



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

January 1981
Vol. 27, No. 6

Next deadline: January 10

Meeting: Thurs., Jan. 8. 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.

Wed., Jan. 7, 9:00 a.m., Bay Bridge Toll Plaza marsh; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Fwy 24, 8:30. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey (254-0486).

Sat., Jan. 17, 9:00 a.m., Putah Creek, Lake Solano; carpool: southwest corner Sun Valley Center, 7:30. Leader: Florence Bennett (820-7112 weekdays).

Thurs., Jan. 22, 8:30 a.m., Lafayette Reservoir. Leaders: Irene & Erling Hellekson (229-1837).

Sat., Jan. 31, 8:30 a.m., Palo Alto Baylands; carpool: El Cerro Blvd. at I-680, Danville, 7:15. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey (254-0486).

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. Count period: Dec. 24-30, inclusive.

Board Meeting: Thurs., Jan. 15, 7:30 p.m., home of Norah Bain, 32 Via Farallon, Orinda; 254-4516. Board meetings are always open to members.

Conservation Mtg: Thurs., Jan. 29, 7:30 p.m., home of Joy Hall, 60 Isabella Ln., Pleasant Hill; 939-0122. Open to all those interested in conservation matters.

The BIRDINFORMATION subject and speaker had not yet been announced at press time but we will have a learning session as usual prior to the membership meeting. For the PROGRAM, Jack and Sally Steller will recreate their recent National Audubon tour to Kenya. Slides and comments on the birds, mammals and country will describe what can be expected on a well-planned modern safari.

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, Rock & Canyon Wren, Phainopepla, possibly 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 the junction with SR-128.

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

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

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Our CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT will be Sat., Dec. 27, rain or shine. If you plan to take part but have not yet contacted compiler Jimm Edgar, do so immediately, or Jean Richmond if unable to reach Jimm. If you have a feeder within our circle and will count birds there or allow someone else to do so, contact Jimm for instructions. See December Quail for details. If you find a rarity that day or during our Count Period, write down all details then promptly phone Jimm Edgar or Jean Richmond.

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 San Ramon Valley Methodist Church, 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo (1.4 miles south of Stone Valley Rd.). Bring utensils, dishes, server plus food for AT LEAST 4-5 times the number in your family attending. Call Winnie Young, (707) 745-4134, about food assignment and how many in your family are coming.

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FIELD TRIP REPORTS.

At LAKE MERRITT on November 13 it was clear and calm, cold early but warming as the morning went on. Although the Hooded Merganser could not be found, the 13 members did find Redhead, Barrow's Goldeneye and Spotted Sandpiper among these 55 species:

Horned, Eared & Pied-Billed Grebe, White & Brown Pelican, Dbl-Crested Cormorant, Great & Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Canada, White-Fronted & Snow Goose (latter 2 not wild), Mallard, Pintail, Amer Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Redhead, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Common & Barrow's Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Western, Herring/Thayer's, Calif, Ring-Billed, Mew & Bonaparte's Gull, Forster's Tern, Rock & Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Black Phoebe, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Mockingbird, Amer Robin, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, "Audubon's" Warbler, House Sparrow, Red-winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, House Finch, Amer Goldfinch, Dark-Eyed Junco, White-Crowned & Golden-Crowned Sparrow.

The trip to MT. VIEW SANITARY DISTRICT and WATERFRONT ROAD on November 19 was made by 15 members. The day was clear with light wind, cold early but warm by midmorning. There were Green Heron, American Bittern, Common Gallinule and Tricolored Blackbird among these 53 species seen or heard (plus 5 at lunch in Martinez):

Eared & Pied Billed Grebe, Great Blue & Green Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Amer Bittern, Mallard, Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, Ruddy Duck, White-Tailed Kite, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Com Gallinule, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Com Snipe, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, dowitcher sp, Black-Necked Stilt, Glaucous-winged, Herring, Ring-Billed & Mew Gull, Rock Dove, Common Flicker, Black Phoebe, Com Crow, Mockingbird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, "Audubon's" Warbler, West Meadowlark, Red-winged, Tricolored & Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, House Finch, White-Crowned, Lincoln's & Song Sparrow. Added at Martinez Waterfront Park: West Grebe, Double-Crested Cormorant, Belted Kingfisher, Say's Phoebe, Savannah Sparrow.

NILES CANYON GRAVEL PITS on November 22 was overcast, threatening and cool. The 6 members tallied Green Heron, Common Gallinule and Spotted Sandpiper among these 65 species seen or heard:

Horned, Eared, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Dbl-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue & Green Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Mallard, Northern Shoveler, Ruddy Duck, Com Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-Shinned & Red-Tailed Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Com Gallinule, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Com Snipe, Spotted Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Short-Billed Dowitcher, West Sandpiper, Amer Avocet, Black-Necked Stilt, Calif, Ring-Billed, Mew & Bonaparte's Gull, Rock & Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Scrub Jay, Com Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Bewick's & Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Amer Robin, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Orange-Crowned & "Audubon's"

Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Fox Sparrow.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES for The Quail will be increased to \$4.00 per year effective on January 1, 1981.

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

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THE CONDOR QUESTION, 9-4, Sat., Jan. 24, Foothill College, 12345 S. El Monte, Los Altos Hills: a day devoted to indepth analysis of the California Condor's chances for survival. Speakers include John Borneman (NAS Condor Naturalist), Jerry Emory (Exec. Director, Golden Gate Audubon), members of the Condor Recovery Team, local Audubon chapters & conservation groups. There'll be question/discussion sessions & a chance to see both old & new Condor films. Please attend---this is important!!! Take I-680 south to San Jose, continue on I-280 to S. El Monte, go south. Park in the parking lot at the bottom of the hill below the college and follow the signs. Preregistration encouraged! Send \$3.00 to The Condor Conference, 16675 Buckskin Ct., Morgan Hill, CA 95037. Bring your lunch! Registration info: (408) 779-8694.

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Brand new BIRDER'S GUIDE TO FLORIDA, by James A. Lane, is now available from L&P Press, P. O. Box 21604, Denver, CO 80221; cost \$7. Other guides (don't leave home without them!): Southeast Arizona (1977), Eastern Colorado (1979), North Dakota (1979), Texas Coast (1980): \$5 each; Rio Grande Valley of Texas (1978), Southern Calif. (1979): \$4.50 each. Add 60¢ postage (1-2 books), 22¢ each additional book.

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We regret that unforeseen circumstances prevent Ruth Stewart from serving as our new secretary (see Dec. issue). We do thank her very much for having accepted the position when asked.

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A Sacramento paper indicates that we should not FEED HUMMINGBIRDS in winter as migrants might be encouraged to stay rather than go south. The writer neglected to mention that most of our hummers are a species that does NOT migrate, namely Anna's, and we are sure they appreciate a little extra food during winter months.

After years of feeding hummers in Courtland we have yet to see any migrant species stay the winter. There are rare reports of hummers staying over. In any case, we think a hummer is probably better off in our area rather than taking a hazardous migration to Mexico. Keep feeders clean and fungus-free, the birds will take care of the migration problem. (Arvil & Ellen Parker, Sacramento Aud Soc, The Observer)

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NAS' annual CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT keeps growing. Last winter, the 80th, more people took part and covered more territory than ever. Approximately 33,000 observers in 1,320 count areas in the U.S., Canada, Central & South America reported more than 109 million birds, including several huge blackbird roosts. San Diego, California, and Freeport, Texas, had the highest U.S. counts: each found 217 species.

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CLASSES and EXCURSIONS.

Birding Field trips, different, mostly East Bay, spot each Tues., 9:30-12:30; instructor, Alice Hoch. Info: Fremont Adult School, 4700 Calaveras Ave., Fremont, CA 94538; 791-5841; or Alice: 657-0475; or 1st class, Jan. 6, Rm. 20 of the school.

Gray whale Migration and winter Seabirds, Jan. 10, 17, 18, 31; from Sam's, Fisherman's Wharf, Monterey, 8-2. Info, reservations: Debi Love Millichap, 302 Oxford Way, Santa Cruz, CA 95060; (408) 425-8111.

Ocean Birds off Morro Bay, Feb. 8-15 or June 21-28; study tubenoses & chemical nature of olfactory response; leaders: Profs. Bernice Wenzel, Larry Hutchinson; \$590. Info: University Research Expedition Program, Univ. of Calif., Berkeley 94720; 642-6586. Expeditions worldwide, varied subjects; send for brochure or contact your editor.

BIRDING VACATION? Many companies run tours--your editor has info on several, some with full details for 1981. Most I have birded with or another member has done so, thus they are known to MDAS members firsthand. Popular tours fill early--act soon!

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OBSERVATIONS, Nov. 13-Dec. 6. (Also see field trip reports.)

Green Heron, up to 2, 5-Brooks pond, Pt. Reyes, thru Nov. 15--m.ob; Clifton Court Forebay (CCF), Nov. 17--BR. Cattle Egret, 2, Bixler Rd., east Contra Costa Co., Nov. 17-29--BR; 1, Jersey Is., Nov. 29--BR. Whistling Swan, 105, CCF, Dec. 1--BR. White-Fronted Goose, 4, CCF, Nov. 17--BR. Snow Goose, 17, CCF, Nov. 17--BR. ROSS' GOOSE, 11, CCF, Nov. 17--BR.

Blue-Winged Teal, several, Palo Alto Baylands, Nov. 22 thru period--m.ob. European Wigeon, ♂, Muddy Hollow pond, Pt. Reyes, thru Nov. 15--m.ob.; Flamingo pond, Fleishacker Zoo, S.F., Nov. 18--GG. Redhead, 6, Muddy Hollow pond, Nov. 15--BR; 2, CCF, Nov. 17--BR; 3♂, 2♀, Flamingo pond, Nov. 18--GG; ♂, 2♀, Lake Merritt, Nov. 20--WO, MM, MP, BH. TUFTED DUCK, 2♂, Muddy Hollow pond, thru period--m.ob. Barrow's Goldeneye, up to 15, Lake Merritt, thru period--m.ob.; ♂, CCF, Nov. 17--BR. KING EIDER, juv. ♂, Abbott's Lagoon, Pt. Reyes, Nov. 13 thru period--DS, m.ob. Hooded Merganser, ♂, Lake Merritt, Nov. 15-28--m.ob.; ♂, 3♀, 5-Brooks pond, Nov. 22--FB, JR; ♂, 5♀ there, Nov. 28--FB, GC, H&JG; ♂, CCF, Dec. 1--BR. Red-Breasted Merganser, ♀, CCF, Nov. 25--BR.

White-Tailed Kite, her San Ramon office, Nov. 20, Dec. 1--FB. Rough-Legged Hawk, up to 4, Armstrong Rd., east Contra Costa Co., Nov. 22-29; 1, CCF, Dec. 1--BR. Ferruginous Hawk, Limantour, Pt. Reyes, Nov. 15--BR; 1-2, Byron Hot Springs Rd., Armstrong Rd., CCF, Nov. 15-Dec. 1--BR; 2, RCA, Pt. Reyes, Nov. 20--EH, CH; 1, Deer Valley Rd., east Contra Costa Co., Nov. 29--BR. Golden Eagle, over her Walnut Creek home, Nov. 16--WO; Vasco Rd., east Contra Costa Co., Nov. 15--EH, BC, JH, GT.

Clapper Rail, Bolinas Lagoon, Nov. 15--JR, FB, MC. Mountain Plover, 13, 2 locations near Rd. 102, Yolo Co., Nov. 14--EH. Common Snipe, 4, Lake Cascade, Orinda, Nov. 26--NB. Rock Sandpiper, Bodega Head, Sonoma Co., Nov. 15 thru period--m.ob; Princeton Harbor, San Mateo Co., Nov. 22 thru period--RBA, FB, GC. Thayer's Gull, CCF, Dec. 1--BR. Barn Owl, landed in open field near Olema, mid-afternoon Nov. 22--FB, JR.

COMMON SKYLARK, Hall Ranch, Pt. Reyes, thru period--m.ob. Yellow-Billed Magpie, Balfour Rd., east Contra Costa Co., Nov. 22--BR. Dipper, 2, Alameda Creek, Sunol Reg. Pk., Nov. 17--J&JE. Mountain Bluebird, ♂, Marsh Creek Rd. 0.8 mile west of Camino Diablo, Nov. 15--EH, BC, JH, GT; ♂, Deer Valley Rd., Nov. 29--BR. Tennessee Warbler, Bolinas Lagoon, thru Nov. 15--m.ob. Palm Warbler, up to 2, Bolinas Lagoon, thru Nov. 15--m.ob. SHARP-TAILED SPARROW, up to 2, Bolinas Lagoon, thru Nov. 22--m.ob.; 2, Palo Alto Baylands, Nov. 22--RBA. Swamp Sparrow, up to 4, Olema Marsh, Nov. 15 thru period--RBA, EH, CH.

OBSERVERS: Norah Bain, Florence Bennett, Bill Chilson, Maxine Clason, Glenn Coleman, Joan & Jimm Edgar, Helen & Jerry Gentile, Gen Graves, Joy Hall, Ed Hase, Bev Hat-trup, Chuck Hines, Marietta Miller, Winnie Orcutt, Marjorie Plant, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Dave Shuford, G. Thornbury, many observers, NoCal Rare Bird Alert.

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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A Peale's FEREGRINE FALCON, injured by gunfire, was found in northern California in 1978. It's wounds healed but it was left blind in one eye. Taken to Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Group, it's equilibrium and depth perception were not improving then Daniel Verrier volunteered to take on the difficult retraining task.

After a long taming period--the falcon had been terrified of humans--the bird was taught to fly to a lure. The process of stooping to the lure built up the bird's strength and skill and it learned to compensate for the blind eye. Finally, the falcon was released in northern California. It has returned to the wild and has a chance for survival. (Outdoor California)

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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: \$4 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.)

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

Alamo: Nina Mourning and family; Antioch: Mrs. Mary Roberts; Concord: A. F. Marchington; Danville: Betty D. Miller and family, Richard L. Waldo; Lafayette: Mrs. Brieuc Bouche, Mr. K. Hallstone, Colin McKenna, N. A. Rudiak, Herbert F. Saylor, Jo M. Scherrer; Martinez: Mrs. A. F. Durkee; Pittsburg: Richard A. White, Jr., and family; Pleasant Hill: William Mills and family; Walnut Creek: Mrs. Gretchen Tool.

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MONO LAKE PRESERVATION by Ed Hase.

At the recent Audubon Leadership Training Conference in Sacramento a member of the National Audubon Board of Directors indicated all hope for preservation of Mono Lake seems to rest upon the outcome of a lawsuit intended to effect a major reduction in water diversions from the Mono Lake watershed.

The lawsuit was recently moved from state court to federal court, where it is given a better chance for success. Anticipated cost of the lawsuit is \$100,000. The Audubon Board of Directors has committed to cover the cost of the lawsuit but, due to the regional nature of the issue, feels that California Audubon chapters should contribute a large share of the funds required. California chapter representatives at the Sacramento conference unanimously agreed to support this concept.

Chapter membership in California currently stands at about 50,000. On this basis, Mt. Diablo chapter's fair share is \$2.00 per member if all contribute.

However, an individual contribution of \$5.00 or more will secure a beautiful Mono Lake poster offered by Regional Audubon as a token of appreciation.

The posters are available at membership meetings or they can be obtained at the Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum. Mail orders can be filled by sending a check for \$6 to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, P. O. Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94596; Attn: Linda LaPointe. Contributions should also be sent to this address. All checks should be made payable to National Audubon Society.

Those who may wish to display and sell the posters at a place of business (on a consignment basis) should contact Ed Hase at 944-5659.

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CONSERVATION NOTES by J. P. Hauser.

A SAD SONG. If you haven't been hearing the twittering of birds outside your window as much as you used to, there may be a good reason. The New York Times reports that the increasing destruction of large sections of mature forests in Central and South America is causing a decrease in the number of migratory birds in the U.S.

The newspaper says that such birds as warblers, kinglets, vireos, tanagers, pewees, and other perching songbirds, which inhabit South and Central American forests in winter and fly north each spring, are appearing in the northern latitudes in much fewer numbers. The steady decline in North American songbirds is directly linked with the forest destruction in South America. Those forests, since 1955, have declined by as much as 35 percent.

While campaigning in Youngstown, Ohio, Gov. Reagan stated, "Air pollution has been substantially controlled." In addition, the candidate made the patently silly assertion that trees were the major cause of smog. This would be news to the people of Los Angeles, who for several weeks had been repeatedly instructed not to let their children play outside, not to drive and, if suffering from heart disease or lung disorders, not to go out at all because of heavy smog layers. Returning to California, the ex-governor was forced to breathe (if not eat) his words as his flight was diverted from Burbank Airport due to heavy smog and fog.

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THE CITY AND THE INLAND SEA, an excellent illustrated story on Mono Lake, appeared in Sept. Audubon. If you aren't saving your magazine, please remove the article and send it to Mono Lake Committee, P O Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541. They will use it in convincing legislators and public servants that Mono Lake is valuable.

Funds are also needed for this beautiful lake. (See Mono Lake Preservation, above.) A number of items (coloring book, T-shirts, postcards, etc.) are offered for sale by MLC. Contact your editor for information and prices. Help Mono Lake Live!!!

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A change in AVERAGE SPEED of all traffic in California for one year from 55 to 56 mph would require 50 million gallons more fuel. Glen Craig, CHP Commissioner.

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GREATER BAY AREA SITE GUIDE: Joice Island/Grizzly Island Waterfowl Mgmt. Area.

Access: Take I-680 north, I-80 east 4 miles, then SR-12 east thru Fairfield about a mile beyond town, turn south 4½ miles on Grizzly Island Rd. Use caution to bird along Grizzly Island Rd---do NOT stop on pavement as the CHP patrols here.

Joice Island. Park near registration station by bridge. Around parking lot: gulls, Burrowing Owl, swallows, Marsh Wren, Yellowthroat, blackbirds may include Tricolored. Cross bridge, walk to right. Around ponds: swan, geese, ducks, shorebirds may include Lesser Yellowlegs, gulls, Black Phoebe; in vegetation: hummingbirds, Flicker, Bewick's & Marsh Wren, kinglets, Northern Shrike has been here, blackbirds, goldfinches, towhees, sparrows. If drive this road, park only in designated areas.

Grizzly Island. Continue south, watch for hawks ("Harlan's" Red-Tail has been near high bridge over Montezuma Slough), gallinule in sheltered sloughs, Burrowing & Short-Eared Owls. Around HQ: waterfowl, hawks, Golden Eagle has been seen, gallinule often in slough across road, several shorebirds mainly to east in wet fields. Long-Eared Owl has wintered in eucalyptus, hummingbirds, swallows, wrens, Yellow-Rumped Warbler, junco, sparrows.

West of HQ, ponds on right: many waterfowl (beware of decoys), shorebirds; on left are usually Yellowthroat; check fields to south for hawks, owls; vicinity of Hunter Check Station often White-Tailed Kite, Rough-Legged Hawk.

Parking lot 2 & trail west: Bittern, some waterbirds, gallinule, some shorebirds, swallows, Marsh Wren, Northern Shrike has been seen, blackbirds, goldfinches, towhees, Sparrows. Long-Eared Owls have wintered on right side of road just south of here. Continue south, check ponds, sloughs and wet areas, watch for hawks, owls.

Parking lot 8. Road turns left at south end of Refuge, bear left again to clump of eucalyptus: Barn & Great Horned Owls, many hummingbirds may include Rufous, kinglets, warblers, blackbirds in area, sparrows. Checking ponds, continue NW past parking lot 13, turn left to main road, right toward exit (or retrace route above).

Birds include grebes, White Pelican, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron & egrets (mixed rookery in area), Black-Crowned Night Heron, American Bittern, White-Faced Ibis has been found, Whistling Swan, several geese, many ducks, White-Tailed Kite, several hawks including Red-Shouldered & Rough-Legged, Golden Eagle, Marsh Hawk, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Gallinule, several shorebirds, gulls, owls (Barn, Great Horned, Burrowing, Long-Eared, Short-Eared), Anna's, Rufous & Allen's Hummingbird, Kingfisher, Flicker, both phoebes, several swallows, Bushtit, Bewick's & Marsh Wren, both kinglets, Water Pipit, both shrikes possible, Common Yellowthroat, Western Meadowlark, blackbirds may include Tricolored, both goldfinches, both towhees, several sparrows including Lincoln's.

Best birding: mid-January thru February. Refuge is open all year but October thru mid-January birding is restricted to the county road and a bit of Montezuma Slough. Facilities: minimal (best restroom at HQ). Refuge map available at HQ.

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SAN PABLO BAY NWR, dedicated October 15, includes Lower Tubbs Island (protected for years by The Nature Conservancy) and part of Mare Island. The bay, mudflats, and uplands host many species, especially in winter. Info: write San Pablo Bay NWR, P O Box 534, Newark, CA 94560. The refuge is administered through SF Bay NWR.

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NATURAL FIRE MANAGEMENT. In a Lassen National Park newsletter is a cross-section diagram of a fire-scarred pine which grew near Manzanita Lake. From 1783 to 1883 nine scars appear; the era of efficient fire suppression, 1883-1975, shows none. The Forest Service and National Park Service are considering allowing naturally set fires to burn, suppressing only man-caused fires and those in sensitive areas. Al Denniston, Team Leader, requests public comments: Natural Fire Management Planning, P. O. Box 767, Chester, CA 96020. (Altacal Audubon, White-Tailed Kite)

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

February 1981
Vol. 27, No. 7

Next deadline: February 7



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

Field Trips: TRIPS OPEN, members, non-members alike; bring lunch, binocs, field guide. RAIN on trip day? Call leader--trip 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., Feb. 7, 8:00 a.m., Abbott's Lagoon; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Fwy 24, 6:30. Leaders: Helen & Jerry Gentile (228-6297).

Wed., Feb. 11, 10:00 a.m., Thornton area; carpool: southwest corner Sun Valley Center, 8:30. Leaders: Merv & Norma Ortez (283-3072).

Sat., Feb. 21, 8:45 a.m., Lake Hennessey; carpool: southwest corner, Sun Valley Center, 7:00. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).

Wed., Feb. 25, 9:00 a.m., Bayfront, Berkeley to Pt. Molate; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. at Fwy 24, 8:30. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey (254-0486).

Sat.-Sun., Mar. 7-8, Monterey. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey (254-0486). Early motel reservations advised, Pacific Grove area recommended. Saturday dinner, 6:30 p.m., Mark Thomas' Outrigger (Cannery Row); call Sally Steller (837-9061) by Feb. 20 for reservations.

Board Meeting: Thurs., Feb. 12, 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., Feb. 26, 7:30 p.m., home of Joy Hall, 60 Isabella Ln., Pleasant Hill; 939-0122. Open to all those interested in conservation matters.

BIRDINFORMATION, by Bob Richmond, will be an illustrated discussion of several gulls. The PROGRAM, "Punta de los Reyes", will be presented by Phil Gordon, well-known naturalist and teacher of bird classes. This multimedia slide collage, with sound, has unusual views of the natural history of this "lost island", Pt. Reyes.

At ABBOTT'S LAGOON is an easy, level 4 mile walk to see waterfowl, shorebirds, some landbirds. Cross San Rafael Bridge, go north 0.6 mile on US-101, take San Rafael exit 2 blocks to 3rd St., go left out through Fairfax to SR-1, right $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, left to Pt. Reyes Seashore Headquarters. Weather may be terrible but we go regardless.

Around THORNTON should be 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.

At LAKE HENNESSEY are waterbirds, landbirds, perhaps Hooded Merganser, Bald Eagle, Pygmy Owl. From Benicia Bridge go north on I-780, east on I-80, west on SR-37, north on SR-29 thru Napa to Rutherford, then right about 5 miles on SR-128 to the turnout on the left by the spillway. If early, north of Napa go east on Trancas Rd. about 2 miles then left on Silverado Trail and bird the 13 miles to SR-128.

Along the BAYFRONT we bird Berkeley Marina, Pts. Isabel, Richmond & Molate for waterbirds, waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls, some landbirds. Near the Bay Bridge go

north on I-680 $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile to Powell St., go left under the freeway then right 2 miles on W. Frontage Rd., left on University Ave. Meet a short distance out University.

* * * * *

Our CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT on December 27 was a record-smashing success thanks to our compiler Jimm Edgar and his hard-working crew. Weather was foggy and cold except atop Mt. Diablo where it was clear and warm, wind was light. There were 70 observers, 66 in field parties, 4 at feeders. The previous high of 133 fell to our total of 137 species, plus 1 additional race. The 50,542 individuals seen was down somewhat but even that statistic is misleading. A low waterfowl count was countered by huge flocks of blackbirds. We added 3 new species to our CBC: Greater Scaup at Mallard Reservoir, BLACK RAIL in the marshes, Yellow-Headed Blackbird on Nortonville Rd. Other good finds include Wood Duck, Ferruginous Hawk, Prairie Falcon, GLAUCOUS GULL on Waterfront Rd., TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE on Nortonville Rd., Brown-Headed Cowbird, Sage and White-Throated Sparrow. The following species were found:

West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Dbl-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue & Green Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Amer Bittern, Canada & White-Fronted Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-Winged & Cinnamon Teal, Amer Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Wood & Ring-Necked Duck, Canvasback, Greater & Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Com Merganser, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Sharp-Shinned, Cooper's, Red-Tailed & Ferruginous Hawk, Golden Eagle, Marsh Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Virginia Rail, Sora, BLACK RAIL, Com Gallinule, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Common Snipe, Long-Billed Curlew, Spotted Sandpiper, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Long-Billed Dowitcher, West Sandpiper, Amer Avocet, Black-Necked Stilt, GLAUCOUS, Glaucous-Winged, Western, Herring, Thayer's, Calif, Ring-Billed & Mew GULL, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Rock & Mourning Dove, Barn, Screech & Great Horned Owl, White-Throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, "Red-Breasted" Sapsucker, Hairy, 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 Nuthatch, Wren-tit, House, Bewick's, 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, Hutton's Vireo, "Audubon's" Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Yellow-Headed, Red-Winged, Tricolored & Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, Purple & House Finch, Pine Siskin, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Savannah, Lark, Rufous-Crowned & Sage Sparrow, "Oregon" Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, White-Throated, Fox, Lincoln's & Song Sparrow.

Seen during COUNT PERIOD (Dec. 24-30) but not on count day: Red-Shouldered Hawk, Merlin, Com Raven, Townsend's Warbler, "Slate-Colored" Junco.

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 Jimm Edgar!!

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FIELD TRIP REPORTS.

The SACRAMENTO VALLEY REFUGES on December 6-7 were clear, calm and pleasant on Saturday, clear, cold and quite windy on Sunday. The sight of thousands of white geese stitching patterns across a stunning, brilliant blue sky was breathtaking! Also seen by 36 participants were European Wigeon, Sandhill Crane, Long-Eared and Short-Eared Owl, Lewis' Woodpecker, hundreds of Yellow-Headed Blackbirds among 83 species:

Eared, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, White Pelican, Dbl-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Amer Bittern, Whistling Swan, Canada, White-Fronted, Snow & Ross' Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-Winged & Cinnamon Teal, European & Amer Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Redhead, Ring-Necked Duck, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Sharp-Shinned, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, Merlin(?), Amer Kestrel, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Sandhill Crane, Virginia Rail, Com Gallinule, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Common Snipe, Greater Yellowlegs, Dunlin, Long-Billed Dowitcher, Amer Avocet, Black-Necked Stilt, Calif & Ring-Billed Gull, Mourning Dove, Long-Eared & Short-Eared Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Lewis' & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Horned Lark, Yellow-Billed Magpie, Com Crow, Bewick's & Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, "Audubon's" Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Yellow-Headed, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, Savannah Sparrow, Dark-Eyed Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned and Song Sparrow

The trip to LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR on December 13 was on a clear, calm day which began

cold but became comfortable by midmorning. We had excellent views of a variety of birds but missed California Thrasher and Fox Sparrow! The 13 members and guests tallied the following 42 species heard or seen:

Eared & Pied-Billed Grebe, Dbl-Crested Cormorant, Mallard, Com Goldeneye, Ruddy Duck, Sharp-Shinned, Cooper's & Red-Tailed Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Willet, Calif & Ring-Billed Gull, Anna's Hummingbird, Com Flicker, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrenit, Bewick's Wren, Hermit Thrush, West Bluebird, Rubv-Crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Starling, "Audubon's" Warbler, Brewer's Blackbird, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

At BAY BRIDGE TOLL PLAZA MARSH and EMERYVILLE MARINA on January 7 it was cold with hazy sun or fog. The 17 members studied many waterfowl, waterbirds, shorebirds and gulls but no rails. One oddly marked Red-Tailed Hawk sparked a great deal of study and discussion as to its identity. The following 56 species were reported:

Com Loon, Horned, Eared, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Dbl-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Pintail, Greater & Lesser Scaup, Com Goldeneye, Bufflehead, White-Winged & Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Red-Breasted Merganser, Red-Tailed Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Black Turnstone, Com Snipe, Long-Billed Curlew, Whimbrel, Willet, Red Knot, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, dowitcher sp, West Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Amer Avocet, Glaucous-winged, West, Herring, Calif, Ring-Billed & Bonaparte's Gull, Forster's Tern, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Water Pipit, Starling, "Audubon's" Warbler, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Savannah, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

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BOB BARY, severely injured in an accident last June, is now able to take short walks in Mitchell Canyon. His wife, Cordelia, sent this note at Christmas.

Dear Audubon Members: This is the first time in many years that Bob has not taken part in the annual bird count. How we wish he were well enough to join you! But we thank you for the many cards you have sent and for your thoughtful concern! Bob is making steady progress and perhaps he will be able to take part in some future bird count. Happy New Year to you all and again thank you for your good wishes to Bob.

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AUDUBON ACTION PRIORITIES in Calif., a statewide meeting open to all Auduboners, is scheduled Feb. 27-March 1 in Wellman Hall at U.C. Davis. The program will enable members to discuss/develop action strategies and priorities of the Audubon Cause in general sessions and workshops, meet and talk with heads of state/federal natural resource agencies, meet and talk with leaders of other chapters. Register, 4-7 pm, Feb. 27, adjourn by noon, Mar. 1. Registration deadline is Feb. 1. Cost: fee, \$10, Saturday evening banquet, \$11. Check payable to National Audubon Society, to NAS, 555 Audubon Pl, Sacramento, CA 95825. Call your editor or president for more info.

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Recommended STATE PARK acquisition/development projects include additions on Mt. Diablo's north slope and purchase of SF Bay tidal flats from Emeryville to Albany. Funds will come from Prop 1, the \$130 million bond issue voted in November, and \$70 million from tidelands oil revenues. The Parks & Recreation Commission will evaluate the proposals then submit final recommendations to the Legislature this year.

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CLASSES and EXCURSIONS:

WESTERN VOLCANOES: Mt. St. Helens & Its Kind, a 2-day lecture series designed for the general public, Feb. 7-8 in Davis, will discuss volcanoes of the Cascades, including Mt. St. Helens, and elsewhere in the West, and vulcanism in general. Info, enrollment: University Extension, U.C. Davis, CA 95616; (916) 752-0880.

BAY AREA BIRDWATCHING SCHOOL, Susanne Luther, Thurs. mornings, Jan. 22-Mar. 12, \$30; Apr. 22-June 11, \$40; or \$5/indiv. session; rich Bay Area habitats. Weekend classes, varied parts of Calif., Susanne, John Luther, Donna Dittmann, \$30-40. Tikal Workshop, Guatemala, Mar. 22-29, Susanne, Rose Ann Rowlett, thru Victor Emmanuel Nature Tours. Contact Susanne: 20 Buckingham Dr., Moraga 94556; 376-9422.

PRBO. Everglades, Feb. 11-16, Burr Heneman, \$425-480. Costa Rica, Feb. 15-Mar. 1, Bill Clow, \$1300-1500. Winter, Baja Coast, Feb. 18-25, Ron LeValley, Ronn Storro-Patterson, \$695. Blue Whale Study, Mar. 21-28, Ron & Ronn (above), \$830. Course brochure, info: Linda Parker, 1990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach, CA 94970; 388-2286.

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Our treasurer, FLORENCE BENNETT, suffered a severely fractured ankle in a bad fall in mid-December and still is unable to get about. Her talents were greatly missed on our Bird Count and she must miss our activities for a while. Cards and notes may be sent to her at P O Box 5428, Walnut Creek 94596. We send our collective wishes for complete healing of your ankle, Florence!!

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OBSERVATIONS, Dec. 7-Jan. 13. (Also see field trip reports.)

Red-Throated Loon, Clifton Court Forebay (CCF), Dec. 11--BR. Cattle Egret, 10, Jersey Island, Dec. 11--BR; St. Mary's College, Dec. 29--RS; 12, Bixler Rd., east Contra Costa Co., Jan. 1--BR. American Bittern, Mt. View San. Dist., Jan. 3--RS. White-Faced Ibis, 32, SR-152 at Santa Fe Rd., Merced Co., Jan. 4--R&JR.

