



# 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

January 1985 Vol 31 No 6 next deadline: January 10

**MEETING** Thurs, January 3, 2071 Tice Valley Blvd, Walnut Creek.  
NOTE THE NEW LOCATION, directions in Sept Quail. Doors open 6:30 pm  
Birding Information: 7:00 pm. Jean Richmond will give a review of corrections for the National Geographic Field Guide of local birds.

Be sure to bring :  
 your field guide to the meeting. Business Meeting: 7:30 pm. Social Time: 8:00 pm.  
Program: Dr Ray Peterson-biologist at Audubon Canyon Ranch, former professor of entomology at San Francisco State will give a slide illustrated talk on insects, varmints, critters, and all them things.

**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.

\* Wed, Jan 9, Richardson Bay. Carpool 8:15 at Acalanes Ave, off Pleasant Hill Rd just north of Fwy 24. Meet at parking lot, Richardson Bay Park, Tiburon. Take San Pablo Dam Rd and San Rafael Bridge. Go south on US 101, left at Tiburon exit-SR 131, go south approx 1 3/4 miles to park. Water and shorebirds; rarities have been found here in previous winters. May be muddy, level walking, short distances. Leader: Jean Richmond, 837-2843.

\* Sat Jan 12, Putah Creek, carpool 7:00 am SW corner Sun Valley parking lot. Meet at Solano County Park, Pleasant Valley Rd, 8:30. Take I-680 north, I-80 east to Cherry Glen exit. Cross freeway, go 1 mile north, then left on Pleasant Valley Rd. 14 miles to park. Wood Duck, Mergansers and other waterfowl. Excellent for Rock and Canyon Wren, Phainopepla, Osprey, eagles and Lewis' Woodpeckers possible. Walking level, but can be muddy or wet. Cold and windy at Berryessa Dam. Leader: Maury Stern, 284-5980.

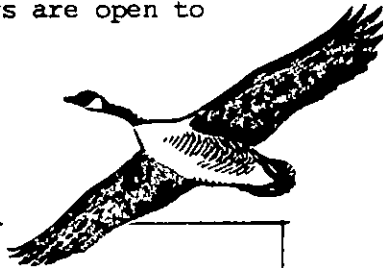
\* Thurs Jan 17, Grizzly Island- carpool 8:00 am SW corner Sun Valley parking lot. Meet at Allan Witt Park in Fairfield, 8:45. Take I-680 north and I-80 east to Fairfield exit, SR 12. Park is on right side of road on western outskirts of Fairfield. Ducks, geese, hawks, possibly owls. Much birding from cars, but trails can be muddy, and area is windy. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486.

\* Sat, Jan 19, Alameda Southshore, carpool 8:15, Acalanes Ave off Pleasant Hill Rd just north of Fwy 24. Meet at Broadway and Shoreline Ave in Alameda at 9:00. Go through the tube to Alameda, continue on Webster St to Central Ave, Turn left 2 blocks, then right. Continue to bay and turn left on Shoreline to intersection with Broadway. This will be a high tide and we should see rails; area is also excellent for shorebirds, which will be close by because of the tide. Snowy Plovers are often found here. Leader: Winnie Orcutt, 944-0593.

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

\* Wed Jan 30, Sunol- carpool 7:45, El Cerro Blvd, west of I-680. Meet at parking lot, Sunol Regional Park, 8:30 Go south on I-680 to Calaveras Rd exit. Go left under freeway and 4 miles on Calaveras, turn left on Geary 2 miles to park. Golden Eagle and other raptors, Rufous-Crowned Sparrow, Rock and Canyon Wren. This is a walking trip, 2-3 miles and trails may be rough or muddy. Leader: Merv Ortez, 283-3072. If it rains on day of trip, call leader, trip may be rescheduled.

Tuesday January 8 (PLEASE NOTE BOARD CHANGE THIS TIME ONLY), 1985, MEETING 7:30 pm. Home of Norah Bain, 32 Via Farallon, Orinda, 254-4516. Board meetings are open to all members.



## OBSERVATIONS EDITORS

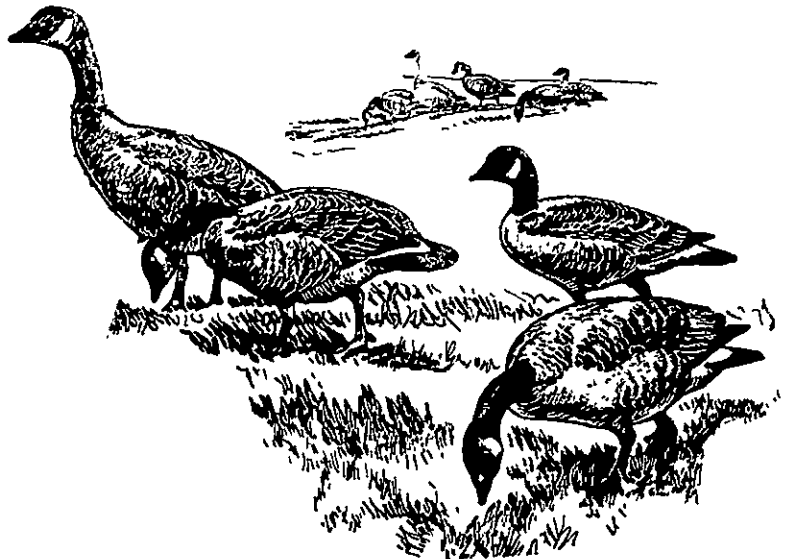
I am pleased to announce the names of our new Observations Editors. Kirk and Lee Robinson have agreed to fill this very important function. They may be reached at 19046 Mayberry Dr, Castro Valley, CA 94546, phone after 6:00pm is 538-2655. They would prefer sightings be sent by postcard or letter.

## NEW MEMBERS

It is a pleasure to welcome these new MDAS members and we hope to meet them soon: Dorothy Burnham, Dr and Mrs W M Johnston, Elena Lass, Bradley Liljequist, Eleanor Platt, Richard Scott, Catherine Straus, M. A. Wiechmann, John and Linda Wolthausen, Glen and Cathy Wyatt, Andrew Blalock, Janine Hammel, Carlo Herrala, Ron Johnson, Andrea Markus, Gregory McNamara. We also welcome new transfers into our chapter: John Battis, Susan Heckly, Donna Klein, Anna Marie Levy, Mr and Mrs Ray Long, Mr and Mrs Sheldon Pearson, Lewis Roach.

Approximately 20 people attended the trip to the Gray Lodge and Sacramento Wildlife Refuges on the weekend of December 1 and 2. Saturday was a clear, beautiful day with a large number of Sandhill Cranes and Snow and Ross' Geese flying against a blue sky. At Gray Lodge there was an unusually large number of Ross' Geese. An Eurasian Wigeon was found at Gray Lodge and the next day another Eurasian Wigeon was observed at close range. Although we had a few Tundra Swans at Gray Lodge, there were approximately 275 plus at Sacramento Refuge. The groups against a dark sky wheeling in to join the large numbers already on the water made a beautiful sound. While we were eating our lunch, their calls made a pleasant sound. A Golden Eagle sitting on a fence post was also seen. While driving between the two refuges, we had a pair of Mountain Bluebirds. About 76 species were observed.

Harry and Betty Adamson



Mt Diablo's first trip to the Candlestick shoreline and vicinity was held Sat December 8 on a partly cloudy, pleasant day. Along with the MDAS members and guests in attendance were 55,000 rabid 49er fans. 70 species were seen including excellent close views of White Wing Scoters, lots of waterfowl and shorebirds, Lincoln Sparrow and Common Yellowthroat. The 49ers won 51-7.

## CONSERVATION NOTES

## SHELL MARSH

by Al McNabney

The Army is "in"! Representatives of CAZ Development Company asked the US Army Corps of Engineers for a determination as to how much of the actual marshland was under the Corp's jurisdiction. An on-site inspection was followed by a written determination on the part of the Corps that essentially all of the marshland falls within the jurisdiction of the Corps. Under the Clean Water Act, the Corps has broad authority in the protection of bay and marshlands. A draft EIR is to be released for public view within a couple of weeks.

## HAS STAUFFER CLEANED UP???

Following up on an item in last month's Quail: It has been determined that the Stauffer Chemical Company has not YET cleaned up the fill introduced by that company into nearby marshland. The rains have now come, creating some problems but the important fact is the fill has NOT been cleaned up.

## OIL ON THE VERY TROUBLED WATERS

To anyone interested in preservation and protection of bird life and the beauties of the Pacific coastal areas, the arguments presented FOR oil drilling and exploration in nearby coastal waters sound meaningless. The recent oil spill from the tanker that broke in two not far off shore has brought home, with a vengeance, the need to protect the birds, shores and people. Hundreds of sea and water birds were trapped in the oil that oozed from the broken ship. Heroic efforts by some dedicated souls saved a number of birds, but far more were lost than were saved. Now it appears the stern section of the ship has sprung a leak and heavy oil seepage is afloat. One observer called the situation a "time bomb". While technology appears to have minimized, (to some extent) the damage and losses of birdlife, we have to be appalled at what has happened.

## BIRDS VS GROWTH VS CONSERVATION

The explosion in Contra Costa County changing its economy from an agricultural to a business (office) setting is now a fact. All of the people envi-

sioned by the HUGE development projects under construction are not yet here. Even so, traffic problems of monumental proportions are here now. Walnut Creek and Pleasant Hill are considering establishment of height limits on downtown buildings. Countryside that is and/or has been bird habitat either has disappeared under the developer's bulldozers or it is now under houses and buildings. Luckily some advance planning has been carried out by some of the cities so that some open space is still in existence. There is need for much, much, more attention to habitat and the needs of birdlife (to say nothing of human life) if the county is to continue to be a source of life for many species.

## THE EPA AND YOU

Individuals who may be affected by pesticides, toxic chemicals etc, usually have little that they as an individual can do to correct a bad situation. Such is not the case with EPA. The resignation of William Ruckelshaus brings the whole issue of the control of our environment to the fore. Those who argue that there should be less government in our lives offer few solutions to toxic problems other than to have those using the chemicals take care of the problem. The private sector is uniquely unsuited to take care of such problems. Just about all experience shows citizens joining together through their government can provide the best solutions. It is imperative, however, that when an agency such as EPA is created to do a job of controlling toxics, the job be done. In the past three or four years EPA has done far less than the job it was intended to do and has to do if our environment is to be protected.

## COMMITTEE FOR WATER POLICY CONSENSUS

The next meeting of this committee is to be held in Sonoma, December 13th. David Kennedy, California Director of Water Resources will discuss the current water situation in the state. He will also give his views and discuss the policies adopted by the Committee as proposals for settling the California north/south water problems.

## CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

Norah Bain will teach four five-hour field classes on bird identification in the Central Valley, the Delta, and the coast, Jan 15, 22, 29, and Feb 5 from 9:30-2:30. Register at the Orinda Community Center on Jan 3. Price: Orindans \$23, others \$25. Information at OCC 254-2445 or Norah at 254-4516. Class size limited to 16.

Alice Hoch will lead a one-day trip Sat January 19 from 9-3 to the Delta to view Sandhill Cranes and Whistling Swans on their wintering grounds in the Delta. The cranes may be practicing their nuptial dance. Many other birds including hawks, ducks, and gulls will also be observed. Students must pre-register by mail or in person. Cost is \$10.50. For details call Fremont Adult School at 791-5841 or Alice at 657-0475.

Alice Hoch is leading a Bird Field Trips Class where students may observe and learn about the field i.d. life styles, and ecology of local birds. Class is on Tuesday morning visiting a different birding spot. This class is for beginning and experienced birders. For details see above.

Joseph Morlan will teach a free evening bird class through John Adams Community College Center. Open enrollment permits students to enroll any time during the 18-week semester. Each class consists of a weekly 2 1/2 hour illustrated slide lecture stressing i.d., status and habits of North American birds. The text for all classes is Field Guide to the Birds of North America by National Geographic Society.

Ornithology I- is an introduction to avian biology for those with no previous birding experience. Meets Tuesdays starting Jan 15 from 7-9:30 pm.

Ornithology II- for those who already know most of the common birds and who wish to sharpen their field skills, covering waterfowl, rails, and shorebirds. Wednesdays starting Jan 16, 7-9:30 pm.

Ornithology III- a continuation of Orn. II, covers land birds including game-birds, pigeons, cuckoos, owls, night-jars, swifts and hummingbirds. Thursdays from Jan. 17, 7-9:30 pm.

Optional field trips- \$30 for 8 half day trips. Details: 346-7044 or 239-3070.

On January 26 and 27, 1985 the Planning and Conservation League, one of California's most effective environmental lobbying organizations, will sponsor the Second California Environmental Legislative Symposium at the Sacramento Inn.

PCL is pleased to have secured commitments from Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley, Attorney General John Van de Kamp, and Lieutenant Governor Leo McCarthy, to be guest speakers during this event.

The purpose of the Symposium will be to plan strategy for opposing legislation that would be dangerous and harmful to the environment in California. Individual workshops will be held on such topics as water development, pesticides, toxic materials, wildlife, renewable resources, new techniques in grass roots environmental lobbying, and several others. The cost to attend the two-day Symposium is \$50 per person and includes three meals. Please contact PCL for details, 916-444-8726 or write at 1228 N Street, Suite 33, Sacramento, CA 95814.

## BAAC MEETING

Bay Area Audubon Council's quarterly meeting will be held on Saturday January 5, 1985 at the Richardson Bay Sanctuary, Western Education Center, 376 Greenwood Beach Road, Tiburon, CA. Topics to be discussed will be "Determining Army Corps of Engineers Jurisdiction on Wetlands", "Update on the Effectiveness of Current Gill Netting Regulations", and a wetlands workshop and education for youth programs.

GREATER BAY AREA SITE GUIDE:

## Honey and Eagle Lakes (Lassen County)

Access: I-80 east to Reno, US-395 north to SR-36 near Susanville. Scenic routes north and east from SR-99 north of Sacramento; in Yuba City, SR-20 east then SR-70 SR-89, SR-147 along Lake Almanor, & SR-36; or in Chico take SR-32 then SR-36. Carry chains in winter. About 280 miles, 6 hrs travel.

Honey Lake WMA has 2 units, Fleming and Dakin. Go east on US-395 to 3 miles past Litchfield, south on Mapes Rd, follow signs east to Refuge HQ at Fleming Unit, birding wet areas. Around buildings, check winter sparrows for American Tree, White-Throated, Harris'. Common Barn-owls nest in sheds, Great Horned roost in nearby trees. Varied landbirds are in trees at HQ & surrounding areas.

From 1st parking lot past HQ walk levees thru marsh and along Susan River. If open, drive to south parking lot, walk levees there. Watch reeds for Marsh Wren, scan willows for Long-eared Owl & in winter, Amer Tree Sparrow. Here in migration: swan, geese, 21 ducks, several shorebirds. Wintering Horned Larks, usually have Lapland Longspurs, sometimes a McCown's or Chestnut-collared.

In summer, 6 swallows fly over the marsh. Among nesters: egrets, night-heron, Ibis, Canada Goose, several ducks, Sandhill Crane, shorebirds, Ring-Billed & Calif Gulls, Caspian, Forster's & Black Terns, Yellow-headed Blackbird. Burrowing Owls nest in nearby areas.

To bird Honey Lake Valley, cruise roads between Standish, on US-395, and Dakin Unit. To reach Wendel, take US-395 east to 4 miles past Litchfield, right on Wendel Rd. At Wendel, go west to Antola Rd to Fleming Unit. From roadswatch for raptors, check brush, fences for Say's Phoebe, Horned Lark, Sage Thrasher, Nor. (winter) & Loggerhead Shrikes. Resident Lark & Sage Sparrows joined in winter by Amer Tree, White-throated, Harris', in summer by Black-throated, Brewer's. Tricolored may be in blackbird flocks. Thru the valley Red-tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, ~~Falcon are residents, wintering are Bald Eagle, Bald Eagle (winter), Peregrine Falcon (winter)~~ Ferruginous & Rough-legged Hawks, perhaps "Harlan's" Red-tail, Merlin & Peregrine Falcon; Swainson's Hawk possible in migration.

From Fleming Unit zigzag south & west 5 miles on Mapes Rd, left to Dakin Unit, go south to parking areas. Scope helps scanning marsh & Hartson Reservoir for grebes, geese, ducks, gulls on water & along shore.

Continue west on Mapes Rd, left on Standish-Buntingville Rd (A3), right 1 mile on US-395, left up Janesville Grade: Northern Goshawk, Mtn Quail, Northern Pygmy-owl, nuthatches, creeper, nutcracker, Evening Grosbeak, other forest birds as at Eagle Lake. Snow conditions may limit winter access. Return east, turn north into Janesville, look for Lewis' & Hairy Woodpeckers by the road. Turn right to the cemetery, look for Band-tailed Pigeon, woodpeckers, jays, Mtn Chickadee, Pygmy Nuthatch, West. Bluebird, solitaire.

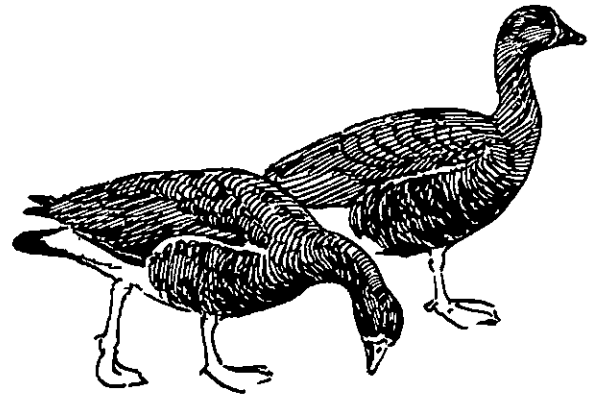
Go north, left on Wingfield Rd, right on Basshill Rd for raptors, varied landbirds. Turn north on US-395, west on SR-36 In Susanville check wintering Cedar Waxwings for Bohemians (erratic, regular), scan Robins for possible Varied Thrush Rock & Canyon Wrens are in rocky areas such as along SR-139 NE of town. From town go west 2 1/2 miles on SR-36, north on Eagle Lake Rd. (A1) (A2). In an old burn, especially near the summit, look for Northern Goshawk, Hairy, White-headed & Blk-backed Woodpeckers. At Eagle Lake turn right on Gallatin Rd, left to the picnic area then go <sup>on</sup> to Gallatin Beach & marina. Osprey, Bald Eagle fly over the lake, perch on snags. Scan for grebes, Amer White Pelican (summer), geese, several ducks, several shorebirds, gulls, terns.

Other forest birds here: accipiters, Blue Grouse, Mtn Quail, owls, nighthawks, Red-breasted & Williamson's Sapsuckers, Pileated, Lewis' & Downy Woodpeckers, flycatchers, nutcracker, 3 nuthatches, creeper, West & Mtn Bluebirds, solitaire, Kinglets, warblers (summer), Yellow-headed & other blackbirds, tanager, Black-headed & Evening Grosbeaks, 3 finches, siskin, Red Crossbill, Green-tailed & Rufous-sided Towhees, several sparrows.

To reach a Sage Grouse Lek, walk 1 1/2 miles west from US-395 on dirt road 8 miles NE of Litchfield. Displaying birds seen at dawn, Feb-Mar. STAY BACK AWAY FROM GROUSE, observe thru binocs, scopes- lek was abandoned for awhile, probably

overzealous birders. In the area: Chukar, Say's Phoebe, Horned Lark, Sage Thrasher, Brewer's, Lark, Black-Throated & Sage Sparrows, large Pronghorn herd.

Best birding: Fall-spring: wide variety of species likely in the area on a Sage Grouse trip. Motels, restaurants in Susanville; small motel, cafe in Litchfield. Camping: Eagle Lake; free campground, minimal facilities, at Fleming Unit.



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, 1997 OAK PARK BLVD. P.H., CA 94523, 934-1002.  
 VP Conservation: Al McNabney, 1161 Leisure Lane, #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: 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.  
 BAAC Rep: Jimm Edgar, 3611 Chestnut, Lafayette, CA 94549, 283-3510.  
 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.

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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Pres: Maury Stern  
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284-5980

February 1985

Vol 31 No 7

next deadline: February 10

MEETING Thurs February 7, Contra Costa  
Jewish Community Center, 2071  
Tice Valley Blvd, Walnut Creek.

NOTE THE NEW LOCATION, directions in Sept  
Quail. Doors open 6:30 pm, Birding Infor-  
mation: 7:00 pm. Bob Richmond will discuss  
how to differentiate between the Herring  
Gull and the Thayer's Gull. Business  
Meeting: 7:30 pm. Social Time: 8:00 pm  
Program: 8:30 pm. Phil Gordon, a well-  
known Bay Area teacher and birder will  
speak on our back-yard birds and how to  
develop their habitat.

BOARD Thursday February 14, 7:30 pm  
MEETING home of Peter Kaufman, 2 Penn  
Plaza, Concord, 676-3186. Please  
call for directions (hard to find).  
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, Feb 2, CLIFTON COURT & EAST CONTRA  
COSTA COUNTY. Carpool: 7 am by Burger  
King in Clayton Shopping Ctr, Ygnacio  
Valley and Clayton Rds. Meet: 7:45 am  
at end of Clifton Rd. From shopping ctr  
go east through Clayton, continue on Marsh  
Creek Rd, turn onto Camino Diablo and  
follow signs to Byron Hwy. Turn right,

go 2 1/2 miles and turn left onto Clifton  
Rd and drive to end. We will walk the  
levees to look for waterbirds and gulls.  
Wear warm, layered clothing and bring  
rain gear as drizzle will not cancel trip.  
Walking is level, may be muddy; short  
distance walkers can turn back as desired.  
Depending on what we find at Clifton Ct,  
we may explore east county for Mt Blue-  
birds, Burrowing Owls and hawks. Leader:  
George Finger, 933-2468.

\* Thurs, Feb 7, THORNTON-Carpool: 7:15,  
southwest corner of Sun Valley Ctr.  
Meet 9:00 am, at junction of Thornton and  
Woodbridge Rds. Go north on SR-24, east  
on SR-4, cross Antioch Bridge and continue  
on SR-160 to SR-12. Turn right 16 miles  
go under I-5 and turn left onto Thornton  
Rd, 3 miles to Woodbridge. We should see  
Tundra Swans, Sandhill Cranes, ducks,  
geese, and perhaps Green-backed Heron,  
Bitterns and hawks. This is mostly car  
birding with little walking. Trip will  
go in light rain. Leaders: Merv and  
Norma Ortez, 283-3072.

\* Sat, Feb 9, BODEGA BAY-carpool: 7:00 am  
southwest corner Sun Valley Ctr. Meet:  
9:00 am, Tides Restaurant, Bodega Bay.  
Take US101 to Petaluma, from Washington  
Ave exit, follow signs to SR-1, and go  
left to Bodega Bay; the Tides is on the  
left. Ducks, shorebirds, loons, seabirds;  
maybe whales. Little walking, expect  
cold and wind. Leaders: Gifford and  
Winnie Young, 707-745-4134.

\* Wed, Feb 13, EMERYVILLE-BERKELEY SHORE  
LINE-carpool: 8:30 am El Nido Rd, take  
Acalanes Road exit from SR-24 and follow  
signs for Upper Happy Valley Rd. Meet:

9:00 am Emeryville Marina. Take Powell St exit from I-80, go to turn-around at end of marina and park in last lot. We will see ducks, shorebirds, waterbirds, rarities often turn up along the shore. Little walking, expect wind. Leader: Norah Bain, 254-4516.

\* Sat Feb 23, LAKE HENNESSEY-carpool: 7:00 am southwest corner Sun Valley Ctr. Meet: 8:30 am at turnout below Conn Dam spillway. From Benicia Bridge, take I-780 to Vallejo and I-80 east to SR-37. Go west to SR-29 and north on 29 to Rutherford. Turn right on SR-128 and go about 5 miles to turnout on left side of road. Land and water birds, Hooded Merganser, Bald Eagle and Pygmy Nuthatch possible. Short walks from cars. Napa Valley tends to be colder than central Contra Costa. Leader: Jean Richmond, 837-2843.

\* Thurs, Feb 28, LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR, 9:00 am in the parking lot at the top of the dam. Have 4 quarters or a dollar for the parking gate. This trip is a good introduction to both land and water birds of central county. A three mile walk on paved road around the lake. Leader: Mary Jane Culver, 682-0509.

NOTE: The Sage Grouse weekend has been postponed to March 23-24. Susanville motels include Frontier Inn, 916-257-4141 and Best Western Trailside Inn 916-257-4123 or see AAA directory or Lassen Co phone book.

\* Wed, Feb 20, SPECIAL FIELD TRIP; unlike our regular trips, this is limited to 20 people and there is a charge of \$5.00 (includes lunch). We will meet at 8:30 am at Sun Valley parking lot and bird Concord area "hot spots" usually visited by Christmas Count people. The morning will conclude with viewing a gallery display of wildlife prints-mostly by Bateman, some by Peterson and others-and lunch at Big C Athletic Club. Call Jimm Edgar, 283-3510, for reservations.

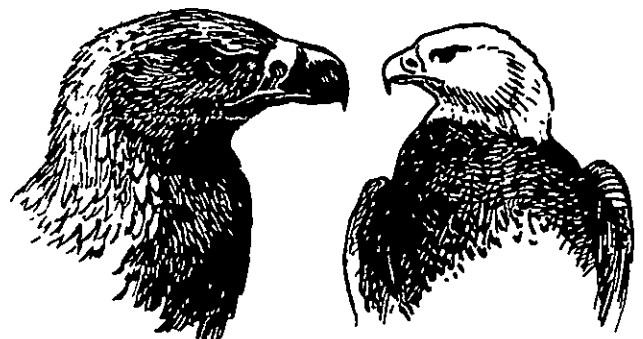
Globescope: The GLOBESCOPE National Assembly to be held at the Portland Hilton, April 17-21 will consider a wide range of global environmental concerns, including water conservation, endangered species protection, toxic waste disposal, acid rain control, resource recycling and ecologically sound methods of agriculture. A special emphasis will be given to finding community-based strategies to create an ecologically sound future. Contact: Globescope, PO Box 15264, Portland, Oregon, 97215.

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Four nardy (crazy?) birders met <sup>Nov. 10</sup> at the carpool spot for the Tennessee Valley trip and decided to give it a try as there was only very slight drizzle and the sky was fairly light. By the time they reached Tennessee Valley, it was raining so they sat in the cars for 45 minutes-birding from the shelter of the car. But the rain did not slack off and there was no break in the clouds so they finally had to give up. The species total was 8 for 4 birders--2 per person. At least they tried.

Cold, low overcast skies with drizzle <sup>Nov 15</sup> turning to light rain was the weather for 12 MDAS members for the Mt. View Sanitary District, Martinez Regional Shoreline, and Waterfront Rd. A total of 53 species was tallied. A very cooperative Bittern flew around giving all a good look, but a Green-Backed Heron eluded most of the group. Common Moorhens played hide-and-seek at the edge of the reeds. Several Common Yellowthroats flitted about the marsh. A flock of 40 Avocets was at Waterfront Rd. It was a very pleasant morning in spite of the weather!

Pt Reyes and Limantour was visited by 16 MDAS members and guests on a fair morning that became cloudy in the afternoon. <sup>Nov 17</sup> A total of 97 species was noted including an Osprey, Ferruginous Hawk, Long-billed Curlew, PYGMY OWL, and Red Crossbills.



The 6th Annual Klamath Basin Bald Eagle Conference, Feb 15-17, Oregon Institute of Technology, Klamath Falls, Ore, will try to inform the general public about the nature of eagles and other raptors. It coincides with the peak concentration of wintering Bald Eagles in the Klamath Basin, the largest population of wintering Bald Eagles in the lower 48 states. Contact: Katie Ardt, 4647 Miller Island Rd, Klamath Falls, Ore, 97603.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 1984

by George Finger

Seventy-three observers in twenty-one parties hiked up and down trails, checked city parks, ponds and creeks and scoped the marshes and grassy hillsides of Contra Costa County counting species and total number of birds seen on December 29.

Fog lurked in the valleys and hillsides and it was overcast all day in the lowlands making viewing conditions less than ideal. Nevertheless, 143 species were sighted among a total count of 53,356 individual birds; second only to last year's highest species count. Species seen were as follows:

Common Loon 2, Loon sp. (not commons) 1, Pied Bill Grebe 23, Western Grebe 39, Double-Crested Cormorant 108, American Bittern 6, Great Blue Heron 32, Great Egret 39, Snowy Egret 70, Green-Backed Heron 4, Black-Crowned Night-Heron 19, Tundra Swan 67, Greater White-Fronted Goose 2, Canada Goose 5, Green-Winged Teal 48, Mallard 593, Northern Pintail 670, Cinnamon Teal 38, Northern Shoveler 2, 183, Gadwall 1403, American Wigeon 1043, Canvas-back 6, Ring-Necked Duck 3, Lesser Scaup 9, Surf Scoter 7, Common Goldeneye 20, Bufflehead 35, Common Merganser 11, Ruddy Duck 725, Turkey Vulture 28, Black-Shouldered Kite 60, Northern Harrier 81, Sharp-Shinned Hawk 11, Cooper's Hawk 2, Red-Shouldered Hawk 1, Red-Tailed Hawk 77, Ferruginous Hawk 1, American Kestrel 105, Merlin 1, Ring-Necked Pheasant 8, California Quail 122, Black Rail 4, Virginia Rail 125, Sora 28, Common Moorhen 2, American Coot 691, Killdeer 169, Black-Necked Stilt 13, American Avocet 32, Greater Yellowlegs 14, Spotted Sandpiper 1, Sanderling 29, Western Sandpiper 1, Least Sandpiper 185, Dunlin 24, Long-Billed Dowitcher 39, Common Snipe 44, Bonaparte's Gull 1, Mew Gull 141, Ring-Billed Gull 922, Calif Gull 1694, Herring Gull 1666, Thayer's Gull 151, Western Gull 4, Glaucus-winged Gull 1544, Rock Dove 294, Band-Tailed Pigeon 126, Mourning Dove 220, Barn Owl 2, Western Screech-Owl 2, Great Horned Owl 7, Burrowing Owl 3, Short-Eared Owl 4, White-Throated Swift 1, Anna's Hummingbird 92, Belted Kingfisher 24, Acorn Woodpecker 30, Red-Breasted Sapsucker 7, Nuttall's Woodpecker 66, Downy Woodpecker 17, Hairy Woodpecker 5, Northern Flicker 218, Black Phoebe 59, Say's Phoebe 16, Horned Lark 9, Tree Swallow 28, Steller's Jay 99,

Scrub Jay 419, American Crow 47, Common Raven 3, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee 28, Plain Titmouse 149, Bushtit 539, Red-Breasted Nuthatch 1, White-Breasted Nuthatch 54, Rock Wren 2, Bewick's Wren 34, Winter Wren 1, Marsh Wren 73, Golden-Crowned Kinglet 8, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet 141, Western Bluebird 361, Townsend's Solitaire 2, Hermit Thrush 124, American Robin 8344, Varied Thrush 33, Wrentit 56, Northern Mockingbird 104, Calif Thrasher 18, Water Pipit 111, Cedar Waxwing 793, Phainopepla 1, Loggerhead Shrike 69, Starling 3933, Hutton's Vireo 5, Yellow-Rumped Warbler 554, Common Yellowthroat 48, Townsend's Warbler 1, Rufous-Sided Towhee 104, Brown Towhee 254, Rufous-Crowned Sparrow 16, Lark Sparrow 146, Sage Sparrow 4, Savannah Sparrow 37, Fox Sparrow 40, Song Sparrow 161, Lincoln's Sparrow 44, White-Throated Sparrow 1, Golden-Crowned Sparrow 652, White-Crowned Sparrow 560, "Oregon" Junco 881, Red-Winged Blackbird 2424, Tricolored Blackbird 546, Western Meadowlark 534, Brewer's Blackbird 2955, Brown-Headed Cowbird 6, Purple Finch 52, House Finch 426, Pine Siskin 868, Lesser Goldfinch 909, American Goldfinch 163, House Sparrow 88, plus additional unidentified species. Undoubtedly the birds of the day were the Sanderlings seen by Bob Richmond and Jeff Greenhouse! Also seen in the count period were White Pelicans, Golden Eagles, and Prairie Falcon. Additional information will be published in American Birds.

## CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONFERENCE

National Audubon Richardson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary will be the site of the California Environmental Quality Act Conference on Saturday, February 2 from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. CEQA is the major legislation which enables the protection of wildlife habitat and open space. This conference has been planned to offer a broad and in-depth understanding of this important planning law, and to provide an opportunity for questions and discussion. The conference will cover legislative origins and outlook for CEQA, what the law requires, EIRs, the planning process, and legal and developer perspectives of the law. Richardson Bay Sanctuary is at 376 Greenwood Beach Rd, Tiburon.

## CONSERVATION NOTES

by Al McNabney

## SHELL MARSH

"Waterfront Business Park Environmental Impact Report". That title on a half-inch thick, loosely bound book may well hold the key to the future of Shell Marsh. The just issued report, ordered by the City of Martinez to further the proposed take-over of Shell Marsh by the city is now available. In general the EIR demonstrates a number of reasons why the property should NOT be developed. Amendments to existing land and water use plans would have to be undertaken and wildlife would be adversely impacted. Note was taken of the numbers of birds using Shell Marsh from material provided by MDAS. Comment on the EIR has to be presented prior to February 22 and a public hearing will be held February 26 in the Martinez Council Chambers at 8:00 pm. Anyone interested in this matter should arrange to attend this hearing and be prepared to express views on the proposal.

## KESTERSON WILDLIFE REFUGE....

A haven for ducks and water birds? A testing ground for the effects of pesticides and toxic substances in water on birds, animals, and people? A HUGE mistake in which man's ingenuity has been truly foiled by nature? Any one or all of those questions could be true. The issues involved are serious and may well be sending a warning message. Seldom does a day pass without some report about well water, drinking water, etc being polluted. The effects now visible in the Kesterson Refuge certainly are dramatic and should be thought provoking. The effects on humans may be as dramatic although more delayed. To date discussions have covered completion of the San Luis Drain so the polluted waters can be transported to San Francisco Bay; a drainage system that would carry the waters over hill and dale to a point on or near Monterey Bay; close the refuge, let the irrigation waters just flow wherever they will or stop all irrigation, which means virtual closure of many acres of farmland on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley. In the meantime, birds seeking refuge in the area are on their own or are being driven away (possibly) through explosions from cannons.

## THE FILLING OF THE BAY IS JUST NO WAY...

Reported earlier: Stauffer Chemical Co authorized the filling of many acres of bayland in the vicinity of its Martinez plant. When this action was directed to the attention of authorities, Stauffer was given notice to clean up the mess. While this has not yet been done, the City of Martinez is now advising the chemical company that a bond of sizeable proportions must be filed by January 15th to insure completion of the clean-up by July 31st.

MY JOB IS DONE!

Words now being heard on the air and read in the daily press. Such words coming from the man who replaced James Watt at the Dept of Interior leaves some interest as to just what they are intended to mean. By just about all accounts the Watt policies were a disaster to anyone who gives much thought to conservation and cares for the environment. Assessment of the work of Judge Clark, who now announces he is leaving Interior to return to private life remains to be done. Judge Clark's term with Interior has certainly created less controversy than was the case with his predecessor.

## STOP SEA OTTER DROWNINGS, WRITE A LETTER!

State Senator Ken Maddy and Assemblyman Eric Seastrand (whose districts encompass most of the sea otter range) have responded positively to the hundreds of letters they have received asking for their help in stopping the sea otter drownings in fishing nets.

Senator Maddy has introduced Senate Bill #89, urgency legislation to ban the use of all entangling fishing nets within the 15-fathom (90 foot depth curve) throughout the sea otter range. Assemblyman Seastrand will be principal co-author in the Assembly. Please send short, strong letters urging the fastest possible passage and enactment of Senator Maddy's S.B. 89 to:

Senator Robert Presley, Chair, Senate Natural Resources & Wildlife Committee  
Assemblyman Jim Costa, Chair, Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee  
Governor George Deukmejian, Attn: Allan Zaremberg

and your own State Senator and Assemblyman  
 Address for all of above: State Capitol,  
 Sacramento, CA 95814.

## OBSERVATIONS

Have you ever been bitten by a murre? Jabbed by a Grebe? Have you ever "tubed a bird?" We recently experienced these and many other events while volunteering in the bird rescue effort set up in the aftermath of the oil spill from the tanker Puerto Rican. Along with numerous other individuals and members of the California Conservation Corps we spent a recent Sunday at the bird rescue center set up at Fort Cronkite.

Some observations from that experience:

- more manpower and effort is put into feeding the birds and cleaning the temporary pens set up to hold them.
- Murre are scrappy. They have extremely strong wings and if you don't get a good hold (the equivalent of a full nelson on the wings), there is no telling what they might try to do to you. We still have scars from their attacks.
- Loons are big birds. We didn't quite realize how big until we tried to pick one up. In the wild they appear much smaller than they actually are, probably because they are generally viewed at a distance, besides they sit fairly low in the water.
- Western Grebes are, in comparison to how they appear, very scrawny birds. Their regal stature while sitting on the water is in contrast to their lack of size when you hold them in hand.
- Washing birds is hard work, yet requires a delicate touch. It's a two person job, one holds, the other carefully washes. A water pik is used to wash around the eyes. Each bird went through several baths before going into the showers for a rinse. The birds then spent several hours in a dryer.
- The real reward for all the volunteers was to see the birds when they were put in a small pool to bathe and preen. It was like watching kids in a candy factory. The birds were so exuberant splashing around in the water, swimming around and preening their natural oils back into their feathers.

In all, over 600 birds were cleaned at the center, with approximately the same number estimated as having died as a result of the spill. It was fortunate that the spill did not occur during the breeding season

when far more birds inhabit the area.

\* \* \*

Cattle Egret, 4 atop sheep, Nees Rd., Madera County, 12/22 - H&NB; Henry Miller Rd., Merced County, 12/24 - JR,BR,RR; I-580 at Stuhr Rd. (J18), Stanislaus County, 12/26 - JR,RR. White Pelican, 18, Walnut Creek, 12/31 - JE. Eurasian Wigeon, M, Hayward Regional Shoreline, 12/23 - JR,GF, MP,MD,AF,KR. Harlequin Duck, Jetty Rd., Moss Landing, 12/26 - SE,RS. Ferruginous Hawk, I-5/Corral Hollow Rd., San Joaquin County, 12/24 - JR,BR. Merlin, Berkeley Marina, 1/1 - JE; SF Bay NWR, 1/2 - LR. Short-Eared Owl, 3, HRS, 12/23 JR,MP,GF,MD, AF,KR. Snowy Owl, 2 imm., Outer Dungeness Spit, Washington, 12/18 - K&LR. Greater Pewee, Masonic Home, Union City, 12/23-24 - JE,GL,JR,BR,et al. Northern Shrike, imm. Bay Farm I., Alameda, 12/16-17 - AE,BR,KH, JR,et al. Townsend's Solitaire, Donner Canyon, MDSP, 12/27 - GF. Blue-Gray Gnat-catcher, 3, Ohlone Xmas Count, 12/23 - JE. Purple Finch, F, Backyard, WC, 12/14 - WO.

OBSERVERS: Hugh & Norah Bain, Maryanne Danielson, Jimm Edgar, Art Edwards, Shirley Ellis, Art Farley, George Finger, Gayle Langston, Winifred Orcutt, Marjorie Plant, Karen Remington, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Rich Richmond, Kirk & Lee Robinson, Ruth Stewart

\* \* \*

We pay special tribute to Jean Richmond for the magnificent job she did with the Observations column and we commend and congratulate her for the years of dedication and hard work she invested in the column.

We will rely on all the members of the MDAS to provide the observations to us with the sightings of birds you believe will be of interest to the chapter. In addition, time and space permitting, we hope to include a short observations article such as we did this month.

Ideas and suggestions for the column, as well as ALL observations are encouraged. Please send a postcard or give a call.

Kirk and Lee Robinson  
19046 Mayberry Drive  
Castro Valley, CA 94546  
(415) 538-2655

Deadline for observations is the monthly meeting.

## DO SOMETHING WILD

The California state income tax form (the 540 or 540A) has a line on it that invites you to donate money toward the preservation and enhancement of threatened rare and endangered native plants, birds, fish and other animals. This means you can contribute directly to a program that helps these species. The line on the California individual income tax form comes under the general heading of "Voluntary Contributions". If a refund is due, the donation will be taken from that. If more taxes are due, simply write a single check for the amount of the tax plus the donation.

While the money donated cannot be deducted on the state income tax form, it is deductible on the federal form 1040 the following year.

The money donated will be spent only on threatened, rare or endangered wild species or species believed to be candidates for those classifications. The first year Californians checked off on their income tax forms for wildlife, they helped at least 14 rare or endangered species.

## BIRDS IN ART

This national touring exhibition, sponsored by Gulf Oil, opens at the Natural History Museum and Aquarium at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco on January 23 in the McBean-Peterson Galleries. 60 original bird paintings and sculptures from the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wausau, Wisconsin make up this beautiful exhibit which runs through February 24. The exhibition will then travel to Fairbanks, Anchorage and Juneau, Alaska. Harry Adamson has a painting of Emperor Geese in the exhibit.

## NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to greet these new MDAS members and hope to meet them at meetings and trips: Dee Brooks, Wanda Eaton, Michael Herbst, Anna Hurrp, Joseph Keller, Mrs Lawrence Nelson, Heidi Orbach, Sally Orellana, Christa & Paul Overby, Mike Wallace, Virginia Armintrout, Luis Castellanos, Patrick Evans, Russell Gambel, Hann Hansen, Carol Jordan, Andree Morrison, Louise Robinson, W Saunders, Mr & Mrs C J Wilke, Jim Cole, Mrs W F Cowden, Edna Mass, Carol Johnson, Barbara Scudder, and Steven Varner.

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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

March 1985

Vol 31 No 8

next deadline March 10

MEETING Thurs March 7, Contra Costa  
Jewish Community Ctr, 2071  
Tice Valley Blvd, Walnut Creek.

NOTE THE NEW LOCATION, directions in Sept  
Quail. Doors open 6:30 pm, Birding  
Information: 7:00 pm. Jean Richmond was  
suffering the ravages of the flu so will  
give the lecture on the National Geographic  
Field Guide corrections. Please bring  
your bird books with you. Business Meeting:  
7:30 pm. Social Time: 8:00 pm. Program:  
8:30 pm: BIRDS IN CHINA ?

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  
hour before departure time.

\* Thurs, Mar 7, Blackpoint: Carpool 8:15  
Acalanes Ave off Pleasant Hill Rd just  
north of Fwy 24. Meet 9:00 am at the  
entrance to the Solano Co Fairgrounds in  
Vallejo. Cross Benicia Bridge, take I-780  
to I-80 east; take SR37 exit and go west  
about 1 mile to Fairgrounds Dr, turn left  
and go the the fairgrounds entrance.  
Excellent area for water and shore birds;  
some land birds. Little walking. Leader:  
Jimm Edgar-283-3510.

\* Sat, Mar 9, Hayward Regional Shoreline,  
carpool 7:30, El Cerro Blvd, just west of  
I-680. Meet 8:00 in parking lot at park

entrance. From Nimitz Fwy (SR17) take  
Winton Ave west to end. This area has  
produced some of the most unusual species  
seen around the Bay. Ducks, shorebirds,  
land birds; possible raptors-Merlin or  
Peregrine Falcon. Walking 1 mile, mostly  
level, but can be muddy. Leader: Jean  
Richmond-837-2843.

\* Wed Mar 13, Bolinas Lagoon and 5 Brooks  
carpool 7:30 am Acalanes Ave off Pleasant  
Hill Rd just north of Fwy 24. Meet 9:00 am  
across from Audubon Canyon Ranch on SR1.  
Cross San Rafael Bridge, take US 101 to  
San Rafael exit, go 2 blocks, turn left  
through town, turn right onto Sir Francis  
Drake Blvd and continue to SR 1 at Olema.  
Turn left and go south to Audubon Ranch.  
Alternate route, shorter but winding-go  
south on US 101 and take SR 1 north through  
Stinson Beach to Ranch. Lagoon has good  
ducks and shore birds. 5 Brooks often  
had Green-Backed Heron, good ducks,  
Piliated Woodpecker is possible. About  
1 mile possibly muddy walking with gentle  
slopes. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey-254-0486.

\* Sat and Sun Mar 23-24, Sage Grouse-Honey  
Lake, meet Sat 8:30 am, Sun ~~5:30~~ 4:30 am in  
front of cafe at bend of US 395 in Litch-  
field. Saturday we will bird the Honey  
Lake area. Late comers might catch us at  
lunch at the Dakin (west) Unit of Honey  
Lake NWR. Sunday we will first drive to  
see the grouse lek. Besides grouse, Honey  
Lake has many waterfowl species and raptors.  
Northern and mountain birds are possible.  
It is about a mile walk to the lek along  
a muddy dirt road before daylight. Bring  
lots of warm, layered clothing, hot liquids.

Expect cold, we had snow last year. Fast route (but higher pass) I-80 to Reno and US 395 north. At Johnstonville US 395 turns east toward Litchfield and Honey Lake NWR, SR 36 goes north to Susanville and food and lodging. A slower but lower elevation route is SR32 out of Chico to SR 36 and east to Susanville. This is also a birdier route. To reach the NWR headquarters, turn south on Mapes Rd from US 395 (about 3 miles east of Litchfield). Motel information in Feb Quail. There is a very spartan campground at the Flemming Unit of Honey Lake NWR. Leader: Maury Stern: 284-5980.

- \* Wed Mar 27, Lake Lagunitas: carpool 7:15 am Acalanes Rd off Pleasant Hill Rd just north of Fwy 24, meet 8:30 am in parking lot at lake (\$2.00 entrance fee). Cross San Rafael Bridge, north on US 101, take San Rafael exit 2 blocks, turn left, go through town and turn right onto Sir Francis Drake Blvd. In downtown Fairfax turn left, then right onto Broadway 1/2 block; left onto Bolinas Ave, left on Old Fairfax-Bolinas Rd. Land and water birds, early migrants. Good spot for Piliated Woodpecker 2-3 miles up and down on possibly muddy trails. Leader: Winnie Orcutt-944-0593.
- \* Sat Mar 30 to San Leandro Reservoir  
CANCELLED

Thurs March 14, 7:30 pm,  
BOARD home of Gifford and Winnie  
MEETING Young, 1451 Janet Ct, Benicia  
707-745-4134. Board meetings are open  
to all members.

#### MARCH PROGRAM: BIRDS IN CHINA?

China is usually thought of as a place with so many people that there is little room left for birds or wildlife. To the contrary, a recent tour by Bay Area birders discovered that if you go to the right places, China can add many species to the life list that have been seen by few Americans.

Red-flanked Bluetail, Azure-winged Magpie, and Red-crowned Crane are just a few of the many species observed. Concentrating on Heilongjiang Province (the old Manchuria) in northeastern China near the Russian border, the group visited large forests and one of the great marshlands of the world, Zhalong Nature Reserve, home to 6 out of the 15 species of cranes, areas which almost not tourists ever get to see.

Led by George Peyton, a recent member of the National Audubon Society Board of Directors, the tour proceeded on for a week's birding in Hokkaido, the northernmost island of Japan, where more new species such as Spectacled Guillemot and Siberian Rubythroat were recorded.

Mark your calendar now for Thursday, March 7 at 7:00 pm for this special slide program presented by Mr Peyton at our usual meeting place, the Contra Costa Jewish Community Center.

#### FIELD TRIP REPORTS

<sup>Jan 9</sup>  
Richardson Bay was visited by 11 MDAS members on a cold, overcast day with a few light drizzles and variable winds. A total of 59 species was seen. Waterfowl numbers were way down from normal and gull numbers were also low. Most ducks were well offshore, but those in close could be well-seen. Large rafts of Western Grebes were sighted. A Sharp-Shinned Hawk was diving at a Red-Tailed Hawk. An elusive Golden-Crowned Kinglet was finally seen well by all. The Spotted Sandpiper stood in one spot for several minutes, allowing good looks thru the scopes.

<sup>Jan 12</sup>  
On a fair day, 15 MDAS members and their guests visited Putah Creek, and Lake Solano and were rewarded with 87 species. There were 5 pair of Wood Ducks, Osprey, imm Bald Eagle, Golden Eagle, and Townsend's Solitaire among others.

<sup>Jan 17</sup>  
A foggy day greeted 15 MDAS birders at Grizzly Island but skies cleared later in the afternoon. It was a very good raptor day with a total of 49 species. Seven Rough-legged Hawks were seen and most observers got excellent views of a Short-eared Owl, although the leader's car missed it.

<sup>Jan 19</sup>  
A light fog limited visibility at Alameda South Shore for 11 MDASers with 58 species for the day. A very light goose was seen flying, possible White-fronted. An excellent opportunity to compare the Short-billed Dowitcher and the Red Knot, along with 2 Clapper Rails, 2 Yellowthroat, and a Long-billed Marshwren was in a clump of Pampas Grass. After lunch the group moved on to the Masonic Home to see the Greater Peewee and an early Allen's Hummer.

## THINGS OF INTEREST TO MDAS

Jan. 30  
 Twenty-eight MDAS members and guests visited Sunol Regional Park and enjoyed one of the most beautiful sunny but cool days so far in 1985. A total of 56 species was tallied including such goodies as: both Bald and Golden Eagles (adult and immatures of each), Prairie Falcon, both the Red-Breasted Sapsucker and the nuchalis subspecies of the Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Rock Wren, and several Varied Thrushes.

SAN FRANCISCO PENINSULA BIRDWATCHING

Sequoia Audubon Society, Inc has just published a site guide covering in detail over 30 of the area's favorite birdwatching spots, including Golden Gate Park, Pescadero Marsh, Foster City shoreline and lagoons, Ano Nuevo State Reserve, Edge-wood Park, Lake Merced, and many more. Each description is accompanied by professional quality maps. The book also contains a county bird checklist, an index of bird species, and a list of birdwatching resources for the area. Please contact Donna Kirsacko at (415) 593-7368 to obtain your copy.

TRIPS FOR BIRDERS WITH WANDERLUST

San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory is again offering trips for the economy minded birder; car-camping and carpooling help keep expenses down. They will visit Texas, Death Valley, Kern River, Yosemite, Arizona, and the Condors. If interested contact: Don Starks (408) 371-9720.

The Cheesemans of Santa Clara Valley Audubon are sponsoring bird tours for 10 non-smokers to Kenya and Peru. Kenya: June 15-July 8, \$2600, plus airfare; led by Terry Stevenson. Peru: July 17-August 6, \$2300 land cost with Paul Donahue leading. There are also 4 departures to Queensland and the Northern Territory for 21 days, \$3800 total. The Cheesemans can be reached at (408) 867-1371.

MOUNTAIN MEDICINE LECTURES

Learn about the hazards of the physical, environmental, and biological environment, as well as trauma and fitness at 8 consecutive Wednesday evening lectures beginning April 10, at the Naval Station on Treasure Island from 7-10 pm. Sponsored jointly by the American Red Cross and the Sierra

Club. For more details call O.V. Lopp at Oakland Chapter of American Red Cross.

NATURE SOUNDS MEETING

The Nature Sounds Society is sponsoring the presentation, "Song Learning and Song Dialects in Birds", given by Dr. Luis Baptista on Sunday, March 17, at 2:30 pm. It will be held at the California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, in the Goethe Room. Details: (415) 273-3884.

WORLD OF AUDUBON #2

Nearly 6 million viewers enjoyed the premiere program of "World of Audubon". Program #2 with stories on the Cuyahoga River, acid rain, the Loggerhead Turtle, puffins, and Robert Redford's Institute for Resource Management will air on the West coast on April 1, at 9:05 pm. Check cable listings for channel.

FRIENDS OF THE RIVER

Friends of the River Foundation and the Wildlife Conservancy will be having their second annual joint auction on March 7, at Fort Mason Center in San Francisco. This is their major fundraising event of the year. Hors d'oeuvres and cocktails: 5:30-6:30 pm, Live Auction: 6:30-8:30 pm, Donation: \$15/person \$25/couple.

THE FARALLONES: ISLAND SANCTUARY

On Saturday March 16, at California Academy of Sciences, the Point Reyes-Farrallon Islands National Marine Sanctuary presents "The Farallones: Islands Sanctuary", a symposium on the natural and human history of the Farallon Islands, from 9-4:30 pm. It will feature the results of 15 years of Point Reyes Bird Observatory research on the Farallon wildlife populations. Registration is \$7 in advance, \$10 at the door. For info call: (415) 868-1221.

THE JOY OF BIRDING

The public is invited to an autograph party for author Chuck Bernstein. The Joy of Birding: A Guide to Better Birdwatching, is a collection of anecdotes, lore, and knowledge. Saturday March 16, from 12-3 pm at B Dalton Bookseller, Richmond.

## CONSERVATION NOTES

by Al McNabney

## WATER-WATER...

California's water problems are many and complicated. It does appear that there will be no major legislative effort this year to develop a water bill in the legislature. The Committee for Water Policy Consensus continues to draw support and interest from leaders throughout the state. Policies adopted by the CWPC are being made available to interested groups. Meetings are underway in several areas to try to move toward a consensus. Jim Costa, Assemblyman from Fresno and Chair of the Assembly Committee on Water and Parks and Wildlife is listening with interest to attempts to build consensus. George Miller, US Congressman has recently been named as Chair of a very important House Committee in Washington in which he will play a major role in working out California's water problems. Assemblyman Tom Bates assures a continuing interest. In the meantime—we as individuals should continue to the CONSERVATION and should practice conservation in our homes and workplaces, for water is quite likely to develop into our MOST important commodity in years to come.

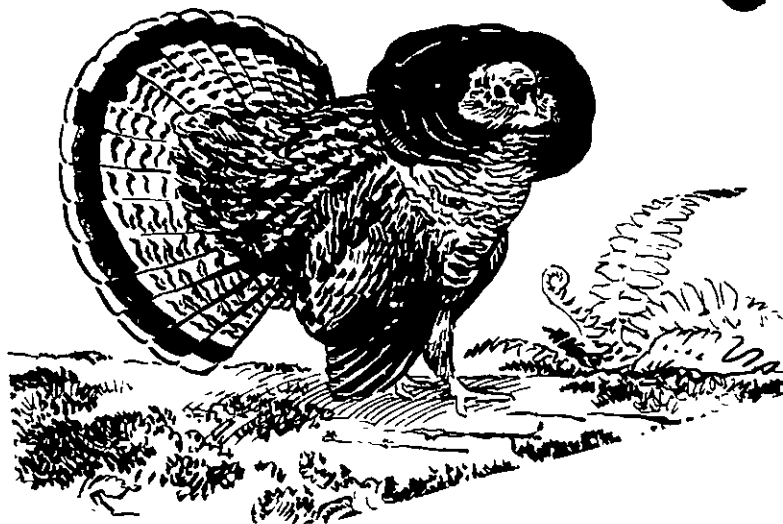
## THE US BUDGET AND REAL LIFE PROBLEMS

The battle of the budget is well underway in our nation's capitol. The end result of that struggle will undoubtedly have some effects on the lives of all of us. However, aside from the budget battles, other legislative matters also have to be attended to. WATER: Many "pet" projects could be involved for they were not passed in the 1984 session. SMALL HEAD HYDRO: Audubon believes any proposed small head hydro projects should have to take into account the environmental impacts that would result from the grantin of such licenses. Rep John Dingle (D-MI) is Chair of the House Energy and Environment Committee: Clean Air, Acid Rain etc. HR 3400 was defeated in the House Health and Environment subcommittee last year. The Clean Air Act's authorization expired in September 1981; continuing to be affective because of the continuing resolutions. Passage of this bill in a strong and effective

manner is vital to the nation. You should contact your congressman and urge early enactment of this measure. Clean Water, as important as the Clean Air Act; section 404 of the act (wetlands protection) is in danger and you should let your congressman hear from you on this important issue.

## SAN LUIS DRAIN, KESTERSON AND SUCH...

There has been lots of study and expense for various agencies trying to determine the extent of the pollution and allied problems in the Kesterson Wildlife Refuge area of the San Joaquin Valley. No doubt the pollution is serious. What it may be doing is demonstrating the dangers to humanity from pollutants, some man made and some natural. It appears unlikely that any serious effort will again be made to complete the San Luis Drain so the problem can be transported to the Delta and the Bay.



## NEW MEMBERS

We warmly welcome these new MDAS members and hope to meet them at meetings and field trips: Mrs E. Anderson, Marcus Hart, Patty Hector, Mr & Mrs Barney Howard, Mr & Mrs Jeffrey Johnson, Greg Lawler, Jack Lawson, Mr & Mrs L. L. Lollis, Joe Luma, Kris Moline, Carolyn Norris, D Schuffler, P. Sigman, John Telfer, Terrie Uhlir, Margaret Wolf, Minnie De Gottardi, Mr & Mrs J Wiseman.



## OBSERVATIONS

Enjoyment from birding is derived in many ways, seeing a new bird, having migrants return year after year, observing the behavior of birds, etc. To some, that enjoyment comes from observing that some birds are making a comeback from the edge of extinction. The Endangered Species Act has helped make that possible for a number of species and sub-species of birds as well as other flora and fauna. There are at least 5 birds that can be seen locally at various times of the year with some regularity that are listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The California Clapper Rail, the only permanent resident, is maintaining stable populations in what is left of its habitat, salt marsh. The Palo Alto Baylands is one of the best places to see the Clapper Rail. The California Least Tern, a summer resident, nests along the shores of the bay and can be seen along the Oakland Estuary during the summer. The Brown Pelican, now a common summer visitor, is making a strong recovery from the effects of DDT. The Peregrine Falcon, also recovering from the effects of DDT in the food chain, is a migrant visitor and often winter resident of the Bay Area. The Aleutian Canada Goose, another winter resident, is found among flocks of other Canada Geese, around stock ponds and reservoirs in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. The Endangered Species Act has allowed these birds to at least maintain if not increase their populations.

\* \* \*

Cattle Egret, Martinez Regional Shoreline, 1/11 - KH,GF,JR, 20 near Thornton, 1/29 - JR,B&MJG; Fork-Tailed Storm Petrel, probable sighting, Moss Landing, 2/1 - KR,LR; Tundra Swan (40,000+), Highway 4, Stanislaus Co., 1/17 - GF,KH; Eurasian Wigeon, Bodega Bay, 1/14 - GF,JR; Blue-Wing Teal, Palo Alto Flood Control Basin, 1/8 - JR, Hayward RS, 1/19 - MOB; Barrow's Goldeneye, Leo Ryan Park, Foster City, 1/8 - JR, Bodega Bay, 1/14 - GF,JR, Bodega Bay, 1/22 - JR,B&MJG; Hooded Merganser, Leo Ryan Park, Foster City, 1/8 - JR; Oldsquaw, Bodega Bay, 1/14 - GF,JR, Bodega Bay, 1/22 - JR, Princeton Harbor, 1/27 - KR; Black Scoter, Pescadero State Beach, 1/27 - KR,LR, Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes, 1/29 - GF,CW, Pt. San Pablo, 1/31 - BR; Little Gull, Stockton Sewage Ponds,

1/17 - GF,KH, 1/24, 1/29 - JR,B&MJG; Franklin's Gull, Stockton Sewage Ponds, 1/17 GF,KH, 1/24, 1/29 - JR,B&MJG; Common Black-Headed Gull, Stockton Sewage Ponds, 1/24, - JR,B&MJG; Iceland Gull, Bodega Bay, 1/14 - GF,JR; Black Oystercatcher, Pt. San Pablo, 1/31 - BR; Lesser Golden Plover, Pt. Reyes, 1/29 - GF,CW; Black Rail, Palo Alto Baylands, 1/18 - PJ,SE,SL, BH, 1/19 - MOB; Clapper Rail, Palo Alto Baylands, 1/18 - PJ, SE,SL,BH; Osprey, Lafayette Reservoir, 1/25 - MJ&GM; Cooper's Hawk, back fence, WC, 1/21 - GF; Peregrine Falcon, 1/19 - MOB, Hayward RS, Palo Alto Baylands, 1/19 - MOB, Golden Gate Park, 1/28 - MS; Merlin, 5 Brooks, Pt. Reyes, 1/29 - GF,CW; Short-Eared Owl, Bay Farm Is., Alameda, 1/22 - GF,KH; Burrowing Owl, Stockton Sewage Ponds, 1/17 - GF,KH, Spoleta Plateau, Pt. Reyes, 1/29 - GF,CW; Allen's Hummingbird, Alamo Garden, 1/18 - JR; Yellow Bellied Sapsucker (Eastern race), Cheese Factory, Marin Co., 1/14 - GF,JR; Greater Pewee, Masonic Home, Union City, 1/19 - MOB; Phainopepla, Black Diamond Mines RP, 1/16 - GF,TF; Mountain Bluebird, Concord Ave., near Brentwood, 1/17 - GF,KH, Fairview Ave., W of Brentwood, 1/29 - JR,B&MJG; Bell's Vireo, Point Reyes Station, 1/3 - GF; Yellowthroat, Palo Alto Baylands, 1/18 - PJ,SE,SL, BH; Sage Sparrow, Black Diamond Mines RP, 1/16 - GF,TF; Vesper Sparrow, Concord Ave. and Briones Valley Rd., SW of Brentwood, 1/24 - JR, B&MJG; Tricolored Blackbird, Alamo garden, 1/13 - JR, Black Diamond Mines RP (large flock), 1/16 - GF,TF, Somersville Rd, Antioch, 1/26 - KR,LR; Great-Tailed Grackle, Martinez Marina, 1/11 - GF,JR,KH,JD;

OBSERVERS: John Davis, Shimi Edmondson, George Finger, Bill & Mary Jane Greene, Barbara Hamelburg, Kevin Hintsa, Pat Jacobson, Sarah Lane, Molly Jane & George Monheit Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Kirk Robinson, Lee Robinson, Maury Stern, C. Wheeler, Many Observers

\* \* \*

Observations should be sent to:

Kirk and Lee Robinson  
19046 Mayberry Drive  
Castro Valley, CA 94546  
(415) 538-2655 (after 6pm)

Deadline for observations is the monthly meeting.

CPR AND MULTI MEDIA FIRST AID

You're on a birding trip and the man next to you clutches his chest and falls to the ground. He begins to turn blue and his breathing ceases. What would you do? If you've taken a Red Cross Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) course, you may save his life. Who should take CPR? Everyone needs CPR training. It is a skill that could save a life any time , anywhere; trip leaders, families of cardiac patients, anyone interested.

Two courses will be offered especially for Mt Diablo Audubon and their families, taught by Jean Fahmie and Shimi Edmondson. A CPR course on Saturday May 25 and a Multi Media (Basic First Aid) class on June 8. Both are from 8:30-5:00 and will cost \$15.00 each. They will be held at the Oakland Chapter of the American Red Cross. The fee includes books and materials and use of the practice manikins. Contact Shimi Edmondson, editor, to sign up (enrollment limited to 20) 837-1010.



The University of California, Davis, is offering A BIRDING TREK IN HISTORIC BRITAIN on May 18-June 2. It will be led by noted British ornithologist and wildlife artist Frederick Watson. The fee for the ground portion of the trip is \$1560 and includes all sleeping accommodations, most meals and shipboard costs. Contact Dottie Moore Paige, (916) 752-3098 for more details.

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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

April 1985

Vol 31 No 9

next deadline: April 10

Thurs April 4, Contra Costa /  
**MEETING** Jewish Community Ctr, 2071

Tice Valley Blvd, Walnut Creek.

Doors open 6:30 pm, Birding Information:  
7:00 pm, Suzanne Methvin, THE LURE OF  
OWLING complete with slides and tapes of  
calls. Business Meeting: 7:30 pm

Social Time: 8:00 pm. Program: 8:30 pm:  
MUSHROOM MADNESS: Join naturalist Steve  
Cochrane in exploring the world of mush-  
rooms and fungi, with an overview of the  
diversity of fungi, their role in nature,  
edibility, and poisonous aspects.

Steve is the program coordinator at the  
Headlands Campus of the Yosemite Insti-  
tute. This promises to be an educational  
evening for mycophiles and nonmycophiles  
alike.

**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 ½ hour.

Carpool expense: 5¢ 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 ½ hour before departure time.

\* Thurs April 4, Lime Ridge: Meet 7:30 am  
north end of parking lot, Boundary Oaks  
Golf Course. From I-680, take Ygnacio  
Valley Rd, right on Oak Grove Rd, left  
on Valley Vista Rd to end. This is explor-  
ation of a new area-grassland and chap-  
arral birds, early wildflowers. Uphill  
trail hiking, 3-4 miles. Bring liquids.  
Leader: George Finger-933-2468.

\* Wed April 10, Briones wildflower walk:  
Meet 9:00 am at parking lot north entr-  
ance, Briones Reg Park. From Fwy 24,  
take Pleasant Hill Rd north to Taylor  
Blvd (Reliez Valley Rd is closed). At

4th signal, turn left onto Pleasant Hill  
Rd (becomes Alhambra Ave). At 3.1 miles  
make a sharp left turn onto Alhambra  
Valley Rd and left onto Briones Rd to  
end. 2-3 mile walk to see grassland and  
woodland wildflowers. Some rough and  
muddy trails. Leaders: Jim and Bessie  
Smyth-228-6033.

\* Sat, April 13, Donner Canyon: Meet 7:00  
am at trailhead, end of Regency Dr. From  
I-680, go east on Ygnacio Valley Rd,  
right onto Clayton Rd (becomes Marsh Creek  
Rd in Clayton). Turn right onto Regency  
Rd about ½ mile beyond center of Clayton.  
This is a steep 5 mile hike, interesting  
scenery, chaparral and woodland birds.  
Carry lunch and liquids. Leader: George  
Finger-933-2468.

\* Thurs April 18, Lake Merced: Carpool:  
8:15 am, Acalanes Ave, off Pleasant Hill  
Rd, just north of Fwy-24. Meet 9:00 am  
Sunset Circle, San Francisco. Cross Bay  
Bridge, go south on US101 and I-280.  
Take SF State University exit one block,  
turn right on Sagamor St, right on Broth-  
erhood way, right on Lake Merced Blvd.  
At Sunset Blvd, turn left into parking  
lot. This is THE place to see Bank  
Swallows, also good for Marsh Wrens,  
often good waterbirds, including Black  
Scoters. ½ mile walk on beach to see  
swallows. Can be cold and windy.  
Leader: Elizabeth Dickey-254-0486.

\* Wed April 24, Caswell State Park: Car-  
pool 7:00 am, El Cerro Blvd, just west  
of I-680. Meet 8:30 at Caswell State  
Park. Take I-680 south, I-580 east to  
I-205. Turn east on SR120 to US99.  
South on US99 to Austin Rd and follow  
this to end at entrance to Caswell St  
Park. This has consistantly been a  
good site for Swainson's Hawk. Also

riparian species and migrants. Level walking, possibly muddy, probably mosquitos, San Joaquin Valley weather. Leader: Maury Stern-284-5980.

- \* Sat April 27, Briones Regional Park: meet 7:00 am in parking lot on right of west park entrance road. From Fwy-24 take San Pablo Dam Rd right on Bear Creek Rd to park entrance. Lazuli Buntings, orioles, other spring migrants and summer residents. 2-4 miles, mostly good trails. Leader: Merv Ortez-283-3072.



### FIELD TRIP REPORTS

<sup>Feb 2</sup> Five members, expecting rain at Clifton Ct Forebay, were rewarded with a beautiful clear sunny day for a pleasant walk around Clifton Court Forebay. After lunch at Bethany Reservoir, an auto tour was made of East Contra Costa farmlands in search of winter hawks. Sixty-three species were tallied including, 2 Golden Eagles, Ferruginous Hawk, Thayer's Gull, two Barn Owls, and both Western and Mountain Bluebirds feeding in the same newly planted orchard.

<sup>Feb 7</sup> Five MDAS members birded the Thornton area and the Stockton Oxidation Ponds. Although they experienced a light rain, most of the day it proved to be a fruitful trip. With 63 species recorded. The highlights were thousands of Tundra Swans and Sandhill Cranes, a pair of Wood Ducks, approximately 25 Greater Yellowlegs, a Franklin's Gull, and a Little Gull. Interesting observations were an albino California Gull and an albino Ruddy Duck!

<sup>Feb 23</sup> Lake Hennessey was visited by 12 MDAS members on a clear and delightfully warm day. The weather was probably too delightful and thus birding was not all that great-missing some birds they should have seen...but who can complain? A good study of a "Clark's" Grebe with a Western Grebe was made. An adult Bald Eagle, perched in a tree, regally surveyed the area, while they watched through scopes. Two Red-Shouldered Hawks were calling and flying around. They missed the House Finch and White-Crowned Sparrow! Seven species of ducks but had low numbers of individuals.

Fourteen members descended upon Emeryville and Berkeley Shoreline on February 13. A mixture of fog and clearing with very light wind was the weather for the day. A total of 60 species was seen with the outstanding birds being a male Hooded Merganser and the Clark's form of the Western Grebe at Emeryville and 30-31 Redheads at Aquatic Park; with 12 of them males.

<sup>Mar 7</sup> Jimm led the Blackpoint trip dodging rain storms and managed to see 82 species including: Golden Eagle, Townsend's Warbler, Rough-legged Hawk, and many shorebirds and waterfowl.

<sup>Feb 28</sup> Fourteen observers led by Mary Jane Culver saw 46 species at Lafayette Reservoir on a clear warm day. Some of the highlights were a nesting Hutton's Vireo and Red Crossbills.

### BOARD MEETING

Board meetings are open to all interested members.  
Thursday April 11, 7:30 pm.  
Home of Maury Stern, 939 Carol Lane,  
Lafayette, 284-5980.

### NEW MEMBERS

It is with great pleasure that we greet these new MDAS members and hope to meet them soon: Mrs Mary Bartlett, J.P. Beeman, Art Blazquez, W.K. Boehmert, Bette & Jim Bowman, Miss J Buckingham, Jo Ellen Buckley, O.W. Campbell, Deborah Carr, Elizabeth Carrithers, Mr & Mrs Robert Cas, Mr & Mrs Harvey Ceaser, O. Christiansen, Laurel J. Comerford, R.C. Daggett, Janice Deutscher, Paul J. Fahlman, C. Fredericks, Wilma Gangloff, Ann Gannon, Marie Gerson, Roland M. Grotte, the Adah Head family, Holly Herr, Mrs C.F. Hicks, Jean Jernigan, Marlyn Borley Judd, Marc Kiefer, I. Kuehl, Rillis Lauer, Marilyn Lee, Sue Magner, F. Joyce Marlin, Warren Martens, David Miner, Claire Nail, Stuart R. Nevias, Mr & Mrs Robert O Noenig, D.E. Oldfather, C.B. Patterson, Richard Pete, Mrs R.H. Prislun, Mrs Dorothy Rogers, Daniel F. Simmons III, Sheridan Smith, Mr & Mrs C. Taylor, Michael Telfer, William Whitlock, W. Whitnell, Mr & Mrs C.R. Wilson, Ellen Wilson, Mrs Shirley Luthy, William Folkman, Thomas D. Fulton, Ronald L. Meyer, Edward A. Perry, Richard T. Russell, Marney Woytek, Ms L.M. Marshall, Katherine Sherman.

## CONSERVATION NOTES

by Al McNabney

**NO YOU CAN'T DO IT OR...CAN YOU?** The EIR ordered by for Shell Marsh by the City of Martinez resulted in a Draft Report in December. Comment on the report was in prior to February 22nd and a public hearing was held February 26th. A proposed waterfront business park does not meet the general plan; the proposal calls for the filling of 20+ acres of wetlands and the end result in the opinion of Audubon experts, would be destruction of the seasonal, brackish, salt water marsh. A fresh water pond, much smaller in size would be left. So-called "inhancement" of the area would really result in destruction of the marsh. It appears the City of Martinez has an interest because of anticipated tax income that could result from the project. The EIR is essentially silent on much of the question of cost to the City if the project were to be allowed. Some 90% of the marsh/wetlands in Contra Costa County have already been destroyed. There is nothing in the EIR or in the developer's plans as to how mitigation would take place for the loss of these important wetlands. Every knowledgeable state and federal agency and a number of conservation groups are opposed to the project. So, it is difficult to see why the proponents continue to push the issue. Because of substantive matters raised by Audubon and others, the period for public comment has been left open. An additional public hearing is to be held April 9th.

**FILL THE BAY AND GET AWAY** Contra Costa's loss of wetlands has been noted and with only about 10% of the wetlands left, it is important that these valuable assets be fully protected. Over the years, as concerned citizens saw these important resources being taken for development, laws, rules, regulations were passed or enacted to assure protection. Report of an unauthorized fill on land owned by Stauffer Chemical Co, in Martinez was made months ago. Since that time, despite some indications the company would act in a responsible manner, there has been NO cleanup. Nothing has been done to remove the foreign material. Now, rumor has it, the company may be seeking some sort of

retroactive approval so the unauthorized fill won't have to be cleaned up. Solicitations to city officials for accurate information so far remain ignored. The laws governing use of wetlands are too important to be disregarded. The illegal fill should be removed-forthwith!

**BAAC DRAFTING WETLANDS POLICY** Weeks of discussion, study, and effort are drawing to a close with the drafting of a proposed policy, expected to be adopted by all Bay Area Audubon Chapters to assure protection of wetlands.

"It is the policy of the Bay Area Audubon Council (BAAC) and its member societies, to promote the protection, restoration and enhancement of wetlands and marshes". A number of specific policies were included in the overall resolution, as: "The QUANTITY and DIVERSITY of wetland habitats be maintained or increased whenever possible". Once the policy has been approved it will be provided to all Federal, State and Local agencies having jurisdiction over wetlands.

**BIRDING ON BURROBACK?** Most birders prefer to walk when they go birdwatching. Have you ever thought about birding from a burro? They don't usually move too fast, they can be docile, sometimes can be stubborn and they're cute. If you have any interest in trying to outwit these critters, contact the Fund for Animals. The situation involves Death Valley and the 3000 or so burros it is believed now inhabit the area. The Fund for Animals has established an "Adopt-a-Burro" program to provide humane homes for burros being removed from Death Valley National Monument. For details contact: Donna Gregor, Fund for Animals, PO Box 81 Cool, CA 95614, or call (916) 885-1502.



## CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

Alexander Lindsay Jr. Museum is hosting a Sacramento Canoe Safari on Sunday March 31-April 4. The fee is \$120, member, \$135, nonmembers. They put in at Tehama and take out just north of Colusa. One or two nights will be spent on the wild islands of the river approachable only by boat. Leader: Sam Smoker.

Visit the desert in bloom, explore Eureka Dunes from April 8-12. Hike the wild Last Chance Range, visit the badlands of Willow Creek Wash, and spend a night along a tumbling stream. Leader: Sam Smoker. Call the museum for details: 935-1978.

Norah Bain will teach a field class through Orinda Community Ctr for beginning and intermediate birders. Locations in Alameda and Contra Costa and Marin Counties. Tuesdays April 16-May 21, 9 am to 12, plus travel time. Orinda residents \$25, non-residents \$27. Register at Orinda Community Ctr, 254-2445.

Save Mt Diablo and the Mt Diablo Interpretive Association is sponsoring April on the Mountain. Many interesting and fun activities are scheduled for the whole month. Call 415 685-5315 for a complete listing.

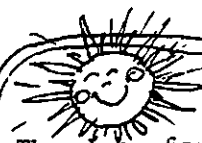
A free Hazardous Waste Disposal will be offered on Saturday, April 13th from 10 am-2pm at the Contra Costa Community Recycling Center, Imhoff Drive, Pacheco. They will accept all pesticides, poisonous corrosive, flammable and toxics. They will not accept explosives, PCBs, radioactive materials and aerosol cans. Call 228-5746 or 671-4295 for types and quantities of wastes accepted. Sponsored by the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors.

Wildlife Rehabilitation classes will begin on April 17, and will run for 6 Wednesday nights. Call Alexander Lindsay Jr Museum at 935-1978.

Winners from the International Wildlife Film Festival will be shown from 2-5:00 pm at the New Varsity Theater, 456 University Ave, Palo Alto. The Festival aims to encourage excellence in wildlife filmmaking and to focus public attention on wildlife issues. A tax deductible donation of \$5, \$2.50 for kids will benefit the Peninsula Conservation Ctr. 328-5313 details

Audubon Canyon Ranch is having a double feature at Bolinas Lagoon and Cypress Grove on May 4&5. Helen Pratt and John Kelly will share their years of experience about egret and heron habitats and life histories. \$40.00 (415) 383-1644.

A place on the trip, Birdwatching Along the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu is one of the prizes being offered in this year's fundraiser for the Western Region of National Audubon. In order for the trip offer to be valid, a minimum of 10 places must be sold. The trip is highlighted by a leisurely 9-day trek through the four ecological zones of the Machu Picchu National Park. July 10-30, \$1950, Peruvian Adventures, 444 Redlands Ave, Claremont, CA 91711, (714) 626-2905 evenings.



## CPR DATE CHANGE

The date for Mt Diablo Audubon's CPR class has been changed to Sat May 11, so as not to conflict with Memorial Day weekend. Multi Media First Aid will still be on June 8. Both are from 8:30 to 5:00 and will cost \$15.00 each. They will be held at the Oakland Chapter of the American Red Cross. The fee includes books and materials and use of the practice manikins. Contact Shimi Edmondson, editor, to sign up (enrollment limited to 20) 837-1010.

Memo to birds: Windows may be hazardous to your health.

Memo to people: It's doubtful that any bird will be reading the memo, so it is up to us to try to do something to prevent collisions between birds and windows. You can do something to help the birds. The breeding season is a particularly bad time for bird/window collisions, what with nest building, egg watching, fledging, etc. To prevent such accidents, transparent decals affixed to windows will help. Cut bird shapes (a hawk maybe) and affix the cut-out to the window. Paint some bird shapes or other items on the window. Paint is easily removed later on, with a razor blade. Al McNabney.

## OBSERVATIONS

George Finger's observations this month included two sightings of coyotes, 3 howling at sunset in the Panoche Valley and one at Lake Solano. On those days when the birding is not so hot, or down right dismal, the reward for a day in the field can be the viewing of other flora and fauna. While catching a glimpse of a rare or unusual bird on the wing is exciting, the sighting of a mammal or standing in a field of blooming wildflowers can often be the most exhilarating moment of even the most successful birding expedition. Often times these moments will present themselves to you without warning or without seeking them out; at other times careful observation is necessary. A day I spent birding at Año Nuevo State Reserve one summer yielded a chance encounter with a bobcat. I don't remember what birds I saw that day, but I will never forget how startled the bobcat and I both were. While the bobcat slowly faded into the tall grass and bush, it left a permanent impression on my mind. I have had other equally rewarding encounters, a gray whale breaching no more than a 100 yards off a beach I was scoping for shorebirds, a coyote following me across a mountain meadow, a hillside covered with golden poppies. Close inspection of beaches, bushes and ponds often reveal the beauty and intricacies of nature-often-passed-over: a spider weaving a web, small mollusks and crustaceans in the surf, or skippers walking on the water. If you have observations such as these please let us know - we will include them in future columns.

\* \* \* \*

Cattle Egret, Princeton Harbor, 2/5 - JR; 7, Inverness Park, Pt. Reyes, 2/12 - JR,BF,WO; 4, SR 140/Gustine, Merced Co., 2/14 - JR,KH,MP,GF; White-Faced Ibis, Santa Fe Grade Rd., Merced Co., 2/14 - JR,MP,KH; Common Teal, Santa Fe Grade Rd., 2/9 - MS; Ring-Necked Duck, Las Trampas Regional Park, 2/17 - KH,GF; Eurasian Wigeon, 3, Lake Solano, 2/16 - GF,TF; Common Goldeneye, Las Trampas Regional Park, 2/17 - KH,GF; Harlequin Duck, Moss Landing, 2/13 - GF,TF; Wood Ducks, 7, Lake Solano, 2/16 - GF,TF; pair, Bishop Ranch Open Space, 2/25 - KH; 10, Upper San Leandro Reservoir, 3/4 - MS; Mountain Plover, 50, Panoche Valley, 2/14 - JR,MP,KH; Lesser Golden Plover, Pt. Reyes, 2/11 - GF,MP,MS; 2/12 - JR,BF,WO; Ruff, Merced NWR, 3/2 - GF; Lesser Yellowlegs, Santa Fe Grade Rd., Merced Co., 2/14 - JR,MP,KH; Rock Sandpiper, Princeton Harbor, San Mateo Co., 2/5 - JR; Common Black-Headed Gull, Stockton Sewage Ponds, 2/26 - WO; Little Gull, Stockton Sewage Ponds, 2/26 - WO; Franklin's Gull, Stockton Sewage Ponds, 2/26 - WO; Tufted Puffin, Pt. Reyes Lighthouse, 2/11 - GF,MP,MS; Rhinoceros Auklet, Monterey, 2/13 - GF,TF; Cooper's Hawk, Masonic Home, Union City, 3/3 - KR,LR; Rough-Legged Hawk, 3, Pt. Reyes, 2/12, JR,BF,WO; 2, Turner Is. Rd., Merced Co., 1, Garr Rd., Merced Co., 2, Little Panoche Valley Rd., San Benito Co., 2/14 - JR,KH,MP; SR-37/Mare Island, 3/7 - JE; Ferruginous Hawk, Pt. Reyes, 2/12 - JR,BF,WO; I-5/Corral Hollow Rd., 2/17 - KR,LR; Bald Eagle, Calaveras Reservoir, 2/19 - JR; Golden Eagle, imm., Lake Solano, 2/16 - GF,TF; 5, Mines Rd., 2/25 - MS; imm., Bishop Ranch Open Space, 2/25 - KH; 2, Shell Ridge, 3/2 - MS; Blue Rock Springs Park, Vallejo, 3/7 - JE; Prarie Falcon, Mines Rd., 2/25 - MS; Osprey, Lake Chabot RP, 2/10 - KR,LR; Lake Solano, 2/16 - GF,TF; Northern Pygmy-Owl, Sunol RP, 2/5 - GF,BR; 2/10 - KH, EH; Spotted Owl, Merced NWR, 2/9 - MS; Burrowing Owl, Pt. Reyes, 2/11 - GF,MP,MS; Pileated Woodpecker, Waddell Creek, Santa Cruz Co., 2/5 - JR; Greater Pewee, Masonic Home, Union City, 3/3 - KR,LR; Cliff Swallow, 12, Martinez RS, 2/21 - CS; Greater Roadrunner, Mines Rd., 2/25 - MS; Mountain Bluebird, many, Little Panoche Valley Rd., 2/14 - JR,MP,KH; 2/17 - KR,LR; Western Bluebird, 2 pair, nesting in yard, L&MM; American Dipper, Sunol RP, 2/5 - GF,TF; 2/19 - JR; Eurasian Skylark, Pt. Reyes, 2/11 - GF,MP,MS; 2/12 - JR,BF,WO; Yellow-Rumped "Myrtle" Warbler, Las Trampas RP, 2/17 - GF,KH; Townsend's Warbler, Blue Rock Springs Park, Vallejo, 3/7 - JE; Lapland Longspur, Pt. Reyes, 2/11 - GF,MP,MS; 2/12 - JR,BF,WO; Red Crossbill, 25, Waddell Creek, Santa Cruz Co., 2/5 - JR;

\* \* \* \*

Observers: Jimm Edgar, George Finger, Toni Finger, Bud Fry, Ed Hase, Kevin Hintsa, Laurie & Mac MacMath, Winifred Orcutt, Marge Plant, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Kirk Robinson, Lee Robinson, Maury Stern, Chris Swarth

\* \* \* \*

Observations should be sent to:

Kirk and Lee Robinson  
19046 Mayberry Drive  
Castro Valley, CA 94546  
(415) 538-2655 (after 6pm)

Deadline for observations is monthly meeting.

**Bay Area Site Guide: FOSTER CITY**

*by Jean Richmond*  
Leo Ryan Park has a large lagoon with housing along the south and west shores, mostly grass between the lake and the two adjacent streets.

Take SR-17 south then go west on SR-92 over San Mateo Bridge. Take Foster City Blvd south, turn right on E. Hillside Blvd, left on Shell Blvd. ½ block and turn right into the parking area.

Walk the paved path west to the main lagoon. Among the many wintering ducks have been Canvasback, Redhead, both goldeneyes, both scaups, Bufflehead and all 3 mergansers. A Smew wintered here 1981-83. Other birds have included all 3 loons, 5 grebes, Black-necked Stilt, several gulls, terns, Belted Kingfisher and Water Pipit. Morning light is best here.

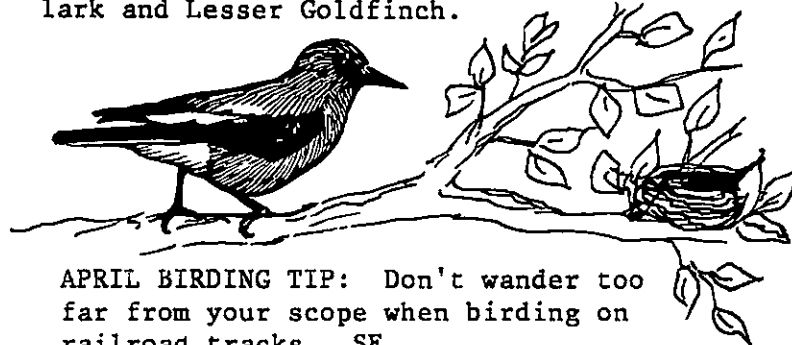
Continue on Shell Blvd, turn right on Beach Park Blvd and park near the bridge over the lagoon. Check the lagoon for waterbirds and ducks which often include Barrow's Goldeneye and Hooded Merganser.

Turn back on Beach Park Blvd and continue to the foot of Tarpon St. Both Eurasian and American Wigeons may be among the many ducks here, Tufted Duck has been seen. Shorebirds feed on the mudflats on ebbing tide.

Facilities: restrooms in the Community Center at the parking area.

Best birding: fall-spring.

Other birds: Brown Pelican, Double-Crested Cormorant, egrets, Surf and White-winged Scoters, Black-shouldered Kite, Horned Lark, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Loggerhead Shrike, "Audubon's" Warbler, Western Meadowlark and Lesser Goldfinch.



APRIL BIRDING TIP: Don't wander too far from your scope when birding on railroad tracks. SE.

Remember, SPRING BRINGS NESTING BIRDS so prune very carefully and don't forget to put out SHORT bits of string and colored yarn to help nest builders.

MDAS PUBLICATIONS—send SASE to P O Box 53 Walnut Creek, CA 94596 to order by mail.

Audubon Daily Field List: 5¢ each, at meetings, field trips, or by mail 5/25¢

Annotated Birds of Contra Costa County 25¢ each at meetings, field trips, or by mail.

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



May 1985

Vol 31 No 90

next deadline: May 2

**MEETING** Thurs May 2, Contra Costa Jewish Community Center, 2071 Tice Valley Blvd, Walnut Creek. Doors open 6:30 pm, Birding Information: 7:00 pm, Lynn Farrar will speak on nesting birds in the Bay Area; their songs, habits, nests, and young. Business Meeting: 7:30 pm Social Time: 8:00 pm. Program: 8:30 pm.

EXPLORING KASHMIR, LADAKH AND NEPAL by Dr Robert Picker. Dr. Picker is an MD with a holistic practice in Walnut Creek. In 1976 he trekked to Kashmir, Ladakh (Little Tibet, the last place on earth where Tibetan Buddhism is still practiced in its country of origin) and the Mt Everest region of Nepal.

Dr Picker is an excellent photographer and will show his slides, some of which have been featured on an official poster for an Everest expedition, books and calanders. Don't miss this great opportunity to see this very interesting area through his eyes.

**BOARD MEETINGS** Board meetings are open to all interested members. Thursday may 9, 7:30 pm. Home of Shimi Edmondson, 1261 Lawrence Rd, Danville, 837-1010.

**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 ½ hour. Carpool expense: 5¢ 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 ½ hour before departure time.

\* Thurs May 2, Las Posadas State Forest in Napa County. Carpool ONLY 7:30 am, southwest corner Sun Valley parking lot. We hope to see Mt Quail, Piliated Woodpeckers and many of the summer birds of wooded areas. For more information, call leader Betty Gallagher, 682-2458.

\* Sat May 4, Mines Rd, Carpool 6:30 am El Cerro Blvd just west of I-680. We MUST carpool because of the limited parking along this route. If we have an auto parade again this year, we may expect this to become a restricted, advance sign-up trip in the future. Eagles, Lewis' Woodpeckers, Phainapepla, Costa's Hummingbird, Lawrence's Goldfinch, turkey and Roadrunner are frequent highlights. Hot, dry, few facilities; have a full gas tank. Almost all birding is done close to the cars. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486.

\* Wed May 8, Mt Diablo State Park, Carpool 7:45 am El Cerro Blvd just west of I-680. Meet 8:15 at parking area on left, just before the entrance to Rock City area. There is an entrance fee for the State Park. Sage, Rufous Crowned, and Black-Chinned Sparrows, Lazuli Bunting, hawks, flycatchers, and sometimes a warbler wave. Hot, carry liquid. 1-2 miles walking on various narrow steep or rough trails. Leader: Jean Richmond, 837-2843.

\* Thurs May 16, Mitchell Canyon-Wildflowers Carpool 8:15 near Burger King in shopping center at corner of Ygnacio Valley and Clayton Rds. Meet at 8:30 Mitchell Canyon parking lot. Continue south on Clayton Rd to Mitchell Canyon Rd and follow to the end. There is a fee for the parking area and cars parked immediately outside may be ticketed. This trip will take most of the

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

morning with emphasis on wild flowers. Birders can continue in the afternoon to look for gnatcatchers, summer sparrows, etc. 1½-2 mile walk up gently sloping dirt road.

Often hot, carry liquids-and lunch if you wish to bird later. Leader: John Davis 228-9516.

- \* Sat May 18, Mallory Ranch. Carpool 6:45 am El Cerro Blvd. just west of I-680. Meet 7:30 Mallory Ranch, 10501 Morgan Territory Road. Go south on I-680, east on I-580 to North Livermore exit; north on North Livermore, left on Manning Rd, right onto Morgan Territory Rd 4 miles to top of grade; watch for address on mailbox. About one mile of gravel drive to house. Dr and Mrs Mallory have invited us to visit their ranch in the east Contra Costa hills. Woodland and chaparral birds near the peak of nesting season. Considerable walking, may be hot. Co-leaders: George Mallory and Marjorie Plant 934-1093.
- \* Wed May 22, East Contra Costa Co, Carpool 6:30 am southwest corner of Sun Valley parking lot. Meet 7:00 am on Cypress Rd just beyond Shortstop Mrkt. North on I-680, east on SR4 through Oakley and turn left onto Cypress Rd. Blue Grosbeak, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Chat, flycatchers and Burrowing Owl. Hot. About 1 mile level walking along levee in search of chats. Other birds are usually seen close to the cars. Leader: Maury Stern, 284-5980.
- \* Wed May 29, Annadel State Park-carpool 7:00 am southwest corner of Sun Valley parking lot. Meet at 8:30 parking lot Annadel Park. From I-80 east of Vallejo go west on SR37 to SR121, then north to SR12, turn left and continue about 17 miles beyond Sonoma. Just after reaching the divided road, turn left on Los Alamos Rd, then right on Montgomery Dr, 0.6 miles to Channel Dr. Turn left 2 miles to the parking lot at the end of the road. Chats, Pileated Woodpeckers, summer woodland birds. 1½-2 miles walking, good trails. May be hot. Leader: Jimm Edgar, 283-3510.
- \* Yuba Pass weekend June 22-23: Motels in Sierra City-Herrington's Sierra Pines (916) 862-1151 and Sierra Chalet (916) 862-1110. In Sierraville: Canyon Ranch (916) 994-3340. Camping is available at forest service campgrounds at Yuba Pass and Chapman Creek.

On March 9, 12 MDAS members visited Hayward Regional Shoreline, it was cool but clear with winds in the afternoon. A total of 67 species was seen. Some good views were had of a "Clark's" Grebe which has been split off from the Western Grebe. A Short-eared Owl was flying back and forth for a while, before flying off and gave quite a show. A male Rufous Hummingbird was seen by 2 people. It was a delightful morning on the old landfill and along the shore north to the northern section of HRS. After lunch they walked the trail through the marsh area to the shore. The wind began to pick up and the temperature went down so they headed back to the cars.

Eight members enjoyed 5-Brooks and Bolinas on March 13 on a clear warm day. 79 species were sighted. The highlights of the day were 25 Varied Thrushes, 2 Osprey, a very good view of 2 Wrentits, 2 flocks of Red Crossbills, and a Canada Goose flying with a large gray domestic goose over the lagoon by Audubon Canyon Ranch, both honking very loudly!

On the weekend trip to Honey Lake, 27 members and guests saw 80 species of birds in varying weather conditions from fair and sunny to rainy and snowy. Mar. 23-24

On Friday afternoon a Goshawk was seen devouring prey in Susanville. We visited the lek on Saturday morning at sunrise and saw 9 male Sage Grouse strutting about, but only one female was present. Also near the lek were Pronghorn antelopes, Sage Thrashers, Sage Sparrows, and Chukar, which were heard. At Honey Lake on Saturday morning there were dozens of White Pelicans, Tundra Swans and five Evening Grosbeaks. In nearby Jaynesville in the afternoon, several Lewis' Woodpeckers were seen, but strong afternoon winds cut the number of bird sightings down considerably.

A Sierra snowstorm arrived on Sunday morning cutting short the trip.

Mar 27  
Four hardy MDAS members birded at Lake Lagunitas on a chilly, windy, and occasionally drizzly day that followed one of heavy rains. A total of 39 species was seen or heard. Though a Pileated Woodpecker was heard drumming and evidence of

its work was on some old logs and dead trees was abundant, it was not seen. Two Ospreys were of special interest—one carrying a six inch trout. A Red Breasted Nuthatch was seen going in and out of a nest hole in a tree. Several deer were much in evidence.

Sixteen observers braved the heat on April 4 and birded Lime Ridge Open Space in Walnut Creek. A total of 54 species were observed in the grassland, woodland and chaparral habitats. Highlights included a Great Horned Owl in the chaparral, many singing birds and newly arrived Northern Orioles, Western Kingbirds and a Black Throated Gray Warbler.

### CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

#### EDUCATION: An opportunity

Our chapter has the opportunity to donate the new "Audubon Adventures program to classes in our local schools. Each class sponsored receives a set of Audubon Adventures Club kits consisting of a membership card and decal for each student, in addition to a monthly copy of Audubon Adventures newspaper, which is accompanied by a Leader's Guide. The cost of one year's sponsorship of a whole class is \$20.00 to our chapter. If any members would like to participate in this program by donating twenty dollars, please contact Norah Bain, 254-4516. This is a well organized way to promote interest in nature among our youth. If there is a fifth or sixth grade classroom you feel would like a sponsorship please let Norah know.

#### Audubon Canyon Ranch: A Double Feature

At Bolinas Lagoon & Cypress Grove May 4 & 5. Helen Pratt will share a nearly 20-year accumulation of information about egret and heron habitats and life histories. John Kelly will identify many of the common birds by color, song, and behavior. \$40.00 ACR (415) 383-1644.

Nature Conservancy: Elkhorn Slough & Seashore, May 5. Investigate this rich habitat for many shorebirds and marine mammals. 4 miles of hiking involved. Contact Treve Johnson, 509 Carmel Ave, Albany, CA 94706.

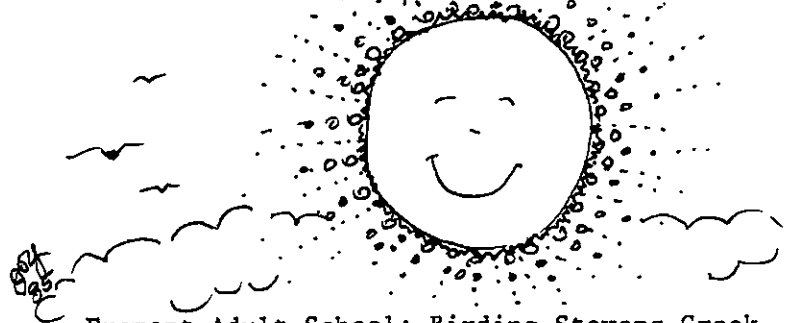
Nature Sounds Society: Sounds of the Bottlenose Dolphin, May 11, 2:00 pm at the Oakland Museum, 10th and Oak St, Oakland, in the lecture hall. For further info: Paul Matzner, Oakland Museum Natural Sciences Dept, (415) 273-3884.

NAS: John James Audubon Festival, May 18 and 19, Richardson Bay Audubon Ctr, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd, Tiburon, CA 388-2524. A variety of events and exhibits are planned to make this a momentous occasion. Featured will be a limited edition copy of Audubon's folio, Birds of America on public display.

Activities include exhibits, programs, and demonstrations and a wildlife film festival. A children's wildlife art contest will precede the festival with winning drawings on exhibit. Call 388-2524 for details

Whale Center: Farallon Islands Cruises Trips depart at 8:00 am from Sausalito and return about 4:00 pm on the following Sundays: June 16, 30, July 14, 28, August 18, 25, and September 8, 22. Prices are \$42 per person. 654-6621 for details.

Audubon: Golden Trout Workshop Three one-week Golden Trout Workshops will be held in the Sierra July 28-August 17. An informal field natural history program consisting of naturalist led hikes by resident naturalists, will be offered. The camp is located in the Golden Trout wilderness at an altitude of 10,000 ft. For details: Cindi McKernan, 40 Sherril Lane, Redlands, CA 92372, 714-793-7897.



Fremont Adult School: Birding Stevens Creek Park Class. An all-day birding trip to Stevens Creek Park on Saturday, May 4. The emphasis will be on nesting activities enjoying and identifying birds, their songs and wildflowers. Led by Alice Hoch. 9-3 pm Students should bring binocs, lunch, beverage and snacks. Students must preregister, 791-5841 or Alice Hoch, 657-0475. \$10.50



### IS THERE A PENGUIN IN YOUR FUTURE?

Some wear chin straps  
and all have feathers  
that remind us of tux-

edos with intriguing names such as the Chin Strap, Emperor, King, and Adelie—with a walk that looks like a king, or queen leading a royal procession, the penguin always provides a point of interest.

Literally millions of these birds live in the Antarctic regions of the world.

Around the turn of the century, many of these birds were hunted but since then they haven't had much in the way of problems with man. That condition is changing. The Antarctic is under attack by people throughout the world who want to exploit riches believed to lie under the huge ice cap that covers the region. Krill, a small shrimp-like creature is the main diet for birds and fish. Now Russian and Japanese fishing fleets are catching hundreds of thousands of tons of krill every year. No one has any idea as to the ultimate impact these huge catches will have on the bird and sea life in Antarctica, or in fact throughout the world. The French have a base, Dumont d'Urville originally established to facilitate year-around biological studies on Emperor Penguins.

Now, planners want to build an airstrip through a chain of small islands used by millions of Chin Strap and Adelie penguins as breeding grounds. The base is difficult to reach even in the best months and impossible in the stormy season. A world wide effort has been underway to protect the Antarctic before it is ruined. This effort is led by the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition and has offices at 1845 Calvert St N.W. Washington D.C. 20009.

WATER, FOOD, AND DRINK. Many years ago the family farmer (that's all there was at the time) watched

the wheat crop as it came up out of the ground, hoping it wouldn't be beset with any one of several diseases or bugs that would ruin the crop. Then someone developed a spray that would kill the bug and everyone said, "HOORAY". Another spray was developed for some other problem. These dangerous chemical substances aren't always used with care, creating hazards for users and the general populace. It wasn't until useage of these sorts of substances had gone on for some time that the bad side-effects being created began to emerge. DDT—a killer is now banned but is still showing up in water here and there (is someone still using it?) is a good example.

Silicon Valley: the great white hope of the future. Everyone wanted "clean" industry. No smokestacks, no piles of coal and refuse, in fact, even the storage of chemicals used in the hi-tech processes was dictated to be stored underground, out of sight. Unknown to most people, the chemicals are deadly. Now, water in the Santa Clara Valley is beginning to look and taste funny. Investigation with newly designed scientific instruments demonstrate the "safely" stored chemicals are in fact leaking from their storage tanks into wells, and underground water supplies adversely affecting water miles from the original source of the leakage. It is said there are some 1500 private wells in Santa Clara County, used by people for drinking water and these wells have NO monitoring whatsoever. Fairchild and IBM have already spent millions of dollars in an effort to stop the problem and begin to clean up the mess. Now EPA is in the midst of one of the largest campaigns in this nation to clean up the water in Santa Clara County. Not scientifically known is the full and true effects of the use of polluted water by humans on a short term and a long term basis. Sadly, some of the effects may not be realized for 20 or 30 years.

Pollutants have "early-on" effects on birdlife and we can easily wipe out an entire species of bird through continued use of some chemical. It is only through thle watchful eyes of Audubon people and others that problem conditions have been found.



# 1985 NATIONAL AUDUBON BIRDATHON

HELP US CELEBRATE JOHN JAMES AUDUBON'S 200th BIRTHDAY AND SUPPORT  
THE MT. DIABLO CHAPTER. OUR BIRDATHON DAY WILL BE MAY 4th.  
WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO:

- Sign up pledges and bird on your own
- Sign up pledges and join the Mines Road Field Trip
- Sign up pledges and form a team to compete against another team
- Pledge your support to the Coordinator's Team (Kirk & Lee Robinson (SEE BELOW))

-----  
YES! I WANT TO SUPPORT MT. DIABLO/NATIONAL AUDUBON BIRDATHON WITH  
a pledge of \_\_\_\_\_ per species seen.

NAME:  
ADDRESS:  
CITY:

ZIP:

Home Phone  
Daytime Phone

-----  
SEND TO: KIRK AND LEE ROBINSON  
19046 MAYBERRY DRIVE  
CASTRO VALLEY, CA 94546

National Audubon Society

# BIRDATHON

## *Entry Form*

Counter's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter or affiliate ( if applicable ) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birding \_\_\_\_\_

Number of species identified\* \_\_\_\_\_

\*Do not attach list. You should retain the list, however, in case it is needed for verification.

Number of sponsors \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete the following information about each sponsor:

<i>Sponsor's Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Amount pledged (per species)</i>	<i>Maximum (if given)</i>	<i>Amount collected</i>
			<b>Total amount</b>	

Participants ( counters ) should thank each sponsor individually. All checks should be made payable to *National Audubon Society*. Give this form, together with all checks, to your Birdathon chairperson or to the person designated to collect returns, or mail directly to: Birdathon Headquarters, National Audubon Society, 950 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10022.

*All participants must exercise caution in the protection of fragile habitat, particularly that of colonial nesting birds, raptors, and waterfowl. Trampling, crowding, and unnecessary proximity are to be avoided at all costs.*

## OBSERVATIONS

How many species can you observe in one day? The opportunity to test your skill is here in the form of the annual Audubon Bird-a-thon. This is your chance to see how many species you can spot in one day and raise money for Audubon at the same time.

Here's how it works. You can sign up friends, co-workers and relatives to sponsor you on the Bird-a-thon. Have them sponsor you for \$.05/species on up to \$1.00 or more per species seen. Then on May 4 see how many species you can see in a 24 hour period. (It just so happens that MDAS is having our annual Mines Rd. field trip that day, so you can do the bird-a-thon there.)

You say you can't make it May 4 or would prefer to have someone else do your birding for you. There are two additional options for you. Sponsor a friend or sponsor Lee & Kirk Robinson, the MDAS Bird-a-thon coordinators. (see the Birdathon insert to this month's Quail for more details.) All contributions are tax-deductible.

\* \* \* \*

Red-Necked Grebe, Bodega Bay, 3/16 - MS;  
Cattle Egret, Inverness, Marin Co., 3/12 - JR,FB,BF; Green Heron, Willow Pass Road, Concord, 3/22 - BG; Tundra Swan, Pt. Reyes, 3/11 - MS,GF; Wood Duck, Russian River, 3/16 - GF,MS; Mines Rd., 3/18 - GF,MP; Blue-Winged Teal, Merced NWR, 3/2 - GF,MP; Salmon Creek, 3/16 - GF,MS; Green-Winged "Common" Teal, Sacramento NWR, 3/24 - GF,MP,ED,JR; Eurasian Wigeon, Shell Marsh, Martinez, 3/19 - GF,DL; 3/23 - SE; Lesser Golden Plover, 3, Pt. Reyes (Spaletta Plateau), 3/12 - JR,FB,BF; Ruff, 2, Merced NWR, 3/2 - GF,MP; Lesser Yellowlegs, Shell Marsh, 3/19 - GF,DL; Rock Sandpiper, Princeton Harbor Jetty, 3/29 - GF; Glaucous Gull, Shell Marsh, Martinez, 3/13 - GF; Salinas River mouth, 3/15 - LR; Little Gull, Stockton Sewage Ponds, 3/30 - GF,TF; Peregrine Falcon, Inverness, Marin Co., 3/12 - JR,FB,FB; Prarie Falcon, Sacramento NWR, 3/22 - JE,MS; Ferruginous Hawk, Pt. Reyes, 3/12 - JR,FB,BF; Swainson's Hawk, dark phase, Caswell Memorial State Park, San Joaquin Co., 3/27 - JR; Red-Shouldered Hawk, 2 nesting, San Pablo Reservoir, 3/28 - MS; Lafayette Home, 3/28 - MS; 2, Las Trampas Regional Park, 3/30 - KH; Golden Eagle, 3, Mines Rd., 3/18 - GF,MP; over Caldecott Tunnel, 4/4 - JE; Osprey, Russian River mouth, 3/16 - GF,MS; Bishop Ranch Open Space, 3/31 - KH; Great Horned

Owl, Willow Creek Rd., Sonoma Co., 3/16 - GF,MS; Long-Eared Owl, Merced NWR, 3/2 - GF,MP; Spotted Owl, Merced NWR, 3/27 - JR; Saw-Whet Owl, Redwood Regional Park, 3/10 - MS; 3 heard, Willow Creek Rd., Sonoma Co., 3/16 - GF,MS; Coyote Hills, 3/17 - KH; Western Screech Owl, Redwood Regional Park, 3/10 - MS; Willow Creek Rd., Sonoma Co., 3/16 - MS,GF; Northern Pygmy Owl, Pt. Reyes, 3/16 - GF,MS; Sunol Regional Park, 3/17 - KH; Pileated Woodpecker, pair, Lake Lagunitas, Marin Co., 4/2 - JR,BF,B&MJG; Lewis' Woodpecker, Mines Rd., 3/18 - GF,MP; Wild Turkey, Mines Rd., 3/18 - GF,MP; Rufous Hummingbird, Alamo garden, 3/13-18 - JR; Western Flycatcher, Las Trampas Regional Park, 3/30 - KH; Greater Pewee, Masonic Home, Union City, 3/17 - KH; Western Kingbird, Bishop Ranch Open Space, 3/31 - KH; Antioch Dunes NWR, 4/1 - LR; Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Mitchell Canyon, 3/14 - GF; House Wren, Las Trampas Regional Park, 3/30 - KH; Dipper, 2 nesting, Hiway 32/Chico Creek Bridge, 3/22 - MS,JE; Greater Roadrunner, Mines Rd., 3/18 - GF,MP; Phainopepla, Mines Rd., 3/18 - GF,MP; Townsend's Solitaire, Mines Rd., 3/18 - GF,MP; Hooded Oriole, pair, returned to Alamo garden, 3/31 - JR; in her yard, 3/31 - WO; Northern "Bullock's" Oriole, returned to Alamo garden, 3/31 - JR; Black-Throated Gray Warbler, Lake Lagunitas, Marin Co., 4/2 - JR,FB,B&MJG; Yellow-Rumped "Myrtle" Warbler, 6: one with an all white head, Jewel Lake, Tilden Regional Park, 3/29 - WO,CS; Grasshopper Sparrow, Garin Regional Park, 4/1 - BR; Vesper Sparrow, Merced NWR, 3/2 - GF,MP; Purple Finch, 2 singing in her yard, 3/30-31 - WO; Red Crossbill, 6-10, in frontyard, Walnut Creek home, 3/9 - MP;

\* \* \* \*

Observers: Florence Bennett, Elizabeth Dickey, Jimm Edgar, Shirley Ellis, Bob Gallagher, Bill & Mary Jane Greene, George Finger, Toni Finger, Bud Fry, Kevin Hints, D. Lee, Winifred Orcutt, Marge Plant, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Lee Robinson, Charlene Sorenson, Maury Stern

\* \* \* \*

Observations should be sent to:  
 Kirk and Lee Robinson  
 19046 Mayberry Drive  
 Castro Valley, CA 94546  
 (415) 538-2655 (after 6pm)  
 Deadline for observations is monthly meeting.

## Bay Area Site Guide: Sonoma County

**CADER LANE PONDS***by Jean Richmond*

This area near the Petaluma River consists of flat grassy/weedy land around shallow ponds which are encircled by levees.

Take SR-17 north, cross San Rafael Bridge, continue north on US-101 to Petaluma, turn east on Lakeville Rd (SR-116) about a mile, then turn right on Cader Lane to the end.

Walk the levees around the ponds. If the water level is low, walk out on the dry mudflat toward the water. Here from late July through September are many shorebirds which can include Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plovers, Lesser Golden-Plover, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, both yellowlegs, Long-billed Curlew, Marbled Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, Semipalmated, Western, Least, Baird's, Pectoral and Buff-breasted (1982-84) Sandpipers, Long-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's and Red-necked Phalaropes.

Among other birds, look for Great Blue Heron, Great, Snowy and Cattle Egrets, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Northern Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, Gadwall, Ruddy

and other ducks, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, Bonaparte's, Ring-billed and California Gulls, Caspian and Forster's Terns, Purple Martin (August 1984) Cliff and Barn Swallows, Marsh Wren, Loggerhead Shrike, Song Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged, Yellow-headed (September 1984) and Brewer's Blackbirds.

No facilities. To combine this area with Sears Point Road (see Guide) return to Lakeville Road, turn right about 10 miles, turn left 4 miles on SR-37 to Sonoma Creek then work eastward along the road.

Please ask for an extra copy of BIRD LISTS OR CHECKLISTS when visiting parks, refuges, or sanctuaries as you travel, give the extra to Jean Richmond for our Chapter file. Planning a trip, contact her for info on the area you will visit-learn what birds to expect.

Dear Miss Manners: Is it socially acceptable to use binoculars at the dinner table?  
Gentle Reader: Only if you have invited your guests to dine at a bird feeder.

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Shimi Edmondson, Editor, 1261 Lawrence Rd, Danville, CA 94526; 837-1010  
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P. O. BOX 53  
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(415) AUD-UBON

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

June 1985

Vol 31 No 11

next deadline: June 1

**MEETING** Thursday June 6, 7:00 pm. The annual pot luck and slide show will be at Grace Presbyterian Church, 2100 Tice Valley Blvd (directly across from the Jewish Community Center); doors open at 6:30 pm, anyone wishing to help set up tables and chairs is welcome.

Please phone Margaret Wadsworth, 939-8422, to co-ordinate food for the dinner. Bring dishes, utensils, serving spoon, and food for four times the number in your family attending. Coffee, tea, and punch will be provided. **NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE ALLOWED ON THE CHURCH PREMISES!** Bring slides, photographs, or other show and tell material to share with the group.

**BOARD MEETINGS** Board meetings are open to all interested members. Thursday June 13, 7:30 pm. Home of Winnie Orcutt, 30 Iris Lane, Walnut Creek, 944-0593.

**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 ½ hour. Carpool expense: 5¢ 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 ½ hour before departure time.

\* Thurs June 6, Las Trampas. Meet at 8:00 am at park entrance. From I-680, take Crow Canyon Rd west; turn left onto Bolinger Canyon Rd to end. Summer woodland and grassland birds; best place locally for Grasshopper Sparrow, Rufous-Crowned Sparrow has also been seen. 2-3 miles walking, 1 mile uphill, all on roads. Can be hot, carry liquids. Trip usually ends at noon. Leader: Norah Bain, 254-4516.

\* Sat June 8, Outer Point Reyes. Carpool: 6:30 am, Acalanes Ave off Pleasant Hill Rd just north of Fwy 24. Meet at Drake's Beach 8:30 am. 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 ½ mile, left to Bear Valley Rd about 3 miles and onto Sir Francis Drake again. Continue about 14 miles to Drake's Beach Rd on left. This trip is for spring vagrants and Pt Reyes is the place where anything might turn up. About ½ mile easy walking to lighthouse; ½ mile rough trail to New Willows. Weather may be hot, may be cold and foggy. Leader: Jimm Edgar, 283-3510.

\* Thurs June 12, Glen Ellen. Carpool: 7:15 southwest corner Sun Valley parking lot. Meet 8:30 am in parking lot just across the bridge from Jack London Lodge. 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. Yellow-breasted Chat is the bird on this trip; also warblers flycatchers, woodpeckers, etc. About 1 mile walking along road for chat. Can be hot. Leader: Winnie Orcutt 944-0593.

\* Sat-Sun June 22, 23, Yuba Pass. Meet Sat 8:30, Sun 8:00 am at Yuba Pass (SR 49 between Sierra City and Sierraville) in parking lot on south side of highway. We will bird Sat morning at Yuba Pass, afternoon at Clark's Station and other points west of pass. High mountain birds-White-headed and Black-backed Woodpeckers, Mt Quail, Caliope Hummer, Townsend's Solitaire, Evening Grosbeak, Red Crossbill, mountain flycatchers Sunday we go to Sierra Valley for sagebrush spp-Sage Thrasher, Brewer's and Vesper Sparrows, Green Tailed Towhee, and marsh

birds—Wilson's Phalarope, Black Tern, Yellow-headed Blackbird. If you plan to go, call leader, Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486.

Motels in Sierra City—Herrington's Sierra Pines (916) 862-1151 and Sierra Chalet (916) 862-1110. In Sierraville: Canyon Ranch (916) 994-3340. Camping is available at forest service campgrounds at Yuba Pass and Chapman Creek.

- \* Thurs June 27, Briones-The Dawn Chorus. Meet 6:00 am at west entrance of park. From Fwy 24 take San Pablo Dam Rd north; turn left on Bear Creek Rd to park entrance. We will probably have to park along the road and walk in. This is an opportunity to hear bird songs and watch summer birds before the day heats up. Leader: Winnie Orcutt, 944-0593.

#### FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Eleven members and guests attended the Briones Wildflower Walk on a clear, cool breezy day. 58 species of plants were noted as well as some special birds. While mostly a wildflower walk, many birds were also seen on the morning walk. Ducks were on the Maricich Lagoons. A Black Swift was seen flying NW but only by Jean Richmond—the rest of the group was too spread out to hear her shouts.

House Wrens were singing all over the place. Several Blue-gray Gnatcatchers played hide-and-seek in the trees. Vireos and warblers were singing in wooded areas. The many plants in bloom provided fabulous color on some hillsides.

Twenty members and guests trekked up Donner Canyon on the HOTTEST day of the year, April 13. Most of the group made it to a high point overlooking the North County and waterfalls coming off North Peak and Mt Diablo. The wildflowers on the upper slopes were outstanding. A total of 61 species was seen or heard as the air was filled with their springtime songs, including many migrating warblers and vireos. Eight western warbler species were seen along the Hetherington Loop Trail, highlighted by the bird of the day, a MacGillivray's Warbler. Other migrating species included Nashville, Yellow, Black-throated Gray, Townsend's, and Wilson's Warblers; Solitary and Warbling Vireos, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Dusky Flycatchers, Western Wood Pewees and Lazuli Buntings.

Eighteen members and guests saw 48 species of birds at Caswell State Park on a beautiful spring day. There were 25 mph gusts of wind which drove many birds into cover but the group saw at least 6 Swainson's Hawks, 6 species of swallows including BANK SWALLOWS,

and we had brief looks at two Lawrence's Goldfinches. This is one of the few remaining original riparian habitats anywhere nearby and well worth the one hour drive.

How lucky we are to have such a beautiful park as Briones Regional Park so close to home! Eighteen members and guests enjoyed a perfect Saturday morning and very good birding in the park on April 27th in spite of the bikathon. A total of 50 species were observed and heard. Our goodies were—five Hermit Warblers, Western Flycatcher and nest, Red-breasted Nuthatch, several Brown Creepers, a dozen or more Lazuli Buntings, a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and nest, several Chipping Sparrows, three species of vireo (Solitary, Hutton's, and Warbling) and a swarm of bees.

The May 2 trip to Las Posadas State Forest was held under ideal weather conditions—full sun with breeze, was enjoyed by 8 members. This secluded forest, with its many unique wildflowers also showed us nesting Black Phoebe and Western Tanager. Other

sightings included: Cooper's Hawk, and 3 woodpecker sp, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Wrentit, Hutton's Warbling Vireo, Wilson's Warbler, Black-headed Grosbeak Chipping Sparrow, and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.

The Mines Road Trip was attended by 16 MDASers on a clear and mild day. Eighty-six species were reported including Wood Duck, a Prairie Falcon feeding on a ground squirrel, Wild Turkey, Greater Road Runner, Costa's and Calliope Hummingbird, Lewis' Woodpecker, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Phainopepla, Yellow-breasted Chat and Lawrence's Goldfinch. The Wood Ducks were on San Antonio Rd, the Chat was in the creek at Frank Rains' yard, there is evidence that turkeys are increasing along Mines Rd. They were seen in new locations and heard in several. Nesting birds included Oriole, Says Phoebe, Bluebird, Plain Titmouse, and Canyon Wren.

On May 8 11 members and guests visited Mt Diablo and totalled 52 species. It was clear, sunny but mostly cool. Very few woodpeckers were seen. An empidonax flycatcher (Not a Western) but a close look was never available. No swifts were seen anywhere on the mountain. House Wrens were in good numbers—in several places. Lots of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were seen in several places. No thrushes of any kind were seen or heard. Good looks were had at a singing Solitary Vireo. A number of Orange-crowned, Townsend's, Hermit, Nashville, Black-throated Gray and several Wilson's Warblers were sighted. There were lots of Lazuli Buntings, including 6 in one small area of trees. Sage and Rufous-crowned Sparrows were seen but the Black-chinned Sparrow was missed.

## CONSERVATION NOTES

BY Al McNabney

**KESTERSON REVISITED** Water, irrigation, crops, money and pollution. None of these things can be considered as being new to Kesterson and the surrounding areas. The Central Valley Project (CVP) started in 1935 as a public work during the depths of the Great Depression brought hints of problems from the soils in Central San Joaquin Valley. Completion of the initial stages of the project brought massive transfer of water from north to south for use in the Central Valley.

**1939** The US Dept of Agriculture warned of toxic selenium deposits in the soils of western (central) San Joaquin Valley.

**1957** California initiated plans for a master drain to serve San Joaquin Valley, and the Tulare Basin from Bakersfield to the Delta.

**1960** The San Luis Drain Project is permitted irrigation of 600,000 acres of Westlands Water District Fresno County. The drain project was included. A vote of the people approved the project by a 1% margin. December, 1960, State Dept of Water Resources report warns drainage from Westlands is unsuitable for beneficial purposes and subsequent reports echoed this statement.

**1968** Construction began on the 188 mile drain from Westlands. Land is acquired at Kesterson, the reservoir begins collecting irrigation run-off. 1200 acres of ponds and 4700 acres of grasslands habitat is made part of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

**1975** 85 miles of the drain completed. No more funds available and no more appropriated—drain halted. Kesterson switched from a regulating reservoir to a terminus to concentrate and evaporate water from drainage flows.

**1981** High levels of selenium found at Kesterson—data not made public. Full strength irrigation water now draining into Kesterson.

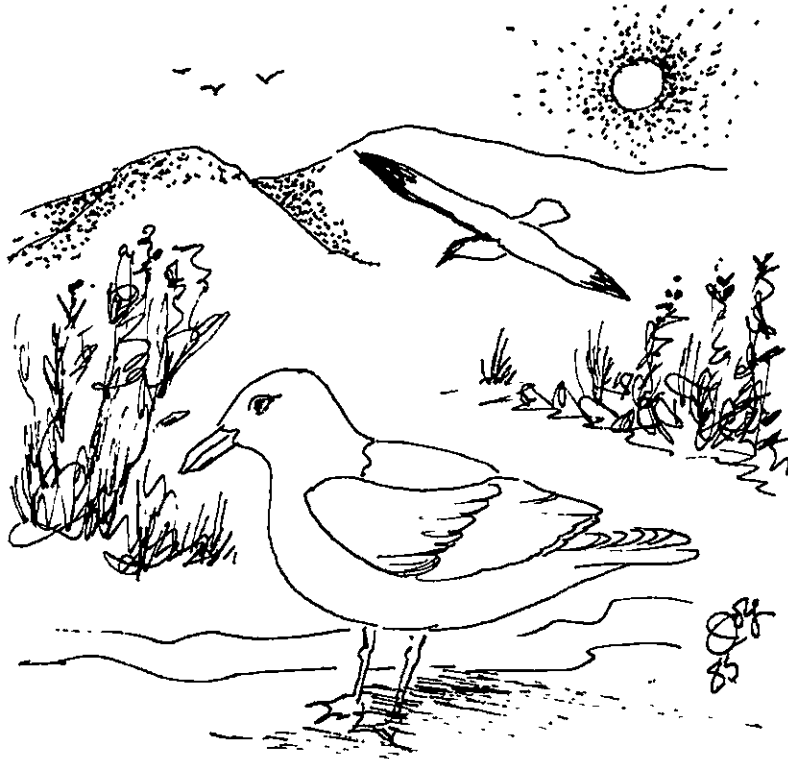
**1982** Fish & Wildlife samples show high levels of selenium in specimens taken from Kesterson waters.

**1983** Fish & Wildlife biologists discover abnormal numbers of dead embryos and deformed chicks—selenium suspected. Later, dead and deformed birds found in San Francisco Bay areas.

**1984** In January, a US Geological Survey finds errors in techniques used to collect and analyze selenium samples. Some findings said to have been off by as much as 7000%! March 15, Secretary of Interior advised members of a Congressional Committee who were looking into the Kesterson problems that it would be closed at once due to mortality of birds covered under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. That position was later modified. Farmers given one additional year of water. Some 42,000 acres of land were involved and some argue that much of that land should never have been irrigated in the first

**SHELL MARSH  
WHAT'S NEW?**

Good or bad, depends on whether you are the developer looking for a way to get on with the project, a bird seeking a place for food, water, and rest, a member of Audubon looking at the marsh to identify the birds or whatever. Right now, the input and public hearings concerning the draft environmental impact report have been concluded. Audubon raised substantive issues (as did others) and those issues should be addressed in the final EIR. No date has been announced for further action on this whole issue. A question still remains. The General Plan precludes a development of this kind. Just about every state and federal agency involved, that has so far rendered an opinion has indicated the project is not viable as proposed.



**FILL IT IF YOU WILL** Reports, delays, inaction; that's what happened when somehow marshland in the vicinity of the Stauffer chemical was filled. The fill was unauthorized as far as the various regulatory agencies and City of Martinez were concerned. Now the US Army Corps of Engineers has advised that the company has the option of voluntarily removing the unauthorized fill, or submit an after-the-fact application to retain, temporarily, the unauthorized fill. If the company elects to follow the latter course, it will have to demonstrate to the Corps that the unauthorized filling of wetlands was necessary because there were no practical alternatives.

### CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

Fremont Adult School, "Birding Field Trips" led by Alice Hoch, Tuesday mornings from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm starting June 18-July 23rd.

"Birds and Flowers of Point Lobos" led by Alice Hoch, June 29 9:00 am-3:00 pm. Fee: \$10.50. The trip is timed to coincide with the height of nesting activity of the Brandt's Cormorant, also Pelagic Cormorants, Western Gulls and other species will be highlighted.

For information on either class contact the Fremont Adult School, 791-5841 or Alice 657-0475.

Mono Lake Workshops, "Birds of the Mono Basin" led by David Gaines, fee: \$50 June 29-30. Beginners as well as experts will enjoy this intimate introduction to Mono's birdlife. We will learn, not only to identify birds by plumage and song, but also to understand the roles they play in the Mono Basin environment. David Gaines is an expert birder, inspirational teacher, and chairman and founder of the Mono Lake Committee. Contact Mono Lake Foundation Workshops, P.O. Box 153, Lee Vining, CA 93541.

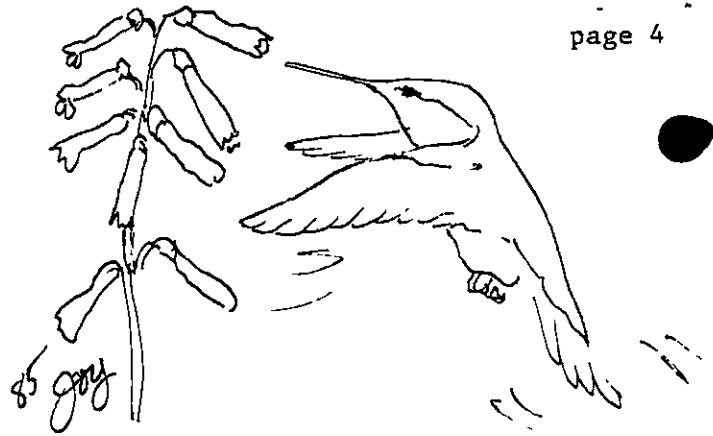
### GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

Mt Diablo Audubon wishes to thank Mrs. W.L. Deverel for kindly donating a gift in memory of Miss Portia Faye Wagenet of Rossmoor.

Mt Diablo Audubon welcomes gifts in honor or in memory of relatives and friends; these may be used in a specified manner or if unspecified, at the discretion of the Board.

### NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to welcome these new MDAS members and hope to meet them in person soon: David Chapman, Beatrice Davis, Sarah Galsky, Lorlu Goehle, Charles Goethe, Gene Hutchinson, Mr & Mrs Arne Jensen, L. Lamanna, Steven Lessman, Lura Phillips, P. Rigali Jr, John Sheriff, Tess Vocke, Dean Wigton, S.A. Wolfenbarger, Eva Zander, Richard Albro, M.A. Champion, R. Crawford, L.M. Edwards, George Freeman, Richard Freeman, Kathleen Guire, P.B. Heller, Rosanna Huff, Ms J Jamieson, Barbara Jones, Gabriella Judge, Elizabeth Klinzman, Albert McCain Jr, L. Pasqualone, Leo Schrupp, Cecil Smith, Karen Smith, Charlotte Smith, J.A. Smith, Stephen Sooter, Ms A.B. Thompson, Ms Kathy Tustanowski, Jeanine White, Betty Zarn.



### ACROSS THE EDITOR'S DESK

The California Dept of Fish and Game is gathering information on the Bank Swallow, Black Swift, and Purple Martin in California to document distribution, abundance, habitat requirements, and reproductive success. In addition, they are especially interested in documenting threats to these species' habitats.

Send any reports of recent sightings (within the past DECADE) of breeding birds to Ronald W. Schlorff, California Dept of Fish and Game, nongame Wildlife Program, 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,  $\frac{1}{4}$  section ideally, a copy of a topographic map should be included), date of observations, behavioral notes, and any other relevant information. This information will assist state and federal agencies in developing habitat protection and species management plans for these bird species of special concern.

California Condor Update: The Condor Research Center reports that only 2 pairs of Condors are currently nesting. Although the data are still preliminary, it appears that three pairs active last year may have each lost a mate. Five pairs were breeding by this time last year.

If three birds were lost over the winter, then the mortality rate in the wild population is higher than previously anticipated. The wild population could only be a dozen or fewer birds.

Lion Hunting Ban Extended: In a recent article published by the Contra Costa Times, May 3, 1985, the State Senate voted to extend the moratorium on sport hunting of mountain lions for four <sup>more</sup> years. The bill was vehemently opposed by the Legislature's most avid hunter, H.L. Richardson who argued that the moratorium wasn't needed and called the bill an "anti-hunter and anti-deer bill". The bill SB 76 was sent to the Assembly.

## OBSERVATIONS

We didn't have a lot of observations submitted this month - it must be that everybody is so busy birding to write down and send in their sightings. There were, however, several interesting observations reported .

Jimm Edgar just returned from a recent trip to Florida and reports that he did a lot of birding. Jimm observed 122 different species, including 20 life birds. Among the highlights of his trip were Snail Kite, White-Tailed Tropicbird, Black-Whiskered Bulbul, Gray Kingbird, and 14 species of Warbler.

Ann Gannon and Shirley Ellis spotted a Green-Winged Teal at Bolinas Lagoon (4/14).

Winnie Orcutt and Bobbi Gillis spotted a Nashville Warbler in Donner Canyon (4/5) several weeks before they normally come through. Winnie also saw a Prarie Falcon along Hiway 37 near Mare Island.

Hugh and Nora Bain hosted a White-Throated Sparrow (4/15) and a Rufous Hummingbird (4/20-6) in their Orinda Garden. Nora spotted one of the Flamingos at Crown Beach, Alameda (4/23). In addition, Nora saw three male Western Tanagers and a pair of Golden Eagles at Sunol Regional Park (4/30).

Tom and Elaine Lee also observed a pair of Golden Eagles, in the Walnut Creek Open Space near Walnut Blvd (4/20). Tom also spotted a Northern Pygmy-Owl at Upper San Leandro Reservoir, seen 20 feet away at 10:00am (4/17).

Jean Richmond submitted a number of observations for the month of April. Several Hooded Orioles were seen in her yard during the period. A 4/2 trip to Lake Lagunitas yielded 2 Pileated Woodpeckers calling, drumming and flying in the vicinity of the parking lot, a Black-Throated Gray Warbler, and 7 Red Crossbills. A Phainopepla was observed below the Montecello Dam in Solano County (4/9). On the MDAS trip to Briones Jean was the only one to spot the Black Swift (4/10). An April 16 outing found Mountain Quail at mile 4.5 on Ida Clayton Rd., Sonoma County, and a Solitary Sandpiper

at Detert Reservoir in Lake County.

Jean birded Mt Diablo on April 23, catching a number of warblers in migration, most notably a Nashville Warbler near Rock City, a Black-Throated Gray Warbler and 12 Hermit Warblers at the Oak Knoll Picnic Area.

Jean scouted Mines Road and Del Puerto Canyon Rd. on 4/30 in preparation for the recent MDAS field trip. Her sightings on Mines Rd. included Wild Turkey (Mile Post 6.63), Greater Roadrunner (MP-6.63), and Lewis' Woodpecker (MP-5.25). On Del Puerto Canyon Road Costa's Hummingbird (MP-3.3 and MP 3.5) and Grasshopper Sparrow (near I-5) were spotted.

Last, but not least, Lee and I did a little birding during April, noting the return of the Snowy Plovers to the dikes of the SF Bay NWR. I spotted a large flock of Red-Necked Phalaropes along the road to the old Dumbarton Bridge (4/21). A hiking trip to Sunol brought a brief glimpse of a Bobcat carrying its dinner off into the woods (4/15).

\* \* \* \*

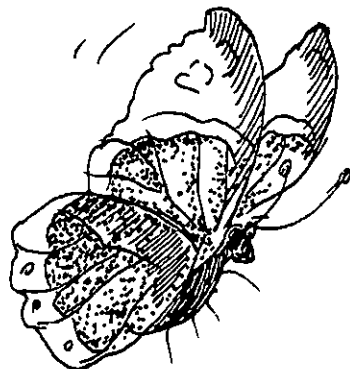
Observations should be sent to:

Kirk and Lee Robinson  
19046 Mayberry Drive  
Castro Valley, CA 94546  
(415) 538-2655 (after 6pm)

Deadline for observations is monthly meeting.

\* \* \* \*

BIRD-A-THON: While the Bird-a-thon was held in early May, it is not too late to participate by pledging your support to the chapter team. The team, consisting of Lee and I, assisted by MDAS members on the Mines Rd. field trip, counted 111 species for the one day period. A pledge of only \$.10 per species will mean a contribution of \$11.10 to the Audubon Society. Half of all pledges collected will be returned to MDAS, the other half will support Audubon's Western Regional Office, which has been contributing tremendous support to the effort to save Mono Lake. Send your tax deductible contributions (checks payable to National Audubon Society) to Lee and Kirk Robinson at the address above.



### A LETTER OF APPRECIATION

I want to thank all the people who participated in the activities of the Mt Diablo Audubon Society the past year. A lot of time and effort went into making the meetings, field trips, newsletter, and conservation activities successful.

Special thanks to the board members, all of whom are staying on another year, and to the new board members who agreed to chair very important committees. Thanks to Shimi for the constantly improving Quail.

George and Toni Finger have spent many hours each month collating, labeling, and mailing the Quail—now Marilyn O'Connor will do this job with the help of many others...hopefully.

Al McNabney seems to be single-handedly battling the forces that would pave over all the land in Contra Costa County for the sake of more money. His total time devoted to this is unbelievable.

Jean Richmond's long and hard work on the Site Guide is progressing. The book should be available in the upcoming year. Jean has worked very hard revising and updating the site guides.

Winnie and Gifford Young have been very helpful to me in organizing the refreshments for our meetings in addition to the very fine jobs they do as secretary and treasurer.

Joy Hall has gotten us fine speakers for the meetings and will stay on the board as chapter historian.

Winnie Orcutt has done a super job organizing the Bird Information talks. Elizabeth Dickey has almost by herself handled all the arrangements for field trips, a most difficult task well done.

Linda and Phil Myers took over the membership chair from Ethel Beckerman. I thank them for their care and accuracy in keeping our records.

Norah Bain has been active in education activities in the community. We are fortunate to have Norah represent us in these endeavors.

George Finger did a terrific job on the Christmas Count and he will handle the count again this 1985 Christmas season.

Jimm Edgar was our Bay Area Audubon Council representative. I thank Jimm for his efforts on behalf of Mt Diablo Audubon Society and especially for helping me with the first year of my presidency.




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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, Linda Myers, 1624 Springbrook Rd, Lafayette, CA 94596 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: \$3.00/year, payable to Mt Diablo Audubon Soc to Treasurer, address above.

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

Exchange bulletins for MDAS to this address, please.



# 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

July/August 1985

Vol 32 No 1

next deadline: July 28

**ANNUAL PICNIC** Friday, July 19, 7:00 pm. Old Borgess Ranch, 1035 Castle Rock Rd. About  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile past Northgate High School, look for sign to ranger station (Walnut Creek Open Space). Drive up road on right to ranch headquarters. \$1.00 per person entry fee. After supper we will look for owls, so bring binocs as well as supper. Call Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486 for further details.

**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  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour. Carpool expense: 5c 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  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour before departure time.

\* Sat, July 27, San Mateo Coast: Carpool 6:30 am, El Cerro Blvd, west of I-680, Danville. Meet 8:15 in parking lot opposite Pescadero Rd. Cross San Mateo Bridge, continue west on SR92 to Half Moon Bay, go left on SR1 15 miles to Pescadero Rd, turn right into parking lot. Can be cold and windy, can be hot. 1-2 miles walking. May see early shorebirds, possible Black Swift, Bank Swallow, Marbled Murrelet. Leader: Winnie Orcutt, 944-0593.

\* Thurs, August 1, Black Point: Carpool 8:00 am, southwest corner of Sun Valley parking lot. Meet 8:45 am in parking lot of Orchard Supply and Hardware, Vallejo; at the intersection of SR37 and SR29, the Napa Highway. Call Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486, between July 19th and 25th for details. This is another good shorebird area. May be windy, little walking.

\* Sat, August 10, Bodega Bay: Carpool 6:30 am southwest corner of Sun Valley parking lot. Meet 8:30 am at The Tides Restaurant. Go north on US101; take Washington St exit in Petaluma, go west on Bodega Hwy to SR1, turn left to Bodega Bay. Tides is on the left. Early shorebirds, waterbirds, rails, post-breeding migrants. Can be cold and windy; little walking. Leaders: Helen and Jerry Gentile, 228-6733.

\* Sat-Sun, July 13-14, Sequoia, Keith Hansen will be leading the trip to Sequoia. He knows the area well. A \$5.00 fee for Keith's services will be charged for each participant. A group campsite is being negotiated, consult AAA guide for camping or motels. Contact Maury Stern well ahead of the date to confirm. 284-5980.

\* August 17-18, Condor Trip, last year's field trip committee was very ambitious, but individual plans change in a year. If you are interested in this trip contact Maury (see above) as early as possible. We may be able to work out a sort of do-it-yourself trip (no one has volunteered to do advance scouting). We do have area field guides.

**FIELD TRIP PLANNING MEETING** August 1, 7:30 pm, home of Elizabeth Dickey, 113 Hillcrest Dr. Orinda. Anyone interested planning and/or leading trips is welcome. If you have suggestions, requests, special birds, etc, contact Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486.

**BOARD MEETINGS** Board meetings are open to all interested members. Thursday July 11, home of Gifford and Winnie Young, 1451 Janet Cr, Benicia, (707) 745-4134, 7:30 pm. Thursday, August 8, 7:30 pm, home of Elizabeth Dickey, 113 Hillcrest Dr, Orinda, 254-0486. This will be the annual budget meeting.

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

EAST CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, May 22

10 members and guests had beautiful 75-80 degree weather at Bethel Island, Marsh Creek Reservoir, and Morgan Territory Road. 67 species were seen, including two Green-backed Herons, two Wood Ducks high in a tree which also contained a Red-crowned Parrot, a Burrowing Owl, several Yellow-breasted Chats, a male Blue Grosbeak, and a male Lazuli Bunting. The hummingbird feeder on Dutch Slough Road that usually has a resident Black-chinned Hummingbird was dry and no Black-chinned Hummers were seen.

Maury Stern

MALLORY RANCH, May 25/8

Dr. and Mrs Mallory were most hospitable and even provided both pick-up truck and Mercedes sedan transportation! There were sixteen of us, not including our hosts, and we enjoyed very good birding in magnificent terrains. We saw fifty-two species including a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on its nest and a Red-tailed Hawk transporting a sizeable snake.

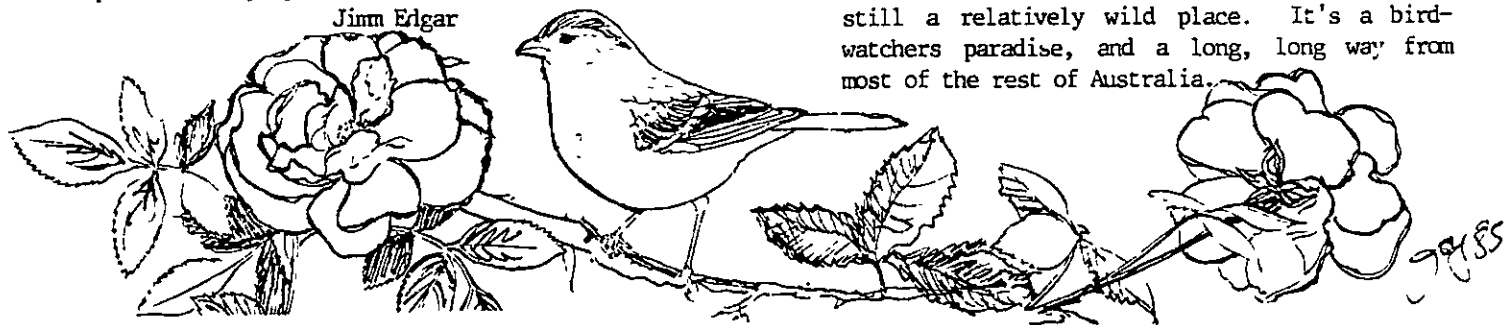
Smaller parties would undoubtedly see many more species as there are several different habitats on the ranch. The chapter is most fortunate in that the Mallorys made their beautiful acreage open to us.

Marge Plant

ANNADEL STATE PARK, May 29

We saw 56 species including great views of Yellow-breasted Chat, Warbling Vireo on the nest, Wood Duck, Red Shouldered Hawk chasing a Golden Eagle, and got within 6 feet of a Pileated Woodpecker, where I shot an entire roll of film. Jan Hilton, a visiting birder from Arizona, was instrumental in finding the Chat and Pileated for the group and another visitor, Doug Behr from Baltimore, having never birded in the west, had quite a day with his life list. Great day and great trip for the 9 people who went.

Jimm Edgar



## CONSERVATION NOTES

by Al McNabney

Al sends this report from Darwin, North Territory, Australia.

Magpie Geese, Masked Plovers, Straw Necked Ibis, Great and Little Egrets, Pied Heron, Darters, Peaceful Doves, Red-Tailed Black Cockatoos, Sulphur Crested Cockatoos, Little Corellas, Red Collared Tonikeets, Barn Owls, Tawny Frogmouth, Blue Winged Kookaburra, Rainbow Bee Eaters, Willie Wagtail, Brown Honeyeaters, Star Finches and Banded Honeyeaters. Not a bad bunch of sightings in about an hour. The old Fogg Dam, now providing birds sanctuary has literally hundreds of Magpie Geese resting, eating, and nesting. The rainy season is over in the North Territory so bird life will more and more be looking for water. Bird watchers and photographers can spot up to 150 or more species in a relatively short time.

While the area is by most standards sparsely settled, the marks of civilization are clearly evident. New roads, new buildings, trailer trains (consisting of a truck and up to 3 trailers) roar along the highways.

Fires are to be seen in many locales. The native aborigines burn the brush during the dry season as do farmers, cane growers and arsonists. The aborigines argue they have to burn the grass as one of their ancient customs. The farmers (now split on the issue) argue the fires improve their land. The arsonist is probably just having fun.

Regardless, the heavy burning of brush takes a heavy toll on bird and animal life. Decreases in numbers of some species of finch and parrots are thought by some to be due to the annual burning.

Graem Gow, an expert herpetologist is trying to do a bit for conservation. He has been a prime mover in developing educational programs into North Territory schools. The N.T. is still a relatively wild place. It's a bird-watchers paradise, and a long, long way from most of the rest of Australia.



### CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum is sponsoring a trip to the WHITE MOUNTAINS-ANCIENT BRISTLE-CONE PINES. Experience an exciting desert trip. A 5-day overnight adventure. \$115/members \$130/nonmembers; plus \$25 transportation fee. June 29-July 3, Junior High through adults and families.

National Audubon Society will show its third program this summer. Meet Florida's manatees, explore Idaho's spectacular wilderness and visit magnificent Peregring Falcons nesting on a Baltimore skyscraper. July 9 at 9:05 pm. Check cable listings for channel.

ALEXANDER LINDSAY JUNIOR MUSEUM ANNUAL PACK RAT SALE: August 3&4 at Del Valle School (next to Rossmoor, Walnut Creek). Saturday 9-4, Sunday 11-3. Call 935-5116 or 934-2785 if you have discards for the sale (all donations are tax deductible), furniture, clothes, toys, shoes, linens, collectibles, sports equipment, books, records, hardware and just plain stuff.

THE MONO LAKE COMMITTEE: On August 26, a dedicated group will begin a 6-day bicycle ride to return water to Mono Lake. The symbolic return of water to its natural destination is the focus of the 6th Annual Los Angeles to Mono Lake Bike-a-Thon. The Bike-a-Thon begins in downtown Los Angeles and covers 350 miles before ending at Mono Lake, which lies 15 miles east of Yosemite. Crowds celebrate the ride's culmination on Saturday of Labor Day weekend as the water carried from Los Angeles ceremoniously is poured into the lake.

Cycling in the heat of August, the volunteer riders attract attention to Mono Lake's plight and raise money to help save it. Last year 44 participants, from as far away as Florida, completed the journey, raising \$18,000. This year's goal is 75 cyclists. Interested persons should contact the Mono Lake Bike-a-Thon, 1355 Westwood Blvd, #6, Los Angeles, CA 90024; (213) 477-8229.

### SAN FRANCISCO BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE:

A Refuge Birding Tour, Sunday August 25, at 1:00 pm will go to various Refuge sites in search of the many species of birds that inhabit the area. Bring binocs, field guides & scope, if available. Reservations required! 792-0222.

ECUADOR, THE AMAZON RAINFOREST, AND THE GALAPAGOS will be featured on a birdwatching and natural history expedition led by Hala Araj, March 15-April 3, 1986. The highlight of the trip is a week in the Galapagos Islands aboard a chartered, private, luxury yacht. Space is limited to 15 participants. Contact Hala Araj at (415) 655-5283, for further information and to receive brochures.

### Condolences:

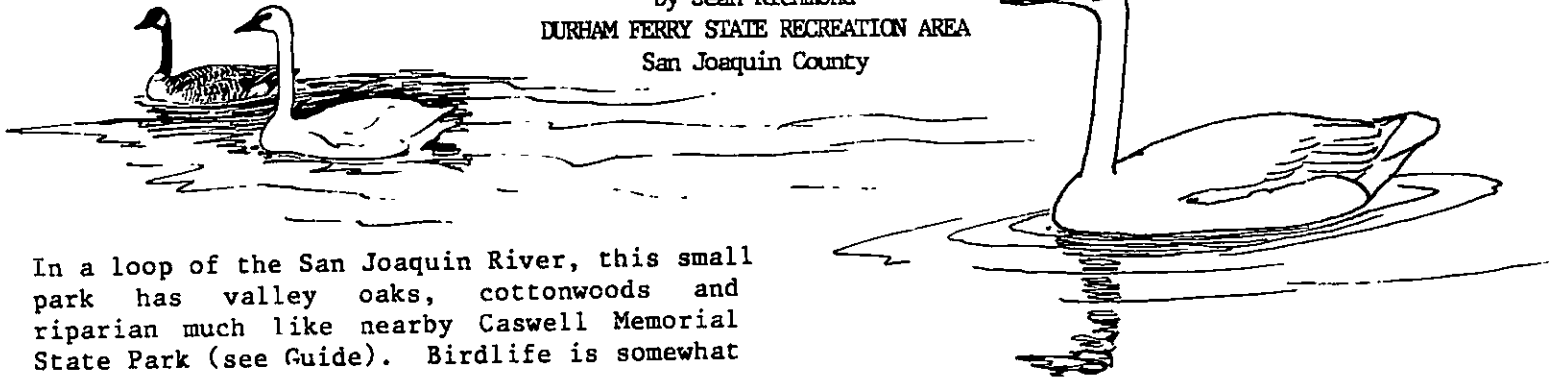
Mt Diablo Audubon members send their sincere sympathy to Ethel Beckeman, a recent board member, upon the recent death of her husband.

### MEMBERSHIP:

Beginning July 1, 1985, Mt Diablo Audubon will be promoting a new \$20.00 introductory membership in conjunction with National Audubon. The offer will last through the fall of this year. This would be a great opportunity for anyone who's been hesitant to join because of the cost or for buying gifts. All the necessary application forms are available from our Membership Chairperson, Linda Myers. She can be reached at 1624 Springbrook Rd, Lafayette, CA 94596, 932-3489. The regular membership fee is \$30.00/individual and \$38.00 for family.

We warmly greet these new MDAS members and hope to meet them at meetings and field trips. Ms. Louise Becker, Freda Berkheiser, Margaret Comack, Lorna Cruzan, Miss M. Dickinson, A.M. Eggleston, Daniel Finley, Lora Lemons, L.R. Montoya, Evan Morgan, Edna Pattison, H.K. Petersen, Margaret Ruehrdanz, Jacob Schank, Roy Snelson, Jas Tarantino, Donn Alvis, Terry Anderson, David Barnett, Gordon Christianson, Nancy Clark, Scott Defazio, Ms D. Eyzaguirre, Ed Fagundes, Duncan Fiddes, R Fitzsimons, Michael Fry, Ms K. Richard Haggard, C. Hamilton, R.D. Hama, Melinda Laituri, Karen Logsdon, Liberty High School Library, Barbara Maker, Jinx McCombs, John Miller, Cheryl Olson Celinda Sattler, Sam Smoker, William Solomon, C. Stern, Kris Tibbets, Dr Larry Tischer, Mr and Mrs John Walsh, Mr and Mrs H.A. Warner, Kristine Wenkheimer.

**BAY AREA SITE GUIDE**  
by Jean Richmond  
**DURHAM FERRY STATE RECREATION AREA**  
San Joaquin County



In a loop of the San Joaquin River, this small park has valley oaks, cottonwoods and riparian much like nearby Caswell Memorial State Park (see Guide). Birdlife is somewhat similar here also.

Go east on I-580, bear east 7 miles on SR-132, turn left on Greenwood Road, left again  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles on Kasson Road (J3), then right on Airport Way  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles and turn left into the park. A fee is collected at the self-register entry.

Park on the left just beyond the entry, walk up onto the levee and bird along this elevated vantage point. Drive on to the campground at road's end, park and ascend the stairs to the west. Walk the trails and levees from here, thoroughly checking the excellent riparian along the river. Here are such birds as Nuttall's and Downy Woodpeckers, House and Bewick's Wrens, vireos, warblers (mostly migrant) include Orange-crowned, Yellow, Black-throated Gray and Wilson's, Black-headed and Blue Grosbeaks (summer), Lazuli Bunting (summer), Song, Lincoln's (winter) and other sparrows, Northern Oriole (summer), Lesser and American Goldfinches. In summer, Swainson's Hawks may be perched atop tall trees or flying overhead.

From near the picnic area, a walk to the northeast area of the park may be productive. Swainson's Hawks perch in the tall trees along Red Bridge Slough.

From the park entrance walk west along Airport Way and check riparian to the north for birds as above. An Eastern Wood-Pewee was near the dirt track August-September 1983 but, unfortunately, this area is now fenced and posted and can no longer be entered.

Just east of the park road, opposite Division Road, look north along Red Bridge Slough and its adjacent riparian. A scope would be helpful here.

At the San Joaquin River Bridge on Airport Way the riparian is a reliable spot in which to find Blue Grosbeak in summer.

Full facilities in the State Recreation Area. Best birding: mid-April to early June, and September; mid-summer is hot.

To reach Caswell Memorial State Park, 7 miles away, from the park entrance go east  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles on Airport Way, turn right on Trahern Road, left on Manteca Road 1 mile, right on Melton Road and right again on Austin Road to Caswell Park. The fee paid at one State-operated park is valid at any other on that date.

Other birds: Great Blue and Green-backed Herons, Black-shouldered Kite, California Quail, Belted Kingfisher, Northern Flicker, Western Kingbird among summer flycatchers, Cliff and Barn among swallows, Yellow-billed Magpie, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-breasted Nuthatch, Ruby-crowned Kinglet (winter), Western Tanager (migrant), Rufous-sided and Brown Towhees.

(1) A few shorebirds on sloughs, (2) 7/11/83 - (544400)  
(2) 7/11/83, D. Dougherty's

**IMPROVE THE ENDANGERED SPECIES TAX CHECK-OFF**

For the past two years, many California taxpayers have made donations to DFG's endangered species program through the voluntary tax check-off on the state income tax form. However, it is estimated that these donations could double if they were deductible. Assemblyman Frank Vicencia (D-Bellflower) has introduced A.B. 47, to make these donations deductible. Unfortunately, the Governor's Department of Finance opposes this bill, and the Governor could veto it when it reaches his desk. Please send a letter to: Governor George Deukmejian, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814. Urge him to support and sign into law A.B. 47, Assemblyman Vicencia's bill. Tell the Governor that in most other states with check-offs the donations are deductible, and the amounts of donations are much larger.

## OBSERVATIONS

This month's observations include several reports from MDAS members who ventured away from the Bay Area in search of birds.

Winnie Orcutt spent two weeks in Arizona and reports seeing 141 species. The highlight of the trip was seeing a Striped-Backed or Flame-Colored Tanager at Cave Creek. Other species seen include Trogon, Rose-Throated Becard, Vermillion Flycatcher, Broad-Billed Hummingbird, Beardless Tyrannulet, Red-Faced Warbler, Buff-Breasted Flycatcher, Painted Redstart, Olive Warbler, Virginia's Warbler, Grace's Warbler, Zone-Tailed Hawk, Gray Hawk, Thick-Billed Kingbird, Cassin's Kingbird, Sulfer-Bellied Flycatcher, Hepatic Tanager, Dusky-Capped Flycatcher, Scaled Quail, and Brown-Crested Flycatcher,

Closer to home, Winnie reports that on 6/4 she and Bobbi Gillis spotted a male Northern Parula near headquarters at Point Reyes and the male White-Eyed Vireo near Muir Beach.

Kevin Hintsa, Ed Hase, Bill Chilson and Charlie Hines took a Memorial Day Weekend trip to Yosemite and Death Valley. Highlights of the trip included the Great Grey Owl in Yosemite, Dickcissel, Scissor-Tailed Flycatcher, Northern Parula, Tennessee Warbler, Black-and-White Warbler, American Redstart, Bay-Breasted Warbler at Oasis Ranch, Brown-Crested Flycatcher and Eastern Kingbird at Mesquite Springs.

Kevin also reported a number of observations at the Bishop Ranch Open Space, including Yellow-Breasted Chat (5/11-12), 3+ Grass-hopper Sparrows (5/12-19), Golden Eagle (5/12), Purple Finch (5/11-12), Olive-Sided Flycatcher (5/11-12), Chipping Sparrow (5/19), and Swainson's Thrush (5/19).

Changing focus from venture afield to the backyard, Molly Jane and Bill Monhiet took a survey of birds in their yard during the last week in May. They report having 28 species in residence including Hooded and Northern Orioles, Western Tanager, Western Flycatcher, Hairy Woodpecker and Black-Headed Grosbeak.

Jimm Edgar reported an Olive-Sided Flycatcher and a Swainson's Thrush in the Happy Valley area of Lafayette (6/7) and a Wilson's Phalarope along Hiway 37 at Mare Island (6/8).

Jean Richmond, Bill and Mary Jane Greene and Bud Fry reported on several local trips during May. At Briones Regional Park (5/7) they spotted an immature Golden Eagle, 3 Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers, Hermit Warbler, Black-Throated-Gray Warbler, and Nashville Warbler. In Mitchell Canyon (5/14) they noted a Yellow Warbler and several Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers. At Annadel State Park (5/21) a Wood Duck with three young, 2 Pileated Woodpeckers and a pair of Yellow-Breasted Chats were seen. At Point Reyes (5/28) they spotted a singing male Magnolia Warbler and a singing male Black-and-White Warbler at the Mendoza Ranch; at the Nunes Ranch Rose-Breasted Grosbeak, female Black-Throated-Green Warbler and a singing male Cape May Warbler were observed.

Finally, two interesting observations on the reality of nature. First when Jimm Edgar went to Annadel State Park to scout the area for the MDAS field trip he sent in the following report:

"I heard a solitary vireo singing and when I got near them saw a cowbird which flew near the nest, (the vireos) attacked (the cowbird) but she went to the nest and threw out 3 young birds (about a day old, I guess)."

Jean Richmond, while on her trip to Mitchell Canyon reported the following:

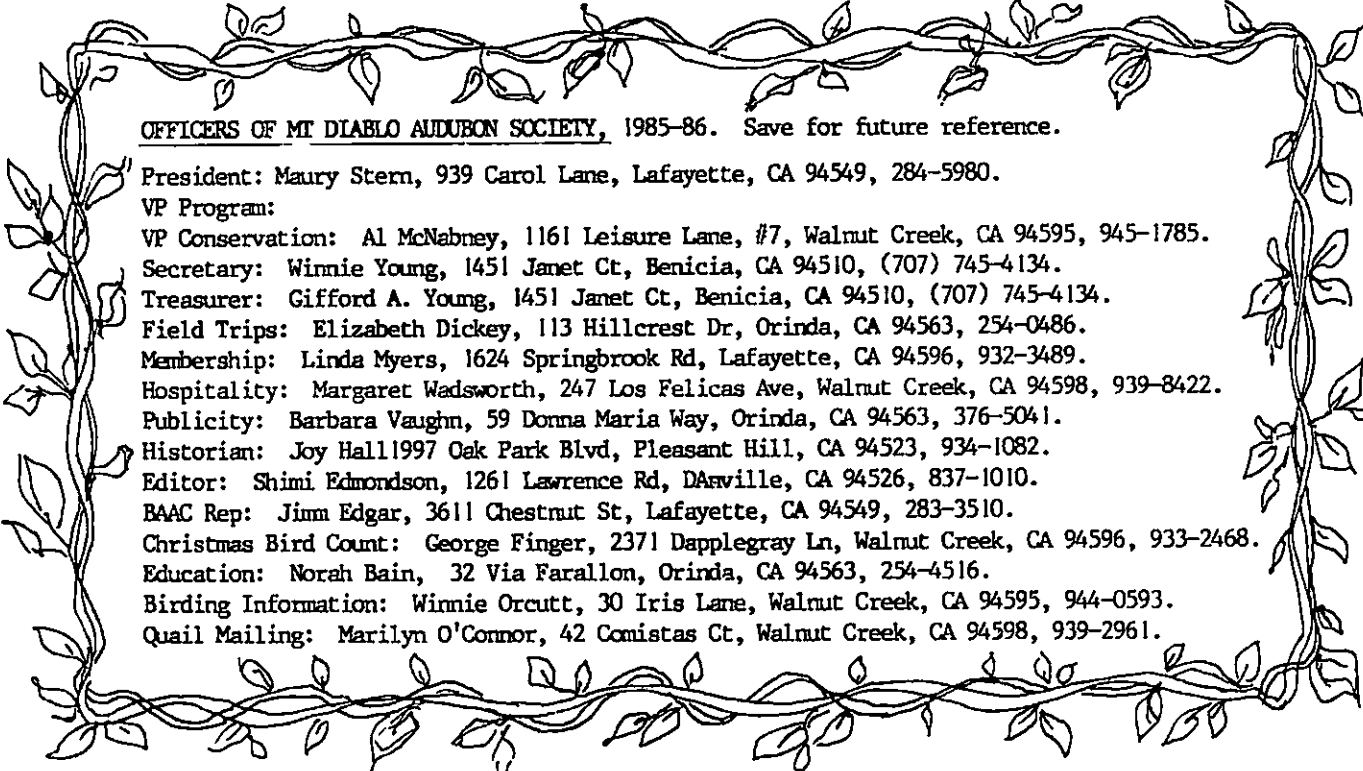
"For several minutes we watched a pair of very agitated Nuttall's Woodpeckers calling like crazy while flying around or hitching up, down and around the upper part of a dead snag...but we could find no predator around. After several minutes (observing a pair of Gnatcatchers), I heard something land in a leafy tree branch beside the snag and thought that a squirrel had jumped onto it, but when I looked through my binoculars I saw a gopher snake. I moved closer to look at the snake.. ..and there in its body was a big, long lump obviously containign the woodpecker babies. Checking the snag more closely I found the woodpecker hole...about four feet above the snake."

\* \* \* \*

Observations should be sent to:

Kirk and Lee Robinson  
19046 Mayberry Drive  
Castro Valley, CA 94546  
(415) 538-2655 (after 6pm)

Observations deadline for the September Quail is August 1.



OFFICERS OF MT DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY, 1985-86. Save for future reference.

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

VP Program:

VP Conservation: Al McNabney, 1161 Leisure Lane, #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: Linda Myers, 1624 Springbrook Rd, Lafayette, CA 94596, 932-3489.

Hospitality: Margaret Wadsworth, 247 Los Felicias Ave, Walnut Creek, CA 94598, 939-8422.

Publicity: Barbara Vaughn, 59 Donna Maria Way, Orinda, CA 94563, 376-5041.

Historian: Joy Hall 1997 Oak Park Blvd, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523, 934-1082.

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

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

Christmas Bird Count: George Finger, 2371 Dapplegray Ln, Walnut Creek, CA 94596, 933-2468.

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

Birding Information: Winnie Orcutt, 30 Iris Lane, Walnut Creek, CA 94595, 944-0593.

Quail Mailing: Marilyn O'Connor, 42 Comistas Ct, Walnut Creek, CA 94598, 939-2961.

#### Education: An Opportunity

Our chapter has the opportunity to donate the new "Audubon Adventures" program to classes in our local schools. Each class sponsored receives a set of Audubon Adventures Club kits consisting of a membership card and decal for each student, in addition to a monthly copy of Audubon Adventures newspaper, which is accompanied by a Leader's Guide.

The cost of one year's sponsorship of a whole class is \$20.00 to our chapter. If any members would like to participate in this program by donating twenty dollars, please contact Norah Bain, 254-4516. This is a well organized way to promote interest in nature among our youth. If there is a fourth, fifth, or sixth grade classroom you feel would like a sponsorship please let Norah know.

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, P O Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. Address Change: Send notice to NAS Membership Data Ctr, P O Box 2667, Boulder, CO 80321; a copy of your letter should be sent to Membership Chairperson, Linda Myers, 1624 Springbrook Rd, Lafayette, CA 94596 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: \$3/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: Maury Stern  
939 Carol Lane  
Lafayette, CA 94549  
284-5980

September 1985

Vol 32 No 2

next deadline:

**MEETING** Thurs Sept 5, Contra Costa Jewish Community Center, 2071 Tice Valley Blvd, Walnut Creek. Doors open 6:30 pm, Birding Information: 7:00 pm, David Wimpfheimer, the Northern California co-ordinator for the Mono Lake Committee, will give an update on the status of Mono Lake and its struggle for survival. Business Meeting: 7:30 pm Social Time: 8:00 pm Program: 8:30 pm. **CONTEMPORARY FALCONRY** by Kevin McRae. Mr McRae, a falconer, will discuss contemporary falconry from the positive side. He will have live raptors at the meeting. Hopefully he will dispell some common myths and misconceptions about falconry. Come and learn.

**BOARD MEETINGS** Board meetings are open to all interested members. Thursday, September 12, home of George Finger, 2371 Dapplegray Ln, Walnut Creek, CA 933-2468.

**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  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour. Carpool expense: 5¢ 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  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour before departure time.

\* Sat, Sept 7, San Mateo Coast, Carpool: 6:30 am at El Cerro Blvd on west side of I-680. Meet at Pescadero Beach, 8:15. Cross San Mateo Bridge, continue on SR92 to Half Moon Bay. Turn left onto SR1, 15 miles to Pescadero Rd. Turn right into parking lot. Sea, shore and marsh birds; Baird's and Pectoral Sandpipers possible. Weather unpredictable; be prepared. If weather is hot, carry water.  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -2 miles walking, partly over sand dunes. Leader: Maury Stern, 284-5980.

\* Wed, Sept 11, Alameda South Shore, Carpool: 8:15 am, Acalanes Ave, off Pleasant Hill Rd, north of Fwy24. Meet at Broadway and Shoreline Ave in Alameda at 9:00 am. Take Fwy 24 to SR17, go south to High St Bridge, follow High St in Alameda go left on Otis and right on Broadway to bay. Shore birds, terns, sometimes rails. Easy walking, often windy. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486.

\* Thurs Sept 19, Tilden, meet at parking lot by Nature Center 7:30 am. From San Pablo Dam Rd, take Inspiration Pt Rd, turn left at Botanical Gardens and continue through park to Nature Center. Good trip for beginning birders. Possible vagrant warblers. Tilden can be foggy. 2-3 miles walking on good trails. Leader: Winnie Orcutt, 944-0593.

\* Sat Sept 21, Outer Point Reyes, Carpool: 6:30 am, Acalanes Ave, off Pleasant Hill Rd just north of Fwy 24. Meet at Drake's Beach 8:30 am. 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 SR1, turn right  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile, left onto Bear Valley Rd about 3 miles and onto Sir Francis Drake again. Continue about 14 miles to Drake's Beach Rd on left. This is vagrant season and we might find anything! Weather is unpredictable so be prepared. Much birding is done near cars; about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile easy walking to lighthouse,  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile of rough trail to the New Willows. Leader: Jimm Edgar, 283-3510.

\* Sat-Sun, Sept 28-29, Monterey weekend. Meet Sat 8:30 on Jetty Rd, Moss Landing. Take I-680 to San Jose, south on US-101 to Prunedale, west on SR-156 to SR-1. Turn right about 4 miles to Jetty Rd on left. Allow at least 2 hours driving time. We will begin with shore

birds; later plans will depend on what birds are reported in the area. We are not having a pelagic trip this year, but for those interested, Shearwater Journeys has three trips that weekend. A Storm-petrel study tour and a twilight Storm-petrel journey on the 28th and a Monterey Bay trip on the 29th. Contact Debra Love Shearwater, PO Box 7440, Santa Cruz, 95061, (408) 688-1990. Leader: Jean Richmond, 837-2843.

### FIELD TRIP REPORTS

#### POINT REYES June 8

The Point Reyes trip had 12 members and 72 species. It was a very bad day for vagrants and migrants. The highlight was an excellent look at a Black-legged Kittiwake. A Grasshopper Sparrow was heard, too. An Osprey was over Fishdocks. We stopped at Johnson's Oyster Farm so all could buy oysters, and all had a pleasant day.

Jimm Edgar

#### YUBA PASS June 22-23

The trip was held with clear and warm temperatures; 73 species were seen and/or heard. Some "out of place" birds were: a Lazuli Bunting in the meadow at Yuba Pass, and a Chestnut-backed Chickadee feeding young at Herrington's Motel in Sierra City. Nesting birds seen were White-headed Woodpecker, Williamson's Sapsucker, male and female feeding young, Gray Flycatcher building nest, Wilson's Phalarope, Dipper, and probable Black-backed Woodpecker at nest.

Elizabeth Dickey

#### GLEN ELLEN June 12

Thirty-nine species were seen by seven birders on a sunny and warm day. Many of the birds were seen within the first hour as we birded along the stream in the center of town. Yellow Warblers were present and singing but Yellow-breasted Chats were not seen or heard.

Winnifred Orcutt

#### BRIONES REGIONAL PARK June 27

Ten early risers found Briones to be alive with singing birds on a pleasantly cool morning. Forty-seven species were seen, many of which included fledged young. The abundance of Lazuli Buntings was exciting. Of special interest was a Yellow Rumped Warbler and a Ruby Crowned Kinglet, neither of which is usually seen in our area so late in the year.

Winnifred Orcutt

#### SEQUOIA July 13-14

Eight members and 2 leaders ventured out on this hot/warm weekend and tallied 81 species. 2 immature goshawks were near their nest, a Purple Finch was observed in its courting display, and a few hardy young souls went owling and found a Long-eared Owl. A Purple Martin, and a Lawrence's Goldfinch were also sighted.

Keith Hansen

#### SAN MATEO COASTLINE AND ANO NUEVO July 27

Nine birders braved the fog and the early morning chill along the coast near Pescadero and the lighthouse at Pigeon Point. A flock of 30 Surf-birds was of special interest here as well as a Marbled Murrelet and Common Murre. The skies cleared later as we hiked the preserve at Ano Nuevo where we saw many more shorebirds as well as a large number of Elephant Seals along the point. Black-bellied Plovers, Sanderlings, Western Sandpipers and Ruddy Turnstones still retained much of their bright breeding plumages. Black Swifts and Bank Swallows were among the 80 species seen.

Winnifred Orcutt

#### PICNIC July 19

30 members attended the picnic and afterward enjoyed a twilight walk. A striped skunk and a Western Screech Owl were seen.

Elizabeth Dickey

### CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

#### THE MONO LAKE COMMITTEE

Mono Lake and Yosemite Bus Trips. The Mono Lake Committee is once again sponsoring combined Mono Lake/Yosemite National Park bus trips. All proceeds from the trips will benefit efforts to protect Mono Lake. The 3-day trips leaving from San Francisco will be Sept 6-8, Sept 20-22, and Oct 4-6. Cost of the trip includes transportation, 2 nights lodging at the Yosemite Lodge, and a guided tour and catered lunch at Mono Lake. Fee is \$185.00/person double occupancy. Trips participants will have lots of time for hiking, birding and relaxing. For info call David Wimpfheimer at MLC (415) 956-7532.

#### BIRDING FIELD TRIP CLASSES

Norah Bain will again conduct a class for beginning and intermediate birders through the Orinda Community Center. Tuesdays 9-12, beginning Sept 17. The session will consist of one classroom meeting and six field trips to Bay Area

locations. Registration will be on Sept 12, at O.C. Center; Orindans 9 am-4 pm, nonresidents, 12-4 pm. \$31.00 residents, \$33.00 nonresidents. More information: O.C.C. 254-2445 or Norah 254-4516.

Alice Hoch will lead field trips for both beginning and experienced birds offered by the Fremont Adult School. Different locations will be visited throughout the Bay Area. The 6-week class meets Tuesdays 9-12:30 starting Sept 10. Registration will be at 9:30 am, Sept 10 in the Conference Room, Fremont Adult School, 4700 Calaveras Ave, Fremont. Bring binocs, field guides, be prepared to birdwatch that morning. For more info: Fremont Adult School: 791-5841, or Alice: 657-0475.

On Sept 28, Fremont Adult School will offer a trip to Pt Reyes National Seashore to observe waterbirds, led by Alice Hoch. Class limited to 15, MUST preregister. Call Alice or Fremont Adult School (see above).

#### JOHN MUIR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

The 4th season of the Martinez Area Natural History Walk Series will begin in October. The series includes beginning birders walks through the orchards at John Muir National Historic Site every third Saturday of each month and bird and Wildflower walks at Briones Regional Park, Mountain View Wastewater Treatment Plant and Martinez Shoreline Regional Park on the first Saturday of each month. The series runs through May. Further info: John Davis, 228-9516.

#### **NEW MEMBERS**

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

Mrs C W Alexander, DLM Carlson, Britta Cascio, Jerry Connors, E B Howell, Mrs H L Johnson Jr, M L O'Shea, Imelda C Owens, H Rasmussen, Mrs P R Andrews, Paul Ditzler, Dr B D Babcock, Dr Rita F Buffett, Robert M Case, Jean-Elven Cometta, Mr Thomas Finger, James N Head, Dr M Robert Hill, J Iler, Mr Bruce Muirhead, Kathryn Maus, Susan Scholz, Winifred Thorp, Mrs Thomas N Bowdle, Joyce E Ferrante, C Gulley, Mr/Mrs F B J Huff, Gary Olsen, Mrs Angelika W Simonson, Steven R Whitsett, Ms Gladys V Wright.

The Mt Diablo sponsored \$20.00 introductory membership is still being offered through the fall of this year. This would be a great opportunity for anyone who's been hesitant to join because

of the cost or for those Christmas gifts that will soon be upon us. All the necessary application forms are available from our Membership Chairperson, Linda Myers. She can be reached at 1624 Springbrook Rd, Lafayette, CA 94596, 932-3489. The regular membership fee is \$30.00/individual and \$38.00 for family.



#### **CONSERVATION NOTES**

by Al McNabney

#### **DUKE'S BLUE PENCIL DOES IN A PROJECT**

California's huge redwood trees are national treasures. Unfortunately for the trees, people and birds that use the trees, the lumber produced from a redwood is valuable and sought after. Georgia-Pacific owns an important stand of these beautiful trees adjacent to the Siskiyou National Forest. Individuals interested in preserving "some" of the trees for future generations have worked for many years with the company, legislators, conservation groups to have this stand of trees included in the Forest. This year, the work finally paid off. Georgia-Pacific became a willing seller; both Houses of the California Legislature approved a measure setting aside funds with which to purchase the land. All that work and the accompanying hopes and dreams went in the "HUGE" California State Budget. The Governor vetoed the funding for purchase of the area. It's probably too soon to know if ALL is lost or if this is only one more (temporary) setback on a final road to success.

#### **KESTERSON-MORE AND MORE AND MORE**

Studies, reports, letters, meetings. The Westlands Water District is developing alternatives to irrigation practices that brought about closure of Kesterson Wildlife Refuge, threatened drinking water supplies from San Francisco Bay to Los Angeles. Under consideration is a plan to construct storage basins at strategic locations in the area. The "proposed" 400 acre system of basins is designed to store about 1,650 acrefeet of drainage flow between October 1985 and March, 1986. Basins are to be so arranged that water depths will be between 2 and 6 feet. Bird life would be discouraged from using the storage basins by utilization of grasses etc, not conducive to birds; by hazing and by use of manned, inflatable boats which would, from time to time be used to permit wardens to drive birds from the ponds.

### WHEN IS A CREEK NOT A CREEK? OR IS THERE A PIPE DREAM IN YOUR FUTURE?

The Director of Community Development, Contra Costa County, has caused the production of a Draft EIR report with the idea of channelizing, piping, etc, considerable parts of Grayson-Murderers Creeks. Supervisor Sumne McPeak, working with Dia McCulloch, Pres of FOCUS (Friends of Creeks in Urban Settings) caused a public meeting to be held so people could comment on the proposed plans. The crowd was large, support for the plan appeared to be very limited, and even Supervisor McPeak indicated a lack of enthusiasm for the plans. The estimated \$18 million project is said to be needed because of changes in water run-off as a result of anticipated future development. Questions of "Why should I have to pay? How much of my land will be taken?" ruled the meeting. A next step may be hearings by the Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors. In any event, the loss of habitat will be substantial if the suggested plans are implemented.

### BAAC ADOPTS BAYLANDS PROTECTION RESOLUTION

After months of work, a Wetlands Policy Statement has been adopted by BAAC (Bay Area Audubon Chapters) members. Dealing with quantity, diversity, restoration and mitigation, the statement goes farther and deals with the salt ponds, calls for creation of buffer zones, insists on public access (to be governed by the sensitivity of the wetlands involved). A strong statement is made regarding water quality and the final portion deals with ENFORCEMENT of existing laws, rules and by appropriate governmental entities. Because of the interest in Shell Marsh, which is a Bay Area Wetland, copy of the Policy Statement has been provided to the City Council of Martinez, and the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors.

### AUDUBON ACTION ALERT

The California Condor, the nation's most critically endangered species, faces a new threat from the Reagan Administration. Secretary of the Interior, Donald P. Hodel, has just decided to take no action to approve the Fish and Wildlife Service's pending acquisition of the 14,000-acre Hudson Ranch in the lower San Joaquin Valley, the primary feeding area for the 6-8 condors remaining in the wild. In 1984 and 1985, Congress appropriated a total of \$9 million, which is now available, for purchase of the ranch. FWS' negotiations with the owner stalled over the sale price, but the owner agreed to have the Service proceed with a Declaration of Taking, whereby the FWS takes immediate possession of the property while the sale price is adjudicated. Secretary Hodel announced he would not decide whether to approve the Declaration until after Labor Day. The Administration already has dragged its feet to delay acquisition for 8 months. This most recent non-decision clearly imperils the few condors remaining in the wild.

Nonaction consequences: 1. this practically condemns the few remaining condors to extinction. Hudson Ranch is the only central feeding area where condors can consistently be provided with clean food and where hunting can be eliminated. 2. Failure to acquire the ranch may cause the landowner to terminate cooperation with researchers who bait and feed condors and ultimately cause the remaining birds to disperse to more hazardous feeding areas. 3. Without possession of Hudson Ranch, FWS has no place to effectively release young condors back to the wild. 4. Landowners and conservationists may get the message that FWS has weakened its resolve to recover the condor. This could result in other landowners throughout the condor range initiating development programs that would further degrade condor habitat.

**WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:** Write Secretary Hodel urging immediate acquisition. (The Honorable Donald P. Hodel, Secretary, Dept of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.) 2. Write Senators Alan Cranston and Pete Wilson, asking their support, and urge them to appeal to Secty Hodel. (The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_, United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510. 3. Write your local congressman, and urge their support for acquisition of Hudson Ranch. (The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_, US House of Representatives, Washington D.C. 20515. For more info: Dan Taylor Western Regional Office (NAS) (916) 481-5332.





## OBSERVATIONS

843-2211, the Rare Bird Alert. It tells you where all the interesting birds, potential life birds even, can be found, right? So how often have you chased that life bird, or maybe it was just a state bird, to find that it just wasn't where the RBA said it was.

We have found that anytime the RBA says an interesting bird was spotted at the Merced National Wildlife Refuge we will never find it if we look for it. It doesn't matter that the bird was spotted again the day we visited or even decided to spend the winter. We just can't find a bird at Merced that is listed on the tape. For us it is the proverbial wild goose chase. Or Fulvous Whistling Duck chase. Or Ruff chase. Or Spotted Owl chase.

We were first introduced to bird hot lines when we lived in Washington DC. Our first experience was great, we called the hot line, got directions to find a Blue-Winged Warbler and it took less than 15 minutes to locate not one, but several nesting pairs.

Then our luck turned sour. A Dickcissel was spotted and reported to the tape. We went looking for it early one Saturday morning. But what did we find, other birders who had just as bad luck as we did or had already scared the Dickcissel from the perch it had occupied for two weeks. Our only consolation was a field full of Grasshopper Sparrows.

Our bad luck has continued to plague us since moving to the Bay Area. Not including our Merced misadventures, we have been to Point Reyes in search of vagrant warblers, Sunol Regional Park in search of Dippers and the San Mateo coast in search of Sandpipers. All to no avail.

That is not to say we haven't had any success. A Hooded Warbler at Fort Mason, Roadrunners on Mines Road, Calliope Hummingbirds in Tilden and Barrow's Goldeneye at Lake Merritt are a few of the local rarities that we have seen with help from RBA.

And then there is calling a hot line in the place where you are vacationing. A call to the Seattle hot line produced a Scrub Jay; and to think we thought we had gotten away from the one in our backyard.

We will continue to call the RBA and we will continue to chase the leads for those once in a lifetime opportunities to see birds that normally wouldn't be found in Northern California. Besides we can't think of a better way to spend a Saturday, a weekend or a whole week, can you?

\* \* \* \* \*

As you might tell from the lengthy ramblings above, not too many observations were reported to us this month (two months, actually). Guess most everybody was doing what we were doing, which was not much birding.

We did get away to the State of Washington to visit family and got in a couple of day trips, the highlight being a family of blue grouse crossing the road in front of us. A mother and at least 5 quail size young sort of meandered across the road as we coasted to a stop, the mother keeping a very close eye on us the entire time.

Winnie Orcutt reported that she and Marge Plant saw a Hooded Warbler at Tomales Bay State Park on June 18. On the same day they saw a pair of Tufted Puffins at the Point Reyes Lighthouse.

Winnie also reported seeing the Great Grey Owl at Crane Flat in Yosemite National Park. On a three day trip starting July 22, Winnie, Marge Plant, Mary Jane Culver and Marilyn O'Conner saw the Owl(s?) both in the meadow behind the gas station and in the meadow next to C Loop in the Crane Flat Campground.

Hugh and Norah Bain spent part of the summer in the British Isles, logging 108 species. On the Faroe Islands they saw a number of nesting birds, including Arctic Terns, Eider Ducks, Shags (Cormorants), Guillemots (Murre to us), Razorbills, Kittiwakes and Puffins. Other sightings on the trip included Avocets, Osprey, Gannets, Marsh Harrier, Bearded Tits, Spoonbill, Peregrine Falcon, Little Owl, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Green Woodpecker and Little Terns

\* \* \* \* \*

Observations should be sent to:

Kirk and Lee Robinson  
19046 Mayberry Drive  
Castro Valley, CA 94546  
(415) 538-2655 (after 6pm)

Observations deadline is the monthly meeting.

FIELD TRIPS SCHEDULE: September, 1985-August 1986. Changes may occasionally be made. We have a great schedule, thanks to Elizabeth Dickey and her planning committee and to members who will be leaders, thanks!

* Sat-Sun, Sept 28-29, <u>Monterey weekend</u> . Meet Sat 8:30 am on Jetty Rd, Moss Landing. Take I-680 to San Jose, south on US 101 to Prunedale; west on SR 156 to SR 1. Turn right about 4 miles to Jetty Rd on left. Allow at least 2 hours driving time. We will begin with shore	Feb 1-2 Sat/Sun Los Banos/Panoche Pass
	5 Wed Lafayette Reservoir
	15 Sat Thornton
	20 Thu Clifton Court
	Mar 5 Wed Hayward Reg. Shoreline
	8 Sat Bodega Bay
	20 Thu Bolinas/5-Brooks
	22 Sat Upper San Leandro Res.
Sept 7 Sat San Mateo coast	Apr 3 Thu Lagunitas
11 Wed Alameda South Shore	9 Wed Briones east/wildflowers
19 Thur Tilden	12 Sat Black Diamond Mines
21 Sat Outer Point Reyes	17 Thu Lake Merced
28-29 Sat-Sun Monterey	19 Sat Donner Canyon
Oct 2 Wed Lincoln Park	23 Wed PRBO, Bolinas
10 Thur Hawk Mountain	May 1 Thu Briones, west
19 Sat Abbott's Lagoon	3 Sat Mines Rd
23 Wed S.F. Bay Refuge/Coyote Hills	7 Wed Mt Diablo
Nov 2 Sat Limantour	17 Sat Mitchell Cyn/Wildflowers
7 Thur Mt View Sanitary Dist	21 Wed Caswell Park/Durham Ferry
16 Sat Candlestick State Park	29 Thu Tilden
20 Wed Altamont Pass	Jun 5 Thu Las Trampas
Dec 5 Thu Lake Merritt	7 Sat Outer Pt Reyes
11/12 Wed/Thu Palo Alto Baylands	11 Wed Annadell State Park
14/15 Sat Niles Canyon	21-22 Sat/Sun Yuba Pass
21 Sat Christmas Count	26 Thu Briones
Jan 4 Sat Sunol	Jul 12-13 Yosemite
8 Wed Berkeley Shoreline	18 Fri Picnic
18 Sat Putah Creek	Aug 2 Sat San Mateo coast
22 Wed Golden Gate Park	16 Sat Bodega Bay
30 Thu Grizzly Island	21 Thu Black Point/Cader Lane ponds

The Quail, Published monthly except July/August issue, is sent to National Audubon Society members in Mt. Diablo Chapter. To join NAS: \$30.00/year, family \$38, other levels available; check payable to National Audubon Society, to Membership Chairman, MDAS, P O Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. Address Change: Send notice to NAS Membership Data Ctr, P O Box 2667, Boulder, CO 80321; a copy of your letter should be sent to Membership Chairperson, Linda Myers, 1624 Springbrook Rd, Lafayette, CA 94596 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: \$3./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: Maury Stern  
939 Carol Lane  
Lafayette, CA 94549  
284-5980

October 1985

Vol 32 No 3

next deadline: October 3

Thurs Oct 3, Contra Costa Jewish  
**MEETING** Community Center, 2071 Tice Valley  
Blvd, Walnut Creek. Doors open 6:30  
pm, Birding Information: 7:00 pm, "Words For  
Birds" by Jimm Edgar. Jimm will tell us the  
meanings and origins of our local and common  
birds as well as the scientific names of birds.

Business Meeting: 7:30 pm, Social Time: 8:00  
pm. Program: 8:30 pm; **WILDLIFE OF KENYA**, Hugh  
and Norah Bain will give a slide presentation  
of their three-week trip in Kenya with Dr Noble  
Proctor, emphasizing the mammals and birds of  
the varied habitats including white rhinocerus,  
Lammergeyer Vulture, and Paradise Flycatcher.

**BOARD** Board meetings are open to all interested  
**MEETINGS** members. Thursday, October 10, home  
of Maury Stern, 939 Carol Lane, Laf-  
ayette, 284-5980. Meetings are at 7:30 pm.

Trips are open to members and non-members  
**FIELD** alike. Carpool time is departure time.  
**TRIPS** We will bird at the meeting spot for  
at least ½ hour. Carpool expense: 5¢  
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 ½ hour before departure time.

\* Wed, Oct 2, **LINCOLN PARK**, carpool 8:00 am,  
Acalanes Rd, just off Pleasant Hill Rd, north  
of Fwy 24. Meet 9:00 am on El Camino Del Mar,  
just beyond the Legion of Honor. From Kennedy  
Dr, in Golden Gate Park, go north on 30th Ave  
to Clement St left to 34th Ave and right on Legion  
of Honor Dr. Fall migrants, vagrant warblers.  
First part of trail is steep and rough. Call  
Elizabeth Dickey, for information and leader,  
254-0486.

\* Thurs, Oct 10, **POINT DIABLO** (Hawk Mountain)  
and **RODEO LAGOON**, carpool: 8:00 am Acalanes  
Ave off Pleasant Hill Rd, just north of Fwy 24.  
Meet 9:00 am at first parking lot beyond the  
lighted tunnel. From Golden Gate Bridge, take  
Alexander exit, follow signs for Ft Cronkite  
in Golden Gate NRA. If weather is clear we may  
see migrating hawks and swifts, waterfowl and  
shorebirds in the lagoon. Weather may be hot  
or 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-after-  
noon.

Leader: Jimm Edgar, 283-3510

\* Sat Oct 19, **ABBOTT'S LAGOON**, carpool 7:00  
am Acalanes Ave off Pleasant Hill Rd just north  
of Fwy 24. Meet 8:30, Bear Valley Visitor's  
Center Point Reyes. Cross San Rafael Bridge,  
from US 101 take San Rafael exit, go 2 blocks,  
turn left onto 3rd St. In San Anselmo, go right  
onto Sir Francis Drake Blvd. At SR-1 turn right  
¼ mile, left onto Bear Valley Rd and left into  
Visitor's Center. We should see waterfowl and  
shorebirds, possibly hawks and eagles. Weather  
hot, cold, windy, whatever..? Come prepared,  
carry water. 3 mile walk on level trail to lagoon  
and back.

Leader: Maury Stern, 284-5980.

\* Wed, Oct 23, **SAN FRANCISCO BAY REFUGE**  
and **COYOTE HILLS** carpool 8:00 am El Cerro  
Blvd, just west of I-680. Meet 9:00 am at Refuge  
Headquarters. I-680 to I-580 west, take Washington  
Ave exit from center lane turn left onto Washington  
and right onto ramp to SR-17. Take SR-84 exit  
toward Dunbarton Bridge, at Thornton Ave exit  
turn left on Thornton and right into the refuge,  
follow signs to headquarters. Weather unpredict-  
able. Walking is mostly level, 1-2 miles. Water-  
fowl and shorebirds are abundant at both sites,  
rails are possible at Coyote Hills.  
Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486

\* Thurs Oct 17 and 31. Most Casual Observers, Vagrant Vagabonds, Rarity Chasers, whatever... We are trying something new this year—informal, "leaderless" trips. Meet at Acalanes Ave at 8:00 am. If there is something good on the Rare Bird Alert, we will go looking. Otherwise, we will try areas not covered on regular trips, or covered at other seasons. An opportunity to explore new areas or search for particular birds. Call Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486 for more information.

#### MDAS HOSTS BAAC MEETING

Mt Diablo Audubon is hosting the Bay Area Audubon Council meeting on Saturday Oct 5, from 9:30-3:30. The meeting will be held in the Mt Diablo Room of San Francisco Federal Savings, 1660 Olympic Blvd, Walnut Creek.

We hope to have George Miller or his representative talking about his new bill to protect the San Francisco Bay and San Joaquin Delta water quality. Also on the agenda is a representative from the Greenbelt Congress—a subgroup of People For Open Space, and Jerry Meral, President of the Planning and Conservation League. We will discuss current and upcoming legislation pertaining to conservation. Phil Gordon will give a brief overview of the birds of Mt Diablo.

The Bay Area Audubon Council is made up of the presidents, conservation vice-presidents and editors and representatives from each of the 8 Bay Area Audubon Chapters. Members of MDAS are welcome to attend. Please call Maury Stern to let him know you're planning to attend.

#### FIELD TRIP REPORTS

##### BODEGA BAY August 10

The trip was held on an overcast day warming in the afternoon. A total of 55 species was tallied by 13 members and guests. Some of the birds seen were Common and Arctic Loon, Osprey, and Virginia Rail.

Helen and Jerry Gentile

##### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA/CONDORS August 17 & 18

Three members birded Mt Pinos and the Los Padres Condor lookout on a mild, breezy day. About 40 species were seen, including Hermit on Mt Pinos. After a four-hour wait, we were rewarded by a magnificent display by a stunningly plumaged CALIFORNIA CONDOR. No LeConte's Thrasher was found on the valley floor.

Fred Safier

#### NEW MEMBERS

We warmly greet these new MDAS members and hope to meet them in person at meetings and trips. Sharyn Fernandez, S J Fowler, Shari Peterson, Fritz Winje, Manuel Alcantara, Mrs L Esparza, Darryl Johnson, Miss V L Lafayette, Sandra Macke, Philip Spalding.

#### CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY needs volunteers for various field projects including: Eucalyptus Control at Jepson Prairie, Delta Green Ground Beetle Survey, Rare Plant Mapping at Jepson Prairie, Exotic Vegetation Elimination at Lanphere-Christensen Dunes, Summarizing Vegetation Sampling Results at Jepson Prairie, Vina Plains, Pixley, and other preserves, National Plant and Animal Data Synthesis Project. Please contact Graciella Rossi, California Field Office, 785 Market, San Francisco, CA 94103 if you are interested.

ALEXANDER LINDSAY JUNIOR MUSEUM is now accepting applications for adults who wish to train to become docents. Trainees are expected to attend a 2 hour orientation on September 23, and training sessions Mondays from 10-12 until May.

ALJM is offering a CANOE THE SACRAMENTO RIVER trip October 19-20. A leisurely paddle down one of the remaining stretches of riparian habitat. For information call the museum at 935-1978.

Santa Clara Audubon is sponsoring a BAYLANDS PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION. Entries are being accepted until October 4. Subject matter is restricted to the land, marshes, sloughs, waterways, and shallows of and surrounding San Francisco Bay south of the San Mateo Bridge. Photographs depicting wildlife, plants and natural features of these areas as well as photographs depicting the relationship of people to these areas are sought. Black and white prints and color prints are the only media accepted; no slides. The Competition is open to everyone; prizes will be awarded. Contact SCVAS at (415) 329-1811.

CORDELL BANKS AND BEYOND Spaces are now available on two trips, Sunday October 6 and Sunday November 3, to and beyond the Cordell Banks, off of Marin County. Many unusual species of seabirds and a large variety of whales and dolphins have been seen in the area; it is currently under review for National Marine Sanctuary status. Most of

the time will be spent exploring the Banks area and the adjacent continental shelf edge, as far as the 2000 fathom line. The trip is out of Bodega Harbor, spaces are \$33/person, with special rates available for groups of eight or more. Information: (707) 795-8492.

Tulare County Audubon Society is a sponsor the the CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION'S statewide CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS CONFERENCE to be held at the Visalia Convention Center, Visalia, on October 25-27. There will be speeches by nationally known environmental leaders, major photographic displays, commercial and organization booths, multi-media presentations, entertainment, in depth and short workshops, student art, and thousands of dollars of raffle and drawing prizes. Senator Alan Cranston, David Brower, and Brock Evans are a few of the confirmed participants in the Conference. An Ansel Adams photographic exhibit will open at the Conference. Details: California Wilderness Coalition, P.O. Box 269, Porterville, CA 93258, (209) 784-4477-Bob Barnes.

#### ACTION AUDUBON ALERT

For years, the US Forest Service has built thousands of miles of new roads, many of them into previously undisturbed wild places, the benefit of the logging industry. About half these roads are paid for directly with tax dollars. Much of the expenditure is never returned to the US Treasury.

These roads are doing greater and greater damage to wildlife habitat. Built often in steep and fragile areas, they create erosion, pollute fishing streams, and destroy the forests which are the home of deer, elk, bear, spotted owl, and other rare and endangered species.

Conservationists all over the country are working to get many of the remaining wildlands in these forests—the most important wildlife habitat—permanently protected. Congress is investigating the fact that more and more federal timber sales, which are the ultimate purpose of the road building, return less money than they cost. Roads also disqualify otherwise eligible areas for future wilderness designation.

The House of Representatives has take action to halt the road building by voting to delete nearly \$50,000,000 from the Forest Service's road building program. This is almost all of the money that the agency planned to use for actual construction (the rest was for engineering and design).

#### AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

A reminder for everyone to reserve December 21, for the Mt Diablo Audubon Christmas Bird Count! This date was selected because it had the best weekend low tides in the count period. We hope to get a higher count of shorebird species this year to reach our goal of 150 total species. On a national basis, this will be Audubon's 85th CBC. Mt Diablo started taking counts in 1951. Counts in the late 60' and early 70's were in the 100-120 species range; in the late 70's, 120-130. In the 80's, we broke the 140 species barrier; the high count of 148 was reached in 1984. So, our goal of 150 appears reachable. But, we will need your help as leaders and participants. Be a record breaker—come out on Saturday, December 21!

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO

Both Senators from California are on the Senate Appropriations Committee and are keys to this issue. Please write them today. Express your concerns about the imbalance of road building versus protection of forest wildlife and roadless land. Explain your concern for the shrinking remnant of wildlands and wildlife habitat. Urge that roading and timber cutting be focused on more cost effective land. Urge your Senator to encourage serious Congressional investigation of these important issues. Most important, ask your Senator to vote to eliminate the Forest Service's road construction budget for fiscal year 1986. Tell him that the House of Representatives has already acted to eliminate \$50,000,000 from road construction. Tell him that you support this, and that you want him to support it as well—it is a necessary first step. Point out that in a budget cutting year, it is especially important to insist that tax dollars be put to good use, not subsidizing destructive and unnecessary development. The roads that would have been built with these eliminated funds are not needed to sustain the logging industry. Let your Senator know that logging companies already hold contracts to log 40 billion board feet of surplus federal timber. That is enough to meet the national forest sale quotas for four years—without any new construction of major roads! Remind him that Congress recently had to bail out many lumber companies by stretching out or forgiving contracts for Forest Service timber because of lower demand and prices prevailing than lumber companies anticipated.

Write The Honorable Alan Cranston and Pete Wilson, United States Senate, Washington D.C. 20510.

## CONSERVATION NOTES

by Al McNabney

### IS THERE A WINDMILL IN YOUR FUTURE?

A drive toward Tracy on US 580 brings a sight dear to the heart of a tax haven expert, to the mind of an alternative energy supporter and a smile of satisfaction to land owners and County officials. The latter because of income derived from the massive installation of wind generators that has taken place on the hills. Now comes great concern. Property referred to as the Souza-Vaquero land in Contra Costa County is rich in history, plant life, wildlife and birds, and the habitat is said to be some of the most pristine still in existence in California. A company is now proposing to install some 160+ wind generators throughout this historically sensitive area. Erection of the additional wind generators is likely to destroy much of the area; a place for study of history, plant habitat, and nature study. There is no demonstrated need to develop the alternative energy sources in this particular area. There is so much history and important habitat the project should not go forward.

### OWL/TV

National Audubon and the Young Naturalist Foundation are launching an innovative new television series for children. Premiering on Sunday November 3, on public television, OWL/TV will blend entertainment with humor to engender a reverence for nature and an interest in science among children ages 7-11. Hopefully, millions of children will be inspired to feel at home in and contribute to their world.

In order to incorporate OWL/TV into its regular programming schedule, the management of your community's public broadcasting station must be made aware of their community's interest in watching this excellent show for children. Members can call and urge station managers to incorporate the series into their weekly programming schedule. If possible, speak with the General Manager and the Program Director and advise them that everybody in your chapter will be watching for it, and that you will do whatever you can to encourage friends, neighbors, and colleagues to tune in. Writing a brief note to the same effect will also be helpful. The local PBS station is KQED, 500 8th St, San Francisco, CA 94103, (415) 864-2000.

### A MOVE IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

Unauthorized filling of wetlands at Stauffer Chemical in Martinez has been reported over many months. A (welcome) phone call from the Planning Dept, City Of Martinez, advised the company has now agreed to remove the unauthorized fill, starting in mid-September. If the proposed plan is approved by authorities, the fill should be out of the wetland and the area restored before the rainy season starts.

### WETLANDS ARE IMPORTANT BUT ARE FAST DISAPPEARING

Compared with the year 1900, only about 10% of the Bay's wetlands still remain and wetlands are under the most serious threat that has existed in many years. Developers have plans for building shopping centers, race tracks, marinas, business parks, and housing tracts in wetland areas. Pollution from existing industry is creating new problems just as we were thinking some of the pollution problems were being solved. Audubon Chapters all around the Bay developed and adopted a comprehensive policy for protection and future use of wetland areas. Planners and representatives of the various regulatory agencies have been notified and have been provided with full details of the policy statement. A group of Audubon and other conservation minded people met with Congresswoman Sala Burton to support action she and other Bay Area Congressional Representatives have taken to try to come up with a plan of action within 90 days. A related effort involved meeting with aides of Senator Pete Wilson. Will action follow? Good question!

### KESTERSON, THE VILLAIN IN THE POLLUTION WARS

Kesterson, the San Luis Drain with their production of toxics and pollutants, brought the public's attention to problems of polluted water. The name selenium is seemingly popping up all over the state. Selenium is being found in San Francisco Bay, and as far away as the Los Angeles area. Groundwater is contaminated and the number of contaminated wells runs into the thousands. Irrigation of marginal farmland in the San Joaquin Valley and efforts to control toxics have been under intensive study by the Westlands Water District. Now comes word that a plan, devised by the WWD has been scuttled—too costly. So the whole matter is back to square one. In the meantime arguments among water users, and various agencies almost insure that final disposition of the problem is still far off.

## OBSERVATIONS

## ON THE FARALLON PATROL

As part of her job with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Lee recently had the marvelous experience of spending a week on the Farallon Islands. Talk about being jealous; while Lee was on the Farallons, I had to stay behind. But I was able to go along on the Farallon Patrol the day she came off the island.

The Farallon Patrol, sponsored by the Oceanic Society, is a group of boat owners that assist the Point Reyes Bird Observatory efforts on the Farallons by delivering supplies and mail, as well as dropping off and picking up the biologists and volunteers who work on the island.

The unexpected treat for me was a tour of the island. After getting on the island via a winch lift, Lee told me she had three birds she wanted me to see, a Dickcissel, a Baird's Sandpiper and a Buff-Breasted Sandpiper. All three had strayed onto the island in the last day and had been present that morning. We found the first two, but couldn't locate the Buff-Breasted Sandpiper.

The return trip featured a Pink-Footed Shearwater and hundreds of Sooty Shearwaters, mostly in the area right outside the Golden Gate.

\* \* \* \* \*

The end of summer has brought some varied and interesting sightings. Jean Richmond reported on several recent birding trips. On August 3 at the San Luis NWR, Jean, Elizabeth Dickey and Margaret Wadsworth spotted a Swainson's Hawk and 12 Blue Grosbeaks. On August 6 at the Charleston Slough in Palo Alto, Jean observed a Lesser Yellowlegs, a Common Tern and 3 Least Terns.

On August 27, Jean, Mary Jane and Bill Greene, et al. birded the Bolinas sewage ponds, spotting 2 Lesser Yellowlegs, a juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper, a Baird's Sandpiper and 4 Pectoral Sandpipers.

Jean and 9 friends journeyed to Point Reyes on September 3. Jean reports seeing a Sooty Shearwater and 5 Parasitic Jaegers harrasing terns off the spit at Limantour, a Lesser Yellowlegs and 3 Baird's Sandpipers in the mudflats in the Estero, a Baird's Sandpiper in the pond by the Limantour parking lot, and hearing a Pileated Woodpecker on Inverness Ridge.

Jean, Sally Stellar and George Finger saw the female King Eider off the Richmond Inner Harbor on September 5. It had been spotted by Bob Richmond the previous day.

Winnie Orcutt reports a flock of 25 Canada Geese flew low over her house in Walnut Creek on August 17. Winnie also reports that she and Marge Plant viewed a Baird's Sandpiper at Doran County Park near Bodega Bay.

Winnie and Marge went to Rodeo Lagoon in early July in search of a Kentucky Warbler. While they didn't find the warbler, Winnie reports that they saw 2 Bobcats, a fox carrying a rabbit and a weasel.

Marge Plant reports seeing a Red Breasted Nuthatch on a telephone pole at the corner of Rose Street and Tamalpais Drive in Berkeley (8/22).

There must be a Green Heron that commutes up and down N. Main in Walnut Creek. Both Marge (8/14) and Winnie (8/23) reported on its comings and goings.

Tom Lee spotted 2 Green Herons in the creek next to Pleasant Hill High School (8/24). Norma and Merv Ortez report seeing a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers at their cabin near Outingdale (7/22). Sharyn Fernandez saw a Northern Oriole at the Towne and Country Mobile Village (June).

Gifford and Winifred Young report seeing 3-4 thousand Brown Pelicans at Bolinas Lagoon (8/24). They also spotted a Brown Pelican along Route 37 near Scaggs Island (8/24) and yet another Brown Pelican in Benecia flying towards the delta (9/5).

On a backcountry trip in Yosemite, Maury Stern reports seeing a Williamson's Sapsucker, a Blue Grouse, a Black-Backed Woodpecker, and Rosy Finches (8/5-9). Maury also reports seeing an Osprey, 2 Pectoral Sandpipers and a Semipalmated Sandpiper on a trip to Point Reyes with Jan Hilton and Elizabeth Dickey.

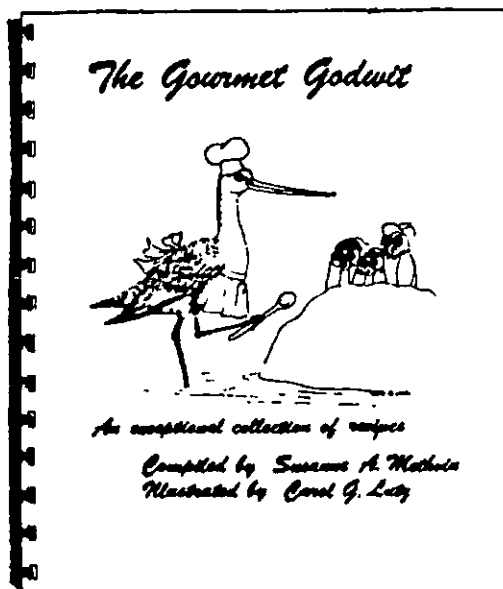
At Abbot's Lagoon on August 24, Jan Wessel spotted a Buff-Breasted Sandpiper, a Lesser Golden Plover, a Baird's Sandpiper and a Pectoral Sandpiper.

\* \* \* \* \*

Observations should be sent to:

Kirk and Lee Robinson  
19046 Mayberry Drive  
Castro Valley, CA 94546  
(415) 538-2655 (after 6pm)

Observations deadline is the monthly meeting.



## THE GOURMET GODWIT

The Gourmet Godwit, a collector's cookbook, compiled from 10 years of "gourmet birding" in the Bay Area and dedicated to saving Mono Lake, will be available in November. This is a totally non-profit endeavor, with a portion of all proceeds going to The Mono Lake Committee, has been compiled by Susanne Methwin, a chapter member, and delightfully illustrated by Carol Lutz. To reserve a copy, send a check for \$9.50 to: Susanne Luther Methwin, The Bay Area Birdwatching School, 20 Buckingham Dr, Moraga, CA 94556.

The Quail, published monthly except July/August issue, is sent to National Audubon Society members in Mt Diablo Chapter. To join NAS: \$30.00/year, family \$38, other levels available; check payable to National Audubon Society to Membership Chairman, MDAS, P O Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. Address change: Send notice to NAS Membership Data Ctr, P O Box 2667, Boulder, CO 80321; a copy of your letter should be sent to Membership Chairperson, Linda Myers, 1624 Springbrook Rd, Lafayette, CA 94596 to ensure uninterrupted Quail delivery. Chapter affiliation changed on member's request. Subscriptions: \$6.00/year payable to Mt Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, Gifford A. Young, 1451 Janet Ct, Benicia, CA 94510. First class mailing in envelope: \$3.00/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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TIME VALUE MAIL





# 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

November 1985

Vol 32No 4

next deadline: November 7

**MEETING** Thurs Nov 7, Contra Costa Jewish Community Ctr, 2071 Tice Valley Blvd, Walnut Creek. Doors open 6:30 pm, **BIRDING INFORMATION** 7:00 pm, Jean Richmond will continue her critique of the National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds. **BUSINESS MEETING:** 7:30 pm **SOCIAL TIME:** 8:00 pm **PROGRAM:** 8:30 pm **THE COCK OF THE WALK**, Pepper Trail, a Fellow of the California Academy of Sciences and ornithologist who has studied the natural history of this fascinating bird for many years will share his expertise with us.

**BOARD MEETINGS** Board meetings are open to all interested members. Thursday, November 14, 7:30 pm, home of Gifford and Winnie Young, 1451 Janet Ct, Benicia, (707) 745-4134.

Trips are open to members and non-members alike. Carpool time is departure time. **TRIPS** We will bird at the meeting spot for at least ½ hour. Carpool expense: 5¢ 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 ½ hour before departure time.

\* Sat, Nov 2, **LIMANTOUR**, carpool 7:30 am, Acalanes Ave, off Pleasant Hill Rd, just north of Fwy 24. Meet at Pt Reyes National 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 ¼ mile, left onto Bear Valley Rd and left into visitor's center. Trails are level but may be sandy or muddy; 2-3 miles total walking. Expect fog and/or wind. Shorebirds, waterfowl, seabirds, raptors, some land birds on ridge.  
Leader: Maury Stern, 284-5980

\* Thurs, Nov 7, **MT VIEW SANITARY DISTRICT**, meet 9:00 am in parking lot of Mt View plant. Take Pacheco-Arthur Rd exit from I-680 in Martinez. Go east on Arthur Rd under freeway; road turns north a few blocks. At sharp turn to old Acme Land Fill entrance road, turn left to Mt View Sanitary Plant. This is a good trip for beginning birders; close-up views of ducks and some waders. ½ mile on level, often muddy trails. Trip usually includes a visit to Waterfront Rd and Martinez Shoreline Park.

Leader: John Davis 223-9516

\* Sat Nov 16, **CANDLESTICK SHORELINE PARK**, carpool 7:30 am Acalanes Ave off Pleasant Hill Rd, north of Fwy 24. Meet 8:15 in parking lot of Candlestick Shoreline Park, San Francisco. Take Candlestick exit from US-101 and follow road to park entrance. There may be a fee for parking. Water and shore birds. ½ mile level walking. Fog, wind. May also include other sites along south SF bayshore.

Leader: Fred Safir 937-2906

\* Wed Nov 20, **ALTAMONT PASS** carpool 8:00 am El Cerro Blvd, just west of I-680 in Danville. Meet at Frick Lake, north of Livermore, 8:30. Go south on I-680, and east on I-580 to Vasco Rd exit; cross the freeway and turn right on the frontage road to Laughlin Rd. Continue on Laughlin to Frick Lake on the right. Outstanding raptor area, car birding, very little walking.  
Leader: Jean Richmond 837-2843

\* Wed Nov 13, **RARITY CHASERS**, Leaderless trip; if there is something good on the Rare Bird Alert, we will go looking. Otherwise, we will try areas not covered on regular trips, or covered at other seasons. An opportunity to explore new areas or search for particular birds. Meet at Acalanes Ave off Pleasant Hill Rd at 8:00 am. Call Elizabeth Dickey for details, 254-0486.

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

## ALAMEDA SOUTH SHORE September 11

Seven members and guests enjoyed a sunny and good tides. Red Knots were the outstanding birds among the 35 species seen. Also present were Long-billed Curlews, dowitchers, godwits, willets and least and western sandpipers. Caspian, Forester's and elegant terns were all present.

Elizabeth Dickey

## SAN MATEO COUNTY COAST September 7

Six members and guests left the drizzly Diablo Valley and had a lovely day at the beaches observing 77 species of birds as well as the elephant seals of Ano Nuevo State Park. Highlights included large of sooty shearwaters off Pescadero Beach, 10 species of ducks (including red-breasted mergansers at Ano Nuevo), snowy plovers, a parasitic jaeger harrassing elegant terns at Ano Nuevo, marbled murrelets at Pigeon Point, and Vaux's swifts at Pescadero Marsh.

Maury Stern

## TILDEN September 19

Six people enjoyed good birding for warblers along the Jewel Lake trail. Disappointed at not finding the summer tanager reported on the Rare Bird Alert two days earlier, but the abundance and good views of 7 warbler species (orange crowned, yellow, yellow-rumped, Townsend's, hermit, black-throated gray and Wilson's) was rewarding. A possible female redstart was another intriguing aspect of the trip.

Elizabeth Dickey

## POINT REYES September 21

Had a good trip to Pt Reyes; saw 85 species and had 18 people, many new to the chapter. Some highlights were 3 species of loons with breeding plumage common. Both species of recently split western grebe, Cooper's hawk sitting on a post for a long time, a solitary sandpiper within 15 feet, excellent view, buff-breasted sandpiper, the rarest bird of the trip. 18 pectoral sandpipers were in the same small pond at Spalletta Ranch. At Fishdocks, we saw a black and white warbler and the opportunity to compare it with the black throated gray warbler close by. A magnolia warbler was at the lighthouse.

Jimm Edgar

## MONTEREY September 28-29

17 members and guests found 93 species during the two-day trip (if Jean Richmond had been along we would have had over 100). Linda Meyers took over as emergency leader due to Jean's illness, and urged us on when we lingered too long over

the identity' of eclipse-plumage ducks or admired the 25th pectoral sandpiper. Pectorals were definitely the "bird of the trip" as common as a killdeer at the Salinas Sewer ponds. Other interesting sightings were a sora at Crispi Pond, early dunlins at Salinas, and many elegant terns with a rosy glow on their breasts among the flock at Jetty Rd.

Elizabeth Dickey

## SITE GUIDE UPDATE

BIRDING NORTHERN CALIFORNIA—a site guide to over 80 locations. This book written and compiled by Jean Richmond and Mount Diablo Audubon Society contains directions to over 80 premier birding locations in Northern California and will be available for purchase before Christmas. The book is in the final stages of production. Watch the December Quail for full ordering information for this long and eagerly awaited guide.

## NEW MEMBERS

It is a pleasure to welcome these new MDAS members and we hope to meet them soon: J Abraham, Wendy Anderson, Robert Cartan, Edward Cozens, Kenneth Dempster, Barbara Hilp, Norma-Bert Holder, Wayne Lifton, L. E. Lockrem, Peg McPatland, John Olander, George Patton, Nelda Propersi, Winifred Reimann, Daneice Ryncarz, Judy Seidelman, Marie Starr, Janet Taylor, Mrs B.A. Williams, Dean Williams, Irene Wilson, K Andal, Conrad Bacon Jr, R.O. Baker, L Batkin, Betty Bias, Beth Callaway, C.E. Carroll, Dorothy Cowen, David Davis Jr, Therese Dubbs, R.A. Evans, C.L. Feiler, William Foskett, Nancy Freitas, A.F. Gaspari, James Grant Jr, Dee Guerra, La Jeune Hagood, Richard Henika, Donald Holm, Edward Johnson, Helen Jorn, Berniece Klein, Sheri Kuticka, Judy Lyman, Robert Millar, Connie Montgomery, Arthur Murphy, Mrs K Newton, Hans Peterhansel, Carol Richard, Vera Robertson, Dennis Roby, Mary Della Rosa, John Rossi, Diane Caughrean Viera, Peter Volvin, Peggy Burns, Daures Caldwell, J. C. Castellanos, Peter Castro, Marc Coventry, R.W. Donovan, Mrs D Giampapa, Julie Ginocchio, John Godkin, Elspeth Goltra, Jackie Henderson, Janet Hilton, Martin Mazar, Mark Moritz, Anton Pirtz, Manuel Rose, Kay Sevbort, J Stillman, Linda Wurdeman, S Benton, Ray Brown, Carol Christen Maureen Coughlin, Elaine Cullifer, William Dickinon, Leland Elster, Glee Foster, Robert Romm, M.A. Klein, Lori Mills, Patricia Nelson, Dewayne Ryan, Craig Seltenrich, Thomas Steyaert.

## CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

### SAN FRANCISCO BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Birds Along the Bayshore, Saturday Nov 2, or Saturday Nov 30, 10-12:30 pm. Ride by van to various refuge sites in search of the many species of birds that inhabit the area.

Birding Tour of San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Sunday, Nov 10 or Sunday Nov 24, 10-1 pm. Raptors, waders, and shorebirds are sure to be seen on this van tour of Lower Tubbs Island. Binocs, scopes, field guides. Reservations required.

Information and reservations: (415) 792-0222

### ALEXANDER LINDSAY JUNIOR MUSEUM

Featured all during the month of October at the Museum in Walnut Creek will be several daily showings of a professional slide show entitled: Bats-Myth and Reality. Bats are becoming endangered so the Museum invites the public to view the educational slide show in an effort to dispell some of the negative myths and illustrate the positive aspects of bats and their value in the ecosystem.

Viewing hours are: Wed, Thurs, and Fri from 1:00 to 5:00 pm and from noon to 4:00 on Sat. and Sun. Call the Museum office at 935-1978 for more info.

### FREMONT ADULT SCHOOL

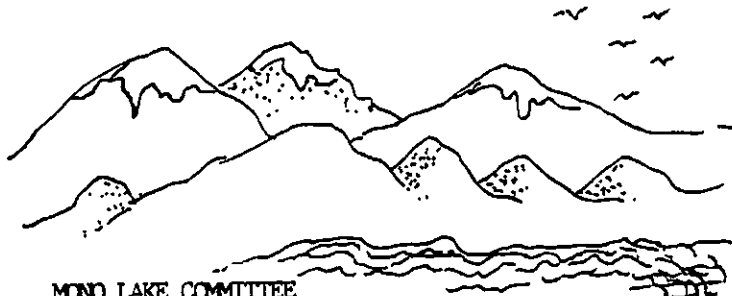
Birding Field Trips Class, Tues mornings, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm starting Oct 29 and ending December 10th. Students will observe and learn about the field identification, life style, and ecology of local birds, taught by Alice Hoch.

Water Birds of Alameda County Class, A 1-day workshop on waterbirds, ducks, shorebirds, gulls, and others will be seen. Beginners and/or experienced birders, carpools can be arranged. Sat Nov 16, 9-3 pm. Students must pre-register by Nov 13th. \$12 fee.

Information: Fremont Adult School 791-5841 or Alice 657-0475

### COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Ian Tait, noted Bay Area wildlife photographer will be the speaker at the Cooper Ornithological Society, Monday November 5. His talk will be titled NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY HERE AND THERE- A Selection of Birds and Other Critters Photographed in California and More Remote Places. The seminar will begin at 8:00, after the 7:45 business meeting, in Room 2503, Life Sciences Building on the UC Berkeley Campus.



### MONO LAKE COMMITTEE

Travel Opportunity for Nature Lovers: Interested in man and nature and far away places? Galapagos Islands/Ecuador/Peru and the headwaters of the Amazon are all in the itinerary for a Mono Lake Committee sponsored trip June 24-July 10, 1986. The Glacier Bay, Alaska, cruise generated over \$12,000 to help save Mono Lake and it is hoped this will do the same. For full details, please send a self-addressed, stamped 4"x9" envelope to "Adventures for MLC", c/o M. Bennett, 2719 Marin Ave, Berkeley, CA 94708.

### JOHN MUIR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Birdwalk at Mt View Waste Water Treatment Plant- discover the rich birdlife in pond settings. 9-11 am Sat Nov 2, led by Dick Bogaert. Beginning Birders- meet the birds of Muir's Ranch. 9-11 Sat Nov 16, led by Dianne Dawson. Please call site to make reservations for programs, 228-8860.

### AUDUBON WILDLIFE REPORT AVAILABLE

The Audubon Wildlife Report 1985, a new publication from NAS, traces the history of 20th century wildlife management and discusses its role in protecting our wildlife resources. A thorough reference to the nation's major wildlife management programs, the 671-page book examines the history legislation, budget, current trends, issues and responsibilities of such agencies as the Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service and the Forest Service.

The first edition in an annual series, the Audubon Wildlife Report 1985 includes authoritative accounts on federal migratory bird management, animal damage control, endangered species management, wetlands preservation, marine mammal protection and many more subjects. 12 chapters are devoted to individual species such as the grizzly bear, Calif condor, bald eagle, desert bighorn and green pitcher plant. Diligently researched, and authoritatively written, the report will be welcomed by Auduboners with a serious and active commitment to wildlife conservation. To order: send \$16.50 (checks payable to NAS) to Audubon Wildlife Report, National Audubon Society, 950 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022.

## CONSERVATION NOTES

BY AL MCNABNEY

## CREEK'S REEKS BRING BLEATS

Hangman's Tree, Murder's Creek, Greyson's Creek, developers, floods, money and 2 lawnmower engines (not useable) in the creekbed came together at a meeting of the task force created by Supervisor Sumne McPeak to view the problems involving the two creeks and the people who live along side them. Two basic problems exist: 1. During periods of heavy rain the runoff grows to flood proportions along some areas of the creeks and various properties are flooded. 2. Long term: with additional development in the county there will be heavier runoff problems which will create more flooding. An EIR developed under the aegis of the County indicates the cost of channelizing the creeks will run to many millions of dollars. Millions which are not available at this time. Mt Diablo Audubon's Christmas Count has provided a wealth of data covering the multitude of avian species now in the wooded, shrubbed areas along these creeks.

## SO FAR WE WIN ONE

Wind generators, wildlife, artifacts, history and one of the few remaining bits of fine riparian habitat still remaining in California have all been under threat from the development of a massive wind generator scheme. County planners had okayed the proposed installation on the Souza-Vaquero land. There are indications that some work has already been done in the sensitive areas, which may or may not have caused irreparable damage. Protests lodged by a number of organizations, people, experts, and neophytes alike have resulted in a reversal of the previously granted permission.

## TV—JUST LIKE REAL LIFE

A TV tower on the upper slopes of Mt Diablo will just be a precursor of more said those who attempted to block installation of the first TV tower on Mt Diablo. It was prophetic because a formal request has been presented to County planners which, if granted would allow another TV tower on Mt Diablo. To those who see the mountain as something sacred, which should not be defiled by such things, the towers raise hackles, opposition and concern. Will the future of Mt Diablo be to give the appearance of a porcupine, with quills erect or will the mountain continue to represent the finest in nature for all the world to see.

## WETLANDS OR DRYLANDS?

Two projects in Contra Costa County involve possible losses of wetlands. One, in Antioch, presently on hold pending completion of an EIR and the other is Shell Marsh currently under study. The issue over the unauthorized fill in wetlands near Stauffer Chemical Company's plant is still awaiting final clean-up. The rest of the Bay Area is not that lucky. Recently Sala Burton and 5 other Congresspeople from the Bay Area wrote the acting head of the US Army Corps of Engineers soliciting some answers regarding the Corps' obligation to protect wetlands. So far no answers have been forthcoming. Now comes word of the nomination by President Reagan of Mr Robert K Dawson for the position of Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (US Army Corps of Engineers). His nomination and possible confirmation is subject to consideration by the US Senate's Armed Services Committee.

How Is this nomination important to birdlife, conservation, ecology, the public, and wetland protection? A recent article in the NY Times began its story on the nomination this way: "The National Wildlife Federation, the country's biggest conservation group and one whose members tend to be politically conservative, has never in its 49-year history opposed a Presidential nominee to an executive agency, but it has just ended that tradition..." National Audubon, through its new president Peter Berle, is opposing the nomination and confirmation as well. The Audubon Leader wrote the Senate Committee, indicating Mr Dawson's confirmation would be a serious threat to wetlands protection. He added, "...proposed regulations signed by Mr Dawson would effectively deregulate two thirds of the nation's wetlands..."

## TOXICS

A recent report indicates 50% of all pesticides used in America are at work in California. It is also said that California, the nation's leader in agriculture production, also leads the nation in pesticide use. Pollution of ground water is a growing threat to the health of Californians. One authority argues that almost half of the drinking water used by Californians come from ground water in which as many as 57 different pesticides (Heinz 57?) have been discovered at 2,887 sites.

## OBSERVATIONS

As one might expect, this time of year brings forth sightings of many transient species. Migration is now in full swing and many of you have been out catching glimpses of many of our migratory species as they head south for the winter. This month's observations reflect many visits to Point Reyes and, as we might expect, the sightings of shorebirds.

Winnie Orcutt, Mary Jane Culver and Jan Hilton visited Point Reyes on 9/13 and report seeing the Yellow Wagtail, Baird's Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper and 3 Jaegers (1 Pomarine, 2 sp.) at Abbott's Lagoon. An adult Merlin was spotted at Drake's Bay and an immature Golden Eagle was observed being chased by 2 Red Tail Hawks near the Lighthouse.

Jimm Edgar reported seeing a Solitary Sandpiper at the Spaletta Pond and a Magnolia Warbler at the Lighthouse on a 9/24 visit to Point Reyes.

Maury Stern, Bill & Toby Gottfried and Jerry & Sharon Kimmel observed a Solitary Sandpiper, 20 Pectoral Sandpipers, a Lapland Longspur, and a Lesser Golden-Plover at Point Reyes on 9/20.

Jean Richmond birded Point Reyes twice in the past month. Jean reports that on 9/14 she spotted 5 Lesser Golden-Plovers, a Lesser Yellowlegs, 2 Pectoral Sandpipers, 3 Buff-Breasted Sandpipers and a Solitary Sandpiper at the Spaletta Ranch, a Semipalmated Sandpiper, 6 Baird's Sandpipers, 15 Pectoral Sandpipers and a Black Tern at Abbott's Lagoon, and a Vaux's Swift on Pierce Point Rd. On 9/24 at the Spaletta Ranch Jean observed a Solitary Sandpiper, 12 Lesser Golden-Plovers, 8 Pectoral Sandpipers, a Buff-Breasted Sandpiper and a Lapland Longspur.

Observations not at Point Reyes included a 9/10 trip to the Salinas sewage ponds by Jean Richmond that produced a life bird - a Curlew Sandpiper. Jean also reported seeing a Baird's Sandpiper, a Semipalmated Sandpiper and some 12 Pectoral Sandpipers.

Elizabeth Dickey reports seeing over 14 Lesser Yellowlegs at Zmudowski State Beach in Monterey County and an Osprey at Pajaro Dunes near Watsonville (9/28-9).

Tom Lee saw a Green-Backed Heron flying low over the classrooms at Ygnacio Valley High School (9/17).

Lynn Farrar reported a Brown Creeper in his yard (9/29). Norah Bain reported seeing

a Dipper and 2 Golden Eagles at Sunol Regional Wilderness on 10/1. Maury Stern reported a Willow Flycatcher and 20 Snowy Plovers at Malibu State Lagoon on 9/27.

Lee Robinson spotted a Prairie Falcon on Lower Tubbs Is., San Pablo Bay NWR on 9/27.

Gifford & Winifred Young reported seeing Wilson's Warblers and Ruby-Crowned Kinglets in Benecia on 9/10. Also on 9/10, at Lake Solano, they saw Wilson's Warblers, Robins, Western Bluebird, a Phainopepla and Common Flickers.

Gifford and Winifred spotted an immature Red-Shouldered Hawk near Petaluma on 9/16. The Hawk had caught and was eating a small rodent. They were able to get within 8 feet of the bird.

Gifford and Winifred also report seeing 3 Golden Eagles on Mount Diablo on 9/18. 2 of the eagles were hunting together. On the same trip, the Youngs found two Tarantulas crossing on the road to the summit.

On 10/3, Gifford and Winifred spotted another Golden Eagle, this one near the GEMCO store on Hiway 37 in Vallejo. On Hiway 37 near Skaggs Island, they observed Whimbrels, Black-Crowned Night Herons, 10 Pintails, Ruddy Ducks, White Pelicans, Song Sparrows, White-Crowned Sparrows and Whimbrels.

With migration in full swing and the first reports of overwintering birds in the area it is a safe bet that winter is not far behind.

\* \* \* \* \*

Starting with the March issue of the Quail, Lee and I will not be able to spend the time necessary to produce the Observations section. We enjoyed doing Observations this past year or so, but with the expected arrival of our first hatchling in February, we will not be able to continue writing this column. We are expecting to produce a birder that will be able to contribute future Observations columns. If anyone is interested in taking over this responsibility please contact us or Maury Stern.

\* \* \* \* \*

Observations should be sent to:

Kirk and Lee Robinson  
19046 Mayberry Drive  
Castro Valley, CA 94546  
(415) 538-2655 (after 6pm)

Deadline for Observations is the monthly meeting.

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**CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**

Only two more months until Christmas Bird Count time! Just a reminder that Count Day is Saturday, December 21, 1985. Our success in recent years in finding more species is at least partly due to having more participants and being able to cover more habitats in our Count Circle. We hope to have 18 groups in the field this year, expanding our coverage over 1984. We need ALL your help—experienced and beginning birders alike. Invite your friends from other chapters to join you—we encourage participation in other Bay Area Counts, which are scheduled on various dates during the Count Period. Those unable to participate in the field can contribute by watching their feeders and yards for birds on Count Day. These sightings will be included in our totals.

If you are interested, please add your name and telephone number on the sign up sheets at our regular meetings. Or, call either of our co-compilers George Finger 933-2468 or Kevin Hintsa, 829-6156. Group leaders will contact you later with details of meeting place, time, etc.

National Audubon is again requesting a donation of \$3.00 from field participants to cover the cost of compiling and publishing the results of all counts across the nation. A copy of the American Birds publication covering past years' counts will be available at our regular meetings for your inspection. At the end of the Count Day we will again have a potluck dinner and preliminary count of species from each group. More details in the December Quail.

George Finger

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Shimi Edmondson, Editor, 1261 Lawrence Rd, Darville, CA 94526; 837-1010  
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Pres: Maury Stern  
 939 Carol Lane  
 Lafayette, CA 94549  
 284-5980

December 1985

Vol 32No5

next deadline: December 5

Thurs Dec 5, Contra Costa Jewish Community  
**MEETING** Center, 2071 Tice Valley Blvd, Walnut  
 Creek. Doors open 6:30 pm, **BIRDING**  
**INFORMATION**, 7:00 pm, George Finger will discuss  
 in detail the **CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**. **BUSINESS MEETING**:  
 7:30 pm, **SOCIAL TIME**: 8:00 pm, **PROGRAM**: 8:30 pm;  
 Robert and Jennifer Capra, local photographers with  
 a special interest in the outdoors and nature will  
 present a beautiful slide show complete with music  
 titled **FALL AND WINTER ON MT DIABLO**.

**BOARD MEETINGS** Board meetings are open to all interested  
 members. Thursday, December 12, 7:30  
 pm, home of Norah Bain, 32 Via Farallon,  
 Orinda, 254-4516.

Trips are open to members and non-members  
**FIELD** alike. Carpool time is departure time.  
**TRIPS** Carpool expense: 5c 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 ½ hour before departure  
 time.

\* Thur, Dec 5, **LAKE MERRITT** carpool: 8:30 am Acalanes  
 Ave, off Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Fwy 24.  
 Meet 9:00 am, behind the Rotary Science Center, Bellvue  
 and Perkins, Oakland. Parking between boat dock  
 and the aviary, walk over to bird cages by Science  
 Center. Excellent place to study ducks and gulls.  
 Barrow's goldeneyes are usually present; hooded mergan-  
 sers are often found. ½-1 mile walking on paved  
 paths.

Leader: Mary Jane Culver, 682-0509

\* Sat, Dec 7, **NILES CANYON GRAVEL PITS** carpool  
 7:45 am, El Cerro Blvd, just west of I-680 in Danville.  
 Meet 8:30 am Vallejo Mill Historical Park. Take  
 I-680 south through Dublin to SR 84, and 84 west  
 7 miles to park entrance. Varied habitats; green-  
 backed heron, spotted sandpiper, ring-necked duck,  
 many tree birds often found. 1-2 miles walking,  
 can be muddy.

Leader: Jimm Edgar, 283-3510

\* Wed Dec 11, **PALO ALTO BAYLANDS** carpool 7:00  
 am, El Cerro Blvd, just west of I-680 in Danville.  
 Meet 8:45 at duck pond near Palo Alto Yacht Harbor.  
 Take I-680 to I-580; use Washington Ave exit; from  
 center lane turn left onto Washington and right onto  
 ramp at SR 17. Take SR 84 west, cross Dumbarton  
 Bridge and go south on Bayshore to Embarcadero exit  
 east. Go east on Embarcadero, at stop sign, turn  
 left toward Yacht Harbor. This is the high tide  
 of the year; clapper rails almost certain, black  
 rails possible. We are starting early to take full  
 advantage of the tides. If we are rained out on  
 Wednesday, trip will go on Thursday. Trails are  
 level, often muddy, 1-1½ miles walking.  
 Leader; Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486

\* Sat Dec 21, **CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**. Call George  
 Finger 933-2468 for information. We need lots of  
 eyes.

\* Thur Dec 19, **RARE BIRD TRIP** meet 7:30 am Acalanes  
 Ave off Pleasant Hill Rd, just north of Fwy 24.  
 Unless there is something sensational on the tape,  
 we will "scout for the count"; trying to stake out  
 some of the harder birds on our count circle.

\* Thur Dec 26, Help Napa-Solano on their Christmas  
 Count. Their area includes Suisun Marsh, parts of  
 Grizzly Island, and Benicia State Park. Call Robin  
 Leong (707) 643-1287, 336 Benson, Vallejo, CA 94590.

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

**HAWK MOUNTAIN AND RODEO LAGOON** October 10

The highlights were many on this trip. There  
 were many hawks including great looks at Sharp-  
 shinned, Coopers, and Red-shouldered Hawks. We  
 had one Merlin. We saw about 40 Vaux's Swifts  
 in a flock which was good. The highlight of the  
 day was a Humpback Whale, probably a young one,  
 in close near the mouth of Rodeo Lagoon and later  
 probably the same individual under the Golden  
 Gate Bridge (by now we all know the story of Humphrey  
 and his trip to the Delta and finally out again).

Jimm Edgar

## ABBOTT'S LAGOON October 19

Fourteen members had a beautiful day of birding at Point Reyes Headquarters and Abbott's Lagoon under overcast skies with the temperatures in the low 60's. One hundred eleven (111111) species were seen, including large counts of individual species on both of Abbott's Lagoons. Unusual species included American White Pelicans, Hooded Merganser, (among 14 duck species), Red-shouldered Hawk, Golden Eagle, Snowy Plover, 4 BAIRD'S SAND-PIPERS, 6 woodpecker species, Winter Wren, 10 Townsend's Warblers in one stand of willows, Vesper Sparrow, and Purple Finch. Many of the common sandpipers were in mixed flocks making it especially easy to compare size and color differences and similarities.

Maury Stern

## San Francisco BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE AND COYOTE HILLS REGIONAL PARK October 23

Five members and one guest, on a mild, sunny day, enjoyed the spectacle of thousands of shorebirds feeding on the ponds near Marshlands Road. An opportunity to see both Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs together was appreciated. At Coyote Hills both Sora and Virginia Rails were seen very well, feeding, swimming and even in short flight. A female Northern Harrier remained perched in pickleweed very close to the group giving ample opportunity for admiration and study. Large flocks of White Pelicans, some Green-winged Teal, the resident Great Horned Owl, and several Black-shouldered Kites were also seen.

Norah Bain

## POINT REYES HEADQUARTERS/LIMANTOUR AREA Nov 2

Thirty-nine members and guests enjoyed a beautiful, sunny fall day at Pt Reyes. 98 species of birds were seen including 3 loons, 13 ducks, a Rough-legged Hawk directly overhead, and many Townsend's Warblers.

Maury Stern

## LINCOLN PARK October 2

Seven birders had a pleasant morning. No rarities, but we had good looks at purple finch, fox sparrow and Townsend's warbler, red-breasted and pygmy nuthatches. In the afternoon we found a western flycatcher at North Lake in Golden Gate Park.

Elizabeth Dickey

## RARITY HUNTS October 17

Four birders spent a day in the fog along the San Mateo coast. We searched for the Lucy's warbler unsuccessfully, but we found two white-faced ibis at Pescadero as reported on the tape plus two Eurasian Wigeons.

## RARITY HUNTS October 31

This trip was less successful. 5 people looked for the yellow-green vireo at Stinson Beach, but the closest we came, was a Hutton's. Point Reyes was very windy and most birds were very quiet. The most unusual sighting was the large flock of killdeer, 70-80 in the field at the RCA station.

Elizabeth Dickey

## NEW MEMBERS

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

Jill Archer, Karen Davis, Rita George, Mrs Leonard Hunter, Virginia Johnston, Marc Kaplan, Kathleen Longo, Vivian Steinhauer, Luann Sylvia, Mary Ann Thompson, H H Wainwright, Kim Current, Janice Edwards, Mimi Foord, Mason Holmes, Mrs W E Kirby, Brad Kolkmann, A A Kunz, Jean Langley, Barbara Lanzidelle, Paty Lindsay, Scott McIntyre, Mrs Manuel Melin, Carolyn Robertson, Frances Ross, Marianne Saderlund, Sharon Sozanski, X Stevenson, Donna Stone, Lee Ann Toney, Judi Visscher, D J West, Mrs Wilbur White, J Young.

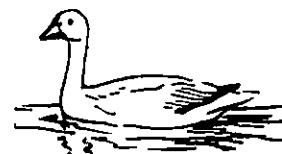
## PUBLICATIONS

## UPPER TEXAS COAST CHECKLIST

The Houston Ornithology Group publishes a checklist of the Upper Texas Coast which has long been considered one of the best area checklists in the country. They sell for 5¢ each and can be obtained from Peter Vennema, 2120 Tangle, Houston, TX 77005.

## CHECKLIST OF TEXAS BIRDS

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has finally published the travelers' "Checklist of Texas Birds", put together by ornithologists Kelly Bryan and Tony Gallucci and TP&W's David Riskind. The 9"x5" format booklet contains common and scientific names of all Texas birds including accidentals and hypotheticals, in 1983 AOU sequence, along with species write-in space, 12 columns for recording sightings, a handy list of AOU taxonomic and name changes affecting Texas birds, and a literature reference list. