



# 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

January 1984

Vol. 30, No 6

Next deadline: January 1, 1984

MEETING Thurs, Jan 5, 1984, Walnut Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave, Walnut Creek. Birding Information: 7:00 PM; Preview of upcoming field trips by George Finger. Business meeting: 7:30 PM. Social Time: 8:00 PM. Program: 9:30 PM "Under Water Photography" by Dr. Richard Dohner of Walnut Creek. Dr. Dohner is an ob/gyn at Kaiser Hospital with a special interest in under water medicine.

FIELD TRIPS Trips open to members and nonmembers. Bring binocs, lunch, field guided. Car-pool time is departure time. Carpool expense, 5 cents per mile.

. Sat Jan 7, Putah Creek/Lake Solano, 9:00 AM. Carpool: SE corner of Sun Valley Ctr, 7:30 AM. Wood Ducks, waterfowl, Lewis' Woodpecker, Dipper, Cyn Wren, Phainopepla are possible. A favorite chapter trip. Take I-680 east to Cherry Glen exit, cross the fwy go 1 mile, left of Pleasant Valley Rd, about 14 miles. Meet in the picnic area parking on right just before the SR128 junction. Leader: Maury Stern, 284-5980.

. Thurs Jan 19, Blackpoint and Lake Chabot, 9:00 AM. Carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd just north of Fwy 24, 8:15 AM. This is an excellent area for shorebirds, waterbirds, and some landbirds. Cross the Benicia Bridge, go north on I-780 east on I-80, west on SR37 for a mile to Fairgrounds Dr. Turn left to the Solano County Fairgrounds entrance. We will bird Lake Chabot first, then go west on Sears Point Rd. Leader: Jimm Edgar, 283-3510.

. Sat, Jan 28, 7:45 AM. East Contra Costa and Clifton Ct. Carpool: by Burger King, Ygnacio Valley & Clayton Rd. 7:00 AM. At Clifton Ct, we will walk the levee to see waterfowl, possibly Wood Duck, gulls, among many species. Carry lunch, liquids, wear layered, warm clothes-it could be cold. 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, right 2 1/2 miles then left to the end of Clifton Rd. Leader: Bob Richmond 537-7408 or 837-2843.

. Sat-Sun Feb 11-12. Los Banos/Merced Wildlife Refuges and Panoche Valley. We should see American Bittern, White Faced Ibis, Ross' Goose, other waterfowl and shorebirds in the refuges. Mt. Plover, Lewis' Woodpecker, Phainopepla bluebirds in Panoche Valley. Make motel reservations now. Suggested motels: Stardust Motel 209-826-5016 Bonanza Motel 209-826-3871 To have dinner Saturday night with the group at Woolgrower's Restaurant for family style Basque food, call Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486 by February 4 so she can make reservations. Leader: Jean Richmond 837- 2843.

Thurs January 19, 7:30  
BOARD Home of Maury Stern, 939  
MEETING Carol Lane, Lafayette  
284-5980. Board meetings  
are open to all members.

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

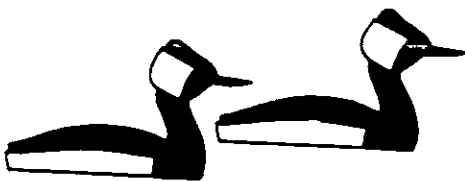
*American Bittern 1/10 6. 5*  
*Nov. 10*  
 Three members braved a rainy and overcast day to visit the Mt View Sanitary District. Among the 33 species sighted were a Brown Pelican, Prairie Falcon, possible Green-Backed Heron, and American Bittern.

The Lake Hennessey trip on Nov 19 was attended by 7 MDAS members on a cold, drizzly day. 52 species were noted including Cooper's Hawk, Osprey, Varied Thrush, and Cedar Waxwing.

*Nov 30*  
 It was cold, overcast and foggy on the Altamont Pass trip (so, what else is new?). 8 MDAS members saw 60 species with an Oldsquaw at Frick Lake, Rough-Legged Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Common Snipe, Bonaparte's Gull, Forster's Tern, Barn Swallow and Rock Wren heading the list.

The Bay Bridge Toll Plaza field trip was cancelled due to rain, wind, and flood. There was one heck of a high tide, though. *Dec 3*

Jimm Edgar led 12 observers on the Niles Canyon trip with a total of 77 species. It was mostly clear and cold early, but became comfortable by late morning. Some of the birds seen were: Black-Crowned Night Heron, Sharp-Shinned Hawk, Bonaparte's Gull, Hutton's Vireo, Fox and Lincoln's Sparrow. *Dec 7*



MONO LAKE LIVES in a stunning 80 page book of photographs titled MONO LAKE. The book was published to coincide with an exhibition which recently showed at the California Academy of Sciences. This beautiful book makes an ideal Christmas gift; a gift for the lake as well since proceeds from sales will fund future educational programs. Available for \$12.95 at local bookstores or direct from the Mono Lake Committee, 956-7532. Audubon Society members receive a 10% discount when ordering from the committee.

## ALEXANDER LINDSAY JUNIOR MUSEUM

A unique holiday gift for that special birder on your list is the museum's specially blended extra fancy wild bird seed. A mixture of premium seeds was used to appeal to a wide variety of birds. Costs are \$3 for 5# and \$5 for 10#. Proceeds help support the museum and is available in the museum's bookstore.

A WILDLIFE CARE AND REHABILITATION class is being offered to learn how to care for injured and orphaned wildlife. Graduates of the class are eligible to join in caring for the many creatures brought to the museum for care. Class starts Jan 4.

A SACRAMENTO RIVER CANOE TRIP from Tehema to Woodson Bridge on the upper Sacramento River is an excellent way to see many animals not usually seen otherwise. The trip is on Jan 21; and canoes are provided by the Museum.

## CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

Fremont Adult School will again offer Birding Field Trips to different birding spots each Tuesday morning from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM starting Jan 10th. The class is designed for beginning and experienced birders and will be taught by Alice Hoch. For more info: Alice Hoch 657-0475.

Delta Field Seminar: This trip will include the opportunity to view hundreds of Sandhill Cranes and possibly thousands of Whistling Swans on their wintering grounds in the delta of the San Joaquin and Sacramento Rivers. The workshop will be Sat Jan 21 from 9-3:00 PM. Students must preregister at least 5 days before the class. For details contact Alice Hoch 657-0475.

STEVE BAILEY will teach a class about OWLS if there is enough interest on Monday nights, Jan 9, 23, February 6 and 27 at Stanley Intermediate School, Lafayette. Cost: about \$15-\$20. Two optional field trips to be arranged. Call Maury Stern for further details and sign-up. 943-2252 (work) or 284-5980 (home).

## CONSERVATION NOTES

by Al McNabney

**GONE BUT HE'S NOT FORGOTTEN** Coal, a vital commodity, is now somewhat of a political football; and under the Watt regime was a huge dollar sign for some lease holders. The Senate and House, by overwhelming votes placed major restrictions on coal sales until late next spring. Congress will also have 90 days to examine any recommendations made by the recently established Commission of Fair Market Value (of coal to be sold). A resounding defeat for the Qatt program and WIN for the people of the nation.

**WATER, WATER MONEY, MONEY** Drain Tulare Lake? A project started with a rush but with limited review by many of the interested bodies and people in the state. As one newspaper put it, "If not for a little fish, the white bass, this would have been a fait accompli." Even more interesting is the fact that under the PIC Program one large farmer was paid \$3.7 million for not growing wheat (on land that was at the bottom of Tulare Lake). Under laws in effect since 1982, it is now possible for projects such as the draining of Tulare Lake to go forward with little notice and little participation by the people.

**DIRTY WATER** We all have a choice.  
**CLEAN WATER** Once the choice is made, then comes either action or inaction, depending on the choice. Polluted water is harmful to birdlife and humans alike. IF YOU want clean water, let your elected representatives know. The bills on this matter were not passed during the last session of Congress and await action after the first of the year. S5431 and S2006 in the Senate and HR 3282 and HR 4037 in the House deserve support. Give your Senator and Congressman a Christmas thought about clean water.

**WHEN WILL THE OTHER SHOE DROP?** Judge Clark, well known in California will head the Dept of Interior. He won easy confirmation but really stonewalled efforts by Senators to determine what he would do once on the job.

**DEVELOPMENT & THE FUTURE OF CCC'S BIRD & WILDLIFE** A headline in the CC Times "Study Says Bay Growth Needn't Use Open Space" is good news for birdlife.

Raptors and many other types of birds do NOT do well when forced to live with man. Agricultural land in CCC has been and is under great threat from development. Permits already granted promise development in the County that will have a major impact on birds, other wildlife, the people and the economy. Every concerned citizen CAN make a difference, if time is taken to be certain their views are heard. Audubon has a stake in assuring that growth comes in ways that leave room for more than concrete, freeways, shopping centers and houses.

**STRIP MINING IN CALIFORNIA?** Northwest California, a wild and beautiful area may become a desert. Proposals now in the mill call for strip mine activity on Gasquet Mt. for cobalt, nickel and chromium. If the mine becomes operational the impacts on land, air, water, and wildlife in this remote part of California would be severe. The mining itself is not economical and requires payments of Federal subsidies up to \$50 million a year. A promise of 500+ jobs is dangled before regulatory officials eyes as a reason to go ahead quickly. Loss to the local community from fishing, hunting, and tourism are estimated to be in excess of \$4 million a year. John Van de Camp, Atty General has authority; write and let him know of your thoughts at 555 Capitol Mall, Suite 350, Sacramento, CA 95814.

**COMMITTEE FOR WATER POLICY CONSENSUS** Members of the Committee met with Mr. David Kennedy, California's new Water Chief, in Concord on Nov 27th. This meeting gave Committee members an opportunity to discuss the four Delta water transfer alternatives unveiled by Kennedy.

OBSERVATIONS for November. Also see field trip reports.

Arctic Loon, Hayward Reg Shoreline (HRS), Nov 21-30+--BR; Frick Lake, Livermore, Nov 28--GF,KH. Red-Necked Grabe, Berkeley Harbor, Nov 17--G&MJM; Fish Docks, Pt Reyes, Nov 25--FB, R&FN, B&MJG, JR. Brown Pelican, Lafayette Reservoir, Nov 26+--G&MJM. Green-Backed Heron, 5-Brooks, Pt Reyes, Nov 25--FB, R&FN, B&MJG, JR. Cattle Egret, 240, Ave 71/2 near Firebaugh, Fresno Co, Nov 24--H&NB.

Snow Goose, ad, San Lorenzo Trail near HRS, Nov 30--BR. Blue-Winged Teal, ♂, 2♀, Waterfront Rd, Martinez, Nov 6--S&MS; pr, Baylands, & pr, Flood Control Basin, Palo Alto, Nov 26--JR,FB,R&FN,BF. Eurasian Wigeon, San Lorenzo Trail, Nov 12-30--L&KR,BR; Golden Gate Park, Strybing Arboretum, Nov 12--JM, et al, Lloyd Lake, Nov 15-18--RBA,KH,GF,JR, et al. Wood Duck, 1-2♂, ♀, Elk Glen Lake, Golden Gate Pk, Nov 15-18--JR,BF,KH,GF.

Barrow's Goldeneyes, ret to Lk Merritt, Nov 21--RBA; 4♂, Leo Ryan Pk, Foster City, Nov 26--R&FN,JR,FB,BF; possible ♀, Frick Lake, Nov 28--KH,GF. Black Scoter, 10-15, Fish Docks, Nov 5-25--mob. Hooded Merganser, ♀, near Leo Ryan Pk, Nov 26--JR,FB,R&FN,BF. Common Merganser, ♂, 6-8♀, along Walnut Creek near Bentley St, Concord, Nov 29-30+--GL.

Rough-Legged Hawks, Byron area, east CC County, Nov 22--RBA, dark-phase, Flynn Rd, Nov 30--MDAS. Ferruginous Hawk, HRS, Nov 14-21--BR; several, Byron area, Nov 22--RBA; her Danville home, Nov 29--SE; Laughlin Rd, Livermore, Nov 28--GF,KH. Golden Eagle, 2 imm, her Danville home Nov 6--SE; 2, Athenian School, Nov 26--JB. Osprey, Lafayette Reservoir, Nov 26--G&MJM.

Lesser Golden Plover, up to 5, Drake's Corner, Pt Reyes, thru Nov 25--mob. Long-Billed Curlew, 40, I-5/I-580, Nov 24--H&NB. Red Knot, 18, Alameda So Shore, Nov 22--JR,BF et al. Red Phalarope, 2, sewage ponds, HRS, Nov 14--BR; 1, old Sutro Baths, SF, Nov 21--RH. COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL, thru Nov 25, FRANKLIN'S GULL, 1-2, thru Nov 22, LITTLE GULL, thru Nov 9, Stockton Oxidation Ponds--GF,KH,JR, et al. Black Legged Kittiwake, HRS, Nov 14--BR.

Lewis' Woodpecker, 2-4, Shell Ridge, Nov 6-26--T&GF,KH. "Red-Naped" Sapsucker, Strybing Arboretum, Nov 12-26--JM,mob. Tropical Kingbird, Mendoza Rch, Pt Reyes, Nov 4-5--RBA,GF,KH. DUSKY-CAPPED (Olivaceous) FLYCATCHER, PRBO, Palomarin, Nov 12-14--RBA. EURASIAN SKYLARK, ret to Pt Reyes for 6th consec year, Spaletta Rch, Nov 2-5, Hall Rch, Nov 6-25--RSt, mob.

Red-Breasted Nuthatch, area gardens thru period--mob. Varied Thrush, many reports, including gardens, Mt Diablo SP, thru period--mob. TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE, Mtn View San, Nov 5--H&NB. Golden-Crowned Kinglet, many reports including gardens, thru period--mob. RUSTY BLACKBIRD, New Willows, Pt Reyes, Nov 2--RBA.

Evening Grosbeak, ♀, her Antioch garden, Nov 21-30+--EW. Red Crossbill, Strybing Arboretum, Nov 15--JR. White-Throated Sparrow, near Calif Acad of Sci, Golden Gate Pk, Nov 1-26--mob; their Belmont garden, Nov 1-7--R&FN; her Walnut Creek garden, Nov 3--WO; their Walnut Creek garden, Nov 3-4--L&RH. SWAMP SPARROW Dumbarton Pt, Nov 2--BR. MCCOWN'S LONGSPUR, Spaletta Rch, Nov 1-4--RSt, et al. Lapland Longspur, 2-5, San Lorenzo Trail, thru Nov 30+--BR; 1-6, Spaletta Rch, & 1-2 Hall Rch, thru Nov 26--mob. Chestnut-Collared Longspur, 1-2, Spaletta Rch, thru Nov 4--mob; 2, Hall Rch, thru Nov 4--mob.

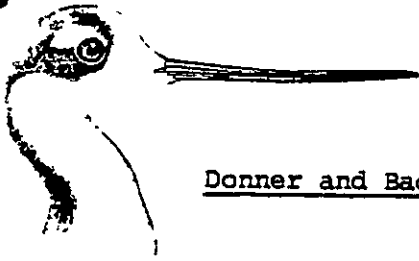
OBSERVERS: Hugh & Norah Bain, Florence Bennett, Joe Broyles, Bill Chilson, Elizabeth Dickey, Shimi Edmondson, Tonie & George Finger, Bud Fry, Bill & Mary Jane Greene, Joy Hall, Kevin Hints, Lura & Ralph Hudgins, Gayle Langton, George & Molly Jane Monheit, Joe Morlan, Roy & Fran Nelson, Winnie Orcutt, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Lee & Kirk Robinson, Rich Stallcup, Susan & Maury Stern, Barbara Williams, NoCal Rare Bird Alert, many observers.

Observations need not be rare- report common birds in uncommon places, at uncommon times, or doing uncommon things. See BIRDS OF NORTHERN CALIF (from Lindsay Museun, Natural Instincts); central and east county: "Birds of Contra Costa Co" by MDAS. NoCal Rare Bird Alert, 843-2211, changed weekly. Observations deadline, 1st of the month for sightings the previous month.

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

GREATER BAY AREA SITE GUIDE:

By Jean Richmond

Donner and Back Canyons

Access: In Walnut Creek go east on Ygnacio Valley Rd, south 3 miles on Clayton Rd which becomes Marsh Creek Rd. past Clayton, right on Regency Dr to end.

To reach Donner Canyon take the fireroad, turn left thru Regency Gate to the left fireroad. The trail thru rolling grassland, oaks, goes along the creek, lined with willow, buckeye, & oak-covered hillside beyond. Look for Black-Shouldered Kite, perhaps Red-Shouldered Hawk, Nuttall's Woodpecker, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Western Bluebird, both goldfinches, other woodland birds.

Past a trail gate, in a denser woodland, the road narrows, climbs up Donner Canyon. Red-Breasted Sapsucker among woodpeckers, thrushes, vireos, warblers, Purple & House Finches are here. At a 2nd gate by the old Heatherington house with open grasslands, a grass/chaparral-covered ridge to the right, wooded hillsides on the left, are hawks, woodpeckers, thrushes, kinglets, sparrows, finches; Phainopepla has been here.

The trail begins a steep ascent thru an area, burned in 1977 fire, with dead snags used as perches by birds. Toyon is all over, its berries attracting many thrushes, Purple Finches, etc. Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Rufous-Sided and Brown Towhees, several sparrows are in thick brush. Alternate route here: 1/2 mile Heatherington Loop south of the house, across the creek, up along the stream, then it drops down, crosses the creek, rejoins the main trail.

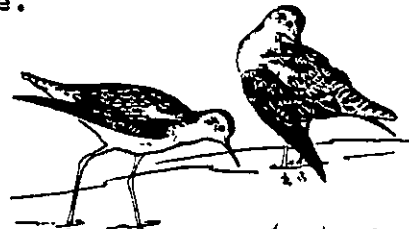
At a junction on a saddle turn right on the fireroad up Meridian Ridge to where the trail turns left, heads south uphill. Enjoy the view as you look for hawks, Golden Eagle, swallows flying here; White-Throated Swifts may sail just overhead.

Beyond the turn Back Creek Trail on the right drops quickly south down an open hillside, with Rufous-Crowned Sparrows, to thick riparian at the creek, then turns north dropping steadily down a rocky path to a streamlet beyond which the trail is no longer steep. The path swings east to Back Creek, down its narrow canyon with willows, blackberries. Just beyond the 2nd creek crossing here, is a large oak on each side of the stream a cave on the rar side. Here are California Thrasher, Western Bluebird, kinglets, sparrows, many Rufous-Sided Towhees.

On down the canyon, a trail on the right comes from near Heatherington house. Past this junction creek and path go thru a blackberry tangle to open oak woodland on the right, thicker woodland with some Digger and Coulter Pines on the left. Look for Nuttall's, Downy & Hairy Woodpeckers, other woodland birds. At the junction beyond Murchio Gate take the fireroad down Back Creek, thru rolling grassland to a dirt service road, turn right then bear left to Regency Gate.

Facilities: none; carry water on 5-mile loop. Poison oak along Back Creek. Best birding: spring, fall; can be warm in canyons, hot in summer; trails muddy after rains. April wildflowers spectacular; California grape has fantastic fall color. Detailed Mt Diablo State Park Trail Map, \$2, at State Park or Lindsay Museum.

Other Birds: accipiters, perhaps Band-Tailed Pigeon, Anna's & Allen's Hummingbirds, flycatchers (Olive-Sided, Wood Pewee, Western, Black Phoebe, Ash-Throated),<sup>2</sup> Western Tanager, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, sparrows (including Lincoln's, Fox), Northern Oriole.



<sup>2</sup> Bewick's & House Wrens, 3 Thrushes, 3 vireos  
(Western Nuthatch, mustel, myogram)

## WHERE DO QUAILS COME FROM?

Contrary to popular belief, Quails are not hatched but are painstakingly assembled by a group of volunteers.

First of the month deadlines seem, to many, rather premature. However, most other publications do not seem to go through such a circuitous journey to their respective readers.

It has taken a large group of us to equal Jean Richmond's herculean efforts to put out the Quail every month (and to think she did it single-handedly!). First, the monthly contributors Jimm Edgar-Calendar Page, Al McNabney-Conservation Editor, and Jean Richmond-Observations Editor, send me their material. The various field trip leaders send me reports and numerous other organizations send items which are dutifully typed up. Then Joy Hall, our Art Director, receives my bits and scraps of paper and transforms them with judicious use of art work and talent into our final copy. Jimm then makes copies and takes some parts to the printer. Our fledgling Quail is picked up from the printer and delivered to George Finger. A monthly flock of members have a marvelous time folding, stapling, and affixing address labels while exchanging, no doubt, tall birding stories (if you want to join the fun contact George Finger, 933-2468).

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.

The address labels have been prepared from information supplied our new membership chairwoman, Ethel Beckerman, and then given to the computer label contractor, Jean Fahmie, who mails them ahead of time to George.

After sorting and bundling, the Quails are taken to the Alamo post office and, Lord willing, are delivered to our members before the next general meeting.

AMONG THE WILD CHIMPANZEES:

## An Evening with Jane Goodall

On Wednesday, Jan 4, 1984, The Jane Goodall Institute presents the premiere benefit screening of National Geographic's new film Among the Wild Chimpanzees, with a talk by Dr. Jane Goodall. This launches the fundraising campaign of the Jane Goodall Institute to match a generous \$250,000 challenge grant to support Dr. Goodall's work. For details: 681-3003.

CLASSIFIED: For sale- Celestron C-90 spotting scope with 2 lenses, porro prism, Nikon camera mount. \$300.  
284-5980

Mt Diablo Audubon Society  
PO Box 53  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

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WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94596

(415) AUD-UBON

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

February 1984

Vol 30, No 7

Next deadline: February 1, 1984

MEETING Thurs, Feb 2, 1984, Walnut Creek Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave, Walnut Creek.

Birding Information: 7:00 PM: Tom Stellar "Adaptations for Flight".

Business meeting: 7:30 PM. Social time: 8:00 PM. Program: 8:30 PM.

"Birds of Alaska" by Doug Herr. Doug is an excellent wildlife photographer. He has done a program for us on the Everglades a few years ago. He is a member of our chapter and has returned to the area for several years.

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

• Thurs, Feb 2, Lafayette Reservoir, 8:30 AM. Single meeting place. The reservoir has a wide variety of water and land birds. Go west on Mt Diablo Blvd from downtown Lafayette to the well marked turnoff. Have 4 quarters or dollar bill for entrance gate or park below on Mt Diablo Blvd. Leader: Mary Jane Culver, 682-0509.

• Sat-Sun Feb 11 and 12, Los Banos/Merced National Wildlife Refuges. Bittern, Ibis, Ross' Goose, and other water fowl in the refuges. Mt. Plover, Lewis' Woodpecker, Phainopepla, Mt Bluebird in Panoche Valley. Sat. meet 8:45 AM Shell Station east side of I-5, SR140 interchange. Sun. meet 8:00AM Little Panoche Reservoir on Road J-1 west of I-5. Make motel reservations immediately (see Jan Quail) to join in Saturday dinner, call Elizabeth Dickey to confirm 254-0486. Leader: Jean Richmond, 837-2843. If going please contact Jean as details may vary

• Wed Feb 15, Solano Co/Jepson Prairie, carpool: southwest corner Sun Valley Ctr, 8:00. This area 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 right. We will bird the back roads in the area; if you are late, Jepson Prairie is east of Travis Air Force Base (not on AAA maps). Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486.

• Sat Feb 25, Thornton area, 9:00 AM. Carpool: Southwest corner of Sun Valley Ctr 7:15 AM. We should see Tundra Swan, geese, ducks, Sandhill Cranes, many land and water birds, perhaps Bitter and Green-Backed Heron. The cranes might be doing their courtship dance. Go north on SR-24, east on SR-4, cross the Antioch Bridge, continue on SR-160 to SR-12. Turn right 16 miles to Thornton Rd, then left 3 miles and meet at the junction with Woodbridge Rd. Leaders: Merv and Norma Ortez, 283-3072.

• Sat-Sun March 17-18, Honey Lake-Sage Grouse. Leader: Tim Manolis (for info Jean Richmond 837-2843). Susanville Motels: Frontier Inn 916-257-4141, \$18 single, \$20 double. Best Western Trailside Inn 916-257-4123, \$26 single \$30 double, or see AAA directory.

Thurs February 9, 7:30  
BOARD Home of Margaret Wadsworth,  
MEETING 247 Los Felicas Ave, Walnut  
Creek, 939-8422. Board meetin  
are open to all members.

CONSERVATION NOTES

by Al McNabney

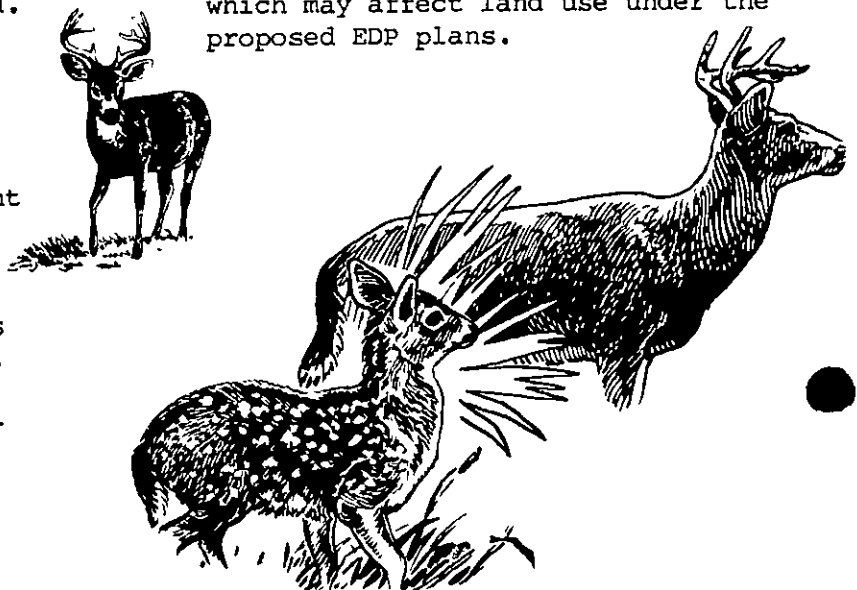
**CLEAN WATER NEEDS ACTION** The Clean Water Act is now stalled in the Senate; there are mischievous efforts by various senators to dilute the provisions of the act. Any such action, if effective will assure that the water you drink, and use for domestic purposes will NOT be as clean as it should be. Also involved are the wetlands. Wetlands are vital for migratory bird use and fish hatcheries. If the few acres (comparitively speaking) of remaining wetlands are to be preserved (and thus the birdlife and wildlife dependent on wetlands) it is essential that you tell your senators what you want. Write Senators Cranston and Wilson TODAY. Bills which should be supported include S 431- Sen. Chaffee and S 2006, the Senate nonpoint source pollution control program. For further info call Hope Babcock, 202-547-9009.

**BIRDS AND RADIO TOWERS DON'T MIX** A proposal has been initiated to allow construction of 4 radio transmission towers in Alviso to be erected right on the edge of the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The environmental Impact Report takes the position that bird kills from striking the guy wires, towers, etc "...will be greater for wintering shore-birds, ducks, gulls, and other water birds making low, local flights, than for migrating water birds and songbirds". The US Army Corps of Engineers and Dept of City Planning, San Jose are involved. Audubon has entered objections to the proposed towers.

**\$\$\$\$ FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES** You can now "lend a hand". California legislation AB 384 establishes the right of the individual taxpayer (YOU) to make direct contributions toward the Endangered and Rare Fish, Wildlife and Plant Account from refunds of income tax monies which are due you. Deep cuts in State money allocated to protection of wildlife endanger programs that have had succuss. Your designation of money from your tax refund toward this worthy account will have a positive and important effect.

**WILDERNESS MORE-LESS OR NONE??** It appears the fate of the California Wilderness legislation, now stalled in the Senate will depend, to a large extent on the position finally taken by Senator Wilson. The House has already passed a measure that would provide for protection of wilderness areas; it would accomplish many of the ends believed important to the future of native wildlife. Senator Wilson should hear from YOU-now. Failure to pass this proposed legislation may mean there will be little to NO protection for California's wilderness areas-a loss for the entire nation.

**ONE SMALL STEP FOR MANKIND** Previously reported-Contra Costa Supervisors proposed an Economic Development program but questions were raised by Audubon and others concerning public participation in land use decisions which may emanate from the program. The Board of Supervisors, by unanimous vote feels " the concerns expressed on behalf of the Mt Diablo Audubon Society and the suggestions presented by the Housing and Community Development Advisory Committee be CONSIDERED at the workshop to be scheduled in the near future". Joining with Audubon, the Committee of Citizens for Planning and Permit Assistance will also participate in the attempt to develop an adequate plan to assure public participation in decisions which may affect land use under the proposed EDP plans.





## FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

The Lake Merritt trip was extended to include Emeryville and the Berkeley Waterfront because of a reported King Eider which was not there and an Oldsquaw which was. The day was overcast and a total of 65 species was seen by 10 observers. Also seen was a Thayer's Gull and an escaped Brazilian Cardinal at Lake Merritt.

