sunol Reg Pk, Oct. 29--KH; 2, Marsh Creek Rd, Nov. 5--JR, MM, AB, SB. BALD EAGLE, ad, imm, from his Orinda home, Nov. 9--RS.

MOUNTAIN PLOVER, up to 14, Clifton Court Rd, Oct. 30-Nov. 9--BR, DE, JR, MM, AB, SB. Golden Plover, Jughandle St Res, Mendocino Co., Oct. 25--DW, GL. Lesser Yellowlegs, Coyote Hills Reg Pk, Oct. 18--DW, GL. Red Knot, 4, Schooner Bay, Pt Reyes, Nov. 1--GM, JR, FB, BF. BLACK-HEADED GULL, returned to Stockton sewer ponds, Nov. 7--RBA. LITTLE GULL, Stockton sewer ponds, Oct. 15 (not 5; Nov. Quail) thru period--EH, m.ob.

SKYLARK, returned to Hall Ranch, Pt Reyes, Oct. 25 thru period--MP, m.ob. Mockingbird, Road Forks Pool, Pt Reyes, Oct. 18--FB, BF, JR. SAGE THRASHER Lighthouse, Pt Reyes, Oct. 18--BF, JR, FB, et al. Solitary Vireo, Crespi Pond, Pacific Grove, Oct. 18--H&NB. Philadelphia Vireo, North Lake, Golden Gate Pk, Oct. 20--BA, et al.

Black-&White Warbler, Lincoln Pk, SF, Oct. 17-20--AH, et al; Carmel Riv, Oct. 18--H&NB. PROTHONOTARY WARBLER, Carmel Riv, Oct. 18--H&NB; North Lake, Golden Gate Pk, Oct. 20-23--BA, m.ob. Nashville Warbler, Carmel Riv, Oct. 18--H&NB. Yellow Warbler, his San Ramon garden, Oct. 24 (late)--KH. MAGNOLIA WARBLER, New Willows, Pt Reyes, Oct. 25--MP, et al; South Lake, Golden Gate Pk, Oct. 26-28--AH, JR, m.ob. BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER, ♀, Fish Docks, Oct. 18-20--SW, FB, BF, JR, m.ob.

Black-Throated Gray Warbler, Carmel Riv, Oct. 18--H&NB. BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER, ♂, Mendoza Ranch, Pt Reyes, Oct. 18-21--JH, FB, JR, BF, m.ob.; Ft Funston, SF, Oct. 18--DM; Nunes Ranch, Pt Reyes, Oct. 25--FB, BF. Blackpoll Warbler, Carmel Riv, Oct. 18--H&NB. Palm Warbler, Carmel Riv, Oct. 18--H&NB; 2, Fish Docks, Pt Reyes, SW, FB, BF, JR, m.ob.; South Lake, Golden Gate Pk, Oct. 28--JR, et al; Bolinas Lagoon, Nov. 4-11--m.ob.

Lawrence's Goldfinch, Crespi Pond, Oct. 18--H&NB. Grasshopper Sparrow, Pt Pinos Oct. 18--H&NB. SHARP-TAILED SPARROW, up to 3, Bolinas Lagoon, Oct. 25 thru period --m.ob. TREE SPARROW, Lincoln Pk, SE, Oct. 20--AH. Lincoln's Sparrow, his San Ramon garden, Oct. 21--KH. SWAMP SPARROW, Sutro Baths, SF, Oct. 20--AH. Lapland Longspur, up to 20, Hall Ranch, thru period--m.ob. CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR, up to 5, Hall Ranch, thru Nov. 2--m.ob.; flying over, Armstrong Rd., Oct. 23--DE.

OBSERVERS: Bev Anderson, Steve Bailey, Hugh & Norah Bain, Sue Bruns, Ann Brinkerhoff, Florence Bennett, Bill Chilson, Elizabeth Dickey, Dick Erickson, Bud Fry, Phil Gordon, Ed Hase, Kevin Hintsa, Alan Hopkins, Joel Hornstein, Gerry Lindo, Gloria Markowitz, Molly Monheit, Winnie Orett, Mike Parmeter, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Rich Sintchak, Steve Wilson, Dave Wharton, NoCal Rare Bird Alert.

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The 1981 CALIFORNIA BIRDER'S CALENDAR (see Oct. Quail) is available at our meetings for \$5. Pick up some for Christmas giving. Proceeds from our sales stay with MDAS. We also have MONO LAKE POSTERS for sale at meetings with all proceeds going to the Mono Lake Committee to aid their fight to save that lovely lake. Cost is \$5.00.

* * * * *

Our very efficient secretary, MARION STELZER, and her husband, Glenn, have been transferred back to Delaware. We will miss them here but wish them well back East. Our NEW SECRETARY will be Ruth Stewart, 1140 Estates Dr., Lafayette 94549; 254-5397.

* * * * *

We are pleased to welcome these new members of MDAS and hope to meet them at our meetings and on field trips:

Concord: J. M. Hanault, Dorothy M. Wade; Danville: Rebecca L. Turner; Diablo: Nancy M. Morgan; Lafayette: Dr. Ian B. Johnston, Dorothy W. Richardson; Martinez: Mr. Lou Elliott; Pittsburg: Ms. Janet Campbell; Pleasant Hill: Michael Alexander, Virginia Horton, Ms. Elaine Rehr, R. C. Webb; Pleasanton: J. Fenolio; Walnut Creek: Ms. Lillian F. Babcock, Mrs. Claude D. Barnett, Marilyn & Lauren Fickett, Robert H. Greenlee, Mr. J. H. Johnson, Stillman Kuhns, Claire A. Lindberg & family, Miss Helen Moss.

CONSERVATION NOTES, by J. P. Hauser.

