



# The QUAIL

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 283-8969

January 1983  
Vol. 29, No. 6

Next deadline: January 10

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Meeting: Thurs., Jan. 6. Doors open 6:30 pm. 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 binocs, lunch, 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 and riders.

Thurs., Jan. 6, 9:00 am, Bay Bridge Toll Plaza marsh; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Fwy 24, 8:30. Leader: Sally Steller (837-9061).

Sat., Jan. 15, 9:00 am, Putah Creek and Lake Solano; carpool: southwest corner Sun Valley Center, 7:30. Leader: Maury Stern (284-5980).

Wed., Jan. 19, 9:15 am, Coyote Hills Regional Park; carpool: El Cerro Blvd. at I-680, 8:15. Leader: Merv Ortez (283-3072).

Sat., Jan. 29, 7:45 am, Clifton Court Forebay; carpool: by Burger King, Ygnacio Valley & Clayton Rds., 7:00. Leader: Bob Richmond (537-7408).

Board Meeting: Thurs., Jan. 20, 7:30 pm, home of Norah Bain, 32 Via Farallon, Orinda; 254-4516. Board meetings are always open to all members.

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BIRDINFORMATION, led by Jean Richmond, will be to correct errors and add identification notes in field guides. Bring field guides, pen, paper. The PROGRAM by our own Betty and Harry Adamson, a slide presentation of their trip a year ago to the Antarctic and several areas of South America, includes birds and striking scenery.

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" and follow small signs toward radio stations. Meet a short distance along that road where there is room to park off the pavement.

PUTAH CREEK/LAKE SOLANO have Wood Ducks and other waterfowl, Dipper, Rock & Canyon Wrens, Phainopepla, possibly Osprey, Lewis' Woodpecker. Take I-680 north then I-80 east to Cherry Glen exit, cross the freeway, go 1 mile then left on Pleasant Valley Rd. 14 miles to the picnic area on the right just before the SR-128 junction.

Varied habitats of COYOTE HILLS should produce waterbirds, waterfowl, shorebirds, hawks, landbirds, possibly owls. Go down Nimitz Fwy (SR-17) to Jarvis Rd., turn west to the signal at Newark Blvd., turn right 1 1/4 miles, then left into the park and meet in the parking area on the right just beyond the entrance booth.

At CLIFTON COURT FOREBAY we walk the levee to see waterfowl, possibly Wood Duck, gulls, perhaps Thayer's, among many species. Carry lunch, liquids. Wear layered warm clothing - it could be cold - and walking shoes; bring rain gear as drizzle does not cancel trip. Short distance walkers can turn back as desired. From Ygnacio Valley Rd. go east through Clayton, continue on Marsh Creek Rd., follow signs on Camino Diablo to Byron Hwy, go right 2 1/2 miles then left to the end of Clifton Rd.

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To AVOID DISTURBING BIRDINFORMATION sessions, latecomers please be seated in back near the door, then later move elsewhere if you desire. Earlier arrivals please leave ample seating near the door to accommodate those who have been delayed.

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FIELD TRIP REPORTS.

The SEARS POINT ROAD trip scheduled for November 18 was washed out by pouring rain.

The trip to PALO ALTO BAYLANDS on November 20 was made on a gorgeous day, clear and warm with very gentle breezes. Sixteen members found LEAST BITTERN, Blue-winged Teal, Red Phalarope, Burrowing Owl among these 75 species seen or heard:

Com Loon, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Dbl-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, LEAST BITTERN, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-winged, Blue-winged & Cinnamon Teal, Amer Wigeon, Nor Shoveler, Red-head, Canvasback, Greater & Lesser Scaup, Com Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Cooper's & Red-Tailed Hawk, Nor Harrier, Amer Kestrel, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Clapper & Virginia Rail, Sora, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Com Snipe, Long-Billed Curlew, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Long-Billed Dowitcher, West Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Amer Avocet, Black-Necked Stilt, Red Phalarope, Glaucous-winged, West, Herring, Calif, Ring-Billed & Bonaparte's Gull, Rock & Mourning Dove, Burrowing Owl, White-Throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Com Flicker, Black Phoebe, Marsh Wren, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, "Audubon's" Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Savannah, White-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

The SACRAMENTO VALLEY REFUGES on December 4-5 were cool, calm, mostly clear Saturday, cold but calm on Sunday with tule fog gradually lifting during the morning to dull overcast. Tremendous numbers of calling geese put on a breathtaking display for 27 members and guests who also saw 3 "Blue" Geese, Eurasian Wigeon, dozens of Red-Tailed Hawks including 37 in a row of trees, 9 in the scope at once, Rough-Legged & Ferruginous Hawks, Lesser Yellowlegs among these 87 species seen or heard:

Horned, Eared, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, White Pelican, Dbl-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue & Green Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Amer Bittern, Tundra (Whistling) Swan, Canada, White-Fronted, Snow, "Blue" & Ross' Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-winged & Cinnamon Teal, Eurasian & Amer Wigeon, Nor Shoveler, Ring-Necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Com Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Black-Shouldered Kite, Sharp-Shinned, Cooper's, Red-Tailed, Red-Shouldered, Rough-Legged & Ferruginous Hawk, Nor Harrier, Amer Kestrel, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Sandhill Crane, Virginia Rail, Sora, Com Moorhen (Gallinule), Amer Coot, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Greater & Lesser Yellowlegs, Dunlin, Long-Billed Dowitcher, Marbled Godwit, Amer Avocet, Black-Necked Stilt, Calif & Ring-billed Gull, Rock & Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Horned Lark, Yellow-Billed Magpie, Com Crow, Bushtit, Bewick's & Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, "Myrtle" & "Audubon's" Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Brown Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Dark-Eyed Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

The trip to ALAMEDA CREEK QUARRIES PARK on December 8 was made by nine members on a clear, warm day, calm in the morning but with wind coming up at noon. Found were Green Heron, Semipalmated Plover, Say's Phoebe among 68 species seen or heard:

Horned, Eared, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Dbl-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue & Green Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Canada Goose, Mallard, Ruddy Duck, Com Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-Shinned & Red-Tailed Hawk, Nor Harrier, Amer Kestrel, Amer Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Com Snipe, Spotted Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Glaucous-winged, Herring, Thayer's Calif, Ring-Billed, Mew & Bonaparte's Gull, Rock & Mourning Dove, White-Throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black & Say's Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Scrub Jay, Com Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Bewick's Wren, Mockingbird, Amer Robin, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, "Audubon's" Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Lincoln's & Song Sparrow.

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Excellent "FIELD I.D. PAMPHLET for North American Raptors" from National Wildlife Federation is available at our meetings for \$2. Included are black/white drawings of light and dark phase birds plus identification notes. Highly recommended.

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We would like someone with expertise in LAND USE PLANNING to advise our Conservation Committee. If you can help, please call Al McNabney at 945-1785. Thanks!!

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WILDLANDS & WILDLIFE of CALIFORNIA, an exhibit of 175 Tupper Ansel Blake color photographs, is at California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park through January 31. Created to draw attention to, and appreciation/understanding of, the wilds, the exhibition is sponsored by Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game and NAS with support from private and corporate sources. Open daily 10-5; adults, \$2, children 6-17, 75¢.

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The managers of the nation's 410 NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES have been instructed to look for ways to increase economic development of lands in their charge. A July 27th memorandum from F. Eugene Hester, deputy director of the Fish & Wildlife Service, says: "We believe there is potential to expand economic uses in such areas as grazing, haying, farming, timber harvest, trapping, oil and gas extraction, small hydroelectric generation, concessions, commercial hunting and fishing guides, guided interpretive tours, and commercial fishing." In wildlife refuges????

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DO SOMETHING WONDERFULLY WILD, adopt an animal at Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum. These creatures for one reason or another cannot be released back into the wild so this program has been instituted to replace Prop 13 cuts. The animal remains at the museum but your donation helps to support it - for a month or a year or more. Contributions are tax-deductible and go toward feeding, care, and veterinary costs for the allotted time. Your name on a plaque will be near the animal adopted and you will also receive a "suitable for framing" certificate of adoption. Contact the museum at 1901 First Street, Walnut Creek, CA 94596, 935-1978, for information.

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David Gaines' BIRDS OF YOLO is being updated by Tom Love, Ted Beedy and John Lovio who need information from anyone who has birded extensively in Yolo and Solano Counties and will contribute any unusual sightings since December 1973. Early arrival/departure dates are especially welcome. The coverage will include Solano County since much birding in the area is done in both counties. Send notes to Tom Love, Department of Anthropology, U.C. Davis, CA 95616.

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Last summer a nesting colony of 60 ALEUTIAN CANADA GEESE was found by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service biologists 1,000 miles southwest of Anchorage in remote islands of the Four Mountains. It had been thought there was only one nesting population left, on Buldir Island near the western end of the Aleutian Island chain. Many of these fairly small, medium-gray Aleutian Geese, usually with a white ring at the base of the black neck, winter in the Central Valley, some of them at refuges near Los Banos. This race is rare but increasing with help from a recovery team.

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A DEMONSTRATION GARDEN in the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C., to show how to plant to attract birds, had long been the dream of 1959-67 NAS president Carl W. Buchheister. In October he attended the dedication of the Buchheister National Bird Garden in the 444-acre arboretum on New York Avenue, northeast of the Capitol.

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SKYROCKETING GROWTH of NAS membership and activities such as sanctuaries, education, and environmental action, continues. With slightly more than 50,000 members in 1967, membership is now 467,000 - approaching half a million - in 476 chapters.

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The BARRIER ISLANDS BILL, a significant accomplishment of the 97th Congress, was signed by President Reagan but the final version was a compromise. The act spells out provisions to protect the remaining undeveloped islands off the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. It cuts off federally subsidized insurance and other aid without which development of these storm-prone areas is generally too risky and expensive for private developers. The act maps the specific areas to be included.

The final version, approved by a joint House-Senate conference committee on the day of adjournment for the election recess, retains basic provisions of the bill. The compromise drops several important islands in Florida from the map of areas to be protected. The administration supported the bill - to reduce wasteful spending.

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Please send NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS of MDAS activities and/or members to Norah Bain, 32 Via Farallon, Orinda, CA 94563. Such items are placed in our scrapbook. Thanks!

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CONGRATULATIONS to Norma and Merv Ortez on their 40th Anniversary on January 10!!

OBSERVATIONS, November 12-December 9. Also see field trip reports.

Black-Footed Albatross, Monterey Bay, Dec. 4--BR, KH, DL, et al. Short-Tailed Shearwater, 4, Monterey Bay, Dec. 4--BR, KH, DL, et al. Ashy Storm-Petrel, 5-7, Monterey Bay, Dec. 4--KH, BR, DL, et al. Black Storm-Petrel, Monterey Bay, Dec. 4--KH, BR, DL, et al.

CATTLE EGRET, 5, Hayward Reg. Shoreline, Nov. 19--SE, PJ, SB; 2, Concord Naval Weapons Station, Nov. 24--EG, et al; 1, Central Ave., Martinez, Dec. 9--WP, JE. LEAST BITTERN, Palo Alto Baylands, Nov. 18-30--RF, m.ob.

"Blue" Goose, 3, Gray Lodge WMA, Dec. 4--SL, TC, MDAS. Blue-winged Teal, Palo Alto Baylands, Dec. 3--KH, DL. Eurasian Wigeon, 2+, Bolinas Lagoon, thru period--RBA. Ring-necked Duck, 12, 5--Brooks, Pt Reyes, Dec. 8--BR, KH, DL. Barrow's Goldeneye, up to 25, Lake Merritt, thru period--m.ob; ♀, Pt Isabel, Nov. 25--BR; ♂, Leo Ryan Park, Foster City, Dec. 3--KH, DL, & Dec. 7--JR, BF, AM, et al.

Harlequin Duck, Moss Landing, Dec. 7--KH, DL. Hooded Merganser, ♂, 5--Brooks, Nov. 21--JG, DD; ♂, 3♀, there, Dec. 8--KH, BR, DL; ♂, Horseshoe Pond, Pt Reyes, Nov. 26--GF, KH. SMEW, ♂, returned to Leo Ryan Park, Dec. 1-9--KH, DL, et al.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK, Chileno Valley Rd., Marin Co., Nov. 15--J-MS; SR-1 south of Half Moon Bay, Nov. 19-20--BR, et al; Inverness Park, Nov. 13-21--RBA, JG, DD. Rough-legged Hawk, Altamont Pass, Nov. 15--WO, MP, ED; 2, Byron Hot Springs Rd., Nov. 20--BR; Stockton, Woodbridge Rd., & Victoria Island, San Joaquin Co., Nov. 29--KH, DL; Bodega Head, Dec. 8--KH, BR, DL.

Ferruginous Hawk, 2-3, Altamont Pass, Nov. 15--WO, MP, ED; 1, Chileno Valley Rd., Nov. 15--J-MS; 1, Bixler Rd., 2, Byron Hot Springs Rd., Nov. 20--BR; 1, Drake's Beach turnoff & Spaletta Rd., Pt Reyes, Nov. 26--GF, KH. Golden Eagle, 6, Altamont Pass, Nov. 15--WO, MP, ED.

Lesser Golden Plover, 2, Drake's Bch turnoff, thru Nov. 26--m.ob. Red Knot, Pt Isabel, Nov. 25--BR. Rook Sandpiper, Pebble Beach, San Mateo Co., Nov. 16--JR; returned to Bodega Head, Nov. 20-Dec. 8--RBA, BR, KH, DL. Red Phalarope, 35, Pescadero Lagoons, Nov. 16--JR, et al.

BLACK-HEADED GULL, Stockton oxi ponds, thru period--m.ob. LITTLE GULL, Stockton oxi ponds, thru period--m.ob. Common Murre, Pt Isabel, Nov. 25--BR. Marbled Murrelet, 2, offshore, Abbott's Lagoon, Nov. 21--JG, DD; 4, Bodega Head, Dec. 8--BR, KH, DL. ANCIENT MURRELET, 3, offshore, Abbott's Lagoon, Nov. 21--JG, DD; 4, Bodega Head, Dec. 8--BR, KH, DL. Rhinoceros Auklet, Bodega Head, Dec. 8--BR, KH, DL.

Spotted Owl, calling, west Marin Co., Nov. 26--GF, KH. Pileated Woodpecker, 5--Brooks, Dec. 2--KH, DL. EURASIAN SKYLARK, Hall Rd., thru period--m.ob. Common Raven, 2, behind his Walnut Creek home, Dec. 7--RH.

SHARP-TAILED SPARROW, Pine Gulch Creek, Bolinas Lagoon, thru period--m.ob. HARRIS' SPARROW, Arroyo Junior High School, Hayward, Dec. 6-9--PG, m.ob. White-Throated Sparrow, Athenian School, Danville, Nov. 13--JB; her Alamo garden, Nov. 16-Dec. 9--JR; his Walnut Creek garden, Dec. 1--RH. Swamp Sparrow, Shields Salt Marsh Study Area, Inverness, thru period--RBA, JG, DD. Lapland Longspur, Hall Rd., Nov. 26--GF, KH; 2-3 there, Dec. 2--KH, DL. SNOW BUNTING, Hall Rd., thru Nov. 24--m.ob.

From SoCal, superb fall birding included "Common" Green-winged Teal, Cassin's Kingbird, Least Flycatcher, Greater Pewee (Coe's Flycatcher), Grace's Warbler, Painted Redstart, Hepatic Tanager--JE, KH, DL. Uncommon/rare birds not seen by MDASers included King Eider, Wood Thrush, White Wagtail, Worm-Eating among many warblers. Most rarities seem to have skipped past us on their way south.

OBSERVERS: Sarah Banz, Joe Broyles, Tom Castro, Bill Chilson, Elizabeth Dickey, Donna Dittmann, Jimm Edgar, Shimi Edmondson, George Finger, Roland Franz, Bud Fry, Bob Gallagher, Phil Gordon, Jeff Greenhouse, Kevin Hints, Ralph Hudgins, Pat Jacobson, Steve Laymon, Dwight Lee, Alice Mericourt, Winnie Orcutt, Marjorie Plant, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Jean-Marie Spoelman, 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 within 2-3 days after that deadline.

REMEMBER, 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.

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

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CONSERVATION NEWS by Al McNabney.

Lame ducks create sitting ducks? Who decides what waste is "hot" and where to dump it - rights of people vs those of private industry and/or government. A lame duck Congress voted in the House to limit rights of states to veto permanent nuclear waste disposal sites within their borders, saying in effect such decisions must be ratified by Congress. An action in Washington may one day rise to haunt people nationwide. Although "hot" waste dumped today may be "safe", what about tomorrow???

EPA Administrator Anne Gorsuch is being charged with contempt of Congress for refusing to release important papers to the Congressional Oversight Committee. EPA officials propose administration-backed rules that could weaken regulations governing water quality standards under the guise of giving states more flexibility. Many see them as a way to give more opportunity to evade compliance with the Clean Water Act's aims of achieving fishable/swimmable waters. Anyone drinking water in some southern areas of Walnut Creek in early December had a chance to find out why there is need of a strong, vigorously enforced Clean Water Act.

Atlantic Puffins (*Fratercula arctica*) are now to be seen on Eastern Egg Rock, an island off the Maine coast, as a result of Audubon work. Following relocation of a few pairs of puffins in 1975, successful breeding seasons have increased the flock to 14 pairs which fledged 12 young this year.

Condors - flying higher. Chances of overcoming the decline in the California Condor population improved in November when California Fish & Game Commission voted to improve the permit regulating Audubon radio telemetry efforts. New data-gathering ability has been in existence only a short time but new information has been developed concerning Condor habits in such important areas as roost sites and feeding.

People vs people vs the future. A notice from the Contra Costa County Planning Department advises of a proposal to amend the general land use plan to convert 327 acres from interim agriculture to single and/or multiple residential. An EIR has been prepared and was to be presented in December. These proposed changes in land use would ultimately result in an increased population of about 3500 persons.

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CLASSES and EXCURSIONS -- your editor has more details.

Albany Adult School, Dr. Stephen F. Bailey. Winter Birds of Open Coast, ocean, beach, rocky shore, 7-9 pm, Tues., Jan. 4-25, Bodega Bay trip Jan. 22; optional Monterey trip Feb. 19-20 thru Steve. Common Winter Landbirds, beginner/early intermed., 7-9 pm, Wed., Jan. 5-Feb. 9, morning trips Jan. 15, 29. Winter Ecology, birds' foraging, roosting, habitat use, social behavior, 7-9 pm, Feb. 8, 22, trips Feb. 12, 26. Info: Steve, 548-9507; reg: the school, 527-6811, or 1st class at Albany High School.

Birding Field Trips, Alice Hoch, 9:30-12:30, Tues., Jan. 11-Feb. 15, \$24; reg: 1st class. Info: Fremont Adult School, 791-5841, or Alice, 657-0475.

Natural History, California Birds, Phil Gordon, 7:30-9:30 pm, Wed., Jan. 5-Mar. 9, Acalanes High School, Rm. 307, \$22. Info: Acalanes Adult School, 935-0170.

Lindsay Museum, Winter Wonders, classes, trips; local and far afield; preschool-adult. Info/reg: 1001 First Ave., Walnut Creek 94596, 935-1976.

Plan Colorado Rookies vacation around NAS Convention, Aug. 28-Sept. 2; field trips, nature study workshops before/after. Details in NAS' Audubon Action, Feb. issue.

Natural Excursions (NAS/PRBO). Gray Whales, Feb. 11-19, Ronn Storro-Patterson, Ron LeValley, \$835. Catamaco & Palenque, Birds, Archaeology, Feb. 19-26, Tom Love, \$900 tentative. Info reg: 4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach, CA 94970; 868-1221.

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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: \$6 per year, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, Mrs. Winnie Orcutt, 30 Iris Ln., Walnut Creek, CA 94595. 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; 837-2843  
(Exchange bulletins for MDAS to this address, please.)

GREATER BAY AREA SITE GUIDE: Tennessee Valley.

Access: From US-101 north of Sausalito take Stinson Beach exit (SR-1) west ¼ mile, turn left on Tennessee Valley Rd., 1½ miles to the end of public road.

South of the parking lot in eucalyptus and willows along Elk Valley Creek are several species. Walk west from the parking lot on the paved road, checking grassy hillsides for Black & Say's Phoebes, meadowlark, sparrows; chaparral for quail, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, both towhees, sparrows; rock outcrops for Rock Wren; accipiters, many Red-Tail and other hawks, Common Ravens fly over ridges.

In about ¼ mile towhees, sparrows are in/near Elk Valley Creek where it reaches the road. Beyond here a long row of eucalyptus borders the creek, check weeds for thrushes, goldfinches, towhees, sparrows; creek vegetation for Winter Wren; bushes, trees for Downy Woodpecker, chickadee, titmouse, Bushtit, thrushes, kinglets, warblers, Northern Oriole, Western Tanager, Black-Headed Grosbeak; sparrow flock between creek and road includes Lincoln's, sometimes "Slate-Colored" Junco, White-Throated.

Across the road, trail to Haypress Camp goes up east side of willow-lined Tennessee Valley Creek, Fox Trail goes up west side a short way then turns uphill but follow along creek from there. Side trip up either trail ¼-½ mile to a small pond, north-east of camp may be productive, Lawrence's Goldfinch has been here.

Near pavement's end creek is full of thick vegetation with eucalyptus on the banks, quietly watch for skulkers like Winter Wren, Fox Sparrow. On the left just beyond in a wet area with sedge clumps are Marsh Wren, Yellowthroat, Lincoln's & Song Sparrows; across the creek a flat grassy area may have Water Pipits.

Take the path along the creek when the trail swings uphill a bit from the stream. Pacific Coast Trail crosses this meadow and bridges the creek which can be jumped at narrow spots to search willows for woodpeckers, flycatchers, wrens, thrushes, kinglets, warblers, goldfinches. In a soggy area, the last willow clump above the pond is good in migration, several rarities have been seen, also Long-Eared Owl. Behind the latrine on the main trail near the end of the meadow check a small gully full of willows for owls.

The pond beyond the meadow has Pied-Billed Grebe, cormorants, many ducks including Ring-Necked, Red-Breasted Merganser, perhaps Eurasian Wigeon, gulls. Path south of the pond, edged by poison oak in places, crosses the dam to rejoin main trail which also has good pond views, especially at a slightly elevated spot. Below the dam a willow-lined marsh has wrens, thrushes, kinglets, warblers, sparrows, perhaps Sora.

Beyond the marsh is pebbled Tennessee Beach in lovely, sheltered Tennessee Cove. On the small beach are few shorebirds, look offshore for all 3 loons, Western Grebe, Brown Pelican, cormorants, scoters, several gulls, alcids.

Facilities: latrines at parking lot, near pond, and at Haypress Camp; picnic tables at parking lot, camp. The 2-mile trail is level, easy walking. Best birding fall thru spring; little shade on trail, may be warm in summer; windbreaker recommended as it may be cool near ocean. Many wildflowers in meadows. Boats occasionally seen. Joggers, abundant weekends, provide safety for lone birders, may spook birds.

Other birds: herons, egrets, Black-Shouldered Kite, Golden Eagle, Osprey possible, Band-Tailed Pigeon, White-Throated Swift, Anna's, Rufous & Allen's Hummingbirds, Belted Kingfisher, several flycatchers, Yellow-Billed Magpie was here in 1978, Red-Breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Western Bluebird, warblers have included Tennessee, Blackpoll, Palm, Canada (1981) & American Redstart, Savannah and Lark among sparrows.

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The Richmonds wish you all a HAPPY, BIRD-FILLED NEW YEAR.

MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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283-3510 283-6969

February 1983  
Vol. 29, No. 7  
Next deadline: February 8

**Meeting:** Thurs., Feb. 3. Doors open 6:30 pm. 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.

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**note date changes:** Wed., Feb. 2, 9:00 am, Golden Gate Park; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Fwy 24, 8:00. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey (254-0486).

Set., Feb. 12, 9:00 am, Thornton area; carpool: southwest corner Sun Valley Center, 7:15. Leader: Merv Ortez (283-3072).

**place changed:** Thurs., Feb. 17, Grizzly Island (meet in Fairfield, 8:45 am); carpool: southwest corner Sun Valley Ctr., 8:00. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).

Set., Feb. 26, 8:15 am, Sunol Regional Park; carpool: El Cerro Blvd. at I-680, Danville, 7:30. Leader: George Finger (933-2468).

Sat.-Sun., Mar. 19-20, Honey Lake - Sage Grouse; leader: Tim Manolis (info: Jean Richmond (827-2843)). Susanville motels: Frontier Inn (916) 257-4141 (mention MDAS), \$18 sgl., \$20 dbl; Best Western Trailside Inn (916) 257-4123, \$26 sgl., \$28-30 dbl; or see AAA book or directory at phone company.

**Board Meeting:** Thurs., Feb. 10, 7:30 pm, home of Jean Richmond, 125 Via Serena, Alamo; 837-2843. Board meetings are always open to members.

**BIRDINFORMATION** will be a slide preview of feathered specialties we should see on upcoming weekend field trips. The **PROGRAM** will be "Chaparral Ecology," the life of the chaparral, its habitat, flora and fauna, presented by Dan Taylor from the NAS Western Regional Office in Sacramento.

At **GOLDEN GATE PARK** we should have closeups of waterbirds and gulls, Ring-Necked and Wood Ducks, Pygmy Nuthatch, perhaps Eurasian Wigeon, Red Crossbill. Meet just inside the park at 43rd and Fulton, at North Lake in the Chain of Lakes.

Near **THORNTON** should be Tundra Swans, geese, ducks, Sandhill Cranes (some doing their courtship dance), many land and waterbirds, perhaps Green-Backed Heron or Bittern. Go north on SR-24, east on SR-4 the SR-160 over Antioch Bridge to SR-12. Turn right 11 miles to Glasscock Rd., turn left to Westgate Landing County Park.

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

Hawks and landbirds are in good numbers at **SUNOL REGIONAL PARK**; Golden Eagles are often seen on the easy walk along Alameda Creek. Go south on I-680 about 9 miles past Dublin to Calaveras Rd., turn left under the freeway about 4 miles to Geary Rd., then left about 2 miles to the park headquarters.

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Our CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT on December 18 set a new record again, thanks to Kent and his crew. Weather was clear and cool with very little wind. There were 82 observers in 20 parties, 1 at feeders. Last year's high of 140 fell to our total of 142 species. The 76,562 individuals seen is one of our higher totals. We added 2 new species: Arctic Loon and White-Faced Ibis. Other good finds include Red-Throated Loon, Hooded Merganser, Ferruginous Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Merlin, Black Nail, Lesser Yellowlegs, Burrowing Owl, House Wren, Mountain Bluebird (photographed this year!), and Phainopepla. The following were found on the CBC:

LOON, ARCTIC 2, RED-THROATED 3, Grebe, Horned 1, Eared 1, Western 24, Pied-Billed 46, Double-Crested Cormorant 57, Heron, Great Blue 24, Green 6, Egret, Great 62, Snowy 128, Black-Crowned Night Heron 15, American Bittern 12, WHITE-FACED IBIS 9, Whistling Swan 1, White-Fronted Goose 4, Mallard 480, Gadwall 2,700, Pintail 3,376, Teal, Green-winged 63, Cinnamon 7, American Wigeon 3,010, Northern Shoveler 20,009, Ring-Necked Duck 6, Canvasback 4, Lesser Scaup 4, Common Goldeneye 17, Bufflehead 73, Surf Scoter 25, Ruddy Duck 121, Merganser, Hooded 3, Common 26, Turkey Vulture 77, White-tailed Kite 56, Hawk, Sharp-Shinned 12, Cooper's 9, Red-Tailed 170, Ferruginous 1, Golden Eagle 11, Northern Harrier 59, Prairie Falcon 3, Merlin 1, American Kestrel 101, California Quail 199, Ring-Necked Pheasant 6, Virginia Rail 73, Sora 18, Black Rail 7, Common Gallinule 3, American Coot 689, Killdeer 266, Common Snipe 64, Spotted Sandpiper 3, Willet 9, YELLOWLEGS, Greater 27, LESSER 4, Least Sandpiper 38, Dunlin 4, Long-Billed Dowitcher 12, American Avocet 5, Black-Necked Stilt 1, Gull, Glaucous-winged 2,017, Western 7, Herring 3,011, Thayer's 36, California 5,407, Ring-Billed 3,347, Mew 67, Bonaparte's 23, sp 5,004, Band-Tailed Pigeon 116, Dove, Rock 599, Mourning 459, Owl, Barn 10, Screech, 20, Great Horned 54, Burrowing 1, Short-eared 2, White-Throated Swift 16, Anna's Hummingbird 119, Belted Kingfisher, 20, Flicker, "Yellow-Shafted" 1, "Red-Shafted" 146, Acorn Woodpecker 90, "Red-Breasted" Sapsucker 18, Woodpecker, Hairy 6, Downy 7, Nuttall's 36, Phoebe, Black 41, Say's 32, Horned Lark 10, Tree Swallow 102, Jay, Steller's 33, Scrub 525, Common Raven 5, Common Crow 125, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee 21, Plain Titmouse 113, Bushtit 405, White-Breasted Nuthatch 67, Wren 42, WREN, HOUSE 2, Bewick's 36, Marsh 43, Rock 3, Mockingbird 78, California Thrasher 22, American Robin 95 (low) Thrush, Varied 15, Hermit 23, BLUEBIRD, Western 229, MOUNTAIN 1, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet 273, Water Pipit 301, Cedar Waxwing 40 (low), PHAINOPEPLA 3, Loggerhead Shrike 37, Starling 2,543, Hutton's Vireo 10, Yellow-Rumped Warbler 518, Common Yellowthroat 66, House Sparrow 146, Western Meadowlark 829, Blackbird, Red-winged 3,284, Tricolored 36, Brewer's 5,383, sp 4,950, Brown-Headed Cowbird 21, Finch, Purple 59, House 1,434, Goldfinch, American 654, Lesser 393, Towhee, Rufous-Sided 116, Brown 157, Sparrow, Savannah 141, Lark 81, Sage 6, Dark-eyed Junco 655, Sparrow, White-Crowned 1,028, Golden-Crowned 405, White-Throated 2, Fox 27, Lincoln's 14, Song 342. Seen during COUNT PERIOD but not on Count Day: Cattle Egret, Sanderling, Orange-Crowned Warbler, Pine Siskin.

Our sincere THANKS to all who participated, those who assisted with the potluck (especially Mary Jane Culver and Ruth Stewart who were in charge), and most of all, to our compiler, Kent Fickett!! We used to average around 125 but in recent years, with more complete coverage of our circle, our total is rising. Thanks again to our hard-working, dedicated CBC'ers:

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#### FIELD TRIP REPORTS.

The LAKE MERRITT trip on December 30 by ten members was on a clear, cool, calm day. After lunch we moved to EMERYVILLE MARINA to see the ♀ King Eider and ♂ Hooded Merganser. These 49 species were seen or heard:

Com Loon, Horned, Eared, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Brown Pelican, Dbl-Crested Cormorant, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Mallard, Redhead, Canvasback, Greater & Lesser Scaup, Com & Barrow's Goldeneye, Bufflehead, KING EIDER, White-winged & Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Hooded Merganser, Amer Coot, Willet, Dunlin, Glaucous-winged, West, Calif, Ring-Billed, Mew & Heerman's Gull, Forster's Tern, Rock & Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Starling, "Audubon's" Warbler, House Sparrow, Red-winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, House Finch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, White-Crowned & Golden-Crowned Sparrow.

The trip to BAY BRIDGE TOLL PLAZA, EMERYVILLE MARINA & AQUATIC PARK on January 6 was on a cold, calm day, foggy early then clearing. Twelve members saw the KING EIDER and Hooded Merganser, a Canada Goose at Aquatic Park, many shorebirds among these 46 species seen or heard:



Red-Throated Loon, Horned, Eared, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Dbl-Crested & Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Canada Goose, Mallard, Pintail, scaup sp, Com Goldeneye, Bufflehead, KING EIDER, White-Winged & Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Hooded & Red-Breasted Merganser, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Long-Billed Curlew, Whimbrel, Spotted Sandpiper, Willet, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, West Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Amer Avocet, Glaucous-Winged & Ring-Billed Gull, Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Amer Robin, Starling, "Audubon's" Warbler, West Meadowlark, Song Sparrow.