Whistling Swan, 2 ad, 6 imm, Briones Reservoir, Dec. 13--H&NB; 6 ad, 3 imm, Pescadero marsh, San Mateo Co., Jan. 4--JB; 1, Little Frank's Tract, Jan. 11--PG; 1 from her Walnut Creek window, Jan. 11--FB, how's that for a bed-ridden birder! Blue-Winged Teal, 3♂, Palo Alto Baylands, Jan. 6--JR, et al. European Wigeon, ♂, Mendoza Ranch, Pt Reyes, Jan. 13--JR, BP, et al. Redhead, 2, CCF, Dec. 11--BR; 2♂, Lake Merritt, Dec. 16--JR, et al. Barrow's Goldeneye, 4♂, 2♀, Lake Merritt, Dec. 16--JR, et al; 1♂ there, Jan. 4--RS. Oldsquaw, ♀, Moss Landing, Monterey Co., thru Jan. 10--RBA, JR, BR. Harlequin Duck, ♂, Moss Landing, thru Jan. 10--RBA, BR, JR. Black Scoter, ♀, Moss Landing, Jan. 10--BR, JR; 24+, Fish Docks, Pt Reyes, Jan. 13--JR, BP, et al; 50+, Lighthouse, Pt. Reyes, Jan. 13--JR, et al. Hooded Merganser, ♂, Lake Merritt, Dec. 14--FM. Estimated 23,000 ducks, CCF, Dec. 11, estimated 3400 there, Dec. 18--BR.

White-Tailed Kite, I-680 at Willow Pass Rd., Jan. 11--FB, GC. Rough-Legged Hawk, 2, Dougherty Rd., Dec. 24--KH; 1, Holey Rd., east Contra Costa Co., Jan. 1--BR; 9 there, Jan. 3--RS. Ferruginous Hawk, 1, CCF, 1, Armstrong Rd., Dec. 11--BR; Holey Rd., Jan. 1--BR; Byron Hot Springs Rd., Jan. 1-3--BR, RS. Golden Eagle, 2, Upper San Leandro Reservoir, Dec. 7--RS. BALD EAGLE, ad, Success Lake, Tulare Co., Jan. 3--JR; imm, Calaveras Reservoir, Jan. 4--BR. Prairie Falcon, 1 report. Merlin, 2 reports.

Probable Caribbean or White-Winged Coot (escape), Doolittle Dr., Alameda, Dec. 21--AE. Long-Billed Curlew, 60, near his San Ramon home, Dec. 10-12--KH. GLAUCOUS GULL, 2nd-year, still on Waterfront Rd. near Acme Dump, at least thru Jan. 8--JR. Rhinoceros Auklet, 2, Coast Guard pier, Monterey, Jan. 10--JR, BR. Burrowing Owl, near his San Ramon home, Dec. 10-11--KH; 1, CCF, Dec. 11--BR. Short-Eared Owl, near his San Ramon home, Dec. 9--KH; 40, Jersey Island, Dec. 11, 2 there, Dec. 18--BR.

Allen's Hummingbird, ♂, returned to her Alamo garden, Jan. 12 (very early)--JR. Lewis' Woodpecker, Nortonville Rd. near Clayton, Jan. 1--BR. EASTERN PHOEBE, 1 Encinal Cemetery, Monterey, Dec. 30--at least Jan. 10--RBA, EH, JR, BR. OLIVACEOUS FLYCATCHER, Santa Cruz, Dec. 7 thru period--RBA.

COMMON SKYLARK, Hall Ranch, Pt Reyes, thru period--m.ob. TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE, still on upper Nortonville Rd., Jan. 1--BR. Orange-Crowned Warbler, Little Frank's Tract, Jan. 11--PG. Nashville Warbler, 2, Short St., Pacific Grove, Jan. 10--BR, JR. Townsend's Warbler, his Walnut Creek garden, Dec. 17 thru period (but missed CBC day!)--EH. HERMIT WARBLER, Pt Reyes Seashore Headquarters, Jan. 13--JR.

"BALTIMORE" CRIOLE, Short St., Pacific Grove, Jan. 10--JR, BR. "Bullock's" Oriole, Short St., Pacific Grove, Jan. 10--BR, JR. Vesper Sparrow, Armstrong Rd., Jan. 1--BR. Rufous-Crowned Sparrow, upper Nortonville Rd., Jan. 1--BR. SAGE SPARROW, near his San Ramon home, Jan. 13--KH. Swamp Sparrow, up to 4, Olema marsh, thru period--m.ob. Lapland Longspur, up to 14, Hall Ranch, thru period--m.ob.

OBSERVERS: Hugh & Norah Bain, Florence Bennett, Joe Broyles, Glenn Coleman, Art Edwards, Phil Gordon, Ed Hase, Kevin Hintsa, Frank McClure, Bill Pursell, Bob Richmond, Rich & Jean Richmond, Rich Sintchak, NoCal Rare Bird Alert, many observers.

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THE QUAIL, published monthly except a combined July-August issue, is sent without additional charge to National Audubon Society members in Mt. Diablo chapter. To join NAS: \$20 per year, family \$25, others available; check payable to National Audubon Society, to Membership Chairman, MDAS, P O Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. 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: \$4 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: \$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.

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

Alamo: Mr. L. T. Vinson; Concord: Miss Florence J. Cole; Mrs. A. I. Harry & family, Bill Read, Kathryn Zych; Lafayette: Dr. George H. Mollett & family, Timm Timoney & family; Pleasant Hill, Mr. W. H. Lamm, Katherine E. Miller family; Walnut Creek: Mrs. E. E. Barney, Kenneth Butterfield, George & Jeanette Heaney, Nelsen B. Larsen; Ms. S. Skiff, Louise C. Ward.

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CONSERVATION UPDATE, by Ed Hase.

In the January Quail was a request for contributions to support the lawsuit which seeks to preserve MONO LAKE. The urgency of the fund-raising effort has become an important consideration. Around April 1, most of the \$100,000 cost of preparing the lawsuit comes due. Our chapter's fair share is \$2000. To date about \$200 has been contributed by chapter members, primarily through purchase of Mono Lake posters. This means the remaining \$1800 must be realized in the next three months.

Only \$2.00 per member is needed to support a cause which will provide a better than even chance for the survival of Mono Lake. This valuable resource and sanctuary for birds should not be sacrificed for lack of funds---particularly when most of us are able to afford the minimal contribution.

Please send your contributions at the earliest possible date to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, P O Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94596; Attn: Linda LaPointe. All checks should be payable to National Audubon Society. Mono Lake posters are still available for contributions over \$5.00. Details are in the January Quail.

Recap of the 96th CONGRESS lame-duck session:

Passed: Alaska Lands Bill; \$1.6 billion "superfund"; reaffirm Interior Department policies on predator control; tax provision for conservation easement acquisition; 2 wilderness bills (Colorado, New Mexico); National Historic Preservation Bill.

Lost: Wild & Scenic Rivers Bill; California Wilderness Bill, Big Sur legislation.

TRENDS for 1981.

There may be pressure at the national level to cut funds for conservation programs and to weaken environmental safeguards. Environmental laws will probably be untouched except those subject to reauthorization. The Clean Air Act and Coastal Zone Management Act will undergo significant pressure for change by industrial interests. Many regulations will come under fire, particularly those which impede energy development. Audubon will push for legislation to strengthen refuge protection, develop renewable energy systems, and reauthorize the Clean Air Act.

It looks like a very ACTIVE YEAR for conservation. We invite all interested persons to become involved in the Conservation Committee.

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CONSERVATION NOTES, J. P. Hauser.

The romantic image promoted by ski resorts is a roaring fire to welcome skiers from chilly slopes but some ski-oriented towns in Colorado have begun to ban fireplaces and woodburning stoves. Vail, Telluride and Crested Butte are cracking down because the smoke produced is responsible for serious winter air pollution. Vail estimates fireplaces and wood stoves alone emit about 1300 tons of pollutants each year.

Vail, sponsoring "fireplace smokeless weekends", finds air quality vastly improved. You personally use 35 pounds of it every day--not food, water or oil, but air; in a year, 12,775 pounds, in a lifetime a million pounds. Whether it's clean, aromatic with spruce or honeysuckle, pine-scented mountain air, or something resembling an airborne junkyard, you must breathe it, 17,000 times a day. Processing such large quantities of the precious stuff, even small amounts of impurities add up quickly.

Congress passed the Clean Air Act in 1970 with a 10-year timetable for cleaning up our air. In 1977, due to pressure chiefly from the auto industry, the Act was re-assessed and emission standard deadlines were pushed ahead as far as 1987 but air is seriously polluted and threatens to become more so. Each year power plants pump 25 million tons of sulphur dioxide into the atmosphere, where, by chemical reactions with the sun, most of it changes to nitric and sulphuric acid, returning to earth to cause widespread damage, chiefly as acid rain. Acid rain was first documented in Sweden, where an estimated 20,000 lakes are becoming acidified, a third of those no longer support fish. Hundreds of lakes in the Adirondacks are dead or dying; the effects are spreading. Now the entire nation east of the Mississippi is suffering, and studies reveal acid rain in California, the Pacific Northwest, and the Rockies!

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GREATER BAY AREA SITE GUIDE: Arcata, Humboldt Co., area; excellent for vagrants.

Access: North via US-101, about 300 miles from Walnut Creek; 6 hours driving time.

Oxidation Ponds. Take SR-255 west from town, south on G St. $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to a wide left bend, turn right over the tracks thru gate (birders tolerated). Wander around the ponds: many shorebirds on mudflats at low tide, ducks, gulls. Arcata Marina nearby: ducks, gulls, etc., at high tide; many shorebirds at low tide.

Arcata Bottoms (US-101 & Arcata on east, Arcata Bay on south, Mad River Slough on west, Mad River on north). West on SR-255, left on V St., right on Bottom (Old Samoa) Rd.: Burrowing Owl, longspurs; wet areas both sides of road: Solitary, Pectoral, Baird's Sandpipers; pond on left: waterbirds. Junction SR-255: Snow Bunting, 1975. Continue north on Jackson Ranch Rd.: Golden Plovers, longspurs before 1st turn, just south of junction Foster Rd., walk west thru short grass field to long grass field beyond: Short-Eared Owl. Jackson Ranch Rd. at Foster Rd.: Tree Sparrow, 1975. Turn right: Snow, Ross' Geese may be along road. North on Sidell Rd.: blackbird flocks have had Yellow-Headed, Tricolored, Rusty. Continue on Sidell, left on Lanphere Rd. to Mad River Slough bridge: Little & Black-Headed Gulls early 1978. Return east to Mad River Rd., turn north. As road nears river: shorebirds in fields in spring. Road ends at Mad River County Beach. In willows near SE corner of parking lot: warblers, etc.; in bushes along north edge: Tree Sparrow has been among sparrows. Trail north from NW corner: willows on right too dense, those on left: warblers (Worm-Eating has been seen), etc. Continue to river, roam area for shorebirds.

Samoa Peninsula. West from Arcata on SR-255, cross tracks to 1st road on right, go right: Snowy Owl has been here. Continue south to bridge (to Eureka): waterfowl, possibly European Wigeon. Go south thru Samoa to Fairhaven. Willows on the right just before old Eureka Airport may be good, those just beyond airport excellent: vireos, warblers, Orchard Oriole, Rose-Breasted Grosbeak have been here, White-Throated Sparrow. Coast Guard Station, trees around buildings, many willows on right beyond buildings, trees at end of road: Winter Wren, vireos, many warblers. Walk out North Jetty (careful! high tide + winds = sea over top): Surfbird, Tattler, Rock Sandpiper.

Azelea Reserve St Pk, NE of Arcata on SR-299: Vaux' Swift, look for Black Swift in spring; Common Nighthawk late May-June. Trinidad Head north on US-101: Tufted Puffins nest on Trinidad Rock. Patrik's Pt. St Pk 20 miles north of Arcata: Gray Jay around HQ. Dry Lagoon St Pk just north of Patrik's Pt.: migrants, White-Fr Goose.

Mouth of Jacoby Creek. On south side of Arcata on US-101 cross slough before creek. Turn right just before a little house in marsh, cross tracks, park. Well-worn trails to creek mouth -- tide determines how far you can go: waterfowl may include European Wigeon, Merlin possible, shorebirds congregate at high tide, gulls. Eureka Slough, just north of Eureka, pull off US-101, search the Bay: waterbirds, waterfowl, shorebirds; also check the Bay along US-101 south of Eureka where you can get off the road.

King Salmon. South of Eureka go west on King Salmon Rd. a mile to the sewer ponds. From outside: waterbirds, shorebirds; Tropical Kingbird & Palm Warbler have been seen. Continue to Buhne Rd., park, walk north to the Bay: Yellow-Billed Loon possible, waterbirds, waterfowl include Redhead & Black Scoter, shorebirds, gulls may include Sabine's, Pigeon Guillemot possible, Marbled Murrelet. Marina at end of road: Red-Necked Grebe, 1,000's of "Black" Brant in South Bay (40,000 late April-early May).

Facilities: Arcata Marina, Mad River Beach, Patrik's Pt SP, King Salmon, Camping: Patrik's Pt SP (good birding here); KOA south of Arcata. Many good motels. Maps: Chamber of Commerce: Arcata city map; AAA: Eureka & NW Calif; Erickson & Associates (Harry Reese): Humboldt Co. - Arcata Bottoms shown well - \$2.25. "Birds of Northwest Calif" by Yokum & Harris, from Humboldt State University Bookstore, Arcata 95521, excellent -- write for current price.

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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

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

March 1981
Vol. 27, No. 8

Next deadline: March 8



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

Field Trips: TRIPS OPEN, members, non-members alike; bring lunch, binocs, field guide. RAIN on trip day? Call leader--trip 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.

Wed., Mar. 4, 9:00 a.m., Hayward Regional Shoreline; carpool: El Cerro Blvd. at I-680, Danville, 8:15. Leader: Sally Steller (837-9061).

Sat.-Sun., Mar. 7-8, Monterey weekend; 9:00 a.m. each day; early birds on Sun.: 7:30 a.m., Sea Breeze Motel, 1100 Lighthouse Ave., Pacific Grove. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey (254-0486).

Sat., Mar. 21, 8:00 a.m., Upper San Leandro Reservoir. Leader: Tom Lee (934-5475). Wear boots, carry lunch.

Thurs., Mar. 26, 9:30 a.m., Lake Lagunitas; carpool: El Nido Rd. at Acalanes Rd. just north of Fwy 24, Orinda, 8:30. Leader: Norah Bain (254-4516).

Sun., May 17, proposed Farallons pelagic trip from Emeryville 5 a.m.-3 p.m. Cost about \$20. If interested, call Sally Steller (837-9061) right away so boat can be reserved if sufficient interest. No calls, no boat!!!

Board Meeting: Thurs., Mar. 12, 7:30 p.m., home of Winnie Young, 1451 Janet Ct., Benicia; (707) 745-4134. Board meetings are always open to members.

Conservation Mtg: Thurs., Mar. 26, 7:30 p.m., home of Linda LaPointe, 1450 Vallejo St., #204, San Francisco, 673-5352; after dinner in downtown S.F. If interested, RSVP to Linda before March 19 for time and place of restaurant.

BIRDINFORMATION, by John Davis, will be slides showing field marks, plus recorded sounds, of local birds. The PROGRAM, presented by Chris Carpenter, will be the scenery and birds of Panama, slides taken on a tour he co-led there in January. A deputy district attorney for Alameda County, he has birded Mexico and Costa Rica as well as Panama and is a well-known local birder who resides in Moraga.

At the new HAYWARD REGIONAL SHORELINE are ducks and shorebirds plus some landbirds. From Nimitz Fwy (SR-17) in Hayward take Winton Ave. west to the parking lot at the end. It could be windy, trails may be muddy--come prepared. Note the date change. On the MONTEREY AREA WEEKEND we will see waterbirds, waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls, landbirds of varied habitats, Moss Landing to Carmel River. Take I-680 to San Jose, US-101 to Prunedale, west on SR-156, north 4 miles on SR-1, west onto Jetty Rd. (½ mile north of Elkhorn Slough bridge). Allow at least 2 hours driving time. See Feb. issue for motel, dinner information. On Sunday meet on the Coast Guard pier (southeast end of Cannery Row); early birds: Sea Breeze Motel, 7:30 a.m.

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 EEMUD Valle Vista staging area on Canyon Rd., 1 mile west of Moraga. Wear boots, carry lunch.

At LAKES LAGUNITAS & BON TEMPE are some waterbirds but mostly woodland birds, hope-

fully Pilested Woodpecker. Cross San Rafael 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.

* * * * *

RAIN on trip day? It may be raining where you live but do NOT assume the trip is cancelled--call the leader! The Putah Creek trip is a good example. Despite heavy rain in some areas at home, the trip was held with only sprinkles for a short time.

* * * * *

FIELD TRIP REPORTS.

Although rainy at home, at PUTAH CREEK & LAKE SOLANO on January 17 it was cool and calm, mostly overcast with misty sprinkles for a time after lunch. The 13 members saw a ♂ European Wigeon, adult Golden and immature Bald Eagle, Osprey, Canyon and Rock Wren, and a pair of Phainopeplas among these 71 species seen or heard:

West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Dbl-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue & Green Heron, Green-Winged Teal, European & Amer Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Com Goldeneye, Ruddy Duck, Com Merganser, Sharp-Shinned & Red-Tailed Hawk, Golden & Bald Eagle, Osprey, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Com Gallinule, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, gull sp, Rock & Mourning Dove, White-Throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, "Red-Breasted" Sapsucker, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black & Say's Phoebe, Scrub Jay, Yellow-Billed Magpie, Com Crow, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Bewick's, Canyon & Rock Wren, Mockingbird, Amer Robin, Hermit Thrush, West Bluebird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Phainopepla, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Hutton's Vireo, "Myrtle" & "Audubon's" Warbler, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Savannah & Lark Sparrow, Dark-Eyed Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

The walk at LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR on January 22 was in a steady rain, light early but becoming somewhat heavier halfway around the trail. As several of the 17 members got wet, it was fortunate that the temperature was comfortably cool. Apparently many birds were smarter than birders as only these 28 species were found:

West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Dbl-Crested Cormorant, Ruddy Duck, Cooper's Hawk, Calif Quail, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Calif Gull, Anna's Hummingbird, Com Flicker, Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Bewick's Wren, Mockingbird, Amer Robin, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

It was clear and cool at PALO ALTO & PRINCETON HARBOR on January 31 with light wind. The 18 members saw Blue-Winged Teal, Thayer's Gull and, at Princeton, found no Rock Sandpiper but saw a Clapper Rail in the southwest corner of the harbor far from any vegetation. If people approached to close it sought refuge among the boulders of the jetty. These 83 species were seen or heard:

Com Loon, Horned, Eared, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Dbl-Crested, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-Winged, Blue-Winged & Cinnamon Teal, Amer Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Canvasback, Greater & Lesser Scaup, Com Goldeneye, Bufflehead, White-Winged & Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Red-Breasted Merganser, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Marsh Hawk, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Clapper Rail, Amer Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Surfbird, Black Turnstone, Com Snipe, Long-Billed Curlew, Whimbrel, Wandering Tattler, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Long-Billed Dowitcher, West Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Amer Avocet, Black-Necked Stilt, Glaucous-Winged, West, Herring, Thayer's, Calif, Ring-Billed, Mew & Bonaparte's Gull, Forster's Tern, Rock & Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Black Phoebe, Com Crow, Marsh Wren, Water Pipit, Starling, "Myrtle" & "Audubon's" Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Savannah, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

Birds at ABBOTT'S LAGOON & PT. REYES HEADQUARTERS were varied on February 7 and so was the weather. It was pleasant and calm at Headquarters in early morning, also during and after lunch, but in between at the lagoon it was cold with scattered clouds and a strong wind blowing sand. The 17 members found 2 beautiful immature Golden Eagles and Snowy Plovers among these 74 species seen or heard:

Com & Arctic Loon, Horned, Eared, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Dbl-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Canvasback, Com Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite,

Cooper's, Red-Tailed & Red-Shouldered Hawk, Golden Eagle, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Amer Coot, Semipalmated & Snowy Plover, Killdeer, Willet, Dunlin, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, West, Herring & Ring-Billed Gull, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Horned Lark, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Com Raven, Com Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Mockingbird, Amer Robin, Varied & Hermit Thrush, West Bluebird, Golden-Crowned & Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Hutton's Vireo, "Audubon's" & Townsend's Warbler, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, Brown Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Dark-Eyed Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox & Song Sparrow.

APRIL ON THE MOUNTAIN. Save Mt. Diablo and Mt. Diablo Interpretive Association are planning a schedule of activities for "April on the Mountain." Activities, events include wildflower walks, hikes, birding trips, annual Hikeathon, Spring Campout. Anyone interested in receiving this schedule may phone 685-5315.

Pres. Carter on January 16 created PT. REYES-FARALLON ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY, thus barring oil and gas exploration and development in the area. The area, which includes most of the Gulf of the Farallons running from Golden Gate Bridge to Pt. Reyes, curves around the Farallons and north around Pt. Reyes to Bodega Bay, south to Rocky Point near Bolinas Lagoon. Bolinas Lagoon, Tomales and Bodega Bays, Drake's and Limantour Esteros are all included in the 1000 square mile sanctuary. The Farallons and their major bird rookeries have been protected as a national refuge since 1909. Sanctuary designation does not affect fishing or recreational uses or normal vessel traffic in the area. Senator Alan Cranston, who had been in the forefront of the sanctuary cause, said, "We're delighted that we have succeeded in this 11th-hour struggle to preserve an important marine habitat." (SF Chronicle)

WINTER BACKYARD BIRDING by Betty Gallagher.

Audubon's Warblers visit the pinecone and hummingbird feeder most of the day. New to our backyard and using the new birdbath are Hermit Thrush, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet and Cedar Waxwing. The kinglet gave a nice show one day competing with an Anna's Hummingbird at the hummingbird feeder. He really showed his beautiful crown. At our new cylinder-type seed feeder finches seem most comfortable feeding. House Sparrows try but seem just that much larger and fall off the perch. There are the usual crowned sparrows, doves, jays, etc., but for some unknown reason the juncos, although in the area, don't choose to visit us.

This is the second year for a crippled Brewer's Blackbird which gets along nicely-- falls over occasionally but pops up again. For the first time I've noticed the Brewer's take a piece of dried bread and soak it in the birdbath before eating it. I really laughed one morning at the expression on his face when he went to soak his crumb and the birdbath was frozen. I quickly went to his aid with the teakettle.

A Cooper's Hawk came one day and sat a while on the fence showing me both his front and back, flew to a top limb, then made a quick dive into a bush where sparrows hid. He came out with a House Sparrow in his talons and sat a minute on the gate before he left. A Loggerhead Shrike dropped in for a short visit as we were eating breakfast, just picked up a crumb and left. For me, it's exciting to be at home.

CLASSES and EXCURSIONS.

WHALES, Past, Present, Future, 2 days of lectures, panel discussions, March 7-8, by nationally, internationally known scientists, conservationists, presents overview of a number of current subjects, controversies involving whales. Info/enrollment: University Extension, U.C., Davis, CA 95615; (916) 752-0880.

San Francisco Bay NWR. Marsh walks, Sat., Sun. afternoons thru March. Info, reservations (required): 792-0222. Your editor has info on subjects, dates.

Audubon Canyon Ranch spring seminars. Intertidal Life, Mar. 13-15, \$45; Basketweaving, beginner, intermediate, Mar. 20-22, \$40; Bolinas Estuary life & plants, Apr. 3-5, \$35; others late Apr., early & mid-May, \$35-40. Info: Audubon Canyon Ranch, 4800 Hwy 1, Stinson Beach, CA 94970. All proceeds benefit the ranch.

PRBO. Birds of Monterey, Mar. 28-29, Rich Stallcup, \$60; Pelagics From Shore, Apr. 4-5, Rich Stallcup, \$35; Bird Song, a Benefit, Mar. 29, Apr. 12 & 26; Marie Mans, \$30 or \$12/session; Spring Birds in Death Valley, Apr. 12-17, Diane Williams, \$225. Info: Linda Parker, 4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach, CA 94970; 868-1221.

The NOMINATING COMMITTEE (Norah Bain, Merv Ortez, Sally Steller) is preparing a slate of candidates. They welcome volunteers or names you might suggest to them.

OBSERVATIONS, Jan. 14-Feb. 10. Also see field trip reports.

Green Heron, Clifton Court Forebay (CCF), Jan. 16--BR. Cattle Egret, 17, Bixler Rd., east Contra Costa Co., Jan. 16, 10 there Feb. 8--BR. ROSS' GOOSE, SR-4 near Old River, east C.C. Co., Feb. 9--BR. Blue-Winged Teal, 20, Palo Alto Baylands, Jan. 17--BR; 20, Coyote Hills Reg Pk, Jan. 22--BR. European Wigeon, Mendoza Ranch pond, Pt Reyes, Jan. 31--H&JG. Wood Duck, 21, Elk Glen Lake, Golden Gate Pk, Jan. 17--BR. Redhead, 20, Palo Alto Baylands, Jan. 17--BR; 50, 60, Berkeley Aquatic Pk, Jan. 20--JR, et al. Greater Scaup, Hastings Slough near Waterfront Rd., Jan. 25--EH.

TUFTED DUCK, 0, Mill Valley, thru period--m.ob. Barrow's Goldeneye, 0, 70, Lake Merritt, Jan. 17--BR; 0, Berkeley Aquatic Pk, Jan. 20--JR, et al. Oldsquaw, 0, Moss Landing, Monterey Co., thru Jan. 14--RBA, JE. Harlequin Duck, 0, Moss Landing, thru Jan. 14--RBA, JE. Black Sooter, up to 20, Fish Docks, Pt Reyes, thru Feb. 7--EH, KH, m.ob. Hooded Merganser, 30, 60, 5--Brooks Pond, Pt Reyes, Feb. 7--H&NB. Red-breasted Merganser, CCF, Jan. 25--BR.

Rough-Legged Hawk, up to 3, CCF area, thru period--BR, KH, JR; 2, Woodbridge Rd., San Joaquin Co., Jan. 24--KH; over his San Ramon home, Feb. 1--KH. Ferruginous Hawk, 2, CCF, Jan. 16--BR; dark-phase, Holey Rd., Jan. 25--BR; Woodbridge Rd., Feb. 3--JR, et al; Bruns Rd., east C.C. Co., Feb. 9--BR. Golden Eagle, over their Lafayette home, Feb. 3--B&HA. BALD EAGLE, ad, CCF, Jan. 24--KH; ad, 25 miles east of Oakdale, Tuolumne Co., on SR-120, Feb. 5--T&MP; 2 ad, Calaveras Res., Feb. 10--JR, BF, et al. Prairie Faloon, 3 reports. Peregrine Falcon, 1 report. Merlin, 2 reports.

WILSON'S PLOVER, Elkhorn Slough, Monterey Co., Jan. 21, 23--RBA. Mountain Plover, up to 33, Byron Hwy near CCF, Jan. 16 thru period--BR, m.ob. Golden Plover, 10, Woodbridge Rd., Feb. 3--JR, et al. Long-Billed Curlew, up to 135, near his San Ramon home, thru Feb. 1--KH. Lesser Yellowlegs, Waterfront Rd. at I-680, Jan. 24-25--BC, EH.

GLAUCOUS GULL, Aome Fill dump, Martinez, thru Jan. 25--EH, BR; Alameda dump, Doolittle Dr., Alameda, Jan. 31, Feb. 7--BR, et al. Western Gull, CCF, Jan. 25--BR. BLACK-HEADED GULL, Stockton sewer ponds, Jan. 24--RBA. LITTLE GULL, Stockton sewer ponds, thru Feb. 9--m.ob. Burrowing Owl, up to 5, CCF, Jan. 16-Feb. 9--BR, JR. Short-Eared Owl, 8, Jersey Is., Jan. 16--BR.

OLIVACEOUS FLYCATCHER, Branciforte Ave., Santa Cruz, thru Jan. 24--RBA. EASTERN PHOENIX, El Encinal Cemetary, Monterey, thru Jan. 24--m.ob. COMMON SKYLARK, Hall Ranch, Pt Reyes, thru Feb. 8--m.ob. Steller's Jay, CCF, Feb. 8--BR. Yellow-Billed Magpie, Bixler Rd., Feb. 3--JR. Common Raven, over their Lafayette home, Feb. 3--B&HA.

Golden-Crowned Kinglet, 5, CCF, Jan. 25--BR. Phainopepla, Peltier & Blossom Rds., San Joaquin Co., Feb. 3--JR. HERMIT WARBLER, Pt Reyes Seashore headquarters, Jan. 14--EH, KH, et al. Yellow-Headed Blackbird, 0, Bethel Is., Jan. 16--BR. Tricolored Blackbird, 2, Bixler Rd., Feb. 8--BR. Western Tanager, still at Branciforte Ave., Jan. 27--RBA, JE. Red Crossbill, 3, Metson Lake, Golden Gate Pk, Jan. 17--BR. SAGE SPARROW, near his San Ramon home, thru Feb. 1--KH, JR. Swamp Sparrow, 2, Olema Marsh, Jan. 14--EH, KH, et al. Lapland Longspur, Hall Ranch, thru Feb. 8--m.ob.

OBSERVERS: Betty & Harry Adamson, Hugh & Norah Bain, Bill Chilson, Glenn Coleman, Mary Jane Culver, Jimm Edgar, Bud Fry, Helen & Jerry Gentile, Ed Hase, Kevin Hintsa, Ted & Marjorie Plant, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, NoCal 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: \$20 per year, family \$25, others available; check payable to National Audubon Society, to Membership Chairman, MDAS, P O Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. 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: \$4 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: \$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.)

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

Antioch: Elmer Bergeson & family; Concord: John Chesarek, Carol German, Ivan Joens, A. Monticelli, Samuel Read; Danville: Jacqueline Jacobsen, Offenhartz family, Mr. & Mrs. H. Russell; Lafayette: Oscar Hanson, Catherine Locke, Mrs. Frank Locke, Barbara Papini, Robert A. Stayner, Dr. & Mrs. Maury Stern; Martinez: John Camozzi, Sacramento: Ms. Nancy Smyth; San Ramon: Mr. & Mrs. L. C. Brown; Walnut Creek: Mrs. F. Allen, Ms. R. Aronstein, Mr. & Mrs. F. H. Drew.

CONSERVATION UPDATE by Ed Hase.

In January Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus placed five California rivers in the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System, but legal action seeking to prevent the proclamation is pending in the U.S. District Court in Los Angeles. Approximately 1250 miles of rivers are protected by the proclamation. Included are the lower American River below Nimbus Dam and parts of the Klamath, Trinity, Smith and Eel Rivers.

Gov. Brown took no action before the deadline for setting a special Peripheral Canal election on April 14, coinciding with Los Angeles city elections which would have given canal supporters an advantage as the turnout in pro-canal L.A. is expected to be high. Supervisor Sunne McPeak believes it will be November 1981 at the earliest.

The proposed 8000-acre Los Vaqueros Reservoir, along Vasco Road south of Brentwood, is another element of the State Water Project. This highly controversial project would have serious impact on the ecosystem of the east-county area. Several species of flora would be destroyed. The Dept. of Water Resources has begun an EIR, expected to be complete in 1985. The Conservation Committee has submitted recommendations on the scope and content of the EIR, requesting DWR to fully disclose, in the EIR, their planning process and study of alternatives which justify construction of a reservoir in the location and at the time proposed. We also expressed concern over loss of significant wintering area for many species of raptors.

The East Bay Regional Park District has decided to buy 163 acres in Wildcat Canyon, bringing Alvarado Park into an unbroken nature preserve stretching 25 miles to Castro Valley. Skyline Trail is the first in the nation to be designated a National Recreation Trail by the federal government and a half-mile extension made possible by this acquisition will enable hikers to follow a trail through Chabot, Redwood, Huckleberry, Sibley, Tilden and Wildcat Parks.

CONSERVATION NOTES by J. P. Hauser.

Californians Against Waste, a 3000-member group spearheading bottle deposit efforts in California, is organizing for an initiative on the 1982 state ballot. Needing 346,119 valid signatures of registered voters to qualify, there will be a massive grass-roots drive in 1981. Studies show impressive amounts of energy are saved by recycling bottles and cans. Seven billion beer and softdrink containers are thrown away each year here. In states with deposit laws, over 90% are returned. Keep in mind that a returnable bottle can be refilled 20 times, and 75% less power is used to recycle an aluminum can than to make a new one. There are many valid reasons why California should have a bottle bill and over 400 diverse groups support it.

A bill to create a deposit law by legislation took several years to work through Senate committees then was defeated by a floor vote. Just as the cigarette industry poured in over a million dollars to defeat the smoking proposition, canners, brewers and bottlers will devote massive monies to stop a bottle bill. To save energy, and reduce the destructive extraction of resources from the land, and mountains of litter, sign a petition, join CAW, or contribute money and/or talents to the cause.