Good news: Jerry Brown vetoed SB644, a bill strongly supported by California Land Title Association. It would have removed thousands of acres of delta land from public trust and opened it to private development. The title association efforts almost paid off--the bill passed the Senate and Assembly. Thank you, Governor Brown!

Bad news: Prop. 2 was defeated. It would have reimbursed property owners for land removed for open space. Development interests prevailed with their myopic attitude.

Good news: Prop. 1 passed to provide \$285 million for new parks, park additions, park equipment, historic sites, coastal parks, beach access, wetlands protection. This may be literally the last chance to protect certain sensitive coastal areas, and to buy land now before development pressures force up the price.

To indicate our new president's appalling ignorance on environmental issues, here are some pronouncements made during his syndicated radio programs in recent years.

About 80% of air pollution is from hydrocarbons released by vegetation so don't go overboard in setting and enforcing tough emission standards for man-made sources.

We should be cutting more timber in national forests, especially since we've permitted dead trees to accumulate which are pure waste and bad for woodland ecology.

The world is experiencing a resurgence of deadly diseases spread by insects because pesticides such as DDT have been prematurely outlawed.

We have a storehouse of knowledge that allows us to assess accurately the risk of long-term exposure to low-level radiation from nuclear power plant operations and their wastes. As a result, the health risk has been found to be miniscule.

Gov. Reagan's flip and outlandish declarations on environmental matters indicates he is woefully uninformed, or much, much worse, he is indifferent.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

CONDOR DAY. On Saturday, January 24, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society will sponsor a day devoted to examining the Condor question. Members of the Condor Recovery Team, including John Borneman, Golden Gate Audubon's Executive Director Jerry Emory and others will present an in-depth analysis of the Condor's survival. Included will be the "Death of a Chick" Condor film. The day, open to the public, will be at Foothill College in Los Altos Hills. More info will be in the January Quail.

Cost of BIRDS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (see November issue) will be \$18.95 after January 1, not the originally announced price of \$15.95. Prepublication price is still \$14.35 plus \$1 postage/handling and 86¢ tax (for California residents).

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, F. G. Bennett, address below. Address change (send also to NAS): Mrs. Winnie Orcutt, 30 Iris Ln., Walnut Creek, CA 94595. Change of chapter affiliation is only upon specific request by member. Subscription: \$3 per year, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, F. G. Bennett, P. O. Box 5428, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. 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.)

HAPPY HOLIDAYS, HAPPY NEW YEAR, AND GOOD BIRDING TO ALL FROM THE RICHMONDS!

GREATER BAY AREA SITE GUIDE: Mt. View Sanitary District and Waterfront Road.

Access: From I-680 in Martinez go east under the freeway a few blocks. At the sharp right turn (watch out for trucks) turn left, follow alongside the freeway, go left through a tunnel under the freeway to the facility, park near the buildings.

MT. VIEW SANITARY DISTRICT. Notify office personnel you are birding. CAUTION: Avoid edges of paths as they may crumble underfoot. STAY AWAY from the edge of the slough which looks shallow and innocent but has a bottom of fine, silty mud about 4 feet deep---dangerous if you should slip in.

Work slowly around the ponds, checking eefloats strung across the water surface as well as reeds. Vegetation between the walk and the fence contains several birds including Lincoln's Sparrow. Look north down the slough channel from the north-west corner of the facility. Before departing, leave a list of birds sighted, your name and address, in the office.

Return to just east of the tunnel, stop in turnouts, check the field and hillside. The field, laced with channels and ponds, floods in winter, may dry up in summer.

WATERFRONT ROAD. Return to the freeway, go north to the next exit, turn right and park along Waterfront Road. Thoroughly scan the area to the west (the north end of the field seen from the Mt. View San access) several times as birds play hide-and-seek in the many channels and ponds. Early morning light is the best.

BIRDS: Pied-Billed Grebe, White Pelican (rare), Great Blue & Green Heron, Cattle (rare) & other egrets, Night Heron, American Bittern, Whistling Swan (rare) several ducks in winter (Mallard, Cinnamon Teal resident), Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Red-Tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle (rare), Marsh Hawk, Kestrel, Virginia Rail & Sora (both uncom), Gallinule, Coot, several shorebirds (Lesser Yellowlegs, Red Knot, Pectoral & Baird's Sandpiper, Ruff, Wilson's & Northern Phalarope have been seen), several gulls, Forster's Tern (rare), Mourning Dove, Kingfisher, Flicker, Black Phoebe, swallows, Scrub Jay, Common Crow (uncom), Marsh Wren, Mookingbird, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Yellow-Rumped Warbler, Yellowthroat, Meadowlark, Red-winged, Tri-colored (sometimes large numbers) & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, American Goldfinch, Savannah, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Lincoln's and Song Sparrow.

No facilities. Birding slower in summer--some nesters. Sanitary District open *weekdays* 8-4:30; employees friendly, courteous, helpful.

Is there an area for which you would like to have a SITE GUIDE written? If so, let your editor have your suggestions.

VANISHING FARMLANDS will be on exhibit through February 1 in Oakland Museum's Natural Sciences Special Gallery. Vital nutritional, economic and cultural benefits to the Bay Area from the many farms and ranches in the region are being threatened by urban sprawl. For more information call 273-3884. Admission to the exhibit is free. The Museum is at 10th and Oak Streets, Oakland (Lake Merritt BART station). Museum hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10-5; Sunday, 12-7.

MARINE SANCTUARY. Coastal waters for six miles around Santa Barbara Island and the northern Channel Islands have been named by President Carter as the Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary. It remains to be seen whether there will be further movement in the long-stalled marine sanctuary program. The Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 was for the most part in response to the disastrous Santa Barbara oil spill of 1969. Only two other preserves have so far been formed.

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