At PUTAH CREEK and LAKE SOLANO on January 15 it was overcast and cold, windy only near the dam. Thirteen members found Wood Ducks, Ferruginous Hawk, Osprey, House, Canyon & Rock Wrens, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Phainopepla among these 67 species:

West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Dbl-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Tundra Swan, Mallard, Gadwall, Amer Wigeon, Wood & Ruddy Duck, Com Merganser, Black-Shouldered Kite, Cooper's, Red-Tailed, Red-Shouldered & Ferruginous Hawk, Osprey, Amer Kestrel, Amer Coot, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Herring Gull, Rock & Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Com Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Red-Breasted Sapsucker, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Yellow-Billed Magpie, Com Crow, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, House, Bewick's, Canyon & Rock Wren, Mockingbird, Calif Thrasher, Amer Robin, Hermit Thrush, West Bluebird, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Phainopepla, Starling, Yellow-Rumped Warbler, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged Blackbird, Purple & House Finch, Amer & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

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Our CHECKLIST OF BIRDS OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY has just been published and will be available at meetings and field trips. The result of lengthy (and on-going) work, the checklist includes bargraphs of relative abundance each month, habitat preference, footnotes, plus a map of the area covered with a list of special birding areas. Thanks go to all those who worked on the Bird Population Study, but special thanks go to Sally Steller who chaired the committee and to Linda LaPointe and Tom Lee for their excellent graphics. MDAS is justifiably proud of this publication.

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MIGRANT LANDBIRDS, a class taught by Steve Bailey, will be held Tuesday evenings, March 1-April 5, at a place to be determined here in central Contra Costa County. There will be 2 field trips, late March and mid-April. Cost will be approximately \$25. Call Maury Stern (284-5980) for information.

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WILDLIFE INFORMATION NEEDED - the Northern Harrier (Marsh Hawk) is a Species of Special Concern for the State of California. Unfortunately, funds are not available for studies by our Dept of Fish & Game at this time. As a result, the Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Group is attempting to establish baseline information on this species to provide government agencies who have management responsibility for birds of prey or habitat protection.

Information regarding Harrier natural history observation is welcome. Of special importance are observations of current and historic breeding attempts, both success and failure. Send responses to Santa Cruz Predatory Research Group, Room 231, Clark Kerr Hall, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA 95064; (408) 429-2466.

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NATURE AIDS MONO. An exceptionally wet Sierra summer temporarily arrested the drop in water level of Mono Lake. Los Angeles has been diverting water from the lake's watershed and since 1970 the water level has dropped 48 feet, despite conservationist efforts to save the lake. This year's rains provided more water than the L.A. aqueduct system could carry away, and about 40,000 gallons flowed into the land-locked lake, enough to replace the water lost through evaporation this year.

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AUTHOR SEEKS HELP. Dr. Stephen W. Kress, who heads the society's puffin project in Maine, is writing a book on attracting birds and would welcome homemade designs for feeders, houses, baths, and innovative ideas for coping with such problems as oats, squirrels, and nuisance birds. Send full details to him at Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850.

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OBSERVATIONS, December 10-January 15. Also see field trip reports.

Red-Necked Grebe, Lk Merritt, Jan. 6--BR. Pelagic Cormorant, Pt Isabel, Jan. 6--BR. Green-Backed Heron, pond near San Antonio junction, Santa Clara Co., Dec. 21--BR; their Lafayette garden, Jan. 4--MJ&GM. Cattle Egret, near Volta, Merced Co., Dec. 13, 15--JR; 2, W. Pittsburg, Dec. 19-25--BR, GF, JG, et al. LEAST BITTERN, Palo Alto Baylands, thru Jan. 8--m.ob. WHITE-FACED IBIS, 7-9, W. Pittsburg, Dec. 18-27--BC, LF, KF, EH, m.ob; 7, Colusa NWR, Colusa Co., Dec. 30--SEL, EB

Tundra Swan, Canada Goose, 14, White-Fronted Goose, Snow Goose, all Hayward Regional Shoreline (HayRegSh), Dec. 14--BR. Blue-winged Teal, pr, Palo Alto flood control basin, Jan. 9--H&NB. Redhead, 57, Berkeley Aquatic Pk, Dec. 28--JR, BF, et al. Ring-Necked Duck, 4, Garin Reg Pk, Dec. 15--BR; 30, ♀, Cascade Lk, Jan. 4--NB. Barrow's Goldeneye, 20, ♀, Leo Ryan Pk, Foster City, thru period--m.ob; up to 24, Lk Merritt thru period--m.ob; ♀, Berkeley Aquatic Pk, Dec. 28--JR; pr, base of Richmond Bridge, Richmond, Jan. 6--BR; 2, Crown State Beach, Alameda, Jan. 13--ER

Bufflehead, 1000+, Laguna Lk, Marin Co., Dec. 11--FB, GC. KING EIDER, 1mm ♀, Emeryville Marina, Dec. 19-Jan. 15--JG, DB, m.ob. Black Sooty, 4, Fish Docks, Pt Reyes, Dec. 25--FB, GC; ♀, Pt Isabel, Jan. 6--BR; ♂, Bay Bridge Toll Plaza, Jan. 13--BR. Hooded Merganser, ♂, Emeryville Marina, Dec. 22-Jan. 15--m.ob; ♀, 5-Brooks pond, Pt Reyes, Dec. 25--FB, GC. SMEW, ♂, Leo Ryan Pk, thru period--m.ob.

Broad-winged Hawk, Inverness, Dec. 25--FB, GC. Rough-Legged Hawk, 1-5 near Patterson, Stanislaus Co., Dec. 13--JR; SR-152/SR-59, Merced Co., Dec. 15--JR; 1-2, Tesla Rd. Livermore, Dec. 29-30--MR, Sar&JS; 2, Frick Lk, Livermore, Jan. 1--Sar&JS. Ferruginous Hawk, Drake's Beach turnoff, Pt Reyes, Dec. 25--FB, GC. Golden Eagle, 3, Wall Ridge Trail, Mt Diablo, Dec. 24--GF. Bald Eagle, ad, Calaveras Reservoir, Dec. 11--JB. Prairie Falcon, Dec. 24--JE; Dec. 30--JR. Peregrine Falcon, Jan. 5--BR. Merlin, 2, Dec. 25--JG; Jan. 5, 6, 14--BR.

Sandhill Crane, 3, Frick Lk, Jan. 2--Sar&JS. Virginia Rail, Garin Reg Pk, Dec. 14--BR. Black Rail, Benicia SRA, Dec. 27--JR, GF, MP; near Dumbarton Bridge, Jan. 2--BR. Semipalmated Plover, Martinez Reg Sh, Dec. 5--GF. Mountain Plover, 20, SR-152/Rd-11, Madera Co., Dec. 13--JR. Lesser Golden Plover, 6-8, Spaletta Ranch, Pt Reyes, Dec. 10-31--FB, GC, et al. Lesser Yellowlegs, near Bodega Marine Lab, Dec. 11--FB, GC; waterfront Rd./Solano Ave., Dec. 19--BR. Sanderling, 4, entrance to Mt View Sanitary Dist, Dec. 19--BR; 5 there, Dec. 25--JG. Red Phalarope, 11-12, near Dumbarton Bridge, Dec. 29, Jan. 2--BR.

BLACK-HEADED GULL, Stockton oxi ponds, thru Dec. 27--RBA, Sar&JS. LITTLE GULL, Stockton oxi ponds, thru Dec. 27--RBA. Common Murre, Berkeley Marina, Jan. 5--BR. Rhinoceros Auklet, Bodega Head, Dec. 11--FB, GC.

Burrowing Owl, HayRegSh, Dec. 14--BR. Vaux's Swift, 2, HayRegSh, Jan. 5--BR. Allen's Hummingbird, ♂, returned to her Alamo garden, Jan. 13--JR. Pileated Woodpecker, 5-Brooks, Dec. 25--FB, GC. Lewis' Woodpecker, 15, Wall Ridge Trail, Dec. 24--GF. TROPICAL KINGBIRD, Lk Merritt, Dec. 23-Jan. 15--BG, m.ob. THICK-BILLED KINGBIRD, Orange Co., Dec. 19-Jan. 8--RBA, JG, BG, m.ob. Western Wood Pewee, Orange Co., Jan. 8 (4th winter record), BC, et al. Barn Swallow, Moss Landing, Jan. 1--JG.

Dipper, 2, Waddell Creek, Santa Cruz Co., Dec. 26--BR. RUFOUS-BACKED ROBIN, Orange Co., Jan. 1-8--RBA, JG, BC, m.ob. Townsend's Solitaire, only one on Honey Lake CBC, Dec. 21--JE. Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Garin Reg Pk, Dec. 15--BR; San Antonio Valley, Santa Clara Co., Dec. 21--BR; Monterey, Dec. 30--JE; Coyote Hills Reg Pk, Jan. 11--BF, JR, et al. Phainopepla, Black Diamond Mines Reg Pk, Dec. 11, another Dec. 15--GF; 3, San Antonio Valley, Dec. 21--BR. Loggerhead Shrike, 100, HayRegSh, Dec. 14--BR.

Nashville Warbler, Carlos Bee Pk, Castro Valley, Jan. 8--BR, TG. Western Tanager, ♀, his walnut Creek garden, Dec. 25--RH. SUMMER TANAGER, 1mm ♂, Lk Merritt, Jan. 1-15, --m.ob. Red Crossbill, 4, Waddell Creek, Dec. 26--BR. SHARP-TAILED SPARROW, Palo Alto Baylands, Dec. 10--BR; near Dumbarton Bridge, Dec. 29, Jan. 2--BR. HARRIS' SPARROW, Arroyo Jr Hi Sch, Hayward, thru Dec. 12--PG, m.ob. White-Throated Sparrow, their Alamo garden, thru period--R&JR. LAPLAND LONGSPUR, W. Pittsburg, Dec. 25--DE.

Tropical Kingbird, Least Flycatcher, PAINTED REDSTART, Orochard Oriole, Hepatic Tanager, Rose-Breasted Grosbeak, all Santa Barbara, Dec. 15-16--BR.

OBSERVERS: Hugh & Norah Bain, Ethel Beckerman, Florence Bennett, Dennis Bromley, Joe Broyles, Bill Chilson, Glenn Coleman, Jimm Edgar, Shimi Edmondson, Shirley Ellis, Dick Erickson, Lynn Farrar, George Finger, Kent Fickett, Bud Fry, Tim Gates, Phil Gordon, Bill & Mary Jane Greene, Jeff Greenhouse, Ed Hase, Ralph Hudgins, Molly Jane & George Monheit, Marjorie Plant, Bob Richmond, Rich & Jean Richmond, Marilyn Russell, Sarah & Jerry Stengel, NoCal Rare Bird Alert, many observers.

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CONSERVATION NOTES by Al McNabney.

WATT - WHAT??? Doonesbury's gone, but will deeds, exploits, postures and efforts at bon mots and witticisms as expressed by the Interior Secretary also go away? There are hints that Watt's excesses and lack of regard for the future of the nation in other than a "cash on the barrelhead" way are beginning to bring dismay to political leaders. A recently announced Watt-approved plan proposes the withdrawal from consideration as wilderness millions of acres of federal lands. As a result, the general public, the man on the street, leaders of environmental groups, and members of Congress expressed shock, anger, horror (and probably a few other emotions) to the press. Legal action was threatened and rumblings in Congress of further curbs on Watt's activities were heard. The dust had hardly settled from that encounter when Watt himself announced there would be no more oil leases granted in several important areas of federal lands. The reaction was amazement, suspicion and determination to continue to object to Watt's policies and activities. Our new State Attorney General reportedly said he would protect the State from James Watt and "others who look covetously at California's natural resources."

CALIFORNIA SEA OTTERS are in trouble again. Governmental agencies estimate otter numbers far in excess of those in a recent count. Audubon data demonstrate there were but 1194 free-swimming otters while state and federal agencies suggest 1800-2000. Proposed offshore drilling in the Monterey Bay area, increased mortality, and the restricted area in which the otter exists are reasons for concern. Otters are presently a threatened species, Audubon recommends a change to ENDANGERED.

WATER - ITS USE/ABUSE. Mono Lake, here today, gone tomorrow? With lots of rain in northern California this winter conservation may not be given much thought. Conservation IS important! Mono Lake is endangered because the south uses lots of water, much of it from north state sources. Water transfer affects not only Mono Lake but all California, but effects on the total state are not yet clear enough for all to see. Non-essential water use must be curtailed if the beauty of the state and productivity of the land is to be maintained. Each individual can assist in the conservation efforts through installation of dams in toilet tanks, low-flow shower heads, and flow restrictors where appropriate. Such devices are available from plumbing supply shops, and more information can be obtained from the California Department of Water Resources Studies.

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CLASSES and EXCURSIONS -- your editor has more details.

Golden Trout Camp, three 1-week sessions July 24-Aug 13, well-rounded environmental education experience, spectacular Sierra setting, sponsored by 3 SoCal Audubon chapters. Info: Andy McKernan, 40 Sherril Ln., Redlands, CA 92373; (714) 793-7897.

Natural Excursions (NAS/PRBO). Honey Lake Valley, courting Sage Grouse, Feb. 19-21, Dan Airola, Roger Harris, \$98; Blue Whales, Sea of Cortez, Mar. 13-19, Ron LeValley, Ronn Storr-Patterson, \$900; The Everglades, Mar. 19-25, Burr Heneman, \$590; Western Mexico, San Blas & the Barrancas, Mar. 26-Apr. 3, Jeff Froke, \$850. Info/reg: Linda Parker, 4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach, CA 94970; 868-1221.

U.C. Berkeley. The University Research Expedition Program has no special academic or field experience requirements for most programs. Study mating Sage Grouse near Bridgeport, Mar. 26-Apr. 15, Apr. 17-May 6, or both, Dr. Jack Bradbury, \$775 (\$975 for both). For catalog on this and other projects, contact UREP, University of California, Desk NR, Berkeley, CA 94720; 642-6586.

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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: \$6 per year, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, Mrs. Winnie Orcutt, 30 Iris Ln., Walnut Creek, CA 94595. 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; 837-2843  
(Exchange bulletins for MDAS to this address, please.)

GREATER BAY AREA SITE GUIDE: more CONDOR country (see July-August 1979 issue).

Access: Go south on I-5 to Frazier Park exit between Lebec and Gorman, go west to Lake of the Woods, turn right on Cuddy Valley Road to the Mt. Pinos junction, turn right on Mil Potrero Road to Apache Saddle Ranger Station. Turn left up Abel Mtn. for birding similar to that on Mt. Pinos, or bear right down Blue Ridge Trail, continue northwest 3-4 miles past Valle Vista Campground to the turnout at the Los Padres National Forest boundary sign (10-12 miles west of Apache Saddle) in extreme southwest Kern County.

From Maricopa: Go 9 miles south from town on SR-33/166 then about 10 miles east on Cerro Noroeste Road toward Abel Mtn., or 3 miles south of Elkhorn Grade Road take Klipstein Canyon Road southeast from SR-33/166 to Cerro Noroeste Road, turn left.

Several CONDORS a day may be seen from this lookout spot in summer and early fall, especially over the valley to the north, along with Golden Eagles, other raptors.

Look for LeConte's Thrasher around Maricopa: a series of washes by a small fenced facility 1.3 miles south of the SR-33/166 junction in town; just south of that facility go west on Elkhorn Grade Road 0.8 mile then right on a gravel road 1/4 mile to a huge wash; Devil's gulch area a mile south of Elkhorn Grade Road and a mile north of Capitola Park on SR-33/166; the wash along Klipstein Canyon Road at SR-33/166.

This area can be covered in conjunction with birding areas listed with Mt. Pinos. Facilities/store at Pine Mountain on Mil Potrero Road; several area campgrounds; motels, restaurants in Gorman, Maricopa. Mil Potrero Road may be closed in winter.

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This is the LAST OF THE SITE GUIDES on a regular basis. There may be others in the future - contact your editor if there is an area for which you would like a guide.

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Management of federal and state refuge lands on MATAGORDA ISLAND has been agreed upon by the Interior Department and the state of Texas, an agreement NAS helped to bring about. NAS insisted upon the provision to keep title to the 19,000-acre federal property with the Interior Department. In addition, 24,000 acres of adjoining wetlands, now protected by the state, will be added to the federal tract. Texas Parks & Wildlife Department will supervise day-to-day management of the combined unit, US Fish & Wildlife Service retains control of management decisions/policies. All but 10,000 acres of this coastal barrier island will thus be protected.

The island, 5 miles across Aransas Bay from mainland Aransas NWR, provides wintering grounds for endangered Whooping Cranes, and many of the birds feed in the island's wetlands. When Interior Secretary Watt proposed giving the Matagorda property to Texas, NAS protested and the threat was averted in negotiations which included NAS. NAS is now pressing for federal legislation to reinforce the agreement's provisions and to declare this case a unique one not to be a precedent for state management of federal refuge lands. The former Air Force tract was a separate segment of Aransas Refuge, apart from the main refuge, while adjoining state-owned wetlands were already under the protection of state wildlife agencies.

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WILDWAYS, an innovative natural history magazine, was recently launched by Shasta Natural Science Association. Focusing on nature and wildlife in northern California, the quarterly publication is geared to all ages. Subscriptions are \$8.00 per year. Write the Association at P O Box 185, Redding, CA 96099.

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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.: Jimm Edgar  
3611 Chestnut St.  
Lafayette, CA 94549  
283-3510 283-6969

March 1983  
Vol. 29, No. 8  
Next deadline: March 14

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Meeting: Thurs., Mar. 3. Doors open 6:30 pm. 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 binocs, lunch, field guide. RAIN on trip day? Call leader - trip may be cancelled or postponed. Carpool TIME is departure time. Carpool EXPENSE: 5¢ per mile per rider suggested.

Sat., Mar. 5, 9:00 am, Bodega Bay; carpool: southwest corner Sun Valley Center, 7:00. Leaders: Winnie & Gifford Young (707-745-4134). May be cold, windy.

Wed., Mar. 9, 8:45 am, Sears Point Rd. area; carpool: southwest corner Sun Valley Center, 8:00. Leader: Jimm Edgar (283-3510).

Sat.-Sun., Mar. 19-20, Honey Lake - Sage Grouse; meet Sat., 9:00 am, Fleming Unit HQ, Honey Lake WMA; Sun., 5:30 am, Basque Cafe in Litchfield. Motels: see Feb. issue. There will be a nominal fee to cover expenses of our expert leader. Carry chains. Leader: Tim Manolis; info: Jean Richmond (837-2843) - call her if going.

Wed. Mar. 23, 9:00 am, Hayward Regional Shoreline; carpool: El Cerro Blvd. at I-680, Danville, 8:15. Leader: Sally Steller (837-9061).

Thurs., Mar. 31, 9:30 am, Lake Lagunitas; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Fwy 24, 8:30. Leader: Winnie Orcutt (944-0593). Entry fee \$2 per car.

Board Meeting: Thurs., Mar. 10, 7:30 pm, home of Judy & Bruce Moorad, 1445 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek; 938-4446. Board meetings are open to all members.

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BIRDINFORMATION is not yet confirmed - call AUD-UBON if you wish to know topic and speaker. The PROGRAM, a return visit by Steve Bailey, will be "Separating Some Similar Songbirds." Steve, well-known Bay Area birder, ornithology teacher, and Observations Editor for Golden Gate Audubon Society, presented the excellent program on hawks last September.

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With varied habitats, BODEGA BAY has many waterbirds, shorebirds, landbirds, possibly Red-Necked Grebe, Brant, Oldsquaw, Rock Sandpiper. Go north on US-101 to Petaluma, follow signs from Washington St. exit to SR-1 then north to The Tides Restaurant in the town of Bodega Bay.

In the SEARS POINT ROAD area are many waterbirds, shorebirds, some landbirds. Cross Benicia Bridge, go north on I-780, east on I-80, west on SR-37 a mile to Fairgrounds Dr., turn left to the Solano County Fairgrounds entrance.

Besides Sage Grouse, HONEY LAKE AREA has many waterfowl species, Goshawk among many raptors, Northern Shrike, Tree & Harris' Sparrows, longspurs, perhaps Black-Backed Woodpecker. Fast route: I-80 to Reno, US-395 north thru Susanville (or Rd. A3 cutoff 14 miles south of town) to 3 miles east of Litchfield, turn south on Mapes Rd. to HQ. We bird there 1-2 hours.

Friday arrivals: leave Litchfield 7:00 am Sat. to scout booming grounds. Have lots of warm liquids, food, layered clothing - temps are cold. For hardy souls, free camping at Fleming Unit. Weather/time permitting, scenic drive from Chico via SR-32/36 may be good birding.

At HAYWARD REGIONAL SHORELINE are ducks, shorebirds, some landbirds. From Nimitz Fwy (SR-17) in Hayward take Winton Ave. west to the parking lot at the end of the road. It could be windy, trails may be muddy - come prepared.

At LAKES LAGUNITAS & BON TEMPE are few waterbirds, many landland birds, hopefully Pileated Woodpecker. Cross San Rafael Bridge, go north 0.6 mile on US-101, take San Rafael exit 2 blocks, turn left. In downtown Fairfax turn left then right on Broadway 1/2 block, left on Bolinas Ave., left on Old Bolinas-Fairfax Rd. to the end of the road.

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At COYOTE HILLS REGIONAL PARK on January 19 it was cool with a few sprinkles which soon gave way to partly cloudy skies, then turned cold and windy in midafternoon. Seen were Bittern, 2 geese wearing colored neck collars, Golden Eagle, and a Kite we watched as it plucked and ate a small rodent. Nine members tallied these 82 species:

Eared & Pied-Billed Grebe, Dbl-Cr Cormorant, Gr Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Black-Cr Night-Heron, Am Bittern, White-Fr Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Gr-Winged & Cinnamon Teal, Am Wigeon, Nor Shoveler, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Bl-Shouldered Kite, Sharp-Shinned, Red-Tailed & Red-Shouldered Hawk, Golden Eagle, Nor Harrier, Am Kestrel, Rg-Neck Pheasant, Virginia Rail, Com Moorhen, Am Coot, Killdeer, Bl-Bellied Plover, Com Snipe, Willet, Gr Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, West Sandpiper, Am Avocet, Bl-Necked Stilt, Glaucous-Winged, West, Herring, Calif, Rg-Billed & Bonaparte's Gull, Mourning Dove, Gr Horned Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, Nor Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Black & Say's Pheobe, Tree Swallow, Scrub Jay, Ch-Backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Bewick's & Marsh Wren, Nor Mockingbird, Varied & Hermit Thrush, Ruby-Cr Kinglet, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, European Starling, "Myrtle" & "Audubon's" Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Am Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Savannah, White-Cr, Golden-Cr, Fox & Song Sparrow.

Three members went to CLIFTON COURT FOREBAY on January 29 with cool temperature, slight wind and scattered light showers early, but clearing by afternoon. Found were many hawks, 2 Mountain Plovers, 5 Burrowing Owls, 27 Mountain Bluebirds, 2 Vesper Sparrows among 57 species:

Com Loon, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Dbl-Cr Cormorant, Gr Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Mallard, Pintail, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Turkey Vulture, Black-Shouldered Kite, Red-Tailed, 4 Rough-Legged & 5 Ferruginous Hawks, 3 Golden Eagles, Nor Harrier, 2 Prairie Falcons, Am Kestrel, Rg-Necked Pheasant, Am Coot, Killdeer, Mountain Plover, Herring, Thayer's & Rg-Billed Gull, Rock & Mourning Dove, Burrowing Owl, Nor Flicker, Say's Phoebe, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Com Raven, Am Crow, Nor Mockingbird, Mountain Bluebird, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, European Starling, "Myrtle" & "Audubon's" Warbler, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged, Tricolored & Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, House Finch, Am Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided Towhee, Savannah, Vesper, Lark, White-Cr & Song Sparrow.

Eight hardy members went to GOLDEN GATE and LINCOLN PARKS on February 2. It was cool but windless with gentle rain all morning then mostly overcast with clouds breaking up as we left. Found were 6 Wood Ducks, 53 Ring-Necked Ducks, many Pygmy Nuthatches among 55 species:

Loon sp, Eared, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Dbl-Cr Cormorant, Mallard, Pintail, Am Wigeon, Nor Shoveler, Wood & Ring-Necked Duck, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Com Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Red-Tailed & Red-Shouldered Hawk, Calif Quail, Am Coot, Glaucous-Winged, West, Herring, Calif, Rg-Billed & Mew Gull, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Rock & Mourning Dove, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Nor Flicker, Red-Br Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Scrub Jay, Com Raven, Bushtit, Pygmy Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Bewick's Wren, Am Robin, Ruby-Cr Kinglet, European Starling, "Audubon's" Warbler, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed Junco, White-Cr, Golden-Cr, Fox & Song Sparrow.

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Inadvertantly omitted from our CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT REPORT: 7 Rufous-Crowned Sparrows.

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Our brand-new annotated BIRDS OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY is available for 25¢ at meetings and field trips, or 50¢ by mail, postpaid. This checklist contains a wealth of information on the birds of our area.

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"SPRING LANDBIRDS," the class to be taught by Steve Bailey, will be held 7:30-9:30 pm on Tuesdays, March 1-April 5, in room 11, Stanley School, 3455 School St., Lafayette, except on April 5 in Mt. Diablo Room, S.F. Federal Savings, Olympic & California Blvds., Walnut Creek. Two field trips will be arranged at the class. Cost is \$24. Questions to Maury Stern, 284-5980 (home) or 943-2252 (work). Call immediately if not already enrolled as the class has only a couple of spaces left.

\* \* \* \* \*

If there is RAIN on FIELD TRIP DAY do NOT assume the trip is cancelled. Recent trips to Clifton Court Forebay, Golden Gate Park, and Thornton all began under wet conditions but all had good birding and birders with rain gear stayed warm and dry. Trips go as scheduled unless rain is too heavy and constant or if trails are too muddy to walk safely. It may be raining at home but not at the destination - this has happened in the past. If you have any doubts about a trip, call the leader whose phone number is on the calendar on page 1.

\* \* \* \* \*

BIRDING GEAR for sale by members. Nikon 7x35 binocs, \$195; Lila, 837-7666. Bausch & Lomb zoom 15-60 spotting scope, \$175; Shimi, 837-1010. Celestron C-90 spotting scope, Porro prism, 18 & 25mm lenses, 2.5 Barlow Lens, camera adapter; \$300; Maury, 284-5980.

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POINT REYES BIRD OBSERVATORY would appreciate contributions to any PRBO program or the General Fund, but especially to four important projects: California Gull research at Mono Lake begun 7 years ago by David Winkler, a new project for PRBO; Landbird Research Program, supported entirely by members; Gulf of Farallons Project, partly funded by foundations, corporations, government agencies; the PRBO Newsletter, an important education tool - and great source of information. Send to PRBO, 4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach, CA 94970.

\* \* \* \* \*

SALE at THE BOOK NEST, to celebrate Richardson Bay Audubon Center's 26th anniversary, offers special discounts to NAS members: Bushnell 20x Sentry telescope, \$119.95 (list \$184.95); Bushnell Spacemaster telescope, 20x, or 22x wide angle, eyepiece, \$199.95 (\$304.95); Bausch & Lomb Discoverer 15-60x Zoom, \$269.95 (\$399.95); Audubon Encyclopedia of Animal Life, \$29.95 (\$45). For each scope or encyclopedia, include \$3 shipping/handling; Calif. residents add 6% tax. Checks payable to National Audubon Society, to The Book Nest, Richardson Bay Audubon Center, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon, CA 94920. Sale ends May 31.

The Book Nest carries a full line of Bushnell and Leitz binocs; field guides, regional bird books, environmental education books, bird feeders, field accessories. Discounts for NAS members. Send 20¢ stamp for free catalog.

\* \* \* \* \*

A REFUGE MAP showing the location of all National Wildlife Refuges has been prepared by US Fish & Wildlife Service. It is folded to roadmap size and on the back is basic information about each refuge. "Visitor's Guide to the National Wildlife Refuges" is \$2.25 from the Superintendent of Documents, US Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20240 (specify stock #024-010-00529-7).

\* \* \* \* \*

The Canadian government has produced an award-winning film, "ACID RAIN; REQUIEM & RECOVERY," and has offered to make it available to the 240 TV stations of the US Public Broadcasting Service on February 7 and 14. NAS members could help spread the acid rain message by writing or calling their local PBS stations and urging them to air the show.

\* \* \* \* \*

CHILKAT REPORT. Copies of the "Third Annual Progress Report, Chilkat River Cooperative Bald Eagle Study" are available without charge from Information Services, NAS, 950 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022. This is the final year of the project, a study of the seasonal assemblages of eagles in southeast Alaska's Chilkat River Valley and the natural resources and recreational potential of the area.

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Our revised AUDUBON DAILY FIELD LIST, 5¢ each, at meetings and on field trips.

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OBSERVATIONS, January 16-February 11. Also see field trip reports.

Common Loon, Clifton Court Forebay (CCF), Jan. 20--BR. Red-Throated Loon, Lake Merritt, Feb. 10--JR. LAYSAN ALBATROSS, Monterey Bay, Feb. 5--JG, et al. Pelagic Cormorant, east end San Rafael Bridge, Jan. 17, Feb. 3--BR. Cattle Egret, W. Pittsburg, Jan. 20--BR; Byro Hwy near CCF, Jan. 20--BR. LEAST BITTERN, Palo Alto Baylands, thru period--m.ob. WHITE-FACED IBIS, up to 8, W. Pittsburg, thru Jan. 26--m.ob

White-Fronted Goose, 2, Hayward Reg Shoreline, Jan. 21--BR. Snow Goose, CCF, Jan. 20--BR; 1-2, Hayward RS, Jan. 21--BR; 1, Woodbridge Rd., San Joaquin Co., Feb. 1--JR, BF, et al. Blue-Winged Teal, 2♂, Palo Alto Baylands, Jan. 28--MS. Wood Duck, ♀, CCF, Jan. 20--BR. Ring-Necked Duck, ♂, W. Pittsburg, Jan. 21--JR, JE.

Barrow's Goldeneye, many, Lake Merritt, thru period; 17♂, 13♀, near east end San Rafael Bridge, Jan. 17 & 3♂, 2♀ there, Feb. 3--BR; 3♂, 1♀, Leo Ryan Pk, Foster City, Jan. 21--SE, SrS, PJ; 4♂, 2♀, there, Jan. 28--BR; 2♂, Pt Pinole, Feb. 3--BR. OLDSQUAW, Lake Merritt, Jan. 29-Feb. 11--RBA, JR.

STELLER'S EIDER, ♀, Crescent City harbor, Del Norte Co., Jan. 16-Feb. 11--JRo, DE, m.ob. KING EIDER, ♀, Emeryville Marina, thru period--m.ob. Black Scoter, 5♂ Año Nuevo St Res., Feb. 4--SE, SrS, PJ. Hooded Merganser, ♂, Alameda, Jan. 28--ED; pr., Leo Ryan Pk, Jan. 21--SE, SrS, PJ; 4♂, 3♀ there, Jan. 28--BR. SMEW, Leo Ryan Pk, thru period--m.ob.

Red-Shouldered Hawk, 3, Pt Pinole, Feb. 3--BR. Rough-Legged Hawk, 1, Byron Hot Springs Rd, 1, Bixler Rd., Jan. 20--BR; Grizzly Is. WMA, Jan 25--JR, BF, et al; Frick Lke Jan. 29--BR. Ferruginous Hawk, 2, Byron Hot Spgs Rd., Jan 20--BR; 3, Panoche Valley, San Benito Co., & 4, incl. 1 dk ph, Los Banos WMA, Jan. 26--MS, HN; Frick Lk, Jan. 29--BR; Lk Success, Tulare Co., Jan. 29--R&JR.

Golden Eagle, Byron Hot Spgs Rd, Grizzly Is, Panoche Valley, Briones Reg Pk, Abbott's Lagoon--HN, MS, BR, JR; ad, Ygnacio Valley Rd. & Tampico, Feb. 11--MP. BALD EAGLE, ad, Frick Lk, Jan. 29--BR; imm, Lk Success, Jan. 29--R&JR. Prairie Falcon, Jan. 20--BR; Jan. 25--JR; 2, Jan. 26--MS, HN; Feb. 7--T&EL. Peregrine Falcon, Jan. 20--BR; Jan. 13--MS. Merlin, Jan. 17--BR; Jan. 21--JE, JR; Jan. 31--MS; Feb. 1--JR.

Clapper Rails, Sora, Alameda So Shore, Jan. 28--ED. 4 rail sp, incl BLACK, Palo Alto Baylands, Jan. 28--MS, BR, et al. Snowy Plover, several, Beach Park Blvd, Foster City, Jan. 21--SE, SrS, PJ; 8, Pt Pinole, Feb. 3--BR. MT. PLOVER, 3, Byron Hwy near CCF, Jan. 20--BR; 100, Panoche Valley, Jan. 26--MS, HN. Rock Sandpiper, Pebble Beach, San Mateo Co., Jan. 31--ED.