Mellie Lake in Ontario, Canada, appears on postcards and calendars to represent Canada's wild beauty; and the tourist industry has been using it for years to sell Canada. Mellie Lake is acid dead. The water is sparkling clear because acid has destroyed everything in it. It is eerily and abnormally peaceful because all of its natural aquatic life has ceased. Mellie Lake has been dead less than 20 years and sits alone in a vast forest. The acid which killed this lake came from the sky in a corrosive, poisonous rain of sulphuric and nitric acid. Within a 50-mile radius there are at least 140 lakes now known to be dead from acid rain. The tons of industrial pollutants spewed into the air mix with water vapor to form sulphuric and nitric acids then ride the winds until the rains bring it to earth.

GREATER BAY AREA SITE GUIDE: Pierce Pt. Road and Drake's Estero Trail (Pt. Reyes).

Access: 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 6 miles, right on Pierce Pt. Rd. about 3 miles to the first parking lot on the left.

Abbott's Lagoon, 3-mile round trip. Walk the trail west: Horned Lark, bluebird, pipit, shrike, sparrows (Grasshopper possible in summer). Check the east (fresh-water) lagoon on the right: many waterfowl in winter (European Wigeon, uncommon; Tufted Duck, rare). Cross between the 2 lagoons, continue along the shore of the west lagoon: waterbirds, waterfowl numerous in winter (King Eider, fall 1980); many shorebirds along the edge (Pectoral, Baird's, Semipalmated Sandpipers in fall migration, Red Phalarope some years), gulls. During heavy winter weather the sea may break through the sandbar. Cross the sand to the beach, scan the sea for loons, grebes, cormorants, ducks, alcids; the beach for shorebirds (Snowy Plover possible).

Kehoe Beach. Drive north about 3 miles to the parking lot on the left. Walk the trail to the ocean, checking the marshy area for rails, Snipe, Yellowthroat, etc.; Sharp-Tailed Sparrow there Dec. 1973. Check the beach as for Abbott's Lagoon.

McClure's Beach. Drive on to the end of the road. At MacDonald Ranch just east of the parking lot stay away from the house (ranger's residence), check the area for landbirds (Scissor-Tailed flycatcher, Aug. 1980). Walk the trail to the beach. (2 weasels were under lupine near the trail Aug. 1980.) Bird as for Abbott's Lagoon. Good tide pools here but be careful of high tides and large sneaker-waves!!!

Tomales Pt. From McClure's Beach parking lot walk crosscountry uphill following signs to Tomales Pt. Atop the hill a dirt road leads north toward the point. Several Buff-Breasted Sandpipers were along the ridge 2+ miles out in Aug. 1978. From Upper Pierce Ranch (cypress trees, no buildings, 3+ miles out) the trail is less defined as it goes through meadows. Check Bird Rock just offshore. Bird from the Point---there is a grand view of Bodega Bay and the mouth of Tomales Bay.

Estero Trail, Home Bay. On Sir Francis Drake Blvd. about 2 miles west of Pierce Pt. Rd. turn left to the parking lot at the end of the public section of the narrow road: Lark Bunting here, March 1980. Walk the easy trail southwest over the hill a mile or so to the dam at Home Bay, checking groves of trees near the bay. The pond above the dam has many waterbirds, waterfowl in winter. On Home Bay: loons, grebes, many ducks (European Wigeon, uncommon); shorebirds on mudflats as the tide recedes. Estero Trail continues across the dam then along the east side of Home Bay about 2 1/2 miles to near the mouth of Drake's Estero.

Facilities: latrines at all trailheads. STAY AWAY from cliffs!!! It could be very disastrous if they crumble under your feet as they sometimes do.

OTHER birds: Pelicans, Great & Little (Oct. 1977) Blue Heron, Cattle & other Egrets, Brant, many ducks include Harlequin, Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, several hawks, Golden Eagle (rare), Quail, rails include Black (rare), Coot, many shorebirds (include White-Rumped Sandpiper, June 1978), terns (Black, Aug. 1980), Mourning Dove, owls include Snowy (Dec. 1973) & Long-Eared (rare), Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Kingfisher, Flicker, Acorn & Downy Woodpecker, Western Kingbird, both phoebes, Western Flycatcher, swallows, both jays, Raven, Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, nuthatches (Estero Trail), Creeper, Wrentit, Winter, Bewick's & Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Robin, Hermit Thrush (winter), Western & Mountain (March 1975) Bluebird, both kinglets (Estero Trail, winter), Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Hutton's & Warbling Vireo, a few warblers (Bay-Breasted, Oct. 1975; Blackpoll, Sept. 1976, June 1977), Western Meadowlark, blackbirds include Yellow-Headed (rare) & Tricolored, Cowbird, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American & Lesser Goldfinch, both towhees, several sparrows include Harris' (Drake's Estero turnoff, Jan. 1972) and Swamp (rare).

* * * * *

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

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Orinda, CA 94563
phone: 254-0486

April 1981
Vol. 27, No. 9
Next deadline: April 10

Meeting: Thurs., April 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. 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.

Wed., Apr. 8, 9:00 a.m., Black Diamond Mines Regional Park. Leader: John Davis (228-9516). Note the date change.

Thurs., Apr. 16, 9:00 a.m., Las Trampas Regional Park. Leader: Jimm Edgar (283-3510).

Wed., Apr. 22, 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. 25, Mines Road; carpool: El Cerro Blvd. at I-680, Danville, 6:45 a.m. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843) Carpooling imperative!!

Sun., 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.

Sat.-Sun., June 20-21, Yuba Pass & Sierra Valley. Leader: Sally Steller (837-9061). Primarily a camping trip, non-campers make reservations soon. Sierra City: Herrington's Sierra Pines (916) 862-1151 or Sierra Chalet (916) 862-1110; Sierraville: Canyon Ranch (916) 944-3340.

Board Meeting: Thurs., Apr. 9, 7:30 p.m., home of Jean Richmond, 125 Via Serena, Alamo; 837-2843. Board meetings are always open to members.

Conservation Mtg: Thurs., Apr. 23, 7:30 p.m., home of Joy Hall, 60 Isabella Ln., Pleasant Hill; 939-0122. Open to all those interested in conservation matters.

For BIRDINFORMATION Norah Bain will discuss Audubon Canyon Ranch and its docent program for which she recently completed training. The PROGRAM will be a presentation on NAS' Richardson Bay Sanctuary, the wildlife there and in nearby waters, by Alan Ruppert, new director at that facility. This will be an ideal opportunity to meet and speak with Mr. Ruppert, recently transferred here from Connecticut.

Our first trip to BLACK DIAMOND MINES PARK will introduce us to its geology, plants and birds. Superintendent Joanne Dean will lead us on a tour of the mines at 12:30, hard hats and lights provided. Drive east on SR-4 to Somersville Rd., turn south and continue to the parking lot at the end of the road. Note the date change.

At LAS TRAMPAS PARK we look for Grasshopper Sparrows and other grassland species, hawks, woodland birds. Go south on I-680 to Crow Canyon Rd., west 1 mile to Bolinger Canyon Rd., then right about 5 miles to the parking lot at the end of the road.

At LAKE MERCED and FORT FUNSTON are waterbirds, some ducks (possibly Black Scoter), 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.

On MINES ROAD and DEL PUERTO CANYON ROAD should be eagles, Lewis' Woodpecker, fly-catchers, swallows, magpie, Canyon & Rock Wren, Phainopepla, warblers, Lawrence's Goldfinch. NOTE: Safe parking is limited at some stops, plus in a long caravan those in back miss too many birds, so we must take as few cars as possible!!!

CASWELL PARK has 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-205, north on I-5, east on SR-120 thru Manteca, south on SR-99 to Austin Rd., south on Austin Rd. to the park. Bring insect repellent!!!

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FIELD TRIP REPORTS.

At THORNTON and the STOCKTON SEWER PONDS on February 11 it was warm, calm and mostly clear. Seen by 14 members were Ross' and other geese on Sherman Island, Rough-Legged Hawks in 2 places, Sandhill Cranes dancing along Woodbridge Road, but neither Black-Headed nor Little Gull at the sewer ponds, among these 64 species tallied:

Eared & Pied-Billed Grebe, Dbl-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Whistling Swan, Canada, White-Fronted, Snow & Ross' Goose, Pintail, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Cooper's, Red-Tailed, Red-Shouldered, Rough-Legged & Marsh Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Sandhill Crane, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Spotted Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Calif, Ring-Billed, Mew & Bonaparte's Gull, Rock Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Scrub Jay, Com Crow, Plain Titmouse, Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Amer Robin, Hermit Thrush, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, "Myrtle" & "Audubon's" Warbler, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Amer Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Dark-Eyed Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

LAKE HENNESSEY on February 21 produced unusual birding--many species, waterfowl in particular, were not to be found. The day was clear and quite warm, mostly calm but with occasional gusts. Our 17 members, joined by 15 from Redbud Audubon (Clear Lake area), found nesting Great Blue Herons among these 59 species seen or heard:

West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Dbl-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue & Green Heron, Great Egret, Mallard, Amer Wigeon, Ring-Necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Cooper's, Red-Tailed & Red-Shouldered Hawk, Osprey, Amer Kestrel, Amer Coot, gull sp, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Acorn, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Com Crow, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrenit, Bewick's & Rock Wren, Mockingbird, Amer Robin, Hermit Thrush, West Bluebird, Golden-Crowned & Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, Hutton's Vireo, "Audubon's" Warbler, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Purple & House Finch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Dark-Eyed Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Lincoln's & Song Sparrow.

The trip to BERKELEY MARINA, AQUATIC PARK & PT. ISABEL on February 25 was on a cold, partly cloudy day with light wind, gusty at times. Twelve members saw many ducks, including a ♂ Tufted Duck and 14 Redheads at Aquatic Park but the Hooded Merganser seen there for some time eluded us. These 69 species were seen or heard:

Com, Arctic & Red-Throated Loon, Horned, Eared, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Dbl-Crested Cormorant, Great & Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Mallard, Pintail, Redhead, Canvasback, Greater & Lesser Scaup, TUFTED DUCK, Com Goldeneye, Bufflehead, White-Winged & Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Red-Breasted Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-Shinned & Marsh Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Long-Billed Curlew, Spotted Sandpiper, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, dowitcher sp, West Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Amer Avocet, Glaucous-Winged, West, Thayer's, Calif, Ring-Billed, Mew & Bonaparte's Gull, Forster's Tern, Rock & Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker (1 mostly "Yellow-Shafted" markings), Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Mockingbird, Water Pipit, Starling, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Brown Towhee, Savannah, White-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

Around the MONTEREY AREA March 7-8 weather was clear, temperature comfortable, wind mostly light. Found were Black Brant, 2 Oldsquaws, Black Scoters at Moss Landing; Fulmar, Sooty Shearwater far offshore, whales, sea otters at Pt. Pinos; Virginia Rail heard, 2 Soras seen at Crespi Pond; Red-Shouldered Hawk mobbed by crows at El Carmelo Cemetery; Hermit Warbler at Jack Peak Regional Park. At the Coast Guard pier were more otters, including one eating an octopus and a female floating along with a young baby on her tummy. The 35 members heard or saw these 107 species:

Com, Arctic & Red-Throated Loon, Red-Necked, Horned, Eared, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Northern Fulmar, Sooty Shearwater, Dbl-Crested, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Black Brant, Mallard, Cinnamon Teal, Canvasback, Greater & Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Oldsquaw, White-Winged, Surf & Black Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Red-Breasted Merganser, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Cooper's, Red-Tailed, Red-Shouldered & Marsh Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Virginia Rail, Sora, Amer Coot, Black Oystercatcher, Snowy Plover, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Surfbird, Ruddy & Black Turnstone, Long-Billed Curlew, Whimbrel, Spotted Sandpiper, Wandering Tattler, Willet, Least Sandpiper, Short-Billed & Long-Billed Dowitcher, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Amer Avocet, Black-Necked Stilt, Glaucous-Winged, West, Calif, Ring-Billed, Mew, Bonaparte's & Heermann's Gull, Forster's Tern, Com Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Rook & Mourning Dove, Anna's & selasphorus sp Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Black & Say's Phoebe, swallow sp, Scrub Jay, Com Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Pygmy Nuthatch, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, Amer Robin, West Bluebird, Golden-Crowned & Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Hutton's Vireo, "Audubon's", Townsend's & Hermit Warbler, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, House Finch, Savannah Sparrow, Dark-Eyed Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

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The first annual NAS BIRDATHON Will be April 25-26 (the 26th is J. J. Audubon's birthday). Counters obtain from sponsors (neighbors, friends, anyone!) pledges for any amount of money per bird species seen by the counter in a 24-hour period that weekend. The counter should estimate how many species are expected; sponsors may stipulate a maximum contribution. Birding that weekend, the counter notes species seen, tallies their number, then calls on sponsors as soon as possible to collect the pledges. Checks should be made payable to National Audubon Society.

Counters are eligible for regional and national prizes in 2 categories: most species seen and, including the Grand Prize (a trip for 2 on a National Audubon Tour), most money raised. Chapters are eligible for a special award for raising the most money per member. One third of the money stays with the chapter, a third goes to the NAS regional office to support its work in the area, and a third will be devoted by National Audubon to its wide-ranging activities and programs nationwide.

MDAS will participate as a chapter on the Mines Road trip April 25. Sponsoring the chapter, pledges for species seen that day (about 90) should be sent right away to Jean Richmond, 125 Via Serena, Alamo 94507; 837-2843. Recruit other sponsors and send in their pledges as well as your own. If you prefer to be a counter on your own, contact Jean, recruit sponsors, and map strategy to find the maximum species.

* * * * *

BIRDERS' CODE OF ETHICS. As with any group of humans, some birders are thoughtless and others, normally considerate, get carried away by the excitement of the chase. In years past, with birders few and far between, an occasional lapse constituted merely bad manners. But with birders estimated to be in the millions, today even a small percentage of thoughtless acts can create significant problems. An incident in which a Black Rail was trampled to death by eager birders (see The Quail, Feb. 1978) led Sacramento Audubon Society to draw up a 3-part Birders' Code of Ethics, covering behavior toward birds, habitat, and people. For a copy of the code, just revised and updated, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to National Audubon Society, 555 Audubon Place, Sacramento, CA 95825.

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Interior Secretary James Watt proposes sale of OFFSHORE OIL/GAS DRILLING leases at 4 sites his predecessor, Cecil Andrus, deleted as too little return for risks to wildlife, tourism, recreation, local economies. Expected total oil yield from the sites of at most 400 million barrels (about a 3-week U.S. supply), may well be less than half that, according to U.S. Geological Survey estimates. Support facilities and onshore activity could mar Big Sur, Pt Reyes, Mendocino; a spill could smear beaches, destroy otters and other marine life, damage sport and commercial fisheries.

With the 1969 Santa Barbara spill well-remembered, the announcement brought a quick outcry in California. Community and county officials along the coast, the governor, and our Congressional delegation were virtually unanimous in opposition. Watt said the decision was not final and there would be a 60-day period for comments. Write, wire or phone Pres. Reagan, Sec. Watt, your Senators and Congressman to protest.

* * * * *

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

* * * * *

MINI-PROGRAMS by the Conservation Committee began at the February meeting and in April Linda LaPointe will discuss Bay Area open space preservation proposals. The committee is using its time at business meetings to give brief presentations on conservation-related topics of current interest. Future presentations are being developed for Wetlands Preservation, current efforts to protect and enhance Rare & Endangered Bird Species and, next fall, Mono Lake Preservation (lawsuit status), and State Water Project plans, including the Peripheral Canal.

OBSERVATIONS, February 11-March 10. (Also see field trip reports.)

Common Loon, Clifton Ct Forebay (CCF), Feb. 19--BR. Green Heron, 2, 5--Brooks Pond, Pt Reyes, Mar. 3--JR, et al. Cattle Egret, Woodbridge & Thornton Rds., San Joaquin Co., Feb. 11--C&FS; 3, Bixler Rd., east Contra Costa Co., Feb. 15--BR, RS; 1 there, Feb. 19--BR; 2, Volta ponds, & 6, SR-152 near Los Banos, Merced Co., Feb. 18--JR.

Snow Goose, 18, CCF, Mar. 9--BR. "Blue" Goose, 2, Merced NWR, Merced Co., Feb. 8--RS, PW, GGAS. Barrow's Goldeneye, ♂, CCF, Feb. 19--BR. Black Scaup, many, Fish Docks, Pt Reyes, thru period--m.ob. Hooded Merganser, up to 40, ♂, 5--Brooks Pond, at least thru Mar. 3--m.ob.; ♂, Berkeley Aquatic Park, Feb. 18-24--REA, ED. Common Merganser, ♂, CCF, Feb. 15--BR.

Red-Shouldered Hawk, near his parents' Alamo home, Feb. 17--BR; over his Lafayette home, Feb. 23--MO. Rough-Legged Hawk, up to 3, CCF area, thru period--BR, JR, RS; dark-phase there, Feb. 19--BR; 2, Jersey Is., Feb. 15--RS; 2 (1 dark-phase), Grizzly Is. WMA, Feb. 24--JR, et al. Ferruginous Hawk, up to 4 (1 dark-phase), CCF area, thru period--BR, JR, RS; Grizzly Is. WMA--Feb. 24--JR, et al. Prairie Falcon, 2, reports. Merlin, 2 reports.

Common Gallinule, 5--Brooks Pond, Mar. 3--JR, et al. Mountain Plover, up to 19, Byron Hwy & Clifton Rd., at least thru Feb. 28--m.ob. Golden Plover, up to 8, Spaletta Ranch, Pt Reyes, Feb. 11-Mar. 3--m.ob. Surfbird, 75, Bodega Head, Feb. 17--JR, BF, AM, BP. Long-Billed Curlew, up to 230 (Feb. 24-25), near his San Ramon home, thru period--KH, et al. Whimbrel, Clifton Rd., Mar. 8--BR. Rock Sandpiper, 4, Bodega Head, Feb. 17--JR, BF, AM, BP. Glaucous-Winged Gull, CCF, Feb. 15--BR. Herring Gull, albino, CCF, Feb. 15--BR.

Pygmy Owl, Upper San Leandro Reservoir, Jan. 25--RS. Burrowing Owl, Buchanan Field, Feb. 16--BG; near his San Ramon home, thru period--KH, et al; up to 9, CCF area, thru period--m.ob. Short-Eared Owl, up to 3, near his San Ramon home, thru period--KH, MJC, MP, RSt; 6, Jersey Is., Feb. 15--BR, RS.

Rufous Hummingbird, ♂, his Orinda garden, Feb. 11--RS. COMMON SKYLARK, last report Feb. 28. Common Raven, 2, near his San Ramon home, Feb. 26--KH, MJC, MP, RSt. Mountain Bluebird, ♀, Armstrong Rd., Feb. 22--BR. Black-and-White Warbler, ♂, Tilden Park, Feb. 12-28--m.ob. Nashville Warbler, Locust & Short Sts., Pacific Grove, Mar. 8--JR, MJC, ED, MP, RSt. Palm Warbler, 1 1/2 mi. out Mines Rd., Feb. 22--GF. Yellow-Headed Blackbird, up to 3, Jersey Is., Feb. 15-19--BR, RS. Tricolored Blackbird, up to 50, Jersey Is., Feb. 15-19--BR, RS; up to 40, CCF area, thru period--m.ob.; 3000, Camino Vaqueros, east C.C.CO., Feb. 22--BR. Lincoln's Sparrow, her Danville garden, Mar. 6--thru period--MC.

OBSERVERS: Bill Chilson, Maxine Clason, Mary Jane Culver, Elizabeth Dickey, George Finger, Bud Fry, Betty Gallagher, Al & Wilma Giorso, Ed Hase, Kevin Hintsa, Alice Mericourt, Merv Ortez, Marjorie Plant, Bill Pursell, Bob Richmond, Rich & Jean Richmond, Clair & Freida Shackelford, Rich Sintchak (RS), Ruth Stewart (RSt), Peter White, Golden Gate Audubon Society, NoCal Rare Bird Alert, many observers.

CLASSES and EXCURSIONS.

Spring Birding, different, mostly East Bay, spot each Tues., 9:30-12:30; instructor: Alice Hooh. Info: Fremont Adult School, 4700 Calaveras Ave., Fremont, CA 94538; 791-5841; or Alice: 657-0475; or 1st class: Apr. 21, Rm. 20 of the school.

Bay Adventure Seminars, Coastal Parks Assn. in cooperation with SF Bay NWR; field courses in natural history, education, the arts; college credit available. Info: Seminar Coordinator, Bay Adventure Seminars, P O Box 524, Newark 94560; 792-3271.

SF Bay NWR, Sat., Sun. afternoons. Info, reservations (required): 792-0222.

PRBO. Birds, Mammals of Farallon Islands, all-day boat trips, Apr. 30, May 3, 9, 17, 25, 30, June 5, 14, 20; \$35 each day. Spring Birds, Wildflowers, May 1-5, Bill Clow, Connie Calhoun, \$90. Harbor Seals, Shorebirds of Pt. Reyes, May 10, Sarah Allen, \$15. Info: Linda Parker, 4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach, CA 94970; 868-1221.

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

Concord: J. Villarreal; Danville: Mr. & Mrs. R. Galbreath, Clark Huffaker; Lafayette: Kathleen Hevenor, Steven Kirschner; Orinda: Louis & Ethel Lazaroff; Pleasant Hill: Dale Bergstedt, Stan U'Hen, Bern Wilson; San Ramon: Marlene Graumann; Walnut Creek: Jerome Kimmel, William Kreger, C. B. Loeff, Harris McNaughton.

CONSERVATION UPDATE by Ed Hase.

Peripheral Canal Referendum. Latest polls indicate support and opposition about even but geographic differences are overwhelming: 59% in Northern California oppose the canal, 23% undecided; 42% in Southern California favor it, 46% undecided. A 1982 vote could see many undecided votes swing toward opposition. The conservation committee will have information available this fall to help inform our members.

Maricopa Audubon Society, Phoenix, Arizona, has a plan to eliminate need to divert water from Mono Lake, reverse overpumping of Owens Valley groundwater, eliminate need for development of the Peripheral Canal; scrap the Central Arizona Project and sell Arizona's future Colorado River water entitlements to California. Economic and ecological arguments are strong, but political feasibility is uncertain.

Wild/Scenic Rivers. No decision yet in federal court on validity of former Interior Secretary Andrus' inclusion of 5 northern California rivers in the federal Wild & Scenic Rivers System. A bill introduced in Sacramento, AB392, would remove the Eel River from the State Wild & Scenic Rivers System to increase yield to the State Water Project and federal Central Valley Project. Federal participation in Eel River development is prohibited unless Andrus' action is overturned.

Wilderness proposals. Congressman Phillip Burton has introduced HR859 designating certain US Forest Service lands in California as wilderness. Details are not yet known but it probably parallels his extensive wilderness bill in the 96th Congress. US Bureau of Land Management is studying candidate areas for wilderness designation in lands under its jurisdiction and hopes to complete the work by October 31, 1987.

CONSERVATION NOTES by J. P. Hauser.

I recently attended a meeting of the 8-year-old Preserve Area Ridgeland Committee. Speaker Terrence Moore, New Jersey Pinelands Commission executive director, analyzed and described his group's efforts to save the 1.1 million acre Pinelands of central New Jersey. Work was long, hard and controversial, but recently the Interior Dept. under Sec. Andrus, approved their Comprehensive Management Plan and money was appropriated for key parcels. The Pinelands is a diverse, unusual area of rare ecosystems, agriculture, military reservations, towns, villages, and very importantly, an underground supply of 17 trillion gallons of pure water which is sought after by almost everyone. As Mr. Moore noted, about the only difference between the flat Pinelands and our Ridgeland is terrain. Complex problems are mutual and take input from all sectors for resolution. The New Jersey Pinelands Reserve is a first, and is a model for us to follow. If you are interested, I have detailed literature describing their battles, and their creative, innovative answers to complex issues. It is just a matter of time before California has a bottle bill, consistently favored by a wide margin in the polls. Opponents must realize that energy and economic problems and inflation are here to stay. Overpowering statistics show the amount of energy and resources to be saved. A State Court of Appeals upheld a Berkeley law requiring deposits on disposable soft drink and beer containers, a law challenged by retail grocers. The appellate court upheld the lower court, ruling the law has a rational relationship to its state purpose: reducing solid waste and litter.

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: \$20 per year, family \$25, others available; check payable to National Audubon Society, to Membership Chairman, MDAS, P O Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. 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: \$4 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: \$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: Mitchell Canyon.

Access: In Walnut Creek go east on Ygnacio Valley Rd., south on Clayton Rd. 1 mile, right on Mitchell Canyon Rd. 1.6 miles to the parking lot at the end of the road. There is a \$2 parking fee.

At the parking area check surrounding woodland for White-Tailed Kite, woodpeckers, flycatchers, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Northern Oriole, sparrows, etc. Look at the south end of the parking lot for the State Park bulletin board with a park map. Mitchell Canyon Trail, the upper dirt road from near the bulletin board, follows Mitchell Creek which is downhill on the right. The lower road goes to a ranger's residence. Phainopeplas are sometimes among the many species along the trail.

Former Mitchell Creek Reservoir is now filled with hemlock instead of water. Hairy Woodpecker may be in oaks in the vicinity. After the trail crosses the creek, good tangles and riparian growth are along the creek and many species, including Lazuli Bunting, can be found there. White Canyon Trail, a mile from the parking lot, goes uphill to the right but continues instead along Mitchell Creek. Around this junction and beyond watch for Gnatcatchers. Black-Chinned Sparrows are up on the more open chaparral hillsides on the right; Vaux's Swift has been with White-Throateds around rocky bluffs; Golden Eagles may be overhead.

Where the canyon narrows, pines and oaks are along the canyon. Look for Golden Eagle, Downy Woodpecker, Gnatcatcher; goldfinches can include Lawrence's. The canyon broadens out again and soon trees form a canopy over the trail. Gnatcatchers are among many species, some nesting, along here.

From a small meadow at the remains of an old baseball backstop is a beautiful view of Mt. Diablo's peak. A number of birds inhabit the area of the meadow and the slopes above. Just beyond the meadow wander off to the left to a delightful spot beside the creek to eat lunch. Watch for soaring Eagles. The lovely walk to here is 2½ easy miles from the trailhead. From here the trail becomes quite steep as it continues up Mt. Diablo through Deer Flat to Juniper Campground on Summit Road.

Return to White Canyon, turn left. The trail, a bit steep in places, is mostly easy going. The thick stand of oaks gives way to more scattered trees, chaparral; riparian along the creekbed. About a mile from Mitchell Canyon the trail goes out into grasslands and splits, one fork heading west, the other south. Birds along this mile-long stretch include woodpeckers, flycatchers, swallows, wrens, thrasher, bluebird, gnatcatcher (especially the lower part of the trail), vireos, warblers, Lazuli Bunting, towhees, sparrows including Lark, Rufous-Crowned & Sage.

Facilities: latrines at the parking lot. Carry lunch, liquids. It can be warm in the canyon, hot in summer; trails muddy after rains. Wildflowers in April can be spectacular some years. If you meet horsemen, stop off the trail until they pass.

Birds: Vulture, Kite (acc), hawks, Golden Eagle (uncom), Kestrel, Quail, Mourning Dove, Vaux's (rare) & White-Throated Swift, Anna's, Rufous (migrant) & Allen's (sum) Hummingbird, Flicker, Sapsucker (win), Acorn, Hairy (uncom), Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, flycatchers include Ash-Throated, Black Phoebe, Western, Pewee, Olive-Sided, Violet-Green & Cliff Swallow, both jays, Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, House & Bewick's Wren, Mockingbird (uncom), California Thrasher, Robin (win), Varied, Hermit (both win) & Swainson's (sum) Thrush, Western Bluebird, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher (sum), both kinglets (win), Phainopepla (rare, sum), Starling, Hutton's, Solitary (migrant) & Warbling (sum) Vireo, warblers (mostly migrant) include Orange-Crowned, Nashville, Yellow-Rumped (win), Black-Throated Gray, Townsend's, Hermit, Wilson's, Western Meadowlark, Northern Oriole (sum), Brewer's Blackbird, Cowbird (sum), Western Tanager (migrant), Black-Headed Grosbeak & Lazuli Bunting (both sum), Purple & House Finch, Lesser & Lawrence's (uncom) Goldfinch, both towhees, sparrows include Lark, Rufous-Crowned, Sage, Dark-Eyed Junco, Chipping & Black-Chinned (both sum), White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox & Song (all win).

* * * * *

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.

* * * * *

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

May 1981
Vol. 27, No. 10
Next deadline: May 15

Meeting: Thurs., May 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. Carpool TIME is departure time. Carpool EXPENSE: 5¢ per mile per rider suggested; entry fees or tolls shared equally by driver and riders.

Wed., May 6, Mt. Diablo State Park; carpool: El Cerro Blvd. at I-680, Danville, 8:00 a.m. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey (254-0486).

Sat., May 9, 8:15 a.m., 3-Springs Ranch & Glen Ellen; carpool: southwest corner Sun Valley Center, 7:00. Leader: Winnie Orcutt (944-0593).

Sun., May 17, pelagic trip to circle Farallon Islands; meet: 5 am, Emeryville marina. Reservations: see below. Leader: Peter White (229-1714).

Thurs., May 21, 8:45 a.m., east Contra Costa County; carpool: southwest corner Sun Valley Center, 8:00. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).

Sat., May 23, 7:30 a.m., Morgan Territory Rd.; owling prior to trip, 4:00 a.m. Leader: Ed Hase (944-5659). Bring lunch, liquid. Note date change.

Sat., May 30, 8:30-11:00 a.m., Mitchell Canyon wildflower walk. Leader: Joy Meagher (685-5702). Birders can continue up the canyon if they wish.

Sat.-Sun., June 20-21, Yuba Pass & Sierra Valley. Leader: Sally Steller (837-9061). Non-campers make motel reservations now-- see April Quail.

Sat.-Sun., July 11-12, 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 14, 7:30 p.m., home of Elizabeth Dickey, 113 Hillcrest Dr., Orinda; 254-0486. Board meetings are always open to members.

Conservation Mtg: Thurs., May 28, 7:30 p.m., home of Joy Hall, 60 Isabella Ln., Pleasant Hill; 939-0122. Open to all those interested in conservation matters.

BIRDINFORMATION, by Joy Meagher, will be on wildflowers as a preview to the field trip on May 30. Jack Edwards of Lafayette will present a PROGRAM on the Antarctic, highlighting animal and bird life. The trip aboard World Discoverer toured to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula.

On MT. DIABLO are hawks, hummingbirds, woodpeckers, flycatchers, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, warblers, Lazuli Bunting, Rufous-Crowned, Sage and Black-Chinned Sparrows.

At GLEN ELLEN and nearby 3-SPRINGS RANCH we look for Yellow-Breasted Chat, woodpeckers, flycatchers, warblers, etc. From I-80 east of Vallejo go west on SR-37, north via SR-121 and SR-116, follow signs to El Verano, Glen Ellen. Meet in the parking lot just across the bridge near Jack London Lodge.

On and near the FARALLONS are nesting and migrating seabirds, many of which are not often seen from the mainland. Albatross, shearwaters, Tufted Puffin, several species of marine mammals have been sighted on past trips. Reservations: send check, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, for \$20/person, to Treasurer, F.G. Bennett, P. O. Box 5428, Walnut Creek, CA 94596, plus a self-addressed stamped envelope for

details. Space is limited and will be filled on a first come, first served basis. 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 and possibly Blue Grosbeak. Go east on SR-4 to just beyond Oakley to the Short Stop Market parking lot at Cypress Road.

MORGAN TERRITORY ROAD, has warblers, other migrants, summer visitors; possibly Lawrence's Goldfinch. Several OWLS are in the area. For owling and/or daytime trip meet in Bank of America parking lot, corner of Ygnacio Valley and Clayton Rds. Bring lunch, liquids; wear hiking shoes. Note the date change.

In MITCHELL CANYON Joy will help us identify the numerous wildflowers. The canyon, on Mt. Diablo's north side, is gently sloping, with riparian, oak woodland, chaparral, and is rich in birds as well as flowers. Go east on Ygnacio Valley Rd., right on Clayton Rd., right on Mitchell Canyon Rd. to the parking lot at the end. Carry lunch, liquid if you would like to spend more time in the canyon.

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FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

At HAYWARD REGIONAL SHORELINE on March 11 it was calm, hazy for a while in the morning but otherwise clear with a few scattered clouds, temperature was a bit too warm by noon. Found by the 9 members were White-Fronted Goose, ♂ European Wigeon, and ♀ Merlin among these 78 species seen or heard:

Eared & Nest Grebe, Dbl-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, White-Fronted Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-Winged & Cinnamon Teal, European & Amer Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Canvasback, Greater & Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, White-Winged & Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, Merlin, Amer Kestrel, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Black Turnstone, Long-Billed Curlew, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Short-Billed & Long Billed Dowitcher, West Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Amer Avocet, Black-Necked Stilt, Glaucous-Winged, West, Ring-Billed & Bonaparte's Gull, Forster's & Caspian Tern, Rock & Mourning Dove, hummingbird sp, Com Flicker, Black & Say's Phoebe, Horned Lark, Barn Swallow, Bushtit, Bewick's Wren, Mockingbird, Amer Robin, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, "Audubon's" Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, House Finch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Savannah, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

On March 26 at LAKE LAGUNITAS it was cold and windy with scattered clouds. Our 16 members saw several Ring-Necked Ducks and a Peregrine Falcon, heard but could not find a Pileated Woodpecker, among these 52 species seen or heard:

Pied-Billed Grebe, Dbl-Crested Cormorant, Mallard, Ring-Necked Duck, Com Golden-eye, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed & Red-Shouldered Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Amer Coot, Calif Gull, Rock Dove, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Com Flicker, Pileated & Acorn Woodpecker, "Red-Breasted" Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Violet-Green, Tree, Rough-winged & Barn Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Com Raven, Com Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Brown Creeper, Winter & Bewick's Wren, Amer Robin, Hermit Thrush, West Bluebird, Golden-Crowned & Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Hutton's & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned & Townsend's Warbler, Purple & House Finch, Pine Siskin, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed Junco, Song Sparrow.

The trip to UPPER SAN LEANDRO RESERVOIR on March 28 was on a clear, warm day with very light breezes. Found by the 18 members and guests were Wood Ducks (2♂, 1♀) and a Black-Throated Gray Warbler among these 54 species seen or heard:

Pied-Billed Grebe, Dbl-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Mallard, Wood & Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Cooper's & Red-Tailed Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Amer Coot, Spotted Sandpiper, gull sp, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Rock & Mourning Dove, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Com Flicker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Com Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Brown Creeper, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, Calif Thrasher, Amer Robin, Hermit Thrush, West Bluebird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Starling, Hutton's & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, "Myrtle", "Audubon's" & Black-Throated Gray Warbler, West Meadowlark, "Bullock's" Oriole, Purple Finch, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

At BLACK DIAMOND MINES PARK on April 8 it was clear and warm but cold and breezy in exposed areas. Joanne Dean's interpretive talk and the mine tour she led were most

interesting. Near the mine entrance is a patch of White Shooting Star, a flower species previously unknown to most of us. The 17 members found a Prairie Falcon and several Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers among the following 48 species seen or heard:

Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Rook & Mourning Dove, White-Throated Swift, Anna's, Rufous & Allen's Hummingbird, Com Flicker, Acorn, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Violet-Green, Tree & Barn Swallow, Scrub Jay, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, Calif Thrasher, Amer Robin, West Bluebird, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Solitary Vireo, 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, Lark Sparrow, Dark-Eyed Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Lincoln's Sparrow.

Interior Secretary JAMES WATT recently conceded that his proposed cuts in the Park Service budget are aimed at more than saving money. "We will use the budget system to be the excuse to make major policy decisions," he declared. He is considering the possibility of getting rid of U.S. urban parks - such as GGNRA - by turning them over to state and local governments. He wants park concessionaires to play a larger role in running national parks. He plans to halt growth of the park system; and hopes to prune it back somewhat but that takes consent of Congress. The idea of deleting urban parks has already sparked vehement protest. These areas bring parks to people, especially in inner cities where many cannot afford trips elsewhere. Write, phone or visit your representative and senators and protest Watt's attempt to disguise proposals for changes in park policy as efforts to promote economy.

And an aide says Watt is the best friend the environmental community ever had!!!!!!

EVERYTHING IS CONNECTED TO EVERYTHING ELSE, says an old maxim, but a connection between Ayatollah Khomeini and this spring's bird nests may seem farfetched. Yet a connection is there for the sharp-eyed birders who have found bits of yellow in nests being built. Pieces of ribbon and yarn that welcomed the returned hostages are being recycled by conservation-wise birds.

HARRY ADAMSON, who was hospitalized with serious illness, is at home and doing well but faces lengthy recuperation. Send cards and notes of encouragement to 995 Carol Ln., Lafayette 94549. We send collective wishes for speedy recovery, Harry.

DON'T FIGHT BLINDLY. Speaking at the 19th annual Missouri Fish & Wildlife Conference in February, M. Rupert Cutler, NAS senior vice president for programs & chapter relations, had advice for professional wildlifers that is equally appropriate for other conservationists. He warned that human population is surely going to grow and increase pressure for using lands in ways impacting on wildlife. He warned not to just dig in your heels and fight change but to broaden your skills, adopt a more open-minded attitude toward views of others, and "look for positive opportunities to enhance fish and wildlife values."

"We must learn to be full partners in the land and resource use planning process," he declared. "When change is inevitable, we can help direct its course, minimize its adverse impacts, and occasionally turn its momentum to the advantage of fish and wildlife if we are full partners at the planning table."

SUMMER VACATION IDEA. Oregon chapters of NAS offer tours this spring and summer, including white-water trips on the Rogue River and family-oriented camping trips to the Cascade Mountains. Learn about the natural history of the Northwest. Information: Kalmiopsis Audubon Society, P. O. Box 222, Wedderburn, OR 97491.

ACID RAIN blown by polluted winds across the border is becoming an extremely sore point among Canadians. In March the province of Ontario filed legal papers asking the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to reject proposed relaxation of emission standards for 18 plants in central midwest states. Canada's Environment Minister John Roberts says Canada is becoming "increasingly impatient" with Washington's inaction on the issue and adds that he is concerned by signs that "the environment is not a high order of priority" for the Reagan administration.

OBSERVATIONS, March 11-April 14. (Also see field trip reports.)

Common Loon, Clifton Court Forebay (CCF), Mar. 12--BR. Red-Throated Loon, CCF, Mar. 12--BR. Red-Necked Grebe, in breeding plumage, 2, Bodega Bay, Mar. 24--JR, et al; 1 there, Apr. 11--H&JG, FB. Cattle Egret, Arcata Bottoms, Humboldt Co., Apr. 5--GF. LEAST BITTERN, Lake Merced, S. F., Mar. 7-22--m.ob.

"Common" Teal, South Lake, Golden Gate Pk., Apr. 4--thru period--M&RH, et al. Blue-Winged Teal, 2♂, Lake Dalwigk, Vallejo, Mar. 22-27--JH, EH, GT, et al. Wood Duck, 7♂, 5♀, Elk Glen Lake, Golden Gate Pk., Mar. 17--JR, et al; 2♂, 1♀, CCF, Apr. 4--BR. Black Scoter, Bodega Head, Apr. 11--FB, H&JG. Hooded Merganser, 3♀, 5-Brooks Pond, Pt Reyes, thru Mar. 28--RBA; ♀, Green Valley Rd. pond, Danville, Mar. 21-28--JB, et al. Red-Shouldered Hawk, 2, Curry Creek Pk, Mar. 22--BC, JH, EH, LL, TM, GT. Rough-Legged Hawk, up to 3, CCF, thru Mar. 28--BR; 3, Woodbridge Rd., San Joaquin Co., Mar. 11--BM, DE; 1, over San Ramon, Mar. 14--KH. Ferruginous Hawk, up to 3 (1 dark-phase), CCF area, thru Mar. 15--BR. Golden Eagle, Mitchell Cyn, Apr. 7--GF; 2 ad, over her Walnut Creek home, Apr. 14--MP. BALD EAGLE, ad, CCF, Mar. 15--BR. Osprey, CCF, Mar. 15--BR.

BLACK RAIL, near Richmond Sanitary Landfill, Mar. 7, & 4, near Pittsburg, Mar. 15--BC, JH, EH, GT. Semipalmated Plover, 12, Martinez Reg. Shoreline, Mar. 11--WO, BJ, MO. Mountain Plover, up to 9, CCF, thru Mar. 15--BR. Golden Plover, 6, Spaletta Ranch, Pt Reyes, thru Mar. 29--RBA. Long-Billed Curlew, up to 375 (Mar. 13), near his San Ramon home, thru period--KH, et al. Whimbrel, up to 12, near his San Ramon home, thru period--KH, et al. SOLITARY SANDPIPER, pond off Vasco Rd., east C.C.Co., Apr. 7--BR, DS. Lesser Yellowlegs, near Goodyear & Lake Herman Rds., Solano Co., Mar. 31--JR. Rook Sandpiper, 2, Bodega Head, Mar. 24--JR, et al. BLACK-HEADED GULL, Stockton sewer ponds, thru Apr. 3--RBA. LITTLE GULL, Stockton sewer ponds, thru Mar. 24--RBA.

Burrowing Owl, near his San Ramon home, thru period--KH, et al; up to 5, CCF area, thru peiod--BR. Long-Eared Owl, Vasco Rd., Mar. 17--DS. Short-Eared Owl, 4, near his San Ramon home, thru period--KH, et al; Mallard Island, Mar. 15--BC, JH, EH, GT. Poor-Will, near Devil's Elbow, Mt. Diablo State Pk., Apr. 5--BR.

Calliope Hummingbird, Morgan Territory Rd., Apr. 14--BR. Pileated Woodpecker, Lake Lagunitas, Apr. 7--JR, et al. Bank Swallow, Lake Merced, S. F., Mar. 17--JR; 50+, Año Nuevo State Res., Apr. 12--BR, RS. Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Mitchell Cyn, Apr. 7--GF. Phainopepla, Black Diamond Mines Pk., mid-Mar.--BD; Mitchell Cyn, Mar. 7--GF.

Tricolored Blackbird, up to 370, Armstrong Rd., east C.C.Co., Mar. 28 thru period--BR. Hooded Oriole, returned to her Alamo garden, Mar. 21--JR; Pleasant Hill garden, Mar. 27--JH; Lafayette garden, Apr. 4--MM; Pl Hill garden, Apr. 11--JM. "Bullock's" Oriole, returned near his Orinda home, Mar. 17--RS. Great-Tailed Grackle, pair, still at Aquatic Pk., S. F., at least thru Apr. 5--m.ob. Sage Sparrow, Mitchell Cyn, Apr. 7--GF. Vesper Sparrow, Camino Vaqueros Rd., east C.C.Co., late Jan.--DS. "Slate-Colored" Juncoc, Kellogg Valley off Vasco Rd., Apr. 1--BR, DS.

OBSERVERS: Florence Bennett, Joe Broyles, Bill Chilson, Bob Doyle, Doris Eckstrom, Jimm Edger, George Finger, Joy Hall, Ed Hase, Margaret & Ralph Hilton, Beatrice Judkins, Linda LaPointe, Joy Meagher, Molly Monheit, Tim Millar, Bob McCarthy, Marilyn O'Connor, Winnie Orcutt, Marjorie Plant, Elane Rehr, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Don Schmoldt, Rich Sintchak, Rodney Temples, Greg Thornbury, NoCal Rare Bird Alert, many observers.

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THANK YOU one and all who contributed to the Mono Lake preservation fund! (See the February issue.) MDAS surpassed its goal of \$2000 with over \$2250 received by the end of March and more still arriving. Thanks also to the dedicated group of organizers and callers who helped to get out the word!!! Let Mono Lake Live!

* * * * *

I am very sad to inform you of the sudden, unexpected death of KITTY SOREM on March 24. We extend our deepest sympathy to Stan and to his family.

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CLASSES and EXCURSIONS:

PRBO. Owls of Carmel Valley, May 15-17, Bill Clow, \$60. Malheur - Great Basin Birding, May 29-June 1, Stephen Laymon, \$90. Owls of No. Calif., May 29-31, Bill Clow, \$60. Social Behavior of Birds, June 5-7, Walt Koenig, \$45. Sierra Bird Song, June 5-7, Bob Stewart, \$50. Breeding Birds of No. Calif., June 7-13, Bill Clow, \$125. Info: Linda Parker, 4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach, CA 94970; 868-1221.

* * * * *

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: Carol Kiplinger, Karen Luse, Mrs. McCord, B. L. Shaffer; Lafayette: Elizabeth Jung, Margie Singler Miura, Edward M. Read & family, Pamela A. Sibley, Harriette Sparling; Martinez: Dianne L. & David P. Gross; Pacheco: Marghi Hagen; Pleasant Hill: Mr. & Mrs. Charles Burnham, Ernest C. Keast, Evarista F. Tyler; Pleasanton: Mr. & Mrs. F. S. Eby & family; Walnut Creek: Helen & Gerald Tarvin.

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CONSERVATION UPDATE by Ed Hase.

The State Parks and Recreation Commission has urged the legislature to spend Prop 1 bond money to add 1100 acres to Mt. Diablo State Park on the northeast side of the mountain between Marsh Creek and Morgan Territory.

The California Resources Agency is seeking support for the 300-mile, \$80 million Sacramento River Parkway greenbelt. The state wants to acquire narrow bands of riverside wildlife habitat through acquisition or easements, develop access sites for fishermen and boaters, provide hiking, bicycling trails. Farmers along the river oppose it, fearing loss of their land and problems involving users of the parkway, but supporters see it as a way to protect riparian land, 4500 acres of which remain.

Two proposed developments in our county could have substantial impact on conservation of natural resources and open space preservation efforts. Your Conservation Committee has participated in hearings to assure that decision-makers are aware of the implications. Among other undesirable effects, the Keller Ranch proposal would revive the practice of building on highly visible ridgelands and could set a precedent. The development was turned down by the Board of Supervisors on April 7. The other proposal, near Oakley, may impact tidal wetlands believed to contain rare and endangered Black Rails. Our Committee requested changes in the environmental report to assure full consideration and protection of rails if found in the project area.

An important battle was won when the State Supreme Court ruled that farmland preservation contracts can be cancelled only in extraordinary and unforeseen circumstances. Counties and cities can no longer routinely cancel contracts just to allow development. Property owners now must wait up to 10 years for a contract to expire.

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CONSERVATION NOTES by J. P. Hauser.

At the present rate, according to Global 2000 Report, by year 2000 some 40% of the remaining forest cover in less developed countries will be gone, most of the staggering loss in, biologically, the richest part of our planet: humid tropical forests of Africa, Asia and South America. Including these areas, it is estimated that half a million to 2 million plant and animal species could be extinguished by 2000.

The Global 2000 Report, set in motion 3 years ago by President Carter, is an attempt to make long-term quantitative projections as to how the world can cope with grave population, natural resource, and environmental trends that are threatening the ability of our planet to sustain life as we have known it.

One of the most troubling of the Report's findings is the negative effect of rapid population growth and poverty on producing renewable natural resources such as croplands, forests, fisheries. At present 800 million people live in abject poverty, their lives running over with ill health, hopelessness and hunger. The conclusions do not predict what will occur, but project what could occur if we do not respond.

If there was doubt before, there should be little doubt now-- the nations of the world, developed, semi-developed, or under-developed alike, must act in concert to control population growth and to protect the earth's resources and environment before the trends depicted in Global 2000 Report become realities.

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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: \$20 per year, family \$25, others available; check payable to National Audubon Society, to Membership Chairman, MDAS, P O Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. 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: \$4 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: \$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: Caswell Memorial State Park -- Swainson's Hawk.

Access: Go south on I-680, east via I-580, I-205 and SR-120 through Manteca, south on SR-99 to Austin Rd., south on Austin Rd. to the park which combines a beautiful stand of Valley Oaks, lush riparian growth, and surrounding open fields. Entrance fee: \$2.00. Follow signs to the parking area at the south end of the picnic area.

Oak Forest Nature Trail, starting behind the interpretive display near the southwest end of the parking area, wanders through the trees and riparian beside the Stanislaus River. Walk to and around the loop (see the park pamphlet). Look for hawks, woodpeckers, swallows (including Bank) over the water, wrens, thrasher, vireos, warblers, sparrows along the way.

Another trail, starting 100 feet north of the display shelter, heads west toward, but stops well short of, a heronry. Side trails, to the left into oak forest, are productive also. Along these trails are hawks including Swainson's (watch for them over the trees or out over the field to the north), shorebirds may fly over, hummingbirds, woodpeckers, magpie, nuthatch, wrens, thrasher, thrushes, bluebird, vireos, warblers, blackbirds, tanager, grosbeak, towhees, sparrows.

The picnic area and campground are also worth checking, as is the vegetation along the road between them

Facilities: good restrooms, picnic tables, stoves, water; swimming beach in picnic area; pleasant camp sites. Best birding: Spring, especially late April-early May; summers quite warm. Park pamphlet has a sketch map of the trails. Spring runoff may flood the park--phone (209) 599-3810 to inquire about conditions. Bring insect repellent.

Birds include Great Blue & Green Heron, few ducks, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, accipiters, Red-Tailed, Red-Shouldered (uncom), Swainson's (sum) & Marsh Hawk, Kestrel, Calif Quail, Pheasant, Coot, some shorebirds include Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover (migrant), Curlew (win), Whimbrel (rare), Greater Yellowlegs (migrant & win), Mourning Dove, a few owls, Anna's Hummingbird, Kingfisher, several woodpeckers, Western Kingbird (sum), Ash-Throated Flycatcher (sum), Black Phoebe, Pewee (uncom), all 6 swallows (sum), Scrub Jay, Yellow-Billed Magpie, Crow, Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, House (sum) & Bewick's Wren, Mockingbird, Calif Thrasher, Robin, Hermit Thrush (win), Western Bluebird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet (win), Hutton's, Solitary & Warbling (both migrant) Vireo, warblers (mostly migrant) include Orange-Crowned (win), Yellow, Yellow-Rumped (win), Black-Throated Gray, Townsend's, MacGillivray's, Yellowthroat & Wilson's, Western Meadowlark, blackbirds, Northern Oriole (sum), Cowbird, Western Tanager (migrant), Black-Headed Grosbeak (sum), House Finch, both goldfinches, both towhees, sparrows include Savannah, Dark-Eyed Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox & Lincoln's (all, win), Song. The park "birdlist" is dreadfully inadequate!

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 the 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.

OFFICERS for 1981-82 are: president: Jimm Edgar; vice-president, programs, John Davis; vice-president, conservation: Ed Hase; secretary: Winnie Young; treasurer: Florence Bennett. We hope you will accept if asked to serve with a committee. Call Jimm Edgar (283-3507) if there is an area in which you have a particular interest.

"ORPHAN" FAWNS are often picked up by well-meaning people while the mother is away feeding. Unless you know she is dead, leave the baby where it has been hidden by the doe. If touched by people, a fawn will not be abandoned by its mother so if someone has picked up an animal return it the same day to where it was taken. Deer raised by humans are unafraid of people and their pets, thus cannot be returned to the wild. Do our wildlife a favor-- enjoy them, but leave them wild and free.

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 Diokey
113 Hillcrest Dr.
Orinda, CA 94563
phone: 254-0486

June 1981
Vol. 27, No. 11
Next deadline: June 12

Meeting: Thurs., June 4, 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. Carpool TIME is departure time. Carpool EXPENSE: 5¢ per mile per rider suggested; entry fees or tolls shared equally by driver and riders.

Sat., June 6, 9:30 a.m., Audubon Canyon Ranch; carpool: El Nido at Acalanes Rd. just north of Fwy 24, Orinda, 8:00. Leader: Norah Bain (254-4516).

Wed., June 10, 8:30 a.m., Briones Regional Park (west). Leader: Merv Ortez (283-3072).

Thurs., June 18, Chabot Regional Park; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. at Fwy 24, 8:15 (only meeting place for trip). Leader: Jimm Edgar (283-3510).

Sat.-Sun., June 20-21, Yuba Pass & Sierra Valley. Leader: Sally Steller (837-9061). Make motel reservations immediately. Camping: Yuba Pass. Call leader if going so rides and riders can be coordinated.

Sat.-Sun., July 11-12, Yosemite. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843). Non-campers make motel reservations now -- see May Quail.

Board Meeting: Thurs., June 11, 7:30 p.m., home of Sally Steller, 591 Fulton Way, Danville; 837-9061. Outgoing and incoming officers requested to attend.

Conservation Mtg: Thurs., June 25, 7:30 p.m., home of Joy Hall, 60 Isabella Ln., Pleasant Hill; 939-0122. Open to all those interested in conservation matters.

The POTLUCK DINNER is our last formal meeting of the year. Bring dishes, utensils, serving spoon, and food for 4 times the number in your family attending. Coffee, tea, punch provided; milk drinkers bring your own. Call Winnie Young, (707)-745-4134, or Elizabeth Diokey, 254-0486, by June 1 as to what you wish to bring and how many are coming. The PROGRAM will be slides by members. Please limit your 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.

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AUDUBON CANYON RANCH offers great views of nesting herons and egrets. After lunch we will walk trails at the Ranch and/or the area. From US-101 north of the Golden Gate Bridge follow SR-1 from Mill Valley thru Stinson Beach to the wide turnout across from the Ranch gate. Weather is variable, wear layered clothing.

BRIONES PARK has a wide variety of woodland birds, many of them 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 to the last parking lot.

At CHABOT PARK we will be exploring a new area for us and we hope to find a number of warblers and other woodland species. The habitat is similar to that in Redwood Regional Park. Note that there is no meeting place scheduled at the park.

YUBA PASS WEEKEND. Meet at 8:30 a.m. Sat., 8:00 Sun., at Yuba Pass (SR-49, between Sierra City and Sierraville) in the parking lot, south side of the road. We bird Saturday morning at Yuba Pass, afternoon at nearby Clark's Station, for mountain birds (Mountain Quail, White-Headed & Black-Backed 3-Toed Woodpeckers, Townsend's Solitaire, Evening Grosbeak, Red Crossbill). Sunday we drop down to Sierra Valley

for sagebrush species (Sage Thrasher, Brewer's & Vesper Sparrows) and marsh birds (Wilson's Phalarope, Black Tern). Motel info in April Quail. Camping: Yuba Pass.

* * * * *

FIELD TRIP REPORTS.

The trip to IAS TRAMPAS PARK on April 16 was on a clear, warm day with very light wind. Although Lazuli Bunting was among the many singing birds, the trip was a bit early for most returning species. The 14 members found these 54 species:

Turkey Vulture, accipiter sp, Red-Tailed Hawk, Calif Quail, Rook & Mourning Dove, White-Throated Swift, Anna's, Rufous & Allen's Hummingbird, Com Flicker, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Ash-Throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, West Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Violet-Green, Tree & Cliff Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Com Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Wrentit, House & Bewick's Wren, Calif Thrasher, Amer Robin, West Bluebird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Starling, Hutton's, Solitary & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Townsend's & Wilson's Warbler, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged Blackbird, "Bullock's" Oriole, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Purple & House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Dark-Eyed Junco, Chipping & Golden-Crowned Sparrow.

At LAKE MERCED, FT. FUNSTON and GOLDEN GATE PARK on April 22 the weather was clear and warm with mostly light wind but it was cool and windy along the ocean. The 12 members and guests saw many Bank Swallows at the nesting colony at Ft. Funston and Black Sooters offshore there, 2 Oystercatchers at the Cliff House, a pair of Wood Ducks at Elk Glen Lake in Golden Gate Park among these 68 species seen or heard:

Com, Arctic & Red-Throated Loon, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Wood Duck, White-Winged, Surf & Black Sooter, Ruddy Duck, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Amer Coot, Black Oystercatcher, Ruddy & Black Turnstone, Long-Billed Curlew, Willet, Sanderling, peep sp, Glaucous-Winged, West, Calif & Ring-Billed Gull, Forster's & Caspian Tern, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Rook & Mourning Dove, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Downy Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Olive-Sided Flycatcher, Violet-Green, Tree, Bank, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Pygmy Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Bewick's & Marsh Wren, Amer Robin, Starling, Orange-Crowned & "Audubon's" Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, House Sparrow, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, Purple & House Finch, Amer Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed Junco, White-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

The MINES ROAD-DEL PUERTO CANYON trip^{April 25} was sensational. The weather was clear and cool in the morning, overcast and cold with a few sprinkles in the afternoon, light wind became stronger by mid-morning. The 26 members saw Wood Ducks, Golden Eagles, 2 Prairie Falcons, Turkeys, SOLITARY SANDPIPER, Vaux's Swifts, Lewis' Woodpeckers, MacGillivray's Warbler, Yellow-Breasted Chat, Lawrence's Goldfinches, and heard Roadrunner and Pygmy Owl among these 106 species seen or heard:

West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Mallard, Wood Duck, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Cooper's & Red-Tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Wild Turkey, Amer Coot, Killdeer, SOLITARY SANDPIPER, Bonaparte's Gull, Forster's & Caspian Tern, Rook & Mourning Dove, Roadrunner, Barn, Great Horned & Pygmy Owl, Vaux's & White-Throated Swift, Anna's & selasphorus sp Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Acorn & Lewis' Woodpecker, "Red-Naped" Sapsucker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, West Kingbird, Ash-Throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, West Wood Pewee, Horned Lark, Violet-Green, Tree, Rough-Winged, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Yellow-Billed Magpie, Com Raven, Com Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, House, Bewick's, Canyon & Rook Wren, Mockingbird, Calif Thrasher, Amer Robin, Hermit Thrush, West Bluebird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Phainopepla, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Hutton's, Solitary & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Yellow, "Audubon's", Black-Throated Gray & MacGillivray's Warbler, Yellow-Breasted Chat, 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, Savannah, Lark & Rufous-Crowned Sparrow, Dark-Eyed Junco, Chipping, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Lincoln's Sparrow. (No Song Sparrows were seen or heard anywhere!)

At CASWELL MEMORIAL STATE PARK it was windy with heavy clouds and some sprinkles Saturday afternoon but clear on Sunday. The three members saw both light and dark phase Swainson's Hawks and a number of woodland birds but several expected species were not present. The following 51 species were seen or heard:

Great Blue Heron, Mallard, Cinnamon Teal, Red-Tailed, Red-Shouldered & Swainson's Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Amer Coot, Least Sandpiper, Long-Billed Dowitcher, Amer Avocet, Black-Necked Stilt, Mourning Dove, Barn Owl, Com Flicker, Acorn, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, West Kingbird, Ash-Throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Olive-Sided Flycatcher, Tree, Rough-Winged & Barn Swallow, Scrub Jay, Yellow-Billed Magpie, Com Crow, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, House Wren, Calif Thrasher, Amer Robin, Starling, "Audubon's" Warbler, House Sparrow, Red-Winged Blackbird, "Bullock's" Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, Black-Headed Grosbeak, House Finch, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

The trip to MT. DIABLO STATE PARK on May 6 was on a clear, pleasant day with variable wind. The 11 members found Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, MacGillivray's Warbler and Green-Tailed Towhee but no Black-Chinned Sparrows among these 52 species:

Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Vaux's & White-Throated Swift, Anna's & selasphorus sp Hummingbird, Com Flicker, Acorn & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Ash-Throated, empidonax sp & Olive-Sided Flycatcher, Violet-Green & Cliff Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, House & Bewick's Wren, Calif Thrasher, Amer Robin, Swainson's Thrush, West Bluebird, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, Hutton's & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Townsend's, Hermit & MacGillivray's Warbler, Red-Winged Blackbird, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, GREEN-TAILED, Rufous-Sided & Brown TOWHEE, Lark, Rufous-Crowned & Sage Sparrow, Dark-Eyed Junco, Chipping & Golden-Crowned Sparrow.

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Is there a volunteer for ALUMINUM CHAIRMAN? With our funds from NAS down again we feel that recycling aluminum is a painless way to aid our treasury. All we need: members to rinse and smash all-aluminum cans (no bimetal) and bring them to meetings; a chairman to accept them, turn them in and send the money to our treasurer.

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A drive to OUST Interior Secretary JAMES WATT was launched in April by the Sierra Club and other environmental groups. Intent of the campaign to collect a million signatures to present to Congress is to put pressure on congressmen and President Reagan to get rid of him. The Sierra Club denounced Watt as a "front man for the exploiters." Former State Senator Peter Behr charged that Watt is trying to put public lands "on the auction block for private profit." Michael McCloskey, of the Sierra Club, said Watt sees no harm in letting oil developers invade wildlife refuges and has an "antipathy" to urban parks. Charles Warren, chairman of President Carter's Council on Environmental Quality and now a consultant here, said the campaign will portray Watt as someone committed to "rape, ravage and ruin of national resources," adding that Watt "wants to turn national parks into parking lots."

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A SPECIAL CALIFORNIA CONDOR ISSUE of Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory Newsletter includes excellent info from varied viewpoints. Addressing the question of whether the Condor Recovery Program should be carried out are S. Dillon Ripley, Frank Pitelka, Telford Work and Rich Stallcup; John Ogden and Noel Snyder discuss details of the program while Dave DeSante offers details and suggestions. Copies are available for \$1.00 from PRBO, 4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach, CA 94970.

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The MONO LAKE COMMITTEE again has an exciting SCHEDULE of summer activities: free trips at the lake, Sat. & Sun., June 13-Sept. 13; free slide shows at the Visitor's Center in Lee Vining, Fri. & Sat. nights, June 12-Sept. 12; Bucket Walk Sept. 6; Bike-a-Thon Sept. 1-6, L.A. to Mono. Weekend field courses will be offered in the Mono area in Limnology, Entomology, Botany, Natural History of the Mono Basin, \$40 each; info: Mono Basin Research Group, P O Box 66, Lee Vining, CA 93541; (714) 647-6483 or Davis Audubon Society, (916) 756-0509. Your editor has info on activities.

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CLASSES and EXCURSIONS.

PRBO. Riverland Birds From a Canoe, June 26-28, Stephen Laymon, \$65. Birds of the High Sierra, June 29-July 3, Bob Stewart, \$100. Info: Linda Parker, 4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach, CA 94970; 868-1221.

Nature Expeditions International, trips worldwide for adventure, learning, vacation. Summer/fall, 1981, catalogue: NEI, 599 College Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306; 494-6572.

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

Alamo: John Adams; Antioch: Ruth Chesley; Berkeley: R. Bruns; Concord: Mrs. L. M. Bish, H. Clark Falls, Sharon Harrison, Gary Jackson, James Lesniak, Teder Petersen, Lee Pratt, Linda Riggle, Tom & Doreen Uphouse; Danville: Steve & Kathy Cummings, R. Dame Kinsley; Lafayette: Kem Akol, S. Cavalier, John Coleman, S. C. Haughton, Practice Development Associates, Gretchen Rupp, Geoffrey Tickton; Martinez: the Fick family, M. Nordlund, M. Yerington; Moraga: Carol Tessler; Orinda: Roselynd Largman, Marilyn Murphy; Pleasant Hill: Margie Cornell, Jim Cunnison, Joan Olson; San Francisco: Tim Millar; San Ramon: Mary Allen; Walnut Creek: V. S. Barkelew, D. Flowerday, Patricia Johnsen, Dorothy Ligda, Carol Lutz, Linda MacDannald, George D. Mallory, DDS, Donald McGilley, Paul Orleman, Phyllis Roff, Mr. & Mrs. Michael J. Sampson, Karen Schirmer, Joanne Taylor, Gordon Tioch, Stephanie Van Horn, Edward Woodman.

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OBSERVATIONS, April 15-May 16. (Also see field trip reports.)

Green Heron, Dutch Slough Rd., & Piper Slough (Bethel Island), Apr. 26--BR, RS; over his Lafayette home, Apr. 30--JIE; Mt. View Sanitary Dist., May 1--BR; behind her Walnut Creek apartment, May 3--FB; Stockton sewer ponds, May 12--H&JG, FB. Red-Shouldered Hawk, 2, over their Lafayette home, Apr. 20--J&JE. Zone-Tailed Hawks do exist! The Richmonds finally saw them in southeast Arizona in early May.

Red Knot (breeding plumage), 25, Piper Slough, Apr. 26--BR, RS; 5, Doran Pk., Bodega Bay, Apr. 29--H&JG; Mt. View San, May 1--BR. Red Phalarope, many offshore, Drake's Beach, Pt Reyes, May 10--RBA. Probable Wilson's Phalarope, ♂, Mt. View San, May 1--BR. Northern Phalarope, Doran Pk, Apr. 29--H&JG.

Glaucous-Winged Gull, 3rd-year, Piper Slough, Apr. 26--BR, RS. Herring Gull, 1st-year, Clifton Court Forebay (CCF), Apr. 18 & May 3--BR. LITTLE GULL, now in full breeding plumage, Stockton sewer ponds, Apr. 30--BR, DS. Least Tern, at least 6, returned Alameda South Shore, early May--RBA. Black Tern, 12, Stockton sewer ponds, May 12--FB, H&JG.

Poor-Will, Blue Oak, Mt. Diablo SP, May 2--BR. BLACK SWIFT, 1-680 at El Cerro Blvd, May 1--BR. Vaux's Swift, CCF, Apr. 26--BR, RS; 10, near Barbeque Terrace, Mt. Diablo SP, Apr. 28--JR, ED, et al. Black-Chinned Hummingbird, ♂, CCF, & pair, Dutch Slough Rd., Apr. 26-May 3--BR, RS. Costa's Hummingbird, returned Del Puerto Cyn Rd., Stanislaus Co., Apr. 26--RBA. Calliope Hummingbird, Briones Pk, May 1--BR.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER, over his Lafayette home, May 3--LF. Hammond's Flycatcher, Toyon, Mt. Diablo SP, May 9--BR. House Wren, up to 12, Deer Flat, Mt. Diablo SP, May 2-10--BR. Purple Martin, 2, Bodega Bay, Apr. 29--H&JG. California Thrasher out of habitat, Dutch Slough Rd., Apr. 26--BR. SAGE THRASHER, Armstrong Rd., east C.C.Co., Apr. 28--BR. Possible Townsend's Solitaire, Glen Ellen, May 9--JK, MP. Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, 4, Oak Knoll, Mt. Diablo SP, Apr. 28--JR, ED, et al; 2 there, May 9--BR; 3, Deer Flat, May 2-10--BR.

Phainopepla, ♂, Marsh Creek Rd., Apr. 20--FB, H&JG. MacGillivray's Warbler, Rock City, Mt. Diablo SP, May 2--BR; Toyon, May 9--BR. Yellow-Breasted Chat, 1-2, Mitchell Cyn, Apr. 28--JMS, et al; 3, Piper Slough, May 3--BR. Tricolored Blackbird, 3♂, 2♀, Heather Farms, Apr. 17--FS; ♂, CCF, Apr. 18-26--BR. Great-Tailed Grackle, still at Aquatic Pk, San Francisco, thru period--m.ob.

Blue Grosbeak, ♂, Piper Slough, May 3--BR; 2♂, ♀, CCF, May 16--BR. Lawrence's Goldfinch, Mitchell Cyn, May 10--RSt, SS. GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE, Toyon & at Pioneer turn-off, Mt. Diablo SP, May 6-10--JIE, BR, et al. Grasshopper Sparrow, 5, Las Trampas Pk, May 1--BR. Sage Sparrow, 19, Vasco Rd. area, Apr. 16--BR, DS. Black-Chinned Sparrow, Rock City, Apr. 28--JR, ED, et al; up to 6 there thru May 10--BR. White-Crowned X Golden-Crowned Sparrow hybrid, their Lafayette garden, Apr. 19--GMM; his Lafayette garden, Apr. 23-27--LF.

OBSERVERS: Florence Bennett, Elizabeth Dickey, Jimm & Joan Edgar, Lynn Farrar, Helen & Jerry Gentile, Jackie Knisley, George & Molly Monheit, Marjorie Plant, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Fred Safier, Jean-Marie Spoelman, Rich Sintchak, Don Schmoldt, Rob Steller, Sally Steller, NoCal Rare Bird Alert, many observers.

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A U.C. Davis Extension RIPARIAN CONFERENCE in Davis Sept. 17-19 will include a photo contest. Info: contact Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486. Details in the summer issue,

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The first meeting of the BAY AREA ENERGY ADVISORY COUNCIL, being formed to formulate an Audubon energy strategy, will be at the South Bay NWR on July 18, 9-noon. If interested, contact your editor or Ed Hase, 944-5659.

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A personal THANK YOU from Linda LaPointe, MDAS Mono Lake Representative, to all who responded so generously to the Save Mono Lake Campaign. The final total passed \$2400 from over 210 individuals and/or families who supported the cause. Your donations, coupled with the legal efforts underway, will in effect do much to return the crucial acre-feet of water back to the endangered Mono Lake system.

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CONSERVATION UPDATE by Ed Hase.

The Nature Conservancy has begun a \$30 million Plan to buy development-threatened land. The Goodhill Foundation of New York challenged TNC to raise \$20 million over 3 years, which they did, and the Foundation awarded them an additional \$10 million. The purchase list of 50 unique ecotypes in 21 states includes bunch grass areas, tule marsh, vernal pools in the Central Valley plus areas in southern California.

The Administration says existing public land law is fine, only implementation needs changing. Interior Secretary James Watt and BLM officials are discussing ways to release non-wilderness lands the agency deems not suited for wilderness in its reviews. Possible alternatives are an automatic Congressional release if wilderness legislation is not considered quickly, or release by the executive branch after lands are studied. Watt also wants Congress to shift \$105 million from the Land & Water Conservation Fund, used for park land purchase, for repairs in existing parks.

A major Senate battle is expected over S-842 (Hayakawa) to establish long-term "release" of RARE II non-wilderness lands to uses such as energy and mineral development and timber harvest. It would eliminate any future consideration of such lands for potential wilderness. Timber interests will give full support, claiming lands must be released to allow long-range planning. Release will prohibit future consideration by the Forest Service of lands not at present recommended for wilderness.

The Wilderness Society continues to beef up its operation on public land issues and hopes to be a counterweight to development interests. They plan to monitor governmental wilderness management, watchdog implementation of laws, and lobby Congress.

Action on California's RARE II wilderness bill, HR-859, by this Congress is doubtful.

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CONSERVATION NOTES by J. P. Hauser.

Back to acid rain. Rain and snow loaded with toxic chemicals, mainly acids, have been falling over nearly all the eastern U.S., southeastern Canada, northern Europe, southern Scandinavia, and now California, Colorado and Washington state have been added to the list. The pollution is caused primarily by combustion of large amounts of fossil fuels (coal, oil, gas) involving millions of tons of nitrogen and sulphur oxides, which react with sunlight and water to become sulphuric and nitric acids.

Abundant snow is common to geographic regions most heavily affected, but much of the falling snow is no longer pure. It is sometimes a dirty gray, often hundreds of miles from pollution sources. In 1975, Carl Schofield, a fisheries biologist at Cornell, found in a survey of 217 Adirondak lakes at elevations over 2000 feet that 51% were acidified to a pH of 5 or less, and 90% of those acidified had no fish. The futility of stocking such waters is illustrated at Lake Colden, a small lake at an elevation of almost 3000 feet in a fisherman's paradise. Stocking efforts in the 1960's failed, the new fish died quickly. The last fish disappeared in 1970.

This fascinating, if depressing, subject is a world-wide problem. Since we seem to be using more fossil fuels and the short-gain syndrome pervades our thinking, it will not be many years before acid rain and its disastrous effects are worldwide. Perhaps this is the opportunity to promote "clean" nuclear power. Then the decision might be whether we want to lose it all gradually, or very suddenly.

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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: \$20 per year, family \$25, others available; check payable to National Audubon Society, to Membership Chairman, MDAS, P O Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. 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: \$4 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: \$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: Black Diamond Mines Regional Park.

Access: Go east on SR-4 to Somersville Rd. in Antioch, turn south, continue to the parking lot at the end of the road. From Walnut Creek go east via Ygnacio Valley Rd. and Kirker Pass to the first signal in Pittsburg, turn right on Buchanan Rd. to Somersville Rd. then south. Parking fee: \$1. Poison oak is in some park areas.

Walk the road to the picnic area, checking grassy hills to the left, trees on the right: hawks overhead, along ridges; woodpeckers, swallows, bluebird, kinglets, shrike, vireos, warblers, oriole, blackbirds, finches, towhees, sparrows.

Around the picnic area look for swifts, woodpeckers, swallows, bluebird, vireos, warblers, goldfinches, sparrows.

Chaparral Loop Trail, east up the hill at the north end of the picnic area, very shortly turns south up a canyon with trees, chaparral (a little steep in places): hawks, swifts, swallows overhead; hummingbirds include Rufous in spring, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, thrasher, bluebird, gnatcatcher anywhere along the way, kinglets, vireos, warblers, sparrows. Just above the powder magazine, the terrain becomes chaparral-covered hillsides, some scattered trees. Filmy pines with huge cones are Coulter Pines. Quail, Wrentit, wrens, thrasher, gnatcatcher are here.

Ridge Trail, left up the hill from the junction near a power tower: check trees for woodpeckers, Bushtit, warblers; chaparral for hummingbirds, Wrentit, wrens, thrasher, gnatcatcher, sparrows. At the top of the hill is a grand view in all directions. The trail then goes east through grasslands, connecting with several other trails on the rolling, grassy hills. Or retrace your steps west.

From Chaparral Loop junction wander west along several trails on grassy hills to return to the picnic area. A short fairly steep trail down leaves Chaparral Loop just above the powder magazine. Bear west around a rocky knoll, walk down through trees: check for woodland species; at a trail junction bear right to picnic area.

Return to the parking lot along the fence on a path through trees along a small stream: hummingbirds, wrens, bluebird, kinglets, vireos, warblers, oriole, sparrows.

Facilities: latrines at parking lot, picnic area; drinking water, tables in picnic area. Park map from bulletin board at parking lot or from Regional Parks office.

Guided tours of a mine offered on weekends, call 757-2620 for information.

Birds include Vulture, Kite, several hawks, Golden Eagle, Quail, Pheasant, Mourning Dove, Roadrunner has occurred, several owls, Poor-Will has been seen, swifts may include Vaux's in migration, several hummingbirds, several woodpeckers may include Lewis', several flycatchers, Horned Lark, 5 swallows, Scrub Jay, Raven, Crow, Chickadee, Titmouse, Bushtit, nuthatches, wrens may include Rock & Canyon, Mockingbird, California Thrasher, Robin, Varied & Hermit (winter) & Swainson's (summer) Thrush, Western & possibly Mountain (winter) Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire has been seen (winter), Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher (summer), kinglets (winter), Water Pipit (winter), Cedar Waxwing (winter), Phainopepla, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, 3 vireos, several warblers (mostly migrants), Meadowlark, blackbirds may include Tricolored, Northern Oriole (summer), Cowbird, Western Tanager (migrant), Black-Headed (summer) & perhaps Blue (spring) Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting (summer), finches, Siskin (winter), goldfinches may include Lawrence's (summer), both towhees, many sparrows include (summer) Grasshopper, Chipping, Sage, Black-Chinned, (winter) Vesper, Fox, Lincoln's.

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At NAS's 15,360-acre EAGLE ROCK SANCTUARY, 1980 was a banner year for the rare Prairie Falcon -- 21 young were produced compared to 14 the year before. Four pairs of Golden Eagles reared 5 young, Ferruginous Hawks in two nests produced 4 young. Located in northern Colorado between Greeley and the Wyoming line, the sanctuary is open to visitors on a limited basis. Inquiries: Sanctuary Director, John M. Anderson, Miles Wildlife Sanctuary, R.R. 1, Box 294, West Cornwall Rd., Sharon, CT 06069.

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

July-August 1981
Vol. 2 $\frac{3}{4}$, No. 1

Next deadline: August 10

Picnic: Annual picnic, Fri., July 24, 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. Carpool TIME is departure time. Carpool EXPENSE: 5¢ per mile per rider suggested; entry fees or tolls shared equally by driver and riders.

Sat.-Sun., July 11-12, 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. If going, please contact leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).

Sat., Aug. 15, 9:00 a.m., Bodega Bay, carpool: southwest corner Sun Valley Center, 7:00. Leader: Sally Steller (837-9061).

Trip Planning: Thurs., July 16, 7:30 p.m., home of Sally Steller, 591 Fulton Way, Danville; 837-9061. Field trip suggestions for next year's calendar are requested.

Board Meetings: Thurs., July 9, 7:30 p.m., home of Jimm Edgar, 3611 Chestnut St., Lafayette; 283-3510. Board meetings are always open to members.

Thurs., Aug. 13, 7:30 p.m., budget session, home of Jean Richmond, 125 Via Serena, Alamo; 837-2843.

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

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

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 and I-205 then SR-120 thru Manteca all the way to the Park (or SR-140 east from Merced). Campers: Hodgdon Meadow (on the left at Big Oak Flat entrance). Non-campers: see the May issue. About 150 miles, 4 hours travel. Bring insect repellent!!!

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.

SPECIAL PLACE you would like to bird? TRIP you would like to lead? New areas are welcome, especially those near home. Call Winnie Orutt, 944-0593, with your ideas or join the field trip planning session at Sally Steller's home on July 16.

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Third annual PACK RAT SALE, benefit for Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum, will be at Del Valle High School, Walnut Creek, August 1-2. Rummage collection at the school began June 6, Monday and Saturday, 10-1; Wednesday, 1-4. Contact the museum at 935-1978 for more information. Unjunk your trunk for the Great Trash Bash.

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FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

At GLEN ELLEN and 3-SPRINGS RANCH on ~~May~~ ^{May} 9 it was sunny and warm with gentle breezes. The 14 members found a good variety of woodland birds, including Yellow-Breasted Chat, among these 60 species seen or heard:

Pied-Billed Grebe, Turkey Vulture, white-Tailed Kite, Red-Tailed & Red-Shouldered Hawk, Calif Quail, gull sp, Rock & Mourning Dove, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Acorn, Hairy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, West Kingbird, Black Phoebe, West Flycatcher, West Wood Pewee, Olive-Sided Flycatcher, Violet-Green, Tree, Rough-Winged & Barn Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Com Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Wren, Bewick's Wren, Mockingbird, Amer Robin, West Bluebird, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Hutton's & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Yellow & Townsend's Warbler, Yellow-Breasted Chat, Wilson's Warbler, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Northern Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Purple & House Finch, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed Junco, Song Sparrow.

The PELAGIC TRIP to the Farallon Islands on May 18 was made by 43 members and guests on a cold, foggy day with rough seas. A Least Tern, 4 Xantus' Murrelets and 9 Tufted Puffins were among these 28 species seen:

Com, Arctic & Red-Throated Loon, Eared & West Grebe, Sooty Shearwater, Brown Pelican, Dbl-Crested, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, White-Winged & Surf Scoter, Black Oystercatcher, Wandering Tattler, Northern Phalarope, Glaucous-Winged, West, Calif & Bonaparte's Gull, Forster's, Least & Caspian Tern, Com Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Xantus' Murrelet, Cassin's & Rhinoceros Auklet, Tufted Puffin.

The trip to EAST CONTRA COSTA COUNTY on May 21 was on a warm, clear day with light wind. The 12 members saw Green Heron, Black-Chinned Hummingbirds, Yellow-Breasted Chats, Western Tanager and Blue Grosbeaks among these 56 species seen or heard:

Dbl-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue & Green Heron, Amer Bittern, duck sp, Turkey Vulture, white-Tailed Kite, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Ring-Necked Pheasant, gull sp, Caspian Tern, Rock & Mourning Dove, Black-Chinned & Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, West Kingbird, Black Phoebe, West Flycatcher, Violet-Green, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Scrub Jay, Com Crow, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Bewick's Wren, Mockingbird, Amer Robin, Swainson's Thrush, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Warbling Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, Yellow-Breasted Chat, Wilson's Warbler, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Northern Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, West Tanager, Black-Headed & Blue Grosbeak, House Finch, Amer Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided Towhee, Song Sparrow.

It was a long day on MORGAN TERRITORY ROAD May 23 for those who went owling prior to the regular birding. The 16 members had a clear, warm day with gentle breezes. On the owl prowl there was a Screech Owl seen, 5 others and a Great Horned Owl heard. Daytime birding yielded Turkey, 5 warbler species, Western Tanager, and several Lawrence's Goldfinches among these 67 species seen or heard for the day:

Turkey Vulture, Cooper's, Red-Tailed & Red-Shouldered Hawk, Calif Quail, Wild Turkey, Rock & Mourning Dove, Screech & Great Horned Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, Com Flicker, Acorn, Hairy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, West Kingbird, Ash-Throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Hammond's/Dusky sp & West Flycatcher, West Wood Pewee, Olive-Sided Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Violet-Green Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Com Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wren, House & Bewick's Wren, Calif Thrasher, Amer Robin, Hermit Thrush, West Bluebird, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Hutton's, Solitary & warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Nashville, Black-Throated Gray, Townsend's & Wilson's Warbler, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Northern 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.

The wildflower walk up MITCHELL CANYON on ~~June 6~~ ^{May 30} was on a clear, warm, calm day. The 19 members and guests saw many lovely flowers plus a pair of Phainopeplas and a Western Tanager among 28 species of birds.

Flowers: Goldback & Maidenhair Fern, Soap Plant, Grass Nut, Mariposa Lily, Golden Lantern, Nude Buckwheat, Thistle Poppy, Calif Poppy, Golden Ear Drops, Calif Rose, Bush & Bicolor Lupine, Creek Clover, Deer Weed, Yellow Sweet Clover, Calif Tea, Hillside Pea, Coffee-berry, Red-berry, Calif Grape, Woolly Mallow, Zeuschneria,

Poison Hemlock, Cow Parsnip, Bindweed, Clarkia, Phacelia, Whispering Bells, Yerba Santa, White Forget-Me-Not, West Verbena, Black & Pitcher Sage, Hedge Nettle, Sagebrush, Mugwort, Coyote Mint, Blue Witch, Tree Tobacco, Bush, Common & Red Monkey Flower, Indian Paint Brush, Snowberry, Narrowleaf Goldenbush, Chaparral Sunflower, Mule Ears, Oregon Sunshine, Yarrow, Sneezeweed.

Birds: Turkey Vulture, Calif Quail, Mourning Dove, White-Throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Com Flicker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Ash-Throated Flycatcher, West Wood Pewee, Cliff Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Plain Titmouse, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, Calif Thrasher, West Bluebird, Phainopepla, Starling, Orange-Crowned Warbler, West Meadowlark, West Tanager, Black-Headed Grosbeak, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed Junco

At AUDUBON CANYON RANCH on June 6 it was warm and sunny with a light breeze. The 24 members saw herons and egrets with eggs and young, and 2 Ospreys carrying fish, among these 55 species seen or heard:

Horned Grebe, Brown Pelican, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Mallard, Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed Hawk, Osprey, Calif Quail, Willet, Marbled Godwit, West, Herring, Ring-Billed & Bonaparte's Gull, Forster's & Caspian Tern, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Allen's Hummingbird, Com Flicker, Ash-Throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Violet-Green, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Com Raven, Com Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Brown Creeper, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, Amer Robin, Swainson's Thrush, Hutton's Vireo, Orange-Crowned & Wilson's Warbler, Red-winged Blackbird, Northern Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Black-Headed Grosbeak, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Amer Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed Junco, Song Sparrow.

HELP!!! As Winnie Orcutt is now our Field Trips Chairman. I need a new circulation manager to keep our mailing labels up to date. All that is involved each month, using a copy of our NAS printout, is to type labels for new members and address changes for existing members, and to remove labels of any who have transferred to another chapter or dropped. Master sheets are taken to The Copy Office in Walnut Creek where labels are run off by Xerox. The master sheets are taken home by the circulation manager and the labels left where I pick them up when I deliver Quail copy for printing. Please contact your editor if you will take care of this.

OFFICERS OF MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY, 1981-82. (Save for future reference.)

- Pres.: Jimm Edgar, 3611 Chestnut St., Lafayette 94549; 283-3510.
- VP (Program): John Davis, 21 Wanda Way, Martinez 94553; 228-9516.
- VP (Conservation): Ed Hase, 1180 Saranap Ave., #210, Walnut Creek 94595; 933-4292.
- Secretary: Winnie Young, 1451 Janet Ct., Benicia 94510; (707) 745-4134.
- Treasurer: F. G. Bennett, P O Box 5428, Walnut Creek 94596; 820-7112 (weekdays).
- Field Trips: Winnie Orcutt, 30 Iris Ln., Walnut Creek 94595; 944-0593.
- Membership: Marjorie Plant, 1940 Kingridge Ct., Walnut Creek, 94596; 934-1093.
- Hospitality: Mary Jane Culver, 806 Wilmore Ave., Concord, 94518; 682-0509.
Ruth Stewart, 262 Sudan Loop, Pacheco 94553; 671-7226.
- Publicity: Norah Bain, 32 Via Farallon, Orinda 94563; 254-4516.
- Scrapbook: Joy Hall, 60 Isabella Ln., Pleasant Hill 94523; 939-0122.
- Editor: Jean Richmond, 125 Via Serena, Alamo 94507; 837-2843.
- BAAC Representative: Bruce Moored, 1445 Marchbanks Dr., Wal. Creek 94598; 938-4446.

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.

Our BIRDATHON trip on Mines Road and Del Puerto Canyon raised \$120.10, a third of which NAS will return to MDAS for use in our activities. You may add to this total by sending a check payable to National Audubon Society to Jean Richmond, 125 Via Serena, Alamo 94507.

Reactivation of the TELEPHONE HOTLINE in NAS' Washington office after the move to new quarters was delayed but the new number, (202) 547-9017, is now in operation. The new address at 645 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC 20003, is better located.

QUESTION: How much energy does it take to wreck the environment? Answer: one Watt.

OBSERVATIONS, May 16-June 17. Also see field trip reports.

Western Grebe, light-phase, Clifton Court Forebay, June 14--BR. SOLANDER'S PETREL, 24+, reported between Pt Reyes & the Oregon border, May 13-27--RBA. Red-Shouldered Hawk, 1-2, Morgan Territory Rd. (MTR), May 2--RS, EH, JH, GF, GT. Mountain Quail, several calling, Ida Clayton Rd., Sonoma Co., May 26--JR, et al.

Blue-winged Teal, Stockton sewer ponds, May 21--EH, CH. Black Rail, 3 calling, east C.C.Co. marshes, May 2--RS, EH, JH, GF, GT. Wilson's Phalarope, ♀, Stockton sewer ponds, May 21--EH, CH. Northern Phalarope, 12, Stockton sewer ponds, May 21--EH, CH. Western Gull, east C.C.Co. marshes, May 2--RS, EH, JH, GF, GT. Mew Gull, Abbott's Lagoon, Pt Reyes, May 9--RS, KH. Black Tern, Little Frank's Tract, June 13--BR.

Burrowing Owl, 1, Byron Hwy, 2 ad, 1 imm, Byron Hot Springs Rd., June 14--BR. SPOTTED OWL, Audubon Canyon Ranch, June 14--DM. Vaux's Swift, I-680 at Stone Valley Rd., Alamo, June 16--JR.

Pileated Woodpecker, 5-Brooks Pond, Pt Reyes, May 9--RS, KH. Bank Swallow, 4, Little Frank's Tract, June 13--BR. Purple Martin, ♂, I-80 at Capitol Ave., Sacramento, May 23--JR; several there and at Stockton & Alhambra Blvds., Sacramento, May 29--EH. Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, 7+, Mitchell Cyn, May 19--JR, BF, et al. Phainopepla, 2♂, 1♀, Mitchell Cyn, May 19--JR, BF, et al; 1 there, May 31--EH, BC, JH, GT.

Northern Parula, singing ♂, Lincoln Park, SF, May 17--AH, et al. Magnolia Warbler, singing ♂, Fish Docks, Pt Reyes, June 2--JR, BF, JD. Black-Throated Gray Warbler, 2-3, MTR, May 2--RS, EH, JH, GF, GT; 1, Ida Clayton Rd., May 26--JR, et al. Townsend's Warbler, 12, MTR, May 2--RS, EH, JH, GF, GT. Hermit Warbler, 2-3, MTR, May 2--RS, EH, JH, GF, GT. MacGillivray's Warbler, 4 singing ♂, Ida Clayton Rd., May 26--JR, et al. KENTUCKY WARBLER, singing ♂, Lincoln Park, SF, May 16--AH, et al. Yellow-Breasted Chat, Lincoln Park, SF, May 12--AH. HOODED WARBLER, singing ♂, returned to Tilden Park, June 15--GH.

Lawrence's Goldfinch, 5-6, MTR, May 2, RS, EH, JH, GF, GT; 3, Toyon picnic area, Mt. Diablo, May 31--JB. Red Crossbill, pair, Lincoln Park, SF, May 28--GT, EH. Rufous-Crowned Sparrow, 4, Ida Clayton Rd., May 26--JR, et al. Sage Sparrow, Ida Clayton Rd., May 26--JR, et al. White-Throated Sparrow, singing ♂, Bear Valley Headquarters, Pt Reyes, May 9--RS, KH.

Bob Richmond's report from the Death Valley area, May 22-26: MISSISSIPPI KITE, Yellow-Throated & Philadelphia Vireos, Black-&-White, Worm-Eating, GOLDEN-WINGED, Tennessee, Chestnut-Sided & HOODED WARBLERS, Northern Waterthrush, several American Redstarts, Bobolink, "Baltimore" Oriole, Summer Tanager, Rose-Breasted Grosbeak, several Indigo Buntings, Dickcissel, and LeCUNTE'S SPARROW. Also seen, but not by Bob: Least Flycatcher, Northern Parula, Magnolia Warbler, Ovenbird, KENTUCKY WARBLER, SCARLET TANAGER. All of us who were not there, can only read it and WEEP!

OBSERVERS: Joe Broyles, Bill Chilson, Jane Dang, George Finger, Bud Fry, Ed Hase, Charlie Hines, Kevin Hintsa, Alan Hopkins, Joy Hall, George Hugenberg, Dan Murphy, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Rich Sintchak, Greg Thornbury, NoCal Rare Bird Alert.

Have observations to me BY the deadline on page 1 for inclusion in this column. Last minute sightings may be phoned within 2-3 days after the deadline. Some of the observations above are for early May but were not received by me until June.

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.

* * * * *

CLASSES and EXCURSIONS.

PRBO. Condors & Storks, July 28-31, Rich Stallcup, \$95. Birds of Monterey, Sept. 5-6, Rich Stallcup, \$60. Focus Your Camera on Birds & Mammals, Sept. 11-13, Joseph Hall, Ian Tait, \$65. Owls of Carmel Valley, Sept. 18-20, Bill Clow, \$60. Info: Linda Parker, 4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach, CA 94970; 868-1221.

SF Bay NWR. Interpretive walks/talks, daily except Friday at Refuge Center; call 792-3178 for schedule. Special programs July 18, Aug. 15, 16; call 792-0222.

Lindsay Museum. Central Calif. Transect, for adults, Aug. 2-9, Phil Gordon, \$60 (member), \$70 (non-member). Info: call the museum at 935-1978.

Bay Adventure Seminars, wide variety of field courses in natural history, education, local history and the arts. Info: P O Box 524, Newark, CA 94560; 792-3271.

* * * * *

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

Concord: W. D. Knowles; Lafayette: Laurie Baker, C. Block, Terri & David Bowman; Martinez: Mark Barnes; Orinda: Ray Flores, Mabel A. Powell; Pleasant Hill: M. C. Richmond; Walnut Creek: Paula Anderson, Arthur Clarke, Ralph Hudgins, Marilyn Hyde, Harold & Lois Helen Smith, Gregory M. Thornbury, Mariam Tranes.

CONSERVATION NOTES by J. P. Hauser.

Bob Marshall, one of the founders of The Wilderness Society, said it more than 50 years ago: "There is just one hope of repulsing the tyrannical ambition of civilization to conquer every niche on earth. That hope is the organization of spirited people who will fight for the freedom of the wilderness."

It's encouraging to know that, since the invasion of the Interior Department and other environmentally-related agencies by the Watt mentalities, membership has dramatically increased in conservation organizations. Real concern about the extreme anti-environmentalists in government has spread across the land. We spirited people must fight to keep our places wild, our rivers free, the air and water clean.

A newly emerged breed of robber barons is thriving in the new political climate. Those in power since November favor development and exploitive industries and the raid on our natural resources is under way. The environmental safeguards of past years are being eroded away almost daily. Issues that need your attention appear in Conservation Topics West, Audubon and other magazines, special mailings, and newspapers. Letter writing is now needed more than ever. The letter can be short, but do write.

R. E. Lyng, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, wants to rush through Congress a bill, S-842, sponsored by Senator S. I. Hayakawa, that would forbid the Forest Service from ever again studying its land for wilderness, or managing its lands as wilderness without express Congressional approval. Even though you will not change his mind, write to Sen. Hayakawa. It's a numbers game. He needs to know that a great many of us know he is wrong. Letters do affect legislation--the more the better. Write to Sen. Hayakawa, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20501.

Our SAVE MONO LAKE CAMPAIGN fund has now topped the \$2500 mark. You may still contribute money to this vital cause by sending a check payable to National Audubon Society to Save Mono Lake, MDAS, P O Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

BACK TO KILLING EAGLES? Fifty woolgrowers in New Mexico have petitioned Dept. of Interior for authorization to kill eagles again. To do so would reverse a policy instituted by Nixon and in effect ever since. Interior is responsible for protecting ranchers from eagles if they prey on livestock, but since 1972 it has banned any killing, and relied on other methods of protection. The present policy grew out of a Congressional investigation called after NAS members in Wyoming found a number of shot or poisoned Bald and Golden Eagles. The investigation revealed that ranchers were killing the birds by the hundreds.

The department's long-standing eagle policy could be reversed by the Secretary, but so far Interior officials have not seen fit to grant the New Mexicans' request. They have been using such methods as frightening away the birds, live-trapping and removing them, and removing carrion that may attract predators to lambing sites.

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: \$25 per year, family \$32, others available; check payable to National Audubon Society, to Membership Chairman, MDAS, P O Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. 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: \$4 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: \$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.)

Have a pleasant, bird-filled summer. The next issue will be out late in August.

GREATER BAY AREA SITE GUIDE: Mendocino County coast.

Access: From US-101 take any route west to SR-1. Follow signs to Bodega Bay from Petaluma or from Rohnert Park via Sebastopol then north on SR-1; or take SR-128 from Cloverdale then west from Booneville on Mountain View Rd. to Pt. Arena.

PT. ARENA area. Whistling Swans winter in Garcia River flats west of SR-1 south of the river; White-Faced Ibis, Arctic Tern have been seen. From SR-1 drive Miner Hole Rd. (excellent birding) west to the end. Bird marshy areas both sides of the road: Bittern, Osprey; Short-Eared Owl in fall. Walk dirt road west to the ocean; loons calling in May; Snow Bunting along here, Nov. 1978. About $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of Miner Hole Rd., Lighthouse Rd. leads to Pt. Arena Lighthouse: pelagics may include Fulmar. Manchester State Beach, 7 miles north of Pt. Arena has ponds near the campground, a lagoon at the north end: ducks, Osprey; Buff-Breasted Sandpiper, Sept. 1978.

NAVARRO PT. A rough road south of the Navarro River leads west to Navarro River Beach: Osprey. Along north bank are turnouts from which good birds may be seen and being high off the water, you won't spook them: Oldsquaw, Hooded Merganser possible.

VAN DAMME STATE PARK, 3 miles south of Mendocino, excellent birding. Gray Jays in the campground. From the beach: Red-Necked Grebe, ducks, Oystercatcher; Harlequin Ducks south of the parking lot--walk south along the beach or look from atop bluffs west of Little River Inn on SR-1. Pygmy Forest nearby has self-guided trail. From SR-1 south of the park go east on Airport Rd. 3.5 miles to the parking area.

MENDOCINO. Big River Beach: park in the lot north of the river, walk west under the bridge to the beach; walk east to the ponds: if rain-filled, good birds; both Goldeneyes may be here. Take Heeser Dr. west to Mendocino Headlands: cormorants, gulls, murre, Guillemot; Kittiwake has been seen. Many art galleries in town.

RUSSIAN GULCH STATE PARK, 2 miles north of Mendocino, excellent. Gray Jays regular in the campground. Shorebirds on the beach under the bridge. From the entrance kiosk go west to the headlands: pelagics, sea birds; Marbled Murrelet possible.

At JUG HANDLE STATE RESERVE, 5 miles north of Mendocino, is a self-guided trail up the Ecological Staircase; rangers lead walks on Saturdays at 10 a.m.

NOYO HARBOR. Drive to the north jetty west of the bridge: birds, including Oldsquaw, anywhere in the harbor. Picturesque fishing village is east of the bridge.

MacKERRICHER STATE PARK, excellent birding. At Pudding Creek (north side of Ft. Bragg) cross the bridge to the parking area, walk under the bridge, check the lagoon; go west to the beach: Red-Necked Grebe, Redhead, Greater Scaup, all 3 scoters, a few shorebirds, perhaps Bank Swallow. An old haul road along the headlands to the north is open to vehicles weekends only--lumber trucks use it weekdays. Drive along the shoreline, park beside the road, explore the rocky coastline on foot.

At Mill Creek Rd., 3 miles north of Ft. Bragg, go west to the parking lot. Trail around Lake Cleone: Bittern, ducks in winter may include Blue-Winged Teal, Redhead, Ring-Necked, Scaup, both Goldeneyes; Ross' among geese, Feb. 1980; Northern Waterthrush has been seen; look for Pygmy Nuthatch in pines. From Laguna Pt.: loons, cormorants, scoters; shearwaters, Oldsquaw possible; Common Terns, Aug. 1980; Snow Bunting, Nov. 1978. Walk north along the beach about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile: shorebirds may include Oystercatcher, Surf-bird, turnstones, Whimbrel, Wandering Tattler, Rock Sandpiper.

THE SKUNK (California Western) Railroad runs through spectacular wilderness between Ft. Bragg and Willits. Info and reservations (strongly advised): (707) 964-6371.

CONTINUE NORTH up the coast on SR-1 about 40 miles to where it ends at US-101 in Leggett, turn north to redwood areas or turn south toward home; or go east on SR-20 from Ft. Bragg to Willits. Pileated Woodpecker may be found in Ridgewood Park in Willits, Lake Mendocino, 6 miles north of Ukiah, has very good birding.