## 1983 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Although a foggy Mt Diablo and some morning clouds elsewhere were present, very warm temperatures and lack of wind or rain helped us reach a record breaking count. Better coverage of certain areas and the generally good weather helped us have a large number of record high numbers for many species (a \* marks these species in the list). Kevin and Kent thank all of the 71 participants, particularly the party leaders and those who helped put the count together. The following is a list of the 148 species and their numbers:

Common 1, \*Arctic 8, \*Red-Throated 16, Loon; Horned 5, Eared 11, Western 60 (includes 1 Clark's), Pied-Billed 70 Grebe; Double-Crested Cormorant 141, Great Blue Heron 39, Green Heron 8, Cattle Egret 5, Great 107, Snowy 197 Egret, \*Black-Crowned Night Heron 78, \*American Bittern 47; Whistling Swan 5; Canada Goose 72; Mallard 562; Gadwall 826; Pintail 687; Green-Winged 90, Blue-Winged 1, Cinnamon 30 Teal; Am Wigeon 4865; No Shoveler 9634; Ring-Necked Duck 7; Canvasback 2; Com Goldeneye 24 Bufflehead 48; Ruddy Duck 162, Hooded 2, Common 27, Red-Breasted 1 Merganser;

Turkey Vulture 124, Black-Shouldered Kite 56, Sharp-Shinned 9, Cooper's 8, Red-Tailed 128, Ferruginous 1 Hawk; Golden Eagle 11; No Harrier 81; falcon sp 1, Merlin 1, Am Kestrel 167; Ca Quail 389; Ring-Necked Pheasant 17;

Clapper Rail 1, \*Virginia Rail 152, \*Sora 63, \*Black Rail 12 (a probable new all-time national high for a CBC); Am Coot 689; Killdeer 172; Bl-Bellied Plover 1; \* C Snipe 127; curlew sp 20; Sp Sandpiper 2; Willet 85; Greater 39, Lesser 1 Yellowlegs; Least Sandpiper 26; Dunlin 1, dowitcher sp 89; Am Avocet 66; \*Black-Necked Stilt 106, Red Phalarope 1;

C Flicker 232; \*Acorn 140, Lewis' 3, Hairy 1, Downy 12, Nuttall's 74 Woodpecker; Red-Breasted Sapsucker 8; Black 62, Say's 15 Phoebe, Horned Lark 2; Tree Swallow 406; Steller's 103, Scrub 472 Jay; C Raven 2, C Crow 28;

Chestnut-Backed Chickadee 20; Pl Titmouse 141; Bushtit 498; White-Breasted 55, Red-Breasted 3 Nuthatch; Brown Creeper 5; Wrentit 49;

Winter 3, Bewick's 49, \*Marsh 62, Rock 9 Wren; Mockingbird 148; Ca Thrasher 20; Am Robin 4885; \*Varied 201, Hermit 69 Thrush; West Bluebird 391; Golden-Crowned 21, Ruby-Crowned 225 Kinglet; Water Pipit 123; Cedar Waxwing 669; Loggerhead Shrike 110; \*Eur Starling 14080

Hutton's Vireo 11; Orange-Crowned 1, Yellow-Rumped 238, Myrtle 3, Audubon's 216 Warbler; \* C Yellowthroat 126; Hse Sparrow 57; West Meadowlark 720; Red-Winged 1525, Tricolored 20 Blackbird; Brewer's Blackbird 4041, Brown-Headed Cowbird 6;

Purple 12, House 999 Finch; Pine Siskin 67; American 340, Lesser 319 Goldfinch; Rufous-Sided 101, Brown 268 Towhee; Savannah 151, Lark 70, Rufous-Crowned 7, White-Crowned 896, Golden-Crowned 845, White-Throated 1, Fox 34, \*Lincoln's 56, \*Song 424 Sparrow; sparrow sp 350, Dark-Eyed Junco 1037; duck sp 63, accipiter sp 4, buteo sp 11, WesternX Glaucous-Winged Gull 10, Owl sp 1, \*blackbird sp 61,750.

Also during the Count period: Long-Eared Owl, Dark-Eyed Junco (slate-colored form) and THE THRASHER.

## ADAMSONS' SEED CAKE

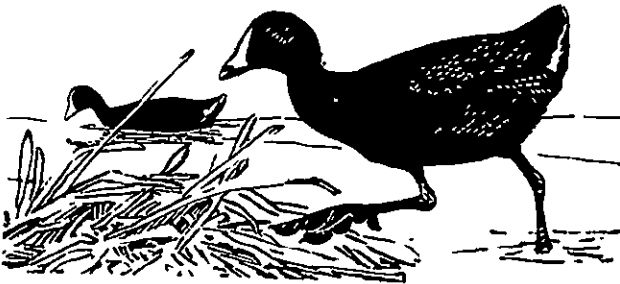
Cook 2 cups cornmeal, 3 cups water until thick; stir constantly as it burns easily. Grease the bottom of the pot so it does not stick. Remove; add 1 1/2 cups melted grease ( 1 cup in summer). DO NOT use any containing tomato sauce as birds do not like it. Do in a mixer or let grease congeal first if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

## ANOTHER TOWER PLANNED FOR MT DIABLO

There is a proposal to erect a sixth communication tower on the north peak of Mt Diablo. Family Stations Inc will be applying by early March to the county Planning Commission to erect the new 90 foot television tower.

Bob Doyle of Save Mt Diablo said he was distressed that another tower is proposed for the north peak. "All we can say to the citizens of the area is 'We told you so,'" said Doyle who led his organization in an unsuccessful fight to block the Channel 42 tower.

Contra Costa Times, January 11, 1984.



## SAVE THE SNAGS

Friends of Animals, Inc, lists 85 species of American birds that nest in cavities formed in dead and dying trees. When these trees are removed, natural systems are disturbed. Often, the more adaptable cavity-nesters such as European Starlings and House Sparrows, move into man-made structures. But others, such as bluebirds and woodpeckers, will simply be driven away.

There aren't many places in America where dead or decaying trees are tolerated. And that's one of the reasons why so many cavity-nesting birds have disappeared. Large, dead, and dying trees should be left alone whenever possible. They are vital not only for birds, but also for other creatures which depend on them—from squirrels and raccoons, to the soil itself, which benefits as the tree gradually decomposes, the way Nature intended.

## BIRD ALERT NUMBERS

San Bernardino.....	(213)	793-5599
San Francisco.....	(415)	843-2211
Santa Barbara.....	(805)	964-8240
Los Angeles.....	(213)	874-1318
L.A. Audubon House.....	(213)	876-0202
Monterey Bay.....	(408)	899-3030
Tucson, AZ.....	(602)	881-9464

## ROGER TORY PETERSON RETURNS!

The world's best known birder, Dr. Roger Tory Peterson, is again writing a regular magazine column on birds after a hiatus of more than 20 years. Peterson's first column will appear in the January/February issue of Bird Watcher's Digest. In it the dean of American bird watchers writes about Audubon's problems in identifying "confusing warblers".

Bird Watcher's Digest, now in its sixth year of publication, is bimonthly. It is not available on newsstands, but subscriptions can be obtained by contacting Jean Richmond, 837-2843. \$5.00 of each subscription goes to Mt Diablo Audubon through BWD's special offer which has been extended through December 1984.

## 5TH ANNUAL KLAMATH BASIN BALD EAGLE CONFERENCE

The Fifth Annual Bald Eagle Conference will be held in Klamath Falls, Oregon Friday February 17-19 at the Oregon Institute of Technology. The conference is scheduled to coincide with the peak concentration of wintering Bald Eagles in the Klamath Basin; the largest population of wintering Bald Eagles in the lower 48.

The weekend of events includes a free film festival, art show, conference speakers and workshops. The banquet speaker will be Ian Armstrong, representing the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds for Northern England. For details contact Katie Ardt, 4647 Miller Is Rd, Klamath Falls, OR 97603.

OBSERVATIONS: for December.

Arctic Loon, Frick Lk, Livermore, Dec 2--GF, KH; 4, Lafayette Res, Dec 4--G&MJM.  
Red-Throated Loon, Lafayette Res, Dec 14--NB. All 3 loon species, Hayward Reg Shoreline (HRS), Dec 4--BR. Northern Fulmar, Morro Bay, Dec 30--H&NB; 60, just offshore, Monterey CBC, Dec 30--JE&MS. SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATER, 20 just offshore, Monterey CBC, Dec 30--JE&MS.

Brown Pelican, 2 imm, SR-37 near Skaggs Island, Solano Co, Nov 25--G&WY; 1, Lafayette Res, Dec 1-4--H&NB, GYMJM.  
Double-Crested Cormorant, over his Walnut Creek home, Dec 26--RH. Green-Backed Heron, along Walnut Creek near Bentley St, Concord, Dec 5--GL; Newhall Com Pk, Concord, Dec 14--RS. Cattle Egret, I-680 near Parish Rd, Solano Co, Dec 3--JR; 3 Lopes Rd near Lk Herman Rd, Solano Co, Dec 22--G&WY.

Eurasian Wigeon, San Lorenzo Trail near HRS, Dec 4--BR; Golden Gate Pk, thru Dec 31+--RBA. Barrow's Goldeneye, 8, Lk Merritt, Dec 20--JR, BF, B&MJG, et al; 2♂, Leo Ryan Pk, Foster City, thru period--mob. OLDSQUAW, ♀, Frick Lk, Dec 2--GF, KH; Berkeley Pier, Dec 27-31+--mob. Harlequin Duck, ♂, Moss Landing, Monterey Co, Dec 31--G&WY. White-Winged & Black Scoters, on SF Bay off Candlestick Pk, SF, Dec 21--JE, JG. Hooded Merganser, 1-2♀, Boundary Oaks Golfcourse, Walnut Creek, Dec 14-19--RS, KH, JR, GF. SMEW, ♂, returned to Leo Ryan Park, Dec 26-31+ for 3rd winter--mob. Common Merganser, ♂, 8♀, along Walnut Creek near Bentley St, Dec 5--GL.

Black-Shouldered Kite, roost of 40, Highland Rd, Livermore, Dec 4--GF.  
Rough-Legged Hawk, dk ph, Old Ranch Rd, San Ramon, Dec 21--RR. Ferruginous Hawk, Ave 71/2, Madera Co, & dk ph, SR-165, Merced Co, Dec 14--JR; ad, HRS, Dec 16-31--BR. Bald Eagle, 3 ad, San Luis Res, Merced Co, Dec 25--H&NB; 1 ad, Frick Lk, Dec 28--G&WY. Osprey, Lafayette Res, Dec 1--MJM; HRS, Dec 16--BR. American Kestrels perch on fence posts in their San Ramon yard, not unusual except the cat stalks them; neither has caught the other--yet--RR.

Virginia Rail, Caves Trail, Tilden Reg Pk, Dec 6--RS. Long-Billed Curlew, 30, I-5/I-580, Stanislaus Co, Dec 12--JR.

COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL, thru Dec 12, FRANKLIN'S GULL, 1-2, thru Dec 12, LITTLE GULL, thru Dec 10, all Stockton Oxi Ponds--RBA. Short-Eared Owl, Hartford Rd, Livermore, Dec 2 & 15--KH, GF, JR.

"Red-Naped" Sapsucker, Strybing Arboretum, Golden Gate Pk, thru Dec 31+--RBA. Common Raven, over his Walnut Creek home, Dec 28--RH. SAGE THRASHER, their Walnut Creek garden, Dec 1-31+--B&MW, JM. WOOD THRUSH, near archery range, Golden Gate Pk, Dec 22-31+--JM, mob. Varied Thrush, many reports, including gardens, thru period.

Golden-Crowned Kinglet, many reports, including gardens, thru period. BOHEMIAN WAXWING, their Lafayette garden, Dec 8--H&BA. TENNESSEE WARBLER, their Lafayette garden, Nov 11-25--H&BA. Townsend's Warbler, 2, her Alamo garden, Dec 8--JR; 1, their Orinda garden, Dec 14-23--H&NB. Western Tanager, imm ♂, his Lafayette garden, Dec 6--MS. EVENING GROSBEEK, ♀, her Antioch garden, thru period--BW.

SHARP-TAILED SPARROW, 2, Pine Gulch Creek, Bolinas Lagoon, Dec 4-19--RBA, MS. "Slate-Colored" Junco, their Moraga garden, thru period--E&MM; Black Diamond Mines Reg Pk, Dec 19--KH, GF, BR, JR. White-Throated Sparrow, their Moraga garden, Dec 18-31--E&MM; his Lafayette garden, Dec 25--MS. SWAMP SPARROW, Pine Gulch Creek, thru Dec 19--RBA, MS; Monterey CBC, Dec 30--JE, MS. Lapland Longspur, 2, HRS, thru period--BR, et al.

SoCal birds, late Dec: Wood Stork, "Blue" Goose, ZONE-TAILED HAWK, Thick-Billed Kingbird, Gray Catbird, Worm-Eating Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, 3! KENTUCKY WARBLERS, Hepatic Tanager--BC, BR, DE, JG, EH, JH.

OBSERVERS: Harry & Betty Adamson, Hugh & Norah Bain, Bill Chilson, Jimm Edgar, Dick Erickson, George Finger, Bill & Mary Jane Greene, Jeff Greenhouse, Joy Hall, Ed Hase, Kevin Hintsa, Lura & Ralph Hudgins, Gayle Langton, Ellis & Mimi Myers, George & Molly Jane Monheit, Joe Morlan, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Ruth Rosen, Rich Sintchak, Maury Stern, Bill & Margaret Wadsworth, Barbara Williams, Gifford & Winnie Young, 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.

## CONDOR UPDATE

## ACTION IMPLEMENTER

A controversial decision to remove the last 1983 chick from its nest was critical to the overall recovery plan. Removal of the chick allows its parents to breed again in 1984. With only 4 pairs in the wild, it is imperative that they all breed every year. Further, the parents of this chick can be stimulated to lay up to 3 eggs in a single season. Because the offspring of this pair are well represented in captivity this chick, along with some from the 3 eggs hopefully produced this year can be released into the wild in 1985.

Bill Toone, San Diego  
Audubon Newsletter, Jan 1984.

ADDENDA to Greater Bay Area Site Guide, Donner/Back Canyons, January 1984.

Other birds should read: ";.....Black Phoebe, Ash-Throated), Bewick's and House Wrens, 3 thrushes, 3 vireos, "western" warblers (mostly migrant), Western Tanager,....."

Jean Richmond

Letters and telegrams have a powerful impact. Legislators say their mail influences their decisions and strengthens their positions.

For the best effect, make your letters brief and to the point. Identify the bill by its title or number and give one or two reasons why you are for or against it. Ask for their opinion and don't forget to praise legislators when they do a good job.

The Sierra Club, Bay Chapter has available a 1983-84 Action Implementer wallet card. Included is a list of California legislators, State agencies, US Senators, and Representatives, and Federal agencies. Also listed are local telegraph offices and instructions for sending telegrams and making phone calls. This is a very handy card with everything you need to express your opinion about conservation issues. Contact the Sierra Club, Bay Chapter, 6014 College Ave, Oakland, CA 94618.

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.

Mt Diablo Audubon Society  
PO 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



March 1984

Vol. 30 No 8

Next deadline: March 1, 1984

MEETING Thursday, March 1, Walnut Creek Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave, Walnut Creek. Birding Information: 7:00 pm; Suzanne Methvin "Bird Songs-How to Identify the Songs of Spring". Business Meeting: 7:30pm Social Time: 8:00pm. Program: 8:30pm David Wimpfheimer "Eurasian Raptor Migration". David is Northern California coordinator of the Mono Lake Committee. He recently did extensive study in Europe on raptors and will show slides of his study.

FIELD Trips open to members and nonmembers. Bring binocs, TRIPS lunch, field guided. Car-pool time is departure time. Carpool expense, 5 cents per mile

Wed, March 7, Sunol Regional Wilderness 8:15 am. Carpool: El Cerro Blvd at I-680, Danville 7:30 am. Hawks and land-birds are in good numbers here. 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 freeway about 4 miles to Geary Rd then left about 2 miles to the park headquarters. Leader: Maury Stern, 284-5980.

west Lafayette

Thurs, Marh 15, 5-Brooks and Bolinas Lagoon, 9:00 am. Carpool: Acalanes Rd. just north of fwy 24, 7:30 am. We will bird the pond at 5-Brooks then seek early migrants on the trail. After noon we go to Bolinas Lagoon to take advantage of ebbing tide to look for shorebirds and waterbirds. Cross the San Rafael bridge, go north on US 101 for 0.6 miles, take San Rafael exit

2 blocks to 3rd St, turn left and go out through Fairfax to SR 1, turn left about 5 miles to the trailhead parking lot at 5-Brooks. Leader: Norah Bain 254-4516.

\* Sat-Sun, March 17-18, Honey Lake-Sage Grouse. Besides Sage Grouse, Honey Lake has many waterfowl species, Goshawk among 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. <sup>6:30</sup> 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.

Meet Sat, 9:00 am, Fleming Unit HQ, Honey Lake WMA; Sun, <sup>4</sup>7:30 am Basque cafe in Litchfield. Motels: see Feb Quail. There will be a nominal fee to cover expenses of our expert leader. Carry chains. Leader: Tim Manolis; info: Jean Richmond (837-~~9661~~) - call her if going; last year's trip was cancelled due to weather.

\* Thurs, March 21, Lake Lagunitas & Bon Tempe, 9:30 am. Carpool: 8:15 am, Pleasant Hill Rd and Acalanes Ave just north of Fwy 24. There will be some waterbirds, but mostly woodland birds and hopefully Piliated Woodpecker. Cross the San Rafael Bridge, go north 0.6 miles on US 101 to San Rafael exit. At

2nd signal go left on 3rd St. Shortly beyond the Marin Country Club sign in Fairfax, turn left then right on Broadway. Go left on Bolinas Ave, left on Old Bolinas-Fairfax Rd to Lake Lagunitas parking lot at end of road. \$2.00 parking fee. Leader: Jimm Edgar, 283-3510.

- \* Sat March 31, Donner Canyon, 7:30 am. No carpool, one meeting place. In Walnut Creek, go east on Ygnacio Valley Rd south 3 miles on Clayton Rd which becomes Marsh Creek Rd past Clayton, go right on Regency Dr to the end to reach Donner Canyon. This is where we will meet. The canyon should have many interesting spring birds. (see Site Guide, January '83). Leader: George Finger 933-2468.

BOARD MEETING Thurs, March 8, 7:30, home of Gifford Young, 1451 Janet Court, Benicia, 707-745-4134. Board meetings are open to all members.

#### FIELD TRIP REPORTS

The Black Point and Lake Chabot trip on January 19 was on a clear day with temps ranging from 50-60 degrees. A total of 73 species was listed; among them were: White Pelican, Green-Winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, 2 adult Golden Eagles, Common Moorhen, Long-Billed Curlew, Whimbrel, Red-Breasted Sapsucker, Tree Swallow, many Varied Thrushes, and Myrtle and Audubon's Warbler.

The Clifton Court Forebay and area trip on January 28 was attended by 14 members. The group walked almost 7 miles roundtrip. Fog lifted about 10:30 on the way back so birding improved on the return trip. Lunch was at Bethany Reservoir with a beautiful Ferruginous Hawk soaring overhead and an adult and an immature Bald Eagle on a nearby power tower.

A sub-adult Golden Eagle soared above as they left. There were so many Black-Shouldered Kites they lost count! Six Burrowing owls were in one field with 4 in binocular field of view at once. A stop at Marsh Creek Reservoir produced 2-3,000 Ring-Necked Ducks. A total of 83 species was seen including

Prairie Falcon, Merlin and a small loon seen in flight...possible Arctic or Red-Throated.

Putah Creek and Lake Solano was visited by 20 Mt Diablo members and guests on January 7. The weather was foggy with temps between 45-50°. A total of 82 species was seen including: Whistling Swan, White-Fronted Goose, Red-Shouldered Hawk, Winter Wren, Canyon Wren, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, and Phainopepla.

#### CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

Steve Bailey will teach a Spring Shore-bird class late in March and April, 1984, if there are enough participants (minimum 15 required).

The class will have 4 night sessions at Stanley Intermediate School in Lafayette, and two 5 hour fieldtrips. The cost will be about \$25-30. Please contact Maury Stern at 284-5980 (home) or 943-2252 (work) for information or sign-ups.

Natural Excursions (Point Reyes Bird Observatory) is offering SPRING IN CALIFORNIA DESERTS; exploring the Mohave Desert April 15-20 and the Colorado Desert April 23-28. This exploration into the remote regions of the California deserts should coincide with the peak wildflower bloom and bird migration for the spring. The trip is led by Jules Evens and Michael Ellis.

BREEDING BIRDS OF PALOMARIN is an intense one-day class given by Dave DeSante Ph.D. which will emphasize the breeding biology of the landbird species found at the south end of the Pt Reyes National Seashore.

For info on both these classes contact PRBO (415) 868-1221.

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

CONSERVATION NOTES

BY Al McNabney

DDT-EDB-2,4-D Toxic chemicals are  
 PCB-WHAT DOES much in today's news  
 IT MEAN??? and government regu-  
 lators seem to do little  
 about their use. Bird people protest  
 that some of the pesticides have been  
 directly responsible for large declines  
 in the bird population. Just recently  
 one of the limited number of Condors  
 still in existence was found dead;  
 evidently from poison administered (with  
 government approval) to kill coyotes.  
 EDB is believed to have serious effects  
 on humans, yet for over 2 years respon-  
 sible governmental agencies have looked  
 the other way as the highly toxic chem-  
 ical has been used. DDT, banned in Cal-  
 ifornia for 12 years is still being  
 found in high amounts, particularly on  
 the North coast and in the high Sierra.  
 Allegations that DDT is being smuggled  
 into the state are discounted. A recent  
 article on the subject carried this  
 comment: "To this day, almost all humans  
 carry DDT deposits in their fatty tissue,  
 and although it is known to be lethal  
 to many types of wildlife-including  
 birds and shellfish- its long-term  
 health affects in humans are unknown."

BALANCE NECESSARY FOR A SF news-  
 CONSERVATION & PROGRESS paper carried  
 a series of  
 articles indicating creation of Contra  
 Costapolis is inevitable. Wildlife  
 habitat, valuable farmland and a peace-  
 ful way of life for Contra Costans are  
 to give way to vast areas of office  
 parks, freeways and the like. Many  
 actions have already been taken which  
 make the inevitability of a Contra  
 Costapolis likely. While a few want to  
 stop progress, many want progress to  
 be that and not a concrete jungle of  
 autos, smog, and freeways. Your voice  
 and your views can have an important  
 effect on future activity in Contra  
 Costa County. Use your rights or lose  
 them.

ACID RAIN-A PAIN Another view of prob-  
 OR A DISASTER??? lems caused by acid  
 rain comes from  
 Europe. Forests in central Europe are  
 dying. Some one to two million hectares  
 (2.5-5million acres) of forest land  
 have been hit and the main causes are  
 said to be discharges of air pollutants,  
 especially sulphur dioxide and nitrogen  
 oxides. Trees are injured directly by  
 sulpher dioxide in the air and by the  
 secondary effects of soil acidivication.

ACME FILL Garbage. A problem not  
 OVER THE HILL only in Contra Costa  
 County but everywhere  
 has developed into a major issue over a  
 proposal by the Acme Corp. for permis-  
 sion fo fill 173.7 acres of marshland  
 adjacent to the existing fill and approx-  
 imately 2 mi east of Martinez adjoining  
 Walnut and Pacheco Creeks. Opposition  
 by various groups on a local level failed  
 to stop the proposal. Various concerned  
 organizations, individuals, and groups  
 make presentations at a recent BCDC  
 meeting. It is now believed that BCDC,  
 looking at the obligation it has to  
 protect the Bay is and will be opposed  
 to the proposed fill. Alternative sites  
 are available.

CONDOR BREEDING John Ogden, talking  
 A SUCCESS STORY? about Audubon's  
 co-operative breeding  
 program to save the Condor is enthus-  
 iastic. Initial successes indicate the  
 procedures developed for telemetry,  
 breeding, feeding and observation have  
 been right. While these great birds are  
 not yet safe in our modern world, Ogden  
 believes they will be so firmly estab-  
 lished through the program that their  
 future will be assured. Habitat is  
 important and the areas frequented by  
 Condors have been carefully plotted.  
 Efforts are now underway to try to  
 purchase a large area of land which is  
 believed to be vital as Condor habitat.  
 While there was some opposition to the  
 Condor program most groups and interested  
 observers now support Audubon's effort.

AUDUBON Audubon Ecology Camps located  
 ECOLOGY in Main, Connecticut, Wis-  
 CAMPS consin, and Wyoming provide  
 opportunities for education,  
 companionship, exposure to rich and varied  
 ecological experiences.

MOUNT DIABLO

Save Mount Diablo Inc., a nonprofit organization endorsed by Mount Diablo Audubon, has the opportunity to add a mile-long 360-acre parcel of land to the present Mount Diablo State Park. The owners of the land, San Miguel Partners, will donate 80 acres and sell the rest to the organization. The land includes grasslands with oaks and supports a bird population. MDAS supports this acquisition project and suggests that interested members send a tax-deductible donation. Please use the coupon below and make your check payable to Save Mount Diablo.

To: Save Mount Diablo Inc.  
P.O. Box 25  
Concord, CA 94522

From: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Here is my tax-deductible donation of:  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help save Mount Diablo  
from development.  
Courtesy of Mt Diablo Audubon

NATURE SOUNDS SOCIETY MEETING

The Nature Sounds Society will hold its first general meeting at San Francisco State University on March 17, at 2 pm in the Blakslee Room, Thornton Hall. The meeting is hosted by the Avian Studies Group of the Biology Dept; Dr Robert I Bowman will speak on "Evolution of Song in Darwin's Finches".

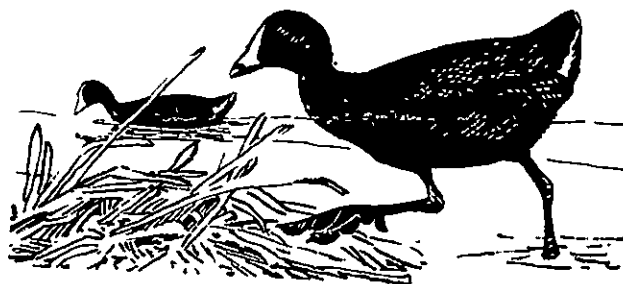
The Nature Sounds Society is sponsored by the Library of Natural Sounds of the Oakland Museum's Natural Sciences Dept and is open to interested amateurs and professionals. For further information call Oakland Museum of Natural Sciences Dept 273-3884.

DELTA PARK LEVEE REPAIRS UNLIKELY

Restoring the levees at Little Franks Tract State Park is not going to happen in the near future, if ever, according to the state Dept of Water Resources and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The island was managed by the state in a way that duplicated the swamp-like conditions of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta before man started building dikes in the area more than a century ago.

Little Franks Tract was totally inundated in the winter of 1981, reclaimed and flooded again in the winter of 1982.

Contra Costa Times



Toni Finger was kind enough to send in this excerpt from the Wisconsin Loon Watch. "That whimsical fellow called Evolution, having enlarged the dinosaur until he tripped over his own toes, tried shrinking the chickadee until he was just too big to be snatched up by flycatchers as an insect, and just too little to be pursued by hawks and owls as meat. Then he regarded his handiwork and laughed. Everyone laughs at so small a bundle of large enthusiasm"

Aldo Leopold

SUPPORT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DELEGATES

On March 11, at 3:00pm, the various Democratic presidential candidates will hold caucuses in our local congressional districts to select slates of delegates to the Democratic National Convention. Many local environmental leaders are being considered for these select positions. If they are to be selected, they need to show strong support from all of us at the caucuses. If you are a registered Democrat with a preferred candidate and wish to take part in the democratic process and push for environmental issues, call Kent Fickett at 798-7421. A strong environmental showing will not only influence policy-it will make local politicians take note of Mt Diablo Audubon's influence on the political process.



OBSERVATIONS for January. Also see trip reports.

Red-Throated Loon, Heather Farms, Jan 6--ED. Red-Necked Grebe, Leo Ryan Pk, Foster City, Jan 3--mob. Green-Backed Heron, Mt View Sanitary Dist, Jan 11--JR, MP, ED; 5--Brooks pond, Pt Reyes, Jan 17--GF, MP, CW. Cattle Egret, Hayward Regional Shoreline (HRS), Jan 6--BR, TS; 28, near Colusa NWR, Colusa Co, Jan 19--MP, KH, GF, JR. American Bittern, Mt View San, Jan 11--JR, ED, MP; San Ramon Creek at Sycamore Valley Rd, Danville, Jan 14--SE.

White-Faced Ibis, 10, Colusa NWR, Jan 19--KH, GF, MP, JR. WHOOPEE SWAN, near Grimes, Colusa Co, Jan 17-19--KZ, BL, mob; 1st state record. Greater White-Fronted Goose, HRS, Jan 6--SE, BR, et al; 2, Bolinas sewer ponds, Jan 21--DS, R&FN, et al. Snow Goose, 1-2 HRS, Jan 6-10--SE, BR, et al.