Thayer's Gull, Pt Isabel, Jan. 17; 8, CCF, Jan. 20; 7, W. Pittsburg, Jan. 21--BR. COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL, Stockton oxi ponds, thru period--RBA, JR. LITTLE GULL, Stockton oxi ponds, thru period--RBA, JR. Burrowing Owl, 3, CCF area, Jan. 20--BR; Hayward RS, Jan. 21, 24--BR; 2, Byron Hwy, Feb. 1--JR. BARRED OWL, Willow Creek, Humboldt Co., early Feb.--RBA.

TROPICAL KINGBIRD, Lake Merritt, thru Feb. 1--m.ob. Eurasian Skylark, Hall Rch, Pt Reyes, thru Jan--RBA. MT. BLUEBIRD, 30, Panoche Valley, Jan. 26--MS, HN; 3-30, Concord Ave., SW of Brentwood, Jan. 28-Feb. 11--GF, MP, BR, JR. Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, NW end CCF, Jan. 20--BR. Townsend's Warbler, their Walnut Creek garden, Dec. 28--T&EL. SUMMER TANAGER, imm ♂, Lake Merritt, thru Jan. 29--m.ob.

SHARP-TAILED SPARROW, Palo Alto Baylands, thru Jan. 29--RBA, BR, et al. VESPER SPARROW, 12, Panoche Valley, Jan. 26--MS, HN; 1, Concord Ave., Brentwood, Feb. 1--JR. "Slate-Colored" Junco, her Orinda garden, Jan. 19--NB. White-Throated Sparrow, their Alamo garden, thru period--R&JR; her garden, Jan. 22-23--NB. CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR, Hayward RS, Jan. 24--BR.

Sperm Whale, 6, Monterey Bay, Feb. 5--JG, et al. Bobcat, Año Nuevo St Res, Feb. 4--SE, SaS, PJ.

Orange Co. birding. Jan. 26: Rufous-Backed Robin--FB, GC. Feb. 5: Thick-Billed Kingbird, Rufous-Backed Robin, 3 coastal race Black-Tailed Gnatcatchers, Virginia's Warbler, Black-Throated Green Warbler--BR, FB, GC.

OBSERVERS: Norah Bain, Florence Bennett, Glenn Coleman, Elizabeth Dickey, Jimm Edgar, Shimi Edmondson, Dick Erickson, George Finger, Bud Fry, Jeff Greenhouse, Pat Jacobson, Tom & Elaine Lee, Harold Newman, Marjorie Plant, Bob Richmond, Rich & Jean Richmond, Jim Rooney Sarah Stengel, Maury Stern, NoCal Rare Bird Alert, many observers.

\* \* \* \* \*



We warmly welcome these new MDAS members and hope to meet them at meetings and field trips:  
Alamo: Carole Lashley, V. W. Varozza; Antioch: Kenneth Boynton; Brentwood: Georgianne M. Lindberg, Ryan Schulte; Concord: Gleaves Anderson, Mrs. P.R. Andrews, Brenda C. Bell, Roger Chudoba, Betty J. Cotrell family, Joe DeMello, D. Johnson, Mrs. Bette J. King, Mrs. George D. McKenney, B. Moller, Beverly A. Moon, Danielle & Nichole Nestore, Dr. Richard Rissel, Kenneth W. Shaffer, Marian E. Shuler, Ms. Alice Smith; Danville: Virginia Altgilbers, Sheldon McNamee, Nancy Strauss; Lafayette: Mr. & Mrs. M. J. Black, Mrs. Lorene Bowers, Bob J. Capra, John A. Crowder, Russell G. Dunn, Lafayette Library, Nancy L. Whitney; Martinez: Jon Abbott, Mrs. K. Atkinson, Leslie & Brian Bennett, Dana Bowers, Alana Collins, G. Robert Land, Mary Thomas, Dean Williams; Pittsburg: Mary Jane Hollister; Pleasant Hill: Joseph D. Albright family, Richard T. Bottarini, Lori M. Bray, E. R. Ferguson, Andrew LePage, Jay A. Lowry, Barbara A. Sadigh, Carol Shaffer, William Wilson; San Ramon: Jean D. Johnson, R. & B. Rosenthal, Julie Skopal, Gene Surber; Walnut Creek: LaReine Buchter, Steve Burch, Carol Church, Sal & Eva DeGuarda, Robert & Marjorie DeWitt, James E. Dowling, Kelly D. Eager, Barbara Hartley, Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Heinz, Lewis W. Henslee, III, Mrs. R. W. Jarvis, J. M. Johnson, Mrs. B. F. Lockwood, John Mack, Joanne L. McLaughlin, Capt. J. K. Moran, Mrs. S. R. Page, Marilyn Perlman, Mrs. Val J. Pianka, Mrs. Ray Reiten, Leland S. Reynolds, Mrs. Doris M. Shusta, Michael Tiffany-Brown, Charles D. Trinwirth.

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CONSERVATION NOTES by Al McNabney.

The PERIPHERAL CANAL'S recent defeat did NOT end efforts to send more northern water to central and southern California. Simplified, but probably accurately, one south state representative said, "You folks in the north have the water but we in the south need it." Conservation-minded people and organizations will be again called upon for support and must do their homework on water issues. Conservationists are interested in the environment, people, wildlife, habitat and fairness, while other groups often have special pecuniary interest in water issues. Cost issues are also important and costly plans for transfer of water from north to south may fall of their own weight.

PESTICIDES - boom or bust? The new state administration promptly made announcements concerning relaxation of restrictions governing pesticide use, arguing that farmers must have use of some pesticides considered extremely destructive to wildlife, habitat - and possibly people - because of increased crop yields. The farmer per se has little interest in what happens when the pesticide gets into rivers, lakes, then into food chains, but the public has GREAT interest in such things. If government will not control the use of highly toxic pesticides, who will? Conservationists must express their views on this important matter.

WOOD USE for heating homes and offices rose 43% from 1974 to 1981, according to Dept. of Energy studies, with residential use alone up 113%. Increased oil prices and regulations limiting the burning of fossil fuels appear to account for the increase. Among environmental consequences, Reno has had severe smog conditions, attributable in large part to wood burning heating systems in the area. Decreased oil prices may reverse these trends.

A BALD EAGLE, shot a couple of years ago, has been cared for at the S.F. Zoo Raptor Section. A damaged wing interfered with normal flight and soaring, so the bird could not be released. During recent heavy storms the bird's aviary was severely damaged and the eagle escaped. Since then, sightings have been reported in the San Mateo-Woodside area but no one from the zoo has actually seen the bird. If you see a stray Bald Eagle, call the Raptor Section.

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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/year, family \$32, other levels 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 request by member. SUBSCRIPTION: \$6/year, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, address below. FIRST CLASS MAILING in envelope: \$2.25/year, payable to Mt. Diablo Diablo Audubon Soc., to Treasurer, Mrs. Winnie Orcutt, 30 Iris Ln., Walnut Creek, CA 94595.

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

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

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CLASSES and EXCURSIONS - your editor has more details.

Audubon Canyon Ranch Spring Seminars include a variety of subjects. Info/brochure: your editor or ACR, 4800 Hwy 1, Stinson Beach, CA 94970; 868-0611.

APRIL ON THE MOUNTAIN has many, varied activities in Mt. Diablo State Park all during the month, including 3 MDAS trips. Info/schedule: your editor or Bill/Gen Sattler, 685-5315.

Bay Adventure Seminars, wide variety, natural history, education, the arts; sponsored by Coastal Parks Assoc. & US Fish & Wildlife Service; univ. credit available. Info/brochure: Bay Adventures, SF Bay National Wildlife Refuge, P O Box 524, Newark, CA 94560; 793-0524.

Institute of Desert Ecology, Tucson Audubon Soc., Apr. 29-May 1; relationship of plants, animals, & physical characteristics of desert, \$165-195. Info/brochure: Mrs. June Hirsch, Director, Institute of Desert Ecology, 30-A N Tucson Blvd, Tucson, AZ 85716; (602) 745-2721.

Pt Reyes Field Seminars. Owls of Pt Reyes Peninsula, Mar. 26 or 27, \$25. One-Day Beginning Birding, Apr. 30, \$25. Spring Birds - Migrants, Breeders, May 21-22, \$45. Predatory Birds, June 4-5, \$41. Bird Song Workshop, June 11-12, \$45. Other natural history classes. Info/catalog: Point Reyes Field Seminars, Pt. Reyes, CA 94956; 663-1200.

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March events at RICHARDSON BAY SANCTUARY, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon, include bird walks, bike ride, canoe trip, films, slides, workshops; those with fee require reservation: 388-2524. Sundays: walk, 9 am; walk or other activity, 1 pm; film, 3:30 pm; Mar. 6, bike thru Tiburon; Mar. 12, canoe Richardson Bay, fee; Mar. 13, slides of owls, 2:20 pm. Workshops: Mar. 21, Marine Biology, \$5; Mar. 25, Photographing Spring Wildflowers, slides, talk, \$5; Mar. 26, Wildflower Photography, 1st of 3, \$22 each, \$60 for all; Mar. 27, Waterbird Identification (no fee). Details from your editor or the Center, address, phone above.

Early Naturalists of Pacific Coast, Their Discoveries, Our Treasures, Mar. 10, 17, 7:30-9 pm, \$8 (\$6 for either), reservations needed; Barbara Prince tells of 10 18th-19th century expeditions & the men participating, slides of birds, plants named for them.

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STRANGE BEDFELLOWS, In a reversal of the more familiar pattern, a group of industries have gone to court in support of a federal regulation to protect the environment. NAS joined them as a friend of the court. The case involves regulations set down by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to encourage cogeneration of power by industries that have waste heat or other means of producing their own electricity. When the utilities challenged these rules, a group of large companies with cogeneration capability joined the case on the side of the federal agency, and the matter is now before the Supreme Court.

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Bring flattened ALL-ALUMINUM CANS (no bimetal!) and clean household FOIL to the meeting or field trips. We have a bonus coupon which expires March 12.

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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.: Jimm Edgar  
3611 Chestnut St.  
Lafayette, CA 94549  
283-3510 283-6969

April 1983  
Vol. 29, No. 9

Next deadline: April 10

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Meeting: Thurs., April 7. Doors open 6:30 pm. 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 binocs, lunch, field guide. Carpool TIME is departure time. Carpool EXPENSE: 5¢ per mile per rider suggested.

Thurs., Apr. 7, 8:30 am, Lafayette Reservoir. Leader: Mary Jane Culver (682-0509). Have \$2 for entry gate.

Sat., Apr. 9, 8:00 am, Black Diamond Mines Park; carpool: by Burger King, Ygnacio Valley/Clayton Rds., 7:30. Leader: Kevin Hintsa (829-6156) - call for late info.

Wed., Apr. 13, 9:00 am, Briones Park wildflower walk. Leader: John Davis (228-9516). Carry lunch, liquid. Bring a warm jacket as it may be windy.

Thurs., Apr. 21, 9:00 am, Lake Merced/Fort Funston; carpool: El Nido & Acalanes Rds. at Fwy 24, west Lafayette, 8:15. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey (254-0486).

Sat., Apr. 23, 8:30-11:00 am, Mitchell Canyon wildflower walk. Leader: Joy Meagher (685-5702). Birders will continue up the canyon - carry lunch, liquid.

Wed., Apr. 27, Mt. Diablo State Park; carpool: El Cerro Blvd. at I-680, Danville, 8:00 am. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).

Board Meeting: Thurs., Apr. 14, 7:30 pm, home of Winnie Young, 1415 Janet Ct., Benicia; (707)-745-4134. Board meetings are always open to all members.

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BIRDINFORMATION, by Tom Steller, will be an in-depth discussion of feathers. The PPOGRAM, by Gary Bogue, will be "New Aspects of Animal Rehabilitation." Mr. Bogue, former curator at Lindsay Museum, writes a wildlife column for the Contra Costa Times.

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LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR has varied habitats, many water and landbirds. Go west on Mt. Diablo Blvd. from downtown Lafayette to the well-marked turnoff, meet atop the dam. To carpool up the hill, meet at the wide gravel area just west of the turnoff at 8:20.

BLACK DIAMOND MINES PARK has varied birds including Rock Wren, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, perhaps Phainopepla. Due to uncertain road conditions, Burger King is the only meeting spot. The BRIONES WILDFLOWER WALK, 2-3 miles, also has good birding. Carry lunch, liquid, and a "sit-upon" (ground may be damp). Just west of the Alhambra Valley/Reliez Valley Rd. intersection go south on Briones Rd. to the park at the end of the road.

At LAKE MERCED and FORT FUNSTON are waterbirds, Black Scoter, landbirds including Bank Swallow, warblers, sometimes Red Crossbill. Cross the Bay Bridge, go south via US-101 & I-280, take SF State Univ. exit a block, turn right on Sagamore St., right on Brotherhood Way, right on Lake Merced Blvd. At Sunset Blvd. turn left into the parking lot.

MITCHELL CANYON, on Mt. Diablo's north slope, has many wildflowers and a variety of birds including warblers, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting. Go east on Ygnacio Valley Rd., right on Clayton Rd., right on Mitchell Canyon Rd. to the parking lot at the end.

On MT. DIABLO are hummingbirds, woodpeckers, flycatchers, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, warblers, Lazuli Bunting, Rufous-crowned, Sage & Black-Chinned Sparrows. Meeting place, see page 1.

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#### FIELD TRIP REPORTS.

The THORNTON trip February 12 included afternoon stops at Stockton oxi ponds and east Contra Costa County. Cold and windy all day, it began rainy, turned to scattered showers with some sun after lunch. Found by 15 members were Green-Backed Heron, many Sandhill Cranes, Common Black-Headed & Little Gulls, Mountain Bluebird, Vesper Sparrow among 69 species.

Eared & Pied-Billed Grebe, Dbl-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue & Green-Backed Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Tundra Swan, Canada & Greater White-Fronted Goose, Mallard, Nor Shoveler, Ring-Necked Duck, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck, Black-Shouldered Kite, Red-Tailed Hawk, Nor Harrier, Merlin, Am Kestrel, Calif Quail, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Sandhill Crane, Am Coot, Killdeer, Com Snipe, Spotted Sandpiper, Dunlin, Thayer's, Calif, Ring-Billed, COM BLACK-HEADED, Bonaparte's & LITTLE GULL, Forster's Tern, Rock & Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Nor Flicker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Scrub Jay, Am Crow, Marsh Wren, Nor Mockingbird, Am Robin, Mt. Bluebird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Eur Starling, "Audubon's" Warbler, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Savannah & Vesper Sparrow, Dark-Eyed Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

On February 17 JEPSON PRAIRIE PRESERVE and Solano County backroads replaced Grizzly Island as its road flooded. It was cool with light wind, early fog gave way to clear skies. Nine members saw Rough-Legged and Ferruginous Hawks, Tricolored Blackbird among 55 species:

Pied-Billed Grebe, Dbl-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Greater White-Fronted Goose, Mallard, Nor Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, Com Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Black-Shouldered Kite, accipiter sp, Red-Tailed, Rough-Legged & Ferruginous Hawk, Nor Harrier, Am Kestrel, Am Coot, Killdeer, Long-Billed Curlew, Greater Yellowlegs, Am Avocet, Calif Gull, Rock & Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Nor Flicker, Say's Phoebe, Horned Lark, Scrub Jay, Yellow-Billed Magpie, Com Raven, Am Crow, House & Marsh Wren, Nor Mockingbird, Am Robin, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Eur Starling, "Audubon's" Warbler, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged, Tricolored & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Am Goldfinch, Savannah, Lark & White-Crowned Sparrow.

At SUNOL PARK and CALAVERAS RESERVOIR on February 26 it was cool with some wind, sunny in the morning but rains returned in the afternoon. Eleven members found 30 Ring-Necked Ducks, Bald Eagle and Canyon Wren among 52 species seen or heard.

West Grebe, Ring-Necked Duck, scaup sp, Turkey Vulture, accipiter sp, Red-Tailed Hawk, Bald Eagle, Am Kestrel, Calif Quail, Am Coot, gull sp, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, White-Throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Nor Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Red-Breasted Sapsucker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, swallow sp, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Yellow-Billed Magpie, Am Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Wrentit, Bewick's & Canyon Wren, Calif Thrasher, Am Robin, West Bluebird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Eur Starling, Hutton's Vireo, "Audubon's" Warbler, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Am & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Dark-Eyed Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox & Song Sparrow.

At BODEGA BAY on March 5 it was cool with light wind, rain ended mid-morning and skies were clear by noon. Twelve members tallied Brant, Oldsquaw, Osprey, Peregrine Falcon among 70 species plus Red-Necked Grebe on a pond at Two Rock, and from Bodega Head watched 2 whales.

Com, Arctic & Red-Throated Loon, Horned, Eared, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Dbl-Crested, Brandt's & Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night-Heron, "Black" Brant, Mallard, Nor Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, Greater Scaup, Bufflehead, Oldsquaw, White-Winged & Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Red-Breasted Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed Hawk, Nor Harrier, Osprey, Peregrine Falcon, Am Kestrel, Am Coot, Am Black Oystercatcher, Semipalmated & Snowy Plover, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Surfbird, Ruddy & Black Turnstone, Whimbrel, Wandering Tattler, Willet, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, dowitcher sp, West Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Glaucous-Winged, West, Ring-Billed, Mew & Heermann's Gull, Forster's Tern, Com Murre, Belted Kingfisher, Nor Flicker, Black Phoebe, Scrub

Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Am Robin, Water Pipit, Eur Starling, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Savannah, White-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

The SEARS POINT ROAD area on March 9 was cool and calm with overcast dissipating by noon. Five members found 3 Golden Eagles, waterfowl, but few shorebirds among 62 species.

Horned, Eared, West & Pied-billed Grebe, Dbl-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night-Heron, Mallard, Nor Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, Canvasback, Greater & Lesser Scaup, Com Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Black-Shouldered Kite, Red-Tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, Nor Harrier, Am Kestrel, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Com Moorhen, Am Coot, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Willet, Marbled Godwit, Am Avocet, Ring-Billed Gull, Rock & Mourning Dove, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird, Nor Flicker, Black & Say's Phoebe, Rough-Winged Swallow, Am Crow, Bushtit, Marsh Wren, Nor Mockingbird, Am Robin, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Loggerhead Shrike, Eur Starling, Yellow-Rumped Warbler, Com Yellow-throat, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Am Goldfinch, Lark Sparrow, Dark-Eyed Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

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Be patient if you have MEMBERSHIP PROBLEMS. Trying to improve its membership reports, NAS converted to a computer system in Colorado, causing a 3-month delay in membership info sent to chapters. The resulting printout produced not cheers but loud, long screams nationwide. Representatives from all NAS regions met to construct useable info and a recent sample of the revision indicates efficient printouts are forthcoming. Meanwhile, if you have problems, such as with address change or renewal, write to National Audubon Society Membership Data Center, P O Box 2666, Boulder, CA 80322, enclosing a mailing label from a wrapper of an Audubon magazine, if you have one, or your name/address as it on your label. Write, don't phone - there is less chance of error. To keep your local label correct, also contact MDAS.

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MDAS publications - send to MDAS, P O Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94596, to order by mail.

AUDUBON DAILY FIELD LIST, 5¢ each, at meetings, field trips; or by mail (address to Field List), 5/25¢ plus self-addressed, stamped legal-size envelope.

Annotated BIRDS OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, 25¢ each, at meetings, field trips; or by mail (address to Bird Population Study), 50¢ each, postpaid.

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BIRD WATCHER'S DIGEST is a nifty bimonthly magazine with 20-25 articles per issue. Several delighted MDAS readers, including your president and editor, agree with Roger Tory Peterson that "Bird Watcher's Digest is an excellent, refreshingly different magazine with articles ranging from scholarly to light-hearted and joyous." During 1983, for each new subscription, \$11 per year, through MDAS we retain \$5, a mutual benefit for us and EWD by attracting new subscribers who can be our members, friends, relatives, area residents, anyone. It makes a great gift! Copies of their 5"x8" magazine, brochures, and order blanks will be at our meetings. An initial deadline of April 30 will start new subscriptions without delay, and there will be periodic enrollment deadlines through December.

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Birds are probably the most important single INSECT CONTROL. Unchecked, insects would cover the earth. There is scarcely a species of plant - or any part of a plant - not affected by insects. Birds move north to nest as insects multiply, and feed their growing young on this abundant food source, gleaning insects from every conceivable environmental niche.

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Newly revised BIRDS OF SONOMA COUNTY is available at \$5.30, tax included, from Dr. Jack Arnold, 199 Calistoga Rd., Santa Rosa, CA 95405, or at Nature's Window, a nature lover's store owned by Madrone Auduboners Deyea Harper and Adeene Nelligan. If in Santa Rosa, drop by 2417 Magowan Dr., in Montgomery Village, for a wide variety of nature items, books, gifts.

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Information is needed on past and present status of breeding BURROWING OWLS in California for a paper about their apparent population decline. Include exact location of colony; date of observation; number of birds; evidence of breeding; current status of site, if known; reason for abandonment, if known. Send to Jules Evens, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, 4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach, CA 94970. Contributions will be gratefully acknowledged.

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OBSERVATIONS, February 12-March 16. Also see field trip reports.

Red-Throated Loon, W. Pittsburg, Feb. 20--L&RH. Red-Necked Grebe, Bodega Bay, Feb. 15-Mar. 8--m.ob; Two Rock pond, Sonoma Co., Mar. 5-15--m.ob. Black-Footed, 6, & LAYSAN ALBATROSS, Monterey Bay, Feb. 19--BR, et al; rumored 4 LAYSANS brought by ship, dumped at Port of Oakland, early Mar. - 1 found there, recovered at Lk Merritt, released at sea; 1 found Treat & Bancroft, Walnut Creek, recovering at Lindsay Museum, to be released. Short-Tailed & Black-Vented Shearwater, Monterey Bay, Feb. 27--BC, JA, GT, et al.

American White Pelican, 19, Stafford Lk, Novato, Feb. 15--JR, BF, et al. Cattle Egret, 250, & White-Faced Ibis, 75, Lander Ave. near SR-140, Merced Co., Mar. 7--MS. LEAST BITTERN, Palo Alto Baylands, thru Mar. 4--RBA, FB, GC, JR. Tundra Swan, Lk Solano, Mar. 15--NB, et al. Canada Goose, Hayward Reg Sh, Feb. 23--BR; 4-8, Pt San Pablo, Feb. 26-Mar. 4--BR. "Black" Brant, 3, Pt Isabel, Feb. 24--BR.

Eurasian Wigeon, Bolinas Lagoon, Feb. 15-Mar. 5--RBA, GF, CW. TUFTED DUCK, ♂, Richardson Bay, Mill Valley, Feb. 13-Mar. 13--BL, GF, KH, m.ob; ♀, foot of Tarpon St., Foster City, Feb. 20-Mar. 11--RBA, GC, FB, JR. Barrow's Goldeneye, Castro Pt, Richmond, Mar. 3--GF. Oldsquaw, ♀, Brickyard Cove, Richmond, Feb. 17-Mar. 13--BR, m.ob; Bodega Bay, Mar. 5-8--JW, m.ob. Harlequin Duck, ♂, Pt San Pablo, Feb. 26--BR. STELLER'S EIDER, ♀, Crescent City harbor, Del Norte Co., thru Mar. 15--RBA, FB, GC, m.ob. KING EIDER, ♀, Emeryville marina, thru Mar. 13--m.ob. Black Scoter, ♂, Castro Pt, Feb. 17--BR; ♀, Castro Pt., Feb. 26--BR; ♂, Pt Isabel, Mar. 13--GF. Hooded Merganser, 5-Brooks pond, Pt Reyes, Feb. 15--RBA, GF, CW; ♂, ♀, Lk Solano, Mar. 15--NR, et al. SMEW, ♂, Leo Ryan Pk, Foster City, last report, Feb. 17.

Rough-Legged Hawk, 1-5 near Patterson, Stanislaus Co., Feb. 27--JH, KH, EH; 1-5 near Newman, Stanislaus Co., Mar. 9--JR; 2, 1-5, Kern Co., Mar. 12--m.ob. Ferruginous Hawk, Madera Co. Feb. 20--H&NB, G&KK; Little Panoche Rd., San Benito Co., Feb. 27--EH, JH, KH. Golden Eagle, ad, over her Walnut Creek home, Feb. 13--WO. BALD EAGLE, ad, imm, Calaveras Reservoir, Feb. 19-Mar. 8--GF, KH, JR, m.ob; Madera Co., Feb. 20--G&KK, H&NB; imm, Bailey Rd., Feb. 24--GF. 3-4 Rough-Legged Hawks, 2 Ferruginous Hawks, 6 Golden Eagles, Prairie Falcon, Vasco/Flynn Rds., Feb. 19--D&WO. Prairie Falcon, Madera Co; Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, Alameda Co.

Wild Turkey, 4, Calaveras Rd., Feb. 19--GF, KH. American Black Oystercatcher, 2, Castro Rocks, Feb. 24-Mar. 3--BR, et al; outer breakwater, Brickyard Cove, Mar. 4-13--JR, GC, FB, et al. Mountain Plover, 45, Little Panoche Rd., Feb. 27--KH, EH, JH. Surfbird, Pt Isabel, Feb. 24--BR; 1-2, Castro Pt, Feb. 26--BR. Ruddy Turnstone, 2, Pt Isabel, Feb. 24--BR; Pt San Pablo, Mar. 4--BR. Common Snipe, 24, Madera Co., Feb. 20--G&KK, H&NB. Wandering Tattler, Castro Rocks, Mar. 3--GF. Red Knot, Pt Isabel, Feb. 17--BR. COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL, to Mar. 4, LITTLE GULL to Mar. 11, Stockton oxi ponds--m.ob. Common Murre, Castro Pt, Feb. 26--BR.

Greater Roadrunner, Madera Co., Feb. 20--G&KK, H&NB; Little Panoche Rd., Feb. 27--KH, EH, JH. Northern Pygmy-Owl, Calaveras Rd., Mar. 8--JR. BARRED OWL, Crescent City, Mar. 5-14--RBA; near Salyer, Trinity Co., thru Mar. 2--RBA. Rufous Hummingbird, ♂, Coyote Hills, Feb. 19--BC; ♂, her Alamo garden, Feb. 20--JR; ♂, Tilden Pk, Feb. 28--NB, et al; ♂, their Orinda garden, Mar. 1-3--H&NB. Pileated Woodpecker, 5-Brooks, Feb. 15--GF, CW. Rough-Winged Swallow, Pt Isabel, Feb. 24--BR. Gray Jay, 2, Russ Pk, Ferndale, Humboldt Co., Feb. 12--EH, BC, KH.

Mountain Bluebird, 35, highest count, Concord Ave. SW of Brentwood, Feb. 9--GF; 30, Little Panoche Rd., Feb. 27--KH, JH, EH. Nashville Warbler, Carlos Bee Pk, Castro Valley, Feb. 22--BR. Townsend's Warbler, his Lafayette garden, Feb. 28--MS. Hooded Oriole, ♂, her Alamo garden, Mar. 16--JR. SHARP-TAILED SPARROW, 2, near Dumbarton Bridge, Feb. 27--BR, DS. White-Throated Sparrow, their Alamo garden, thru period--R&JR. Swamp Sparrow, Palo Alto Baylands, Mar. 1-4--RBA, JR.

In SoCal: 2500 White Pelicans, OLIVACEOUS CORMORANT, Tricolored & 1-2 Little Blue Herons, Reddish Egret, 1500+ Ross' Geese, 12-15 Stilt Sandpipers, Yellow-Footed Gull, 50 Black Skimmers, 1-2 RUFOUS-BACKED ROBINS, desert & coastal races Black-Tailed Gnatcatcher, Virginia's & Black-Throated Green Warblers, 5 early Scott's Oriles--FB, BC, GC, JH, EH, CH, KH, BR, JR, DS.

OBSERVERS: Julie Allen, Hugh & Norah Bain, Florence Bennett, Bill Chilson, Glenn Coleman, George Finger, Bud Fry, Jeff Greenhouse, Joy Hall, Ed Hase, Charlie Hines, Kevin Hintsa, Lura & Ralph Hudgins, Glenn & Kathy Kottcamp, Bill Lenarz, Dale & Winnie Orcutt, Bob Richmond, Rich & Jean Richmond, Don Schmoldt, Maury Stern, Greg Thornbury, Chuck Wheeler, Jon Winter, NoCal Rare Bird Alert, many observers.

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CONSERVATION NOTES by Al McNabney.

CULLINAN RANCH. Disaster in the making? San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge endangered? Heavy costs to Vallejo and other residents? Proposals for this ranch could create such problems. Plans call for developing 1551 acres north of Highway 37 west of Vallejo (including Leslie salt ponds and Napa marshes) into 4500 dwellings, 2 marinas, 1700 boat slips, 60 acres of restaurants, offices, shops and a large hotel - the first major development, commercial or residential, in the 60,000 acres of the North Bay. A draft EIR is due shortly. There seems little or no evidence of concern for protecting habitat, wildlife or environment.

MT. DIABLO TV TOWER. Public hearings, where pleas of Save Mt. Diablo, Audubon and other organizations were presented to our Board of Supervisors, failed to convince them that the decision of the Planning Director to permit construction of a new TV tower should be overridden. A bad, sad day for Mt. Diablo and the people. A moving plea on behalf of American Indians and sacred sites that would be disturbed/destroyed also went unheeded. Indian representatives are now appealing the decision. One individual, referred to as an environmentalist, was on the mountain at 6:00 am the day after the Board's decision staking out rare and endangered plants so they could be protected from the onslaught of the menacing bulldozer. This is said to have completely "thrown" the dozer operator.

FEDERAL LAND USE. Sen. Claiborne Pell and 8 other Senators have introduced legislation to allow state and local governments to acquire, at little or no cost, surplus federal property that would otherwise be disposed of commercially under President Reagan/James Watt policies. Passage would be helpful in matters of conservation, park and recreation areas. The House Interior Committee voted unanimously in February to request Secretary Watt to "immediately restore 3 categories of wilderness to wilderness study area and status."

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GREAT NEWS FOR MONO LAKE. A landmark decision by our State Supreme Court removed legal obstacles to preserving Mono. Strong support helped alert the public to the lake's plight and this ruling is a big step forward, but much work remains and funds are needed. Check, payable to National Audubon Society, to Mono Lake Committee, P O Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541.

Proposed MONO LAKE NATIONAL MONUMENT, HR 1341, has again been introduced in Congress. Representatives Ronald Dellums, Don Edwards, and George Miller, among 11 co-sponsors, deserve notes of thanks. Write your Congressman to express your view on the bill, and contact Senators Alan Cranston and Pete Wilson, where calls and letters may encourage Senate action to introduce a bill. Legislation would establish a national monument on federal land in and around Mono Lake, authorize a comprehensive study of water policies to conserve water and reduce need for diversions, and provide for scientific monitoring of the lake's resources.

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An OUTSTANDING DRAWING will be held April 18 - Western Region NAS members have received a letter and tickets - to help Audubon continue and augment area programs: Mono Lake, Condors, protection of wetlands and riparian, among several in California. Members have been supportive of these efforts and the drawing will hopefully wipe out a mounting deficit. Fabulous prizes have, with little exception, been donated. Ticket purchase is not required to enter or win, but you are urgently requested to do so. Our environment needs you!

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Remember, SPRING brings nesting birds so prune very carefully and don't forget to put out short bits of string and colored yarn to help the nest builders.

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THE QUAIL, published monthly except July-August issue, is sent to National Audubon Society members in Mt. Diablo chapter. TO JOIN NAS: \$25/year, family \$32, other levels available; check payable to National Audubon Society, to Membership Chairman, MDAS, P O Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. ADDRESS CHANGE: Mrs. Winnie Orcutt, 30 Iris Ln., Walnut Creek, CA 94595 - send also to NAS; chapter affiliation changed on member's request. SUBSCRIPTION: \$6/year, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, Mrs. Winnie Orcutt, 30 Iris Ln., Walnut Creek, CA 94595. FIRST CLASS MAILING in envelope: \$2.25/year, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, address above.

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



A new James Lane book, A BIRDER'S GUIDE TO CHURCHILL, Manitoba, will join his excellent guides, some revisions of earlier editions: Southeast Arizona, 1983, \$7.00; Texas Coast, 1980, \$5.50; Rio Grande Valley of Texas, 1983, \$6.00; Southern California, 1979, \$5.25; Eastern Colorado, 1979, \$6.00; Florida, 1981, \$7.00; plus 63¢ postage for 1-2 books, 23¢ each additional, from L & P Press, P O Box 21604, Denver, CA 80221. Also from The Book Nest at Richardson Bay, The Nature Company, and Los Angeles Audubon Society. The appropriate book is almost indispensable for a successful birding trip to those areas.