Facilities in state perks; camping at Manchester (primitive), Van Damme, Russian Gulch, MacKerricher (last 3 on Ticketron, May-Sept.). Park brochures at the parks or from Dept. of Parks & Recreation, Mendocino Area, P O Box 440, Mendocino, CA 95460; (707) 937-5804. Weather cool, often windy; evening/morning fog in summer.

* * * * *

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

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

September 1981
Vol. 28, No. 2
Next deadline: September 5

Meeting: Thurs., Sept. 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. Carpool TIME is departure time. Carpool EXPENSE: 5¢ per mile per rider suggested; entry fees or tolls shared equally among driver and riders.

Sat., Sept. 5, 8:45 a.m., San Mateo County coast; carpool: El Cerro Blvd. at I-680, Danville, 7:00. Leader: George Finger (933-2468).

Thurs., Sept. 10, 9:00 a.m., Lincoln Park, San Francisco; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Fwy 24, 8:00. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).

Wed., Sept. 16, 9:15 a.m., S.F. Bay Refuge & Coyote Hills; carpool: El Cerro Blvd. at I-680, Danville, 8:15. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey (254-0486).

Sun., Sept. 27, 8:30 a.m., outer Pt. Reyes; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Fwy 24, 6:30. Leader: Ed Hase (933-4292).

Sat.-Sun., Oct. 10-11, Monterey-Carmel, leaders: Jean Richmond (837-2843) & Florence Bennett. Make reservations NOW, Pacific Grove preferred: Sea Breeze Motel, (408) 372-7775; Butterfly Trees Lodge, (408) 372-0503; Lighthouse Lodge, (408) 375-6288; 4-Seasons Lodge, (408) 372-5612. Saturday dinner, 6:30 p.m., Mark Thomas' Outrigger (Cannery Row); call Jean Richmond (837-2843) by September 26 for reservations.

Board Meeting: Thurs., Sept. 10, 7:30 p.m., home of Norah Bain, 32 Via Farallon, Orinda; 254-4516. Board meetings are always open to members.

Conservation Mtg: Thurs., Sept. 24, 7:30 p.m., home of Joy Hall, 60 Isabella Ln., Pleasant Hill; 939-0122. Open to all those interested in conservation matters.

BIRDINFORMATION topic and speaker were not set at press time. The PROGRAM will be "Rare Birds of California" by Don Roberson, well-known birder and author of "Rare Birds of the West Coast", copies of which he will have available for purchase.

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 and SR-1, left 15 miles to Pescadero Rd., turn right to the parking lot. May be cold, windy.

LINCOLN PARK has birds of land and sea, hopefully vagrants. After lunch we may go to GOLDEN GATE PARK for Wood Duck and others. 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 Legion of Honor turn right on El Camino Del Mar about $\frac{1}{4}$ block.

At S.F. BAY REFUGE along the Loop Trail and new Tidelands Trail (over and through hills, marshes, sloughs, salt ponds, marshes) are water, marsh and shorebirds. At COYOTE HILLS after lunch we will bird to the Bay shore. From Nimitz Fwy (SR-17) in Fremont go west on Jarvis Rd., right on Thornton Ave. toward Dumbarton Bridge. Just before the toll plaza turn left, pass the commuters parking lot, continue to the large Refuge parking lot beyond. Could be windy.

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., go left 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 and windy.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

At BRIONES PARK on June 10 it was clear and warm with a cool breeze during lunch. The 20 members and guests had excellent views of many woodland birds, some of them in full song, among the following 50 species seen or heard:

Mallard, Turkey Vulture, Cooper's & Red-Tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, falcon sp., Calif Quail, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Com Flicker, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Ash-Throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, West Flycatcher, West Pewee, Violet-Green & Rough-Winged Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, Mockingbird, Calif Thrasher, Swainson's Thrush, West Bluebird, Starling, Hutton's, Solitary & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned Warbler, "Bullock's" Oriole, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Purple & House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Dark-Eyed Junco, Song Sparrow.

The trip to CHABOT PARK was switched to REDWOOD PARK due to the heat. June 18 was clear, hot and calm but with occasional light breezes. Birding from shady spot to shady spot, 8 hardy members found a good assortment among these 40 species:

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

The YUBA PASS & SIERRA VALLEY weekend June 20-21 was clear and warm, hot in Sierra Valley, with occasional light wind. The 23 members had Mt. Quail, Black-Backed 3-Toed Woodpecker, Sage Thrasher, Mt. Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, 7 warbler species, Red Crossbill and more excellent finds among these 84 species seen or heard:

Black-Crowned Night Heron, Amer Bittern, Mallard, Cinnamon Teal, Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Mountain Quail, Virginia Rail, Sora, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Com Snipe, Willet, Wilson's Phalarope, Calif (?) Gull, Black Tern, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Rock & Mourning Dove, Com Nighthawk, Calliope Hummingbird, Com Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, "Red-Breasted" & Williamson's Sapsucker, Hairy, White-Headed & Black-Backed 3-Toed Woodpecker, West Kingbird, Hammond's, Dusky & Gray (?) Flycatcher, West Wood Pewee, Olive-Sided Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Violet-Green, Tree, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Steller's Jay, Mountain Chickadee, Bushtit, White-Breasted, Red-Breasted & Pygmy Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Dipper, House & Bewick's Wren, Sage Thrasher, Amer Robin, Hermit Thrush, Mountain Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, Golden-Crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Nashville, Yellow, "Audubon's", Black-Throated Gray, MacGillivray's & Wilson's Warbler, West Meadowlark, Yellow-Headed, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, West Tanager, Black-Headed & Evening Grosbeak, Purple & Cassin's Finch, Pine Siskin, goldfinch sp, Red Crossbill, Green-Tailed Towhee, Vesper Sparrow, Dark-Eyed Junco, Chipping, Brewer's & Fox Sparrow. Among the mammals seen were muskrat, badger and porcupine.

The weekend at YOSEMITE July 11-12 was clear, warm with welcome breezes, windy near Tioga Pass. Found by the 20 members were Goshawk, Blue Grouse, Mt. Quail, Great Gray Owl, Mt. Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, 10 warbler species, Pine Grosbeak, Gray-Crowned Rosy Finch, Red Crossbill and more goodies among these 90 species:

Turkey Vulture, Goshawk, Cooper's & Red-Tailed Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Blue Grouse, Mountain Quail, Spotted Sandpiper, Calif Gull, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Pygmy & Great Gray Owl, Black, Vaux's & White-Throated Swift, Anna's, Rufous & Calliope Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-Breasted & Williamson's Sapsucker, Hairy, Downy & White-Headed Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Willow, Hammond's, Dusky & West Flycatcher, West Wood Pewee, Olive-Sided Flycatcher, Violet-Green, Tree & Barn Swallow, Steller's Jay, Com Raven, Clark's Nutcracker, Mountain Chickadee, Bushtit, White-Breasted & Red-Breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Dipper, House, Bewick's & Canyon Wren, Amer Robin, Hermit & Swainson's Thrush, West & Mountain Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, Golden-Crowned Kinglet, Solitary & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Nashville, Yellow, "Audubon's" Black-Throated Gray, Townsend's, Hermit & MacGillivray's Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Red-Winged Blackbird, "Bullock's" Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, West Tanager, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Evening Grosbeak, Cassin's

Finch, Pine Grosbeak, Gray-Crowned Rosy Finch, Pine Siskin, Lesser Goldfinch, Red Crossbill, Green-Tailed & Rufous-Sided Towhee, Dark-Eyed Junco, Chipping, White-Crowned, Fox, Lincoln's & Song Sparrow. Also seen was a beautiful coyote.

On July 24 at TILDEN PARK 28 members and 1 guest gathered for picnic supper on a cool, clear evening, then moved to Big Springs Trail to look for Poor-Wills. The only birds around the picnic area were Steller's Jays and Robins. With clear skies above we had high hopes for seeing Poor-Wills this year but had to settle for hearing several and seeing just one flit quickly over our heads and out of sight.

* * * * *

FIELD TRIPS SCHEDULE, Oct. 1981-Aug. 1982. (Changes may occasionally be made.)

We have an excellent schedule, thanks to Winnie Orcutt and her planning committee and to members who will be leaders. Five weekends, four new (+) areas are listed.

<u>*--weekend may be done either day alone</u>	<u>?--date depends on the tides</u>
Oct. 7 Wed. Sunol Reg. Pk.	10 Wed. Hayward Reg. Shoreline
*10 Sat. Monterey	20 Sat. San Leandro Reservoir
11 Sun. Carmel	25 Thurs. Lks. Lagunitas, Bon Tempe
22 thurs. Alameda South Shore	Apr. 3 Sat. Audubon Canyon Ranch
+31 Sat. Estero Trail, Home Bay	14 Wed. Lk. Merced, Ft. Funston
Nov. 7 Sat. Bodega Bay	22 Thurs. Las Trampas Reg. Pk.
+12 Thurs. Pt. Edith	24 Sat. Briones Reg. Pk.
18 Wed. Mt. View Sanitary Dist.	28 Wed. Mt. Diablo St. Pk.
21 Sat. Palo Alto Baylands	May 1 Sat. Mines Rd.
Dec. 2 Wed. Lk. Merritt	6 Thurs. Mitchell Cyn-wildflowers
5 Sat. Lafayette Reservoir	16 Sun. Morgan Territory Rd.
12 Sat. Niles Cyn Gravel Pits	19 Wed. East Contra Costa Co.
Jan. 2 Sat. CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT	29 Sat. 3-Sprgs Ranch, Glen Ellen
?6 Wed. Bay Bridge Toll Plaza	June 5 Sat. Chabot Reg. Pk.
9 Sat. Lake Solano, Putah Creek	9 Wed. Briones Reg. Pk.
21 Thurs. Lafayette Reservoir	*19 Sat. Yuba Pass
+23 Sat. Delta trip	20 Sun. Sierra Valley
30 Sat. Clifton Court Forebay	+24 Thurs. Joaquin Miller Pk.
Feb. *6 Sat. Los Banos WMA	July *10 Sat. Yosemite Natl. Pk.
7 Sun. Panoche Valley	11 Sun. "
10 Wed. Berkeley Aquatic Pk & marina	23 Fri. Tilden Reg. Pk. - picnic
Pts. Isabel, Richmond, Molate	*31 Sat. Gualala Pt. Co. Pk.
20 Sat. Thornton	Aug. 1 Sun. "
25 Thurs. 5-Brooks, Bolinas Lagoon	14 Sat. Bodega Bay
Mar. 6 Sat. Limantour Estero	

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Changes and additions to the OFFICERS of MDAS:

Field Trips: Elizabeth Dickey, 113 Hillcrest Dr., Orinda 94563; 254-0486.
 Membership Assistant: Carol Lewis, P. O. Box 23383, Pleasant Hill 94523; 682-2175.
 Greeter: Stan Sorem, 27 Hartwood Ct., Lafayette 94549; 283-0354.

Address change: VP Ed Hase, 1291 Walden Rd., Walnut Creek 94596; 933-4292.

We bid fond farewell to WINNIE ORCUTT, our field trips chairman, and her husband Dale, who are moving to Anchorage, Alaska, next month and a new job for Dale. We will miss them but wish them well in the North. Perhaps we should schedule a field trip there in the future with Winnie as leader?

* * * * *

MONO LAKE STATUS by Linda LaPointe. Los Angeles DWP has applied to Interior Secretary Watt for purchase of 23,000 acres of BLM and Forest Service land in Mono County, mostly around the lake. A law passed by Congress in the 30's would allow DWP to buy the land at only \$1.25/acre! DWP's move seems to have been sparked by Watt who wants to turn over Federal land to state and local governments. Watt asked for input and DWP subsequently applied for lakeshore land and aqueduct rights-of-way. DWP's motives appear obvious: tighten control over Mono Lake. If successful, they would own much of the lakeshore and a national park or monument (see below) would be virtually impossible. You will be alerted when calls and letters are needed.

Mono's Congressman, Norman Shumway (R-Stockton), is pushing for Mono Lake National Monument by introducing legislation to grant national monument status to public lands on the lakeshore and islands. The bill would also provide for studying ways of reducing water diversions. PLEASE WRITE Congressman John Sieberling, Chairman, House Interior Public Lands & National Parks Subcommittee, House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515. Urge him to expedite public hearings on Shumway's bill.

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OBSERVATIONS, June 18-August 13. (Also see field trip reports.)

Red-Throated Loon, breeding plumage, Bodega Bay, July 21--JR, FB, et al; 2 there, Aug. 1, FB. Red-Necked Grebe, Fish Docks, June 28--FB, H&JG. Sooty Shearwater, 1,000's, off Great Hwy, SF, June 30--JR, et al. White Pelican, 60, Sears Pt. Rd., Solano Co., Aug. 1--FB; 1, Mt. View San. Dist., Aug. 3-13--BR, JR, G&WY. Green Heron, San Pablo Creek, downtown Orinda, June 20-23--RS while emptying garbage at deli where he works.

"Black" Brant, Año Nuevo St Res, San Mateo Co., July 28--JD, JR, BF, et al. Oldsquaw, Emeryville marina & Bay Bridge Toll Plaza, July 7-Aug. 13--RBA, B&JK. Harlequin Duck, 2, Año Nuevo St Res., July 28-Aug. 2--m.ob. Golden Eagle, pair, Shell Ridge, June 3--GF. Mountain Quail, SR-49 east of Yuba Pass, July 3--BR.

Many shorebird species, some birds in breeding plumage, began returning by early July. Lesser Yellowlegs, Drake's Beach, Marin Co., June 28--DS; 3, Victoria Island, San Joaquin Co., July 26--BR; 6+, Carmel River St Beh, Aug. 1--H&NB. Red Knot, 16, Garrity Creek mouth, Pt. Pinole, July 8--BR; Año Nuevo St Res, Aug. 2--BR. Baird's Sandpiper, many around Bay Area, July 28-Aug. 13--m.ob. CURLEW SANDPIPER, Año Nuevo St Res, Aug. 1--RBA. SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER, several in Bay Area, mid-July-Aug. 13--RBA. Marbled Godwit, 2, Dutch Slough Rd., east C.C.Co., July 30--BR.

Mew Gull, Dutch Slough Rd., July 30--BR. Common Tern, Alameda South Shore, Aug. 12--JR, FB, et al. Least Tern, San Mateo Bridge, July 28--JR, FB; imm, Moss Landing, Monterey Co., Aug. 1--BR. Elegant Tern, 5, Bodega Bay, July 21--JR, FB, BF, et al; 10 there July 25 & 28 on Aug. 8--FB, H&JG. BLACK SKIMMER, Moss Landing, thru period--m.ob.; Doran Pk, Bodega Bay, July 3--RSt, et al.

Poor-will, up to 7, Tilden Pk, June 26-July 2--RS; calling, Yuba Pass, July 3--BR. Black-Chinned Hummingbird, ♂, Dutch Slough Rd., July 6-19--BR. Pileated Woodpecker, near Sierra Valley Ranch, Sierra Co., July 4--BR; Inverness Ridge, Marin Co., July 14--JR. BLACK-BACKED 3-TOED WOODPECKER, ♂, Bridalveil CG, Yosemite, July 13--B&JK.

Bank Swallow, up to 30, Año Nuevo St Res, thru Aug. 2--m.ob.; Jersey Island Rd., east C.C.Co., June 20-July 30--BR; adults, young, Ft. Funston, SF, June 30--JR, et al.

Yellow-Headed Blackbird, ♂, Lodi sewer ponds, San Joaquin Co., July 26--BR. Western Tanager, ♂, Las Trampas Pk, July 31--KH; ♂, Clifton Court Forebay (CCF), Aug. 8--BR; 2, his San Ramon garden, Aug. 11--KH. Blue Grosbeak, up to 4 ad ♂, 1 imm ♂, 3♀, CCF, July 6-Aug. 8--BR; ♂, Jersey Island Rd., July 8--BR. Pine Grosbeak, Yuba Pass, July 3--BR. Lawrence's Goldfinch, ♂, Las Trampas Pk, July 17, 31--KH

Red Crossbill, 10, Lincoln Pk, SF, June 30--JR, et al; near Sierra Valley Ranch, July 4--BR; over her Alamo home, Aug. 12--JR. Savannah Sparrow, Jersey Island Rd., July 7-8, BR. Grasshopper Sparrow, up to 4, Jersey Island Rd., June 20-July 8--BR; 4, Old Nicasio Rd., Marin Co., June 23--JR, BF, FB, et al.

At YOSEMITE, June 26-29--BR: Goshawk, 3 Blue Grouse, Black Swift, Pileated Woodpecker, 2 Black-Backed 3-Toed Woodpeckers, Townsend's Solitaire, Evening Grosbeak, several Pine Grosbeaks, several Gray-Crowned Rosy Finches.

Minke Whale, 2 BLUE WHALES, pelagic trip out of Monterey, Aug. 1--BR, RH, et al.

OBSERVERS: Hugh & Norah Bain, Florence Bennett, Jane Dang, George Finger, Bud Fry, Helen & Jerry Gentile, Kevin Hintsa, Ralph Hudgins, Bob & Jackie Knisley, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Dave Shuford, Maury Stern, Rich Sintchak, Rich Stallcup (RSt) Gifford & Winnie Young, NoCal Rare Bird Alert, many observers.

Wonder if SIGHTINGS are unusual? See "Birds of Northern California", available from Golden Gate Aud. Soc., The Nature Company, and Lucas Books, all in Berkeley.

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CLASSES and EXCURSIONS - your editor has more details.

Fremont Adult School. Birding Field Trips, Tues., Sept. 15-Oct. 21; Birding Ft. Reyes Peninsula, Sept. 26 (must pre-register by Sept. 21), \$12.50. Instructor: Alice Hoch. Info: 4700 Calaveras Ave., Fremont 94538; 791-5841 or Alice: 657-0475.

NAS West. Educ. Center. Hawaii - Ecology Workshop Tour, Dec. 10-21, Roger Harris, Meryl Sundove. Nat. Hist. of Richardson Bay by Canoe, Sept. 27, Laurie Durnell. Info: 376 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon; 94920; 388-2524. Nature Walks, Sun., 1 pm.

PRBO. East Coast Birds: Fall Migration, Sept. 12-19, Tom Love, \$610-700. Fall Migration - Benefit, Sept. 19-20, Bob Yutzy, \$35. Migrating Hawks, Sept. 27, Diane Williams, \$18. Info: Linda Parker, 4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach 94970; 868-1221.

* * * * *

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

Alamo: Mrs. David A. Barnes, Derek & Donna Brown, Ingrid Jansen, J. R. Signer; Antioch: Neil Tobin; Clayton: S. McCaurine, Phil Tinsley; Concord: David Anderson, Louise S. Becker & family, D. W. Clarke, B. Dickey, James P. Dixon, Dale Fleming, Ms. V. Forbes, John T. Hook, II, Merrilee L. Jonke, Ms. Audrey L. Rehbock, Shirley Sprague, Katie Stowe; Danville: Allen Ferris, Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Simmen; Lafayette: Henry E. Alubowicz, Debra Bandel, Graciela L. Berndorf, Kathleen Mansfield, Mrs. Carl B. Noecker, Mrs. H. Young; Martinez: Jasper Cooper & family, D. M. Fujii, James J. Laird, Robert Mertens, Beverly Walton, Colin J. Wells, MD; Pittsburg: Ora Canci-amilla, Mark O. Curtis & family, Charles E. Gerton; Pleasant Hill: Mr. Luel Marshall, Barbara Nummi; San Ramon: Mr. E. J. Houck, Nita McKnight; Walnut Creek: Wilma Buckman, Scott & Sharon Clark, Margaret Cormack, Dan Cortinovia, Gila S. Grunschlag, Betsy Kay Kennon, Jim Petersen, A. M. Roscoe, MD, Gary & Marcia Roseme, Idel Shultz, Mrs. George Stevens.

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CONDOR RECOVERY PROGRAM by Ed Hase. Recent reports from Dept. of Fish & Game indicate the program is still alive. The plan most likely to be approved by state and federal wildlife agencies would result in two birds receiving radio tags for tracking, three others being taken for captive breeding, including one to be introduced for mating with one, Topa Topa, already in captivity at the Los Angeles Zoo. If studies of the two radio-tagged birds show no ill effects, the Recovery Team would have the opportunity to apply for permission to take additional Condors for tagging. Both Sierra Club and Friends of the Earth have indicated that they may file lawsuits to block implementation of the program, if approved by the Fish & Game Commission, but to date, neither group has made the decision to proceed.

* * * * *

CONSERVATION NOTES by J. P. Hauser.

At a hearing of the House Interior Committee, James Watt was asked if he favored preserving land for future generations. He replied: "I do not know how many future generations we can count on before the Lord returns." It indicates his belief that the end is not far away, so he regards the earth as a disposable item to be used up then thrown away. His whole personal philosophy is fixed on the hereafter and he imposes this belief on the rest of us through decisions, arbitrarily made, to give our natural resources to the next - and not necessarily - bidder.

If you are concerned about losing the Williamson Act which preserves open land from development, write your State Senator, State Capitol, Sacramento 95814, in opposition to AB-2074, introduced by Assemblyman Richard Robinson of Orange County, which would turn the Act into a land speculator's tax deferral program. For information or questions, call Paula Carrell at 658-7470 at Sierra Club chapter in Berkeley. 1600 acres of typically beautiful land in Marin County, from Woodacre to Lagunitas, has been bought for development. A group, Friends of the Valley, composed of many professional people and concerned citizens, has been organized to fight this proposed development. Write to P. O. Box 966, Woodacre, CA 94973 for information.

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AUDUBON ENERGY PLAN by Greg Thornbury. Energy conservation, the cheapest, most available and environmentally safe energy source today, is stressed in the Plan. Locally, a program to involve all Bay Area Audubon chapters and members in energy conservation is being drafted. A brochure with tips on conserving energy and a reply card to request a home energy audit will be mailed to all Bay Area members of NAS. PG&E will perform the audit and help with printing and mailing costs.

The audit is designed to give information on things which can save energy and are economical to do. Simple practices like not using extra lights and small purchases like a water heater blanket can save hundreds of dollars on energy bills each year. Mt. Diablo chapter may be the focus of a pilot test of this program.

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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: \$25 per year, family \$32, others available; check payable to National Audubon Society, to Membership Chairman, MDAS, P O Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. Address change (send also to NAS): Jean Richmond, 125 Via Serena, Alamo, CA 94507. Change of chapter affiliation is only upon specific request by member. Subscriptions: \$4 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: \$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

GREATER BAY AREA SITE GUIDE: Gualala Point County Park.

Access: From US-101 go west to SR-1 from Petaluma or on River Rd. north of Santa Rosa then north to the Park (south side of Gualala River, the Sonoma-Mendocino County line). Approximately 140 miles, 3-3½ hours. Camp fee \$6 or day-use fee \$2.

Road east to small campground in redwood grove on river bank: Grasshopper Sparrows south side of road; alders west of camp: Winter Wren, Swainson's Thrush, several warblers; dirt road opposite RV service area; trail east along river is reached via gate in the fence east of Campsite 1. Campsites 1-5, good river view: Green Heron, Common Merganser, Belted Kingfisher, 5 swallow species, Purple Martin, Vaux's Swift along river; woodpeckers, Sapsucker, Chickadee, Varied Thrush (winter) in camp.

Trail west from campground loop through walk-in campsites and across an open area (Allen's Hummingbird, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch) to SR-1 bridge (Cliff Swallow, Purple Martin nest; Osprey easily seen over open section of river). The trail continues up the bank to the picnic area and Visitor Center. Small pines, bluff in vicinity of picnic area: Osprey, swallows, Wrentit, Hutton's Vireo, Purple Finch, Siskin, American Goldfinch; Grasshopper Sparrow possible.

Road west from SR-1 to Visitor Center, picnic area. Loop trail southwest from Center across coastal prairie, past cypress trees to bluffs; check offshore rocks, rocky and sandy beaches: Oystercatcher, Tattler, Murre, Guillemot. Continue loop north along bluffs to sandy beach and back to Center. Sandbar across river mouth in summer, fall creates freshwater lagoon used by many ducks, gulls. Sandbars in the river good for shorebirds. Lagoon also viewable from town of Gualala.

Small marsh west of SR-1 along the north riverbank is usually productive. Along Old Stage Rd. in hills behind the town of Gualala: Mountain Quail, Red Crossbill. Fish Rocks, offshore at Fish Rock Rd. 5 miles north: Puffins possible in summer.

From parking area near Park entrance walk south along SR-1 about ¼ mile to MP 58.05, take redwood steps to a trail through Sea Ranch golfcourse to a cove for delightful ½ mile (each way) walk with a variety of wildflowers and birds.

Kayak or canoe best way to bird river. Insect repellent advised in campground and near river. Gas, groceries, motels in small town of Gualala just north of river. Another campground, privately owned Gualala River Redwoods, on north side of river.

Other birds include 3 loons, 5 grebes, Brown Pelican, 3 cormorants, Great Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, Night Heron, many ducks (Harlequin possible offshore south of the river), Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, Kestrel, Quail, rails, Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Black Turnstone, Whimbrel, Spotted Sandpiper, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Least & Western Sandpiper, dowitchers, Sanderling, phalaropes, several gulls may include Kittiwake, Forster's & Caspian Tern, Marbled Murrelets may congregate in afternoon at river mouth, Band-Tailed Pigeon, dove, Barn & Great Horned Owl, Common Nighthawk (summer, over town of Gualala in evening and early morning), Flicker, Pileated, Hairy & Downy Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Ash-Throated, Western & Olive-Sided Flycatcher, both jays, Raven, Bushtit, Creeper, Bewick's & Marsh Wren, Robin, both kinglets, Waxwing, Starling, Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Cowbird, Black-Headed Grosbeak, House Finch, Junco, Savannah, Lark, white-Crowned, Fox & Song Sparrow.

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Please send NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS of MDAS activities to Joy Hall, 60 Isabella Ln., Pleasant Hill 94523. Such items are placed in our chapter scrapbook. Thanks!

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(415) AUD-UBON

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

October 1981
Vol. 28, No. 3
Next deadline: October 8

Meeting: Thurs., Oct. 1. Doors open 6:30 p.m. Birdinformation: 7:00; business: 7:30; social time: 8:00; program: 8:30. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1924 Trinity Ave., Walnut Creek, near Oakland Blvd. PLEASE NOTE the temporary change in meeting place due to the fire at the Women's Club.

Field Trips: TRIPS OPEN, members, non-members alike; bring lunch, binocs, field guide. Carpool TIME is departure time. Carpool EXPENSE: 5¢ per mile per rider suggested; entry fees or tolls shared equally among driver and riders.

Wed., Oct. 7, 9:15 a.m., Sunol Regional Park; carpool: El Cerro Blvd. at I-680, Danville, 8:30. Leader: Merv Ortez (283-3072).

Sat.-Sun., Oct. 10-11, Monterey; Sat., 8:30 a.m., Moss Landing; Sun., 7:30, Sea Breeze Motel, 1100 Lighthouse Ave., Pacific Grove. Motel info, see Sept. issue. Sat. dinner, 6:00, Mark Thomas' Outrigger; call Jean Richmond immediately for late reservations. Leaders: Jean Richmond (837-2843) and Florence Bennett. One-day trippers: call Elizabeth Dickey (254-0486).

Thurs., Oct. 22, 9:00 a.m., Alameda South Shore; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Fwy 24, 8:15. Leader: Winnie Orcutt (944-0593).

Sat., Oct. 31, 9:00 a.m., Estero Trail & Home Bay; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Fwy 24, 7:00. Leaders: Winnie Orcutt (944-0593) and Marjorie Plant (934-1093). May be cold and windy.

Board Meeting: Thurs., Oct. 8, 7:30 p.m., home of Winnie Young, 1451 Janet Ct., Benicia; (707) 745-4134. Board meetings are always open to members.

Conservation Mtg: Thurs., Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m., home of Joy Hall, 60 Isabella Ln., Pleasant Hill; 939-0122. Open to all those interested in conservation matters.

BIRDINFORMATION, by Jerry Gentile, will be slides of local birds, where to see and photograph them. The PROGRAM will be a discussion by Steve Weir on the Pheripheral Canal and its various impacts on the Delta. Mr. Weir is legislative assistant to Assemblyman Dan Boatwright.

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.

On the MONTEREY AREA WEEKEND we will see waterbirds, shorebirds, gulls, landbirds of varied habitats (hopefully eastern vagrants), Moss Landing to Carmel. Take I-680 to San Jose, US-101 to Prunedale, west on SR-156, north 4 miles on SR-1, west onto Jetty Rd. ($\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of Elkhorn Slough bridge). Allow at least 2 hours.

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.

Along ESTERO TRAIL and HOME BAY, new for us, are waterbirds, shorebirds, some land birds. Cross San Rafael Bridge, go north on US-101 for 0.6 mile, take San Rafael exit 2 blocks, go left out through Fairfax to SR-1, turn right 2 miles then left on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. 8 miles, left to the end of the public section of the road.

* * * * *

FIELD TRIP REPORTS.

The trip to the BODEGA BAY AREA on August 15 was made by 26 members on a cool day which began foggy but later became clear. Found were breeding-plumage Red-Throated Loon, Virginia Rail, Sora, 7 Oystercatchers, Snowy Plover, 5 Elegant Terns, and Marbled Murrelet among these 72 species seen or heard:

Com & Red-Throated Loon, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Brown Pelican, Dbl-Crested, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Com & Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Greater Scaup, White-winged Scoter, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Marsh Hawk, falcon sp, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Virginia Rail, Sora, Amer Coot, Black Oystercatcher, Semipalmated & Snowy Plover, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Ruddy & Black Turnstone, Spotted Sandpiper, Wandering Tattler, Willet, Least Sandpiper, Short-Billed Dowitcher, West Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, West, Herring, Ring-Billed & Heermann's Gull, Forster's, Elegant & Caspian Tern, Com Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Marbled Murrelet, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Allen's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Downy Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Scrub Jay, Com Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Amer Robin, Hutton's Vireo, Wilson's Warbler, House Sparrow, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Black-Headed Grosbeak, House Finch, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, Brown Towhee, Savannah, White-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

Along the SAN MATEO COUNTY COAST on September 5 it was foggy and cool with variable wind. The 13 members found many Sooty Shearwaters, a Bittern, 2 Harlequin Ducks, Red Knot, 2 Baird's Sandpipers, and Tricolored Blackbirds among these 93 species:

Arctic & Red-Throated Loon, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Sooty Shearwater, Brown Pelican, Dbl-Crested, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Amer Bittern, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, Northern Shoveler, Harlequin Duck, White-winged & Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, White-Tailed Kite, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Virginia Rail, Amer Coot, Black Oystercatcher, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Surfbird, Ruddy & Black Turnstone, Whimbrel, Spotted Sandpiper, Wandering Tattler, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Red Knot, Baird's & Least Sandpiper, Short-Billed Dowitcher, West Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, phalarope sp, Glaucous-winged, West, Calif, Ring-Billed & Heermann's Gull, Forster's, Elegant & Caspian Tern, Com Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Marbled Murrelet, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Rock & Mourning Dove, swift sp, Belted Kingfisher, Hairy & Downy Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, West Wood Pewee, Rough-winged, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Com Raven, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Pygmy Nuthatch, Wren, Bewick's & Marsh Wren, Starling, Orange-Crowned Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, West Meadowlark, Red-winged, Tricolored & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, Savannah, White-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

On September 10 at LINCOLN PARK and LAND'S END the weather was cool and foggy with variable wind. Found by 9 members were 2 Chestnut-Sided Warblers, a female Lazuli Bunting, and a Green-Tailed Towhee among the following 55 species:

West Grebe, Brown Pelican, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, White-winged Scoter, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Black Oystercatcher, Black Turnstone, Wandering Tattler, Willet, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, West, Calif & Heermann's Gull, Elegant Tern, Com Murre, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Rock & Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Downy Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, West Wood Pewee, swallow sp, Scrub Jay, Com Raven, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Pygmy Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Winter & Bewick's Wren, Amer Robin, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Starling, Yellow, Black-Throated Gray, Townsend's, Hermit, CHESTNUT-SIDED & Wilson's WARBLER, House Sparrow, Red-winged & Brewer's Blackbird, West Tanager, Lazuli Bunting, Purple Finch, GREEN-TAILED & Brown TOWHEE, Dark-Eyed Junco, White-Crowned, Lincoln's & Song Sparrow.

* * * * *

A WORD OF CAUTION on field trips: keep valuables with you or leave them out of sight, preferably in the locked trunk. On the San Mateo County coast trip a car window was broken and a purse and a daypack were taken from the seat. The safest policy is to leave nothing in sight within the vehicle.

* * * * *

Don't send your LEAVES to the dump - they are of much value to your garden. Put the excess in an unused area of your garden to decay over the winter. Some leaves, such as oak, will increase the soil acidity but a little lime next spring will cure that. Nature swirls leaves in the wind until they snuggle around plants where they decay and add humus to the soil. This leaf mold aids water absorption and retention, increases absorption of the sun's warmth, develops and holds plant food, and is excellent plant fertilizer. So don't rake up and discard all those leaves!

* * * * *

FIELD TRIP ABC'S - attitude, behavior, clothing.

Clothing: Shoes should be stout, water-resistant - high heels, open toed shoes are unforgivable. Outer clothing should be layered to shed/don as temperature changes. Avoid soft clothing which tears or attracts seeds - you may be in briars or weedy areas. Long sleeves protect against scratches, bites. A hat helps avoid sunburn, bugs. Avoid "noisy" jacket sleeves, trouser legs. Wear subdued colors.

Assembly: Arrive before the appointed time. This gives a chance to talk with the leader and others about the trip's objectives - and to chat with birding friends.

Walking: Most walking will be slow-paced and the best way is to walk somewhat flat-footed to cut down noise. Stay a few paces behind the leader or anyone else to avoid getting a branch in the face or bumping into the one in front of you who may suddenly stop. NEVER walk in front of the leader - this is a cardinal sin, equaled only by the crime of wandering off by yourself.

Talking: Birding is largely listening! There is no excuse for loud talking. But do call out birds you see or hear. It's better to call it wrong than not at all.

Use eyes and ears. Look front, back, both sides, overhead. This is the secret of finding birds. Be quiet and listen - many birds are first located by sound.

The list: List the numbers of each bird you see which have been well identified. Especially list unfamiliar birds then study them thoroughly when you return home.

Identification: Look up every unfamiliar bird; listen to what others are saying. If someone identifies a bird you do not know, it is permissible to quietly ask for a review of field marks but do not disturb others who may be birdlistening. The smartest thing a novice can do is to stay near and listen to an "old hand".

Freezing: If the leader or anyone else suddenly "freezes" it is a signal for all to do the same. You may not see the bird but your movement might flush it. Courtesy demands that you remain motionless until the spotter moves or speaks.

(Excerpted by Margaret Schussman from an article by L. C. Fink in Audubon for Pacific Flyway, Morro Coast Audubon Society.)

Five pairs of PUFFINS nested on Eastern Egg Rock in Maine this summer. Reestablished on the island through a transplant program NAS undertook in 1976, they are the first to breed there in a century after being wiped out in the 1800's by hunters.

MONO LAKE GULL DISASTER. Most of the gull chicks hatched at Mono Lake this year starved. The gulls there depend on the cornucopia of brine shrimp which reach densities of about 15,000 per square meter by late spring - or did until last year. In June, 1980, brine shrimp numbers were down by approximately 50%, this year down by 80-95%. Brine flies were scarce as well. As a result, gulls could not find enough food for their young and by mid-July, at least 90% of the chicks had died.

The summer hatch of brine shrimp brought numbers closer to normal, assuring food for hundreds of thousands of migratory water birds that rest and feed at Mono during fall migration. The gulls, however, depend on shrimp hatched during late winter and early spring from overwintering eggs; later generations hatch within the females' bodies. Scientists suspect that Mono's increasing salinity and changing water chemistry adversely affected the overwintering eggs and created the crisis.

The 20-30,000 dead chicks littering the islands are a grim reminder that time is fast running out. Further shrinkage of the lake will jeopardize not only gulls but the entire ecosystem. We can still save Mono Lake but we must speak out forcibly.

Urge elected representatives to come to Mono Lake's defense. Advocate a moratorium on L.A. water diversions, at least until the brine shrimp recover and gulls again can successfully rear their young. Point to this summer's calamity as justification for immediate, emergency action. Send letters to Gov. Edmund G. Brown, Jr., your state senator and assemblyman; addresses: State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814.

CLASSES and EXCURSIONS -- your editor has more details.

Bay Adventure Seminars, a wide variety of adventures in natural history; sponsored by Coastal Parks Association in cooperation with US Fish & Wildlife Service at SF Bay NWR; class size limited. Info: P O Box 524, Newark, CA 94560; (415) 792-3271.

PRBO. Raptors, Shorebirds of NorCalif, Nov. 6-8, Bill Clow, \$35. Winter Birds in Calif Great Basin Country, Nov. 26-29, Ron LeValley, \$140. Birds of San Blas & Sierra Madre Occidental, Nov. 23-Dec. 2, Bill Clow & Lynn McCulloch, \$825. Info: Linda Parker, 4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach, CA 94970; (415) 868-1221.

OBSERVATIONS, August 14-September 9. Also see field trip reports.

HOT SPOT was outer Pt. Reyes in September. Many sightings involved too many observers to name but all are listed below. Some birds were at so many spots that the places are listed with only extreme dates given. Ablag: Abbott's Lagoon; DrBeh: Drake's Beach; FDks: Fish Docks; Lthse: Lighthouse; MRoh: Mendoza Ranch; NWil: New Willows near Fish Docks; NRoh: Nunes Ranch; HQ: Natl Seashore Headquarters.

Red-Necked Grebe, up to 4, DrBeh, Sept. 7-9--BR, KH, RS, JG, m.ob. Green Heron, Dutch Slough Rd., Aug. 15--BR; 5--Brooks Pond, Aug. 18--FB, BF, JR, et al. White-Faced Ibis, 1-2, Zmudowski St Boh, Monterey Co., Aug. 29-Sept. 6--RBA, BC. Harlequin Duck, 2, Año Nuevo St Res, San Mateo Co., at least thru Sept. 5--m.ob.

Snowy Plover, Pt. Richmond, Sept. 6--BR. Black Turnstone, Stockton sewer ponds, Aug. 20--BR, PG. Lesser Yellowlegs, Pierce Pt. Rd., Pt. Reyes, Aug. 16--RS, BR; 3, near Holey Rd., east C.C.Co., Aug. 19--BR; 2, SR-4 at east C.C.Co. line, Aug. 20--BR, PG; 3, Pescadero Marsh, San Mateo Co., Aug. 22--BR; up to 20, Zmudowski St Boh, Aug. 29-Sept. 6--RBA, BC; 1, DrBeh Rd., Sept. 5--BR; 2, MRoh pond, Sept. 7--RS.

Red Knot, 2, Ablag, Aug. 16--BR, RS; Año Nuevo St Res., Aug. 23--BR. Pectoral Sandpiper, Clifton Court Forebay (CCF), Aug. 22--BR; Stockton sewer ponds, Aug. 20--BR, PG; 2, Pescadero Marsh, Aug. 23--BR; 1, MRoh, H&JG, FB, B&MJG. Baird's Sandpiper, 4, SR-4 at east C.C.Co. line, Aug. 15--BR; 4, Ablag, & 2, SR-37, Solano Co., Aug. 16--BR, RS; 2, Pescadero Marsh, Aug. 23--BR; 7+, Bodega Bay, Aug. 25--JR, FB, BF, et al. Dunlin, early, Ablag., Sept. 5--BR, RS.

Parasitic Jaeger, FDks, Sept. 5-9--BR, RS, JG, et al. FRANKLIN'S GULL, imm, Stockton sewer ponds, Aug. 20--BR, PG. Common Tern, 2, FDks, Sept. 7-9+, KH, RS, et al. Elephant Tern, 5 still at Bodega Bay, Aug. 25--FB, BF, JR, et al.

Vaux's Swift, 7, Lthse, Sept. 5--FB, H&JG, B&MJG. Pileated Woodpecker, 2, 5--Brooks, Aug. 18--JR, BF, FB, et al. Ash-Throated Flycatcher, Lthse, Sept. 5-8--m.ob.; NWil, Sept. 5-9+--m.ob. Purple Martin, 6, 5--Brooks, Aug. 18--BF, FB, JR, et al. Solitary Vireo, CCF, Aug. 20--BR, PG. RED-EYED VIREO, FDks and NWil, Sept. 9+--m.ob.

Black-and-White Warbler, ♀, FDks, Sept. 5-9+--m.ob.; ♂, MRoh, Sept. 7--BR, RS, KH. Tennessee Warbler, FDks, Sept. 7-9--BR, KH, RS. MAGNOLIA WARBLER, Lthse, Sept. 7--KH, RS, BR. Black-Throated Gray Warbler, CCF, Aug. 20-22--BR, PG; MRoh, Sept. 9+--JG, RS, m.ob. Townsend's Warbler, her Walnut Creek apartment--Sept. 6--FB. Hermit Warbler, FDks, Sept. 8--BF.

Blackpoll Warbler, up to 3, MRoh, Aug. 29-Sept. 9+--m.ob.; 1-2, FDks, Sept. 1-9+--m.ob. Northern Waterthrush, 2, NWil, Sept. 7-9--BR, RS, KH, et al. MOURNING WARBLER, NWil, Sept. 7-9+--BR, KH, RS, m.ob. CANADA WARBLER, ranch off Morgan Territory Rd., Aug. 27-28--DS, BR. American Redstart, 2, MRoh, Aug. 29--H&JG, FB; 1, Lthse, Sept. 5--H&JG, B&MJG, FB, RS, BR; ♀, FDks, Sept. 5--B&MJG, FB, H&JG, BR, RS; 2, NRoh, Sept. 7-9+--m.ob.; 2, NWil, Sept. 9+--m.ob.

Hooded Oriole, up to 4, still in her Alamo garden, thru Sept. 9+--JR. Western Tanager, ♂, CCF, Aug. 20--BR, PG; ♀, Bodega Bay, Aug. 25--JR, FB, BF, et al. ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK, ♂, HQ, Sept. 5--B&MJG, FB, H&JG. Rose-Breasted X Black-Headed Grosbeak, hybrid, HQ, Sept. 5--BR, RS. Blue Grosbeak, 4♂, 2♀, CCF, Aug. 15--BR

Red Crossbill, 4, Tilden Pk golfcourse, Aug. 31--RS. LARK BUNTING, Lincoln Pk, SF, Sept. 4--DM. CLAY-COLORED SPARROW, Lthse, Sept. 8-9+--RSt, m.ob. Brewer's Sparrow, Lthse, Sept. 8-9+--RSt, m.ob. Golden-Crowned Sparrow, early, Bodega Bay, Aug. 25--JR, BF, FB, et al.

OBSERVERS: Florence Bennett, Bill Chilson, Bud Fry, Helen & Jerry Gentile, Phil Gordon, Bill & Mary Jane Greene, Jeff Greenhouse, Kevin Hints, Dan Murphy, Bill Pursell, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Rich Sintchak, Rich Stallcup, Don Schmoldt, NoCal Rare Bird Alert, many observers.

There is a NEW RARE BIRD ALERT for the Monterey area: (408) 899-3030, changed on Wednesday evenings. MDAS tape, AUD-UBON, including upcoming meetings and trips, is changed regularly. Northern California Rare Bird Alert, 843-2211, is changed weekly, usually Wednesday.

PLEASE REMEMBER, observations do not have to be of rare or exotic species!! Report common birds in uncommon places, at uncommon times, or doing uncommon things.

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

Alamo: Nicole Hill; Danville: Marvin J. Weber; Concord: Edna Bason & family, Mrs. Solange L. Elliott & family, H. Grant, William E. Morris, Donald S. Scott, K. M. Shelton; Lafayette: William Neuburger, Mrs. Lucy Yates; Martinez: Jack Frohliok & family, Anna Voorhies; Facheco: Mary J. Kerwin; Pittsburg: Terry Schumacher, Ann B. Seamans & family; Pleasant Hill: Adah Head & family; Walnut Creek: Mr. & Mrs. David J. Deboer, Michael Gallagher, D. E. Huggard, L. Klein, Dennis Randall, MD, Sharp family, Marjorie Striepeke, Steven H. Welch, Jr.

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CONSERVATION COMMITTEE UPDATE.

Audubon "Action Alert". The Regional Audubon Office has established an Audubon "Action Alert" to inform interested persons of specific conservation issues requiring urgent calls to government representatives. If you are interested in specific subjects, i.e., Wildlife, Toxics, Energy, Land and Water Issues, Public Lands, International Issues, or Population, and wish to make calls, write legislators, or to contribute special expertise, contact Mr. Glenn Olson, Western Regional Representative, Western Regional Office, 555 Audubon Place, Sacramento, CA 95825.

Wilderness Proposals for Forest Service Lands. The California RARE II bill, (HR 4083) has passed the House without significant opposition. Rep. Don Clausen (R-CA) is the one responsible for getting it through the House. Opposed by the Administration and the timber industry, HR 4083 establishes some 2.1 million acres of California national forest as wilderness.

It appears that the outcome in the Senate is uncertain. Sen. S. I. Hayakawa has sponsored S 842, a bill which would release all future Wilderness Planning Areas (WPA's) to multiple-use management. It seems likely that resolution will involve compromise between Hawakawa's bill and S1584, promoted by Sen. Alan Cranston, which is nearly identical to the House-passed California RARE II bill. If no compromise between the two bills results, Senate Energy Committee Chairman James McClure (R-ID) intends to write his own version of the California RARE II bill. Lately, the Senate has been devoting full time consideration to the Reagan budget but is expected to begin serious negotiation on RARE II upon return from August vacation.

Survey Finds Americans Unwilling to Weaken Clean Air and Water Acts. A large majority of Americans support the current provisions of the Clean Air and Water Acts, and many favor making the laws even stricter, according to a recent Lou Harris survey. 86% to 12% of those surveyed oppose making the Air Act less strict, and 93% to 4% oppose easing up environmental rules governing water pollution. Only 6% of Americans think federal water pollution standards are overly protective, 43% endorse current levels of water pollution control. The other 48% think the standards to clean up water pollution are not protective enough.

Those interested in conservation matters are encouraged to contact Chairman Ed Hase or any Conservation Committee members at membership meetings to join their group.

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

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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: \$25 per year, family \$32, others available; check payable to National Audubon Society, to Membership Chairman, MDAS, P O Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. 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: \$4 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: \$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.)

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For a FLYER ON PELAGIC TRIPS out of Monterey, August 1981-February 1982, write to Debi Love Shearwater, 362 Lee St., Santa Cruz, CA 95060; phone (408) 425-8111.

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GREATER BAY AREA SITE GUIDE: Hayward Regional Shoreline.

Access: From SR-17 (Nimitz Fwy) in Hayward go west on W. Winton Ave. to the end of the road. Park here if the gate is closed and walk in, otherwise drive the short distance to the main parking lot. Open 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; summer, sunrise-sunset.

Along the entrance road check wires for kite, shrike; eucalyptus trees for hummingbirds, warblers, sparrows. Just west of the parking lot go up atop a former landfill dump for overview of the park; look for Horned Larks, Water Pipits, sparrows in sparse vegetation; kite, hawks, shrike in grassy field to the north. Walk south, checking oxidation ponds to the east (best in afternoon). The west end of the landfill is excellent for scooping the Bay. Near the southwest corner of the landfill go north on the dirt path between Triangle Marsh and the Bay to the effluent channel outflow at Hayward Landing: many birds are near here as the tide starts to ebb. There is a small marsh beyond the channel's tidal gates. On outgoing tide the flats are alive with shorebirds; shallows have waders, ducks; open water has grebes, diving ducks. (This area is best in morning.) You can return to your car from here on the dirt road east along the channel.

Return south, walk east on either side of a buffer pond along the landfill, turn right along the chainlink fence which encloses the oxidation ponds then right again onto the dike between North and East Units: ducks winter here, shorebirds use the island (Avocets nest). Cross the bridge, turn right on the dike between North and South Units to the Bay, then left along the water, cross a second bridge to Johnson's Landing and another small marsh jutting into the Bay. San Mateo Bridge is about a mile south of this point.

The trail turns east with South Unit on the left, a seasonal, variable marsh on the right (future parkland restoration area) which can have many shorebirds at high tide. At the fork turn left on the levee between South and East Units to the first bridge or continue east. An alkali flat by the oxidation ponds may have egrets, shorebirds. Return north on the levee between the oxidation ponds and East Unit.

Facilities: none at present. Future plans: When 2 other sections are developed, a 1000-acre park will extend 3 miles along the shore from Grant Ave. in San Lorenzo to south of Johnson's Landing. Dikes were breached in May 1980, and tidal marsh is being restored from former salt ponds. Your editor has an excellent map, done by Dr. Howard Cogswell, printed in The Kite Call by Ohlone Audubon Society. Best birding: fall through spring.

Birds: 4 grebes, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, both egrets, White-Fronted Goose has been here, many ducks winter on the oxidation ponds, the tidal areas, and the Bay, Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, Merlin has been seen, Kestrel, rails in the marshy areas, Coot, many shorebirds of many species, 7 gull species, Forster's & Caspian Tern (Common, Least are possible), Mourning Dove, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Flicker, Black & Say's Phoebe, Horned Lark, several swallows possible, Bushtit, Bewick's Wren, Mockingbird, Robin, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Yellow-Rumped Warbler, Yellowthroat, Western Meadowlark, blackbirds, Brown-Headed Cowbird, House Finch, American Goldfinch, both towhees, sparrows include Savannah, Dark-Eyed Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Lincoln's and Song.

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FOREST PLANNING. The Forest Service's program to encourage more public participation in National Forest planning is well underway in many areas. Input in this program will influence important wildlife habitat, watershed, and other resource issues involving large areas for years to come. A reliable guide to citizen action is Forest Planning magazine. Free sample copy: P O Box 3479, Eugene, OR 97403.

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MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY
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Walnut Creek, CA 94596

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

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

November 1981
Vol. 28, No. 4
Next deadline: November 6

Meeting: Thurs., Nov. 5. Doors open 6:00 p.m. Birdinformation: 7:00; business: 7:30; social time: 8:00; program: 8:30. Buena Vista School, 2355 San Juan Ave., Walnut Creek. See page 6 for location and map.

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 among driver and riders.

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

Thurs., Nov. 12, 8:45 a.m., Pt. Edith. Leader: John Davis (228-9516).

Wed., Nov. 18, 8:45 a.m., Mt. View Sanitary District and Waterfront Rd. Leaders: Irene & Erling Hellekson (229-1837).

Sat., Nov. 21, 8:30 a.m., Palo Alto Baylands; carpool: El Cerro Blvd. at I-680, Danville, 7:00. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey (254-0486).

Board Meeting: Thurs., Nov. 12, 7:30 p.m., home of Elizabeth Dickey, 113 Hillcrest Dr., Orinda; 254-0486. Board meetings are always open to members.

Checklist Meeting: Thurs., Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m., home of Sally Steller, 591 Fulton Way, Danville; 837-9061. Open to anyone interested in our county bird list work.

Conservation Mtg: There will be no meeting of the Conservation Committee in November or in December.

BIRDINFORMATION will be "Waterfowl Sounds," another informative session by Marie Mans. The PROGRAM will be an excellent presentation by John Kipping, "Habitats of the Coastal Redwoods." Mr. Kipping is resident biologist at Audubon Canyon Ranch.

With varied habitats, BODEGA BAY has many species of waterbirds, ducks, shorebirds, landbirds, possibly including Red-Necked Grebe, Brant, Rook 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.

PT. EDITH has birds of water, marsh and uplands, likely including Green and Night Herons, rails, Short-Eared Owl. The area, dedicated as a refuge in June, is not yet open to public use. From I-680 in Martinez take Marina Vista/Waterfront Rd. exit and park in the pullout on the right just east of the freeway.

At MT. VIEW SANITARY DISTRICT are waterbirds, some landbirds. Take Pacheco Blvd. exit off I-680 in Martinez, go east on Arthur Rd. a few blocks to a sharp right turn to Aome Fill Dump. Turn left (WATCH OUT FOR TRUCKS) to Mt. View Sanitary District.

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

* * * * *

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

FIELD TRIP REPORTS.

Seven members went to SF BAY REFUGE and COYOTE HILLS on September 16. The weather was sunny and comfortable with light, variable wind. The trip to the edge of the Bay by Refuge van provided close views of many shorebirds including Red Knot. An early Bufflehead was also among these 62 species seen or heard:

Pied-Billed Grebe, White & Brown Pelican, Dbl-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, Greater Scaup, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Marsh Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Clapper Rail, Com Gallinule, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Ruddy & Black Turnstone, Long-Billed Curlew, Whimbrel, Wandering Tattler, Willet, Red Knot, Least Sandpiper, dowitcher sp, West Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Amer Avocet, Black-Necked Stilt, Northern Phalarope, West, Calif & Ring-Billed Gull, Forster's & Elegant Tern, Rock Dove, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Horned Lark, Tree, Rough-winged & Barn Swallow, Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Marsh Wren, West Bluebird, Loggerhead Shrike, Red-winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Amer Goldfinch, Savannah Sparrow, Dark-Eyed Junco, Song Sparrow.

The trip to OUTER PT. REYES and 5-BROOKS on September 27 was made by 21 members on a miserable day which was cool and wet with misty rain, light wind. Weather at the point was so bad the group did not go beyond Drake's Beach but a search for longspurs and Red-Throated Pipit was made at Hall Ranch. Weather was somewhat better at 5-Brooks although still wet and misty. Red-Necked Grebe, 2 Green Herons, ♀ Wood Duck, Golden Plover, Baird's Sandpiper were among these 65 species heard or seen:

Com & Arctic Loon, Red-Necked, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Brown Pelican, Double-Crested, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue & Green Heron, Gadwall, Amer Wigeon, Wood Duck, White-winged & Surf Scoter, Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed & Red-Shouldered Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Com Gallinule, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Golden & Black-Bellied Plover, Willet, Baird's & Least Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Glaucous-winged, West, Calif, Ring-Billed & Heermann's Gull, Rook & Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Acorn Woodpecker, Black & Say's Phoebe, Horned Lark, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Com Raven, Com Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Brown Creeper, Wrentit, Winter & Marsh Wren, Amer Robin, West Bluebird, Starling, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-winged, Tricolored & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Savannah, White-Crowned & Song Sparrow, (1 Lapland Longspur, after field trip - Jean Richmond).

At SUNOL REGIONAL PARK on October 7 it was cool and calm with clouds clearing in the afternoon. The 13 members found 2 immature and 3 adult Golden Eagles, Canyon Wren, ♀ Western Tanager, and many sparrows among these 54 species seen or heard:

Great Blue Heron, Com Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-Shinned, Cooper's & Red-Tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, White-Throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Acorn & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black & Say's Phoebe, swallow sp, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Yellow-Billed Magpie, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, Bewick's & Canyon Wren, Calif Thrasher, Amer Robin, Hermit Thrush, West Bluebird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Starling, "Audubon's", Black-Throated Gray & Townsend's Warbler, West Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, West Tanager, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Savannah, Lark & Rufous-Crowned Sparrow, Dark-Eyed Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox & Song Sparrow.

The MONTEREY WEEKEND October 10-11 began with steady drizzle but in mid-morning the skies cleared then the weekend remained cool and partly cloudy with wind, brisk at times, in most areas. Seen were shearwaters far offshore at Pt. Pinos, Red Phalaropes at Pt. Pinos and the Coast Guard pier, Pomarine Jaegers and Skua at Moss Landing, Tropical Kingbird and Palm Warbler at Crespi Pond, Least Flycatcher and Black-&-White Warbler at Carmel River, Sea Otters in several places. Six members stopped at Año Nuevo on the way home and saw the Yellow-Crowned Night Heron. The 17 members heard or saw the following 119 species:

Com, Arctic & Red-Throated Loon, Horned, Eared, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Pink-Footed & Sooty Shearwater, Brown Pelican, Dbl-Crested, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-winged & Cinnamon Teal, Bufflehead, White-winged & Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Red-Breasted Merganser, White-Tailed Kite, Sharp-Shinned, Red-Tailed & Red-Shouldered Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Virginia Rail, Sora, Amer Coot, Black Oystercatcher, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Surfbird, Ruddy & Black Turnstone, Long-Billed Curlew, Whimbrel, Spotted Sandpiper, Wandering Tattler, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper,

Dunlin, Short-Billed & Long-Billed Dowitcher, West Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sand-
 erling, Amer Avocet, Black-Necked Stilt, Red & Northern Phalarope, Pomarine Jaeger,
 Skua, Glaucous-Winged, West, Herring, Calif, Ring-Billed & Heermann's Gull, Fors-
 ter's & Elegant Tern, Com Murre, Rhinoceros Auklet, Rock & Mourning Dove, Anna's
 Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Acorn, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker,
 Tropical Kingbird, Black & Say's Phoebe, LEAST & West FLYCATCHER, Scrub Jay, Com
 Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Pygmy Nuthatch, Wrenit, Winter & Bewick's
 Wren, Amer Robin, Hermit Thrush, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling,
 Hutton's & Warbling Vireo, Black-&-White, Orange-Crowned, Nashville, Yellow,
 "Audubon's", Black-Throated Gray, Townsend's & Palm Warbler, House Sparrow, West
 Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch,
 Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Dark-Eyed Junco, White-Crowned,
 Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

Please bring ALL-ALUMINUM CANS (no bimetal) to meetings so they may be recycled and
 the money put into our treasury. Give the cans a light rinse to prevent ants,
 smash them and put them into a bag for easy handling.

SEABIRDS OF MONTEREY BAY desperately need help. Lightweight, easily transported
 monofilament gillnets being used in that area, mainly by Vietnamese fishermen, are
 killing birds by the thousands and also mammals. Most affected are Common Murres
 and Sooty Shearwaters which feed below the surface, become caught in the nets and
 drown. During peak fishery months adult murres are flightless due to feather molt,
 chicks are swimming well but are not yet flying and are still dependent on adults
 for food. Shearwaters apparently become entangled while pursuing spawning squid.
 Both species have low reproductive rates, thus compounding the situation.

Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society is actively working to resolve the problem and
 ask our help and support. They have requested their legislators, Senator Henry
 Mello and Assemblyman Sam Farr, to introduce Emergency Legislation in January to
 resolve the problem before another summer kill occurs.

Please write now, urging solution of this dreadful problem, to your senator and as-
 semblyman, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814; and to Charles Fullerton, Director,
 Dept. of Fish & Game, 1416 - 9th St., Sacramento, CA 95814. Copies would be appre-
 ciated by MPAS: Jo Stallard, Pres., 225 Wood St., Pacific Grove, CA 93950. You
 will be informed when Legislation is drafted and the Bill number. MPAS, the sea-
 birds and mammals thank you for your help.

WOODLANDS and WILDLIFE, a 68-page booklet for owners of woodland areas who are in-
 terested in making their property more attractive to birds and animals, is available
 for \$2 from Pennsylvania State University Park, Pennsylvania 16802.

The haunting call of the COMMON LOON is being preserved for posterity by a phono-
 graph record, "Voices of the Loon," and by a campaign of research, public education,
 and conservation management to save the species from extinction. Sale of the rec-
 ord is helping finance the campaign. Co-published by NAS, copies are available at
 \$9 each, plus \$1.50 handling, from North American Loon Fund, Meridith, NH 03253.

CLASSES and EXCURSIONS -- your editor has more details.

Alexander Lindsay Jr Museum, outdoor trips on foot, some by canoe; Christmas in the
 Desert: backpack trip; family car camping trip. Info: call the Museum, 935-1978.

SF Bay NWR. Weekend programs, call 792-3178 for recorded weekly schedule. Special
 programs: Kids Day at Refuge, Nov. 21; workshop - Producing Environmental Results,
 Nov. 1; Stalk an Endangered Species, Dec. 12 & 13. Info/reservations: 792-0222.

NAS Ecology Workshops. Puerto Rico, Jan. 31-Feb. 7, Bruce Sorrie, \$750. Surinam,
 Mar. 5-22, Davis Finch, \$1850. Upcoming: Great Britain, June; Palenque/Yucatan,
 Oct. Info: NAS Ecology Workshop Tours, 613 Riverside Rd., Greenwich, CT 06830.

PRBO. Migrating Waterfowl, Central Valley, Dec. 5-6, Diane Williams, \$60. Bird
 Identification, Dec. 11-13, Rich Stallcup, \$40. Birds, Whales, Marine Life, West
 Mexico, Dec. 22-28, Ron LeValley, Manuel Lomeli, \$795. Info: Linda Parker, 4990
 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach, CA 94970; 868-1221.

Pt. Reyes Field Seminars, sponsored by Coastal Parks Assoc. & PRNS. Info/brochure:
 Seminar Coordinator, Pt Reyes Field Seminars, Pt Reyes, CA 94956; 663-1200.

OBSERVATIONS, September 10-October 11. Also see field trip reports.

HOT SPOT: outer Pt Reyes thru mid-Sept. Sightings involving too many observers to list, all are named below. Species at many spots, places listed with only extreme dates given. AbLag: Abbott's Lagoon; DrBoh: Drake's Beach; Lthse: Lighthouse; MRoh: Mendoza Ranch; NWil: New Willows near Fish Docks; NRoh: Nunes Ranch.

Horned Grebe, Clifton Court Forebay (CCF), Oct. 4--BR. Flesh-Footed Shearwater, 1-2, Monterey Bay pelagic, Sept. 20--BR, et al. Sooty Shearwater, 12, Lthse, Sept. 12--BR, BF, KH, JR. Least Storm Petrel, 10+, Monterey Bay, Sept. 20--BR, et al; 3, Moss Landing pelagic, Oct. 3--BR, et al. OLIVACEOUS CORMORANT, West Pond, Imperial Co., Sept. 12-Oct. 7--RBA, RS, JG, SW, m.ob. Green Heron, South Gate Pond, Danville, Sept. 26--JB. Cattle Egret, Pescadero marsh, Oct. 3--BR. YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON, sub-adult, Año Nuevo St Res, Sept. 12-Oct. 11+, WR, JA, FN, m.ob. Wood Duck, 4♂, 3♀, 5-Brooks, Pt Reyes, Sept. 19-28--m.ob. Ring-Necked Duck, 3♂, 5-Brooks, Sept. 30--NB.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK, up to 7/day, Pt Diablo, Marin Co., Sept. 20-Oct. 7+--RBA, m.ob. Ferruginous Hawk, 1 dark-phase, 5 light-phase, CCF area, Oct. 9--BR, DS. Osprey, 2, Pt Diablo, Sept. 30--MS, et al. Golden Plover, Año Nuevo Pt, Oct. 10--JE. Lesser Yellowlegs, Pescadero marsh, Sept. 26-Oct. 3--JB, BR. Pectoral Sandpiper, up to 6, MRoh pond, Sept. 13-19--m.ob.; 3, AbLag, Sept. 17--JE, JH, EH; Crespi Pond, Pacific Grove, Sept. 20--BR.* Baird's Sandpiper, MRoh pond, Sept. 13--RH; AbLag, Sept. 15--JR, BF, et al. STILT SANDPIPER, AbLag, Sept. 13-17--EV, m.ob. Red Phalarope, 2, Monterey Bay, Sept. 20--BR, et al; 7+, Moss Landing pelagic, Oct. 3--BR, et al.

Sabine's Gull, 3, Monterey Bay, Sept. 20--BR, et al. Common Tern, 2, FDks, Sept. 12--KH, BR, BF, JR. Elegant Tern, 3, Bodega Bay, thru Sept. 23--FB, DoS. Black Tern, imm, Moss Landing pelagic, Oct. 3--BR, et al; imm, CCF, Oct. 4--BR. XANTUS' MURRELET, Monterey Bay, Sept. 20--BR, et al. Tufted Puffin, Monterey Bay, Sept. 20--BR, et al.

Vaux's Swift, 3, FDks, Sept. 13--RH; 1, Vasco Rd., east C.C.Co., Oct. 9--BR, DS. BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD, ♀, Tijuana River Valley, San Diego Co., Oct. 10--BR, JG, SW, et al. Lewis' Woodpecker, Vasco Rd., Oct. 9--DS. Tropical Kingbird, Carmel River, Sept. 20--BR; Año Nuevo St Res, Oct. 10--JE. Ash-Throated Flycatcher, NWil, Sept. 12; NRoh, Sept. 15--m.ob.

White-Breasted Nuthatch, NRoh, Sept. 22--JR, BF, et al. Red-Breasted Nuthatch, many, outer Pt Reyes, thru Sept. 22--m.ob. Golden-Crowned Kinglet, 2, CCF, Oct. 4--BR; 1, Vasco Rd., Oct. 9--DS. RED-THROATED PIPIT, MRoh, Sept. 24--RSt. BOHEMIAN WAXWING, imm, FDks, Sept. 24--WO, NB, MP. RED-EYED VIREO, NWil, Sept. 12-15--m.ob.

Black-&-White Warbler, 2, Lincoln Pk, SF, Sept. 13--BC, GT, JH; ♀, FDks, Sept. 10-29; Lthse, Sept. 13; 3, NRoh, Sept. 15--m.ob. Tennessee Warbler, NRoh, Sept. 15-19--m.ob. MAGNOLIA WARBLER, NRoh, Sept. 13-15--RH, JR, BF, et al. CAPE MAY WARBLER, Lthse, Sept. 13-15--RH, JR, et al. BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER, ♀, Santa Barbara, Oct. 4--JR. BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER, NRoh, Sept. 15--JR, BF, et al. BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER, breeding plumage (!), MRoh, Sept. 15--JR, BF, et al. GRACE'S WARBLER, Pt Loma, San Diego, Oct. 10--BR, JG, SW, et al.

Chestnut-Sided Warbler, Lthse, Sept. 13--RH, et al; NRoh, Sept. 15--JR, BF, et al. Bay-Breasted Warbler, MRoh, Sept. 15--JR. Blackpoll Warbler, MRoh, Sept. 12-17; FDks, Sept. 12-29; NRoh, Sept. 15-19; Lthse, Sept. 13-17--m.ob. Palm Warbler, 1-3, MRoh, Sept. 28-29; FDks, Sept. 14-28; 2-3, Lthse, Sept. 22--m.ob. MOURNING WARBLER, NWil, Sept. 12--m.ob. HOODED WARBLER, ♀, Lthse, Sept. 15-19--HJ, m.ob. American Redstart, several; DBoh, Sept. 12; NWil, Sept. 12-13; 2, NRoh, Sept. 15-19; Lthse, Sept. 17-28--m.ob. 19 warbler species, outer Pt Reyes, Sept. 15--JR, BF, et al.

ORCHARD ORIOLE, ♀, NWil, Sept. 12--JE, m.ob. Hooded Oriole, her Alamo garden thru Sept. 11--JR. Western Tanager, ♂, CCF, Oct. 4--BR. Lawrence's Goldfinch, 2, UC Davis campus, Sept. 28--RS. Green-Tailed Towhee, Lincoln Pk, SF, thru Sept. 13--G&MM. BAIRD'S SPARROW, Pt Loma, Oct. 7-10--RBA, BR, JG, SW. Sage Sparrow, Lthse, Sept. 19--m.ob. Clay-Colored Sparrow, Lthse, thru Oct. 4--m.ob. Brewer's Sparrow, Lthse, thru Sept. 15--m.ob. White-Throated Sparrow, imm, NRoh, Sept. 22--JR.

Sept. 15 at Calaveras Big Trees, Winnie Oroutt and Marilyn O'Connor watched a large flock of warblers -- Orange-Crowned, Nashville, Yellow, "Audubon's", Black-Throated Gray, Townsend's, Hermit, MacGillivray's, Wilson's -- forage in an alder clump, bathe & drink in the creek below. They also saw 8 woodpecker species, including Pileated.

OBSERVERS: Jean Allen, Norah Bain, Florence Bennett, Joe Broyles, Bill Chilson, Jimm Edgar, Bud Fry, Helen & Jerry Gentile, Bill & Mary Jane Greene, Joy Hall, Ed Hase, Kevin Hintsa, Ralph Hudgins, Hans Johanson, George & Molly Monheit, Fran Nelson, Winnie Oroutt, Marjorie Plant, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Wilma Rockman, Donna Schluter, Don Schmoldt, Rich Sintchak, Rich Stallcup, Maury Stern, Greg Thornbury, Ed Vine, Steve Wilson, NoCal Rare Bird Alert, many observers.

We warmly greet these new members we hope to meet in person at our activities:
Antioch: P. Bickford; Clayton: Charlie Kruger; Danville: Mr. & Mrs. Richard J. Dwyer, Hal Young; Lafayette: Mrs. Cyndioy Quinn; Martinez: Robert W. Runyun; Pleasant Hill: Alva Miller; Pt. Reyes Station: Robert Baez; San Lorenzo: Russell Young; Walnut Creek: Judy Butts, Vida M. Dawson, M. J. L. Thompson, Jr.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE UPDATE.

Mono Lake. The legislature approved a bill establishing a state reserve and setting fines of \$500 and jail terms of up to 6 months for damaging tufa or other unusual geologic formations but does not stop diversion of water which threatens ecosystems dependent upon the lake.

The lawsuit to halt diversion of water suffered a setback in Alpine County Superior Court, where a judge ruled that water rights are not subordinate to the public trust over waters of Mono Lake. Audubon contended that preservation of public trust is superior to any water right granted to benefit a private party.

Regional Land & Resource Management Plan - US Forest Service. The Forest Service released a draft management plan which contains recommendations for sensitive species' habitat. Spotted Owl populations, which are mostly located on Forest Lands, will be allocated nesting core areas of 300 contiguous acres of old timber stands for each pair. Goshawks are another species targeted for a special management program which proposes to distribute and manage Goshawk territories evenly throughout its habitat range with minimum of one nest per 40 square miles. A 30-acre primary zone, maintained around existing nest sites, will be located in a 200-acre buffer.

Wild rivers. Assembly bill (AB 1349) to amend the California Wild & Scenic Rivers Act and eliminate the Resources Agency secretary's authority to impose management plans on wild river watersheds, remains stalled because of its potential impact on pending legislation. The federal suit seeks to reverse former Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus' order placing the state's north coast rivers under the National Wild & Scenic River System. Water and timber interests believe the rivers do not qualify for that system since the legislature has not approved management plans.

Local issues. A recent public notice from the US Corps of Engineers in Sacramento indicates a developer proposes to convert 1025 acres of land on the north side of Bethel Island into a 2100-unit housing development similar to Discovery Bay. The levees would be reconstructed and breached at several locations to allow water from Taylor and Piper Sloughs to circulate through the water-oriented development. According to maps and engineering plans attached to the notice, dredging and levee reconstruction will obliterate one of the best riparian bird areas in the county. Yellow-Breasted Chats would be drastically reduced or possibly eliminated as a summer resident in the county due to habitat loss likely to result from this project.

Public comments will be used to develop an environmental impact report for the project. The Conservation Committee will respond to the notice but they do encourage any members living on or near Bethel Island to become actively involved. If you desire information, please call Ed Hase at 933-4292 around 6 p.m. weekday evenings.

Those interested in conservation matters are encouraged to contact Chairman Ed Hase or any Conservation Committee member at membership meetings to join their group.

MANY THANKS to J. P. Hauser who wrote "Conservation Notes" for the past 4½ years. He is busy with too many things and suggested his column be discontinued. We will now run "Conservation Committee Update" written by various members of that group.

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: \$25 per year, family \$32, others available; check payable to National Audubon Society, to Membership Chairman, MDAS, P O Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

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: \$4 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: \$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.)

Observations addenda: Pectoral Sandpiper, Waterfront Rd., Sept. 27--BR, KH, JR.

GREATER BAY AREA SITE GUIDE: Martinez Regional Shoreline.

Access: From Marina Vista or Escobar (1-way streets) in downtown Martinez go north on Ferry St. past the Amtrak Station, cross the railroad tracks, turn right, then go left into the parking area.

Check the drainage ditch just west of the parking lot for Green Heron. Take the paved walk northwest through the marsh toward a wooden footbridge; wet areas on the right may have shorebirds. Cross the bridge, turn right to the shore. Ducks winter here; at low tide, exposed beach has shorebirds, sandy islet has gulls; rails may be along the reeds. Return south past the bridge, then west to the weathered remains of a burned-out boat just offshore: sandy beach at low tide has shorebirds.

Return east across the bridge, at the fork bear left along the pond to the waterfront. Shorebirds may be on exposed flats at low tide; rails in reeds below the trail may be forced out by rising tides.

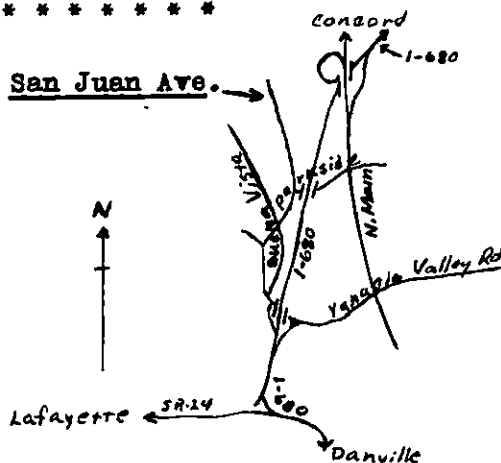
Walk east along the shore to the pier; waterbirds are in the marina in winter. Go east past the Harbormaster's Office, continue along the edge of the marina. Near the northeast corner of the parking area go up onto the levee, look southeast. This area may be dry but if it has water, many species of waterbirds, shorebirds, gulls, terns may be here. Walk the levee east then south; the pond beyond may have waterbirds, gulls. Retrace your path to the pier or continue west on the levee between the two ponds. Walk the road south, go through the picnic area to your car.

Facilities: picnic area has tables, barbeques, water; restrooms at picnic area and on the lower floor of the Harbormaster's Office. Bird list at Martinez City Hall.

Birds: Western (winter) & Pied-Billed Grebe, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue & Green Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron (winter), American Bittern (winter), several ducks in winter may include Greater Scaup, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Marsh Hawk, American Kestrel, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Gallinule, Coot, many shorebirds may include Semipalmated Plover, Spotted Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs & Avocet, several gulls (winter), Forster's & Caspian Tern (summer), Mourning Dove, Short-Eared Owl has been seen (winter), White-Throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Flicker, Black & Say's (winter) Phoebe, several swallows (summer), Scrub Jay, Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Robin, Water Pipit (winter), Loggerhead Shrike, Yellow-Rumped Warbler (winter), Common Yellowthroat, Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, both goldfinches, sparrows include Savannah, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Lincoln's (all, winter), and Song (resident).

Temporary MEETING PLACE for MDAS.

Fire damage to the Women's Club in Walnut Creek will not be repaired for some time. For the present we will be meeting at Buena Vista School, 2355 San Juan Ave., Walnut Creek. From I-680, it is reached from the south via the Ygnacio Valley offramp to Ygnacio Valley Rd., Buena Vista Ave., Parkside Dr. to San Juan Ave.; from the north via the N. Main offramp to N. Main St., Parkside Dr., to San Juan Ave.



MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY
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Walnut Creek, CA 94596

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

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

December 1981
Vol. 28, No. 5

Next deadline: December 5

Meeting: Thurs., Dec. 3. Doors open 6:30 p.m. Birdinformation: 7:00; business: 7:30; social time: 8:00; program: 8:30. Buena Vista School, 2355 San Juan 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 among driver and riders.

Wed., Dec. 2, 9:00 a.m., Lake Merritt; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Fwy 24, 8:30. Leader: Winnie Orcutt (944-0593).

Sat., Dec. 5, 8:30 a.m., Lafayette Reservoir. Leader: George Finger (933-2468).

Sat., Dec. 12, 8:30 a.m., Niles Canyon gravel pits; carpool: El Cerro Blvd. at I-680, Danville, 7:45. Leader: Jimm Edgar (283-3510)

CHRISTMAS COUNT: Sat., Jan. 2, rain or shine; compiler: Kent Fickett, 5270 Concord Blvd., Concord 94521, 798-7421. If unable to contact him, call Jimm Edgar, 283-3510, or Jean Richmond, 837-2843. All are welcome, novice to expert.

Board Meeting: Thurs., Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m., home of Marjorie Plant, 1940 Kingridge Ct., Walnut Creek; 934-1093. Board meetings are always open to members.

BIRDINFORMATION, a discussion by compiler Kent Fickett about the Christmas Count, will be of interest whether or not you take part in our CBC. The PROGRAM by George Peyton will be a slide presentation on Ecuador. Mr. Peyton, an Oakland lawyer, is an active member of Golden Gate Audubon Society and a national board member of NAS.

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

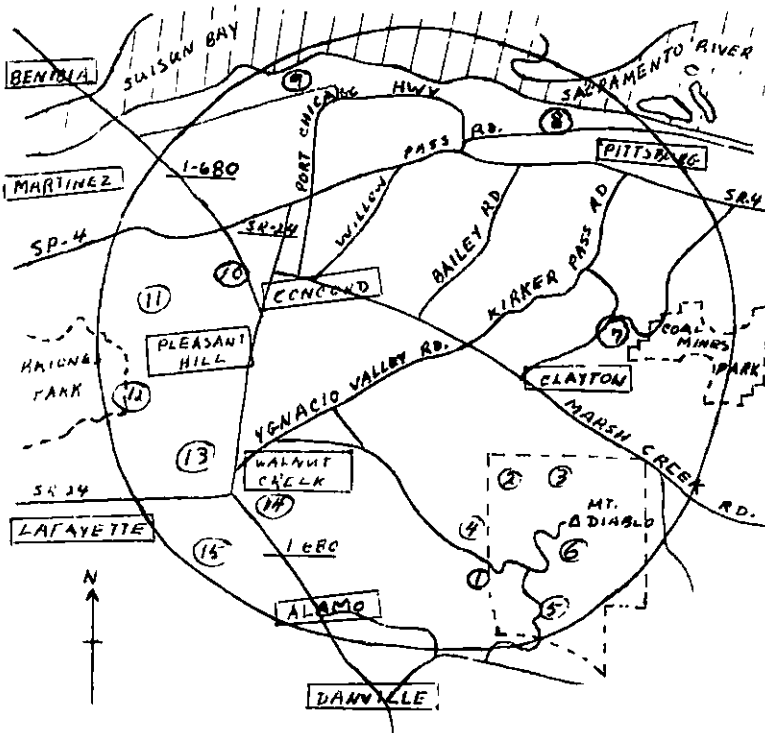
LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR, excellent for beginners and old hands, has a wide assortment of water and landbirds along a trail over easy terrain. Go west on Mt Diablo Blvd. from downtown Lafayette to the well-marked turnoff. Have 2 dollars (bills) for the entrance gate or park on Mt Diablo Blvd., walk up the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

At NILES CANYON GRAVEL PITS are 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.

The object of our CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT is to find as many birds as possible within our 15-mile-diameter circle centered near the intersection of Cowell and Ygnacio Valley Roads. Our earlier average of about 125 species is improving with better coverage of the area and we should surpass 140, with 150 not impossible. Last year 70 observers found 137 species, 50,542 individual birds.

We welcome inexperienced birders as well as more expert, and need counters at feeders and gardens within our circle. Contact Kent for information and instructions. If you have a special species staked out, let Kent know ahead of time.

The COST of participating is \$1.50 per participant, but MDAS will pay for students if necessary. Sorry, but our budget does not give us leeway to subsidize others.



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/Somersville Rd.
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 Kent 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.

5270 Concord Blvd., Concord 94521
798-7421

If you should find any bird which is RARE for our area, write down all details, preferably before consulting a field guide.

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

Then contact Kent as soon as possible -- rarities must be confirmed. Consult "Birds of Northern California" if you are uncertain of the status of any species.

During our COUNT PERIOD, Dec. 30-Jan. 5, if you should see within our CBC area a species uncommon or rare for this area, contact Kent 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.

Come to the post-count POTLUCK and COUNTDOWN, whether or not you take part in our count, to hear about the day's events plus our preliminary CBC report. 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. Tea, coffee and punch provided, milk drinkers bring your own. A signup for food assignments will be at the December meeting, or contact Mary Jane Culver (682-0509) or Ruth Stewart (671-7226), preferably before December 20, as to what you will bring and how many are coming. We need VOLUNTEERS, hopefully those not doing the count, to help set up chairs and tables about 5:30. Contact Mary Jane or Ruth for this.

OTHER CBC DATES - your editor has details: Dec. 19: Pt Reyes (PRBO); Dec. 20: Oakland (Golden Gate), Santa Rosa (RROS), San Jose (Santa Clara Valley), Santa Cruz, Putah Creek (Davis); Dec. 21: Mt. Hamilton; Dec. 22: Palo Alto; Dec. 26: South Marin; Dec. 27: Benicia (Napa-Solano), Hayward-Fremont (Ohlone), West Sonoma (Madrone), Sacramento; Dec. 29: Los Banos; Dec. 30: Monterey Peninsula; Jan. 2 (our date): Crystal Springs (Sequoia), Arroyo Cheap Thrills (near Novato), Clear Lake (Redbud); Jan. 3: Ano Nuevo (Sequoia).

Congratulations and best wishes to HELENE and FRANK BEYER who will celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary on December 18. Active members of MDAS until their move north a couple of years ago, the Beyers are fondly remembered by many of our members. Send your greetings to them at 6031 K.C. Place SE, Port Orchard, WA 98366.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS.

At ALAMEDA on October 22 it was calm, foggy and cool in the morning but clear and warm by noon. The 19 members found 29 White Pelicans, 2 White-Tailed Kites, a Sora, Red Knots, and Common Terns among these 82 species seen or heard:

Horned, Eared, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, White & Brown Pelican, Dbl-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Canada Goose, Mallard, Pintail, Green-Winged Teal, Amer Wigeon, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, White-Winged & Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, Red-Tailed Hawk, Amer Kestrel, Clapper Rail, Sora, Amer Coot, Semipalmated & Snowy Plover, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Ruddy & Black Turnstone, Com Snipe, Long-Billed Curlew, Whimbrel, Willet, Red Knot, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Short-Billed & Long-Billed Dowitcher, West Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Amer Avocet, Black-Necked Stilt, Glaucous-Winged, West, Herring, California, Ring-Billed & Mew Gull, Forster's, Com & Elegant Tern, Rock & Mourning Dove, Anna's & selasphorus sp Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Scrub Jay, Com Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Amer Robin, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Hutton's Vireo, "Audubon's" Warbler, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Savannah, White-Crowned, Lincoln's & Song Sparrow.

The trip to ESTERO TRAIL was made by 18 members on October 31 on a clear, warm, somewhat windy day. Found were immature Golden Eagle, Osprey, 2 Prairie Falcons, possible Long-Eared Owl, & Golden-Crowned Kinglets, among these 78 species tallied:

Horned, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, White Pelican, Dbl-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Pintail, Green-Winged Teal, Amer Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, scaup sp, Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, Marsh Hawk, Osprey, Prairie Falcon, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Killdeer, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, dowitcher sp, West Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Ring-Billed Gull, Forster's Tern, Band-Tailed Pigeon, owl sp, hummingbird sp, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, "Red-Breasted" Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Black & Say's Phoebe, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Com Raven, Com Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Brown Creeper, Wrentit, Winter & Bewick's Wren, Amer Robin, Hermit Thrush, West Bluebird, Golden-Crowned & Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, Hutton's Vireo, "Audubon's" & Townsend's Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, West Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, Purple & House Finch, Pine Siskin, Amer Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Dark-Eyed Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox & Song Sparrow.

BODEGA BAY on November 7 reversed usual weather patterns, being clear, cool and calm in the morning then foggy, cold and windy after lunch. The 30 members and guests tallied 44 White Pelicans, a "Black" Brant, a Peregrine Falcon, and a Rock Sandpiper (first report of the season) among these 96 species seen or heard:

Com, Arctic & Red-Throated Loon, Horned, Eared, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, White & Brown Pelican, Dbl-Crested, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, "Black" Brant, Pintail, Green-Winged Teal, Amer wigeon, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, White-Winged & Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Red-Breasted Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Amer Kestrel, Calif Quail, Virginia Rail, Sora, Amer Coot, Black Oystercatcher, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Surfbird, Ruddy & Black Turnstone, Com Snipe, Whimbrel, Wandering Tattler, Willet, Rock & Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Short-Billed & Long-Billed Dowitcher, West Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Amer Avocet, Glaucous-Winged, West, Herring, Calif, Ring-Billed, Mew & Heermann's Gull, Forster's, Elegant & Caspian Tern, Com Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Rock Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Black & Say's Phoebe, Scrub Jay, Bushtit, Bewick's & Marsh Wren, West Bluebird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Starling, Hutton's Vireo, "Myrtle" & "Audubon's" Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Rufous-Sided Towhee, Savannah, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox & Song Sparrow.

Development of an AUDUBON YOUTH PROGRAM begins at a meeting December 5 at 1 p.m. Bring ideas and wish lists to the home of Wilma Rockman, president of Sequoia Audubon, 1166 Grand Ave., Redwood City. Call Western Education Center, 388-2524, if you plan to attend or would like to work on this exciting project in the future.

The required reservations for Año Nuevo ELEPHANT SEAL TOURS are now booked through Ticketron. The daily 2 1/2-hour tours, run December 12-March 15, cost \$2.50/person.

OBSERVATIONS, October 12-November 10. Also see field trip reports.

Common Loon, 1-2, Clifton Ct Forebay (CCF), Oct. 17-Nov. 7--BR. Red-Throated Loon, CCF, Oct. 17--BR. Red-Necked Grebe, Drake's Beach, Pt Reyes, Oct. 20--JR, et al. Horned Grebe, CCF, Nov. 7--BR. CATTLE EGRET, MP 25.65, Sir Francis Drake Blvd., Inverness, Marin Co., Oct. 31--BR, JR, FB.

Blue-Winged Teal, 3, Niles Cyn, Oct. 13--MS. Redhead, 2, CCF, Nov. 7--BR. Greater Scaup, 30, CCF, Nov. 7--BR. TUFTED DUCK, ♂, ♀, have returned to Muddy Hollow Pond, Limantour, another ♂, Horseshoe Pond, Drake's Boh, Oct. 26--RBA. Barrow's Golden-eye, returned to Lake Merritt, ♂, 3♀, Nov. 5, 3♂, Nov. 8--BG. Black Sooter, several, Fish Docks, Pt Reyes, thru period--m.ob.

Red-Shouldered Hawk, over his San Ramon home, Oct. 31--KH. Rough-Legged Hawk, Bixler Rd., east C.C.Co., Oct. 17--BR; up to 5, incl. 1 dark-phase, Flynn Rd., Alameda Co., Oct. 18-Nov. 10--BR, m.ob.; 1, Olema, Marin Co., Oct. 20--JR, BF, et al; 1, Byron Hot Springs Rd., east C.C.Co., Nov. 2--BR, MP, MO, WO, JR; Armstrong Rd., Nov. 7--BR. Ferruginous Hawk, up to 10, incl. 1-2 dark-phase, Flynn Rd., Oct. 17-Nov. 10--BR, m.ob.; 1, near his San Ramon home, Oct. 27--KH; Drake's Boh Rd, Oct. 31--BR, JR, FB. Prairie Falcon, Alameda Co., Nov. 2--WO, MO, MP, JR. Merlin, east C.C.Co., Nov. 2--WO, MO, MP, JR. 70 raptors in 10 min., incl. 25 Red-Tailed, 4 Rough-Legged & 3 Ferruginous Hawks, 2 Golden Eagles, Flynn Rd., Nov. 6--BR.

Rock Sandpiper, 1, returned to Bodega Head, Nov. 7--JR, m.ob. CURLEW SANDPIPER, near Fernbridge, Humboldt Co., Oct. 31-Nov. 3--RBA. Red Phalarope, Rodeo Lagoon, Marin Co., Oct. 13--JR, BF, et al. BLACK-HEADED GULL, Stockton oxidation ponds, Nov. 10--JR, BF, et al. FRANKLIN'S GULL, imm, Stockton oxi ponds, Nov. 10--JR, BF, et al. LITTLE GULL, Stockton oxi ponds, Nov. 10--JR, BF, et al. Black-Legged Kittiwake, Bodega Head, Oct. 27--JR. Marbled Murrelet, 2, Bodega Head, Oct. 27--JR. TUFTED PUFFIN, Pt Reyes lighthouse, Oct. 31--JR.

Black Swift, 2, Rodeo Lagoon, Oct. 13--JR, BF, et al. Vaux's Swift, 80, Rodeo Lagoon, Oct. 13--JR, BF, et al. Lewis' Woodpecker, Fish Docks, Oct. 18--GH, JM, et al; Shell Ridge, Oct. 19--GF; 25, Vasco Rd., east C.C.Co., Oct. 26--BR, 1 there, Nov. 2--JR. Tropical Kingbird, New Willows, Pt Reyes, Oct. 31--BR. COMMON SKYLARK, returned to Hall Roh, Pt Reyes, Nov. 3-7--JR, m.ob. Common Raven, 2, calling, Las Trampas Reg. Pk., Nov. 4--KH. Red-Breasted Nuthatch, 2, her Walnut Creek garden, Oct. 24-25--WO.

SAGE THRASHER, near Byron, Oct. 23--DS. MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD, Armstrong Rd., Nov. 4--BR. TOYNSEND'S SOLITAIRE, Fish Docks, Oct. 18--GH, JM, et al; Las Trampas Reg. Pk., Oct. 22--KH; MP 17.81, Mines Rd., Oct. 29--JE. Golden-Crowned Kinglet, large numbers all around the area, Oct. 13-Nov. 10--m.ob. Phainopepla, ♂, Morgan Territory Reg. Pres., Nov. 1--JR. Northern Shrike, Drake's Boh, Oct. 18--JM, et al. Logger-head Shrike, her Walnut Creek apartment grounds, Oct. 19--FB. BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER, Nunes Roh, Pt Reyes, Oct. 18--GH, JM, et al; Fish Docks, Oct. 20--JR. Palm Warbler, Mendoza Roh & Fish Docks, Oct. 31--m.ob.

"Baltimore" Oriole, Fish Docks, Oct. 20--JR, BF, et al. RUSTY BLACKBIRD, New Willows & Nunes Roh, Oct. 17-23--GH, JM, m.ob. EVENING GROSBEEK, 2, over her Alamo home, Oct. 29--JR. "Slate-Colored" Junco, Nunes Roh, Nov. 3--JR. HARRIS' SPARROW, his Lafayette garden, Oct. 19--MO. Swamp Sparrow, 5-Brooks, Pt Reyes, Oct. 31--PW. Lapland Longspur, up to 4, Hall Roh, Oct. 21-Nov. 7--m.ob. CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONG-SPUR, up to 4, Hall Roh, Oct. 21-Nov. 7--m.ob.

OBSERVERS: Florence Bennett, Jimm Edgar, George Finger, Bud Fry, Bill & Mary Jane Greene, Nancy Greene, Kevin Hintsa, George Rugenberg, Joe Morlan, Marilyn O'Connor, Winnie Orcutt, Marjorie Plant, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Don Schmoldt, Rich Sintchak, Maury Stern, Peter White, NoCal Rare Bird Alert, many observers.

Have observations to me BY the deadline on page 1 for inclusion in this column. Last minute sightings may be phoned to me within 2-3 days after that deadline.

* * * * *

THE BAY AREA NATURALIST, a new monthly recreation guide available free at many Bay Area hiking stores and parks or by subscription, has an outdoor activity calendar and articles on hiking and birding. Subscriptions, \$7.50/year, will help this interesting publication to grow. Send check to P O Box 2581, Fairfield, CA 94533.

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To honor ROGER TORY PETERSON, an exhibit, "Portrait of a Birdwatcher", will be at California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park through March 14. Including 22 original paintings, 14 color plates from his new eastern field guide, and memorabilia from his Connecticut studio, the exhibit is open daily 10-5. Museum admission charge includes this exhibit. Call the museum, 221-5100, for more information.

* * * * *

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

Alamo: Mr. R. N. Cushman; Concord: Pamela C. Gorgen, B. Hilary Latour; Martinez: Mrs. Judy Burnside & family, R. Michener; Pleasant Hill: J. David Rockfellow; Walnut Creek: David Caniglia, J. H. Gordon family, Ms Catharina Holthuis & family.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE UPDATE.

A Coastal Energy Impact Program (CEIP) grant of \$25,000 to our Dept. of Fish & Game will improve the survival rate of birds and marine mammals oiled in spills. The grant will buy 4 trailers equipped for emergency treatment and will be stored in coastal cities where they can be rushed to almost any oil spill site within 4 hours.

The Coastal Access Guide, a new book describing the location and features of all public accessways to the California coast, is available at book stores or may be ordered from Univ. of Calif. Press, 2223 Fulton St., Berkeley, CA 94720, for \$7.95.

Las Vaqueros Reservoir, Contra Costa County. The State Dept. of Water Resources has released a 6-page summary report on the engineering feasibility of the project which would affect rare, endangered or threatened plants and animals. The summary describes the purpose of the project and its relationship to local and statewide water needs. A map of project features is included. Anyone wishing a copy should contact Ed Hase at 933-4292. The full report is available for review at local libraries or can be purchased at \$7.00 plus tax from Dept. of Water Resources, P.O. Box 388, Sacramento, CA 95802.

The TRUST for PUBLIC LAND (TPL) annual report for 1981, describing their accomplishments and goals, is available from them at 82 Second St., San Francisco, CA 94105.

MONO LAKE. The Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee held a public hearing in Sacramento on the Future of Mono Lake on November 16. Specific areas of concern were 1) causes of high gull chick mortality this year, 2) causes of very low brine shrimp population this spring, 3) effects on Mono Lake and the surrounding area if water diversions continue and the scientific certainty of these effects.

wilderness Areas - US Forest Lands (RARE II). Opposing members of the Senate concur that a bill is needed to 1) release non-wilderness land for non-wilderness use, but only for one planning cycle, and 2) designate wilderness resulting from RARE II recommendations. The Forest Service is drafting a new national RARE II bill and is developing a California RARE II bill which is crucial because it would overturn a court decision that the RARE II environmental impact statement was unsatisfactory.

THOSE INTERESTED in conservation matters are encouraged to contact chairman Ed Hase or any Conservation Committee member at membership meetings to join their group.

WALKS and WORKSHOPS.

Mt. Diablo Interpretive Assoc., hikes on Mt. Diablo's north side, Dec. 19, Jan. 9, led by Bob Doyle; meet 10 a.m., end of Regency Dr., Clayton; wear sturdy shoes, warm clothing. Info: call Bob at 254-4410 before 9 p.m.

Free 1-hour waterbird workshops, Richardson Bay Sanctuary, Tiburon, Dec. 6, 13, 20; 9 am & 1 pm; led by naturalist David Holway; beginners as well as more advanced.

FIRST CLASS MAILING of The Quail is now \$2.25 per year, effective immediately.

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: \$25 per year, family \$32, others available; check payable to National Audubon Society, to Membership Chairman, MDAS, P O Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

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: \$4 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: \$2.25 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: Stockton Oxidation Ponds - rare gulls.

Access: Go east toward Stockton via SR-4 or from Walnut Creek via Ygnacio Valley, Clayton and Marsh Creek Roads to SR-4 near Brentwood. Just west of the San Joaquin River bridge turn north to the ponds behind a levee along the north side of the highway. Sign says "Private Road - No Trespassing, Hunting, Fishing" but birders are allowed as long as they stay out of the way of workmen. You may drive all levees, but do not cross the railroad tracks here. The gates are open 8-4; call ahead, (209) 466-5261, for permission to bird weekends, holidays. A scope is helpful.

Main ponds. Proceed along the paved road. On sunny winter days there is usually a flock of Bonaparte's Gulls warming themselves on the pavement. Check carefully for possible Black-Headed or Little Gull - best time is early morning. Large numbers of grebes, ducks are on the water. At the "T" turn right, slowly drive outer levee: check the ditch on the left for Green Heron, bittern, gallinule, shorebirds; wires overhead for kingfisher. Gulls often congregate at the northeast corner of the pond feeding in the channel between levees or resting atop the levees. By a small pump-house is ample room to park and/or turn around, a walk spans the channel.

Treatment plant. Sometimes the rare gulls hang out at the main facility. Return to SR-4, go east across the river, turn left on Tillie Lewis Dr., left again on Navy Dr. to the headquarters, park in the visitors' lot. Tell the receptionist that you are birding and ask permission to check the basins.

North pond. At times the gulls feed here. From the entrance on SR-4 go west to Daggett Rd., turn north and cross the railroad tracks to the gate on the right. Drive this area carefully as equipment and storage facilities are to be avoided.

Facilities: restrooms are in the headquarters building and in a small office at the east end of the north pond. Personnel are courteous and helpful, you act likewise. Do not block passage of company vehicles on levee roadways - birders are guests here.

Birds: Common Loon has been here, Eared & Pied-Billed Grebe, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue & Green Heron, Snowy Egret, American Bittern, many ducks in winter have included Blue-Winged Teal, Vulture, Red-Tailed & Marsh Hawk, Kestrel, Sora, Gallinule, Coot, several shorebirds have included Solitary & Pectoral Sandpipers, phalaropes, many gulls (Herring has been seen; California, Ring-Billed; New possible; BLACK-HEADED & LITTLE past few years, fall-spring; FRANKLIN'S, Oct.-Nov. 1980, Aug.-Sept., Nov. 1981; many Bonaparte's; SABINE'S, Oct. 1980), Black Tern possible, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Western Kingbird, both phoebes, several swallows, Scrub Jay, Crow, Mockingbird, Robin, Water Pipit, "Audubon's" Warbler, Meadowlark, Red-winged & Brewer's Blackbird, "Bullock's" Oriole, Brown-Headed Cowbird, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided Towhee, White-Crowned Sparrow.

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Non-profit MT. DIABLO INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION, with an interest in the history and natural history of Mt. Diablo, is devoted to promoting activities and projects that help people appreciate, and become more knowledgeable about, the mountain. Cost of membership is student, \$2.50; individual, \$5; family, \$10. For information or to join, address Mt. Diablo Interpretive Assoc., P O Box 250, Diablo, CA 94528.

* * * * *

The CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION believes that liquidation of our last remaining wilderness will not leave us with a healthy environment; that our nation can and must develop vital resources without destroying wilderness, rivers, wildlife. Send tax-deductible memberships, \$10, minimum, to expand the message of this "no-frills" organization to California Wilderness Coalition, P O Box 429, Davis, CA 95617.

* * * * *

LONG LIVE MONO LAKE!!!

LET MONO LAKE LIVE!!!

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