Blue-Winged Teal, 2♂, ♀, Flood Control Basin, Palo Alto, Jan 4--GF, KH; 3♂, Mt View San, Jan 6-11--GF, JR, ED, MP. Eurasian Wigeon, ♂, Mallard Lk, Golden Gate Park (GGP), thru Jan 11--mob; HRS, thru period--mob; Pt Molate, Jan 8--BR; Alameda So Shore, Jan 9--GK, LD; Bolinas sewer ponds, Jan 17--GF, CW, MP; near Grimes, Jan 19--mob; Colusa NWR, Jan 19--KH, MP, GF, JR.

Wood Duck, 2♂, Elk Glen Lk, GGP, Jan 10--JR, BF, et al; ♂, near Grimes, Jan 19--mob. Redhead, 64, Flood Control Basin, Jan 3--JR, BF, R&FN. Ring-Necked Duck, 18, Lloyd Lk, 24, Mallard Lk, GGP, Jan 10--JR, BF, et al; 15 near Grimes Jan 19--mob; 2-3,000(!), Marsh Creek Res, Jan 26-28--T&GF, mob; & 1,000 there Jan 31--JR, et al. Barrow's Goldeneye, 2♂, ♀, Leo Ryan Pk, Jan 3-4--JR, BF, R&FN, GF, KH; 10♂, 17♀, Pt Molate, Jan 8--BR.

OLDSQUAW, ♀, Berkeley pier, thru Jan 17--mob; ♂, Pt Molate, Jan 8--BR.

Hooded Merganser, 1-2♂, Leo Ryan Pk, Jan 3-4--mob; 2♂, Heather Farm, Jan 6--ED; 3♂, 2♀, 5--Brooks Pond, Jan 17--GF, MP, CW; pair, Glen Ellen, Jan 28--G&WY. SMEW, ♂, Leo Ryan Pk, thru period--mob. Common Merganser, 4 Lafayette Res, Jan 22--G&MJM.

Ferruginous Hawk, ad, HRS, thru period--BR, SE, et al; Calaveras Rd, Santa Clara

Co, Jan 25--KH, DL, GS. Golden Eagle, Ad Garin Woods Reg Pk, Jan 9--BR; 12 Altamont Pass area, Jan 30--S&MS. Bald Eagle, ad, imm, San Luis Res, Merced Co, Jan 11--G&WY. Prairie Falcon, HRS, Jan 6-31--BR, SE, et al; Alamo, Jan 17--JR. Peregrine Falcon, imm, HRS, Jan 2 & 31--BR; Bolinas Lagoon, Jan 21--DS, R&FN, et al.

Sora, Stow Lk, GGP, Jan 9-10--FS, JR, BF, et al. Rock Sandpiper, Bodega Head, Jan 14--MP, GF. COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL, Stockton Oxi ponds, thru period--mob. LITTLE GULL, Stockton Oxi ponds, thru period--mob. Northern Pygmy-Owl, Calaveras Res, Jan 25--KH, DL, GS. Short-Eared Owl, Hartford Rd, Livermore, thru Jan 28--BR; her Danville home, Jan 8--SE.

Allen's Hummingbird, ♂, returned to her Alamo garden, Jan 13--JR. Lewis' Woodpecker, up to 4, Shell Ridge, thru Jan 24--mob. Common Raven<sup>5</sup>, Lafayette Res, Jan 22--G&MJM; 2, Athenian School, Danville, Jan 29--JB. Red-Breasted Nuthatch, Pt Molate Reg Pk, Jan 8--BR. Canyon Wren, Monticello Dam, Jan 24--JR, BF, et al. SAGE THRASHER, their Walnut Creek garden, thru period (difficult to find)--B&MW, et al. WOOD THRUSH, near archery range, GGP, thru period--mob.

Mountain Bluebird, many, Little Panoche Rd, San Benito Co, Jan 11G&WY; 15, CCF area, Jan 26--T&GF. Golden-Crowned Kinglet, several reports, thru period. PINE WARELER, ad ♂, Cal Poly campus, San Luis Obispo, Jan 12-15--RBA, BR, KH, WH, BC. Western Tanager, imm ♂, her Concord garden, Jan 10--BG. SUMMER TANAGER, ♂, near North Lk, GGP, thru period--RBA, KH, DL, GS. Lawrence's Goldfinch, 2, their Walnut Creek garden, Jan 9-10--T&GF. Red Crossbill, GGP, Jan 20--SE, SL.

"Slate-Colored" Junco, 2, their Lafayette garden, late Jan--S&MS. White-Throated Sparrow, their Moraga garden, thru period--E&MM; Arboretum, GGP, Jan 10--KH, DL, GS, JR, et al. SWAMP SPARROW, 2, Palo Alto Baylands, Jan 1--L&RH; 2-3 White House Pool, Pt Reyes, Jan 17--GF, MP, CW; 2, NE corner Bolinas Lagoon, Jan 21--DS, R&FN, et al. Lapland Longspur, 2, HRS, thru period--BR, SE, et al.

## OBSERVERS FOR OBSERVATIONS:

Joe Broyles, Bill Chilson, Elizabeth Dickey, Larry Dunn, Shimi Edmondson, Tonie & George Finger, Bud Fry, Betty Gallagher, Ed Hase, Kevin Hintsa, Lura & Ralph Hudgins, Glenn Kottcamp, Sarah Lane, Dwight Lee, Betty Lewis, Ellis & Mimi Meyers, George & Molly Jane Monheit, Roy & Fran Nelson, Marjorie Plant, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Fred Safier, Dave Shuford, Granville Smith, Tom Steller, Susan & Maury Stern, Bill & Margaret Wadsworth, Chuck Wheeler, Gifford & Winnie Young, Kathy Zedekar, 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.

## BIRDERS AFIELD

Recently Jimm Edgar attended an ABA weekend (actually 6 days) given by Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT) and gave this report:

"The South Texas weekend was a great trip. We stayed in nice motels every night with breakfast at a restaurant and lunch usually in the field; dinner was on our own but the group usually dined together. Twelve people comprised the

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.

group. The two leaders, John Arvin and Joe VanOs worked hard to provide birds and everything else. They had done their homework and the trip was well planned and executed."

Jimm saw a total of 166 birds including Least Grebe, Black-Bellied Whistling Duck, Black Vulture, White-Tailed, Grey, Harris', and Common Black Hawk, Crested Caracara, Plain Chachalaca, Bobwhite, Scaled Quail, American Oystercatcher, Red-Billed Pigeon, White-Tipped Dove, Red-Crowned and Green-Throated Parrot, Eastern Screech Owl, Pauraque, Buff-Bellied Hummingbird, Ringed and Green Kingfisher, Great Kiskadee, Blue and Green Jay, Tufted Titmouse, Long-Billed and Curve-Billed Thrasher, Clay-Colored Robin, Black-Throated Green Warbler, Audubon's and Altamira Oriole, Pyrrhuloxia, White-Collared Seedeater, Olive Sparrow, Lark Bunting and Cassin's Sparrow.

Jimm had nothing but praise and high regard for VENT and their modus operandi.

Have you taken an interesting trip or tour, been to a special area to see an unusual bird, had an exciting thing happen while birding; do you have a story or anecdote about birds? If you would like to submit an article to the Quail contact the editor for details.

Mt Diablo Audubon Society  
PO 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 1984

Vol 30, No 9

Next deadline: April 1, 1984

MEETING Thurs April 5, Walnut Creek  
Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln  
Ave, Walnut Creek. Birding  
Information: 7:00 PM, Butterflies by  
Kevin Hintsa. Business Meeting: 7:30 PM.  
Social Time: 8:00 PM. Program: 8:30 PM,  
Bob Doyle, who is president of Save Mt  
Diablo will give an update on the moun-  
tain and recent land purchases.

FIELD Trips open to members and  
TRIPS nonmembers. Bring binocs,  
lunch, field guided. Car-  
pool time is departure time.  
Carpool expense, 5 cents per mile

\* Sat, April 7, Black Diamond Mines Reg.  
Park, 7:30 AM. Carpool: by Burger King,  
Ygnacio and Clayton Rd. Due to uncertain  
road conditions this will be the only  
meeting spot. Black Diamond has a  
variety of bird life including Rock  
Wren, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Phaino-  
pepla. Wild Flowers too! This trip  
will have a fair amount of hiking involved.  
Leader: George Finger, 933-2468.

\* Sat, April 14, Hayward Regional Shore-  
line, 8:00 AM. Carpool: El Cerro Blvd  
at I-680, Danville, 7:30AM. This area  
continues to produce some of the most  
unusual species seen around the Bay.  
Ducks, shorebirds, landbirds, possible  
raptors such as Merlin, Peregrine Falcon,  
and Osprey. From Nimitz Fwy (SR 17) in  
Hayward take Winton Ave west to the end.  
There is parking lot there. Leader:  
Jean Richmond, 837-2843.

\* Wed, April 18, Ed Levin Park, 9:00 AM.  
Carpool: El Cerro Blvd at I-680, Dan-  
ville, 8:15 AM. This is a new area for  
our chapter and should be interesting.  
The normal Spring migrants should be  
present along with some waterfowl on  
lakes. Eagles and other raptors should  
be present overhead. From I-680 in  
Milpitas, take Calaveras Blvd east.  
It shortly becomes Calaveras Rd. Go 1  
mile east to Downing Rd. We will meet  
here. Leader: Jimm Edgar, 283-3510.

\* Thurs, April 26, Briones Reg Park,  
8:30 AM. Many landbirds will have  
returned by now that breed here. Black-  
headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, warblers,  
possibly Golden Eagle. Wildflowers are  
also in bloom. The park will be our  
one meeting spot. Carry lunch and liquid.  
Just west of Alhambra Valley Re/Reliez  
Valley Rd intersection go south on  
Briones Pd to the park at the end of  
road. Leader: Merv Ortez, 283-3072.

BOARD Thurs April 12, 7:30 PM. Home  
MEETING ofborah Bain, 32 Via Farallon,  
Orinda, 254-4516. Board meetings  
are open to all members.

## NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FIELD GUIDE

Available to members: National Geo-  
graphic Field Guide to Birds of North  
America through special bulk purchase  
at only \$11.50 per copy. Send check to  
MDAS to Treasurer (address on p.6).  
Shipped in mid-April. Pick up at next  
meeting or include \$1.25 for book rate  
home delivery. Order now!

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

The trip to Lafayette Reservoir on Feb 2, was on a nice sunny day. An undisclosed number of members and guests attended. The highlight of the day was the sightings of Sharp-Shinned, Cooper's and Red-Shouldered Hawks. Also seen were Wrentit and Hutton's Vireo.

The weekend trip to Los Banos/Panoche Valley on Feb 11-12 was well attended by 31 birders. The weather was partly-mostly cloudy and cold with some sprinkles. 112 species were seen for the weekend, 77 Cattle Egrets were on SR 140, a "Common" Teal on Santa Fe Grade, and adult Bald Eagle was on the north end of Santa Fe Grade. Many White-Faced Ibis, Ross' Goose, Several Ferruginous Hawks, Prairie Falcon, Merlin, Several Chukar flushed, many Sandhill Cranes, Mt Plover, Lesser Yellowlegs, Lewis' Woodpecker at McCullough Ranch, Mt Bluebird, and a Vesper Sparrow were also listed.

*JESSE P. PARRIS IN 444, 13548.*

The weather at Thornton and Stockton Sewer Ponds was sunny and mild with moderate winds. 62 species were noted including Red-Shouldered Hawk, Burrowing Owl, and Says Phoebe. Feb. 25

the birder population that wants to go on a professionally-led birding tour and is also willing to camp out and provide their own transportation. These tours are planned to take advantage of this desire and also get more birds per dollar spent. Upcoming tours include: Salton Sea in April (\$90), Death Valley in May (\$90), and Kern River in June (\$90). For further info: 408-371-9720 evenings.

BIRDS OF THE BIG BEND COUNTRY will be led by Rich Stallcup (PRBO), from May 25-31. From the Rio Grande to the Chisos Mountains; this trip will visit riparian thickets, oases and open desert, oak-lined canyons, and mixed coniferous forests. Details: PRBO (415) 868-1221.

## FREMONT ADULT SCHOOL BIRDING FIELD TRIPS

The Fremont Adult School is offering a series of weekly classes for the beginner and experienced birder. Identification, courtship, nesting behavior, and bird songs will be covered. Each week a different top birding spot is visited. The 6 week class will meet Tuesdays from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM, starting April 24th. Call 791-5841.

CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

Spring in the Marshes- Have you ever wondered what the differences are between a salt and a freshwater marsh? Join the Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum in discovering the wildlife and plants living in these marshes in the South Bay; this trip is especially interesting in early spring. Trip: Sunday, March 25; fee: \$12 per person. For more details: 935-1978.

Yosemite Spring Botany Weekends- Spring in the Sierra foothills and in Yosemite Valley typically arrives many weeks earlier than at the higher elevations. One can expect to find a fine variety of blooming flowers and shrubs in remarkably fresh and verdant surroundings. Dr Carl Sharsmith will lead two weekend spring Botany seminars; April 7-8 and April 14-15. Fee: \$50. Call Yosemite Natural History Association, 209-372-4532.

SFBBO BIRDING TOURS are designed with the adventurous and parsimonious in mind. There is probably a certain segment of

A BIRD COMMUNICATION AND ECOLOGY SEMINAR will be led in the eastern Sierra by Luis Baptista, ornithologist, Chairman and Associate Curator of Birds and Mammals at the Calif Academy of Science and renowned bird communication specialist. The trip will be on July 8-13 through the South Lake area, the Buttermilk area, the Owens Valley, White Mountains, Mono Lake, and Tioga Pass. Daily workshops will be supplemented with lectures and slides. Emphasis will be on birds but all vertebrate and botanical life of the area will be explored. Contact Luis Baptista at (415) 453-1521 before May 1.

## PROTECT EAGLE HABITAT

A full color post card of a Bald Eagle in flight, 3 1/2 X 8 1/4 (needs letter rate postage) is available for \$0.25 each, 6 for \$1.00. Proceeds help Eagle habitat. Order through Treasurer, MDAS.

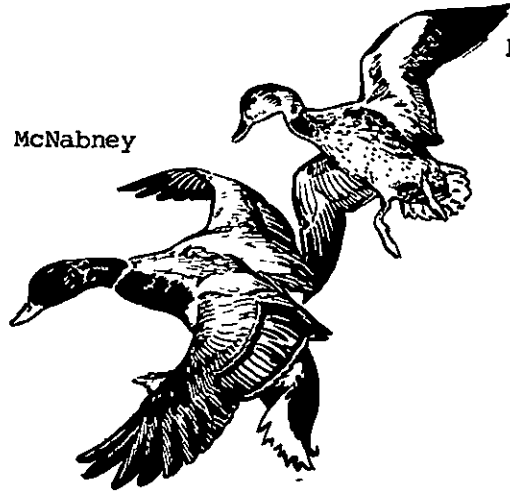
## CONSERVATION NOTES

by Al McNabney

THE BIRDS WIN ONE!!! People who are knowledgeable about birds know that radio towers, supported by almost invisible guy wires, present lethal combinations to most birds. An application for a permit to erect not 1 but 4 radio towers immediately adjacent to the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge created great concern among interested Bay Area bird groups. The environmental impact statement developed for the project showed bird losses due to striking the guy wires could well run to the thousands of birds each year. Objections to the proposed towers were expressed by many people (the birds didn't comment). The good news is that the application has been denied which means the birds WON!!

GARBAGE OR WETLANDS Few of us give  
BIRDS VS TRASH..... much thought to the mountains of garbage accumulated in our county every day AND the allied problems of what to do with all that trash. Contra Costans are having to face that issue with the request of the Acme Fill Co to fill a valuable wetland. The issue of dumping trash vs preservation of wetlands is now before the US Army Corps of Engineers. Public hearings before the County Board of Supervisors have given interested individuals and groups an opportunity to express opposition to the proposed filling of wetlands. An alternative site is being developed in eastern Contra Costa County but Acme doesn't plan to use the alternative site until the existing and proposed new sites are full.

GILL NETS BANNED A recent announcement of closure to ALL commercial fish netting in shallow waters for a 100 mile stretch of SF Bay area coast line is good news for birds. Gill or trammel nets have been responsible for the deaths of hundreds of sea birds over the past year or so. The birds dive for fish, become entangled in the gill net, and drown. These nets have been a major source of controversy after having been introduced to west coast fishing in only the past few years.



WATER-BOILING UP? Water problems involving transfer of water from northern California sources to central and southern California are again the subject of controversy. One effort would produce a (thinly disguised) peripheral canal, something the voters said NO to in the last election. So far its proponents have been unable to find a sponsor to carry the bill in the legislature. The Committee on Water Policy Consensus will meet and consider Bay/Delta water Quality under ANY transfer arrangement. Recent headline in the LA Times: "\$1 Billion Planned in State Water Projects". Kesterson Reservoir, in the Central Valley gives indications of the amount of pollutants carried in some of the state's waters as well as damage that can be done to wildlife. Deformed hatchlings and embryos as well as high egg mortality rates among waterfowl using that water present a current example of (possibly) things to come.

ARE WE OUT OF THE WOODS WITH CLARK? Appointment of Judge Clark to replace James Watt was seen as a mixed blessing by many conservation minded people. By now, some things are becoming clear. The seas on which the Judge sails will be a lot calmer than they were under Watt. It is too soon to be able to tell if the Judge's appointment is really a continuation of the Watt programs, frosted over with sugar and spice to make everything nice, or something better than that. Clearly the major and mounting objections to the Watt policies and his bombastic approaches were seen as something detrimental to the overall Reagan program. Judge Clark's approach at least has the feel of a new ked glove. So we'll wait and see.

HELP FOR HOOKED BIRDS

One of the major causes of injury and death to many seabirds is the fishhook and monofilament line. The Florida based Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary has a pamphlet advising people on rescuing hooked birds. Here are a few tips if a bird is hooked in your vicinity:

1. Never simply cut the fishline to free the bird. The line will catch on vegetation.
2. Bring the bird in slowly and gently, even if the bird struggles. Rough treatment only adds to the damage done to the bird and could snap the line.
3. Seabirds can strike and a peck towards the eyes and face could be serious. Cover the bird's head with a towel, shirt or blanket. Holding the bird by the upper part of the neck, just below the head will also reduce danger to yourself.
4. Injuries to eyes, joints, broken bones, deep cuts especially to neck, chest, wings or legs are serious. Leg or wing injuries are especially serious. All multiple hook injuries are serious. Take these birds to a rehabilitation facility.
5. For minor fishhook penetration to the skin, HAVE SOMEONE HOLD THE BIRD while the hook is removed. Cover the barb before cutting to protect your eyes from the flying debris; then back the hook out.
6. Remove all traces of fishing line from the bird to prevent a tourniquet-type binding and subsequent loss of limb.

For more information, write Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary, 18328 Gulf Blvd, Indian Shores, Florida, 33535.

ALEXANDER LINDSAY JUNIOR MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

The Museum is looking for volunteers for its Wildlife Rehabilitation and Care Program. The program, which began in the late '60s receives close to 5000 injured and orphaned wild animals a year. Potential volunteers need to take an introductory class where they learn the basics of how to care for wild animals. If you're interested, the next class will begin March 29, and will run for six sessions. For more information call the Museum in Walnut Creek, at 935-1978.

ACID RAIN CONTROVERSY

Canadian officials say they are re-thinking their policy on acid rain as a result of President Reagan's decision to limit U.S. efforts on the environmental problem to more research, excluding attempts to reduce acid rain. Among the options they have under scrutiny is moving to cut sulfur emissions in Canada by twice as much as currently planned. Canada had been hoping to tie further cuts to equivalent reductions by the U.S. but that Reagan's position appears to undercut this possibility.

Contra Costa Times 2/17/84

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The computer at National Audubon has spewed out a large clump of new-member listings. For this reason they are neither alphabetized or categorized by city. Hopefully they will come in more manageable numbers in the future. We extend a warm welcome, nonetheless, to these new MDAS members and hope to meet them at meetings and field trips:

Gladys Adams, Frank and Jeane Allard, Charles Dornbach, Larry Gray, Hackenbracht, John Kramer, Mrs&Mrs Dann McCright, Larry Solmen, Rita Spies, Barry Whittaker, Mr&Mrs Monti Wirch, Mrs Donald Yoder, Gary Allums, Steve & Sher Martin, Mrs Edward Rosston, Mary Coffey, Harry & Edna Durrie, Donna Fitzpatrick, Harold Hafner, Jerrold Hanson, Wayne Lifton, Karen Roney, Mr & Mrs Phillip Biddle, Clark & Betty Blagg, Gaylord Davis, Lois Foster, Donna Hesler, Gene, Diane, & Kyle Jones, Molly Northrup, D.E. Ostrom, Leonard Troutner MD, Janis Blaise, A.L. Fulton, Diana Granados, Bruce McClenahan, Helen Rosencrans, John Thompson, Phyllis Williams, Ann Bonifield, Don Dickinson, Margaret Bardin, Elsie Casler, Donald Cobbs Fam, Norman Dunstan, Jou Head, K Jernigan, Steve Kaspar, WS Kidd, Diana King, Martha Morris, Mr & Mrs WE Mullin, Susan Scholz, Pat Thomas, Florence Twyman, Mr & Mrs RL Van Blois, Hank Venema, Hume Bryant, Jeff Grant, John Martin, Ms DW Ebert PHD, AM Eggleston, W Hall, Mrs Richard Johnston, Peggy Krapf, Carl Pagter, Daisy Ray, Mrs Leo Sellers, Alice Thomas, and Carolyn White. Whew!!!

OBSERVATIONS for February; also see field trip reports.

Red-Necked Grebe, Richmond Marina, Feb 14--BR. Pelagic Cormorant, Richmond Marina, 3, Castro Point, 1, Pt San Pablo Feb 14--BR. Green-Backed Heron, 5--Brooks Pond, Pt Reyes, Feb 20--GF,MP,JR; Bancroft Rd & Bentley St, Concord, Feb 27--GL. Cattle Egret, 1-3, Hayward Regional Shoreline (HRS), Feb 7-28--BR,JR, et al; 3, Lake Herman Rd, Solano County, thru Feb 15--G&WY; 1, Waterfront Rd at I-680, Feb 19--MP. American Bittern South San Ramon Creek at Bolinger Cyn Rd, Feb 28--KH.

Tundra Swan, 2, Lake Solano, Feb 23--AF,MP,CW. Canada Goose, 2, Pt San Pablo Feb 14--BR. Eurasian Wigeon, ♂, thru Feb 7--BR,JR,BF, et al. Wood Duck, 2♂, 2♀, Lk Solano, Feb 18--JR, et al. Barrow's Goldeneye, 2, Pt Richmond & 12, Castro Pt, Feb 14--BR. Oldsquaw, Berkeley Pier, thru Feb 26--A&WG, RBA. Harlequin Duck, 2♂, 1♀, Crescent City Harbor, Del Norte Co, Feb 24--JR,BF,EN. Black Scoter, ♂, Castro Pt, Feb 14--BR; 3, Fish Docks, Pt Reyes, Feb 28--JR,BF, et al. Hooded Merganser, 2♂, 3♀, 5--Brooks Pond, Feb 20--MP,GF,JR. Common Merganser, ♂, 2♀, Bancroft & Bentley, Feb 27--GL.

Possible Broad-Winged Hawk, imm, Grizzly Island WMA, Feb 15--ED,MO,BW,JF. Rough Legged Hawk, Patterson Pass, Feb 25--BR, et al. Ferruginous Hawk, ad, HRS, thru period--BR,JR,BF, et al; several, Altamont Pass area, Feb 25--BR, et al. Golden Eagle, imm, HRS, Feb 4 & 23--BR. Bald Eagle, Frick Lake, Feb 25--BR, et al. Osprey, Lafayette Res, Feb 16--GL,CJ; Upper San Leandro Res, Feb 19--GF. Prairie Falcon, Patterson Pass, Feb 25--BR, et al. Peregrine Falcon, HRS, Feb 4-29+--BR. Merlin, HRS, Feb 4--BR.

American Black Oystercatcher, 2, Castro Pt, Feb 14--BR. Lesser Golden Plover, 4, Spaletta Rch, Pt Reyes, Feb 27-28--RBA, JR,BF, et al. Surfbird, Richmond Marina, Feb 14--BR. SOLITARY SANDPIPER, Inverness Park, Marin Co, Jan 22-Feb 26--RBA, A&WG, PG, et al. Wandering Tattler, Red Rock Marina, Feb 14--BR. Lesser Yellowlegs, 2, Pomponio State Beach, San Mateo Co, Feb 28--ED. GLAUCUS GULL, ad, Freshwater Lagoon, Humboldt Co, Feb 20-29+--RBA, mob. COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL & LITTLE GULL, Stockton Oxi Ponds, thru period--RBA.

Greater Roadrunner, Little Panoche Res, Fresno Co, Feb 12--JR. Western Screech Owl, his Walnut Creek garden, Feb 25-29+--EH, mob; to see it, call Ed, 933-4292. BARRED OWL, near Crescent City, Feb 19-29+--RBA. Long-Eared Owl, 7 Estero Trail, Pt Reyes, Feb 18--H&JG. Short-Eared Owl, 1-2, Hartford Rd, Livermore, thru Feb 25--JR,BR, et al.

Lewis' Woodpecker, 2, well described, North Gate, Mt Diablo SP, Feb 7--LA, fide JE; 2, Shell Ridge, thru period--AL, B&DW, et al. Gray Jay, 2, Russ Pk, Ferndale, Humboldt Co, Feb 18--KH,EH,BC, et al. Steller's Jay, Walnut Creek Kaiser Hosp parking lot, Feb 3--GG. BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE (escape?), Matheson Rd, Concord, Jan 15-Feb 3--KM, mob. Canyon Wren, 3, Monticello Dam, Feb 18--JR, et al.

Varied Thrush, several reports, including gargens, thru period--mob. WOOD THRUSH, near archery range, Golden Gate Park, thru Feb 4--RBA. TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE, 1-2, Pioneer Camp, Mt Diablo St Pk, Jan 28-Feb 3--RBA,GF,KH; 1, Mitchell Cyn, Feb 7--MJC,BG; his Rossmoor garden, Feb 16--AB; Monticello Dam, Feb 18--JR, et al; 2, below Monticello Dam, Feb 23--GF,MP,CW. Golden-Crowned Kinglet, several reports, thru period--mob. Orange-Crowned Warbler, 6, Las Trampas RP, Feb 27--KH; 1, arrived their Orinda garden, Feb 29--H&NB. Townsend's Warbler, their garden, thru period--H&NB; 1, Las Trampas RP, Feb 27--KH.

SUMMER TANAGER, near North Lake, Golden Gate Pk, thru period--mob. BRAMBLING, their Crescent City garden, Feb 5-29+, J&JR,DE, mob; 1st state record. White-Throated Sparrow, their Orinda garden, thru Feb 18--H&NB; her Alamo garden, Feb 3-9--JR. SWAMP SPARROW, White House Pool, Pt Reyes, Feb 20 & 28--JR. Lapland Longspur, 1-2, HRS, thru period--BR,JR, et al.

OBSERVERS: Lynn Ashlock, Hugh & Norah Bain, Al Boileau, Bill Chilson, Mary Jane Culver, Elizabeth Dickey, Jimm Edgar, Dick Erickson, George Finger, Bud Fry, Jay Furry, Helen & Jerry Gentile, Al & Wilma Ghorso, Bobbie Gillis, Gen Graves, Peggy Gross, Ed Hase, Kevin Hintsa, Carol Jordan, Gayle Langton, Ken Meyers, Ecks Nesbitt, Merv Ortez, Marge Plant, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Jim & Joanna Rooney, Bill Weston, Chuck Wheeler,

Barbara & Doug Williams, Gifford & Winnie Young, Nocal Rare Bird Alert, many observers.

Observations deadline: 1st of month. Jean Richmond, Observations Editor, 125 Via Serena, Alamo CA 94507; 837-2843.

BIRD-A-THON

The Audubon Bird-a-thon will be held the last weekend in April. MDAS will donate all funds raised in this event to the Mono Lake legal fund.

Chapter members can participate in the Bird-a-thon in several ways. They can volunteer to be a counter, seeking sponsors for themselves or their team. They can sponsor other chapter members or teams or they can help sponsor an "all-star birding team" in California that will challenge Roger Tory Peterson and his Texas team for the Big Day record.

Kirk and Lee Robinson are co-ordinating MDAS Bird-a-thon activities this year. If you want additional information, please call them at 933-5281 in the evening. Sponsorship and tally sheets will be available at the April Chapter meeting.


SAVE MT DIABL0

Save Mt Diablo wishes to thank the members of MDAS for their many contributions for land purchase on Mt Diablo. In order to make your money go further, an individual thank you note will not be sent unless requested. Contributions from anyone who has not responded will be most welcome. Your support will help us add a mile to Mt Diablo State Park.

William Sattler, Tres.

SAVE MT DIABL0.



 To: Save Mount Diablo Inc.  
P.O. Box 25  
Concord, CA 94522

From: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Here is my tax-deductible donation of:  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help save Mount Diablo  
from development.  
Courtesy of Mt Diablo Audubon

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.