Another fine guide, BIRDS IN SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA, by William A. Davis and Stephen M. Russell, has an annotated birdlist and bargraphs plus 43 favorite birding places of local birders with description of each and directions to reach it. Cost is \$6-7 from publisher Tuscon Audubon Society, The Book Nest, The Nature Company, or Los Angeles Audubon Society. Your editor has copies of these publications except the Churchill book and anyone wishing to examine them is welcome to do so if they will contact me. I highly recommend them all.

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It's APRIL ON THE MOUNTAIN time, sponsored by Save Mt. Diablo and Mt. Diablo Interpretive Association. Things will soon be dry and many trails will call you to the burst of spring wildflowers and singing birds. For info/schedule of the many, varied activities all during this month, call Gen Sattler, 685-5315, or contact your editor.

SAVE MT. DIAELO was formed to preserve Mt. Diablo open space and to raise funds for land acquisition to expand Mt. Diablo State Park. SMD recently added nearly 400 beautiful acres along Marsh Creek Road. They are negotiating a major land purchase for the park, and money is needed. Send tax-deductible checks, large and small, to P O Box 25, Concord, CA 94522.

MT. DIAELO INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION, a volunteer association with California Department of Parks and Recreation, is dedicated to interpretive and educational activities in Mt. Diablo State Park. Diversity of natural history on the mountain is reflected in their many and varied activities. For membership info, call Rich Gilliland, Supervising Ranger, 837-2525.

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CLASSES and EXCURSIONS - your editor has more details.

Lindsay Museum. Nature classes, trips; preschool-adult. Wildlife Care, aid wild injured & orphans, Wed. 7:30-9:00 pm, Apr. 13-May 18; age 14 up; \$15 Museum membership + \$10 wild-life donation. Info/reg: 1901 First Ave., Walnut Creek, CA 94596; 935-1978.

Spring Birding Field Trips, different Bay Area spot each Tues., 9:30-12:30, Apr. 26-May 31; Alice Hoch. Info: Fremont Adult School, 4700 Calaveras Ave., Fremont, CA 94538; 791-5841. Register at first class, at the school.

YOSEMITE FIELD SEMINARS, gain field knowledge of plant/animal life in outdoor situation, UC Davis credit available most courses. Info: Seminar Coordinator, Yosemite Natural History Association, P O Box 545, Yosemite National Park, CA 95389; (209) 372-4532.

Natural Excursions - NAS/PRBO. Death Valley, Wildlife Ecology & History, Apr. 11-15, Bruce Elliott, \$95. Great Basin Birding, Malheur NWR, May 20-23, Stephen Laymon, \$100. Info/reg: 4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach, CA 94970; 868-1221.

RICHARDSON BAY SANCTUARY. Sundays: bird walk, 9 am; workshop, 1 pm, Apr. 10, 17; film, 3 pm. Drawing From Nature, 10-1, Thurs., Apr. 7-28, \$32. Wings & Things, ages 7-12, Apr. 23, 9:30-12:30, \$7. Camera's Eye View of Spring, 9:30-3, Apr. 30, \$22. Reg. required for events with fees. Info/reg: 388-2524.

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MT. DIASLO AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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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.: Jimm Edgar  
3611 Chestnut Street  
Lafayette, CA 94549  
283-3510 283-6969

May 1983  
Vol. 29, No. 10  
Next deadline: May 10

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Meeting: Thurs., May 5. Doors open 6:30 pm. 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 binocs, lunch, field guide. Carpool TIME is departure time. Carpool EXPENSE: 5¢ per mile per rider suggested.

**\*\*Thurs., May 5, Mines Road; meet:** El Cerro Blvd. at I-680, Danville, 8:00 am. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey (254-0486). Carpool necessary; have full gas tank.

**\*\*Sat., May 7, Del Puerto Canyon Road; meet:** El Cerro Blvd. at I-680, Danville, 6:30 am. Leader: Ed Hase (933-4292). Carpool necessary; have full gas tank.

Wed., May 11, 8:00 am, east Contra Costa County; carpool: southwest corner Sun Valley Center, 7:30. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).

Sat., May 21, 7:00 am, Morgan Territory; meet by Burger King, Ygnacio Valley & Clayton Rds. Leader: Kent Fickett (798-7421). Carpooling necessary.

Thurs., May 26, 8:00 am, Las Trampas Park. Leader: Kevin Hintsa (829-6156).

Sat.-Sun., May 25-26, Kern River. If going, call Elizabeth Dickey (254-0486) for info on trip and motels in Kernville (or see directory in library or phone company). Camping: just north of Kernville.

Board Meeting: Thurs., May 12, 7:30 pm, home of Norah Bain, 32 Via Farallon, Orinda; 254-4516.

Board meetings are open to all members.

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BIRDINFORMATION, "Marin Wildflowers" by member John Davis, presents flora of that county. ELECTION OF OFFICERS will be held at the meeting. The PROGRAM will be "From Sea to Sierra - A Natural History Traverse of California", a collage of birds and other wildlife, by Ian Tait, a well-published photographer and teacher of wildlife photography techniques. In 1975 he won the Natural History Magazine grand prize for nature photography.

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**\*\*Mines Road is substituted for Caswell Park (probably flooded), Del Puerto Canyon for full Mines Road trip. Safe parking is limited on both trips and there are road problems which must be navigated, therefore we must take as few cars as possible.**

On MINES ROAD are Golden Eagle, Lewis' Woodpecker, flycatchers, swallows, wrens, warblers, Lawrence's Goldfinch, sparrows. We will go just beyond San Antonio Junction and back.

Along DEL PUERTO CANYON ROAD are hawks, Costa's and other hummingbirds, woodpeckers, flycatchers, Canyon and Rock Wrens, warblers, Lawrence's Goldfinch, perhaps Grasshopper Sparrow, Cassin's Kingbird has been here. We will go up to Raines Park and back.

In EAST CONTRA COSTA COUNTY are hawks, perhaps Swainson's, shorebirds, Black-Chinned Hummingbird, flycatchers, swallows, Chat and other warblers, Tricolored Blackbird, orioles, Black-Headed and Blue Grosbeaks. Go east on SR-4 to just beyond Oakley, turn left on Cypress Road, park just past the Short Stop Market.

MORGAN TERRITORY has warblers, other migrants, summer visitors; possibly Lawrence's Goldfinch. Bring lunch, liquid, wear hiking shoes - we also walk in Morgan Territory Preserve.

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

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ROAD DAMAGE from severe winter storms may cause field trip changes. If doubts about any trip, call trip leader, Elizabeth Dickey (254-0486), or our activity phone, AUD-UBON.

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#### FIELD TRIP REPORTS.

The HONEY LAKE trip was cancelled due to bad weather and road conditions in the Sierras.

At HAYWARD REGIONAL SHORELINE on March 23 it was cold, windy and cloudy with drizzle and some rain on the morning walk. Seven members found breeding plumaged Horned Grebe, Peregrine Falcon, Ruddy Turnstone and Red Knot among 52 species.

Horned & Eared Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Mallard, Gadwall, Northern Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, Am Wigeon, Nor Shoveler, Greater & Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Nor Harrier, Peregrine Falcon, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Am Coot, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Willet, Red Knot, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, dowitcher sp, West Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Am Avocet, Black-Necked Stilt, Ring-Billed Gull, Forster's Tern, Rock & Mourning Dove, swift sp, Nor Flicker, Horned Lark, Violet-Green, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Nor Mockingbird, Eur Starling, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, House Finch, Am Goldfinch, Savannah, White-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

The LAKE LAGUNITAS trip March 31 was made by 12 members on a clear, warm, calm day. Seen were breeding plumaged Common Loon, 9 Ring-Necked Ducks, and a cooperative pair of Pileated Woodpeckers, but woodland species in low numbers, among 51 species heard or seen.

Com Loon, Dbl-Crested Cormorant, Mallard, Ring-Necked Duck, Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed & Red-Shouldered Hawk, gull sp, Band-Tailed Pigeon, White-Throated Swift, Anna's and Allen's Hummingbird, Nor Flicker, Pileated, Acorn, Hairy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, West Flycatcher, Violet-Green, Rough-Winged & Cliff Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Am Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Red-Breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Wrentit, Winter & Bewick's Wren, Nor Mockingbird, Am Robin, Hermit Thrush, West Bluebird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Hutton's & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, "Audubon's" & Townsend's Warbler, Purple & House Finch, Pine Siskin, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed Junco, White-Crowned Sparrow.

The walk at LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR on April 7 was on a clear, warm, calm morning. Twelve members and guests, 1 from England, missed the Osprey feeding here in recent days, but did find Caspian Terns, Ash-Throated Flycatcher and Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher among 49 species.

West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Dbl-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-Shinned & Red-Tailed Hawk, Calif Quail, Am Coot, Ring-Billed Gull, Caspian Tern, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Rock & Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Nor Flicker, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Ash-Throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Violet-Green, Tree & Cliff Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, Calif Thrasher, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Eur Starling, Hutton's & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, "Myrtle" & "Audubon's" Warbler, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged Blackbird, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed Junco, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

Given the wrong gate key, we could not enter BLACK DIAMOND MINES on April 9 so 16 members walked up MITCHELL CANYON instead. This overcast, mild day produced Dusky Flycatcher and Solitary Vireo among 40 woodland species heard or seen.

Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed Hawk, Anna's Hummingbird, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, DUSKY & West FLYCATCHER, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Wrentit, House & Bewick's Wren, Am Robin, Hermit Thrush, West Bluebird, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Eur Starling, Hutton's, Solitary & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Yellow-Rumped & Wilson's Warbler, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged Blackbird, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Purple & House Finch, Am & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Rufous-Crowned Sparrow, Dark-Eyed Junco, White-Crowned & Golden-Crowned Sparrow.

The wildflower walk in BRIONES PARK - north on April 13 was made by 14 members and guests on a clear, mild, calm day. Seen during the morning were many flowers and 37 bird species.

Flowers: Giant Trilium, Common & White Brodiaea, Blue-Eyed Grass, Red Maids, Miner's Lettuce, Calif Buttercup, Larkspur, Cream Cups, Milk Maids, Peppergrass, Woodland Star, Sky & Bush Lupine, Tomcat Clover, Sweet Pea, Yellow & Purple Sanicle, Cow Parsnip, Bedstraw, Small White Nemophila, Fiddleneck, Hedge Nettle, Purple Nightshade, Sticky Monkey Flower, Paint Brush, Wild Cucumber, Mule Ears, Narrow-Leaf Mule Ears, Dandelion, Shepherd's Needle, Pineapple Weed, Calif Poppy, Wild Geranium, Storkbill, Dutchman's Pipe, Clematis, gooseberry in fruit, Pennyroyal, Goldback & Coffee Fern, Poison Oak, Elderberry, Calif Buckeye, Madrone.

Birds: Bufflehead, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-Shinned & Red-Tailed Hawk, Calif Quail, Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Nuttall's Woodpecker, West Flycatcher, Violet-Green, Tree & Barn Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Am Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bush-tit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, House & Bewick's Wren, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, West Bluebird, Hutton's & Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned & "Audubon's" Warbler, West Meadowlark, House Finch, Am & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Dark-Eyed Junco, Golden-Crowned Sparrow.

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ELECTION OF OFFICERS will be held at our May meeting. Presented by the nominating committee are: president, Jimm Edgar; vice-president, programs, Maury Stern; vice-president, conservation, Al McNabney; secretary, Margaret Wadsworth; treasurer, Gifford Young. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

\* \* \* \* \*

Our newest and youngest member, ELLENA RENEE BEEMER FICKETT, arrived on April 1 in Concord. We send our heartiest congratulations to her proud parents, Becky and Kent!!

\* \* \* \* \*

A CLASS ON EMPIDONAX FLYCATCHERS taught by Steve Bailey in the Walnut Creek area is proposed for Wednesdays, June 15, 22, each session 2 1/2 hours; cost, \$9. An optional class field trip, \$30, to Yosemite area will be July 2-4. This class is intensive study of the 5 empids which are so difficult to identify. Call Maury Stern soon if interested so he can determine if there is sufficient interest and to make arrangements if the class is held. For info, contact Maury at 284-5980 (home) or 943-2252 (work).

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VOLUNTEERS CAN BEAT HYACINTHS! Delta Spring Cleanup, a volunteer community effort to mechanically remove water hyacinths thus reducing or eliminating need for herbicides, will be the weekend of May 7-8. Hyacinth harvest benefits residents, wildlife and environment of Contra Costa and other areas of our Delta. Join in for cleaner water and a non-toxic environment and/or join newly-formed Planning Committees. Call the Hyacinth Hotline at 687-9868, weekdays 4-7 pm, for info on the cleanup and committees. Also WRITE local officials and newspapers urging more funds for mechanical harvesting.

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Why keep a LIFE LIST? To not keep a life list or records is to miss a lot of fun, like to play golf but not keep score. Without records how can you remember the circumstances with each life bird? It is great to share with others when, where, and how you saw a new bird but after several years it will be hard to remember. Listing is easy, involving only as much effort as you choose. A "lifer" is the first sighting and proper identification of a new species, a "life list" contains your lifers. As in golf, you compete only against yourself. A list can be of birds at your feeder, or all the way to a world list, but most popular is one with those species seen in North America north of Mexico.

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Copies of an ACID RAIN LEAFLET, "Red Herring; Myths & Facts About Acid Rain" are available without charge from Izaak Walton League, 1701 N. Fort Meyers Dr., Arlington, VA 22209.

\* \* \* \* \*

SUBSCRIBERS and LOCAL MEMBERSHIPS, check your label for expiration date - MDAS does not mail renewal notices. Your cancelled check is your receipt.

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OBSERVATIONS: March 17-April 13. Also see field trip reports.

Double-Crested Cormorant, over his Walnut Creek home, Mar. 13--RH. Cattle Egret, 2, near old Mendoza schoolhouse, Pt Reyes, Mar. 29-Apr. 12--AS, BF, JR, et al. Eurasian Wigeon, ♂, Hayward Reg Sh, Mar. 26--ER. TUFTED DUCK, ♂, Richardson Bay, Mill Valley, thru Mar. 25--RBA, JR. Barrow's Goldeneye, 39♂, 15♀, below Richmond Bridge, Mar. 25--ER. Harlequin Duck, ♂, Fort Point, SF, Mar. 22-25, RBA, JR. STELLER'S EIDER, ♀, Crescent City harbor, Del Norte Co., thru Apr. 2--RBA. KING EIDER, ♀, Emeryville marina, thru Mar. 27--RBA, JB. Black Scoter, 15, Lighthouse, & 8, Fish Docks, Pt Reyes, Mar. 29--JR, BF, et al. Hooded Merganser, ♂, up to 4♀, 5--Brooks Pond, Pt Reyes, thru Mar. 29--m.ob.

Black-Shouldered Kite, over his W.C. home, Feb. 8--RH. Broad-Winged Hawk, Inverness, Mar. 19--MP, GF. Ferruginous Hawk, Hayward Reg Sh, Mar. 19--SS, TS. Golden Eagle, Hayward Reg Sh, Mar. 26--ER. Osprey, 1-2, fishing, Lafayette Reservoir, Mar. 28-Apr. 4--SSo, HS, et al.

Virginia Rail, 2, small pond in Garin Reg Pk, Apr. 10--ER. American Black Oystercatcher, outer jetty, Brickyard Cove, Richmond, thru Mar. 25--ER, et al. LESSER GOLDEN PLOVER, 7-8, approaching breeding plumage, Spaletta Ranch, Pt Reyes, thru Mar. 29--RBA, GF, MP, JR, BF, et al; 1, flying with 7 Black-Bellied, Hayward Reg Sh, Mar. 26--ER. Surfbird, Emeryville marina, Mar. 14--RH; 1-2, Castro Rocks, Richmond, thru Mar. 25--ER, et al. COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL, Stockton oxi ponds, thru Apr. 10--RBA.

Greater Roadrunner, MP-6.4, Mines Rd, Apr. 10--RBA. BARRED OWL, near Crescent City, thru Apr. 1--RBA. COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD, returned to Del Puerto Cyn Rd, 3.8 miles west of I-5, Stanislaus Co., Apr. 3--AE. Calliope Hummingbird, Pack Rat Trail, Tilden Reg Pk, Apr. 3-10--RBA. Hairy Woodpecker, ♀, his W.C. garden, Mar. 26--RH.

Near dusk, Apr. 2, 35-40 hummingbirds were zooming around our Alamo garden. At one point, 4 fed at once at an oriole feeder built for 2 and 6 at once at a hummingbird feeder made for 4 with 3 more hovering in close trying to reach the food. The "double" birds at the feeders had their bills thru the same feeding holes!--JR.

CASSIN'S KINGBIRD, Corral Hollow Rd, 2 mi. west of I-580, San Joaquin Co., Apr. 3--AE. Western Wood-Pewee, early, Garin Reg Pk, Apr. 10--ER. Bank Swallow, up to 25, returned to Lake Merced/Fort Funston, SF, Apr. 10--RBA. PURPLE MARTIN, pr, returned to MP-10.44, Mines Rd, Santa Clara Co., Apr. 10--RBA.

Canyon Wren, Monticello Dam, Putah Creek, Apr. 5--JR, BF, et al. BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER, 2, Briones Reg Pk -north, Apr. 3--R&JR; 2, his W.C. garden, Apr. 10--EH; seem to be all over this year. Black-Throated Gray Warbler, his W.C. garden, Apr. 9--EH.

ORCHARD ORIOLE, ♀, her Alamo garden, Apr. 8--JR. Hooded Orioles, their Alamo garden, thru period--R&JR; 1, by his Hayward apartment, Apr. 8--ER. Great Tailed Grackle, pr, Aquatic Pk, SF, thru period--RBA. NORTHERN CARDINAL, pr, singing, extreme NE Riverside Co., Mar. 24--RW. Lawrence's Goldfinch, fire station, Corral Hollow Rd, Apr. 3-10--AE, et al. HARRIS' SPARROW, Stockton oxi ponds, Mar. 4-23--RBA, JR, et al; their W.C. garden, Apr. 11-13+---L&DL; WO, JR, EH, KH. White-Throated Sparrow, their Alamo garden, thru period, singing Apr. 11--R&JR; Las Trampas Reg Pk, Apr. 13--KH. Lincoln's Sparrow, her W.C. garden, Mar. 20--GG.

OBSERVERS: Joe Broyles, Art Edwards, George Finger, Bud Fry, Gen Graves, Ed Hase, Kevin Hintsa, Ralph Hudgins, Lois & Don Leaverton, Winnie Orcutt, Marge Plant, Bob Richmond, Rich & Jean Richmond, Stan Sorem, Harriet Sparling, Astrid Steele, Sally Steller, Tom Steller, Richard Webster, NoCal Rare Bird Alert, many observers.

NOTE: observations need not be rare - report common birds in uncommon places, at uncommon times, or doing uncommon things. Wonder if sightings are UNUSUAL? See "Birds of Northern California" (from Lindsay Museum, Natural Instincts, The Nature Company). For central and eastern Contra Costa, see "Birds of Contra Costa County" by MDAS. Observations must be in BY THE DEADLINE on page 1; phone last minute sightings within 2-3 days of that deadline.

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

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It is with great pleasure that we greet these new MDAS members and hope to meet them soon.

Alamo: Mrs. H. H. Hargrove, David Rishell; Antioch: Art D. Horton, Steven Pfozter; Benicia: Charles J. Williams; Brentwood: Richard & Joyce Rodrigues; Concord: Arlene Axtell, Mrs. Carolyn Corey, Eric A. Erickson, Mrs. Vera Hernriques, T. E. Herrin, Gayle L. Langton, Marge Silva, Sharon Thurston, Roberta Carol Webb; Danville: Miss Ann Harrington, Mrs. Gerry Madden, Richard A. Madsen, Sr., Ms Sylvia Simon; Lafayette: C. Anderson, Mrs. Lorene Bowers, Mrs. Stanley E. Hilburger, Claude H. Hogan, Lafayette Library, Mrs. Norman Rickli; Martinez: Dana Bowers, Jill A. Hoyer, Christina M. Mavridis, Lynn Moore, Ron Shahade, Lynne Wilson; Pacheco: Ruth Morse; Pleasant Hill: C. Conway-Horner, Ms Karin L. Kary, Mrs. Lillian LaLonde, Mrs. Norman Simas; San Ramon: R. Lindsay Lilly, Jr., R. Milebost; South San Francisco: Mrs. David Jennings; Walnut Creek: Tom Bradner, David Fassler, Shannon Fitzstepens, Darlene Kaplan, J. Lee, Mrs. Kenneth Minear, Evelyn L. Owens, Ms Karen S. Peters, Mrs. Cleone Petersen, Mary O. Reilly, E. C. Vicars, Dorothy F. Wallace, Celia J. Watkins, Miss Sara A. Weisberg.

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CONSERVATION NOTES by Al McNabney.

Mono Lake - rescue or reprieve? Court action and increased interest by legislators and the public has brought new hope for embattled Mono Lake, the birds that use it, and the public that wants it to be maintained. Heavy rain and snow raised its level by 18 inches but interested people who want to see the lake saved MUST let their elected representatives know of their feelings. Ultimately, it is believed, the attitudes, wishes and interests of the people will shape the final determination. Write your congressional representatives urging support of HR-1341, the Mono Lake National Monument bill.

BIRD NESTS AND SUCH. Most Auduboners know a great deal about bird nests. Nests come in various shapes and sizes, are made of all sorts of materials, are created by birds on solid locations, insecure places, on the ground, in cliffside holes, or on reeds in a lake. An Audubon member may build birdhouses to assist birds to better fend off the ravages of man and nature, but the bird builds the nest. If NAS members were to consider doing something to the White House, as has been recently suggested, it would not be to make it into a nest. Protection of the whole conservation movement, yes, but the bird that actually lives in the White House will build the nest. If the nest is fouled it is not because of Audubon members but because of the bird that has inhabited the nest.

SEA OTTERS. A 5-year review of the status of the California Sea Otter is being conducted by the US Dept. of Interior, according to R. J. Myshak, Director, who states, "All available commercial and biological data will be used in determining the Sea Otter's status".

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HOW ABOUT WRITING REAGAN who claims that environmental leaders do not speak for their rank and file. He charges that these leaders attack his policies because they feel they must keep their constituents stirred up to keep their jobs. Reagan says that he and James Watt have been victims of a "preception" that is "absolutely false," and contends that his administration has been "far more successful" than that of any other president. He blames "professionals" in the environmental movement for the bad press he has been getting.

As usual, the president appeared completely sincere in his belief. NAS members could help correct his misapprehension by writing him directly (The White House, Washington, DC 20500). Let him know firsthand how the rank and file feels about his environmental record!!!

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THE QUAIL, published monthly except July-August issue, is sent to National Audubon Society members in Mt. Diablo chapter. TO JOIN NAS: \$25/year, family \$32, other levels available; check payable to National Audubon Society, to Membership Chairman, MDAS, P O Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. ADDRESS CHANGE: Mrs. Winnie Orcutt, 30 Iris Ln., Walnut Creek, CA 94595 - send also to NAS; chapter affiliation changed on member's request. SUBSCRIPTION: \$6/year, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, Mrs. Winnie Orcutt, 30 Iris Ln., Walnut Creek, CA 94595. FIRST CLASS MAILING in envelope: \$2.25/year, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, address above.

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

BAY EDGES, a 4-part guide to public access and recreation along the edges of SF Bay, was prepared for Bay Conservation and Development Commission by the Institute for Human Environment. Each guide has maps, a list of facilities and activities at each spot with brief descriptions of larger ones. Check payable to Bay Edges, \$1.50 per guide (North, South, West or East Bay) or \$6.00 per set, to Bay Edges, 312 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94108.  
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The revised FIELD CHECKLIST OF BIRDS OF MARIN COUNTY by Dave Shuford and Dennis Beall is available at visitor centers at Pt. Reyes, Marin Headlands, The Book Nest at Richardson Bay and The Nature Company.  
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The Rosie Verrall LIBRARY IS OPEN at Richardson Bay. Focusing on natural history, field guides and curriculum material plus many Audubon publications, there is a rich supply of books, periodicals, and articles. Material must be used in the library - no lending. The key must be picked up at The Book Nest during Center hours, Wednesday Sunday, 9 to 5.  
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CLASSES and EXCURSIONS - your editor has more details.

Field Seminars, Trogon Ecology, 4 sessions, May-June, \$150 each; led by Richard C. Taylor, Director, Arizona Trogon Research Project, who assisted MDAS on the 1977 Arizona trip. Info/forms: your editor or Richard Taylor, P O Box 122, Portal, AZ 85632; (602) 558-2352. Help with his research while studying trogons and other southeast Arizona specialties.

Natural Excursions - NAS/PRBO. Calif Coast, Pt Lobos-Pt Reyes, May 27-30, \$75; Spotted Owls, Pileated Woodpeckers, Sierra Nevada Nat Hist, May 28-30, \$105; Social Behavior of Birds, June 3-5, \$60; Farallon Islands, bird/mammal pelagics, June 12, 19, 26, orientation prior evening, \$39/session; Bryce/Zion/Grand Canyons, June 11-18, \$425; Sierra Bird Song, June 17-19, \$56; Sea-Sage, Calif birds, June 24-July 1, \$135. Info/res: 4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach, CA 94970; 868-1221.

RICHARDSON BAY SANCTUARY. Sundays: bird walks, slides, films. Bird Song for Beginners, May 5, 9:30-12:30, \$32; Camera's Eye View of Spring, May 28, 9:30-3:30, \$22; reservations required for each, 388-2524. Calif Native Plant Soc plant sale, May 7, 9-3. SF Bay, Past & Present, talk by Dr. Fred Nichols, USGS esturine oceanographer, 11:30, as part of Bay Shore Studies open house starting at 10. Info/reg: 388-2524.  
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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 Jean Richmond to place in our chapter file. When planning a trip contact her as she may have information on the area you plan to visit and you can learn what birds to expect there.  
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The National Marine Fisheries Service has developed a device to prevent SEA TURTLES from being drowned in shrimp fishermen's nets, a significant occurrence in the past. The cage-like excluder is placed in the net, it catches large creatures, including turtles, and holds them separate from the shrimp so they can be released unharmed.  
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MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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 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.: Jimm Edgar  
3611 Chestnut St.  
Lafayette, CA 94549  
283-3510 283-6969

June 1983  
Vol. 28, No. 11

Next deadline: June 10

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Meeting: Thurs., June 2, 6:30 pm, Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek, annual POTLUCK DINNER. Coordinator: Mary Jane Culver (682-0509).

Field Trips: TRIPS OPEN, members, non-members alike; bring binocs, lunch, field guide. Carpool TIME is departure time. Carpool EXPENSE: 5¢ per mile per rider suggested.  
Sat., June 4, 9:00 am, Pt Reyes Bird Observatory & Audubon Canyon Ranch; carpool: El Nido & Acalanes Rds, at Fwy 24, west Lafayette, 7:00. Leader: Norah Bain (254-4516). A donation is requested at both places.

Wed., June 8, 8:15 am, Glen Ellen; carpool: southwest corner Sun Valley Center, 7:00. Leader: Winnie Orcutt (944-0593).

Thurs., June 16, 8:30 am, Redwood Regional Park; carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. at Fwy 24, 8:00. Leader: Jimm Edgar (283-3510).

Sat.-Sun., June 25-26, Kern River. Motels, Kernville & Wofford Heights: AAA book, directory at phone company or library, or call Elizabeth Dickey. Campgrounds: Live Oak & Tillie Creek, near Wofford Heights on SR-155, hot showers, Headquarters, 4 mi. north of Kernville, no showers. Leader: Bob Barnes; info: Elizabeth Dickey (254-0486) or Jean Richmond (837-2843) - call either of them if going.

Sat.-Sun., July 9-10, Yosemite & Mono Lake. Motels: Fri., Yosemite Park/Curry (209) 373-4171; Sugar Pine Ranch, Groveland, (209) 962-7823; Sat., in Lee Vining, see AAA book or call Jean Richmond. Camping: Fri. at Hodgdon Meadow, Yosemite, Sat. near Mono Lake. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).

Board Meeting: Thurs., June 11, 7:30 pm, home of Jean Richmond, 125 Via Serena, Alamo; 837-2843. All outgoing and incoming officers are requested to attend.

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For the POTLUCK DINNER, 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 are provided. The PROGRAM will be slides by members. Limit slides of birds, mammals, flowers, scenery, etc., to a dozen or so. Members may also display nature photographs and exhibits.

At PRBO we will have a program on mist-netting and banding. AUDUBON CANYON RANCH offers good views of nesting herons and egrets, and we will bird Ranch trails and Bolinas Lagoon. Cross San Rafael Bridge to US-101, take San Rafael exit 2 blocks, go left on 3rd St. thru Fairfax to SR-1, turn left 9 miles, right 2 miles toward Bolinas, right on Mesa Rd. to PRBO.

At GLEN ELLEN are 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 and Glen Ellen. Meet in the parking lot just across the bridge from Jack London Lodge.

At REDWOOD PARK we look for woodland birds such as flycatchers, vireos, warblers, grosbeaks. Take Fwy 24 toward Oakland, south on Warren Fwy (SR-13) to Redwood Rd. exit, turn left and go 2.5 miles beyond Skyline Blvd. Turn left into the park and drive to road's end.

KERN RIVER WEEKEND, meet each day 5:00 am at bridge on Sierra Way 1 mile north of SR-178 east of Isabella Lake, Sat. latecomers meet us at noon at Nature Conservancy Preserve a mile east of Sierra Way. Varied birds, 130-150 species, include Goshawk, Blue Grouse,

Yellow-Billed Cuckoo, Ladder-Backed Woodpecker, Gray Flycatcher, Pinyon Jay, Cactus Wren, Scott's Oriole, Summer Tanager, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Black-Throated Sparrow in riparian, mountain, desert habitats. Bring tennis shoes for wading - stay high/dry if you prefer. Have full gas tank. Go south via I-5 and SR-99 to Delano, east on SR-155 (good birding), or on to Bakersfield, east on SR-178 if you do not like mountain roads.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### FIELD TRIP REPORTS.

At LAKE MERCED and FORT FUNSTON on April 21 it was cloudy and windy. Seven members found Ring-Necked Ducks, Bank Swallows and Pygmy Nuthatches among 38 species seen or heard.

Com & Red-Throated Loon, Horned, Eared, West & Pied-Billed Grebe, Dbl-Crested Cormorant, Black-Crowned Night Heron (?), Mallard, Ring-Necked Duck, White-Winged & Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Red-Tailed Hawk, Am Coot, Willet, Sanderling, West, Ring-Billed & Bonaparte's Gull, Forster's & Caspian Tern, Rock & Mourning Dove, Allen's Hummingbird, Tree, Bank, Rough-Winged, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Pygmy Nuthatch, Marsh Wren, Am Robin, House Sparrow, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, House Finch, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned & Song Sparrow.

The wildflower walk up MITCHELL CANYON by 20 members and guests on April 23 was on a cool day with light wind, cloudy early then rain, heavy at times. The flower list was shortened with less territory covered, weather also lowered the bird list.

Flowers: Goldback Fern, Soap Plant, Ithuriel's Spear, Pompom Onion, Mt Diablo Globe Lily, Blue-Eyed Grass, Miner's Lettuce, Windmill Pink, Blue Larkspur, Buttercup, Wind & Calif Poppy, Bee Plant, Rock Lettuce, Woodland Star, Calif Blackberry, Calif Rose, Silver & Dove Lupine, Tomcat Clover, Cutleaf Geranium, Filaree, Hop Tree, Coffee-Berry, Red-Berry, Blue Ceanothus, Calif Grape, Wild Cucumber, Pacific Sanicle, Cow Parsnip, Shepherd's Needle, Com Linanthus, Nemophila, Yerba Santa, Black Sage, Hedge Nettle, Blue Witch, Chinese Houses, Bush and Common Monkey Flower, Indian Paint Brush, Bed Straw, Blue Elderberry, Snow Berry, Narrow-Leaf Goldenbush, Blow Wives, Yarrow, Thistle.

Birds: Turkey Vulture, Calif Quail, Anna's Hummingbird, flycatcher sp, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, House & Bewick's Wren, West Bluebird, West Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed Junco.

Eleven members and guests went to MT DIABLO STATE PARK April 27 on a drizzly morning and tallied Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher and Townsend's Warbler among only 27 species.

Turkey Vulture, Am Kestrel, Band Tailed Pigeon, Nor Flicker, Acorn & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Violet-Green Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Plain Titmouse, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, Calif Thrasher, West Bluebird, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Cedar Waxwing, Hutton's Vireo, Orange-Crowned, Yellow-Rumped & Townsend's Warbler, House Finch, Am Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Dark-Eyed Junco, Golden-Crowned Sparrow.

Along MINES ROAD on May 5 there were variable winds with drizzle in the morning, turning to steady rain in the afternoon. Six members found Wild Turkey, Greater Roadrunner, Lazuli Bunting and Lawrence's Goldfinch among 57 species heard or seen.

Great Blue Heron, Mallard, Turkey Vulture, Black-Shouldered Kite, Red-Tailed Hawk, Am Kestrel, Calif Quail, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Wild Turkey, Killdeer, Forster's & Caspian Tern, Rock & Mourning Dove, Greater Roadrunner, White-Throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Acorn & Nuttall's Woodpecker, West Kingbird, Ash-Throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, West Wood Pewee, Violet-Green, Tree, Rough-Winged, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Yellow-Billed Magpie, Am Crow, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Bewick's Wren, Am Robin, West Bluebird, Eur Starling, Warbling Vireo, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged Blackbird, Nor Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, West Tanager, Lazuli Bunting, House Finch, Amer, Lesser & Lawrence's Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Dark-Eyed Junco, Chipping Sparrow.

Up DEL PUERTO CANYON ROAD it was sunny and mild on May 7 when 8 members and guests found Golden Eagle, 3 Costa's Hummingbirds, Canyon and Rock Wrens, Phainopepla, MacGillivray's Warbler, Lazuli Bunting and 3 Grasshopper Sparrows among 62 species seen or heard.

Turkey Vulture, Black-Shouldered Kite, Red-Tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, Am Kestrel, Calif Quail, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Barn Owl, White-Throated Swift, Costa's, Anna's & Allen's



Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Nor Flicker, Acorn & Nuttall's Woodpecker, West Kingbird, Ash-Throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, West Flycatcher, West Wood Pewee, Horned Lark, Violet-Green, Rough-Winged, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Scrub Jay, Yellow-Billed Magpie, Com Raven, Am Crow, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, House, Bewick's, Canyon & Rock Wren, West Bluebird, Phainopepla, Loggerhead Shrike, Eur Starling, Warbling Vireo, Yellow, MacGillivray's & Wilson's Warbler, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged Blackbird, Nor Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, West Tanager, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, House Finch, Am & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Savannah, Grass-hopper, Lark & Song Sparrow.

Ten members and guests went to EAST CONTRA COSTA COUNTY on May 11 under clear skies, cool and windy early but warm with mostly light wind by noon. Found were Wilson's Phalarope, Black-Chinned Hummingbird, Hooded Oriole, Blue Grosbeak, but no Chats among 64 species.

Dbl-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Mallard, Gadwall, Nor Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Black-Shouldered Kite, Red-Tailed Hawk, Nor Harrier, Am Kestrel, Ring Necked Pheasant, Com Moorhen, Am Coot, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Black-Necked Stilt, Wilson's Phalarope, Calif Gull, Forster's & Caspian Tern, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Rock & Mourning Dove, Burrowing Owl, Black-Chinned & Anna's Hummingbird, Nor Flicker, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpecker, West Kingbird, Black Phoebe, Rough-Winged, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Scrub Jay, Am Crow, Bewick's Wren, Nor Mockingbird, Am Robin, Loggerhead Shrike, Eur Starling, Warbling Vireo, Yellow & Townsend's Warbler, Com Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, House Sparrow, West Meadowlark, Red-Winged Blackbird, Hooded & Nor Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, West Tanager, Black-Headed & Blue Grosbeak, House Finch, Am & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-Sided & Brown Towhee, Song Sparrow.

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With this, my 120th and FINAL ISSUE AS EDITOR of The Quail, I turn over the typewriter to Shimi Edmondson. I know that you will give her the same support and help you have given me. I am glad to be relieved of the deadlines yet I'm a bit sorry, leaving what has been part of my life the past 11 years, as I step down to Observations Editor. I have learned much about many things by being your editor - it has been a rewarding and enriching job! I am very grateful to those many members who have put forth so much for The Quail: writers of columns and articles, contributors of information, suggestions, ideas and observations, those who maintained/produced the labels, those who prepared the mailing, and moral support from all of you along the way. But most of all, I thank my super husband, Rich! <sup>jean</sup>

\* \* \* \* \*

I am sad to inform our members of the sudden, unexpected death of ERLING HELLEKSON on May 2nd. A warm and happy man, good friend, all-around great person, and always willing helper in any way, Erl will be greatly missed by all of us! We convey our deepest sympathy to Irene and the family. Your notes and cards can be sent to her at 1320 Warren St., Martinez 94553. Memorial contributions to Audubon Canyon Ranch in Erl's name would be appreciated, the address is Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach, CA 94970.

\* \* \* \* \*

SMALL FLYCATCHER IDENTIFICATION, by Steve Bailey, will be held 7:00-9:30 pm, Wed., June 15 & 22 at Kaiser, Walnut Creek. Intensive slide/tape lectures will cover identification of Empidonax and Contopus flycatchers using songs, calls, colors, patterns shapes, behavior, and habitats. Cost is \$9, pre-enrollment required; check payable to Stephen F. Bailey, to Maury Stern, 939 Carol Ln., Lafayette 94549. Info: Maury, 284-5980 (H), 943-2252 (W). Participants may register for weekend trip July 2-4 to Yosemite/Mono Lake for these and many other species. Cost is \$30, check payable to Stephen F. Bailey to Steve at 1945 Berkeley Way, #123, Berkeley, CA 94704.

\* \* \* \* \*

HELP WANTED: someone to organize/supervise preparation of The Quail for mailing. If no one volunteers, it will cost over \$1500 a year to have it done for us! This is NOT a time-consuming thing. Involved is to assemble from our list of volunteers, a crew to collate, fold, staple, label and bundle our newsletter then have it delivered to the post office. This takes about 3 hours, 11 times a year - and the crew has a delightful social time in the process. Our funds are needed elsewhere but must be diverted to The Quail if no one comes forward. Call Jean Richmond, 837-2843, or Jimm Edgar, 293-3510, and volunteer.

\* \* \* \* \*

FLORANCE BENNETT may be in southern California, but her heart remains here and she would love to hear from MDAS members. Write to F G Bennett, P O Box 4345, Anaheim, CA 92803. Also, contact her if you would like to see LeConte's Thrasher, Gray Vireo in L.A. County.

\* \* \* \* \*

OBSERVATIONS, Apr. 14-May 13. Also see field trip reports.

Green-Backed Heron, Mt View Sanitary Dist, Apr 22--BR. Cattle Egret, 3, Hayward Reg Sh, May 11--BR. American Bittern, Mt View San, Apr 22--BR. Canada Goose, 2, Waterfront Rd/I-680, Apr. 22-May 8--BR, JR, KH, EH. "Black" Brant, 3, Pt Isabel, Apr 16-24--BR. STELLER'S EIDER, ♀, Crescent City harbor, Del Norte Co, thru Apr 21--RBA.

Osprey, over Livermore, Apr 26--Sr&JS. MONTEZUMA QUAIL, does exist, Research Ranch, SE Ariz, Apr 29--R&JR. Black Rail, W Pittsburg, May 8--EH, KH, BR, JR.

Snowy Plover, Hayward Reg Sh, Apr 16--BR. Ruddy Turnstone, Pt Isabel, May 1--BR. Wandering Tattler, Pt Isabel, May 1--BR. SPOTTED REDSHANK, N end Salton Sea, Riverside Co, Apr 30-May 6, 1st Calif record--SD, R&JR, m.ob. Red Knot, 3, Waterfront Rd/I-680, Apr 16--BR; 1-4, Pt Isabel, Apr 24-May 7--BR. WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER, near Arivaca Junction, SE Ariz, Apr 26--JR, SS. Baird's Sandpiper, 2, Hayward Reg Sh, May 4--BR. Red-Necked Phalarope, ♂, Mt View San, May 8--JR, BR, EH, KH.

Yellow-Footed Gull, imm, N end Salton Sea, May 2--R&JR, et al. LITTLE GULL, 1-3, Stockton oxi ponds, Apr 22-May 8--RBA. Least Tern, W Pittsburg, May 8--KH, EH, BR, JR. BLACK SKIMMER, 2, Alameda So Shore, May 13+--ED, m.ob. Greater Roadrunner, 2, MP-7.00, Mines Rd, May 11--MJM, OW, AB, SB. BARRED OWL, Crescent City, thru Apr 20--RBA. Elf Owl, N of Needles, San Bernardino Co, May 8--B&JK, et al.

Vaux's Swift, 8, Mt Diablo SP, May 10--JR, et al. COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD, ♀, Bodega Bay, May 8--JG, KC, NC. Calliope Hummingbird, 2, Tilden Reg Pk, thru Apr 16--m.ob. WHITE-EARED HUMMINGBIRD, ♀, Madera Cyn, SE Ariz, Apr 19-24, Tucson RBA, R&JR, et al. Belted Kingfisher, Tilden Reg Pk, Apr 16--BR. SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER, Needles, May 8--B&JK, et al. EASTERN PHOEBE, near Bodega Bay, May 8--JG, KC, NC

CLAY-COLORED ROBIN, Brownsville, TX, Apr 17--T&GF. Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, White Cyn Trail, Mt Diablo SP, May 8--KH, EH, BR, JR; 6, Mt Diablo SP, May 10--JR. Phainopepla, 10-12, MP-5.65, Mines Rd, May 11--MJM, OW, AB, SB. Tricolored Blackbird, 18, Waterfront Rd/I-680, Apr 16--BR. Hooded Orioles, their Alamo garden, thru period--R&JR; ♂, ♀, her Walnut Creek garden, Apr 19--WO. NORTHERN CARDINAL, Vidal Wash, NE Riverside Co, May 8--B&JK, et al.

Grasshopper Sparrow, Las Trampas Reg Pk, May 13--GF, KH; boundary Garin/Dry Creek Reg Pks, May 13--BR. Black-Chinned Sparrow, Mt Diablo SP, May 10--JR. HARRIS' SPARROW, their Walnut Creek garden, thru Apr 17--L&DL, KH. White-Throated Sparrow, their Alamo garden, at least thru Apr 22--R&JR.

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY BIG DAY, May 8, EH, KH, BR, JR, entirely within our county. A Big Day is a 1-day search for as many species as possible by a party in constant, direct voice contact. Between 1:30 am and 9:00 pm they found 141 species, down from 157 in 1982, including Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Black Rail, Red-Necked Phalarope, Least Tern, Common Poorwill, Hermit & MacGillivray's Warblers, Hooded Oriole.

OBSERVERS: Ann Brinckerhoff, Sue Bruns, Kurt Campbell, Nancy Conzett, Steve Delaney, Elizabeth Dickey, Toni & George Finger, Jeff Greenhouse, Ed Hase, Kevin Hintsa, Bob & Jackie Knisley, Molly Jane Monheit, Winnie Orcutt, Bob Richmond, Rich & Jean Richmond, Sally Steller, Sarah & Jerry Stengel, Olive Wilhelm, NoCal Rare Bird Alert, many observers.

REMEMBER, observations need not be rare - report common birds in uncommon places, at uncommon times, or doing uncommon things.

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

OBSERVATIONS DEADLINE: 2nd of the month for sightings during the previous month.  
Jean Richmond, Observations Editor, 125 Via Serena, Alamo, CA 94507; 837-2843  
(Note the change in deadline for sightings.)

We extend a warm welcome to these new MDAS members and hope to meet them at our activities.

Concord: Ms Sherry Al-Nufti, Bruce Alexander, Mike Harrison, John Merrill, Roberta Carol Webb; Lafayette: Steven D. Billington, Mrs Stanley E Hilburger, Julie Maurus; Martinez: James G Carroll, B J & Frank Cumpston, Lynn Moore; walnut Creek: Mrs Barbara Paulson.

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CONSERVATION NOTES by Al McNabney.

WATER - drink, wash, irrigate. The future of every individual, animal, bird and plant and maybe that of a lot of the world depends on how water is conserved, used and attended to here in California. Let your elected representatives know how YOU feel about the preservation of MONO LAKE. HR 1341 will, if passed, help protect the lake's unique land resources and will require important studies as to how much water is needed. Letters to your representatives urging reauthorization of and maintainance of a strong CLEAN WATER ACT are necessary. Contact National Audubon, 645 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, Washington, DC 20003, for helpful information. Passage of S.142 will probably be LIFE OR DEATH for TOULUMNE RIVER. Senator Pete Wilson holds the decisive vote on the future of the river and should be contacted by you. Dan Taylor in the Sacramento office of Audubon can give more information. Commonly referred to as Southern California's last undammed, the SANTA MARGARITA RIVER is in peril - 98 species of birds breed along the river corridor, some of which are on the Federal endangered species list. Urge Senator Alan Cranston to oppose S.805. His opposition may be vital as the campaign to dam the river is led by Senator Wilson.

SUPERVISORS - WHAT ARE THEY? Supervisors in industry are usually those on production lines who see to it that things get done. In the civic political world they are among the most important of your elected officials. They hold life and death decision-making powers on projects which are environmentally important. Our Board of Supervisors has many activities under consideration and Audubon members should be aware of these matters. Know your supervisor and make contact on environmental issues. Express your views on environmental issues, and where feasible join with others in attending Board meetings to express your opinions. Literally the life of a bird may be at stake if you do not do this.

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CLASSES and EXCURSIONS - your editor has more details.

Summer Coastal Birds, Steve Bailey, waterbirds, plumages of returning shorebirds, 7-9 pm, Thurs., July 7-28, Albany Adult School; 7-hr field trips: Pt Reyes, July 9, Año Nuevo, July 30; \$26; reg: 526-6811 or 1st class, rm 111, Albany High School. Condors & Shorebirds Weekend, Steve Bailey, common & rare migrants, possibly Semipal Sandpiper, Royal Tern, Aug 13-14; Condors on Sat, shorebirds, terns near Ventura on Sun; \$20. Info: Steve, 548-9507.

PRBO. Social Behavior of Birds, June 3 (ev), 4, 5, in Carmel Valley. Farallon Islands pelagics, June 12, 19, or 26. Sierra Bird Song, June 17 (ev), 18, 19, in Yosemite. Info: Linda Parker, PRBO, 4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach, CA 94970; 868-1221.

Ecology & Field Iden. of Bay Area Birds, Biol 104, Diablo Valley College; free to county residents; credit/non-credit; work at own pace, any time during day/night school hours. Recommended by several MDAS'ers. Info: DVC, 685-1230, ask for instructor Cliff Nelson.

RICHARDSON BAY SANCTUARY. Sundays: bird walks, slides, films. Wildflowers of Ring Mountain, June 5, 10-3, \$5, call for reservations. Audubon Adventures for children, month of fun & learning. Info/reg: 388-2425.

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THE QUAIL, published monthly except July-August issue, is sent to National Audubon Society members in Mt. Diablo chapter. TO JOIN NAS: \$25/year, family \$32, other levels available; check payable to National Audubon Society, to Membership Chairman, MDAS, P O Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. ADDRESS CHANGE: Mrs Winnie Orcutt, 30 Iris Ln., Walnut Creek, CA 94595 - send also to NAS; chapter affiliation changed on member's request. SUBSCRIPTION: \$6/year, payable to Mt Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, Mrs. Winnie Orcutt, 30 Iris Ln., Walnut Creek, CA 94595. FIRST CLASS MAILING in envelope: \$2.25/year, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, address above.

NOTE → Shimi Edmondson, Editor, 1261 Lawrence Rd., Danville, CA 94526; 837-1010 ← NOTE  
(Exchange bulletins for MDAS to this address, please.)  
Please make note of our new editor, effective with the summer issue.

WETLANDS - swamps, bogs, marshes, riparian areas and other kinds of wetlands - are extremely rich biologically and are essential to birds, fish and many types of wildlife as feeding, breeding and resting areas. Acre for acre, they produce 5 times the biomass of a cornfield. At least 76 threatened and endangered species depend on wetlands for all or part of their lives. Wetlands also provide essential services to humans, free of charge, by helping to control flooding, recharging groundwater, filtering pollutants and minimizing erosion. The economic value of these rich natural areas is tremendous.

Yet we have destroyed 40% of the wetlands that once existed in the Lower 48. Specific losses nationwide paint a disturbing picture of the fate of wetlands, and consequently, the fate of much of our wildlife. We have lost 80% of the bottomland hardwood forests in the lower Mississippi Valley, 70% of our Great Lakes marshes, more than 50% of the upper midwest's prairie potholes - our duck factories - and 87% of California's wetlands! About 300,000 acres of wetlands are saved from development each year through Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Industry, the Administration, and some members of Congress are proposing legislation to exclude most wetlands from the 404 permit process, and would severely weaken protection for the remaining wetlands.

Support is needed for Section 404 and against amendments limiting application of 404 to waters used in interstate or foreign commerce and against proposals to give the Army Corps of Engineers unilateral authority for Section 404. Contact your Congressman and Senators.

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Raccoons devastated the rookery at AUDUBON CANYON RANCH in April, taking almost all the eggs and chicks of the egrets and herons. The birds are renesting and the hatch could be good since the raccoon raids were early in the nesting season. Following similar raids on the rookery in 1975 the heron and egret populations recovered and hopefully will do so again. The Department of Fish & Game has suspended a Marin County program for release into the wild of problem and orphaned animals.

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Two Canadian FILMS on ACID RAIN branded "political propaganda" by our Department of Justice, will be shown at Richardson Bay Audubon Center on Saturday, June 4 at 7 pm and 9 pm. These films, "Acid From Heaven" and "Acid Rain: Requiem or Recovery", address an environmental issue of global proportions. Admission is \$1.00 at the door at the Center, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon; 388-2524.

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National Wildlife Federation has produced an ACID RAIN TEACHER'S ACTIVITY GUIDE designed for school teachers, youth leaders, and other interested persons. A copy of the guide (specify item #79678) along with a copy of the NWF booklet, "Acid Rain", may be obtained by sending \$1 to National Wildlife Federation, 1412 16th St NW, Washington, DC 20036.

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National Audubon's campaign to protect the remaining GRIZZLY BEARS in the Lower 48 is making progress on three fronts: law enforcement, public education, and support of more effective state and federal cooperation. There are estimated to be fewer than one thousand grizzlies left south of the Canadian border. The reward fund established last year is proving successful. A tip led to a conviction this year in Wyoming and other tips have been received, with investigations now underway.

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Remember to register for the biennial CONVENTION of NAS at Estes Park, Colorado, August 28-September 2. See your February issue of Audubon Action for details.

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MT. DIAELO AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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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.: Jimm Edgar  
3611 Chestnut St.  
Lafayette, CA 94549  
283-3510 283-6969

July-August 1983  
Vol. 30, No. 1  
Next deadline: August 1

**Picnic:** Annual picnic, Fri., July 22, 7:00 p.m. Del Valle Park, Picnic & Poor-Wills; following the picnic we will look for Poor-Wills on nearby Mendenhall Rd. Bring binocs and flashlights as well as supper. Del Valle Park: Entrance fee, carpooling encouraged. Park is south of Livermore, from I-580 via Livermore Ave., Tesla Rd., Mines., Rd., then Del Valle Rd. Cross the bridge to the west side of the lake, turn right to the north end of the parking lot. Bring picnic dinner and come as early as you like but we will eat about 7:00. If coming, call Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486.

## Field Trips

Trips open, members, non-members alike; bring binocs, lunch, field guide. Carpool Time is departure time. Carpool Expense: 5 cents per mile per rider suggested; entry fees or tolls shared equally among driver and riders.

Sat.-Sun., July 9-10, Yosemite & Mono Lake; meet Sat., 7:00 a.m. behind Crane Flat Chevron Station (we bird Chevron & Crane Flat Meadows, move to Siesta Lake and White Wolf Campground then on out Tioga Pass Rd.) Sun., 7:00 a.m., Mono Lake County Park, 5 miles north of Lee Vining.

At Yosemite are Blue Grouse, Mt Quail, Great Gray Owl, Black-Backed Woodpecker, Pine Grosbeak, Rosy Finch, Around Mono Lake, are grebes, phalaropes, Common Nighthawk, Gray Flycatcher, Pinyon Jay, Sage Thrasher, Green-Tailed Towhee, Sage & Brewers Sparrows. Go east via I-580, I-205 & SR-120 thru Manteca to the park, (or SR-140 east from Merced). Campers: Hodgdon Meadow (on left at Big Oak Flat entrance). Motels: see June issue. About 3.5 hours, 140 miles travel. Bring insect repellent! Bring tennis shoes for Mono Lake. Call Leader, Jean Richmond 837-2843 if going.

Sat., July 30, 8:45 a.m., San Mateo County coast; Along San Mateo coast are birds of sea, shore and marsh; perhaps Harlequin Duck, alcids, Black Swift, Bank Swallow. Cross San Mateo Bridge, continue on SR-92 to SR-1 in Half Moon Bay, turn left 15 miles to Pescadero Rd. parking lot on right. May be cold and windy. Carpool: El Cerro Blvd. I-680, Danville, 7:00 a.m., Leader Maury Stern 284-5980.

Sat., Aug. 20, 9:00 a.m., Bodega Bay; with varied habitats, Bodega Bay has many species of waterbirds, shorebirds, landbirds, possibly post-breeding wanderers and early migrants. Go north on US-101 to Petaluma, follow signs from Washington St. exit to SR-1 then north to The Tides Restaurant in Bodega Bay. May be cold and windy. Carpool: southwest corner Sun Valley Center, 7:00 a.m. Leaders: Helen and Jerry Gentile, 689-7075.

Thurs., July 21, Home of Elizabeth Dickey, 113 Hillcrest Dr., Orinda, 254-0486. We welcome suggestions of new areas or requests for specific birds (no guarantees) and especially volunteers as leaders.

Thurs. July 14, 7:30, home of Maury Stern, 939 Carol Ln. Lafayette, 284-5980. The budget will be discussed.

Thurs. August 11, 7:30, home of Gifford Young, 1451 Janet Ct., Benicia. 707-745-4134.

## Trip Planning

## Board Meetings:

Field Trip Reports:

On Morgan Territory Rd., twelve members and guests had clear, warm weather with occasional light winds. A blue-gray Gnatcatcher was the "special" bird of the day. The following 64 species were seen: <sup>May 21</sup>

Turkey Vulture, accip. sp. Red-tailed Hawk, Northern Harrier, Am. Kestral, Ca. Quail, Killdeer, Rock & Mourning Dove, White-throated Swift, hummingbird sp., Com. Flicker, Acorn, Downy, Hairy, & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Ash-throated, & Western Flycatcher, Blk. Phoebe, Western Wood Peewee, Horned Lark, Violet-green, Barn, & Cliff Swallow, Steller's, and Scrub Jay, Com. Crow, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Pl. Titmouse, Bushtit, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Wrentit, Hse & Bewick's Wren, Am. Robin, Swainson's Thrush, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Starling, Hutton's, Solitary, & Warbling Vireo, Orange-crowned, Yellow, Black-throated Gray, & Townsend's Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, West. Meadowlark, Red-winged, & Brewer's Blackbird, West. Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Purple and Hse Finch, Lesser & Lawrence's Goldfinch, Rufous-sided & Brown Towhee, Lark, & Chipping Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco.

At Las Trampas Regional Park, 11 members and guests enjoyed clear, warm weather, no wind and 54 species: <sup>May 26</sup>

Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Am. Kestral, Ca. Quail, Band-tailed, Rock, & Mourning Dove, Wh-throated Swift, Anna's, & Allen's Hummer, Com. Flicker, Downy, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Ash-throated, Western, & Olive-sided Flycatcher, Blk. Phoebe, West. Wood Peewee, Violet-green, Cliff Swallow, Steller's & Scrub Jay, Am. Crow, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Brown Creeper, Wrentit, Hse, & Bewick's Wren, No. Mockingbird, Ca. Thrasher, Am. Robin, West. Bluebird, Starling, Hutton's, Solitary, & Warbling Vireo, Orange-crowned, Wilson's Warbler West. Meadowlark, Red-winged, & Brewer's Blackbird, Bullock's Oriole, Black-headed Grosbeak, <sup>Indigo</sup> Bunting, Purple, & Hse. Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-sided, & Brown Towhee, Grasshopper, Lark, Chipping, & Song Sparrow, Oregon Junco.

Fourteen members and guests visited PRBO and Audubon Cyn Ranch on June 4, and had fog in the morning with afternoon clearing with no wind. The following 53 species were seen: Com. Loon, West. Grebe, Db-crested Cormorant, Gr-Blue Heron, Great & Snowy Egret, Bl-Cr Night Heron, Mallard, No. Shoveler, Ruddy Duck, Red-breasted Merganser, Cooper's, Red-tailed, & Red Shouldered Hawk, Osprey, Am. Kestral, Ca. Quail, Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, Wandering Tattler, Marbled Godwit, Western & Herring Gull, Caspian Tern, Mourning Dove, Allen's Dove, Red-shafted Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Violet-green, Barn, & Cliff Swallow, Steller's Jay, Com. Crow, Bushtit, Wrentit, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Swainson's Thrush, Orange-crowned, & Wilson's Warbler, West. Meadowlark, Red-winged, & Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Purple, & House Finch, Pine Siskin, Rufous-sided, & Brown Towhee, Dark-eyed Junco, White-crowned, & Song Sparrow. Also a Black-shouldered kite at Olema.

The Glen Ellen-3 Springs trip was attended by 7 birders. A high fog cleared by noon and they celebrated with 55 species: <sup>June 8</sup>

Pied-billed Grebe, Grt Blue, & Green Heron, Mallard, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed, & Red Shouldered Hawk, Am Kestral, Ca. Quail, Am Coot, Band-tailed, Rock & Mourning Dove, Anna's & Allen's Hummer, Red-shafted Flicker, Acorn, Downy, & Nuttall's Woodpecker, Blk. Phoebe, Ash-throated, & Western Flycatcher, West Wood Peewee, Violet-green, Rough-winged, Barn Swallow, Scrub Jay, Common Raven, Pl. Titmouse, Wh-breasted Nuthatch, Brn Creeper, Wrentit, Hse & Bewick's Wren, Am Robin, Swainson's Thrush, West Bluebird, Hutton's, & Warbling Vireo, Orange-crowned, Yellow Warbler, Hse Sparrow, Red-winged, Brewer's Blackbird, Bullock's Oriole, Black-headed Grosbeak, Purple, & Hse Finch, Am. & Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Dark-eyed Junco, Song Sparrow.

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The Pack Rat Sale to benefit the Alexander Lindsay Jr. Museum needs your castoff toys, clothing, books, tools, furniture, art objects, sporting goods, etc. Drop off items 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, or 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Saturdays at Del Valley High School; Tice Valley Rd. in Walnut Creek near Rossmoor.

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Please send Newspaper clippings of MDAS activities and/or members to Norah Bain, 32 Via Farallon, Orinda, 94563. Such items are placed in our scrapbook. Thanks!

UNDER ATTACK! WHAT NEXT?  
THE AMERICAN ENVIRONMENT

A special report to members of the Mt. Diablo Audubon concerning the declining status of federal agencies created to insure clean air, pure water, protection of wildlife, forests and safety in the workplace.

Much attention has been directed at misdeeds, mishandling and misadventure in the Environmental Protection Agency but what of other federal governmental agencies established to protect the public? Are they doing their job? Are they funded adequately or has the age of the budget cut effectively reduced the agencies ability to do its job? National Audubon and 8 other similarly minded organizations "took a look" and reached some conclusions that are, to say the least of concern.

The EPA Explosion

It is now, essentially unquestioned that when the lid came off the Environmental Protection Agency just a few weeks ago the public was permitted to view some of the inner workings in the agency. It was not a pretty scene. The glare of publicity demonstrated the damage that has been done to a major institution of government by budget cuts, mismanagement and collusion of the regulator with the regulated. Audubon leaders report:

"Every other agency responsible for regulating private conduct in order to protect human health and the environment has suffered the same treatment. Every agency responsible for protecting and managing our natural resources has had its budget slashed, its mandate curtailed or reversed and its programs crippled."

Strong words! Important words!"

Agencies Studied

Fish and Wildlife Service activities are of great interest to Audubon members, but Administrative decisions have the primary impact, through major budgetary reductions in Service programs on endangered species, environmental research and monitoring, habitat protection and a redirection of the Service's predator control policies.

Almost every administrative means available has been used to delay or impede the new listing of endangered species. 1981 funding levels for listing by 50%. In some instances an endangered species has only been listed when there has been threat of legal action to force same to be done. State grant funds for endangered species recovery has been cut and this amounts to an actual reduction of 28% of the federal recovery effort for endangered species.

The Administration has requested practically zero funds (zero FY82, \$.5 million FY83 and ZERO FY84) for land acquisition from the Land And Water Conservation Fund to protect endangered species.

There has been ZERO funding for the Cooperative Wildlife Research Units and the Administration now seeks outright closure. These units contain 30% of the FWS active research, reductions in the flow of technical information and here

there will be a loss of 80 Ph. D-trained scientists who are leaders in the wildlife research profession.

WETLANDS CONSERVATION: Administration budget cuts amounting to 25% of FY81 levels have been made. Research and monitoring programs on mining, agricultural activities and bioindicators amounting to 40% have likewise been made.

Essentially ALL land acquisition programs for refuges have been eliminated. The Administration has revoked all Executive Orders banning the use of the chemical 1080. It is proposed that this dangerous chemical will be used on all public and private lands and all critical data gathered in the last five years demonstrating that stock losses have NOT increased despite the ban which has been in effect barring use of 1080.

FISHERIES: Some 29 fish hatcheries are to be closed in FY84, or transferred to the states if economically feasible. Budget cuts of 15%, elimination of 112 permanent fisheries positions would be effectuated. Other budget cuts would leave federal agencies without technical support for fish management on federal lands.

#### The Forest Service

Environmentally damaging policies, ignoring the mandate of federal law to manage the national forests in a BALANCED manner, serious conflicts of interest involving the very TOP agency personnel all demonstrate the failure of the Administration's policies when considered in the context of the people and the environment. Big sales of federal timber have been pushed during the present administration even though prices have been depressed. A declaration on May 14, 1981 by the Forest Service directed that: "Designation of an area of wilderness may not be the basis for denying a mineral lease permit or license".

The litany of budget cuts, savage reductions of forces which removes from the governmental scene experts representing a great loss to public knowledge - all are the hallmark of just about every federal regulatory agency. This is particularly true of agencies having to do with conservation, environment etc. Conflicts of interest or possibilities of such abound since many Administration appointees came from industry or have a background which would place them in opposition to the legal goals of the various agencies.

#### What's Involved

National Audubon joined with Environmental Action, Environmental Defense Fund, Environmental Policy Center, Friends of the Earth, National Parks and Conservation Association, Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society.

Copies of the full report can be obtained for \$1.00 by writing Jane Daniels, National Audubon Society, 950 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.



Observations, May 14-31. Also see field trip reports.

Green-Backed Heron, over I-580, Pleasanton, May 29--KH. Blue-Winged Teal, ♂, Hayward Regional Shoreline (HRS), May 17-19--BR. Black Scoter, pr, Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes, May 24--JR BF, AM. Common Merganser, pr, Sunol Reg. Pk., May 14--BR. Snowy Plover, 12+, HRS, thru period--BR, GF, JR. Lesser Yellowlegs, HRS, May 16--BR. Red Knot, HRS, May 18-23--BR, JR, GF. Hudsonian Godwit, Arcata, Humboldt Co., May 17-20--RBA, BR, m. ob. Red Necked Phalarope, up to 100, HRS, May 21-22--BR. Lesser Sandpiper, HRS, May 13-22--RBA, JR SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER HRS, May 21-22--BR. Gull-Billed Tern, Bolsa Chica St Bch, Orange Co. May 17--MJ&CM. Common Tern, 2, HRS, May 21--BR. Least Tern, up to 3, HRS. May 16-23--BR, GF, JR. Black Tern, 2, HRS, May 17, BR. Common Murre, HRS, May 30--BR. Black Skimmer, 2, Alameda South Shore, thru May 17, 1 still there May 18--RBA, M. ob.

Piliated Woodpecker, well described, North Gate Rd., Mt. Diablo St. Pk., May 22--JP. Eastern Phoebe, near Bodega Bay, thru May 22--RBA, m. ob. Willow Flycatcher, Lighthouse, Pt. Reyes, May 28--T&GF. Dusky Flycatcher, Oak Knoll, Mt. Diablo St. Pk., May 17--GF. Common Raven, 2, HRS, May 15--BR. Cedar Waxwing, New Willows, Pt. Reyes, May 28--T&GF. Phainopepla, 2, Mitchell Cyn, May 16--T&MP; ♂, North Gate Rd., May 21--JP. White Eyed Vireo, Lighthouse, Pt. Reyes, May 19--m. ob. Northern Parula, New Willows, May 27--JE. Magnolia Warbler, Lighthouse, May 28--JM, T&GF, m. ob. Black Throated Green Warbler, Lighthouse, May 28--JM, T&GF, m. ob. Canada Warbler, Lighthouse, May 28--JM, T&GF, m. ob. Hooded Orioles, her Walnut Creek garden, thru period--WO; her Alamo garden, thru period --JR; ♀, HRS, May 22--BR. Western Tanager, nesting pr, Mitchell Cyn, May 31--D&WO. Rose-Breasted Grosbeak, Nunes Rch. Pt. Reyes, May 28--JM, T&GF, m. ob. Indigo Bunting, ♂, S. Humboldt Bay, Humboldt Co. May 20--BR; ♂, New Willows, May 24-28--JR. JM, T&GF, m. ob.

Arizona/Southern California, May 21-30: Common Black Hawk, Aravaipa Cyn, Az; Yellow-Billed Cuckoo, Cottonwood Cyn, Ca.; Rose-throated Beckard and Thick-Billed Kingbird, Patagonia Rest Stop, Az; Scissor-Tailed Flycatcher, Needles, Ca; Buff-Breasted Flycatcher, Sawmill Cyn, Az; Cave Swallow, Univ. of Az; Black-Capped Gnatcatcher, Chino Cyn, Az; Chestnut Sided Warbler, Deep Springs, Ca--BC, JH, EH, CH, KH, GT.

Observers: Bill Chilson, Jimm Edgar, Toni & George Finger, Bud Fry, Joy Hall, Ed Hase, Charlie Hines, Kevin Hintsa, Alice Mericourt, Molly Jane & George Monheit, Joe Morlan, John Felonio, Ted & Marjorie Plant, Dale & Winnie Orcutt, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Greg Thornbury, No: Cal Rare Bird Alert, many observers.

Observations Deadline: 2nd of the month for sightings the previous month. Jean Richmond, Observations Editor, 125 Via Serena, Alamo, CA 94507; 837-2843.

Classes and Excursions: your editor has more details.

PRBO: Sea to Sage, June 24-Jly 1, Dave Winkler, \$135. Eagle & Honey Lakes, Jly 2 (evening) 3 & 4, Dan Airola & Roger Harris, \$80. Yosemite to Mono Lake, Jly 5-10, Dave Winkler, \$125. East Side of the Sierra, Jly 12-17, Dave Winkler, \$110. Sacramento River Canoe, Jly 8 (evening), 9 & 10, Stephen Laymon, \$85. SE. Az. Jly 15-22, Rich Stallcup, \$375. Condors and Storks, Agst. 24-28, Rob't McKernan, \$165. Info: Linda Parker, PRBO 4990 Shoreline Hwy., Stinson Beach, CA 94970.

Pt. Reyes Field Seminars: Birds of Pt. Reyes; Identification by Sight and Sound, Sept. 17-18, \$41, 663-1200 for info, One Day Birding, Sat, Jly 9, \$25.

The Quail, published monthly except July/August issue, is sent to National Audubon Society members in Mt. Diablo chapter. To join NAS: \$25/year, family \$32, other levels available; check payable to National Audubon Society, to Membership Chairman, MDAS, P.O. Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. Address Change: Mrs. Winnie Orcutt, 30 Iris Ln., Walnut Creek, CA 94595 send also to NAS; chapter affiliation changed on member's request. Subscriptions: \$6/year payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, Gifford A. Young, 1451 Janet Ct., Benicia, CA 94510. First class mailing in envelope: \$2.25/year, payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, address above.

Shimi Edmondson, Editor, 1261 Lawrence Rd., Danville, CA 94526, 837-1010  
Exchange bulletins for MDAS to this address, please.

Conservation Notes: by Al McNabney.

Public Land-What and When is it? The term "public land" has been rather well understood until the present Secretary of Interior assumed office. Now public land is "BAD" and for the most part, public land would become private land. No more picnics in the woods -- the area is fenced and posted. Nor more fishing in the stream. The stream is posted and fenced. No more grazing of stock. The land is fenced and posted. In short, no more public on the land. To stop the mad rush to privatization (a fancy new term) Senators Dale Bumpers and John Chaffee have joined forces to protect public lands from the administration's land-sales schemes. The proposed legislation S 891 is worthy of support. If YOU are concerned, contact your California Senators and urge them to support the measure.

Water-Water Everywhere,; But is there a Drop to Drink? Water hyacinth growth in the Delta is to be brought under control through the use of the herbicide 2-4-d. Since much of Contra Costa County water originates in the Delta near Rock Slough, Audubon and others objected to the use of such chemical control so near the county water supply. TO NO AVAIL, objections were considered by the CC Board of Supervisors but eventually money was allocated to the control program. Simple questions, such as "How do Contra Costa County residents benefit?" remain unanswered.

EPA - Only a Beginning? The curtain was lifted, if only slightly, so we could all see the "mess" at EPA. National Audubon has developed data showing that other vital federal agencies have been handled in similar ways during the past 2 years. Audubon members well know the meaning of destruction to the environment by activities of James Watt, to name but one specific agency head. Concerned citizens speaking out can do much to overcome these problems.

Economic Development Task Force: A new name! Created by the Board of Supervisors, the task force (farce?) has been considering business development, job development, etc., with NO public interest input. Nothing positive was said concerning the environment.  
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According to an article in the June 9 issue of the Contra Costa Times, Reagan administration researchers acknowledged for the first time that pollution is the most likely cause of acid rain, and that it threatens much more of the nation than just New England. Government scientists said large areas of the Southeast and portions of the West are susceptible to the lake damage which has plagued the Northeast.

From Sierra Magazine May/June 1983,; Interior Secretary James Watt intends to "use the budget system to be the excuse to make major policy decisions". He has consistently prevented the purchase of privately owned lands to fill out the National Park system which Congress has specifically appropriated for that purpose.

The NAS has established a \$2500 reward for the arrest and conviction of anyone poaching an endangered grizzly bear. An anonymous tip recently led to the arrest and conviction of a 36 year old man from Florida. U.S. Fish and Wildlife began an investigation when a radio-planted bear in Wyoming suddenly stopped transmitting. The case was at a standstill until the tipster came forward. Poaching continues to be the main source of grizzly mortality today.

Not Man Apart recently reported that the late Representative Phillip Burton's California Wilderness Act (H.R. 1437) passed the House by a three-to-one margin. This legislation would protect almost 2.4 million acres of California forests from logging, mining, and other development activities. This bill is now awaiting action by the US. Senate. Opponents are attempting to stir fears of further unemployment in logging districts in attempts to cast the bill as "anti-jobs". Legislators should be encouraged to act swiftly on this proposal before national forest wilderness becomes too rare. Write your senator.  
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# The QUAIL

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

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3511 Chestnut St.  
Lafayette, Ca.  
283-3510 283-6969

September 1983  
Vol. 30, No. 2  
Next Deadline: September 1

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## MEETING

Thurs., Sept. 1. Doors open 6:30 P.M. Birding Information: 7:00 P.M.. Preview of coming attractions and Business: 7:30 P.M.; Social Time: 8:00 P.M.; Program: 8:30 P.M. Raptor demonstration and program by Susan Fuller of the Raptor Research unit of the S.F. Zoological Society. There will be a LIVE Bald Eagle, Great Horned Owl, Turkey Vulture, and other Raptors!

## FIELD-TRIPS

Trips open to members and non-members alike.

- Sat., Sept. 10, 8:45 A.M. San Mateo Coast; migrating shore birds, marsh birds, possible pelagic birds from shore. Cross the San Mateo Bridge, continue on SR 92 to Sr 1 in Half Moon Bay, turn left 15 miles to Pescadero Rd.. Parking lot on right is meeting place. Carpool: El Cerro Blvd. off I-80 in Danville, 7:30 A.M.. Leader George Finger 933-2468.
- Wed., Sept. 14, 9:00 A.M. S.F. Bay Refuge. We will walk the loop trail to see what might turn up. Shore and Marsh Birds are specialties. From Nimitz fwy. in Fremont go west on Jarvis Rd. to Thornton Ave., turn right toward Dumbarton Bridge. We will meet at the toll plaza at 9:00 A.M.. Carpool: El Cerro Blvd. off I-80 in Danville, 8:00A.M. Leader: Sally Stellar 837-9061.
- Sat., Sept. 24, 8:30 A.M. Outer Point Reyes. Fall vagrants plus migrating birds. Cross San Rafael Bridge, go North on U.S. 101 for 0.6 mi., take San Rafael exit 2blks. to 3rd. St., turn left and go through Fairfax to S.R.1. Turn right 2mi. then left on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. for 14 miles, then left 2 miles to Drake's Beach. We will meet there at 8:30 A.M.. It may be cold and windy. Carpool: 6:30 A.M. Pleasant Hill Rd. just North of Fwy. 24. Leader: Jean Richmond 837-2843.
- Thurs. Sept. 29, 9:00 A.M. Lincoln Park. More fall migrants, particularly Warblers. From Kennedy Dr. in Golden Gate Park, go North on 30th Ave. to Clement Street, go left to 34th Ave., right on Legion of Honor Drive. Just beyond Legion of Honor turn right on El Camino Del Mar and park. Carpool: 8:00 A.M. Pleasant Hill Rd. (see above). Leader: Elizabeth Dickey 254-0486.
- Sat.- Sun. Oct. 8-9 Monterrey Weekend Trip (no pelagic trip) Make reservations now. Possible owling Sat. night. Call Elizabeth Dickey for more information. 254-0486.

## BOARD MEETING

Thursday, September 8th, at the home of Gifford Young 1451 Janet Ct. Benicia. Call (707)754-4134 for further details.

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We extend warm greetings to these new MDAS members and hope to meet them at our activities: Astrid Hansen, Alamo; Sun Valley Chrpctr Ofc, L. Cromwell, Dorothy Burnham, Larry L. Manuel, Pam Gorgen, Mr&Mrs Donald H. Rowe, Concord; Michelle M. & Greg McCoy, Danville; Rose and Jerome Feiner, Mrs. Normen Rickli, Linda Lazare, John J. Lepurin, W.C. Fletcher, Daphne Collins, Lafayette; Bruce Johnson, Pacheco; James Coe, Clarkia A. Barger, Pittsburg; Patrick E. Barry, Pleasant Hill; Mike Wirthlin, Martinez; Eleanor H. Platt, Liede M. Haitsma, Mrs. Faith M. Edmondson, Kendrick B. Moorish, Catharina Holthuis, Walnut Creek; Ross Ingraham, Ruth B. Rosen, San Ramon.

Field Trip Reports:

Due to lack of space, many of the most common birds will be omitted from the field trip reports. If you desire a full list of the species observed, please contact the leader of the particular trip or the Field Trip Chairman.

At Redwood Regional Park on June 16, nine observers had a clear hot day with no wind. Thirty one species were reported, including Allen's Hummingbird, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Swainson's Thrush, Solitary and Warbling Vireo.

The Kern River Trip, a new area for Mt. Diablo, was attended by 21 people. The weather was clear and warm to very warm. There were gentle breezes. The following is a list of the 126 species sited on the trip:

June 21-26

Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, American Bittern, Mallard, N. Pintail, Blue Winged Cinnamon Teal, Redhead, Turkey Vulture, Cooper's, Red-Tailed Hawk, Imm. Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Am. Kestrel, Mt. Quail, Virginia Rail, Am. Coot, Killdeer, Common Snipe, (the southernmost area of nesting for this species), Spotted Sandpiper, Caspian Tern, Band-Tailed Pidgeon, Rock and Mourning Dove, a fleeting glimpse of a Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Great Horned, N. Pygmy Owl, White-Throated Swift, Black-Chinned, Anna's, Calliope, and selasphorous sp. Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, N. Flicker, Acorn, Red-Breasted, Downy, Ladder-Backed, Nuttall's Woodpecker, W. Flycatcher, Violet Green, Tree, Rough Winged, Barn and Cliff Swallow, Com. Raven, Clark's Nutcracker, Mt. Chickadee, Pl. Titmouse, Com. Bushtit, White-Breasted, Red-Breasted and Pygmy Nuthatch, Br. Creeper, Wrentit, Dipper, House, Bewick's, Cactus, Canyon and Rock Wren, N. Mockingbird, Bendire's Thrasher, California Thrasher, Am. Robin, West Mtn. Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Golden Crowned Kinglet, Phainopepla, Loggerhead Shrike, European Starling, a pair of the plumeous race Solitary Vireo at the nest, Warbling Vireo, Orange Crowned, Nashville, Yellow, Yellow Rumped, Black-Throated Gray, Hermit, Mac Gillivray's, and Wilson's Warbler, <sup>Co</sup>Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Hse. Sparrow, West. Meadowlark, Redwinged Tri-Colored and Brewer's Blackbird, Scott's and Northern Oriole, Brown-Headed Cowbird, Western and Summer Tanager, Black-Headed and Blue Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Purple, Cassin's <sup>Blue</sup> and Brown Towhee, Savannah, Vesper, Black-throated, Sage, Chipping, Brewer's, Whitethroated, Fox, Lincoln's and Song Sparrow, Dark-Eyed Junco.

*Pine Siskin, Lesser + Lawrence's Gnatcatcher, Olive-Tailed, Nuthatch 3 seen*

July 4-10

The Yosemite-Mono Lake Trip was attended by 23 people. The weather was clear and warm, but chilly in the early morning and evening. The winds were calm to light. Due to the severe winter the snow conditions were equal to those seen in mid to late May. Sixty-nine species were sighted. Wilson's Phalarope, an incredible hour of viewing a Great Gray Owl, in plain sight and extremely cooperative, it seems everyone had their fill looking at this one! Rufous Hummingbird, Pilgated Woodpecker, good looks at a Gray Flycatcher, Pinyon Jay, a Sage Thrasher singing, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers at the nest, Yellow-breasted Chat, Pine Grosbeak, Rosy Finch possibly incubating, many Red Crossbills, one seen at close range demonstrating his pine cone demolishing technique, and Sage Sparrow.

Conservation Notes- by Al McNabney

Dog days of summer! Maybe... Important actions which will have long term effects on environment, wildlife, and maybe the future of man, are taking place in almost every seat of power. Clayton- no more sleepy village. Planning approval has been given for a developer to build homes for 1600 families on what now has been productive farmland. Nationally. efforts are underway to "take-back" park lands in Alaska so hunters will have a greater area to hunt in. If the Proposed change takes place, it will be the first time in history that parkland has been opened for hunting. Note: Headlines in Today, July 15th: "Omen for the Lower 48?". (Replies I have received from our two Senators and Representative George Miller indicate that Miller and Cranston are against the Alaska National Hunting Bill while Senator Pete Wilson is going along with the current administration and is "sympathetic to the intent of this proposal"...Ed.)

Mono Lake: Concentrated work by Audubon and many others has resulted in awareness, action and the possibility that the lake may be saved. Much work lies ahead. Senator Cranston fully supports "saving the lake". Senator Wilson is withholding opinion pending disposition of pending court cases. Congressman Miller fully supports "saving the lake".

Committee for Water Policy Consensus: Water- probably THE most vital of our resources will become more and more important as population growth increases water usages. The Committee is a broad based group which brings together on a voluntary basis, people with varied interests in the State's water uses. It is expected that some general statements of concern will eventually be produced and when substantial agreement develops, the material will be provided to the California Legislature for consideration. Farmers, the general public, conservationists and business people have a BIG stake in the outcome of these efforts.

Acid Rain: Newly presented scientific evidence demonstrates that "acid rain" is a problem. On hot smoggy days, the air pollution in Contra Costa County is very evident. Will this problem continue to grow to the point where "acid rain" is one of the results? There's no doubt that smog levels in this area are increasing which means there is a crying need for full compliance with and enforcement of clean air laws.

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The Florida Naturalist warns that "the Everglades are dying. Ninety percent of the wading birds once there have disappeared. In the absence of prompt, well planned action to restore this ecosystem, it will be gone within our lifetime." The increasing use of Florida's water for agriculture, cities, and industrial uses have altered the region's natural seasonal flow. Salt water intrusion increases yearly, changing the natural balance.

Thirteen miles from the border of Yellowstone National Park seventy industries and utility companies have filed 200 lease applications for development of geothermal power. This could have a major affect on Yellowstone's famous geysers. Old Faithful could be faithful no more!

Inferior Secretary James Watt seized a 1980 GAO report which showed a number of parks to have substandard physical structures. Gao said \$1.6 billion would be required to solve the problem. Watt called park conditions shameful and a disgrace and declared that no more money should be spent on parkland aquisition so we may take care of what we already have. In late April, Representative John Seiberling, chairman of the House Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks, held three days of oversight hearings on the lack of land acquisition by the National Park Service. The Administration should be severely criticized for failing to spend land acquisition funds appropriated by Congress. Only 51% of the funds appropriated for Fiscal Year 1982 were spent. Halfway through FY 1983 only 15% of the year's funds have been spent. Meanwhile landowners who want to sell their property to the National Park Service are unable to do so. You can be very sure that developers also covet these lands.

Watt's been at it again (doesn't he ever rest?). The Interior Dept. has drawn up guidelines for "expanded economic and public use of national wildlife refuges" according to an article in the July 3, 1983 Contra Costa Times. A memorandum sent to regional directors of the Fish and Wildlife Service said the expanded uses include increased timber harvesting, grazing, farming, haying, concessions, oil and gas extraction, environmental education, hunting, and fishing. Ron Tipton of the Wilderness Society said the memorandum marked a departure from the policies of past administrations, which he said protected wildli fe as the dominant use of the refuges. As former Secretary of the Interior Cecil Andrus commented on Watt's environmental record, "Watt's philosophy can be summed up in three words: sell, sell, sell. Watt believes if you can't dig it up or cut it down, it doesn't serve any value at all."

Food for Thought: Long John Silver's Seafood Shoppes, a seafood restaurant chain, recently cancel'ed contracts totalling over \$5 million with the Frionor Company of Norway, one of Norway's largest fish exporting firms, because of Norway's objection to the International Whaling Commission's phase out decision. This according to No Man Apart July/August, 1983. Economic measures taken by non-whaling countries seem to be the only way to affect change. Japan, Norway Peru, and the Soviet Union are the nations which have not agreed to the IWC's phase-out plan.

Watt again? After two years of investigation, the Interior Department announced the arrest of a ring that has been doing a massive trade in feathers and other parts of eagles and other birds protected by the state and federal law. Displayed were carcasses of 23 Bald Eagles that had been sold to undercover agents for prices up to \$1,000 each. This was widely reported by the media. What was not mentioned when Jim Watt took to the spotlight denouncing "wanton killers and profiteers who would seek to destroy the wildlife of this country for greedy profit", was the fact since he first took office, he has been trying to cut a million dollars from the Interior law enforcement budget under which this investigation was funded. Fortunately Congress refused to accept this proposed cut in both the 1981 and 1982 budgets, but Watt has included it again in his current budget proposal.

Mono Lake: Several environmental groups have asked a federal judge to order reduced diversions of Mono Basin water in the next year so Mono Lake's elevation will be 6,378 feet in August, 1984. In a motion for the preliminary injunction, NAS, the Mono Lake Committee and others urged the 6,378 elevation to protect the lake's wildlife values.

The snowpack of the past two winters has brought the lake level back to about where it was in 1976 because LA Dept. of Water and Power has not been able to divert the amount normally taken from the basin. However, DWP has said it will resume diversions in September and, ultimately, the lake level decline will resume.

Mono Lake is a primary breeding ground for the Californis Gull because of the vast quantities of brine shrimp which provide food for the hungry gull chicks. Negit has been reestablished as an island because of the rise in the lake level which allows the gulls to use this predator free area as a rookery. If the DWP diversions continue, the lake level will decline, the water barrier will be reduced, a permanent prey base may be established on Negit and the chance of reestablishing the Negit Gull rookery may well be irreparably lost. A hearing has been scheduled on August 24, in Sacramento. For additional information contact Ed Grosswiler, Mono Lake Committee, 213-477-8229.

From the Tulsa Audobon Newsletter:

Real men don't eat quiche, real women don't pump gas...real birders...never list Rock Doves... spend Christmas Day at a garbage dump looking for a Thayer's Gull...know the difference between supercilliary and axillary... always carry a camera to document rarities... always start birding at least one-half hour before dawn...listen to bird song recordings on their car's tape deck while driving...never carry a field guide in the field...never bird from their cars, except while actually driving...have a dent in their fenders from when they ran off the road while looking at a hawk on a utility pole...never get sick on a pelagic trip...never complain when their life lists are knocked from 600 to 597 by lumping...have a life list of at least 600 species...

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MDAS Publications- send to MDAS, P O Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94596, to order by mail.

AUDOBON DAILY FIELD LIST, 5¢ each, at meetings, field trips; or by mail (address to Field List) 5/25¢ plus self addressed, stamped envelope (legal size)

Annotated BIRDS OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, 25¢ each, at meetings, field trips, or by mail (address to Bird Population Study), 50¢ each, postpaid.

\*BRING RINSED, FLATTENED ALL-ALUMINUM CANS (NO BIMETAL) TO MEETINGS, FIELD TRIPS \*\*\*\*\*

September 1983

OBSERVATIONS, June 1-July 15. Also see field trip reports.

Common Loon, summering, Richmond Inner Harbor--BR. Horned Grebe, Tomales Bay SP, July 7--KH, GF. Black Footed Albatross, Farallon Is. pelagic, June 11--PJ, BR, Sr&JS, et al. Canada Goose, 2, Pt San Pablo, June 16--BR. "Black" Brant, Schooner Bay, Pt Reyes, June 4--MP, GF; many, off Lincoln Pk, SF, June 6--GF, KH. Canvasback, 2-3, summering, Hayward Regional Shoreline (HRS)--BR.

MISSISSIPPI KITE, Creighton Rch Preserve. Tulare Co, June 10--RH. Prairie Falcon, C.C. Co. July 4--KH. Merlin, ♂, Bay Bridge Toll Plaza, June 21--JR. Mountain Quail, ♀, yg, Las Posadas St. For, Napa Co, June 10--BG, MJC. American Black Oystercatcher, 2, Brickyard Cove, Richmond, June 16--BR. Omitted last issue: Pectoral Sandpiper, HRS, May 15-22--BR, JR; SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER, HRS, May 21-27--BR, JR, GF.

FRANKLIN'S GULL, Pescadero Pond, San Mateo Co, June 18--AE. Pomarine Jaeger, Farallon Is pelagic, June 11--PJ, BR, JR, Sr&JS, et al. Arctic Tern, 8, Farallon Is pelagic, June 11--PJ, BR, JR, Sr&JS, et al. Least Tern, HRS, June 19--BR. Elegant Tern, 36, ret to Bay Bridge Toll Plaza, July 13--RBA. Pigeon Guillemot, base of San Rafael Bridge, June 16--BR. Cassin's Auklet, 4, Rhinoceros Auklet, 2, Tufted Puffin, 3, Farallon Is pelagic, June 11--PJ, BR, JR, Sr&JS, et al.

Spotted Owl, 1-2 ad, 2 yg, Marin Co, June 11-28+--m.ob. Long-eared Owl, Old Sherwin Rd near Mammoth, Mono Co, July 8--BG. Black Swift, Bridalveil Fall, Yosemite, July 10--JR. CHIMNEY SWIFT, 2-3, Arcadia, LA Co, June 25--BR, JG. Pileated Woodpecker, Las Posadas St. For, June 10--BG, MJC. Hairy Woodpecker, 2, Mitchell Cyn, July 1--WO, MO. EASTERN KINGBIRD, Mendoza Rch schoolhouse, Pt. Reyes, June 14--GW, JR, BF, et al. Hammond's Flycatcher, Crane Flat Mdw, Yosemite, July 8--JR, MP. Purple Martin, 3, US-50 at 34th St, Sacramento, July 3--JR; 3, SR-1 at Gualala River Bridge, Sonoma Co, July 4--BC. Steller's Jay, complete albino, Mitchell Cyn, July 1-2--MO, WO. Common Raven, 2, HRS, June 14--BR; 3, base of San Rafael Bridge, June 16--BR.

Rock Wren, So Gate Rd, Mt Diablo St Pk, July 15--KH, GF. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 2 ad. 4 yg, upper Rock City, Mt Diablo SP, June 20--BR; Rocky Ridge, Las Trampas RP, July 4--KH; Donner Cyn, July 10--GF. Phainopepla, Donner Cyn, July 10--GF. YELLOW-THROATED WARELER, singing ♂, Lincoln Pk, SF, June 6--NBl, BF, JR, EH, BC, et al.

Bobolink, ♂, RCA station, Pt Reyes, June 5--M. Ob.; 2 ♂, 1 ♀ there, June 12-19--JR, BF, GW, GF, KH, m. ob. Hooded Orioles, several, her Alamo garden, thru period--JR. Great-tailed Grackle, ♂, SF Aquatic Pk, June 21--JR. Western Tanager, pr feeding yg, Mitchell Cyn, July 1--WO, MO. ROSE-BREADED GROSBREAK, ♂, Big Pine Creek, Inyo Co, July 6--ED. Purple Finch, pr, yg, Mitchell Cyn, June 24--WO, PG.

Lawrence's Goldfinch, 2, Las Trampas RP, July 4--KH. Red Crossbill, 30, Crane Flat Meadow & Campground, July 8--JR, MP. Grasshopper Sparrow, 3, Las Trampas RP, June 23--KH; 1, So Gate Rd, Mt Diablo SP, July 15--KH, GF. Black-chinned Sparrow, 2, near Rock City, Mt Diablo SP, June 20--BR.

Texas birding, mid-June: Anhinga, Sheldon Res; Magnificent Frigatebird, Freeport; King Rail, Anahuac NWR; Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Jones Forest--JE.

Arizona birding, June 19-24: Violet-crowned Hummingbird, Whiskered Owl, Mile Hi; Elegant Trogon, Cave Creek; Red-faced Warbler, Mt Lemmon--G&DS, BS.

Observers: Neil Blank, Bill Chilson, Mary Jane Culver, Elizabeth Dickey, Jimm Edgar, Art Edwards, George Finger, Bud Fry, Betty Gallagher, Jeff Greenhouse, Peggy Gross, Rob Hanson, Kevin Hintsa, Pat Jacobson, Marilyn O'Connor, Winnie Orcutt, Marjorie Plant, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Bill Scheffel, George & Dot Scheffel, Sarah & Jerry Stengel, Gil West, NoCal Rare Bird Alert, many observers.

Observations Deadline: 2nd of the month for sightings the previous month. Jean Richmond, Observations Editor, 125 Via Serena, Alamo, Ca. 94507; 837-2843.

Raptors Sept 13-Oct 11, Tues. Eves, 7-9 PM. Two field trips to Pt. Diablo.

Fall Vagrant Landbirds Thurs. 7-9 PM., Sept 22-Nov 17. Optional field trip to Death Valley (not included). Oct 22-24. Held at Albany High School. Contact Stephen F. Bailey, 548-9507.

Monterrey Bay, Land and Sea Birds, Oct 8-9. Natural Excursions 868-1221. Birding Field Trips, weekly field trips in the Bay Area, Amador Adult Ed. start week of Sept 19, \$2.00, Call Pat Jacobson, 846-2022.

FIELD TRIPS SCHEDULE, Sept 7, 1983-Aug 1984. (Changes may occasionally be made) We have a great Schedule, thanks to Elizabeth Dickey and her planning committee and to members who will be leaders.

\* New Areas

Oct.	5	Wed.	Hawk Mountain	Mar.	7	Wed.	Sunol
	8-9	Sat/Sun	Monterrey		*10-11	Sat/Sun	Sage Grouse- Lassen Co.
	13	Thurs.	Alameda South Shore		15	Thurs.	Five Brooks- Bolinas
	22	Sat.	Pierce Pt. Rd. Abbotts Lagoon		*24	Sat.	Donner Canyon
	27	Thurs	Golden Gate Park		29	Thurs.	Lagunitas Lake
Nov.	5	Sat.	Palo Alto Baylands	April	7	Sat.	Black Diamond
	10	Thurs.	Mt. View Sanitation Ponds		*11	Wed.	Ed. Levin Park
	19	Sat.	Lake Hennessy		21	Sat.	Hayward Reg. Shore Line
	30	Wed.	Altamont Pass		26	Thurs.	Briones
Dec.	3	Sat.	Bay Bridge Toll Plaza	May	5	Sat.	Miner Road
	7	Wed.	Niles Canyon		9	Wed.	Mt. Diablo
	17	Sat.	Christmas Count		17	Thurs.	E. Contra Costa County
	29	Thurs.	Lake Merritt		19	Sat.	Mitchel Canyon
Jan.	11	Wed.	Rare Bird Hunt		*23	Wed.	Napa County
	14	Sat.	Putah Creek	June	2	Sat.	Outer Pt. Reyes
	19	Thurs.	Black Point		7	Thurs.	Las Trampas
	28	Sat.	E. Contra Costa- Clifton Ct.		13	Wed.	Glen Ellen-Annadell
Feb.	2	Thurs.	Lafayette Reservoir		16/17	Sat/Sun	Yuba Pass
	11-12	Sat/Sun	Los Banos Refuges	June 30-Jul. 8	-	Possible	Kern River, Mono
	15	Wed.	Solano Co. Jepson Ponds	July	20	Fri.	Picnic
	25	Sat.	Thornton		22	Sat.	San Mateo Coast
				Aug.	2	Thurs.	Black Point
					11	Sat.	Rodera Bay

The Quail, published monthly except July/Aug, is sent to National Audobon Society members in the Mt. Diablo Chapter. To join NAS: \$25/year, family \$32, other levels available; check payable to National Audobon Society, Membership Chairman, MDAS, PO 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. Address Change: Mrs. Winnie Orcutt, 30 Iris Ln., Walnut Creek, CA 94595. Also send to NAS; Chapter affiliation changed upon member's request. Subscriptions: \$6/year payable to the Mt. Diablo Audobon Society, Treasurer, Gifford Young, 1451 Janet Ct., Benicia, CA 94510. First Class Mailing in envelope: \$2.25/year, payable to Mt. Diablo Audobon Society, to Treasurer, (See Above). Shimi Edmondson, Editor, 1261 Lawrence Rd., Danville, CA 94526, 837-1010 Exchange bulletins for MDAS to this address, please.

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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: Jimm Edgar  
3611 Chestnut St.  
Lafayette, CA. 94549  
283-3510 283-6969

October 1983, Vol 30, No 3

Next Deadline: November 1

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Meeting: Thurs Oct 6. Walnut Creek Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave, Walnut Creek.  
Birding Information: 7:00 PM. Business meeting: 7:30 PM. Social Time: 8:00 PM. Program: 8:00 PM. "Birds and Other Wildlife of East & Central Africa" by Brad Goodhart of Adventures International. Brad is a member of Golden Gate Audubon and leads trips to Africa to see mountain and low-land gorillas.

Field Trips:

- Wed, Oct 5, 9:30 AM, Pt Diablo (Hawk Mountain); hawks, possibly broad-winged, swifts and other vagrants. Rodeo Lagoon should have water and shore birds. Just north of Golden Gate Bridge, take Alexander Ave exit. Follow signs to Fort Cronkite in the Golden Gate Rec. Area. Meet just west of signal lighted tunnel. Carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd just north of Freeway 24 at 8:30. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486.
- Sat-Sun Oct 8-9, Monterey weekend; waterbirds, shorebirds, hopefully some eastern vagrants. Sat AM meet at Jetty Rd. 9:00 AM. Take I-680 to San Jose US-101 to Prunedale, west on SR-156, north 4 miles on SR-1, west onto Jetty Rd. (1/2 mile north of Elkhorn Slough Bridge). Sunday, meet at Coast Guard Pier, 9:00 AM. Accomadations available in Salinas: Vagabond Inn, 800-522-1555, Salinas Motor Lodge 800-328-5511, Best Western 800-528-1234, Motel 6 408-758-2791. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486.
- Thurs Oct 13, 9:00 AM, Alameda South Shore; Many waterbirds and shorebirds. Go through the Tube to Alameda, continue to control, left 2 blocks to Washington Park, right to the bay. Turn left on Shoreline to the foot of Broadway. Carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd (directions above) 8:15 AM. Leader: Winnie Orcutt, 944-0593.
- Sat, Oct 22, 8:30 AM, Pierce Point Rd & Abbotts Lagoon, Abbotts Lagoon is an easy 4 mile round trip walk with water and shorebirds and perhaps a rarity. We'll try some of the other lagoons also. Cross San Rafael Bridge, go north on US-101 for 0.6 miles, take San Rafael exit 2 blocks to 3rd St, go left out through Fairfax to SR-1, turn right short 1/2 mile and go left to headquarters. We'll meet at headquarters at 8:30 AM. Carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd (directions above) 7:00AM. Leader: Maury Stern, 284-5980.
- Thurs, Oct 27, 9:00 AM, Golden Gate Park, close-ups of gulls and waterbirds, possible vagrants ie Red Crossbills. At 43rd & Fulton turn inside the park. We'll meet at the north lake in the Chain of Lakes. Carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd. (directions above), 8:00 AM. Leader: Jimm Edgar, 283-3510.
- Trips open, members, non-members alike; bring binocs, lunch, field guide. Carpool time is departure time. Carpool expense: 5 cents per mile per rider suggested; entry fees or tolls shared equally among driver and riders.

Board Thurs, Oct 13, home of Shimi Edmondson, 1261 Lawrence Rd, Danville, 837-1010.  
Meeting: Board meetings are open to all members.

Field Trip Reports: Due to lack of space, ubiquitous birds have been omitted. For a complete list contact the field trip leader.

At Del Valle Regional Park and Mendenhall Rd, on July 22nd, the weather was clear, cool, and mostly calm. Seventeen observers saw 43 species, including Western Screech Owl, (heard only), Great Horned Owl, Common Poorwill, and Acorn Woodpecker feeding on the pavement of the parking lot with a family of Scrub Jay, Black headed Grosbeak and Lark Sparrow.

The San Mateo County coast trip on July 30 was attended by 8 members and guests. The weather was foggy in the morning, clearing in the afternoon, with not much wind. Sixty-seven species were sighted, among them were: Virginia Rail, Black Oystercatcher, Snowy Plover, American Golden Plover (in breeding plumage), Surfbird, Long-billed Curlew, Whimbrel, Wandering Tattler, Heermann's Gull, Elegant Tern, Common Murre, Black Swift, and Bank Swallow.

On August 20th, 16 observers attended the Bodega Bay trip to see shorebirds, which they did..78 species were sighted including: Red-throated Loon, Virginia Rail, Snowy Plover, American Golden Plover, Surfbird, Pectoral Sandpiper, several in the group had good views of a SEMI-PALMATED SANDPIPER, which was the highlight of the trip, Lesser Yellowlegs, Red Knot, Elegant Tern, Marbled Murrelet, and Cassin's Auklet.

Conservation Notes- by Al McNabney

No matter how one looks at it today there's someone who is wild about California's rivers. The now wild Tuolumne could become a large-sized millpond appearing body of water if the dams now proposed (for irrigation purposes) are built. Opposition to these proposals flourishes. To assure that the Tuolumne remains a wild river, write Senator Cranston in support of S-142 and Congressmen Edwards and Dellums in support of HR 2474. Detailed information is obtainable from J. Amodio, Tuolumne River Preservation Trust, Building C, Fort Mason Center, SF, CA. 94112, 415-441-8773.

COMMITTEE FOR WATER POLICY CONSENSUS: Individuals from 12 north Bay counties have almost reached their goal. Consensus on basic water matters. Conservation, use, distribution, cost all have been "looked at". While disagreement on the highly important and controversial subject of water use are easy to come by, this group has worked hard to try to develop meaningful guidelines for future reference purposes.

MONO BASIN: No, we're not out of the woods yet! We do have a chance to protect the woods (forest) as a result of unanimous passage of HR 1341 by the House July 18th. The bill must be approved by the Senate. Senator Cranston is fully supportive, Senator Wilson has reservation due to pending court cases involving future use of Mono Lake. In the meantime, the legal processes are grinding on. HR 1341 requires a study by the National Academy of Sciences of the impact of lake levels on wildlife.

PESTICIDES: Who really benefits? Orangevale is under gas attack! Allegations of human ills, pets being adversely affected all have been brushed aside in the determined effort to eliminate pestiferous bugs, which may or may not really be there. California authorities have cleared the way for use of controversial pesticides, heretofore banned. Water, particularly underground water is being contaminated and through all of these situations the general public has believed it had protections from state and/or federal agencies. Events throughout the past year have indicated the protections may well be illusory. So the question is again asked; if the governmental agencies established to protect the public from dangers of uses of pesticides etc, won't protect the public, WHO WILL????

Classified: Nikon binoculars, 8X30 like new. List \$295, will sell \$195. Lila, 837-7666.

Mono Lake Update: During the past 18 months Mono Lake has risen 5 1/2 feet. The rising water has resurrected Negit Island, with the channel separating Negit from the mainland growing to 100 yards and 2 feet in depth. The gull rookery was not used this year again perhaps because of the coyote marooned there by the rising water. On July 11, the chick estimate was 16,300; up 3 times from last year. Spring brine shrimp populations were up over last year also. All this was caused by the 200% above average rainfall we received last winter. This has caused a glut of water that DWP has been unable to use completely. Since there is more water than the aqueduct can handle DWP has not been able to export any extra water from the Mono Basin. However, beginning in September, DWP intends to resume its diversions from Mono Lake's tributary streams. Despite brimming reservoirs and copious water surpluses, DWP intends to take every drop it can because it costs less than that from other sources, and generates lucrative hydropower as it flows down the aqueduct. Therefore, even when alternative water is plentiful, it profits DWP to squeeze all it can from the Mono Basin.

Clean Water Act: A bill by Senator Chafee, S431 would reduce industrial toxic pollution by continuing the present program that requires toxic industries to pretreat their toxic wastes before releasing them into our sewers.

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act has reduced the needless dredging and filling of wetlands, but even with this provision, over 450,000 acres of wetlands are being lost each year. We have already lost half of the marshes, bogs, winding creeks, sloughs, and estuaries that originally existed in the lower 48 states, and each year we and the wildlife dependent on these wetlands lose more. Section 404's procedures for conserving wetlands must be strengthened.

Each year storm waters wash billions of tons of soil, animal waste, bacteria, oil, acid, lead, pesticides, and other toxic chemicals from our farms, cities, mines, and construction sites into our waterways, causing harm to the wildlife and humans that depend on those waters for life. The existing Clean Water Act does nothing to control this "nonpoint" pollution, yet over half of our pollution comes from these sources.

Soon our Senators will decide whether to weaken, strengthen, or keep the same, the Clean Water Act. Write both our Senators telling them why you care about clean water; urge them to vote for a strengthened Clean Water Act by supporting Senator Chafee's bill (S431), amendments to strengthen Section 404, and the Stafford-Chafee-Durengerger proposal to control nonpoint pollution.

Alaska's St Mathew Island is a national wildlife refuge and wilderness area in the Bering Sea, 250 miles from the mainland. The island supports one of the richest seabird colonies in the world, 22 kinds of marine mammals, and seven endangered species of whales feed along its shores. This month the Dept of Interior announced an agreement to withdraw refuge and wilderness protection from 4,000 acres of St Mathew Island so ARCO can build a major oil exploration staging base there. Plans for living quarters for 250 people, a deepsea harbor, and runways suitable for 737 jets and 44 passenger helicopters are underway. Undersea pipelines from offshore drilling rigs would carry crude oil and gas to storage tanks on the island.

ARCO arranged a swap in which some scattered parcels of land were turned over to Interior in exchange for St Mathew Island. Audubon notes that Interior ignored one of the most important threats to the wildlife and wilderness of the island—the threat of oil spills. There is a 74% chance that a major spill would hit the island. Such a spill would be catastrophic for the 1.5-5 million seabirds that depend on St Mathew and for its seals, sea lions, walruses, and endangered whales.

Audubon joined by a coalition of conservationists, fishermen, and Alaskan natives, has filed suit to block the action. (Audubon Leader, Aug 26, 1983)

Ghost Fishery: Each year thousands of tons of discarded and lost fishing nets usually made of long-lasting monofilament line are causing the deaths of an enormous amount of sea life. Seals, dolphins, whales, sea turtles, seabirds and others are caught in the nets and their bodies act as lures attracting more individuals until their combined weight drags them to the ocean floor. Studies indicate the seal entanglement kill is much greater than the Canadian harp seal hunt. The greatest threat to dolphins and seabirds is monofilament gill nets, which float just under the surface of the water to snag anything that swims by. Hundreds of thousands of seabirds in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands are drowned each year.

In June '83 AB 153, which allows California Fish and Game to enact regulations restricting the use of gill nets after a public hearing, was signed into law. Increased gill netting along the coast near Pacifica and Muir Beach has resulted in an increasing number of dead birds (over 800 in one weekend) washing up on beaches. Last summer, citizens provided enough evidence to persuade Fish and Game to enact an emergency ban that limited the use of gill nets off our coast. What can you do to help? Observations recorded by people walking along beaches are a major source of information on entanglement. Document and report to State Fish and Game Depts any evidence of entanglement you may find on beach walks. Look for dead seabirds all at the same stage of decomposition appearing in rafts or clumps on the beach. Report the band color and number of any banded birds you find. Examine carcasses for netting or fishing lines. Check for netting on the beach and remove it. Free-floating nets can affect marine life for many years. Keep records of your observations, approximate age and sex if able to determine, total number of dead, date, location, and evidence of the circumstances of the kill (such as netting on carcasses, or in the area). Take photographs when possible. (Greenpeace Examiner, Summer '83)

In an abuse of public trust not seen in decades of conservation gains, James Watt and the Interior Dept have set out to lease all available and economically feasible public land. The effect of these land "giveaways" will be felt for generations and may never be recovered from. Interior leases energy from public lands (oil, coal, geothermal, tar sands, etc) at noncompetitive rates. Public land leases are acquired and then resold at enormous profits. In Utah, for example, land leases were purchased for \$3.70 per acre. These same lands were resold ultimately for \$20,000 (yes, thousand!) per acre. Elk Hills Naval Petroleum Reserve in southern California has been held as a reserve for national security for 70 years; it is now being pumped at full capacity and will be exhausted by the end of the decade. Within the next 5 years all the OCS oil and gas reserves will be in private hands. The largest coal sale in history in the Powder River Basin of Wyoming went for less than a penny a ton when coal was selling for nearly \$20 per ton. Interior's land leasing program defies all economic logic and environmental protection. Nothing is being conserved for the future and our public lands will be lost to future generations. (from National Parks and Conservation Magazine, "Wheeling and Dealing Our Public Land Assets" by Bernard Shanks, Sept/Oct, '83)

A 2 year study by the Montana Fish and Game Commission has found high levels of dangerous chemicals in ducks and geese shot in that state. The study found not only endrin but at least 16 other chemicals which may be harmful to humans, including several that cause cancer in lab animals. (Audubon Leader, Aug '83)

Birds that inhabit open prairies or treeless tundra, areas without elevated perches from which to sing, often sing in flight. The Bobolink, Lark Bunting, most longspurs and several sandpipers sing from the air. Many birds that regularly sing from the air have contrasting white marks on the tail that are highly visible when it is spread in hovering flight. This pattern helps it to be more visible to its neighbors. (Watching Birds, Roger F. Pasquiar)

We are happy to greet these new MDAS members and hope to meet them at meetings and trips: Concord: Donald J Cline Jr; Danville: Joan Hawkins; Lafayette: Mr K K Bergman, Mr Walter H Costa, Mr Henry Stauffer; Martinez: Mrs James Cerri; San Ramon: Mrs Denise M. Cotton; Walnut Creek: Margaret D. Olsen, Marcia Hoyt, Robert E Ingham, MD.

Classes and Excursions: San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge: Duck ID Workshop, Sunday, Oct 9, 2:00 PM. Duck Tour, Sat, Oct 15, 2:00 PM. Shoreline Trail Tour, Sun Oct 16, 2:00 PM, a naturalist led van tour of shorebirds. Birds of Prey Around the Bay, Sat Oct 22, 2:00 PM, a slide show and talk about birds of prey. Canoe the Slough, Sunday, Oct 23, 10:00 AM, a naturalist led trip down a marshland slough. Participants must provide their own canoes, paddles, and life jackets (mandatory). Reservations required for all SFENWR excursions, 792-0222.

Nature Conservancy: McCloud River Preserve, Oct 8-10. Enjoy fall colors, catch and release fishing, and hiking, at Shasta County's McCloud River. North Coast Range Preserve, Oct 29-30. Discover beautiful old-growth Douglas fir forests in Mendocino County. Camping or rustic cabins. Reservations and info 777-0487.

Long Live Mono Lake Run: A 10 km run to benefit the Mono Lake Committee's efforts to save this natural treasure will be held on the lake's north shore, Oct 2. Contact the Mono Lake Committee for information or entry forms, 619-647-6386.

Birding in Ecuador, March 3-20, 1984. Featuring the Amazon, Tinalandia and the Galapagos. Costa Rica, An Ecology and Tropical Ornithology Workshop, February 1-14, 1984. Led by Hala Aranj, Holbrook Travel, 5326 Thomas Ave, Oakland, Ca. 94618.

Ben Feltner's Peregrine Tours: Western Mexico, Nov 7-17, Niagara Falls Gull Workshop, Nov 24-27, Tropical Texas, Dec 8-11, Eastern Mexico, Dec 27, 1983-Jan 11, 1984, Panama, Jan 28-Feb 12, 1984. For information: Peregrine Tours, PO Box 3062, Houston, TX, 77253.

OFFICERS OF MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY, 1983-84. Save for future reference.

Pres: Jimm Edgar, 3611 Chestnut St, Lafayette, 94549; 283-3510 or 283-6969 (work).

VP, Program: Maury Stern, 939 Carol Ln, Lafayette, 94549, 284-5980.

VP, Conservation: Al McNabney, 1161 Leisure Ln, #7, Walnut Creek, 94595, 9451785.

Secretary: Margaret Wadsworth, 247 Las Felicas Ave, Walnut Creek, 94598, 939-8422.

Treasurer: Gifford A. Young, 1451 Janet Ct, Benicia, 94510, 707-745-4134.

Membership:

Hospitality:

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

Historian: Joy Hall, #1 Hacienda Rd, Orinda, 94563, 254-0553.

Editor: Shimi Edmondson, 1261 Lawrence Rd, Danville, 94526, 837-1010.

Christmas Bird Count:

We are still anxiously searching for volunteers to fill some vacancies on the board. Please contact Jimm Edgar, 283-3510 or 283-6969, if you feel you can be of help.

The Quail, published monthly except July/August issue, is sent to National Audubon Society members in Mt Diablo Chapter. To join NAS: \$25/year, family \$32, other levels available; check payable to National Audubon Society, to Membership Chairman, MDAS, PO Box 53, Walnut Creek, Ca. 94596. Address Change: Mrs Winnie Orcutt, 30 Iris Ln, Walnut Creek, Ca 94595- send also to NAS; chapter affiliation changed on member's request. Subscriptions: \$6/year payable to Mt Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, Gifford A Young, 1451 Janet Ct, Benicia Ca, 94510. First Class Mailing in Envelope: \$2.25/year, payable to Mt Diablo Audubon Society, To Treasurer, Address above.

Shimi Edmondson, Editor, 1261 Lawrence Rd, Danville, Ca, 94526; 837-1010  
Exchange bulletins for MDAS to this address, please.

OBSERVATIONS, July 16-Aug 31. Also see field trip reports.

White Pelican, up to 600, SR-37, Solano Co, Aug 20-30--m.ob.; 36, Bodega Bay, Aug 30--BF, JR.  
Redhead, ♂, Hayward Regional Shoreline (HRS), Aug 14--ER. Canvasback, 3, HRS, summered  
 thru Aug 14--ER. CALIFORNIA CONDOR, 6, Cerro Noroeste Rd, Ventura Co, Aug 27--T&GF.  
Bald Eagle, pair, Bucks Lake, Plumas Co, Aug 25--MW. Mountain Quail, covey, Cerro  
 Noroeste Rd, Aug 28--T&GF. Chukar, 10, Klipstein Cyn Rd, Kern Co, Aug 28--T&GF.

Virginia Rail, his San Ramon garden (!), Aug 7--KH. Snowy Plover, 4, SR-37, Aug 30--JR.  
Lesser Golden Plover, 3-10, Cader Lane Ponds, Sonoma Co, July 23-4<sup>9, 3, 0</sup>--m.ob.. Lesser  
Yellowlegs, HRS, July 28--ER; 2, Thornton Ave near Jarvis Ave, Fremont, Aug 19-24--m. ob.  
 1-2 Cader Lane ponds, Aug 13-30--m.ob. Pectoral Sandpiper, 1-8, Cader Lane ponds,  
 July 23-Aug 28--m.ob. Baird's Sandpiper, 1-4 Cader Lane ponds, July 30-Aug 22--RBA;  
 2 HRS, July 21 and 1 there Aug 14, 21--ER; 1 Pescadero marsh, Aug 2--JR; 6 Mendoza  
 Ranch, Pt Reyes, Aug 16--JR, BF, et al. TEMMINK'S STINT, mouth of Salinas River,  
 Monterey Co, Aug 6--DR, et al. SEMI-PALMATED SANDPIPER, 1-2 Doran Park, Bodega Bay,  
 July 18-Aug 26--m.ob. BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER, Cader Lane ponds, Aug 22-28--RT, et al.  
Ruff, ponds near Thornton and Jarvis Aves, Aug 19-23--m.ob. Red-necked Phalarope,  
 ♀, HRS, July 21--ER. Pomarine Jaeger, 2, chasing terns, Bodega Head, Aug 30--JR, BF.  
Herring Gull, 3rd summer bird, HRS, July 21--ER. Marbled Murrelet, 2, Bodega Head,  
 Aug 30--JR, BF.

Hammond's Flycatcher, Camp Wolfboro, Calaveras Co, July 23--ER. Bank Swallow, HRS,  
 Aug 21--ER. Red-breasted Nuthatch, her Walnut Creek garden, Aug 28--WO. Rock Wren,  
 4, Mallery Ranch, Morgan Territory Rd, Aug 24--JE. LECONTE'S THRASHER, 2, near Maricopa,  
 Kern Co, Aug 27--GG; 3+ there, Aug 28--T&GF. Phainopepla, ♂, near Rock City, Mt Diablo  
 SP, July 27--JR.

Hooded Oriole, 3-4 ♂ (immatures or females), her Alamo garden, thru period--JR. Western  
Tanager, his Walnut Creek garden, July 25--RH; their Orinda garden, July 29--H&NB, her  
 Alamo garden, Aug 6 and 11--JR; ♀, Fish Docks, Pt Reyes, Aug 16--JR, BF; their Lafayette  
 garden, Aug 26--J&JE. Fine Grosbeak, ♂, Gold Lake, Sierra Co, Aug 23--MW. Red Cross-  
bill, calling, Lincoln Park, SF, July 26--JR.

ERRATA: Sept. issue should read: Grasshopper Sparrow, Las Trampas RP, July 4--KH.  
Sage Sparrow, 2, Las Trampas RP, June 23--KH; 1, So Gate Rd, etc.

OBSERVERS: Hugh & Norah Bain, Jimm & Joan Edgar, Toni & George Finger, Bud Fry,  
 Gen Graves, Ralph Hudgins, Winnie Orcutt, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Don Roberson,  
 Ron Thorne, Margaret Wadsworth, NoCal Rare Bird Alert, many observers.

Observations deadline: 1st of the month for sightings the previous month. Jean Richmond,  
 Observations Editor, 125 Via Serena, Alamo, Ca 94507; 837-2843.

\*\*\*\*\*

"Banquets for Birds" : Suggestions for Supplementary Feeding. National Audubon's latest  
 booklet on attracting and feeding birds has many new ideas for even the most inveterate  
 bird feeder. The booklet is available for \$1.60, including postage, from Information  
 Services, National Audubon Society, 950 Third Ave, NY, NY, 10022.

MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY

PO Box 53

Walnut Creek, CA 94596

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THE QUAIL MAIL



# The QUAIL

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 283-6969

November 1983  
Vol. 30, No. 4  
Next deadline: December 1

Meeting: Thurs, Nov 3. Walnut Creek Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave, Walnut Creek.  
Birding Information: 7:00 PM. Lynn Farrar on winter bird feeding. Business:  
Meeting: 7:30 PM. Social Time: 8:00 PM. Program: 8:30 PM. "Marine Mammals  
of the San Francisco Area", by Stephanie Kaza, of Pt Reyes Bird Observatory.  
Emphasis on grey whales and elephant seals. Stephanie's Phd was in this area.  
She was partly responsible for the interpretive guide at Ano Nuevo on elephant  
seals.

Field Trips open to members and non-members, bring binocs, lunch, field guide. Carpool  
Trips: time is departure time. Carpool expense: 5 cents per mile per rider suggested;  
entry fees or tolls shared equally among driver and riders.

- Sat, November 5, 8:30 AM, Palo Alto Baylands. Waterfowl, shorebirds, and  
gulls, including hopefully: European Wigeon, Blue-Winged Teal, and Thayer's  
Gull. Along Frontage Rd we will look for Short-Eared Owl. Cross the Dum-  
barton Bridge to US101, south to Embarcadero Rd, east to the yacht harbor and  
meet just past the duck pond on the left. Carpool: El Cerro Blvd at I-680  
Danville, 7:30 AM. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486.
- Thurs, Nov 10, 9:00 AM. Mt View Sanitary District & Waterfront Rd. We will  
see waterbirds, some land birds. Take Pacheco Blvd exit from I-680 in Martinez,  
go east on Arthur Rd, under freeway a few blocks. At the sharp turn to Acme  
Land Fill, turn left to Mt View Sanitation District. We'll post a sign for  
late-comers. Leader: Norah Bain, 254-4516.
- Sat, Nov 19, 8:30 AM. Lake Hennessy. Land and water birds, Hooded Merganser,  
Bald Eagle, and Pygmy Nuthatch possible. From Benicia Bridge go west on  
I-780 to Vallejo and take I-80 east to SR37. Go west to SR29 and head north  
on 29 to Rutherford. Turn right on SR128 and go about 5 miles to turn out  
on left by spillway. Alternate route for early birds; north of Napa to  
Trancas Rd going east about 2 miles to Silverado Trail, go left and bird the  
13 miles to SR128. Carpool: 7:00 AM southwest corner of Sun Valley Mall parking  
lot. Leader: Jean Richmond, 837-2843.
- Wed, Nov 30, 7:30 AM. Altamont Pass. Excellent spot to see migrating raptors.  
Golden and Bald Eagle, Ferruginous Hawk possible. We will have only one  
meeting spot and that will be our Carpool location: El Cerro Blvd off I-680  
Danville, at 7:30 AM. If you are arriving late or coming from the south  
call the leader: George Finger, 933-2468.

Board Thurs, Nov 10, at the home of Jimm Edgar, 3611 Chestnut St., Lafayette,  
Meeting: Call 283-3510 for details.

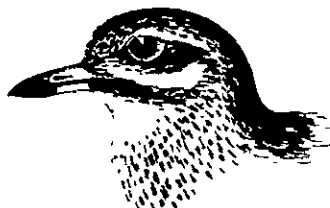
FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

The trip to the San Mateo Coast on Sept 10 was attended by 16 members and guests on a sunny but very windy day. A total of 84 species were sighted including: Sooty Shearwater, Snowy Plover, SOLITARY SANDPIPER, Lesser Yellowlegs, Red Knot, Pectoral and Baird's Sandpiper, Northern Phalarope, Bonaparte's Gull, Common Tern, Marbled Murrelet, and Common Yellowthroat.

Nine members of MDAS visited San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge and Coyote Hills on a clear, hot Sept 14. There was a light breeze. Fifty three species were seen including: White Pelican, Wigeon, Sora, Common Gallinule, Black-Bellied Plover, dowitcher sp, Western Flycatcher, Loggerhead Shrike, Yellow Warbler, and a female Western Tanager.

Outer Pt Reyes was visited by 12 members and guests. They endured a foggy morning with cool temperatures and were rewarded by afternoon clearing and warmer temps at the Fish Docks. It was cool at the Lighthouse. The trip was on Sept 24; a day too soon since "all sorts of vagrants plus western warbler species arrived later". Among the species that were sighted: Peregrine Falcon, Vaux's Swift, Least Flycatcher, Tennessee and Nashville Warblers all at the Lighthouse, and a Blackpoll Warbler at Fish Docks. A total of 91 species were seen.

Nine MDAS members attended the Lincoln Park trip in San Francisco, on Sept 24. It was foggy, of course. Some of the species sighted were Black Oystercatcher, Black Turnstone, Glaucus-Winged Gull, Caspian Tern, Pygmy Nuthatch, Townsend's and Wilson's Warblers, and a Red Crossbill was heard.



The Executive Director of the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology, Dr. Charles Walcott, will be in San Francisco on Thursday, November 10 from 6-9 PM, to address a gathering of Cornell alumni, and local bird

club members. It will be at Marines Memorial, 609 Sutter St & Mason, San Francisco. The cost \$7.00. For reservations contact Tracy Sartin, 1901 1/2 Haste St Berkely, CA 94704, 548-8372. Dr Walcott, a professor of biology at Cornell, will discuss his work on bird navigation and will offer insights into the work of the Laboratory of Ornithology, which includes cooperative research, The Library of Natural Sounds, and extension public education program, and the Peregrine Fund, Inc. members of Mt Diablo are invited to attend.

Save Mount Diablo has an option to purchase the 360-acre San Miguel Partners (Crozier) property on the western slopes of Mount Diablo. We have until December to raise additional funds and make a down payment of \$50,000 or back out of the option. Funding for state parks is so limited that it is crucial for us to do what we can to raise funds for our park.

The owners are willing sellers and want the land to go into the state park. The property is accessible through White Canyon, Black Point, in the State Park, joins this parcel on the north. The property extends to Arroyo del Cerro on the south. The slopes are grassland studded with oaks. There are several springs on the property.

To help add this mile-long parcel to the State Park, make checks payable to Save Mount Diablo. Donations to Save Mount Diablo, a non-profit public benefit corporation, are tax deductible. Address: PO Box 25, Concord, CA 94522.

The Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum has had a wild birdseed specially blended using a variety of seed to provide for as many species as possible. Premium grade seed was used for the best quality and nutrition. Ingredients by volume are: White and Red Proso Millet, Sudan Grass seed, White Wonder Millet, German Golden Millet, Cracked Milo and Wheat, Cracked Corn, Canary Seed, Rape, Buckwheat, and Thistle seed. The price is a tax-deductible donation of \$3 for a 5 lb bag and \$5 for a 10 lb bag, available at the Museum bookstore during open hours.



## CONSERVATION NOTES

by Al McNabney

PEOPLE-FOOD-WILDLIFE

Land use in Contra Costa County is at issue. More attention will be given to appropriate land use when people, in general begin to understand just how much of the county has already been allocated to "development". Birdlife is not usually capable of surviving a substantial loss of habitat. CCC and environs have had birdlife in generous proportions, based on sheer numbers and on species. As the pressures of development turn more and more land from being tree and shrub covered, or productive land to commercial use of some sort, bird and animal life will decrease. The soaring hawk, now often seen almost any place in the county will be reduced. Eventually it will be eliminated for its food supply will have vanished in the "concrete jungle". Does this have to be? Appropriate, concerned planning will be essential.

WATT, WHAT????

California's coast may or may not be safe. News reports indicate State officers are about to work out an arrangement which will permit the leasing of offshore lands for oil drilling along portions of the coastline. A disaster in the making? Meanwhile back at the ranch, a US federal judge stalled Watt's plans to hand over (to coal companies) 114.7 million tons of coal on federal lands in N. Dakota and Montana. Recent comments included one which referred to the proposal as a "fire sale". With 114.7 million tons of coal involved, one critic was heard to say, "Hmm, pretty big fire!!!".

CLEAN AIR ACT-NOT CLEANED UP YET

The effort to assure passage of the Clean Air Act is NOT over. Senator Robert T. Stafford, Chairman Senate Environmental Committee has warned Audubon leaders that action is needed. The existing act has to be strengthened through addition of amendments to cover prevention of acid rain and elimination of pollutants which are toxic. Write Senators Cranston and Wilson, urging them to work for a STRONG Clean Air Act.

WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE-OR IS THAT A MYTH?

City dwellers, in some locations, farmers in lowland areas, home owners who "had" a house on a hill by the side of the road probably think (after last winters rains) that we have lots and lots of water in California. NOT SO! Water shortages have been appearing with some regularity in California. Millions of dollars have been spent to change the course of water (the Peripheral Canal) and everything indicates that battles over water, who controls it, where it is to be used, who will pay for it are issues that will be of increased importance to every resident of the state. Incidentally, future water use determination will have an important impact on bird, animal, and floral life. THE COMMITTEE FOR WATER POLICY CONSENSUS, consisting of experts, individuals, concerned citizens from 12 N. Bay Area counties are close to developing a consensus. This, after meetings and discussions covering several months duration. Should the consensus actually be finalized, it will be considered as a major development toward a future "fair" policy for use of California's water. The San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation hosted a one day visit to the Delta region. Some thirty individuals toured 4 counties, a number of cities, many of the canals, waterways and pumping stations in the Delta. The need to maintain the delta and bay in a "clean" condition, regardless of water needs elsewhere in the state is of paramount importance.

EPA-AGAIN AND AGAIN

Once again EPA activity, or lack thereof hits the headlines. This time EDB, a highly toxic chemical known to produce cancer is the culprit. Late breaking news reports demonstrate the needs, safety, and concerns of the public have NOT usually been of primal import in handling toxic waste and/or chemical matters on the agenda of this agency. EPA has, finally (Sept 30) announced action to remove the chemical from use. A demonstration of the reason for concern is found in ordinary oatmeal. It was found to contain high levels of EDB. Has EPA acted soon enough?  
More.....

## CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

Point Reyes Bird Observatory is offering two courses this fall and winter. Their Great Basin Thanksgiving Birds excursion, is taught by Ron LeValley, on November 25-27. This class seeks the northern birds which "invade" northeast California in the winter. Beginning as well as more experienced birders should find this a most congenial trip. \$170 includes motel lodging 3 nights and all lunches.

PRBO is also offering an exciting Mexican trip to Palenque and San Cristobal that combines seeing tropical birds and learning about Mexican culture. The trip is February 11-19, with an extension to Lake Catemaco February 19-24. Both are famous places to observe wildlife. Over 500 species of birds may be found there. For details on both trips contact PRBO (415) 868-1221.

Shearwater Journeys offers Monterey Bay excursions; a good area to observe seabirds and marine mammals. Winter trips have had Short-Tailed, and Sooty Shearwater, Northern Fulmar, and Black-Legged Kittiwakes. Sunday, November 13, is the next trip scheduled. Contact Debra L. Shearwater (408) 425-8111.

Nature Expeditions International is offering an 8-day natural history expedition and cruise to investigate the Channel Islands of California; an introduction to California's marine mammals, marine birds, fish and invertebrates, island plants and history. Limit 10 persons. Dec 26, Jan 22, Feb 19 and Mar 12. For info: (415) 494-6572.

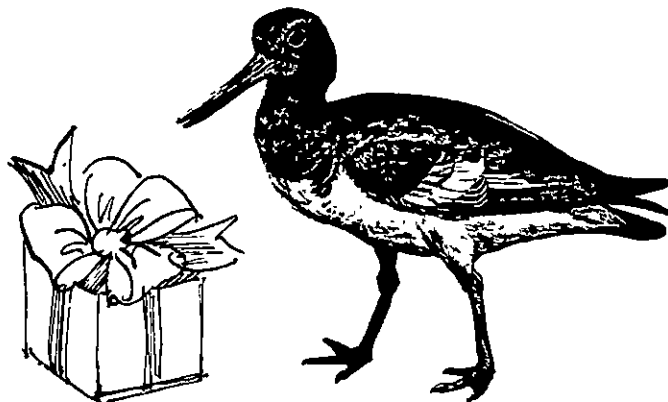
San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge is offering an Endangered Species walk Sat, Nov 5, at 12:00 noon, and Sat, Nov 19, 10:00 AM. Take advantage of high tide flooding in Dumbarton Marsh to look for endangered California Clapper Rail and Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse. Reservations required. (415) 792-0222.

## HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS

Third annual holiday sale at Richardson Bay Audubon Center, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd, Tiburon. Nov 2-December 22. Many books and gift items will be specially priced for holiday shopping. The Center also carries a full line of Bushnell, Bausch & Lomb and Leitz binoculars, all discounted 30%, and a good supply of the new edition of Robbins Birds of North America and the 1984 Audubon calendar.

San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Christmas Art Show, Sat and Sun, December 3 & 4, 10:00 AM-5:00 PM. Find an original gift for that nature lover on your Christmas list. There will be refreshments and live music on hand. At the Visitor Center.

Another good Christmas idea-give Audubon memberships to delight humans and help protect our environment and wildlife. Send applications and a check payable to National Audubon Society to MDAS Treasurer Gifford A. Young, 1451 Janet Ct, Benicia, CA 94510.



Lucy Hall, a long time member of MDAS died on July 26, 1983. She had been ill for more than two years. Lucy was part of the Hospitality committee for two years and went on many birding expeditions when she was able to do so. Long time members will remember her and her cheerfull, friendly interest in MDAS.

Ann Cavanagh, for a long time Conservation chairman for MDAS moved to Oregon several years ago. She has been ill for some time and would enjoy hearing from MDAS members. Her address is: Ann Cavanaugh, 3202 N.W. Johnson, Corvallis, OR 97330.

OBSERVATIONS, September. If no observers shown, there are too many to list.

Northern Fulmar, 10+, Monterey Bay (MBay), Sept 24--GF, KH. Flesh-Footed Shearwater, MBay, Sept 18--BR. SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATER, 1, & Black-Vented Shearwater, several, MBay Sept 24--GF, KH. Fork-Tailed Storm-Petrel, MBay, 2, Sept 18--BR, 3, Sept 24--GR, KH. Least Storm-Petrel, MBay, 12, Sept 18--BR, & 10+, Sept 24--GF, KH. Brown Pelican, Martinez Reg Shoreline, Sept 5--RH.

Green-Backed Heron, Sunol Reg Park, Sept 8--T&GF. Cattle Egret, 150, Ave 71/2 near Firebaugh, Fresno Co, Sept 18--H&NB. YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON, San Diego Co--EH. Black-Crowned Night Heron, imm, Cascade Lake, Orinda, Sept 4--BG. ROSEATE SPOONBILL, Imperial Co--EH. White-Fronted Goose, Mendoza Ranch, Pt Reyes, Sept 10--AE. CALIFORNIA CONDOR, 4-5, Cerro Noroeste Rd, Kern Co, Sept 9--B&JK. Swainson's Hawk, dark phase, Durham Ferry SRA, San Joaquin Co, Sept 12-13--KH, JR, BF.

Wandering Tattler, 1-2, Hayward Regional Shoreline (HRS), Sept 14-26--BR; Fish Docks, Pt Reyes, Sept 27--R. Lesser Yellowlegs, along our coast, thru Sept 24; 1, Frick Lake, Livermore, Sept 4--AE; 4, Pleasanton sewer ponds, Sept 5--AE. SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER, Moss Landing, Monterey Co, Sept 18--BR; Pescadero marsh, Sept 23-30+--RBA, GF, KH, et al; Bodega Bay, Sept 23--RBA. Pectoral Sandpipers, along our coast, thru Sept 24; 2, HRS, Sept 26-28--BR. Baird's Sandpipers, along our coast, thru Sept 24. RUFIOUS-NECKED STINT, 1-2, Bolinas sewer ponds, Sept 14-25--DE, m. ob. STILT SANDPIPER, Bolinas sewer ponds, Sept 10-15--AE, m.ob. SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER, Moss Landing, Sept 18--BR.

Pomarine Jaeger, HRS, Sept 14--BR; 4, MBay, Sept 24--GF, KH; Fish Docks, Sept 27. Parasitic Jaeger, HRS, Sept 20--BR; 2, Fish Docks, Sept 27. South Polar Skua, MBay, Sept 18--BR, & Sept 24--GF, KH. SABINE'S GULL, 10+, MBay, Sept 24--GF, KH. XANTUS' MURRELET, 8, MBay, Sept 18--BR. CRAVERI'S MURRELET, 6+, MBay, Sept 18--BR, & 6-8, Sept 24--GF, KH.

Long-Eared Owl, New Willows, Pt Reyes, Sept 26--RSt. Black Swift, 6, Road Forks Pool, Pt Reyes, Sept 18--H. Vaux's Swift, many Lighthouse, Pt Reyes, Sept 18-30; 1 HRS, Sept 20--BR; several, with Cooper's Hawk in hot pursuit, horse trail near Rock City, Mt Diablo SP, Sept 29--SE. Black-Chinned Hummingbird, ♂, Walnut Creek garden, Sept 6--WO. Tropical Kingbird, Fish Docks, Sept 20--R. Ash-Throated Flycatcher, PRBO, Sept 18--L&RH; Lighthouse, Sept 20, 27. LEAST FLYCATCHER, Lighthouse, Sept 24, different one there Sept 25-27. EASTERN WOOD PEWEE, Durham Ferry SRA, Sept 4-17--DY, m.ob.

Purple Martin, ♂, Bolinas sewer ponds, Sept 18. Red-Breasted Nuthatch, Lafayette garden Sept 12-21--G&MJM. Dipper, 1-2 Sunol Reg Park, Sept 8--T&GF. Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Road Forks Pool, Sept 13, 20--A&WG, m.ob. YELLOW WAGTAIL, Wilder Beach, Santa Cruz Co, Sept 4-6, CF, BL, DS, m.ob. "Plumbeous" Solitary Vireo, Nunes Ranch, Pt Reyes, Sept 25--H. PHILADELPHIA VIREO, New Willows, Sept 26-27--RSt, m.ob.; Mendoza, Sept 26--RSt, m.ob.

Black-and-White Warbler, Nunes, Sept 25-27. Tennessee Warbler, Mendoza & Nunes, Sept 25--H; Fish Docks, Sept 18, 26-27; New Willows, Sept 27. Nashville Warbler, Fish Docks, Sept 20--R. NORTHERN PARULA, ♀, Fish Docks, Sept 25-27. MAGNOLIA WARBLER, Lighthouse, Sept 6, A&WG, JR, et al. CAPE MAY WARBLER, Nunes, Sept 27. Chestnut-Sided Warbler, 1-2, Nunes, Sept 25-27; 2, Fish Docks, Sept 26--RSt, JR, et al. Blackpoll Warbler, Bolinas Lagoon, Sept 11--BR; Mendoza & Road Forks Pool, Sept 18--H; Lighthouse, Sept 20-26; 1-2, Fish Docks, Sept 24-27; Nunes, Sept 25-27.

PRAIRIE WARBLER, Fish Docks, Sept 6-9--A&WG, JR, et al, & Sept 25-27. Palm Warbler, Fish Docks, Sept 27--EH, JR, et al. OVENBIRD, 1, Nunes, 2, Road Forks Pool, Sept 25--H; Lighthouse, Sept 25-27. NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH, Nunes, Sept 25--H. CONNECTICUT WARBLER, Lighthouse, Sept 26-27. MacGillivray's Warbler, Lighthouse, Sept 18--H; 1-2, Fish Docks, Sept 26-27--JR, et al. Yellow-Breasted Chat, Fish Docks, Sept 20--R. HOODED WARBLER, ♂, New Willows, Sept 26-27--RSt, m.ob. American Redstart, Fish Docks, Sept 25-26; 1-3 Lighthouse, Sept 25-27; Nunes, Sept 26-27.

Yellow-Headed Blackbird, HRS, ♂, Sept 20, ♀, Sept 23-26--BR. ORCHARD ORIOLE, ♂, Nunes, Sept 26--NS, JR, BF, et al. Hooded Oriole, Alamo garden, thru Sept 12--JR. Western Tanager, area gardens, early-middle Sept--WO, MJM, JR; Fish Docks, Sept 6, 20-27. LARK BUNTING, Road Forks Pool, Sept 3--RSt, GF, & Sept 13-- A&WG, JR, BF. Green-Tailed Towhee, Lighthouse, Sept 26--RSt, et al. Vesper Sparrow, Lighthouse, Sept 26--GF, KH. Fox Sparrow, red eastern race, Fish Docks, Sept 24--JR, MC; Nunes, Sept 26-27, RSt, JR, BF, et al.

BLUE WHALE, 12, MBay, Sept 18--BR.

SUPER SHOW! Inside Drake's Bay, between the Fish Docks and Chimney Rock, on Sept 27 were hundreds of Brown Pelicans plunging into the water to catch small silver fish. Many Western and Heerman's Gulls were also diving headlong into the water for fish as well as stealing from pelicans. Mixed in were 35 Elegant and 12 Common Terns harrassed by a Pomarine and a Parasitic Jaeger until dropping their fish catch. Beyond this feeding frenzy were hundreds of SOOTY SHEARWATERS flying or sitting on the water. This spectacular 2 1/2 hour late-afternoon display was capped off with the appearance of a SABINE'S GULL! All this occurred very near shore, much of it just below six amazed observers (JR, BF, R&FN, A&WG) near the old Coast Guard pier.

OBSERVERS: Hugh & Norah Bain, Bill Chilson, Maxine Clason, Jimm Edgar, Shimi Edmondson, Art Edwards, Dave Edwards, Toni & George Finger, Carolyn Frederiksen, Bud Fry, Al & Wilma Ghiorso, Bobbie Gillis, H (EH, JH, BC, GT, JE), Joy Hall, Ed Hase, Kevin Hintsa, Lura & Ralph Hudgins, Bob & Jackie Knisley, Bruce Lebar, George & Molly Jane Monheit, Roy & Fran Nelson, R ( JR, BF, A&WG, R&FN), Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Dan Singer, Rich Stallcup, Naomi Svenningsen, Greg Thornbury, David Yee, NoCal Rare Bird Alert, many observers.

OBSERVATIONS DEADLINE: first day of the month for sightings the previous month. Jean Richmond, Observations Editor, 125 Via Serena, Alamo, CA 94507; 837-2843.

MDAS publications- send to MDAS, PO Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94596, to order by mail.

AUDUBON DAILY FIELD LIST, 5 cents each, at meetings, field trips; or by mail (address to Field List), 5/25 cents, plus self-addressed, stamped legal-sized envelope.

Annotated BIRDS OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, 25 cents each, at meetings, field trips; or by mail (address to Bird Population Study), 50 cents each, postpaid.

The Quail, published monthly except July/August issue, is sent to National Audubon Society members in Mt. Diablo chapter. To join NAS: \$25/year, family \$32, other levels available; check payable to National Audubon Society, to Membership Chairman, MDAS, P.O. Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. Address Change: Mr Gifford A Young, 1451 Janet Ct, Benicia, CA 94510; send also to NAS; chapter affiliation changed on member's request. Subscriptions: \$6/year payable to MT Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, Gifford A Young, 1451 Janet Ct Benicia, CA 94510. First class mailing in envelope: \$2.25/year, payable to Mt Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, address above.

Shimi Edmondson, Editor, 1261 Lawrence Rd, Danville, CA 94526, 837-1010

Exchange bulletins for MDAS to this address, please.

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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: Jimm Edgar  
3611 Chestnut St.  
Lafayette, CA 94549  
283-3510 283-6969

December 1983

Vol. 30, No 5

Next deadline: January 1, 1984

**MEETING** Thurs Dec 1, 1983, at Walnut Creek Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave, Walnut Creek. Birding Information 7:00 PM. Christmas Count discussion. Special Award 7:30; First Annual Audubon Conservation Award. Social Time: 8:00 PM. Program: 8:30 PM Mono Lake by David Wimpfheimer. David is the Northern California Regional Coordinator of the Mono Lake Committee.

. Thurs, Dec 29, 1983 9:00 AM. Lake Merrit. Carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd just north of fwy 24 8:30 AM. This area is good for studying grebes, waterfowl, gulls. Here in winter are Barrow's Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser (possible), and sometimes Tufted Duck. Park in the lot between the boat dock and the large aviary, then meet on the lake side walkway behind the Rotary Science Center at Bellevue and Perkins. Call Elizabeth Dickey for details, 254-0486.

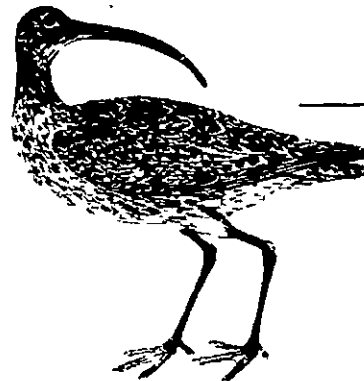
**FIELD TRIPS** Trips open to members and nonmembers. Bring binocs, lunch, field guide. Carpool time is departure time. Carpool expense, 5 cents per mile suggested.

Sat, Dec 3, 8:00 AM. Bay Bridge Toll Plaza. Carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd just north of fwy 24, 7:30 AM. This is the high tide of the year so rails are expected, also waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls, and terns. Approaching the toll plaza, keep to the far right lane, take off ramp marked "last Oakland exit, Oakland Army Base". Follow small signs toward Radio Station. Meet a short distance along the road on north side of toll plaza. Leader: Jean Richmond, 837-2843.

Wed, Dec 7, 1983, 8:30 AM. Niles Cyn Gravel Quarry. Carpool: El Cerro Blvd at I-680, Danville 7:45 AM. This area has varied habitat, many birds including waterbirds, Green Backed Heron, Spotted Sandpiper, landbirds. Take I-680 south 9 miles past Dublin, go west 7 miles on SR 84 through Niles Cyn to Vallejo Mill Historic Park. Leader: Jimm Edgar, 283-3510.

## FIRST ANNUAL AUDUBON CONSERVATION AWARD

At our December 1st meeting we will make the presentation to Supervisor Nancy Fahden, this year's recipient. Bruce Howard, member of National Audubon Board of Directors will present the award. A champagne and cake reception will follow.



**BOARD MEETING** Thurs, Dec 8, 7:30, home of Maury Stern, 939 Carol Ln Lafayette, 284-5980. Board meetings are open to all members.

**FIELD TRIP REPORTS**

The Golden Gate Park trip on Oct 27 involved 6 people and 51 species. The weather was very nice with several good birds. A Varied Thrush was seen at Middle Lake along with many Townsend's Warblers. They were treated to nice looks at a Red-Shouldered Hawk and 2 female and 1 male Wood Duck at North Lake.

The Pt Reyes-Abbott's Lagoon excursion was attended by 12 members on Oct 22. The weather was fair to foggy with no wind. 103 species were seen in all. The special birds included a Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, Sandhill Crane, Pectoral Sandpiper, and White-Throated Sparrow.

Birding in Los Banos

The Los Banos Christmas Count will be held on Tues, Dec 27. Western Merced County is justly famous for its raptors concentrations of waterfowl, and White-Faced Ibis. Many rare winter species have been found in the area of the count.

This count depends heavily on help from outside the Los Banos area, and the East Bay has traditionally been a strong source of support. For details contact compiler Kurt Campbell: PO Box 1935, Novato, CA 94948, (707) 664-0104. Carpooling arrangements will be made.

New Members:

We welcome these new members and hope to see them at our meetings and outings: Beverly Aubry, M.N. Calkins, Karen Dovolos, Lisa Gorrell, Kristi Johnson, Mr and Mrs Warren MacMath, RD Nocerino, Gene Pearson, Geoffrey Pickton, Nathan Stillman, Kenneth Corriea, Mrs T. Moore, Mark Gentry, Joanne Jones, Dana-Mary Kilgore, Francesca Lord, Thomas Morris, Marjorie Sperry, Benny Venturino, Robert Gregory, Deroyce Bell, Mrs Harold Kaar, and Mr Robert Terry.

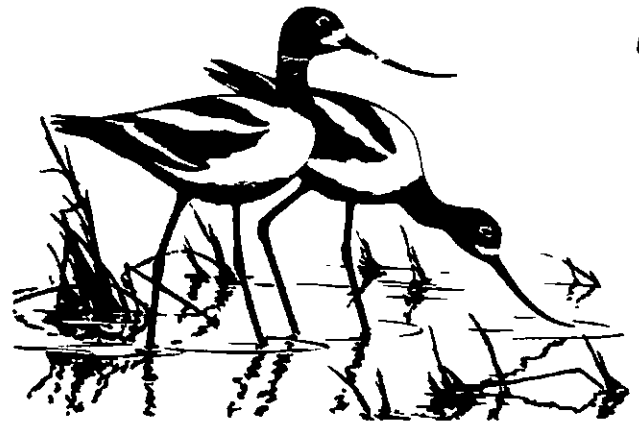
Classes:

A beginners birding class will be given through the Orinda Community Center. The class will consist of 6 field trips beginning Jan 24, and will be lead by Norah Bain. For details call Norah 254-4516 or the Orinda Community Center.

SCVAS SITE GUIDE

BIRDING AT THE BOTTOM OF THE BAY, a site guide to 38 birding locations in Santa Clara County has recently been published by the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society. The sites described include Midpeninsula Open Space areas, city, County, and State Parks. The guide tells where to see which birds and when, in a wide variety of habitats. In addition, it also lists suggested birding areas throughout the Bay area which should be of interest. There is also a list of specialty birds of the area and suggested locales where they may be best seen.

The book may be ordered direct from SCVAS, 2253 Park Blvd, Palo Alto, CA 94306 for \$6.50 including tax, plus \$1. for postage & handling.

BIRD WATCHER'S DIGEST REFUND OFFER

The Bird Watcher's Digest offer to MDAS (see April issue of Quail) ends in December but until then MDAS retains \$5.00 of the \$11.00 subscription price from members. Call Jean Richmond, 837-2843, for info.

**CONSERVATION NOTES** by Al McNabney

FIVE FOR ONE In Mt Diablo Audubon, 5 heads will increase the odds that the Conservation Committee will truly achieve valuable objectives. A call is being made for 4 interested members to join the Conservation Committee. Short monthly meetings will be held to review conservation matters in which Mt Diablo Audubon has an interest. The Committee will take the lead in planning and directing the environmental activity of Mt Diablo Audubon. If this sounds interesting and you want to be a part; let us know.

ST. MATTHEW ISLAND 250 miles off the coast of Alaska lies tiny St Matthew Island. A windswept barren place; a sanctuary and breeding location for millions of sea birds that nest along the island's steep cliffs. Seals, walrus and sea lions cover its beaches and whales swim in the ocean just off shore. In 1909, Pres. Teddy Roosevelt designated it as a national wildlife refuge. Congress, expressing its solid interest, arranged further protection by declaring the island a federal wilderness area in 1970. Despite all the protections which were supposed to cover the island and its inhabitants, the Dept of Interior "gave" the island to an oil company so a headquarters could be established to permit oil exploration in the Alaskan region. Runways are to be built for 737s; housing for 250 people is to be built; harbors dredged, land filled in or excavated; all with little to NO regard or consideration for the island's bird and sea life. National Audubon and other interested groups have filed suit to stop the giveaway.

BOGS, SWAMPS & MARSHES Most Auduboners would agree that bogs, swamps, and wetlands are important for something other than a way to obtain "cheap" land that can be filled and converted to some sort of development. Others don't see things that way. Section 404 of the Clean Water Act is again under attack from those who want to eliminate wetlands for productive purposes.

Even under present protections, the Army Corps of Engineers is turning down less than 3% of permit applications. These important natural areas are being lost at a rate of 450,000 acres a year. In the south bay more than 15 applications are on file in the Fremont/Newark/Alviso area to change the habitat. Somewhat the same situation exists throughout the entire bay area. Let your Senators, Alan Cranston and Pete Wilson know what YOU think about loss of wetlands and urge for strengthening of the Clean Water Act.

CALIF WATER NOW WHAT? The Committee for Water Policy Consensus, comprised of a cross-section of individuals which would generally represent views of farmers, business, sports, and conservation people and the public have reached general agreement on a proposed water policy. The "tough" one to develop some degree of unanimity was for protection of the Delta and San Francisco Bay. A possible proposal for a "mini" peripheral canal (Gov. Deukmejian says NO!) produced almost total opposition to such a system for transfer of water. A full statement covering the Committee's determinations is in preparation and will be made public soon.

AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR CONTRA COSTA Does Contra Costa County need an economic development department run by the County? That and a number of other questions was discussed at a public hearing on Oct 25 in the wake of controversy that arose following release of a special report by the Board of Supervisors. One business representative described CCC as one of the most prosperous counties in the entire state and he raised a number of tough questions about the proposal. Other speakers expressed great concerns about the amount of money that would be withheld from currently on-going programs by the County. Audubon's concern involves evident lack of protections for environmental matters and the needs to incorporate existing environmental protections into any such department, should it in fact be established.

The object of our CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT is to find as many birds as possible within our 15-mile-diameter circle centered near Cowell/Ygnacio Valley Roads intersection. Our earlier average of about 125 species is improving with better coverage and 150 is not impossible. Last year 80 observers found 142 species, 78,955 individuals.

We welcome inexperienced as well as more expert, and counters at feeders/gardens in our circle-Kent and Kevin have instructions. Any special birds staked out, alert Kent and Kevin ahead of time. Cost is \$1.50 per participant, MDAS will pay for students if necessary.

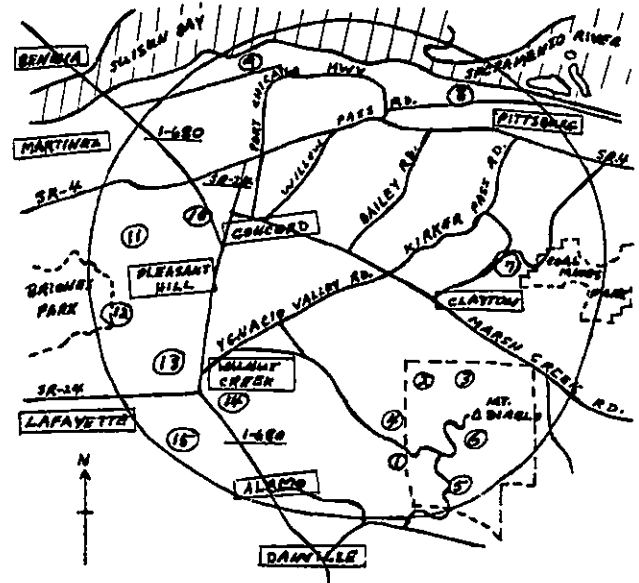
If you find a bird RARE in our area, write down all details, preferably before consulting field guides; contact Kent and/or Kevin as soon as possible-rarities must be confirmed. Consult "Birds of Northern California" if uncertain of the status of any species.

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

During our COUNT PERIOD, Dec 14-20, if you see in our CBC area a species uncommon or rare here get details to Kent or Kevin quickly. These sightings go in our report to National Audubon Society which will be published in American Birds next July.

Come to the post-count POTLUCK/COUNT-DOWN whether or not you work the CBC, learn of the day's events and preliminary report. Dinner is at 6:30 at the San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church, 902 Danville Blvd, Alamo. No need to change as birding clothes are fine. Bring utensils, dishes, serving spoon; food for AT LEAST 4-5 times the number in your family coming. Tea, coffee, punch provided. Sign up at the meeting or call Carol Purcell, 689-2537, preferably by Dec 11, as to what you will bring and how many attending. Come at 6:00 for HOT BEVERAGE- chocolate, coffee, tea- and warm up before dinner.

Our Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on Sat December 17, rain or shine, will be co-compiled this year by Kent Ficket, 5270 Concord Blvd, Concord, 798-7421, and Kevin Hintsa, 2808 Ascot Dr, San Ramon, 829-6156. Contact either Kent or Kevin as soon as possible and tell them which area you would prefer to work. If you have no preference they will assign you to the team most in need of people.



#### 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 area
8. North county marshes- east
9. North county marshes- west
10. Diablo Valley College area
11. Central County area
12. Briones Hills
13. Reliez Valley
14. Walnut Creek
15. Rossmoor/Tice Valley

OTHER CBC DATES: Dec. 17 (our date): Pt Reyes; Dec 18: Crystal Springs, Santa Clara, Oakland, Ohlone, Napa-Solano; Dec 21: San Francisco; Dec 22: Mt Hamilton; Dec 27: Los Banos; Dec 31: South Marin; Jan 1: Ano Nuevo, Moss Landing.



**OBSERVATIONS** October. Also see field trip reports.

Northern Fulmar, Lighthouse, Oct 14--RSt.  
Buller's Shearwater, 2, Monterey Bay (M Bay), Oct 1--BR & Oct 16--EH, GF. Short-Tailed Shearwater, M Bay, Oct 1--BR, Oct 15--RH, & Oct 16--GF, EH. Black-Vented Shearwater, Lighthouse, Oct 14--RSt; several, M Bay, Oct 15--RH, & Oct 16--GF, EH. Fork-Tailed Storm-Petrel, 3+, Oct 1--BR, Oct 15--RH, & Oct 16--EH, GF. Least Storm-Petrel, 50, M Bay, Oct 1--BR, many, Oct 15--RH, Oct 16--GF, EH. Wilson's Storm-Petrel, M Bay, Oct 15--RH.

Green-Backed Heron, Cascade Lake, Orinda, Oct 23--BG. WHITE-FACED IBIS, Pescadero Marsh, Oct 15--BR. Wood Duck, 5, Alameda Creek Quarries Reg Pk, Oct 15--BR. Hooded Merganser, ♀, Frick Lake, Livermore, Oct 29--MP, GF.

Possible Broad Winged Hawk, Mitchell Cyn, Oct 19--O, LR. Ferruginous Hawk, Altamont Pass, Oct 11--JR. At Altamont Pass, Oct 29: Black-Shouldered Kites, Red-Tails, 1 Rough-Legged Hawk, 7-8 Ferruginous Hawks, 2 Golden Eagles, Northern Harriers, Prairie Falcon, American Kestrels, Burrowing Owl--GF, MP.

Wild Turkey, 4, Sunol Reg Pk, Oct 3--H&NB. Sandhill Crane, White House Pool, Pt Reyes, Oct 5-25--mob. Lesser Golden Plover, Drake's Beach turnoff, Oct 14--KH, BC; Pigeon Pt Rd, Oct 15--BR. Lesser Yellowlegs, 2, Pescadero marsh, thru Oct 15--BR, et al. SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER, Pescadero marsh, Oct 1-2--BR, EH, JH, BC; Mendoza Ranch, Oct 7-9--KH, BR, EH, JR, mob; Spletta Ranch, Oct 15-18--J&HG, JR, BF, et al. Pectoral Sandpiper, 3-6, Pescadero marsh, Oct 1-15--BR, RBA, 1-4 Mendoza Ranch, Oct 3-7--BR, KH, EH, JR; 1-3, Spaletta Ranch, Oct 15-23--J&HG, JR, BF, mob. Red-Necked Phalarope, Mendoza Ranch, Oct 14--BC, KH.

Pomarine Jaeger, Pomponio St Bch, San Mateo Co, Oct 2--EH, JH, BC. At Stockton Oxidation Ponds: COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL, Oct 11-31+, FRANKLIN'S GULL, Oct 26-31+, LITTLE GULL, Oct 18-31+--mob. Sabine's Gull, 12, M Bay, Oct 1--BR & imm, Oct 15--RH. CRAVERI'S MURRELET, 15, M Bay, Oct 1--BR.

White-Winged Dove, 1-4, Mendoza Ranch, Oct 4-16--mob. Northern Pygmy-Owl, calling, Calaveras Reservoir, Oct 15--BR. Burrowing Owl, 2, & Long-Eared Owl, New Willows, Oct 14--KH. Short-Eared Owl, Hayward Regional Shoreline (HRS), Oct 28--BR. Northern Saw-Whet Owl, Tunitas Creek Rd, San Mateo Co, Oct 15--BR. Common Poorwill, calling, Calaveras Res, Oct 15--BR.

"Yellow-Shafted" Flicker, Abandoned Rch, Oct 14--BC, KH. Lewis' Woodpecker, Walnut Creek garden, Oct 9--L&RH; Mitchell Cyn, Oct 19--O, LR. Tropical Kingbird, Drake's Beach, Oct 6-9--SLM, NB, mob. Possible Yellow-Bellied Flycatcher, Fish Docks, Oct 2--AH, DL, A&WG, & Lighthouse, Oct 7--mob. Red-Breasted Nuthatch, local gardens, Oct 9-15--WO, JR, CL, EH; 2, Pine Cyn, Oct 28--GF, KH. American Dipper, Sunol Reg Pk, Oct 9--DT. Winter Wren, HRS, Oct 31--BR.

Varied Thrush, 2, Mitchell Cyn, Oct 19--O, LR; 5, Donner Cyn, Oct 26--O, MP, JR; 2, Pine CYN, Oct 28--KH, GF; local gardens, Oct 25, 29--T&GF, JR. Golden Crowned Kinglet, 12+, Las Trampas Reg Pk, Oct 19--KH, GF; 6+, Mitchell Cyn, Oct 19--O, LR; 10, Pine Cyn, Oct 28--GF, KH. Philadelphia Vireo, Lighthouse, Oct 3--BR.

Tennessee Warbler, Fish Docks, Oct 7--BR, KH. VIRGINIA'S WARBLER, Lighthouse, Oct 7-8--mob. Magnolia Warbler, Lighthouse, Oct 7-8, New Willows, Oct 7-9, & Fish Docks, Oct 14--mob. BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER, ♀, New Willows, Oct 3--BR. Blackpoll Warbler, 1-4, Fish Docks, Mendoza Rch, Road Forks Pool, Oct 3-14--mob; Coyote Hills Reg Pk, Oct 7-8--PG, BR. PRAIRIE WARBLER, Mendoza Rch, Oct 7--BR, KH, EH, JR.

Palm Warbler, 1-2, Mendoza Rch, Nunes Rch, Fish Docks, New Willows, Lighthouse, Hall Rch, Spaletta Rch, Oct 4-23--mob. OVENBIRD, Mendoza Rch, Oct 3--BR; Abandoned Rch, Oct 9--A&WG. CONNECT-ICUT WARBLER, Nunes Rch Oct 7--BR, KH, EH, JR, mob. American Redstart, Nunes Rch, Lighthouse, Fish Docks, Oct 3-9--mob.

BOBOLINK, Road Forks Pool, Oct 7--RSt, KH, BR. RUSTY BLACKBIRD, Spaletta Rch, Oct 9--JG, A&WG, et al. Rose-Breasted Grosbeak, ♀, Drake's Bch, Oct 3--BR, et al. INDIGO BUNTING, Mendoza Rch,

Oct 8--H. LECONTE'S SPARROW, Neary Lagoon, Santa Cruz, Oct 28-30--mob.  
Vesper Sparrow, 2, Oct 7--KH, BR. AMERICAN TREE SPARROW, Walnut Creek garden, Oct 8--L&RH, mob, Fish Docks, Oct 14-15 --BC, KH, J&HG, et al; Road Forks Pool, Oct 14--RSt; Neary Lagoon, Oct 29--mob.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW, Spaletta Rch, Oct 20--BC, EH, MP, GF. White-Throated Sparrow, 1-2, Nunes Rch, Road Forks Pool, Fish Docks, Oct 7-18--mob, Lincoln's Sparrow, Walnut Creek garden, Oct 18-19 --L&RH; Sunol Reg Pk, Oct 25--NB, et al; HRS, Oct 31--BR. Lapland Longspur, 1-6, Spaletta Rch, Oct 14-29--mob; 1, HRS, Oct 16-21--JM, BR, et al, 3, Oct 22-31+ --BR, et al. Chestnut-Collared Longspur, 1-2, Spaletta Rch, Oct 14-29--mob.

ORCA, 6, M Bay, Oct 15--RH, & 4, Oct 16 --EH, GF.

OBSERVERS: Hugh & Norah Bain, Bill Chil-son, Mary Jane Culver, Jimm Edgar, Toni & George Finger, Bud Fry, Jerry & Helen Gentile, Al & Wilma Ghiorso, Bobbie Gillis, Phil Gordon, Jeff Greenhouse, H(EH, JH, BC, JE, GT), Joy Hall, Ed Hase, Alan Hopkins, Kevin Hintsa, Lura & Ralph Hudgins, Carol Lewis, Donna Lyon, Sus- anne Luther Nethvin, Joe Morlan, O(WO, BG, MJC, RS), Winnie Orcutt, Marjorie Plant, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Lee Robinson, Rich Stallcup, Ruth Stewart, Dave Takeuchi, Greg Thornbury, NoCal Rare Bird Alert, many observers.

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

The Quail, published monthly except July/August issue, is sent to National Audubon Society members in Mt Diablo Chapter. To join NAS: \$30/year, family \$38, other levels available; check payable to National Audubon Society, to Membership Chairman, MDAS, PO Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. Address Change: Send notice to NAS Membership Data Ctr, PO Box 2667, Boulder, CO 80321; a copy of your letter should be sent to Membership Chairperson Ethel Beckerman, 237 Marshall Dr, Walnut Creek, CA 94598 to ensure uninterrupted Quail delivery. Chapter affiliation changed on member's request. Subscriptions: \$6/year payable to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, Gifford A Young, 1451 Janet Ct, Benicia, CA 94510. First Class Mailing in Envelope: \$2.25/year, payable to Mt Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, address above.

Shimi Edmondson, Editor, 1261 Lawrence Rd, Danville, CA 94526; 837-1010  
 Exchange bulletins for MDAS to this address, please.

MEMBERSHIP DUES INCREASE

National Audubon is Raising its member- ship rates effective in January 1984 to:

Individual	\$30
Family	\$38
Student	\$18
Senior Citizen, Individual	\$21
Senior Citizen, Family	\$23

Members are urged to renew and continue to support our Society.

Mt. Diablo Audubon Society  
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