Mt Diablo Audubon Society  
PO 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

May 1984

Vol 30, No 10

Next deadline: May 1, 1984

Thurs May 3, Walnut Creek  
 MEETING Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln  
 Ave. Birding Information: 7:00  
 PM. John Davis will speak on wild-  
 flowers of Mt Diablo. Business Meeting:  
 7:30 PM. Election of officers. Social  
Time: 8:00PM Program: 8:30 PM. John  
 Borneman, an expert on the California  
 Condor, will speak on the current con-  
 cerns surrounding the Condor program.

FIELD Trips open to members and non-  
 TRIPS members. Bring binocs, lunch,  
 field guide. Carpool time is  
departure time. Carpool  
expense, 5 cents per mile per person.

- \* Sat, May 5, Mines Rd, meet at 6:30 AM  
 at El Cerro Blvd at I-680, Danville.  
 We MUST (!! ) carpool on this trip due  
 to limited parking. Eagles, Lewis'  
 Woodpecker, Lawrence's Goldfinch,  
 Costa's Hummingbird, Turkey, plus many  
 other species make this one of the best  
 trips of the spring. Leader: Jean  
 Richmond, 837-2843.
- \* Wed, May 9, Mt Diablo State Park, 8:30  
 AM at El Cerro Blvd, & I-680, Danville.  
 Hawks, Flycatchers, warblers, Lazuli  
 Bunting, Rufous Crowned, Sage, and Black  
 Chinned Sparrow highlight this trip  
 in our own back yard. Leader: Jimm  
 Edgar, 283-3510.
- \* Thurs May 17, East Contra Costa County,  
 8:00 AM. Carpool: Sun Valley Center  
 in southwest corner, 7:30 AM. Hawks,  
 perhaps Swainson's, shorebirds, Black-  
 Chinned Hummingbird, flycatchers, chat,  
 Black-Headed & Blue Grosbeaks are all  
 possible on this trip. Go East on

SR-4 to just beyond Oakley, turn left  
 on Cypress Rd, park just past the Short  
 Stop Mkt. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey,  
 254-0486.

- \* Sat May 19, Mitchell Cyn, 8:30 AM.  
Carpool: Southwest corner of Sun  
 Valley Mall, 8:00 AM. Carpooling could  
 save some entrance fee charges. This  
 trip will take most of the morning with  
 an emphasis on the wildflowers of  
 Mitchell Cyn. We will perhaps continue  
 in the afternoon to look for birds.  
Leader: John Davis, 228-9516.
  - \* Thurs, May 24, Las Posadas State Forest  
 in Napa County. Carpool only: 7:30 AM  
 at southwest corner of Sun Valley Mall.  
 This is a new area for us with a wide  
 variety of habitats. We hope to see  
 Mt Quail and Pileated Woodpecker along  
 with many other species. Leader:  
 Betty Gallagher, 682-2458.
  - \* Attention!!: Sept 29-30 Sat & Sun,  
 Monterey weekend. Sat landbirds, Sun,  
 pelagic trip. Leaders: Dr. Howard  
 Cogswell and Dr. Ted Chankik. \$30 for  
 boat trip. More details later.
- Thurs May 10, 7:30 PM. Home of  
 BOARD Maury Stern, 939 Carol Ln,  
 MEETING Lafayette, 284-5980. Board  
 meetings are open to all members.
- \* Sun May 6, Bike ride and bird down  
Morgan Territory Rd. Needed: a leader  
 and trucks for carrying the bikes up  
 to the top of the road. Meet at Clayton  
 and Ygnacio Valley Rd at Burger King  
 in shopping center. For more info call  
 Joy Hall, 934-0625.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

The trip to Solano County on February 15 drew 9 observers. There was drizzle and occasional showers. Highlights of the trip were a White-Throated Sparrow in Fairfield Park, 15 Common Snipe in a marshy field. Although they saw no unusual hawks, they did see many individuals of all 4 species seen that day ( White-Tailed Kite, Red-Tailed Hawk, No Harrier, and Am Kestral).

Ten members and guests were at Sunol Regional Park on March 7 under overcast skies and light winds. Outstanding birds were Golden Eagles ( 5 sightings) 2 in mating behavior, locking talons and tumbling through the air, Rufous-Crowned Sparrows, one in an isolated shrub on a steep hillside that could be seen easily in the scope, and 7 Turkeys at the edge of a field under some oaks. 50 species were seen that day.

After a dramatic dawn downpour at 5-Brooks and Bolinas Lagoon and Audubon Canyon Ranch the day improved with warm sun most of the time, many large clouds, two brief showers and a fresh breeze in the afternoon. Three members and one guest saw or heard 82 species including 26 Brant and 34 Cedar Waxwings on a wire. Highlights were a pair of Red- Shouldered Hawks calling and displaying and flying around their nest. Great Blue Herons on the nest were giving the rare "mating howl". Four Hooded Mergansers on the peaceful 5 Brooks pond where there were also Myrtle Warblers and Tree Swallows.

The Honey Lake-Sage Grouse weekend was an unqualified success. 15 members and guests endured rather cold temps on Saturday due to a Friday snow shower. The snow melted quickly, however, and Sunday had warm temps by noon. A total of 100 species was seen by the group or by various people after the main group dispersed. Saturday was spent wandering the back roads and birding both units of Honey Lake NWR. After lunch the area around Janesville was covered. At Eagle Lake an imm Bald Eagle flew and landed. On Sunday, a moonlit walk 1 1/2 miles to the Sage

Grouse lek was well rewarded . At first light they saw the ♂ grouse strutting their stuff for an hour as it got full light and the sun came up. It was quite a sight. In addition to the Sage Grouse were Rough-Legged, and Ferruginous Hawks, Bald Eagle, a possible Chukar, Lewis' and Black-Backed Woodpecker, Townsend's Solitaire, and Toni & George Finger found 2 Lark Buntings on SR-113 near Davis on the way up.

Lake Lagunitas and Bon Tempe on March 21 was clear and warm with some wind in the afternoon. 51 species were seen including 77 Ring-Necked Ducks in the south arm of Lake Lagunitas. A Spotted Owl was heard "barking" up on a hillside but a closer look was not obtained. Pileated Woodpecker was watched at length from close range as it worked a fallen log. The 12 members had a delightful, leisurely walk around Lake Lagunitas although the woods were quieter than usual.

Neither rain, hail, or cold winds kept 15 members from birding Donner Cyn. The hardest walked all the way up to the waterfalls at the head of the canyon. The scenery was great and wild flowers outstanding. They had excellent views of Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers and Rufous-Crowned Sparrows and Golden Eagles.

BURROWING OWLS IN TROUBLE

Burgeoning development is pushing the Burrowing Owl out of its home in the flat grasslands of the San Ramon Valley and Pleasanton-Livermore area, according to a state Fish and Game Dept official. Although figures aren't available, the Burrowing Owl population probably is decreasing dramatically in southern Contra Costa and other areas where development has taken over much of its natural habitat. The problem is so great that state officials are considering placing it on a "critical list" of endangered species and provide money to help preserve the owl.

## CONSERVATION NOTES

by Al McNabney

WHOEVER HEARD OF THE APPERSON RIDGE QUARRY? What a question; but there is an answer if it may not be a good one. A company is going through the various processes to obtain permits for the opening of a quarry on Apperson Ridge. Bird watchers are probably familiar with the area. Bald Eagles winter at nearby San Antonio Reservoir with the numbers varying from 10 to 30 birds. It is believed a communal nightly roost exists in the area. Golden Eagles forage over the area. Prairie Falcons have nested nearby, Sharp-Shinned and Cooper's Hawks winter there. A Great Blue Heron rookery exists and quarry activity would in all probability disturb these birds. A herd of Tule Elk make the ridge "home" and it is highly unlikely that they would tolerate the noise and activity that will surely drive all bird and wildlife away. The matter is now before the Alameda Planning Dept for decision. The proposed quarry is being opposed by Audubon and several other organizations interested in the welfare of wildlife.

WATER-THE PERIPHERAL CANAL AND YOU!!! Most people in No. California have been under the impression that the so-called Peripheral Canal which was to transfer water from No. Calif sources to So. Calif was a dead issue; having been voted down by a crushing majority at the last election. It now seems that a name change, some changes in statistics, permit introduction of a bill in the Legislature to transfer water from north to south. If the bill looks suspiciously like the former Peripheral Canal Bill, there's good reason. Many people are working hard to develop a consensus to provide for water needs of all the people in the state. One group, is the Committee for Water Policy Consensus, which is developing ideas which will protect the bay, delta and No Calif water needs.

KESTERSON NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE-IN CRISIS A 5,900 acre marshland to support a wide variety of birds and fish-that was Kesterson in the dream and beginning. Congressman George Miller now writes, "--30 years later, their dream of a thriving wildlife preserve is turning into an ecological nightmare." Drainage water from Central Valley farms is now dumped into the Kesterson area. Along with the water comes the remains of spraying highly toxic chemicals. Tests in 1982 showed some fish contained "among the highest levels of selenium that have been reported in living fish". A study of nestlings of birds demonstrated "A high incidence of abnormal embryos and chicks of several species of aquatic birds". Egg mortality among grebes ran as much as 60%. Now efforts are being put forth to spend large sums of money to build a drain so the water can be drained into San Francisco Bay-a possible disaster in the making. Congressman Miller writes: "Enough has been sacrificed and subsidized. The Federal Government must take a strong leadership role in assuring that the shortsightedness that led to the crises at Kesterson is not repeated elsewhere."

SHELL MARSH Shore birds and waders  
A BIRD HAVEN use the area known as Shell Marsh; THE most important area for water birds in Contra Costa County, according to one expert. There are indications that developers have plans to fill, build and pave over much of the area. Audubon and others are working to try to create a bird sanctuary-an important activity for the birds, for Audubon, and YOU!

MISSION BLUE BUTTERFLY Fed Dist Judge  
GONE-MAYBE NOT FORGOTTEN Wm Williams ruled that a developer can proceed with a development project even though such action may eliminate that species from the Earth-who won?

CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS:

PRBO: PRBO Open House, at Palomarin, Sunday, April 29 10-noon. A new Visitor Room and self-guided Interpretive Trail will be dedicated. Also bird-watching and banding demonstrations, bring a picnic lunch and make a day of it.

Marin Audubon Society's Annual Mother's Day Barbeque, May 13—a benefit. Held at Audubon Cyn Ranch; family and friends welcome to visit the Ranch and its heronry. Enjoy an old-fashioned barbeque chicken or vegetarian (quiche) picnic. Donation \$6.00 adult, \$4.00 children under 12. Send checks to: Marin Audubon Society, Lois Patton, BEQ Chairman, 247 Wilson Way, Larkspur, CA 94939.

Alexander Lindsay Jr. Museum: Lafayette Reservoir hike, ages 9-adult; Sat May 12 9:30-1:30. \$4 per person.

Discover the natural wilderness tucked away in Napa and Sonoma Counties. Explore various state and county parks. Sunday May 6, \$12; drive your own vehicle or chip in \$3 to ride in van.

A beginning backpack trip on Mt Diablo geared for families with children. Orientation May 9, 7:30-9 PM; Trip: May 19-20. Fee: Member \$20, Non-member \$25.

For further information or a complete list of classes contact the museum at 935-1978.

Point Reyes Field Seminars: Spring Birds Migrants and Breeders. Discussion will focus on ecological factors that influence behavior; territoriality, song, display, migration, colonial vs. solitary nesting. Field trips within Pt Reyes. Instructor: Jules Evens, \$41. May 19-20.

Predatory Birds: The young raptors will be leaving their nests at this time. Instructor Diame Williams will visit some of her favorite birding spots. June 2-3, \$41.

Workshop on Bird Song: Jules Evens will discuss how and why birds produce their melodious vocalizations. \$45 includes overnight dormitory accommodations. June 9-10.

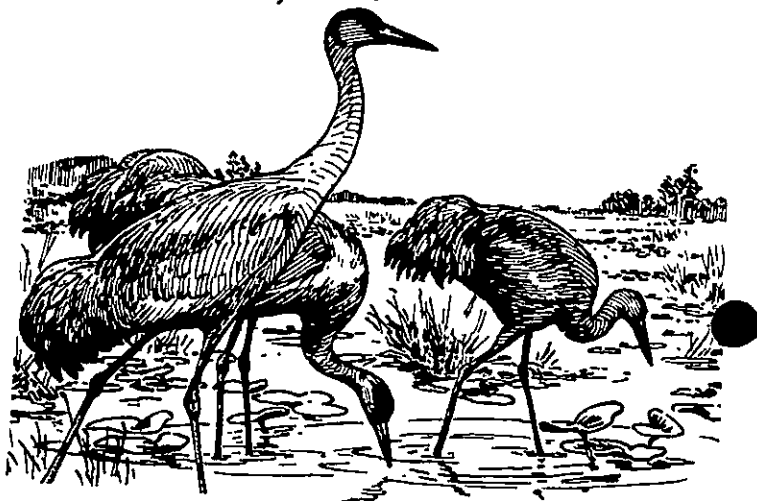
For additional info: 663-1200.

Nature Conservancy: Central California Birding Adventure: Enjoy exciting birding at the height of the breeding season with over 200 bird species; many in fine voice and in their brightest plumages. June 16-24, \$675/person includes lodging, ground transportation and trip leadership. Call Kaweah Oaks Preserve for detailed itinerary PO Box 4049, Visalia, CA 93278, (209) 627-4328.

Audubon Golden Trout Workshop: One-week Golden Trout Workshops will be held August 5 through August 25. An informal field natural history program will be offered. The Camp is located in the Golden Trout Wilderness, in the southern portion of the high Sierra, on the eastern watershed, at an altitude of 10,000 ft. Details: Cindi McKernan, 40 Sherril Lane, Redlands, CA 92373, (714) 793-7897.

Tucson Audubon Society: Audubon Family Institute will be held August 14 -August 17 at Camp O'Wood in Peppersauce Cyn near Oracle, Az. Family groups will participate in field sessions led by professionals in geology, mammals, birds, plants, and invertebrates. Details: Cheryl Lazaroff, Director, Audubon Family Institute, Tucson Audubon Society, 30-A North Tucson Blvd, Tucson AZ, 85716 (602) 323-9673.

Wildlife 2000: Modeling Habitat Relationships of Terrestrial Vertebrates: This symposium will address issues in the development, testing, and application of models that predict responses of wildlife to habitat changes. Details: Wildlife 2000, Dept of Forestry and Resource Management, 145 Mulford Hall, University of Calif, Berkeley, CA 94720. October 7-11, 1984.



Red-Necked Grebe, Bodega Bay, Mar 6  
--JR, et al; 1 there, in breeding plu-  
mage, Mar 25 & 29--JR, BR, D&CN, G&WY.  
Green-Backed Heron, Stockton Oxi Ponds  
(SOP), Mar 9-26--GF, KH, JR, D&CN.

Cattle Egret, 1-2, Hayward Reg Shore-  
line (HRS), thru Mar 31--BR; 1,  
Waterfront Rd/I-680, Mar 25--JR, BR;  
16, SR-12 near Schellville, Sonoma Co,  
Mar 29--G&WY. American Bittern, South  
San Ramon Creek at Bolinger Cyn Rd,  
Mar 8--KH.

Canada Goose, HRS, Mar 6-16--BR.  
"Black" Brant"; 50, Bodega Bay, Mar 24  
--H&JG, IH; 700 there Mar 25--BR, JR, D&CN;  
100 there, Mar 29--G&WY. ROSS' GOOSE,  
HRS, Mar 24--BR. Mallard X Pintail  
hybrid, HRS, Mar 3--BR. Blue-Winged  
Teal, ♂, HRS, Mar 17--BR. Eurasian  
Wigeon, ♂, HRS, Mar 6--BR; ♂, Mallard  
Lk, Golden Gate Pk, thru Mar 27--RBA,  
JR, D&CN.

TUFTED DUCK, ♂, SOP, Mar 17-22--DY, BR, JR.  
Oldsquaw, 1, Smith River, Del Norte Co,  
Mar 4--T&GF; Bodega Bay, Mar 24--H&JG,  
IH; Richmond Yacht Harbor, Mar 29--MP,  
GF, TiF. Black Scoter, ♂, Castro Pt,  
Mar 19--BR. Ruddy Duck, nearly albino,  
SOP, Mar 9--GF, KH, & Mar 26--JR, DYCN.  
Hooded Merganser, ♂, 3♀, 5 Brooks Pond,  
Pt Reyes, Mar 25--BR, JR, D&CN.

Black-Shouldered Kite, his Walnut Creek  
home, Mar 11--RH. Swainson's Hawks,  
returned to San Luis NWR, Merced Co,  
Mar 25--RBA; 10+, Caswell Memorial SP,  
San Joaquin Co, Mar 26--GF, MP, MS.  
Ferruginous Hawk, ad, HRS, thru Mar 11  
--BR; Alcosta Blvd, San Ramon, Mar 8--  
KH. Golden Eagle, ad, HRS, Mar 16--  
BR. Bald Eagle, several, Eel River,  
Humboldt Co, Mar 4--T&GF. Prairie  
Falcon, Alamo, Mar 10 & 27--JR; Mines  
Rd, Mar 20--G&MJM. Peregrine Falcon,  
HRS, thru Mar 23--BR.

Amer Black Oystercatcher, 2, Castro Pt,  
Mar 19--BR. Wandering Tattler, 2,  
Castro Pt, Mar 19--BR. Rock Sandpiper,  
Bodega Bay, thru Mar 29--JR, D&CN.

COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL (now breeding  
plumage) & LITTLE GULL, SOP, thru  
Mar 31--mob. Western Screech-Owl, pr,  
his Walnut Creek garden, thru Mar 31--  
EH, mob. Northern Pygmy-Owl, Sunol  
Reg Pk, Mar 20--JR, et al. SPOTTED  
OWL, pr, Willow Creek Rd, Sonoma Co,  
Mar 24--MS, et al. Vaux's Swift, Mt  
Diablo SP, Mar 26 (early)--JR, DN.

Rufous Hummingbird, ♂, her Alamo garden,  
Mar 7-9--JR. Belted Kingfisher, small  
pond on Shell Ridge, Mar 7--T&GF.

Piliated Woodpecker, pr, Lk Lagunitas,  
Mar 29--MP, GF, TiF. Lewis' Woodpecker,  
1-2, Shell Ridge, thru Mar 31--mob.  
Bank Swallow, 6, Ano Nuevo St Res, Mar  
27--JR, DN. Black-Billed Magpie, Matheson  
Rd, Concord, thru Mar 12--KM. Red-  
Breasted Nuthatch, her Walnut Creek  
garden, Feb 29 & Mar 4--MW; her Alamo  
garden, Mar 3-4--JR. Common Raven, 5,  
her Alamo home, Mar 24--JR. Dipper, Sunol  
Reg Pk, Mar 20--JR.

SAGE THRASHER, San Carlos Dr near her  
Walnut Creek home, Mar 6--MW. Blue-Gray  
Gnatcatcher, 6, Pioneer Camp, Mt Diablo  
SP, Mar 26--JR, DN. Golden-Crowned King-  
let, pr, near his Lafayette home, Mar  
31--JH. Phainopepla, ♂, Pine Cyn, Mar  
5--MJC, JR; ♂, his Concord garden, Mar  
29--BC. Nashville Warbler, singing ♂,  
Briones Reg Pk (west), Mar 24--G&MJM.  
Yellow Warbler, ♂, Sunol Reg Pk, Mar  
20 (early)--JR.

Hooded Oriole, returned to her Alamo  
garden, Mar 5--JR. "Bullock's Oriole,  
returned to Alamo & Lafayette, Mar 25--  
JE, JR. BRAMBLING, their Crescent City  
Del Norte Co garden, thru Mar 30--J&JR,  
mob. Lawrence's Goldfinch, ♂, lower  
Northgate Rd, Mt Diablo SP, Mar 26--  
D&CN. LARK BUNTING, 2, near Davis,  
Yolo Co, Mar 16-18--T&GF, JR, MP, GG, PB, et  
al. White-Crowned X Golden-Crowned  
Sparrow hybrid, HRS, Mar 6--BR. Lapland  
Longspur, 1-2, HRS, thru Mar 31--BR.

OBSERVERS: Phyllis Brinduse, Bill  
Chilson, Mary Jane Culver, Jimm Edgar,  
Toni & George Finger, Tim Finger, Helen  
& Jerry Gentile, Gen Graves, Ed Hase,  
Irene Hellekson, Joel Herr, Kevin  
Hintsa, Ralph Hudgins, George & Molly  
Jane Monheit, Ken Myers, Duane & Carol  
Nelson, Marge Plant, Bob Richmond,  
Jean Richmond, Jim & Joanna Rooney,  
Maury Stern, Margaret Wadsworth, David  
Yee, Gifford & Winnie Young, NoCal Rare  
Bird Alert, many observers.

Observations need not be rare-report  
common birds in uncommon places, at  
uncommon times, or doing uncommon things.  
Observations deadline: 1st of the month  
for sightings the previous month. Jean  
Richmond, Observations Editor, 125 Via  
Serena, Alamo, CA 94507; 837-2843.

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FIELD GUIDE**

For a limited time, the National Geographic Field Guide to Birds of North America through a special bulk purchase is available at only \$11.50 per copy. Send check to MDAS to Treasurer ( address on p 6). Pick at May meeting or include \$1.25 for book rate home delivery. Order now while they last!



**OFFICERS FOR 1984-85**

The slate of officers put forth for 1984-85 are as follows: President: Maury Stern, Vice President, Conservation: Al McNabney, Vice President, Program: \_\_\_\_\_ Treasurer: Gifford Young, Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_ We still have 2 vacancies in our slate of officers; if you can help, please call Jimm Edgar.

**NEW MEMBERS**

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

Audrey Bell, Elizabeth Gray, Peg Humphreys, Lars Sandstrom, Mr and Mrs R. Singleton, Brian Thiessen, Glenn Allen, Richard Bottarini, Jackie Foott, Jerrold Hanson, Kevin Harvey, Mrs C Melter, Mrs D Swartwood, the D.L. Bell Family, Mrs M.M. Heatherley, Ruth Lloyd, Barbara Vaughn, Paul & Betty Balcacci, Ms Jeannette Bergman, Harold Caddel, Jeanne Cantwell, Emily Carlisle, C. Chambergh, Mrs V.W. Douglas, Mrs Bette Felton, Clair Ghylin, Diane Green, Mrs Charlotte Johnson, David Malone, Betty & Earl Ripley, Russell Robinson, Dianne Seaborg, John Sharon, Alfred Snapp, Ms Susan Tery, Carol Willoughby, Mr & Mrs Charles Wils, Anna Wolf, Alan Ahola, Margaret & Stanley Jaros, Bonnie & Don Joost, Karen Marchant, Steve Mathias, William Nevison, Michael Whitsel, the J. Mitchell Family, Jeffrey Sheppard, Robert Tussy.

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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: \$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.

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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 1984

Vol 30, No 11

Next deadline: June 1, 1984

MEETING Thurs, June 7, 1984, 6:30 PM  
Walnut Creek Women's Club,  
1224 Lincoln Ave, Walnut Creek.  
Annual Potluck Dinner, Carol Purcell,  
Coordinator, 689-2537. This is our last  
formal meeting of the year. Bring dishes,  
utensils, serving spoon, & food for 4  
times the number in your family attending.  
Coffee, tea, & punch provided. Call by  
June 1st as to what to bring. The Program  
will be slides by members. Members may  
also bring photos & exhibits of anything  
relating to nature.

FIELD Trips open to members and non-  
TRIPS members. Bring binocs, lunch,  
field guide. Carpool time is  
departure time. Carpool  
expense, 5 cents per mile per person.

\* Sat, June 2, Outer Pt Reyes, 8:00 AM.  
Carpool: Pleasant Hill Rd & Fwy 24 just  
north of freeway at Acalanes Ave & Pleasant  
Hill Rd, 6:30 AM. In June we should see  
eastern vagrants (breeding plumage &  
singing) rare in our area. Cross San  
Rafael Bridge, go north on US 101 0.6  
miles, take San Rafael exit 2 blocks to  
3rd St, turn left & go out thru Fairfax to  
SR 1, turn right for 1/4 mile, left to  
Pt Reyes Seashore headquarters. We must  
take a minimum of cars from there. For  
information: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486.

\* Thurs June 7, Las Trampas Regional Park,  
7:30 AM (there will be no carpool for this  
trip). We hope to see Grasshopper Sparrow,  
larks, woodpeckers, flycatchers, bluebirds,  
vireos, warblers, orioles, tanagers, gros-  
beaks, & sparrows. Go south on I-680 to

Crow Canyon Rd then right about 5 miles to  
the parking lot at the end of the road.  
Leader: Kevin Hintsa, 829-6156.

\* Wed June 13, Glen Ellen & Annadell, 8:15  
AM, Carpool: southwest corner Sun Valley  
Center, 7:00. At Glen Ellen are Yellow-  
Breasted Chat, woodpeckers, flycatchers,  
warblers, etc. At Annadell, possible  
Piliated Woodpecker. 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. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486.

\* Sat-Sun June 16 & 17, Yuba Pass & Sierra  
Valley weekend. Make motel reservations  
immediately. Meet Sat at 8:30 AM, Sun at  
8:00 AM at Yuba Pass (SR-49 between Sierra  
City & Sierraville) in parking lot on  
south side of road. We will bird Sat  
morning in Yuba Pass, afternoon at Sardine  
Lakes, looking for mountain species such  
as Mt Quail, White-Headed & 3-Toed Wood-  
peckers, Townsend's Solitaire, Evening  
Grosbeak, Red Crossbill. Sunday we drop  
down into Sierra Valley for sage brush  
species ( Sage Thrasher, Brewer's & Vesper  
Sparrows) and marsh birds (Wilson's  
Phalarope, Black Tern). Motels in Sierra  
City: Herringtons Sierra Pines (916) 862-1151  
or Sierra Chalet (916)862-1110; in Sierra-  
ville: Canyon Ranch (916)994-3340.  
Camping: Yuba Pass (others further west  
along SR-49). Leader: Jean Richmond,  
837-2843.

\* Sat-Sun July 7 & 8, Yosemite Weekend.  
Make reservations now! Motels: Yosemite  
Park/Curry (209) 373-4171; Sugar Pine  
Ranch, Groveland, (209) 962-7823. Camping  
at Hodgdon Meadow, Yosemite. Further  
details in July/August Quail.

\* Monterey Weekend, make plans and reserva-  
tions soon for

\* Sat-Sun Sept 29-30, Monterey Weekend.  
Make motel reservations and send in your  
money as soon as possible for this trip.

\* Sat-Sun Sept 29-30, Monterey Weekend.  
Sat landbirds, Sun, pelagic trip. Make  
motel reservations and send check for  
pelagic trip (\$30 made out to MDAS, send  
to Gifford Young, Treasurer, see address  
page 6) as soon as possible. We must  
have the check by Sept 1st; but an early  
indication of interest would be helpful.  
Leaders: Dr Howard Cogswell and Dr Ted  
Chandik.

Thurs June 14, 7:30 PM.

BOARD Home of Jimm Edgar, 3611  
MEETING Chestnut St, Lafayette,  
283-3510. Board meetings  
are open to all members.

#### FIELD TRIP REPORTS

A sunny but very windy day at Black <sup>Apr. 7</sup>  
Diamond Mines difficult for 12 MDAS mem-  
bers; but good views were had of 49 species  
including Townsend's Solitaire, Blue-  
gray Gnatcatchers in chaparral, Solitary  
Vireo, Black-Throated Gray Warbler,  
many Lark Sparrows, Rufous Crowned Spar-  
rows. Highlights included a beautiful  
display put on by an Annas Hummingbird  
and Says Phoebe nesting.

Clear and warm temperatures welcomed 11  
MDAS members at Hayward Regional Shore- <sup>Apr. 14</sup>  
line. A Cattle Egret was at the west end  
of W. Winton Ave. Thousands of shore-  
birds were at the mouth of San Lorenzo  
Creek. Many shorebirds were in beauti-  
ful breeding plumage. Two Burrowing Owls  
were at west end of W. Winton Ave and 1  
was in the field along San Lorenzo Trail.  
The two Lapland Longspurs were life birds  
for several members.

Briones Regional Park Report: " Our April  
26th trip to Briones Regional Park was  
made by 16 members and guests on a sunny  
but cool and windy day. What proved to  
be an excellent trip started with an

Allen's Hummingbird alighting on the hat  
of the trip leader. Shortly after that  
we sighted several Vaux's Swifts and a  
Purple Martin (one of the few sightings  
reported in Contra Costa County) flying  
with several swallows. While watching  
these goodies, a Golden Eagle entered  
from the right. In keeping with Briones  
Regional Park tradition, we sighted 15-  
20 Lazuli Buntings, numerous Warbling  
Vireos and two Lawrence's Goldfinches. A  
total of 59 species were observed."

Twenty MDAS members attended the Mines Rd <sup>May 5</sup>  
Del Puerto Cyn trip. It was clear, warm  
and sunny, with some windy spots. A  
great day of birding yielded 100 species.  
Some of the birds seen were: Golden  
Eagle, Barn and Great Horned Owl both in  
holes on the same cliff face at MP-3.5  
in Del Puerto Cyn, a Vaux's Swift on the  
bridge at Del Valle Reg Park, a beautiful  
♂ Costa's Hummingbird flitting in a Tree  
Tobacco at close range in excellent  
light, flashing his gorget, Lewis' Wood-  
pecker 1/4 mile south of San Antonio  
Jct which appear to be nesting, Canyon  
Wren and Rock Wren busily feeding its  
young on the rocks just below at MP-10.6  
Del Puerto Cyn Rd, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher,  
Phainopepla, MacGillivray's Warbler,  
Yellow-Breasted Chat, Lawrence's Gold-  
finch, and 1 brief song from a Grasshopper  
Sparrow.

The Mt Diablo trip produced 58 species <sup>May 7</sup>  
by 15 people. Highlights were a pair  
of young Great Horned Owls in a hole  
in a rock with an adult at Rock City.  
At Blue Oak, the oak tree just off the  
road produced 10 species by itself;  
a very late Golden-Crowned Sparrow &  
Fox Sparrow, MacGillivray's, Hermit,  
Townsend's, Wilson's, & Orange-Crowned  
Warbler, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Warbling  
Vireo, and Ash Throated Flycatcher.  
Also at Blue Oak there was a 3 foot  
rattlesnake with 8 buttons lying calmly  
on a limb of a small tree about 2 feet  
off the ground!

omitted Ed <sup>Levin's Pk</sup>  
<sup>Apr. 18</sup>



by Al McNabney

**PARKS & WETLANDS RECREATION-YOUR CHOICE** A good, well-maintained park; most people want one. The June 5th primary ballot and Proposition 18 gives an opportunity to vote for much needed funds ( \$370 million) for development and enhancement of existing parks. Some funds would be spent for new parkland. Proposition 19 will, if approved, provide \$85 million for acquisition and restoration of wetlands and other fish and wildlife habitat. Propositions 18 and 19 are worthy and supportable. Don't let the June 5th primary pass without expressing YOUR vote at the ballot box.

**WATER AND AIR STILL NOT CLEANED UP...** The waning days of this Congressional session find opponents to the Clean Water and Clean Air Acts still attempting, with a good deal of vigor, to reduce the effectiveness of these laws. Problems at Kesterson Wildlife Refuge as a result of toxics draining into the area give a clue to the problems caused by these wastes. The people, birds, wildlife and countryside all need the protections that will be afforded by passage of these two pieces of legislation without crippling amendments.

**SHELL MARSH A REFUGE OR SHOPPING MALL** The choice is NOT yet between those alternatives. John Davis, Pres of the John Muir Memorial Assoc is one who believes the water and shore birds that have used the area for years should be able to continue to do so. City of Martinez officials (Mayor, City Council) and the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors have been told of the need for AND interest in having the Shell Marsh Land established as a sanctuary for birds. The 110 species of shore and water birds that have been observed in the area would doubtless vote FOR a sanctuary, if asked.

**THE GOVERNOR, NO. CALIF WATER, SF BAY, & YOU** The Committee for Water Policy Consensus is going statewide to develop a broad based consensus as to the best way to handle the water needs of the entire state. One sure way NOT to handle them is to follow or adopt the water legislation presently being sponsored by the Governor. Editorial opinion in the north of the state is

not unexpectedly, just about unanimously AGAINST these very, very bad bills. San Francisco Bay and its protection is not high on the agenda for many in the south of the state. The fishing industry does not seem to be as important to some people as does the taking of water for irrigation of fields. Some of the fields could not and would not even be farmed were it not for the availability of "cheap" water. Protection of bird life, wildlife and the great rivers of the north seem to be secondary issues in the Governor's bills. It is incumbent on every caring person in the state to let their legislators know they want a water program that is fair, considerate, controls cost, waste, and protects the environment.

**ACME FILL GARBAGE DUMP WETLANDS** Acme Fill, despite assurances given two years ago, is still seeking permission to "fill" wetlands rather than develop a long-term garbage dump site.

#### Willow Flycatcher Study

The California Dept of Fish and Game is undertaking a study of the Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*) in California to document distribution, abundance, habitat requirements, and reproductive success. Please send any reports of recent sightings (within the past decade) of breeding Willow Flycatchers to Ronald W. Schlorff, Ca Dept of Fish and Game, 1416 Ninth St, Sacramento, CA 95814. Please include your name, address, and phone#, along with the following: location of sightings (if possible, provide legal description of nest territory- township, range, section, 1/4 section- ideally, a copy of a topographic map should be included) date of observation, behavioral notes, and any other relevant information (e.g. evidence of nest parasitism by Brown-Headed Cowbirds or threats to habitat). This information will assist State and Federal agencies in developing habitat protection and species management plans for this bird species of special concern.

## CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

Alexander Lindsay Jr Museum is offering a Day in the Redwoods to explore the tide-pools and watch shorebirds, seek out mushrooms, lichens and other flora and fauna contained in the redwood forests near Pescadero. Saturday, June 2; fee: \$12.

Meet the Ancients: Travel to the high Desert of the White Mountains to explore abandoned cabins and mines and visit various groves of the ancient bristlecone pine forest. June 30-July 4; Fee: \$100 member, \$115 non-member.

Volunteers needed for wildlife rehabilitation program. The next class will begin June 9, and will run for three sessions. For more info on all the above call the Museum at 935-1978.

The Northstate Wilderness Committee, in cooperation with the Sierra Club, has organized a series of wilderness outings to various National Forest roadless areas in Northern California. This outings program is intended to educate the public concerning the natural resources and wilderness values of these roadless areas and encourage public participation in the National Forest planning process that will determine their future management. For info contact Northstate Wilderness Committee, 708 Cherry St, Chico, CA 95926 or call 916-891-6424.

Diablo Valley College is offering an Introduction to Bird Study by Swarth on Tuesday evenings 6/26-7/24 from 7-10. There are 5 field trips to various Bay Area bird habitats. No fee. Sign-ups are from 5/21-6/4. You must be enrolled at DVC which can be done at the time of sign-up.

Fremont Adult School is again providing a Birding Field trips class led by Alice Hoch. The 6-week class will meet on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 to 12:30 starting June 19. For further info: call Alice Hoch at 657-0475.

San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory (SFBO) still has plenty of room in the Kern River trip and the July Yosemite trip. The August Arizona and Condor trips are filling up fast. Call Don Starks at (408) 371-9720 for specific dates and prices.

The Mono Lake Committee is sponsoring its fifth annual Mono Lake Bikeathon August 27-September 1. Bikers will carry tubes of water from DWP's downtown reflecting ponds 350 miles to Mono Lake as a symbolic gesture to preserve Mono Lake. Contact Stephen Osgood, at the Mono Lake Committee, 1355 Westwood Blvd, Ste 6, L.A. CA 90024.

The Mono Lake Committee is also looking for an executive director to administer this public interest group. Contact the Committee for details.

FRBO will offer High Country Birds by Dave DeSante, Ph.D. on August 4, 5, & 6. Beginning at Crane Flat and spending one full day near treeline expect to see and study the dynamics of the breeding bird community in the Hall Natural Area near Tioga Pass. Details: (415) 868-1221.

Prop 19, on the June ballot, is a critically important bond measure which provides \$85 million to acquire and restore wetlands and other fish and wildlife habitat. This measure addresses one of the most serious environmental issues and deserves your strong support.

Wetland areas provide essential food and shelter to many irreplaceable species of birds, fish, and other wildlife. During the past century, California has lost 90% of our wetland areas. If some state action is not forthcoming, it will be catastrophic for California fish and wildlife.

Prop 19 is the only bond measure specifically designed to protect these vital ecological breeding grounds and represents the greatest opportunity for us to protect our fish and wildlife.

Prop 18 will allow recreation agencies to meet the increasing demand with development of recreational facilities where they are most needed. It also provides funds for protection of our coast, wildlife, rare and endangered species, acquisition of new parkland in the Santa Monica Mts, and protection of the San Francisco Bay. \$25 million of the bond funds will be used for wildlife conservation, including \$15 million for acquisition and development of wildlife management areas, and \$10 million for acquisition of habitat for our rare and endangered species in California.

APRIL OBSERVATIONS. Also see field trips.

White Pelican, SR-37, Solano Co, Apr 22--SEL, AG. Cattle Egret, Hayward Regional Shoreline (HRS), thru Apr 8--BR, mob; 15, SR-152 just east of Los Banos, Merced Co, Apr 2--JR; 5, I-680/Waterfront Rd, Apr 24, 7 there Apr 29--JR. American Bittern, 2, So San Ramon Creek at Amador Valley Blvd, Dublin, Apr 7--SE.

Tundra Swan, 2, HRS, Apr 8--BR. "Black" Brant, 50, Fish Docks, Pt Reyes, Apr 7--H&JG. Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Merced NWR, Apr 2--RBA, JR. Blue-Winged Teal, ♂, Stockton Oxi Ponds (SOP), Apr 2--BR, ♂, HRS, Apr 4 & 6--BR. Wood Duck, many, Caswell SP, San Joaquin Co, Apr 22--T&GF. Redhead, 4, SOP, Apr 2--BR. Common Merganser, ♀, SOP, Apr 2--BR; 2♂, 1♀, Sunol RP, Apr 18--KH.

MISSISSIPPI KITE, Pigeon Point, San Mateo Co, Apr 5--BS. Red-Shouldered Hawk, pair nesting near their Lafayette home--S&MS; 1 over her Alamo home, Apr 12-28--JR. Swainson's Hawk, SOP, Apr 2--BR; Durham Ferry SP, San Joaquin Co, Apr 2--JR; 6 San Luis NWR, Merced Co, Apr 5--JR. Golden Eagle, imm, HRS, Apr 1, ad, Apr 6 & 8--BR. Osprey, 6, Duncan Mills, Sonoma Co, Apr 22--SEL, AG; 1, Upper San Leandro Res, Apr 25--TL, et al. Prairie Falcon, Lafayette, Apr 1--JH; Danville, Apr 9--SE. Peregrine Falcon, Hayward, Apr 11--BR.

Wild Turkey, Mines Rd, 2, MP-6.75, Apr 25--MP, GF, & several, MP-9.26, Apr 29--RBA. COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL, SOP, thru Apr 12, RBA, BR, et al. LITTLE GULL, 1-2, SOP, thru Apr 27--RBA, BR, et al. GREATER ROAD-RUNNER, MP-4.5, Del Puerto Cyn Rd, Stanislaus Co, Apr 17--JR, BF. Western Screech-Owl, Sunol RP, Apr 13--SE, et al.

COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD, MP-3.3-3.5, Del Puerto Cyn Rd, Apr 8-30+--RBA, JR, et al. Rufous Hummingbird, their Walnut Creek garden, Apr 15--T&GF; their Orinda garden, Apr 16-30--H&NB. CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD, up to 5, Tilden RP, Apr 1-29--RBA, K&LR; their Lafayette garden, Apr 23-25--H&BA. Pileated Woodpecker, Western Mine Rd, Lake Co, Apr 24--JR, JD. Lewis' Woodpecker, 1-2 Shell Ridge, Apr 15--GF; 3, MP-9.6, Del Puerto Cyn Rd, & 1, near San Antonio JCT, Santa Clara Co, Apr 17--JR, BF, et al.

Dusky Flycatcher, 2, Tilden RP, Apr 29--K&LR. California Thrasher, walking up and down a soaker hose which was watering the lawn,

his Walnut Creek garden, Apr 27--TL. TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE, Mitchell Cyn, Apr 2--S&MS. Golden-Crowned Kinglet, pair, his Lafayette garden, Mar 31-Apr 1--JH. Phainopepla, ♀, Shell Ridge, Apr 15--GF; several, along Mines Rd, Apr 25--GF, MP.

Nashville Warbler, 5-6, Sunol RW, Apr 18--KH; 1, Las Trampas RP, Apr 21--GF; MP-12.62, Mines Rd, Apr 25--GF, MP. MacGillivray's Warbler, White Cyn (off Mitchell Cyn), Apr 10--GF; MP-12.83, Mines Rd, Apr 25--MP, GF. YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT, Frank Raines Co Pk, Del Puerto Cyn Rd, Apr 17--JR, BF, et al.

Yellow-Headed Blackbird, ♂, SOP, Apr 2--BR. Hooded Oriole, several, her Alamo home, thru period--JR, ♂, John Muir House, Apr 21--EB, JD. Lawrence's Goldfinch, 2, Caswell SP, Mar 26--GF, MP, MS, & Apr 22--T&GF; 6+, Black Diamond Mines RP, Apr 5--GF; nesting pair, MP-o5.93, San Antonio Valley (Mines) Rd, Santa Clara Co, Apr 17--JR, BF, et al; all along Mines Rd, Apr 25--GF, MP.

Grasshopper Sparrow, 10, MP-o.5, Del Puerto Cyn Rd, Apr 17--JR, BF, et al. Black-Chinned Sparrows returned to Mt Diablo SP, Apr 24--RBA. White-Throated Sparrow, 2, their Orinda garden, Apr 10--H&NB. Lapland Longspur, 1-2, HRS, thru period--BR, mob.

In Texas, Apr 21-May 2: CURLEW SANDPIPER, Red-Billed Pigeon, Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, Ringed Kingfisher, YUCATAN VIREO, (1st US record), many warblers, among 200 species--BC.

OBSERVERS: Harry & Betty Adamson, Hugh & Norah Bain, Ethel Beckerman, Bill Chil-son, Jane Dang, John Davis, Shimi Edmondson, Shirley Ellis, Toni & George Finger, Bud Fry, Ann Gannon, Helen & Jerry Gentile, Joel Herr, Kevin Hintsa, Tom Lee, Marge Plant, Barry Sauppe, Susan & Maury Stern, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Kirk & Lee Robinson, NoCal Rare Bird Alert, many observers.

For relative abundance of species, see "BIRDS OF NORTHERN CALIF" (from Lindsay Museum, Natural Instincts, The Nature Co.); central and east county: "BIRDS OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY" by MDAS. NoCal Rare Bird Alert, 843-2211, changed weekly.

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

Molly Jane Monheit recently sent me a report on the Mexican tour she had attended.

" Five of us from Lafayette took the Rancho del Cielo tour. It was a fun-filled wacky trip with great food prepared by college kids. All the meals were great and no problems because the food was brought in. The Rancho is isolated by a rough and rugged road (the trip up is a bouncy, jouncy, exhilarating ride in the back of Dodge Power Wagons). There are lectures on birds, plants, Mexican history and the Indians. In the area are remains of Mayan ruins. The leaders were great; and Fred Webster is a real character.

The birding was done in South America's most northern tropical cloud forest and we had macaws, parrots, trogons, and Singing Quail, Green Jays, Summer and Flame Tanagers in the camp grounds. A Blue-Crowned Mot Mot came every afternoon to sit in the trees off our porch. One afternoon I was amazed to see what appeared to be a bumble bee but was actually the tiny Bumble Bee Hummingbird darting from flower to flower.

We saw 92 species of birds including: Masked Tityra, Least Pygmy Owl, Rufous Browed Pepper Shrike, Brown Backed Solitaire, (one of the most beautiful songs of any bird in the world), Blue Hooded Euphonia, Bat Falcons, Wedgetail Sabrewing, Spot Breasted Wren, Alta Mira Orioles, Linneated Woodpecker, and many other exotic birds.

The bromeliads and orchids were everywhere. If I were to do it again I'd stay two weeks."

Molly Jane would be glad to talk to anyone who would like more information on this trip.

#### NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome these new MDAS members and hope to meet them at our activities:

J S Edwards Jr, Mrs Norman Main, Philip and Linda Myers, Barbara Abele, W D Allison, Pauline Amaral, Elaine Case, Lee Eschen, Ruth Hewitt, David Kann, Michael Meagher, L. Wynne.

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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: \$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.

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(415) AUD-UBON

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

July/August 1984

Vol 31 No 1 next deadline August 1

**ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC** Friday, July 20, 7:00 PM, Del Valle Regional Park. Picnic and Poorwills. Following the picnic we will look for Poorwills and owls on Mendenhall Rd. Bring binocs, flashlights, and supper. Del Valle Park has an entrance fee so carpooling is encouraged. Del Valle is south of Livermore; take Livermore Ave off I-580 to Tesla Rd, Mines Rd and El Valle Rd into park. Cross the bridge to the west side of the lake, turn right to north end of the parking lot. Bring picnic and come as early as you like. We'll eat around 7:00 PM. Call Elizabeth Dickey if you are coming. 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 per person.

- \* Sat-Sun July 7 & 8 Yosemite National Park, Sat, 7:00 AM meet at Chevron Station at Crane Flat. We will bird there till 9:00 AM, then bird Tioga Rd (SR120) to the Green Bridge. Sun 7:30 AM Badger Pass Ski Area. Go east via I-580, I-205 and SR-120 thru Manteca all the way to the park. Camping at Hodgdon Meadow (entrance of left, just past Big Oak Flat entrance). There is a \$30 fee for group site; we will split fee. Bring insect repellent. We may see Blue Grouse, Mt Quail, Great Gray Owl, Black Swift, 3-Toed Woodpecker, Pine Grosbeak, Rosy Finch. Call leader Jean Richmond, 837-2843 or Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486 if going.



- \* Sat, July 28, San Mateo Coast, Carpool: 6:30 AM El Cerro Blvd west of I-680. Meet at parking lot opposite Pescadero Rd at 8:15 AM. Cross San Mateo Bridge and continue on SR-92 to Half Moon Bay. Left on SR-1 15 miles to Pescadero Rd and left into parking lot. Can be cold and windy! May see early shorebirds, possible Black Swift, Bank Swallows, Marbled Murrelet. Call Elizabeth Dickey for details, 254-0486.
- \* Thurs Aug 2, Black Point, 8:45 AM. Carpool: southwest corner of Sun Valley Center, 8:00 AM. We will look for early migrating shorebirds, and some waterbirds and landbirds. Cross the Benicia Bridge, go north on I-780, east on I-80, west on SR-37 one mile to fairgrounds Dr, turn left to Solano County Fairgrounds. Leader: Jimm Edgar, 283-3510.
- \* Sat, Aug 11, Bodega Bay, Carpool: 6:30 AM Sun Valley Center, southwest corner at Willow Pass and Contra Costa Blvd. Meet at Tides Restaurant 8:30 AM. Go north on US-101 to Petaluma, follow signs from Washington St exit to SR-1 then north to the Tides Restaurant. Can be windy and cold. Early shorebirds waterbirds, rails, post breeding migrants. Leader: Helen & Jerry Gentile, 689-7075.

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Mitchell/Ogden trip May 19  
Las Pasaadas trip May 24

- \* Sat-Sun, Sept 29-30, Monterey Weekend and Pelagic Trip. Sat birding land and Sun for seabirds. Cost for boat is \$30. Your check is your reservation. We need to know by Sept 1 how many MDAS people are going. Send checks to Gifford A. Young, Treasurer, 1451 Janet Ct, Benicia, CA 94510; payable to MDAS. It is advisable to make motel reservations as soon as possible. As of June 1, Travel Lodge 800-255-3050 and Best Western 800-528-1234 still would take one night reservations. Leaders for pelagic trip are Dr. Ted Chandik and Dr Howard Cogswell.

FIELD TRIP Thurs July 26, 7:30 Pm  
PLANNING home of Elizabeth Dickey,  
113 Hillcrest Dr, Orinda.  
Anyone interested planning or leading field trips is welcome. Also suggested sites to visit or particular birds are welcomed. If you have reactions to time of trips...too early or too late... let us know. Phone Elizabeth if you have questions, 254-0486.

BOARD <sup>Wed</sup> Thurs Aug 2, 7:30 PM. Home  
MEETING of Joy Hall, 2148 Stewart Ave, Walnut Creek, 934-5631.  
Board meetings are open to all members.

We are happy to welcome these new MDAS members and hope to meet them at our activities: Jean Ballanger, Helen Jensen, Marguerite Kummrow, Joan Weighell, Jeannette Albro, Hohn Durantini, Marie Lake, Stephen A Minton Jr, James Mackenzie, Dorothy Parrillo, John Yenches, Sally Burnham, Robert Chapla, Kirk Robinson, Kelsey Smith.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FIELD GUIDE

A repeat of our sellout!! Additional copies of the NGS Field Guide to Birds of North America have been ordered at a considerable discount. Send a check for \$12.75 to Gifford A. Young, Treasurer, 1451 Janet Ct, Benicia, CA 94510, for book rate home delivery. All purchasers should check the pages carefully for incorrect collation. Notify Gifford (707-745-4134) to receive a replacement.

The East Contra Costa trip on May 17 was attended by 5 members. It was clear, warm but windy. Only Blue Grosbeaks (1♀) and Burrowing Owls were seen of speceial birds expected on the trip.

At Pt Reyes on June 2, 13 observers had clear but very windy weather. A Varied Thrush at Nunes and a newly fledged Great Horned Owl at Fish Docks were interesting. Black Scoters, several Common Loons in summer plumage and a male Red-Breasted Merganser on the water at Fish Docks were observed by kneeling and bracing the binoculars on the guard rail. A weasel was seen on the road to the Lighthouse. 41 species were seen.

Nine members and guests were at Las Trampas Regional Park on June 7. Even with scattered clouds it was pleasantly warm. The group was treated to a guided tour by the semi-resident Kevin Hintsa. Nests of House Wren, Anna's Hummer, Robin, Warbling Vireo and Black Phoebe were seen.

Outstanding views of two singing Grasshopper Sparrows were much enjoyed. The birds were well seen in scopes and remained in position so that everyone had good views from several angles. Lawrence's Goldfinches were also observed on the same hill. A total of 55 species was noted.

Question: What is invisible but smells like worms?

SCORE YOUR REPRESENTATIVE

How does your representative vote on key environmental proposals? If you'd like to find out, send for the League of Conservation Voters' 1983 "Voting Chart". The chart, a 32 page booklet, tells how every congressman voted on 14 environmental questions considered most important by lobbyists and activists. The bills range from water projects to wilderness, and by scanning the vote charts you can get a profile of your delegation's environmental ethic. To obtain a copy of the chart, send \$4.00 to: League of Conservation Voters, 320 Fourth St, N.E. Washington, DC 20002.

CONSERVATION NOTES

by Al McNabney

SHALL WE TELL THE BIRDS TO SHOP AT SAFEWAY???????????? Interest in developing Shell Marsh as a bird refuge has been growing as a result of rumors indicating the land was to be used for other purposes. Now, KAZ Development Co, has reportedly tied up the land and it is presently in escrow. As of a week ago the sale was not final. The County was threatening to condemn a portion of the land for space on which to erect a new County jail. KAZ has indicated it wants to erect a "first class" office development on the site. It is not clear what steps can be taken to assure a viable bird refuge will be maintained on the land. This marsh has been called THE most important area in Contra Costa County for shore and water birds. One rumor (not given much credence) is that a poll will be taken of the birds using the area to determine whether or not they wish to use the facilities of a new shopping mall or would they prefer the habitat to remain pretty much as it is.

GARRISON PROJECT AGAIN IN THE NEWS Every Audubon member is urged to contact senators and congressmen in opposition to the Garrison Diversion Project in North Dakota. The project has had a long stormy (and expensive) history in the Congress. Presently the House has included NO funds for the project. The Senate in the Appropriations Committee, is expected to propose funding. This billion dollar Bureau of Reclamation Project is only partially complete. When complete, 12 National Wildlife Refuges, 60,000 acres of prairie wetlands will be harmed or destroyed and 13,000 more acres will be harmed. All in the (alleged) name of developing farmlands. North Dakota is one of the most productive waterfowl areas in the US and this project will be particularly damaging to waterfowl.

DUKE'S DITCH-or WHERE DID OUR WATER GO? The terrible water measures proposed at the Governor's behest are still being debated in the Senate Finance Committee. Protections for the Bay, Delta, and Suisun Marsh are either nonexistent or so flimsy as to be meaningless. Despite assurances given by the Governor on radio and TV (which appear to be aimed at reducing Northern California public opposition) that the bills do contain protections or that amendments will be made to the bills, the facts are quite different. So far, ALL amendments offered by N. California senators to provide adequate protections have been defeated. At present, the water measures stand in sharp contrast with the Governor's promises and actions. One State Senator recently wrote, "A growing number of my colleagues share my opinion that SB 1369 must not be allowed out of the legislature without significant amendments that hold the state responsible". The activities involved in the introduction and handling of these water measures and what appears to be the attempt to pass them "as is" may go down in California history as one of the great sleight of hand activities of all time. Protection amendments will not be achieved without stern public pressure for an equitable set of measures. It's YOUR Bay, it's YOUR Delta, it's YOUR Marsh, protect them if you want to keep them.



"AM THE BEAUTIFUL, CLEAN FRESH AIR ... PITY THERE'S NOT ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE."

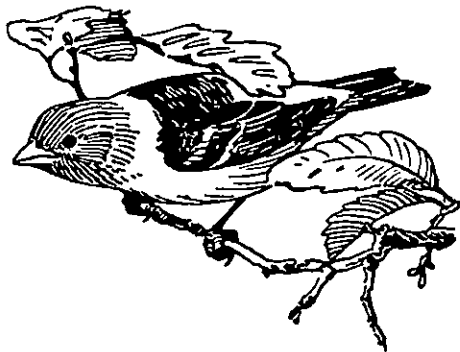
## A QUIET NIGHT AT HOME

by Jimm Edgar

I returned today from Los Angeles after spending 14 of the past 30 hours driving (not pleasant, but it had to be done). I decided to while away the hours by learning the scientific names of the birds that visit our yard (did I forget to mention that it was a very boring trip?).

I was looking forward to a quiet night at home, and it was, though it wasn't as I expected. It seems that many of our summer resident birds decided to fledge their young over the weekend. I first noticed a new Black-Headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) being fed sunflower seeds from our feeder by its mom. Soon a new Northern Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) appeared. Next to make their appearance were Rufous-Sided Towhees (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*). Incidentally, did you see that the new national spelling bee champ won by spelling Towhee? All right! They should have asked him for the scientific name too. Anyway, new hummers were whirring about—both Allen's and Anna's (*Selasphorus sasin* and *Calypte anna*) and *Pipilo fuscus* (Brown Towhee).

What a delight to sit and watch the birds feed their young and learn their trade of survival. Here's a Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) and a pair of *Zenaida macroura* (Mourning Doves). Did you know that Charles Bonaparte (Napoleon's nephew) named the dove after his wife Zenaida (lucky her name wasn't Brunhilda)? Charles was an early ornithologist. Have I already mentioned that it was a very boring trip?



## CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS:

POINT REYES BIRD OBSERVATORY and the OCEANIC SOCIETY are sponsoring lectures on various topics on the Farallon Is. Thursday evenings July 5, August 2, September 6 and October 4 from 6:00-8:00PM. The fee is \$3.00 per lecture per person. The topics covered will be: Living on a Chunk of Granite-History of the Farallones, Sharks-Food for Thought, Whales, Elusive Leviathans found at the Farallones, and Tons of Seals and Sea Lions. Contact the Oceanic Society Expeditions, Fort Mason Bldg E, San Francisco, 94123. 474-3385.

ALEXANDER LINDSAY JUNIOR MUSEUM is extending their hours for the summer. Starting June 20th the Museum will be open Wednesdays through Sunday from 11 AM to 5PM. Drop by and see this fascinating community natural history museum at 1901 First Ave in Walnut Creek's Larkey Park.

PRBO NATURAL EXCURSIONS will roam through the choicest Yosemite birdwatching spots from Crane Flat to the summits. Williamson's Sapsucker, Black-Backed Woodpecker, Rosy Finch, and Water Pipit are hoped for sightings. Dave DeSante will lead August 4, 5, & 6. \$85-\$95. PRBO (415) 868-1221.

James "Hawkeye" Rondeau will be sailing from Pillar Point Harbor, Half Moon Bay, every weekend through Sept 30. Possible are Black Oystercatchers, 2 storm petrels, 3 cormorants, and 5 types of alcids. Humpback whales, dolphins, porpoises, and quite possibly Blue whales are offered. Contact Hawkeye at 4068 Petulla Ct, San Jose, CA 95124 408-374-3027.

Norah Bain will again teach a beginning and intermediate bird identification class through the Orinda Community Ctr. Seven weeks—one classroom and 7 field trips in the Bay Area will be held. Tuesday meetings with the first class on Sept 18. Contact Orinda Community Ctr 254-2445.



OBSERVATIONS for May

Green-Backed Heron, in an oak tree behind her Danville home, far far from water, May 3--SS. LITTLE BLUE HERON, 1-2 ad, Bolinas Lagoon at Audubon Cyn Ranch, May 19-27--PRBO, NB, mob. Canada Goose, 2, Hayward Regional Shoreline (HRS), May 12--BR. Wild Turkey, Mendenhall Rd, off Mines Rd, May 31--GF, KH. Wandering Tattler, near New Willows, Pt Reyes, May 30 (late)--GF, KH.

Greater Roadrunner, MP-3.3, Del Puerto Cyn Rd, Stanislaus Co, May 9--ED. Common Poorwill, 7, calling, Mendenhall Rd May 31--GF, KH. BLACK SWIFT, Garin Woods Reg Park, May 7--BR; SR-24 at Oak Hill Rd, Lafayette, May 22--JR. Vaux's Swift, 8, Rock City, Mt Diablo St Pk (MDSP), May 1--JR, BF, et al; 1-3 Garin Woods Reg Pk, May 5-7--BR. Caliope Hummingbird, ♂, Garin Wd RP, May 5--BR.

Willow Flycatcher, Lighthouse, Pt Reyes May 29--JR, BF, et al. PURPLE MARTIN, 2♂, 1♀, 5-Brooks, Pt Reyes, May 29--JR, BF, et al; ♂, Cal State Univ, Hayward, May 24--BR. Common Raven, Rock City, MDSP, May 1--JR, BF, et al. MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE, Nunes Ranch, Pt Reyes, May 29-30--BF, JR, GF, KH, mob.

Varied Thrush, Sunset area, MDSP, May 1 (late)--JR, BF, et al; Nunes Ranch, May 29-30--BF, JR, KH, GF, et al. Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, 8, MDSP, May 1--JR, BF, et al. Phainopepla, ♂, Mendenhall Rd, May 31--GF, KH. Solitary Vireo, singing ♂, her Alamo Garden, May 29--JR.

TENNESSEE WARBLER, singing ♂, Nunes Ranch, May 27--A&WG. Black-Throated Gray Warbler, Garin Woods RP, May 7--BR. Yellow-Breasted Chat, Henno Rd, Glen Ellen, May 22--JR. WARBLER WAVE: 8 Orange-Crowned, 1 Nashville, 4 "Audubon", 2 Black-Throated Gray, <sup>not Townsend's</sup> 50+ Hermit, 3 Wilson's, Sunset area, MDSP, May 1--JR, BF, et al. (Similar wave, same place, April 30, 1977--JR)

BOBOLINK, ♂, SR-140 at I-5, Merced Co, May 13--T&GF. Tricolored Blackbird, ♂, Garin RP, May 5--BR. Hooded Oriole, 15-18, her Alamo garden, thru period--JR. Lawrence's Goldfinch, 2, MDSP, May 1--JR, BF, et al; 1, Lighthouse, Pt Reyes, May 30--GF, KH; 15+, Mendenhall Rd,

May 31--GF, KH; many during period, along Mines Rd, several places in Tilden RP, Briones RP--RBA.

Grasshopper Sparrow, 2-4, Garin RP, May 5-7--BR; 1, HRS, May 12--BR; 4♂, Las Trampas RP, May 27--KH. Rufous-Crowned Sparrow, Garin Woods RP, May 7--BR. Black-Chinned Sparrow, So Gate Rd, MDSP, May 1--JR; Blue Oak area, MDSP, May 16--KH, GF; 1-5 Nimitz Way, Tilden RP, May 10-28--RBA. Lapland Longspur, HRS, thru May 12--BR, et al.

OBSERVERS: Norah Bain, Elizabeth Dickey, Toni & George Finger, Bud Fry, Al & Wilma Ghiorso, Kevin Hintsa, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Sally Steller, Pt Reyes Bird Observatory, NoCal Rare Bird Alert, many observers.

Observations deadline: August 1 for sightings in June-July. Jean Richmond, Observations Editor, 125 Via Serena, Alamo, CA 94507; 837-2843.

Answer: Bird breath.

## TUCSON RBA

Ethel Lazaroff sent me this amusing item from the April 1st Tucson Audubon Rare Bird Alert.

This is the Tucson Audubon Society Rare Bird Report for April 1st, 1984. We have received several reports of migrating Flea Swallows. Look for these diminutive swallows foraging around pets, especially dogs and cats. An All-Excited Flycatcher, usually a late migrant, was heard calling enthusiastically this week on the U of A campus.

A few wintering ducks seem to be lingering at local ponds. Common Snivellers and Snuffleheads have been sighted recently, although these may be ailing individuals unable to accomplish the strenuous flight north. Another interesting waterfowl report was sent in by S. White, who described 7 small ducks which she tentatively identified as Dwarf Whistling Ducks on the basis of the following vocalization which she recorded: (tune of "Whistle While You Work").

Recent name changes of North American birds made by the American Ornithologists Confusion have left many local birders uncertain about the correct names to use. You may wish to correct your field guide to show the recent splitting of the Chevy's Wren from the Bewick's Wren. Another name change Arizona birders should take note of is the Strychnine's Woodpecker, which is a common resident in the Poison Oak and Spine Woodland.

The U of A Ornithology Lab reported that they received a bird recovered from Interstate 10 this week, which has been identified as a Smear'd Grebe. Visitors to Gato Canyon have observed the Black-Capped Catnappers collecting fur from sleeping cats to line their nests.

A group of pre-schoolers was delighted recently when they found a bright blue Smurf Bird on the irrigated lawn of their nursery school. Shorebirds were also a hot topic among recent rumors which included a rather suspicious Wandering Tattletale and a Scandaling at the sewage ponds.

Also at the sewage ponds was a Northern Waterflush. We had a number of reports of the Varied Flush from similar areas such as cesspools and other waste water areas throughout southeastern Arizona and we received a single report of a secretive Hermit Flush from a remote site.

Birders at Canoa Pond investigation an unusual call were surprised to find the sound emanating from a sleeping Common Snorehen.

Please report sightings of unusual birds to Sharon Goldfinchwatcher, John D. Bunting, Jr, or Mark Catbird at the U of A Ornithology Lab....and creative birding to all!!!




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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: \$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.

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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: Maury Stern  
939 Carol Lane  
Lafayette, CA 94549  
284-5980

September 1984

Vol 31 No 2

next deadline August 26

MDAS HAS A NEW LOCATION FOR THEIR MONTHLY MEETINGS. Meetings will now be held at the Contra Costa Jewish Community Center ( the Old Tice Valley Elementary School), 2071 Tice Valley Blvd Walnut Creek, just southeast of Rossmoor Parkway on the right side of the street across from Grace Presbyterian Church.

From the west, north, and east: Take the Pleasant Hill Rd South off-ramp from Hwy 24 to Olympic Blvd. Turn east on Olympic to Tice Valley Blvd, right on Tice Valley towards Rossmoor.

From the south, take the Livorna Rd off-ramp to Danville Blvd. Go north to Hillgrade Ave, left on Hillgrade which becomes Crest Ave, left on Tice Valley Blvd to meeting place.

MEETING Thurs, Sept 6, 2071 Tice Valley Blvd, Walnut Creek.

NOTE THE NEW LOCATION, directions will follow. Doors open 6:30PM Birding Information 7:00PM. Preview of field trip attractions by George Finger. Business Meeting: 7:30 PM. Social Time: 8:00 PM. Program: 8:30 PM Dr Ted Chandik, well known Bay Area ornithologist will speak on pelagic birds of the west coast. This will give us an excellent preparation to our Sept 30 pelagic trip.

\* Sat, Sept 8, San Mateo County Coast. Carpool: 6:30 AM at El Cerro Blvd at west side I-680. Meeting place Pescadero Beach, 8:15 AM. Cross San Mateo Bridge continue on SR-92 to Half Moon Bay and SR-1. Go left 15 miles to Pescadero Rd, turn right to parking lot. Sea, shore and marsh birds, perhaps Baird's and Pectoral Sandpipers. May be cold and windy, dress accordingly. Leader: Maury Stern, 284-5980.

\* Thurs, Sept 20, Bolinas Lagoon, 9:15 AM. Carpool: 7:15 AM Pleasant Hill Rd, just north of Freeway 24 at Acalanes Ave. Meet at Audubon Canyon Ranch. Cross the San Rafael Bridge, go north on US-101 for 0.6 miles, take San Rafael exit, 2 blocks to 3rd St, turn left and go out through Fairfax to SR-1, turn left to Bolinas Lagoon and Audubon Canyon Ranch. We will take advantage of tides in the morning to look for shorebirds, waterbirds, etc. After lunch we will perhaps go back to 5 Brooks to look for landbirds. Leader:

\* Wed, Sept 26, Lincoln Park, 9:00 AM. Carpool: 8:00 AM north of Freeway 24 on Pleasant Hill Rd and Acalanes Ave. From Kennedy Dr. in Golden Gate Park, go north on 30th Ave to Clement St, go left to 34th Ave, right on Legion of Honor Dr. Just beyond the Legion of Honor turn right on El Camino Del Mar and park. Fall migrants, particularly warblers and other rare vagrants. Leader: Winnie Orcutt, 944-0593.

FIELD TRIPS Trips open to members and non-members. Bring binocs, lunch, field guide. Carpool time is departure time. Carpool expense, 5 cents per mile per person.

*omitted from Ellen June 13 (E.V.)*

\* Sat-Sun, Sept 29-30, Monterey Weekend and Pelagic Trip. Sat we will meet at Moss Landing, 8:30 AM. Take I-680 to San Jose US-101 south to Prunedale, west on SR-156, north 4 miles on SR-1 west onto Jetty Rd. (1/2 mile north of Elkhorn Slough Bridge) Allow 2 hours. Sunday will be the pelagic trip with leaders Dr Howard Cogswell and Dr Ted Chandik. We need to know by Sept 1 how many MDAS people are going. Send checks for \$30 to Gifford Young, Treasurer, 1451 Janet Ct, Benicia, CA 94510 to reserve your spot on the boat. See July/August Quail for motel suggestions.

On Saturday we should see water and shore birds and many land birds (possibly vagrants). Sunday's trip should produce the expected pelagic birds which might include unusual species. We will send more details upon receiving your check for the trip. Leader: (Sat) Jean Richmond, 837-2843.

BOARD MEETING Thurs Sept 13, 7:30 PM.  
Home of Maury Stern, 939 Carol Lane, Lafayette, 284-5980. Board meetings are open to all members.

CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

Fremont Adult School will again offer "Birding Field Trips" led by Alice Hoch. Each Tuesday morning starting September 11, a different birding spot will be covered.

Alice Hoch will also lead a one-day birding trip to Pescadero on Saturday, September 22, from 9 AM until 3 PM. For details on either trip call Alice Hoch 657-0475.

The Mono Lake Committee is sponsoring a "Luxury Bus Tour" to Mono Lake on Friday Oct 5 thru Monday Oct 8, meals and lodging are included. Details: Grace De Laet 398-6744 or David Wimpfheimer 956-7532.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

*June 16 11*  
The Yuba Pass-Sierra Valley trip was attended by 15 MDAS members under mostly clear skies and comfortable temperatures. No Black Terns were at Marble Hot Springs which is very unusual. Dippers were nesting behind the waterfall on SR-49 above Sierra City. One flew in and went to the nest with several members standing no more than 10 feet away! Up close and personal! A pair of Black-Backed Woodpeckers feeding young in a hole about 1/2 mile east of Yuba Pass in a tree right beside the highway was enjoyed by all. A ♀ Wood Duck, a pair of Redheads and a ♂ Ring-Necked Duck were in a pond on Calpine Rd (north of Sattley). A ♂ Calliope Hummer co-operated by sitting atop a small tree beside the road at Clark Station. Also a Nashville Warbler was high up in a tree but well seen. Other highlights were Sage Thrasher, Mountain Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, Evening Grosbeak, and Red Crossbill.

The picnic to Del Valle Regional Park was lightly attended by 8 members. *July 20*  
On Mendehall Rd we heard a Screech Owl calling and briefly saw a Pygmy Owl. A small rattlesnake soaking up some heat from the road caused a small stir of excitement as it scooted off the road and down the hill rattling its displeasure all the way down the hill. Several carloads of Common Nighthawks looking for a place to roost or display tried to run us over.

*off*  
*from August 20/11*  
*Aug 2*  
The trip to Sears Point-Foley Park was held under cold and overcast skies early but clearing skies in the afternoon. Seven MDAS members watched several flocks of white Pelicans as they soared around. A beautiful display of 400-500 birds. A ♂ Wood Duck was at the meeting place and an Hooded Oriole flew past at the lunch stop in Foley Park. A Prairie Falcon put on an Olympic performance as it flew around during lunch. Many of the shorebirds were in breeding plumage.



## CONSERVATION NOTES

by Al McNabney

## DON'T STOP HERE, THERE'S NO ROOM AT THE INN

Will that be the welcome we extend to migratory birds seeking a rest, food and maybe some nesting, who attempt to stop off in the marshland now referred to as Shell Marsh? Or will we, who have the will and power to do something about it develop a refuge which would be a part of Contra Costa County forever? A developer wants the land, the City of Martinez wants the land, and the city officials are obviously trying to "clear the decks" so a development project can be undertaken. MANY residents of Contra Costa County want the land to be left as is or used as a sanctuary for the bird population that has used the land for many, many years. Shell Marsh is about the LAST bit of wetlands left in Contra Costa that has major value to wildlife and birdlife. Shell Marsh is THE most important bit of marshland in Contra Costa, it MUST be kept that way.

## NOT GONE WITH THE WIND BUT A GOOD BOOK

Ever try to tell the story of ecology, the environment, and birdlife in 9 or 10 seconds? That's what a TV viewer on a major TV network was treated to during a recent "flap" over the environmental issues. Audubon officers actually taped about 20 minutes of sound, color material to be used to show what's happening to our environment, when the network actually aired the footage, they used about 9 or 10 seconds to do so. Not much of a way to tell a story. A better way can be found in a new book which has had participation from a number of environmental organizations. The book, A Season of Spoils, by Jonathan Lash is published by Pantheon Books, costs \$6.95.

## WATER, IT RUNS DOWNHILL AND IT ALWAYS WILL

Proving (possibly) that it is impossible to stop the flow of water, the Governor's impossible water plan is being rejuvenated. NO new environmental protections are yet in the bill and it appears that the proponents of the bill don't want any protections and will do all possible to block such amendments. Senator David Roberti has taken strong steps to assure the water measures will NOT be passed unless they do contain

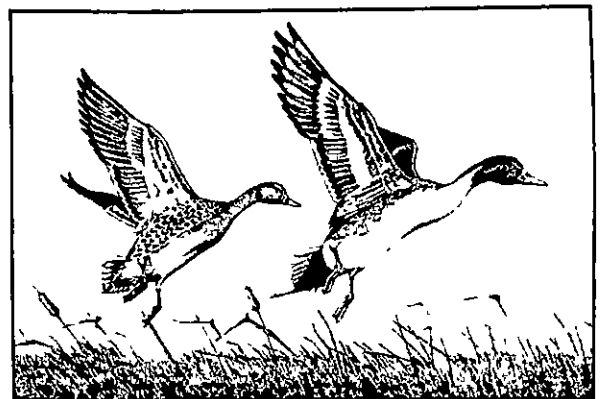
environmental protections. The Committee for Water Policy Consensus continues to bring knowledgeable people together in an attempt to have a water bill developed that is supportable by Northern Californians.

## APPERSON RIDGE AND THE QUARRY

As complicated as Rubic's Cube, as obnoxious as a weed in a well kept garden; that's the situation with the proposed rock quarry on Apperson Ridge. 200 trucks a day, summer, winter and spring, hauling rock out of the quarry, through what is now quiet countryside. Eagles displaced by blasting, Tule Elk, gone, the quarry access road will pass through the middle of their grazing area. Once the Park District anticipated money payment from the quarry owners to offset damage that will be done if the quarry is opened. Now the Alameda Planning Commission has put such payments in serious question. Result: the "people" will get nothing, the quarry owners will make a profit, and wildlife loses.

## DUCK STAMPS? FOR BIRDERS? BLASPHEMY!

Since 1934, Duck Stamps have helped save 3.5 million acres of wetlands, vital habitat for waterfowl and other fish and wildlife. Although originally intended to help waterfowl, the Duck Stamp program has turned out to be beneficial for many kinds of fish and wildlife throughout the country, from prairie potholes to marshes and bottomland hardwood swamps and other important wetlands areas. Everyone comes out ahead. Stamps are available through sporting goods stores and the Post Office.



1971 California

Paul B. Johnson

## OBSERVATIONS for June-July

COOK'S PETREL, near Whitewater River, north end Salton Sea, Riverside Co, July 24-29 --RBA, mob. American White Pelican, 150, Sears Point Rd, Solano Co, July 12--G&WY. Black-Crowned Night-Heron, 10+, Sears Point Rd, July 12--G&WY. Brant, 1 eastern race & 1 "Black", Bay Bridge Toll Plaza, July 18--JR, et al; 2 "Black", Brooks Island, Richmond, July 28--BR,BC. Oldsquaw 1-2 Richmond harbor, July 1-25--PK, mob. KING EIDER, ♀, Brooks Island, June 29-July 21--PK, mob.

Goshawk, ♀, Lee Vining Cyn, Mono Co, July 2--MS, et al; Cathedral Lakes area, Yosemite NP, July 28--S&MS. Swainson's Hawk, pr, Bishop, Inyo Co, July 2--MS, et al. Golden Eagle, Cathedral Lakes area, July 28--S&MS. Prairie Falcon, Alamo, June 14--JR; Cathedral Lakes area, July 28--S&MS. Blue Grouse, ♀, 2 young, near Olmsted Pt, Yosemite NP, June 14--BR; 5 ♂, ♀, and young, Glacier Point Rd and Westfall Mdw trail, July 13--BH, et al.

American Black Oystercatcher, 3, Brooks Island, July 28--BR,BC. Lesser Yellowlegs, Coyote Hills RP, July 3--BR, JR; 2 SF Bay NWR, July 18--GF, KH. BAR-TAILED GODWIT, Crescent City, Del Norte Co, June 3-5--DE, mob. Common Tern, 2, Arrowhead Marsh, & 1, Bay Bridge Toll Plaza, July 18--JR, et al; 1, Bean Hollow St Bch, San Mateo Co, July 23--GF, MP.

Elegant Tern, 100+, Bay Bridge Toll Plaza, July 18--JR, et al; 87, Brooks Island, July 28--BR, BC. Least Tern, 1, Sears Point Rd, June 12--JR; 10 ad, 2 nests, W. Pittsburg, June 29--BC; 1, Alameda So Shore, & 1, Bay Bridge Toll Plaza, July 18--JR, et al. Rhinoceros Auklet, Año Nuevo St Res, July 23--GF, MP. Tufted Puffin, 2, Lighthouse, Pt Reyes, July 14--GF.

Greater Roadrunner, 4, Del Puerto Cyn, Stanislaus Co, June 11--KH, RC. BARRED OWL, Crescent City, thru June 4+--mob. SPOTTED OWL, 2, Tomales Bay SP, June 1-July 31--SE, JH, mob. Great Gray Owl, Crane Flat, Yosemite NP, June 30--MS, et al, and July 14--BC, R&SE, KH, S&JS. Vaux's Swift, Crane Flat, July 14--KH, BC. Piliated Woodpecker, Foresta area, Yosemite NP, July 1--MS, et al.

"Red-Naped" Sapsucker 3, Westfall Trail, & 1, Porcupine Flat, Yosemite NP, July 14--KH, BC. Black-Backed Woodpecker, 1♀, Westfall Trail, Yosemite NP, July 13--JE, SE, DS;

1♀, Hardin Lake Trail, Yosemite NP, July 14--SE, PH, DS. Cassin's Kingbird, 1-5 near Santa Nella, Merced Co, July 9--JR. Say's Phoebe, nesting ?, Del Puerto Cyn, June 11--KH, RC. Mountain Chickadee, 1-2, Lighthouse, Pt Reyes, June 5-13--mob. Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Briones RP, June 29 & July 7--WO, MJC, MO. Phainopepla, ♀, Mitchell Cyn, July 2--WO, MJC, MO.

RED-EYED VIREO, (I know just how he feels), Fish Docks, Pt Reyes, June 2--BC; singing ♂, Rosita Rd, Pacifica, 1st San Mateo Co record, July 17-31--SS, mob. Northern Parula, pr, 1 yg, Inverness Pk, Marin Co, May 27-June 25--RBA, JH, KH. Bay-Breasted Warbler, ♂, Mendoza Ranch, Pt Reyes, June 16--JH, KH. HOODED WARBLER, ♂, Tilden Park, June 19-July 14--RBA, mob. American Redstart, imm ♂, Lighthouse, June 16-27--KH, JH, et al.

Hooded Oriole, several, her Alamo garden, thru period--JR. ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEEK ♂, Lighthouse & Fish Docks, June 16--KH, JH; Nunes Ranch, Pt Reyes, June 30--BG. Pine Grosbeak, 2 ♂, White Wolf, & 1 ♂, Porcupine Flat, Yosemite NP, June 24--JR (♂ is the symbol for ♀ or immature). Lesser "Black-Backed" Goldfinch, Tilden RP, June 26--WO. Lawrence's Goldfinch, pr, her Alamo garden, June 5--JR; 4, Raines Pk, Del Puerto Cyn, June 11--KH, RC. Red Crossbills, All over Yosemite NP, July 14--KH, BC.

Grasshopper Sparrow, 3, Lobita Creek Cutoff Rd, San Mateo Co, June 9--R&FN, FB, BF, JR. Sage Sparrow, Las Trampas RP, June 14 & 28--KH. Black-Chinned Sparrow, 2 ♂, singing, Las Trampas RP, June 14--KH; Pinehurst Rd, Alameda Co, June 15--BR. CASSIN'S SPARROW singing ♂, Mono Lake, Mono Co, June 17-25--RBA, mob.

Addendum, July/August issue: warbler wave also included ~~50 species~~ Townsend's Warblers.

Florence Bennett, Bill Chilson, Rich Cimino, Mary Jane Culver, Rick and Shimi Edmondson, Dick Erickson, George Finger, Bud Fry, Bobbie Gillis, Joy Hall, Barbara Hamelberg, Pam Hessey, Kevin Hintsa, Paul Kelly, Roy & Fran Nelson, Marilyn O'Connor, Winnie Orcutt, Marge Plant, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Scott Smithson, Sarah & Jerry Stengel, Susan & Maury Stern, Gifford & Winnie Young, 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.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT: JULY 1, 1983 - JUNE 30, 1984

BALANCE FORWARD FROM June 30, 1983 \$3,532.08

## INCOME: (net after deduction of costs)

Nat'l Audubon Soc. chapter dues share	\$7,936.00*	
'Quail' subscriptions	462.25	
Sales		
'Birds of Contra Costa Co.'	\$55.06	
'Raptor I.D. Pamphlet'	80.00	
'Birds of No. Calif' checklist	33.30	
'Bird Watcher's Digest'	55.00	
'FieldGuide to Birds of N.A.'	107.45	
Bald Eagle postcard	(4.75)	
Total sales:	326.06	
Member donations	114.96	
Interest earned	354.55	
Total income:		<u>9,193.82</u>
Total income plus balance brought forward:		\$12,725.90

\*Of this amount, \$542.50 were for payments for FY 82-83.

## EXPENSES: (by budget item; income-producing costs not included)

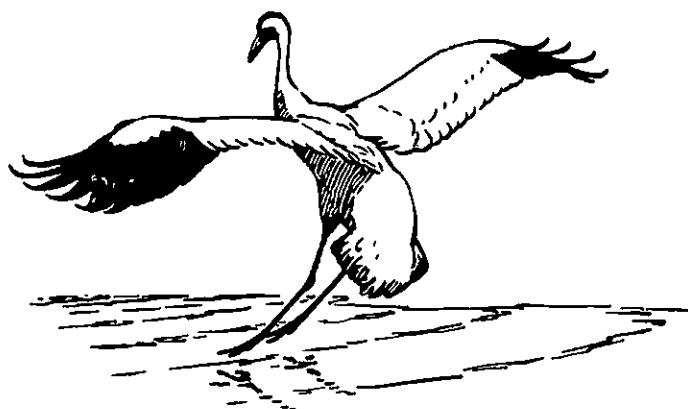
'Quail' production and distribution	\$3,897.02	
Hall rent	250.00	
Office supplies	271.88	
Conservation	269.24	
Hospitality	101.63	
Publicity	60.19	
Membership	114.17	
P.O. box rent	20.00	
Program	363.20	
Education committee	-0-	
Contra Costa bird population study	-0-	
Bird information	66.22	
Site Guide	74.28	
Telephone (AUD-UBON)	111.08	
Field trips	60.83	
Conventions	187.00	
BAAC expenses	56.70	
Christmas Bird Count expenses	184.60	
Miscellaneous	51.69	
Total expenses:		<u>6,139.73</u>

## DONATIONS:

Alexander Lindsey Jr. Museum	\$350.00	
Audubon Canyon Ranch	25.00	
Nature Conservancy	225.00	
Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory	20.00	
Save Mt. Diablo	1,065.00	
Thousand Friends of Contra Costa Co.	20.00	
Walnut Heights Nature Area Project	100.00	
Total donations:		<u>1,805.00</u>
Total expenses and donations:		<u>\$7,944.73</u>

BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD \$4,781.17

Note: An additional \$90.00 received this fiscal year is reserved for the Sept. 1984 Monterey pelagic trip.



NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to welcome these new MDAS members and hope to meet them at our activities soon: Mr Richard Bristow and Family, Peggy Kelsay, Jerome Kimmel, Ted Oliver, Mrs G H Parker, Barbara Sadigh Toni, Steve, and Zeke Tisc, Erma Berry, H E Bollwinkel, W M Cross, J R Cuningham, Mrs Eleanor Gant, Becca Gledhill, J D Gray, S A Nelson, R Stevens Parrish, A Gladys Pinson, Mrs D Stambaugh, Margaret Berendsen, Susan Krome.

FIELD TRIPS SCHEDULE, Oct 1984-Aug 1985. Changes may occasionally be made. Trip dates cannot be guaranteed. As time for trip nears we may shift between Wednesday and Thursday for the leader's convenience. There may be changes because of tides or weather. Rained out trips may run on the following week. Please check the current Quail or phone Audubon (283-8266) for latest information.

Oct 6	Sat	Outer Pt Reyes	Mar 23 <sup>9</sup>	Sat	Hayward Regional Shoreline
10	Wed	Hawk Mountain	27	Wed	Lagunitas
20	Sat	Abbott's Lagoon	30	Sat <del>Wed</del>	San Leandro Reservoir
25	Thu	SF Bay Refuge/Coyote Hills	Apr 4	Thu	Black Diamond, west**
31	Wed	Palo Alto Baylands	10	Wed	Briones, north
Nov 10	Sat	Tennessee Valley	13	Sat	Donner Cyn
15	Thu	Mt View Sanitary Dist	18	Thu	Lake Merced
17	Sat	Limantour	24	Wed	Caswell Park
28	Wed	Niles Cyn	27	Sat	Briones, south
Dec 1	Sat	Sacramento Refuges*	May 2	Thu	Black Diamond, east
2	Sun	" "	4	Sat	Mines Rd
8	Sat	Candlestick Cove**	8	Wed	Mt Diablo
12	Wed	Altamont	16	Thu	Mallory Ranch***
29	Sat	CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT	18	Sat	Mitchell Cyn***
Jan 9	Wed	Richardson Bay**	22	Wed	East Contra Costa
12	Sat	Putah Creek	30	Thu	Las Positas
17	Thu	Grizzly Island	Jun 1	Sat	Outer Pt Reyes
19 or 26		Alameda So Shore (date depends on tide)	6	Thu	Las Trampas
30	Wed	Sunol	12	Wed	Glen Ellen
Feb 2	Sat	Clifton Court	22	Sat	Yuba Pass*
7	Thu	Thornton	23	Sun	" "
9	Sat	Bodega Bay	27	Thu	Briones (very early)
13	Wed	Berkeley Shoreline	Jul 13	Sat	Sequoia* **
23	Sat	Lake Hennesy	14	Sun	"
28	Thu	Lafayette	19	Fri	Picnic, Del Valle
Mar 9 <sup>23</sup>	Sat	Sage Grouse*	27	Sat	San Mateo Coast
10 <sup>14</sup>	Sun	" "	Aug 1	Thu	Black Point
13	Wed	Five Brooks + Bolinas Lagoon	10	Sat	Bodega Bay
		9 Thurs Alameda Mt	17	Sat	Condors* **
		9 Sat	18	Sun	"

\*weekend may be done either day alone

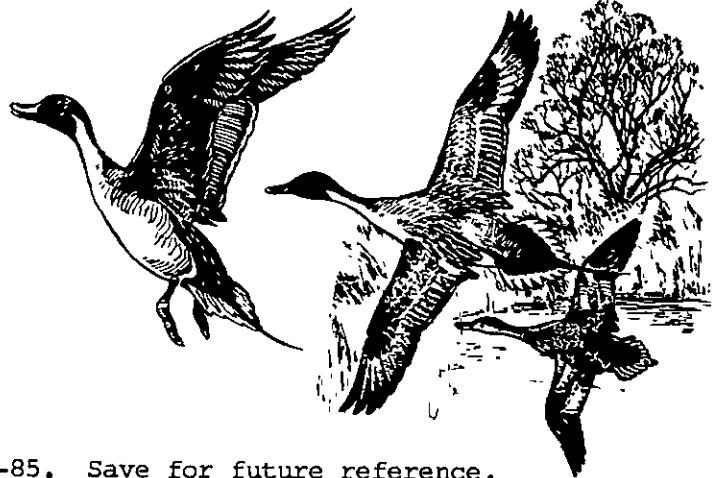
\*\* new area

We have a great schedule, thanks to Elizabeth Dickey and her planning committee and to members who will be leaders.



## NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FIELD GUIDE

With the holidays fast approaching (!) it's time to think about gifts for the birders on your list. NGS' Field Guide to Birds of North America are available at a considerable discount. Send a check for \$12.75 to Treasurer, Gifford A. Young, 1451 Janet Ct, Benicia CA 94510 for home delivery. All purchasers should check pages carefully for incorrect collation. Notify Gifford to receive a replacement.

OFFICERS OF MT DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY, 1984-85. Save for future reference.

Pres: Maury Stern, 939 Carol Lane, Lafayette, CA 94549, 284-5980  
 VP Program: Joy Hall, 2148 Stewart Ave, Walnut Creek, CA, 94596, 934-5631  
 VP Conservation: Al McNabney, 1161 Leisure Ln, #7, Walnut Creek, CA 94595, 945-1785  
 Secretary: Winnie Young, 1451 Janet Ct, Benicia, CA 94510, (707) 745-4134  
 Treasurer: Gifford A Young, 1451 Janet Ct, Benicia, CA, 94510, (707) 745-4134  
 Field Trips: Elizabeth Dickey, 113 Hillcrest Dr, Orinda, CA 94563, 254-0486  
 Membership: Ethel Beckerman, 237 Marshall Dr, Walnut Creek, CA 94598, 934-5832  
 Hospitality:  
 Publicity:  
 Historian:  
 Editor: Shimi Edmondson, 1261 Lawrence Rd, Danville, CA 94526, 837-1010  
 BAAC Reps:  
 Christmas Bird Count:

It is obvious to the most casual observer that we need to fill a few vacancies on the board. If you feel you can help in any of the capacities above, please call Maury Stern, 284-5980.

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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: \$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.

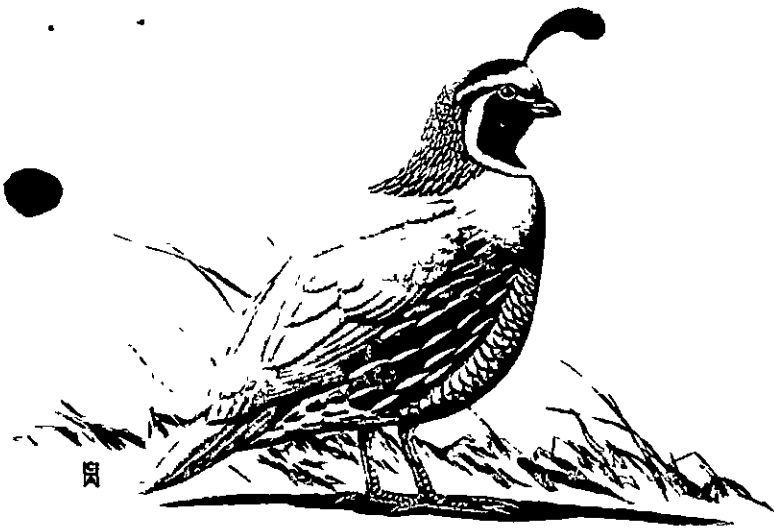
Shimi Edmondson, Editor, 1261 Lawrence Rd, Danville, CA 94526; 837-1010  
 Exchange bulletins for MDAS to this address, please.

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Mt Diablo Audubon Society  
 PO 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: Maury Stern  
939 Carol Lane  
Lafayette, CA 94549  
284-5980

October 1984

Vol 31 No 3

next deadline: October 1

MDAS HAS A NEW LOCATION FOR THEIR MONTHLY MEETINGS. Meetings will now be held at the Contra Costa Jewish Community Center ( the Old Tice Valley Elementary School), 2071 Tice Valley Blvd Walnut Creek, just southeast of Rossmoor Parkway on the right side of the street across from Grace Presbyterian Church.

From the west, north, and east: Take the Pleasant Hill Rd South off-ramp from Hwy 24 to Olympic Blvd. Turn east on Olympic to Tice Valley Blvd, right on Tice Valley towards Rossmoor.

From the south, take the Livorna Rd off-ramp to Danville Blvd. Go north to Hillgrade Ave, left on Hillgrade which becomes Crest Ave, left on Tice Valley Blvd to meeting place.

Thurs, October 4, 2071 Tice Valley Blvd, Walnut Creek.  
MEETING NOTE THE NEW LOCATION. Doors open 6:30 pm. Birding information 7:00pm. Winnie Orcutt will tell us about winter birds in our own backyard. Business Meeting: 7:30 pm. Social Time: 8:00 pm Program: 8:30 pm. Dr. Dennis Mallory, a member of our chapter and an excellent wildlife and bird photographer will speak about "Birds of the Texas Coast".

BOARD Thurs October 11, 7:30 pm.  
MEETING Home of Gifford and Winnie Young, 1451 Janet Ct, Benicia, CA, 707-745-4134. Board meetings are open to all members.

FIELD TRIPS Trips are open to members and non-members alike. Carpool time is departure time. We will bird at the meeting spot for at least 1/2 hour. Carpool expense: 5 cents per mile per rider is suggested; tolls and entry fees are shared equally by driver and riders. Bring binocs, field guide and lunch. Trips go in light rain; if in doubt, call leader up to 1/2 hr before departure time.

- \* Sat Oct 6, Outer Point Reyes, Carpool 6:30 at Acalanes Ave off Pleasant Hill Rd north of Fwy 24. Meet at Drake's Beach, 8:30. Cross San Rafael Bridge, from US-101 take San Rafael exit, go 2 blocks, turn left onto 3rd St, in San Anselmo turn right 1/4 mile, left onto Bear Valley Rd, and onto Sir Francis Drake again. About 14 miles to Drake's Beach Rd on left. This is the vagrant season and we might find anything! Weather may be hot, cold, or windy. Be prepared. Much birding is done near cars; there is a 1/2 mile walk to the lighthouse and a rough 1/4 mile walk if we visit the New Willows. Leader: Jean Richmond, 837-2843.
- \* Wed, Oct 10, Point Diablo (Hawk Mtn) and Rodeo Lagoon, carpool: 8:00 Acalanes Ave north of Fwy 24. Meet 9:00 at first parking lot west of lighted tunnel. From Golden Gate Bridge take Alexander Ave exit, follow signs for Ft Cronkite in Golden Gate NRA. If weather is clear, we will see migrating hawks and possibly swifts, waterfowl, and shorebirds, with possible vagrants around the lagoons. Weather may be hot, windy, or foggy. A short steep walk up the hill for hawk

viewing. If the day is clear, we will carry our lunches up and stay until mid-afternoon. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486.

- \* Sat Oct 20, Abbott's Lagoon, carpool: 7:00, Acalanes Ave north of Fwy 24. Meet 8:30 Bear Valley Visitors' Ctr. Cross San Rafael Bridge, from US-101, take San Rafael exit, go 2 blocks, turn left onto 3rd st. In San Anselmo, turn right onto Sir Francis Drake Blvd. At SR-1 turn right 1/4 mile, left onto Bear Valley and left into Visitor's Ctr. We should see waterfowl, shorebirds and possibly hawks or eagles. Weather: hot, cold, foggy, windy, whatever? Come prepared. 2-3 mile level walk to lagoon and back. Leader: Maury Stern, 284-5980.
- \* Thur Oct 25, SF Bay Refuge and Coyote Hills carpool: 8:00, El Cerro Blvd, west of I-680. Meet 9:00 at Refuge Headqtrs. I-680 to I-580; take Washington Ave exit; from center lane turn left onto Washington and right onto ramp to SR-17. Take SR-84 exit toward Dumbarton Bridge. Take Thornton Ave exit, turn left on Thornton and right into Refuge. Follow signs to headquarters. Weather could be windy or foggy. Walking is mostly level; total about 1 mile. Waterfowl and shorebirds are abundant at both sites; at Coyote Hills we might have rails. On the refuge, our leader will be Lynn Robinson, a ranger there. Leader: George Finger, 933-2468.
- \* Wed Oct 31, Palo Alto Baylands. Carpool: 7:30 El Cerro Blvd west of I-680. Meet 9:00 at the duck pond. Take I-680 to I-580; take Washington Ave exit; from center lane turn left onto Washington and right onto ramp to SR-17. Take exit to SR-84, cross Dumbarton Bridge and go south on Bayshore to Embarcadero exit. Go east on Embarcadero and turn left toward the Yacht Harbor. Great area for ducks and marsh birds. Rails are possible when tide is high; Eurasian Wigeon and Blue-Winged Teal are often found. Could be windy foggy or muddy. Level trails up to 1 mile total. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486.

- \* Weekend at the Refuges- Dec 1 and 2 Graylodge and Sacramento Refuges. Motels in Willows, Blue Gum (916) 934-5401, Crossroads West (916) 934-7026, in Williams, Motel 6 (916) 473-2995. Camping at Colusa Sac River SRA.

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

July 25  
Fifteen members and guests trekked to Yosemite, enjoying good weather and good birding. Pine Grosbeak and Red Crossbill were missed but Blue Grouse were seen in two places. Some of the birds seen were: Blue Grouse, Vaux's Swift, Great Gray Owl, Red-Naped Sapsucker, Black-Backed Woodpecker, and Steller's Jay.

July 28  
Four members travelled to the San Mateo Coast under foggy skies with clearing but windy weather later. Black Scoter, 2 Pomarine Jaegers, Ancient Murrelet, Rhinoceros Auklet, and Black Swift were some of the 74 species viewed that day.

~~She omitted my report on the above.~~ Was it Sept 11?  
The Bodega Bay trip started under fog and cleared later for 15 members; some of the 72 species sighted were: Osprey, Virginia Rail, Surf-bird, Wandering Tattler, Pectoral Sandpiper, and Marbled Murrelet. Aug 11

## INTERESTING STUFF

The beauty and majesty of nature, as well as today's dangers threatening the earth's wildlife and environment, will be explored in "WORLD OF AUDUBON", the new series debuting this fall.

Hosted by Cliff Robertson, each hour-long edition will use remarkable, on location wildlife photography, and interviews with noted conservationists and leading spokespersons to cover a variety of Audubon issues in a fast-paced, magazine style program.

The inaugural program, airing on Oct 22, will include segments on sea otters in Big Sur, rare pink flamingoes in Great Inagua, West Indies, Bald Eagles in Alaska, and grizzly bears in Yellowstone.

Please watch and encourage your friends to watch it too.

## CONSERVATION NOTES--by Al McNabney

AUDUBONERS SAY,"THE MARSH IS FOR THE BIRDS

Shell Marsh, out of the headlines for several weeks is still in the forefront of concern for Mt Diablo Audubon. The birds continue to use the marsh for feeding, nesting, and resting. Press reports indicate the developer who wants to change the character of the land is proposing, among other things, to "enhance" the area. Clearly a goodly part of the area is important, because of the nature of its use, ie grazing for part of the year and under water part of the year. Not many places afford such habitat with all these attributes. If Shell Marsh was the ONLY land left in the County and IF there was a desperate need for yet another office building/shopping center complex, there might be some excuse for attempting to destroy this major bit of habitat. None of those things being true, the interests of the people, today and in the future requires the land be maintained as a bird sanctuary.

KESTERSON WILDLIFE REFUGE

If you know any birds looking for a refuge, get the message to them, DON'T USE KESTERSON. A refuge it may be in name, but all evidence is certain that it's NOT safe. Surplus irrigation water drained from the West side of the San Joaquin Valley for over 10 years has produced a series of ponds that are among the most polluted yet discovered. Birds are being hatched with deformities, caused by the pollutants. A drain proposed to be built from Kesterson to Chipp's Island in the Delta has been temporarily put aside (for at least 2 years) because of public outcry over the plan. As for the birds in the refuge, no solution is yet apparent. Some have suggested scaring them away from the refuge. In the meantime the pollution goes on and will only get worse unless the cause is attacked by appropriate authorities.

THE WATER THAT DIDN'T FLOW DOWNHILL!!!

The governor's infamous water bill proved that water doesn't ALWAYS flow down (considering S. California to be lower than N. California). The bill died rather quietly but aftershocks linger on. Some leaders from S. California argue "Who Cares? Wait til the next dry spell and we'll get your water anyway." Hopefully, such people do not represent the majority of thinking Californians. Many legislators were forced to consider the full implications of the governor's water measures as a result of the work done by the Committee for Water Policy Consensus. Many Bay Area legislators were either involved or listened to that group. Senator David Roberti is entitled to great credit for taking a forthright stand on the issues. Water issues did not "go away" with the defeat of the governor's bill and more will be heard about California's water in the future. N. California should NOT give up its precious water supply unless protection is assured for the Bay, the Delta, Suisun Marsh, and the north's wild rivers. Now is the time to try to develop a consensus that will afford adequate protections and still make water resources available for their best use.

APPERSON RIDGE-A DISASTER???

Regardless of opposition and regardless of the lack of need for the project, it now appears the East Bay Parks, the Planning Commission and the Alameda County Board of Supes are prepared to permit the implementation of a proposal to establish a quarry in the vicinity of Apperson Ridge. The quarry operation will turn a quiet, pastoral mountain area AND a park into a major truck route. The public objected; most organizations interested in conservation objected, and as far as can be determined the applicant for the quarry and his people were the only ones "for" it. The people lose, the wildlife and birdlife lose. For Audubon, a major side effect has been the loss of entry to a fine birding area.

## CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum is offering classes for children as well as adults this fall. Soft Touch, Family Nature Adventures, Microhikes, California Plant Uses, and Maps, are some activities for children. Day tripping to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and safaris to Alameda Estrary Birding/Canoe, Yosemite Backpack, and Butano State Park Backpack are other classes offered. Call the Museum for dates and fees, 935-1978.

Mono Lake Committee: As one concerned with saving Mono Lake, you are invited to join others of similar interests on a 12-day cruise with 6 ports of call to Glacier Bay, Alaska, leaving San Francisco on June 14, 1985. June is a perfect time to go as the days are longest, temperature highest, and precipitation lowest.

During the cruise, experts will tell about the areas visited. Hopefully, David Gaines will be one of the trip escorts to talk about the "state-of-the-lake" and the birds and mammals of the Inside Passage. For info contact MLC Alaska Cruise, c/o Sather Gate Travel, 1333 Grand Ave, Piedmont, CA 94610.

The BAEER Fair VIII (Bay Area Environmental Education Resource Fair) is the largest environmental and energy education event in Northern California. This community event offers interactive exhibits, outstanding workshops, special presentations and the opportunity to share ideas with others in the field of environmental education. Over 100 organizations participate each year.

The Fair is for teachers, seeking to enrich their educational program and stimulate interest in science, parents who wish to foster in their children an understanding of the natural world, and scout leaders looking for outing and activity ideas.

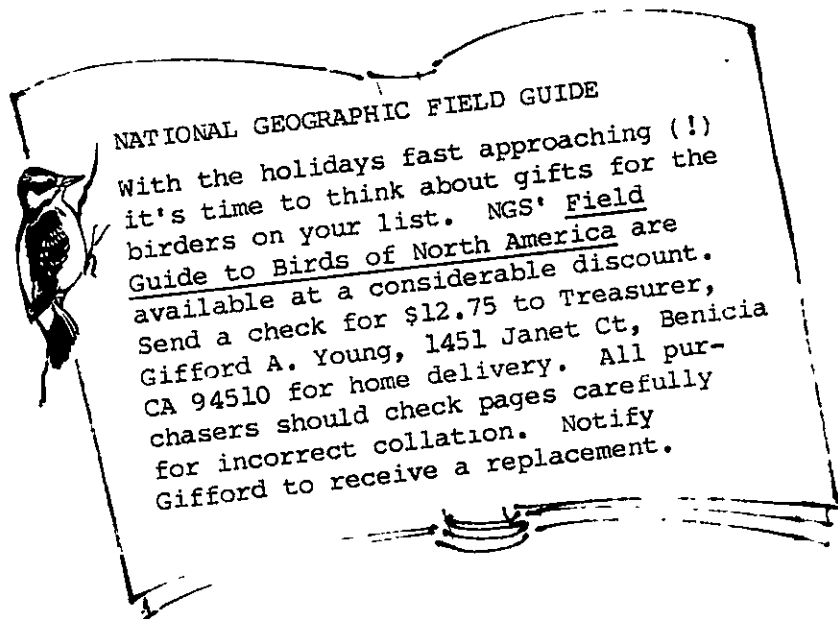
The Fair is at Treasure Island, on October 20, from 10 am to 5 pm.

The Nature Conservancy: Birding Hike at Elkhorn Slough, Oct 27, Saturday. Investigate this biologically rich area where you'll see fall migratory birds. The trip will start at 10 am and is limited to 30 people. Call Janet Crews 415-845-1595.

National Audubon Society's Richardson Bay Audubon Center is having its second annual bird seed sale. Stock up on your season's supply of bird seed while supporting an Audubon bird sanctuary.

Several events are scheduled for bird seed sale day: bird walks at 11 and 1, simple bird feeder construction workshop for children of all ages, slide/lecture on "Birds in Your Backyard". The Book Nest will be open with its fine selection of bird books, feeders, and holiday gift items.

The Sale is Sunday, November 4, at the Richardson Bay Audubon Ctr, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd, Tiburon, CA, 415-388-2524.



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to these new MDAS members and hope to meet them soon: Michael Fanelli, Cheryl and Bob Laston, Kristie Smith, Andrew Sutton, Orwin Dow, Mrs Selma Heagharty, Gloria Reese, Mary Ryburn.

OBSERVATIONS for August.

American White Pelican, 500-600, SR-37 Solano Co, Aug 12--GF,MP; 300 there, Aug 11--MDAS returning from Bodega Bay trip. Black Scoter, 5, Fish Docks, Pt Reyes, Aug 14--JR, et al.

Northern Goshawk, near Lake Alpine, Alpine Co, Aug 9--WO; Mt Reba Ski Area, Alpine Co, Aug 10--WO. Blue Grouse, 4, Mt Reba Ski Area, Aug 10--WO. Mountain Quail, Mt Reba Rd, Alpine Co, Aug 10--WO.

Lesser Golden-Plover, 3, Abbott's Lagoon, Pt Reyes, Aug 12--GF,MP. Lesser Yellow-legs, Lake Merritt, Oakland, Aug 29--BG. Pectoral Sandpiper, 2, Limantour Natural Area, Pt Reyes, Aug 25--GF,TF. Wilson's Phalarope, Abbott's Lagoon, Aug 12--GF,MP. Red-Necked Phalarope, 2, Abbott's Lagoon, Aug 12--GF,MP; 2, Mendoza Ranch, Pt Reyes, Aug 14--JR, et al.

Western Screech-Owl, her Walnut Creek garden, Aug 29--MW. COMMON NIGHTHAWK, calling, Battery Wallace, Marin Headlands, Aug 28--JR. Williamson's Sapsucker, Mt Reba area, Aug 10--WO. Black-Backed Woodpecker, SR-4 at the Alpine-Calaveras County line, Aug 10--WO.

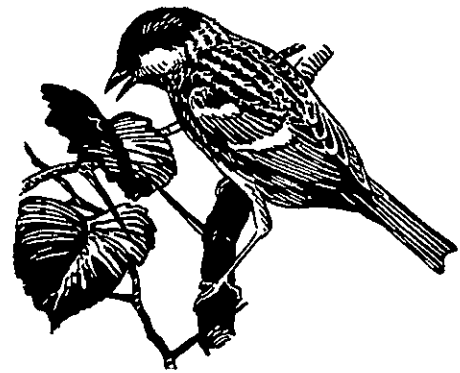
American Dipper, Harrington's pond, Sierra City, Sierra Co, late Aug--G&MJM. Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, 2, Lafayette Reservoir, Aug 23--G&MJM. Phainopepla, ♂,♀, 3 yg, Donner Cyn, Aug 28--GF; 2 plus, Mitchell Cyn, Aug 31--GF. Black-Throated Gray Warbler, imm, Jewel Lake, Tilden Reg Pk, Aug 30--WO.

Black-Chinned Sparrow, imm, Botanic Gdn, Tilden Reg Pk, Aug 28--WO. Hooded Oriole, 3-4, her Alamo garden, thru period--JR. EVENING GROSEBEAK, pair, his Morgan Territory ranch, Aug 15-16--DM.

OBSERVERS: George Finger, Tom Finger, Bill Greene, Denny Mallory, George & Molly Jane Monheit, Winnie Orcutt, Marjory Plant, Jean Richmond, Margaret Wadsworth, NoCal Rare Bird Alert.

Observations deadline: 1st of the month for sightings the previous month. I regret that I must resign as Observations Editor. Send sightings to me for now and I will forward them to my replacement when one is found. If you would like to try this interesting position, please contact President Maury Stern, 939 Carol Lane, Lafayette, CA 94549; 284-5980; or call me for info on what is involved- I will work with you to get you started.

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



## COMING ATTRACTIONS

For those of you planning vacations or trips in the coming months, here is a list of our guest speakers so you may arrange to be here for your favorites. November: Don Roberson (of Birders California fame) will tell us about THE BIG DAY with Roger T. Peterson et al. December: George Finger will speak on Birding in the Galapagos. January: The Adamsons, Betty and Harry, will join us for British and/or Brazilian birds. February: Phil Gordon will give us some landscaping tips for backyard and park-land birds. March: open. April: open. May: Dr Robert Picker will expound on Kashmir, Ladakh and Everest (Mt Everest).

## PRESCRIBED BURNING

Fires are a natural part of the ecology of California. Many native plants and animals need periodic fires as part of their habitat. Fires encourage germination, remove dead materials, release nutrients into the ecosystem and sustain entire natural communities in the great tug-of-war among species.

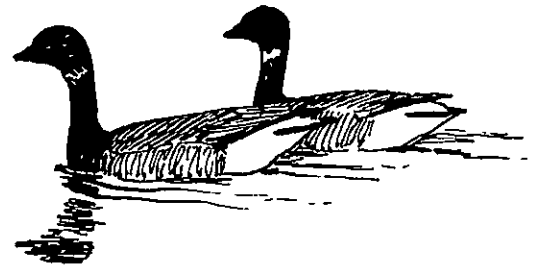
In the past 100 years, fires in California have been actively suppressed. No one knows how large or how frequently wildfires once burned, and today's patchwork quilt of agriculture, forestry, and urban land prevents great wildfires from burning as they did in years past. Natural lands are changing without this important process, and to preserve native habitat we must safely plan the return of fire as a natural influence. Prescribed burning is the planned and careful use of fire to preserve the health of our wildlands.

In the past four years, The Nature Conservancy has begun prescribed burning programs at Pixley, Creighton Ranch, Jepson Prairie, and the Northern California Coast Range Preserve. Vina Plains and Ring Mountain are scheduled for their first prescribed burning this summer.

The Nature Conservancy's goal is to discourage non-native grassland species and to increase the richness of the native plant flora. They have had tremendous success so far. At Jepson Prairie, a burn in the fall of '83 resulted in a doubling of native plant species. Under various prescribed fire treatments at Pixley Preserve, the cover of native species increased from 10% in unburned areas to 60-90% in burned areas.

Botanists, both amateur and professional, are needed each spring for vegetation surveys. If you would like to help, please contact Barbara Leitner at 415-777-0487.

from Nature Conservancy Newsletter, Fall '84




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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, CALIFORNIA 94596  
(415) AUD-UBON

Pres: Maury Stern  
939 Carol Lane  
Lafayette, CA 94549  
284-5980

November 1984

Vol 31 No 34

next deadline: November 1

Thursday November 1, 1984

MEETING Contra Costa Jewish Community Center, 2071 Tice Valley Blvd, Walnut Creek. NOTE THE NEW LOCATION. For directions see September and October Quail. Doors open 6:30 pm. Birding information: 7:00 pm. Kevin Hintsa will lead us in a discussion of shore birds. Business: Meeting: 7:30 pm. Social Time: 8:00 pm Program: Don Roberson will speak and show slides describing his recent efforts on a "California Big Day". Don is a noted author (Rare Birds of California) and an excellent speaker.

Thurs, November 8, 1984, 7:30 pm.

BOARD Home of Winnie Orcutt, 30  
MEETING Iris Lane, Walnut Creek, 944-0593.  
Board meetings are open to all members.

FIELD Trips are open to members and  
TRIPS non-members alike. Carpool time is departure time. We will bird at the meeting spot for at least 1/2 hour. Carpool expense: 5 cents per mile per rider is suggested; tolls and entry fees are shared wqually by driver and riders. Bring binocs, field guide and lunch. Trips go in light rain; if in doubt, call leader up to 1/2 hour before departure time.

\* Sat Nov 10, Tennessee Valley. Carpool: 7:30 am, Acalanes Ave, off Pleasant Hill Rd north of Fwy 24. Meet at parking lot at head of Tennessee Valley Trail in Marin Co, 8:30 am. Go north on SR1 from intersection with US-101. Turn left onto Tennessee Valley Rd and drive

to parking lot at end. Good area for both land and water birds. On our first trip, we had Long-Eared Owls. Fairly level, possibly muddy, trail to ocean. Leader: Jean Richmond, 837-2843.

\* Thurs, Nov 15, Mt View Sanitary Dist. Meet in parking lot of Mt View Plant at 9:00 am. Take Pacheco-Arthur Blvd exit from I680 in Martinez. Go east on Arthur Rd under freeway, road turns north a few blocks. At sharp turn to the old Acme Land Fill entrance road, turn left to Mt View Sanitary Plant. Water and marsh birds. This is a good trip for beginning birders; close-ups of ducks and some waders. One half mile on level, often muddy trails. Trip usually includes a visit to Waterfront Rd and Martinez Shoreline Park. Leader: John Davis 228-9516.

\* Sat, Nov 17, Limantour. Carpool: 7:30 am Acalanes Ave off Pleasant Hill Rd, north of fwy 24. Meet at Pt Reyes Nat. Seashore Headquarters, 9:00 am. Cross San Rafael Bridge, from US-101, take San Rafael exit, go 2 blocks and turn left onto 3rd St. In San Anselmo, turn right onto Sir Francis Drake Blvd. At SR-1 turn right 1/4 mile, left onto Bear Valley Rd and left into Visitor's Ctr. Trails are fairly level, but may be muddy or sandy; 2-3 miles of walking. Expect fog and/or wind. Shorebirds, waterfowl, ocean birds, raptors; some land birds on ridge. This area has only recently been opened since the '82 storms. Leader: For information call Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486.



\* Wed, Nov 28, Niles Canyon Gravel Pits. Carpool: 8:00am, El Cerro Blvd, west of I-680. Meet at Vallejo Mill Historical Park, 8:45 am. Take I-680 south to SR-84. Go west on SR-84 7 miles through Niles Canyon to park entrance on right. Both land and water birds; Spotted Sandpiper, Green-Backed Heron, and Ring-Necked Duck often seen. 2-3 miles on level, possibly muddy, trails. Leader: Jimm Edgar, 283-3510.

\* Sat-Sun, Dec 1 and 2, Graylodge and Sacramento Refuges. Motels in Willows, Blue Gum (916) 934-5401, Crossroads West (916) 934-7026, in Williams, Motel 6 (916) 473-2995. Camping at Colusa Sacramento River SRA.

#### FIELD TRIP REPORTS

*Our trip San Diego area Sept 1-3  
did see Louisa - Sept 2nd  
Linda Lamm - Sept 26*

Our Monterey/pelagic trip September 29-30 was a great success with 62 members and guests over the two-day period sighting 136 species. The bird of the weekend was a Broad-Billed Hummingbird at the Carmel River. Other birds of note were Buller's Shearwater, Wilson's, and Least Storm-Petrel, Osprey, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Virginia Rail, Sora, Wandering Tattler, Pectoral Sandpiper, Red Phalarope, South Polar Skua, Rhinoceros Auklet, BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD, Chestnut-Sided Warbler, American Redstart, Northern Waterthrush, Clay-Colored Sparrow, and Bobolink.

Outer Point Reyes on October 6 started under cool drizzly skies but cleared by noon to warmer temps. Nine birders saw 93 species including: Golden Eagle, Tennessee, Magnolia, Bay-Breasted, Black-poll, and Canada Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Lapland Longspur.

#### CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

Anne Marie Levy has put together a "Birdwatching Tour in Great Britain" next spring, April 19-May 5, 1985. A few of the places on the tour include Salisbury, Somerset and the Cotswolds. Some of the birds to be expected will be cockatoos, Flamingoes, cranes, Peregrines, puffins, swans, geese, ducks, and some tropical species. The tour will cost \$2650.00 double occupancy. For further details contact Anne Marie at (415) 284-1407 or 676-9753.

The BAEER Fair announced in last month's Quail has been changed to October 27. There will be workshops beginning at noon, interactive exhibits, and programs and activities for preschool through high school. Treasure Island, 10 am-5 pm. \$3.00 donation. For more info: 938-8289.

Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum will visit Solano Reservoir by Canoe on Sunday Nov 4, looking for the elusive Wood Duck and the Phainopepla. Led by Sam Smoker, reservations required. 935-1978.

San Francisco Bay NWR presents "Birds of the Bay and Marsh", a 1/2 hr slide presentation. 792-0222 for info.



#### NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to welcome these new MDAS members and hope to meet them at our activities:

Alan & Myla Austin, Michael & Dyanne Capizzi, Mrs Marian Erikson, Jeremy Feiler, Mrs Richard Hackenbracht, Jenny Kerry, J.A. Pasaak, Mrs Norman Rickli, Stuart Schmucker, Lewis Shollenberge, Dennis Wolff, Dick Bogaert, Raymond Bolton, F.L. Borst, Rita Dirk, J. Doyle, Judy Ealy, Shirley Ellis, Mr Hepworth, Kevin Holcombe, Kathryn Lang, K.A. Mendenhall, R. Overshiner, Mr & Mrs R. Raschke, Tai Simpson, Paul Stark Family, Barbara Sutcliffe, David Varon, E. Oakley, Lucia Smith, Mr & Mrs Neal Welch, P. Biasca, Gloria Carr, Virginia Dane, Margaret Dankworth, Florence Dewey, P. Dutra, Mrs K. Ford, A.W. Gilbert, Robt Harding, Mr & Mrs Gerald Mole, Mrs Tyler Sack Potts, Brigitta Schneider, B.J. Weis, H.E. Zeitz, Edwin Giltzow, Dennis Hash, Jim Joachim, Holly Razzano, Thomas J. Kaschak.

## POINT REYES BIRD OBSERVATORY



On June 20, Governor Deukmejian signed new gill net regulations into law. That legislation, co-sponsored by the Point Reyes Bird Observatory and the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, should greatly reduce the slaughter of seabirds and marine mammals in gill nets between Point Reyes

and Monterey. From PRBO monitoring data an estimated 25-30,000 Common Murres alone died in 1983 in gill nets off the San Mateo, San Francisco, and Marin coasts. Harbor porpoise mortality has been high in the same area, and sea otters have been hard hit in Monterey Bay.

To join PRBO and help support research and education programs and conservation efforts as well as receive a quarterly newsletter featuring Rich Stallcup's Focus column call (415) 868-1221.

## AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

Audubon Canyon Ranch, with the help of its members has preserved more than 30 parcels of ecologically valuable land over the past two decades, a total of nearly 2,000 acres of natural beauty. Operating as an efficient, low overhead, volunteer-based organization, it provides a quality nature education experience for more than 20,000 visitors and school children each year.

The rookery of Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets at ACR was spectacular this spring and summer. High atop the redwood trees in Picher Canyon 110 Egret pairs raised 163 young and 16 Heron pairs raised 25 young. The defensive measures taken to prevent a repeat of last season's raccoon predation were, thankfully, successful.

ACR's Volunteer Programs attract committed men and women who lead groups of children and adults in natural history walks on the beautiful preserves. Ongoing research is being conducted at Olema Marsh and the Cypress Grove property on Tomales Bay.



## NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY FIELD SEMINARS

Ornithology - Mexico, November  
Winter Ecology Ski Tour - Yellowstone,  
Boundary Water Wilderness, Jan, Feb  
Nature Photography - Florida, March  
Desert Ecology - California, April  
Led by Audubon Instructors-Naturalists

● **FREE BROCHURE** ●

● **MANY OTHER SEMINARS** ●

**NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY**

4150 DARLEY AVE, DEPT. A

BOULDER, CO 80303

TEL 303/499-5409



ACR is a joint project of Marin, Golden Gate, Sequoia, and Madrone Audubon Societies and relies solely on donations to carry on its work. Enjoy the the ranch, hike the trails, relax in the picnic areas and help them continue in their efforts by sending a pledge. The address is Audubon Canyon Ranch PO Box 2113, San Francisco, CA 94126.

## CONSERVATION NOTES

BY Al McNabney

## SHELL MARSH NEWS

The system is grinding forward. Will it grind the finest habitat area in Contra Costa County into a manicured area of concrete, brick and streets; leaving a bit of room for birds but really destroying the area? Attempting to obtain an interview (with the birds) is hard to do. Public officials in Martinez are moving hard and fast trying to bring the property into the limits of that city. The weeks ahead will see migrating flocks using the area for feeding and rest. The Developer has advised the US Army Corps of Engineers that he wants to expedite the handling of the approval processes. Audubon and the John Muir Society attended a meeting hailed as an "interdepartmental session" at which the Developer and a large staff presented an overview and details of the proposed development activity. As nearly as could be determined, the land and its use would be as follows:



Total acres	245
Wetland acres	78
Open space acres	22
Streets acres	15
120 lots acres	2 1/2 each
acres to be filled	19

The area is slated to become a high-tech business park. Contra Costa County has an interest in about 40 acres on the north east corner of the area to be used for a penal institution. The City of Martinez has initiated action to develop an Environmental Impact Statement with comment from groups and individuals by October 19, 1984.

Leaving the marsh as it has historically been used does harm to no one and it certainly has been and is important to birdlife. The tone for life in Contra Costa County is being set-do YOU really want most of the marshland to be drained, filled and turned into a business park?

## BAY AREA AUDUBON CHAPTERS MOVE TO PROTECT MARSHLANDS

Bay area marshlands are under attack! All one has to do to find that out is take a drive around San Francisco Bay. Note particularly the activity along the southeast side of the Bay, on the west side in the vicinity of Redwood City, and in the northwest section around Marin County. You will find heavy grading equipment, trucks loaded with fill, buildings going up everywhere, and marshland being pumped dry preparatory to being filled for development purposes. Development projects that have been off the drawing boards for years are being dusted off and set in motion. Bay area Audubon Chapters met, informally on September 9th with Dan Taylor from the Western Regional Office to discuss what needs to be done to increase our overall effectiveness on Bay wetland issues. It was agreed that BAAC (Bay Area Audubon Council) must be more visible and effective in the protection of Bay wetlands. A series of steps were formulated which have been forwarded to individual chapters for consideration.

## IS YOUR BATH WATER BEGINNING TO GET THICK?

"If the water you use isn't thick, murky, or salty don't give up; we may make it yet. The quality of San Francisco Bay's water is slipping, to a large extent, from the greasy gunk that drains from streets, illegal drainage from industry and lax monitoring of some sewage disposal. A heavy accumulation of petroleum hydrocarbons and heavy metals is building up.

At present, Water Resources Control Board and the EPA are each waiting for the other to act. WRCB is unable to enforce the regulations due to lack of funding. EPA feels this is a matter for state control and won't allocate funds for it. So where is the Bay? Between tax reformers and jurisdictional purists we are losing a lot of what we have gained in recent years."

from the Kite Call-Ohlone Audubon Society newsletter.

OBSERVATIONS for September. Also see field trip reports.

KING EIDER, <sup>OC, BR</sup> ♀, Brooks Island, Richmond, Sept 16--BR. Osprey, White House Pool, Pt Reyes, Sept 17--T&GF; Hayward Reg Shoreline (HRS), Sept 26--BR. Northern Goshawk, 2, Spooner Summit, Lake Tahoe, Sept 14--R&JR. Broad-Winged Hawk, imm, Hill 129 (Hawk Mtn), Sept 23--JR, mob. Ferruginous Hawk, imm, HRS, Sept 22--BR.

Wood Duck, <sup>307</sup> 3♀, Del Puerto Cyn Rd near San Antonio Jct, Santa Clara Co, Sept 27--KH, DL. Redhead, ♂, Brooks Island, Sept 16--BR, BC.

Black Oystercatcher, 3, Brooks Island, Sept 16--BR, BC. Lesser Yellowlegs, Limantour Nat Area, Pt Reyes, Sept 4, JR, et al. Wandering Tattler, Brooks Island, Sept 16--BR, BC. LITTLE WHIMBREL, <sup>BC, BR</sup> Santa Maria, Santa Barbara Co, Sept 16-29--LB, PL, mob; 1st Nor Am record.

Surfbird, 17, Brooks Island, Sept 16--BR, BC. SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER, Limantour Nat Area, Sept 4--JR, et al; Moon Glow Dairy, Moss Landing, Sept 9--BR, et al.

Baird's Sandpiper, 8, Abbott's Lagoon, Sept 2--BR; Cader Lane ponds, Petaluma, Sept 3--BC; Limantour Nat Area, Sept 4--JR, et al; 2-5, Salinas sewage ponds, Sept 1-18--RBA, mob. Pectoral Sandpiper, 2, Cader Lane ponds, Sept 3--BC; 3, Limantour Nat Area, Sept 4--JR, et al; 8, Moon Glow Dairy, Sept 5-29--mob; up to 89 (Sept 22), HRS, Sept 15-26--BR; 2, Shell Marsh, & 5, HRS, Sept 16--BR; 1, Limantour Nat Area, Sept 17--T&GF; up to 70 (Sept 18), Salinas sewage ponds, Sept 1-22--mob.

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER, Moon Glow Dairy, Sept 3-9--RBA, BR, mob. CURLEW SANDPIPER, Santa Maria, Sept 16-18--PL, LB, mob. BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER, 2-3, Salinas sewage ponds, Sept 12-27--mob. RUFF, Salinas sewage ponds, Sept 18-22--mob.

Parasitic Jaeger, 2, Limantour Nat Area, Sept 4--JR, et al. SABINE'S GULL, juv, Sulpher Creek, HRS, Sept 20--BR. Elegant Tern, 250, Brooks Island, Sept 16--BC, BR. BLACK SKIMMER, 2, Moon Glow Dairy, Sept 9--BR, et al.

Greater Roadrunner, 2, Del Puerto Cyn Rd, Stanislaus Co, Sept 27--KH, DL. Common Barn-Owl, 20, Estero Trail, Pt Reyes, early Sept--L&PM. SPOTTED OWL, Tomales

Sept 1

Bay SP, Sept 28--KH, DL. GREAT GRAY OWL, 2, Crane Flat, Yosemite NP, mid-Aug--SSM. Short-Eared Owl, Coyote Hills RP, Sept 13--BR. Vaux's Swift, Limantour Nat Area, Sept 4--JR; 12+, Hill 129, Sept 23--JR, mob. BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD, ♂, Carmel River, Sept 29-30+--CT, BT, MDAS, mob.

Lewis' Woodpecker, Fish Docks, Pt Reyes, Sept 25--JR, BF, et al; 3, San Antonio Jct, Sept 27--KH, DL. Piliated Woodpecker, 2, Inverness Ridge, Pt Reyes, Sept 4--JR, et al; 1, Spooner Summit, Sept 14--JR. Willow Flycatcher, HRS, Sept 1--BR; 2, their Benicia garden, Sept 3--G&WY; Fish Docks, Sept 15--SSM, GW. Dusky Flycatcher, HRS, Sept 1--BR; their Walnut Creek garden, Sept 7--T&GF. DUSKY WARBLER, HRS, Sept 28-29--JL, mob; 2nd Calif record. Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Hill 129, Sept 23--JR, mob.

BLUE WINGED WARBLER, ♂, his Lafayette garden, Sept 29--LF. Tennessee Warbler, Nunes Ranch, Pt Reyes, Sept 28--KH, DL. Nashville Warbler, Lighthouse, Pt Reyes, Sept 17--T&GF, et al. Chestnut-Sided Warbler, Lighthouse, Sept 17--T&GF, et al; Nunes Ranch, Sept 18--JR, BF, et al & Sept 28--KH, DL. Black-Throated Blue Warbler, ♀, Nunes Ranch, Sept 28--KH, DL, et al. Black-Throated Gray Warbler, HRS, Sept 22--BR.

Prairie Warbler, Fish Docks, Sept 13-22--RBA, T&GF, DT, mob; Nunes Ranch, Sept 20--BR. Blackpoll Warbler, Mendoza Ranch, Sept 15--SSM, GW; Fish Docks, Sept 17-18--T&GF, BR, JR, mob, & Sept 28--KH, DL. Black-and-White Warbler, ♀, Nunes Ranch, Sept 20--BR; ♂, ♀, Central Park, Fremont, Sept 28--SE, PJ, et al. American Redstart, Nunes Ranch, Sept 20--BR, et al. CONNECTICUT WARBLER, Fish Docks, Sept 20--LB, BR, et al. PAINTED REDSTART, Fish Docks, Sept 17--DT, T&GF, BR, et al.

Green-Tailed Towhee, Road Forks Quarry, Pt Reyes, Sept 18-22--A&WG, JR, BF, mob. BLACK-THROATED SPARROW, Lighthouse, Sept 17--T&GF, DT, et al. Lark Bunting, Lighthouse, Sept 17--T&GF, DT, BR, et al; HRS, Sept 27-30+--BR, mob. Yellow-Headed Blackbird, ♀, Salinas sewage ponds, Sept 22--DL, JR. Red Crossbill, 24+, Inverness Ridge, Sept 4--JR, et al. Lawrence's Goldfinch, 10, Raines Co Park, Stanislaus Co, Sept 27--KH, DL; 1, Lighthouse, Sept 28--KH, DL.

## CLASSIFIED

BOBCAT, Tomales Bay SP, Sept 28--KH,DL.  
Thousands of Brown Pelicans, Heermann's  
 Gulls & Brandt's Cormorants feeding off  
 New Willows, Pt Reyes, Sept 28--KH,DL.

Nikon binoculars, near new, compact  
 roof prism, 8X20 (list price \$195.00)  
 asking \$125.00.  
 Nikon E Series 7X35, list \$275.00 asking  
 \$175.00. Call Leila at 837-7666 eves.

OBSERVERS: Laurie Binford, Louis Bevier,  
 Bill Chilson, Shimi Edmondson, Lynn  
 Farrar, Toni & George Finger, Al & Wilma  
 Ghiorso, Jeff Greenhouse, Paul Lehman,  
 Pat Jacobson, John Luther, Linda &  
 Phil Meyer, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond,  
 Scott Smithson, Chris Tenney, Bob Tintle,  
 Dorothy Tobkin, Gil West, Gifford &  
 Winnie Young, NoCal Rare Bird Alert,  
many observers .

Bring rinsed, flattened ALL-ALUMINUM  
 cans (no bimetal) to meetings or field  
 trips.

## NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FIELD GUIDE

A great gift idea for the holidays-The  
 National Geographic Field Guide to  
Birds of North America. A few copies  
 are still available at a considerable  
 discount. Send a check for \$12.00 for  
 pick-up at meetings or \$13.00 for home  
 delivery to Treasurer, Gifford A. Young,  
 1451 Janet Ct, Benicia, CA 94510. All  
 purchasers should check pages carefully  
 for incorrect collation. Notify Gifford  
 to receive a replacement.

Observations deadline: 1st of the month  
 for sightings the previous month. This  
 is my final column, although we still  
 need a replacement. Many thanks to all  
 of you who have sent your observations  
 over the past 12 1/2 years!

Jean Richmond

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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: \$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.

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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: Maury Stern  
939 Carol Lane  
Lafayette, CA 94549  
284-5980

December 1984

Vol 31 No 5

next deadline: December 1

MEETING Thurs, Dec 6, 2071 Tice Valley Blvd, Walnut Creek.  
NOTE THE NEW LOCATION, directions in Sept Quail. Doors open 6:30 pm Birding Information, 7:00 pm. George Finger will give us some details about the Christmas Bird Count. Business Meeting: 7:30 pm. Social Time: 8:00 pm. Program: George One-man-show Finger will describe his recent trip to the Galapagos Islands complete with slides.

FIELD TRIPS Trips are open to members and nonmembers alike. Carpool time is departure time. We will bird at the meeting spot for at least 1/2 hour. Carpool expense: 5 cents per mile per rider is suggested; tolls and entry fees are shared equally by drivers and riders. Bring binocs, field guide and lunch. Trips go in light rain; if in doubt, call leader up to 1/2 hour before departure time.

\* Sat-Sun, Dec 1 & 2, Sacramento Valley Refuges. Sat, Gray Lodge, 9:00 am. Meet at the first parking lot beyond the Headquarters. Sun 9:00 am, Sacramento Refuge. Meet at parking lot at visitor's center. To Gray Lodge- take I-80 to SR113, at Tudor, take US99 north to Pennington Rd. Follow Pennington Rd to refuge entrance (there are several turns and the road eventually runs north). Sacramento Refuge-leave I-5 at the Norman exit and go north on the frontage road to the refuge. Leaders: Harry and Betty Adamson, 283-2164.

- \* Sat, Dec 8, Candlestick Shoreline. Carpool 7:30 am, Acalanes Ave, north of Fwy 24. We will caravan from here because of limited parking. Leader: Jimm Edgar, 283-3510.
- ~~Thurs~~ <sup>wed.</sup> Dec 12, Altimont Pass. Carpool 7:30 El Cerro Blvd, west of I-680. Another caravan trip. Mostly car birding. Leader: George Finger, 933-2468.
- \* Sat, Dec 29, CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, see page 3 for details.

BOARD Thurs Dec 13, 7:30 pm.  
MEETING Home of Elizabeth Dickey, 113 Hillcrest Dr, Orinda, 254-0486. Board meetings are open to all members.

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

The trip to Point Reyes and Abbott's Lagoon was made by 9 members and guests <sup>Oct. 20</sup> on a fair day with winds up to 20 mph. Eighty-eight species were sighted including Buller's Shearwater, Greater White-Fronted Goose, Ferruginous Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Yellow-Bellied and Red Naped Sapsucker, and Red Crossbill.

Nineteen birders enjoyed a beautiful, <sup>Oct. 25</sup> warm day touring San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge and Coyote Hills. Ninety-five species were seen including Lesser Yellowlegs, Golden-Crowned Kinglets, Snowy Plovers, thousands of shore birds on Alameda Flood Control Channel and 400 plus White Pelicans seen at the end of the day.

No report from Rudasjun/Harold (ED 9/24)



## CONSERVATION NOTES

by Al McNabney

## SHELL MARSH

The age old question: "What's up, doc?" as applied to Shell Marsh can be answered in just one or two words. Not much! At least there's not much that's visible. Comment from the public on the proposed EIR ordered by the City of Martinez closed October 19th and preparation of an EIR is underway. Completion of the draft EIR will provide another opportunity for public comment; but until that time it is doubtful there will be much news in the press about the Shell Marsh issue. In the meantime, flocks of feeding, resting birds continue to use the marsh just as they have been doing for years. Little evidence is there to warn the birds of the danger their habitat and they face. Next time the birds come to Contra Costa County on their long trip to winter quarters, they may find their favorite marsh gone, reduced, or under construction. The decision as to what to do with the Shell Marsh land will be made by humans, not birds, since the birds have no right to vote.

## MORE ON MARSH AND WETLANDS

It is a given that Bay Area marshlands are under serious attack from rampant, often poorly controlled filling and development. One recent attempt to fill wetlands without adequate authorization came a cropper due to observations made by Auduboners and the John Muir Society Conservationists. For some inexplicable reason a fill was started in wetlands in the vicinity of the Stauffer Chemical Company in Martinez. Authority for doing this work was not sought in advance from any of the various governmental agencies having responsibility for control and safeguard of wetlands. The City of Martinez has now ordered the offending company to pay the costs for restoration of the wetland to a condition equal to that which existed before the unauthorized fill took place. Federal law made possible the effective disposition of this problem. Incidentally, the Clean Water Act (involved in this issue) has not been repassed by the Congress. It was caught up in the log jam of bills in the Senate in the waning days of the just-concluded Congress.

## IS CONTRA COSTA COUNTY BEING DITCHED?

Studies now underway may determine the fate of two of the county's landmarks. Murderer's Creek and Grayson Creek are being studied with one objective being to develop a plan to channelize both creeks. Amazingly, this study is going on as the Governor signed a bill, passed by the Legislature to assure restoration of scenic and other values of creeks in local areas. In charge of the study: J. Michael Walford, Public Works Director, Contra Costa County, 651 Pine St, Martinez, CA 94553.

## PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

What kind of a county do YOU want to live in? A town of 40,000 plus people on the drawing boards across the freeway from Livermore, city streets designed for modest town traffic are now so jammed they rival the Chicago Loop at 5 PM. Freeways are so crowded that commuters take hours to get to and from work. Highway 4 is a "killer" road. School and fire service, sewer and police services all have to be bought and paid for as growth takes place. Walnut Creek is now aboil with people who have (finally) become interested in what's happening to "their" city. Public participation is called for by planners—people's views do make a difference...express yours.



## NEW MEMBERS

It is a pleasure to welcome these new MDAS members and we hope to meet them soon: Margaret Bonnickson, MA Brokaw, Mr and Mrs Dwight Clark, Mrs William Clingan, Mr and Mrs Fred Cox, Mrs Louis Edmunds Jr, A C Feliz, Stephen Gerber, Inez Stuart Hiller, John M Kennedy, Jene Lawson, Marjorie Madonne, Karen Noecker, Daniel Woodyatt, Galen Zinn, Diane Arthur, Lee Huhr, Mrs Janet Canning, Eric Fairchild, Shannon Fitzstephens, Anne Hobbs, Timothy Malte, Mitchell Newman, Charmagne Pedroni, Amelia Sours, Earl Stripling, and Denise Hasler.

# GRAYSON & MURDERERS CREEKS THREATENED

Grayson and Murderers Creeks meander through the cities of Walnut Creek and Pleasant Hill, where they join, eventually becoming part of Pacheco Creek, which empties into Suisun Bay. With its headwaters in Briones Regional Park, Grayson Creek follows an East Bay Municipal Utility District easement along part of its route and both creeks wind their way through residential areas. Where the two creeks join in Pleasant Hill they have been channelized into a deep concrete enclosure (box culvert) surrounded by a tall chain link fence.

## Proposal

Currently, the Contra Costa County Flood Control District staff is completing an Environmental Impact Report in preparation for a plan to further channelize the two creeks into box culverts and, at one point, to run Grayson Creek through a large pipe buried into the ground. The project would culvert approximately 2.8 miles of the creeks.

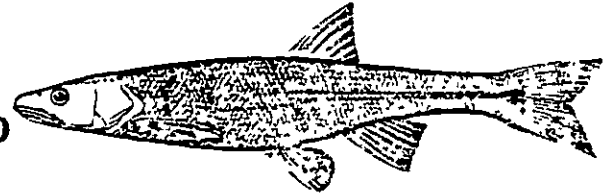
## Background

Joggers, walkers and bicyclists all utilize the open space along Grayson Creek, and people fish as well as collect tadpoles and crayfish in the creeks. Among the birds and mammals seen visiting the creeks, there are great blue heron, egrets, mallards, racoons and opossum. Eighteen fish species have been sampled in Grayson Creek; these include prickly sculpin (a native species of limited range), Sacramento squawfish (a native species that is infrequent locally), black bass and white catfish. Valley oak, arroyo willow, blackberry, cattail, poplar and cottonwood are among the plant species which grow along various parts of the creeks.

## Alternative

Recently, Governor Deukmejian signed a stream restoration bill (AB3789) into law. The intent of this act is to restore the ecological and aesthetic values of creeks while reducing the erosional and flood hazards associated with them. Such restoration is a viable alternative to the planned destruction of the creeks.

## What You Can Do



Letters of concern about the proposed channelization project should be sent to:

Sacramento Squawfish

Anthony Dehaesus  
Planning Director  
Contra Costa County  
P.O. Box 951  
Martinez, CA 94553

J. Michael Walford  
Public Works Director  
Contra Costa County  
651 Pine Street, 6th Floor  
Martinez, CA 94553

Milton Kubicek  
Deputy Chief Engineer  
Flood Control  
Contra Costa County  
255 Glacier Drive  
Martinez, CA 94550

Tom Powers  
Nancy C. Fahden  
Robert I. Schroder  
Sunne Wright McPeak  
Tom Torlakson  
Board of Supervisors  
Contra Costa County  
651 Pine Street  
Martinez, CA 94553

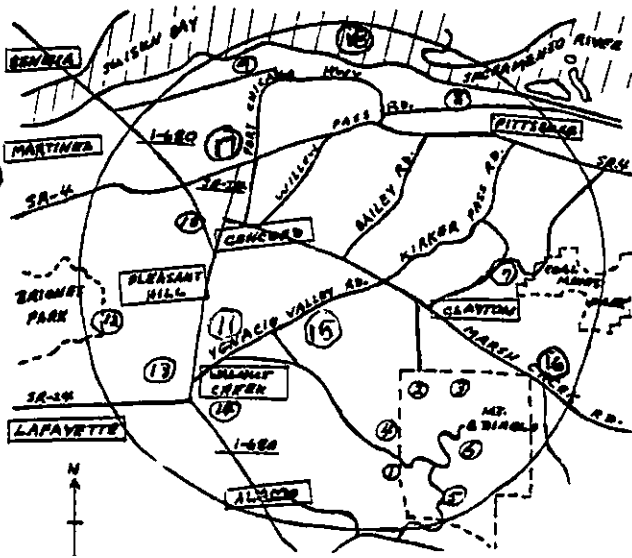
(On September 13, 1983 the Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted an order to direct a Sierra Club communication in support of the active restoration of urban creeks to the Director of Planning and the Public Works Director.)





The object of our CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT (CBC) 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 71 observers found 148 species, 126,000 individuals.

Our Count Day will be on Sat Dec 29, Rain or Shine. The count will be co-compiled this year by Kent Ficket, 3969 No Peardale Dr, Lafayette, 283-8290 and by George Finger, 2371 Dapplegray Ln Walnut Creek, 933-2468. Contact either Kent or George 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

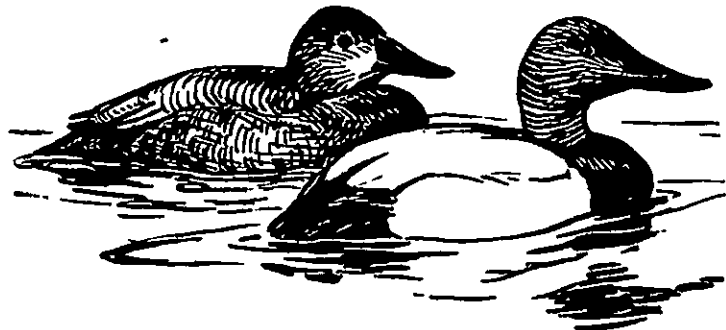
1. Pine Canyon
2. Mitchell Canyon
3. Donner Canyon
4. Mt Diablo-North Gate area
5. Mt Diablo-South Gate area
6. Mt Diablo-summit
7. Nortonville/Somersville area
8. North county marshes-east
9. North county marshes-west
10. Diablo Valley College area
11. Heather Farms
12. Briones Park
13. Reliez Valley
14. Walnut Creek/Shell Ridge
15. Lime Ridge/Boundary Oaks
16. Morgan Territory
17. Mallard Reservoir
18. Boat

We welcome inexperienced birders as well as more expert, and counters at feeders/gardens in our circle--Kent and George have instructions. If you have any special birds staked out, alert Kent or George before Count Day. Cost is \$2.00 per participant; MDAS will pay for students if necessary.

If you see a rare or uncommon species in our CBC area during our COUNT PERIOD, the week of Dec 26 to Jan 1, get details to Kent or George ASAP. These sightings are included in our report to National Audubon which will be published in American Birds next July. If you find a RARE bird in our area, write down all details, preferably before consulting field guides; contact Kent or George as asoon as possible. Rarities must be confirmed.

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 Stanley Intermediate School, 3455 School St, Lafayette. 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, and punch provided. Sign up at the meeting or call Maury Stern 284-5980 by Dec 20 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.

Other CBC dates: Pt Reyes, Dec 15; Santa Rosa, Dec 16; Crystal Springs, Dec 22; So Marin, Dec 23; San Francisco, Dec 27; Napa-Solano, Dec 27; Ano Nuevo, Dec 29 (our date); West Sonoma, Dec 30.



The abbreviated Quail this month is mostly due to the lack of an Observations Column. We are in desperate need of someone to compile sightings monthly to help make our newsletter bird-worthy. If you'd like to help contact Maury Stern, 284-5980.

The Quail this month includes a flier on an issue of concern right in our own backyards. Letters of opinion do make a difference; write and make your views known.

OFFICERS OF MT DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY, 1984-85. Save for future reference.

- President: Maury Stern, 939 Carol Lane, Lafayette, CA 94549, 284-5980.
- VP Program: Joy Hall, 2148 Stewart Ave, Walnut Creek, CA 94596, 934-0625.
- VP Conservation: Al McNabney, 1161 Leisure Lane, #7, Walnut Creek, CA 94595, 945-1785.
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- Treasurer: Gifford A. Young, 1451 Janet Ct, Benicia, CA 94510, (707) 745-4134.
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- Membership: Ethel Beckerman, 237 Marshall Dr. Walnut Creek, CA 94598, 934-5832
- Hospitality: still needed
- Publicity: Peter Kaufman, 2 Penn Plaza, Concord, CA 94518, 676-3186
- Historian: still not filled
- Editor: Shimi Edmondson, 1261 Lawrence Rd, Danville, CA 94526, 837-1010.
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- Christmas Bird Count: George Finger, 2371 Dapplegray Lane, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.
- Education: Norah Bain, 32 Via Farallon, Orinda, CA 94563, 254-4516.
- Birding Information: Winnie Orcutt, 30 Iris Lane, Walnut Creek, CA 94595, 944-0593.

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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: \$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.

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Exchange bulletins for MDAS to this address, please.

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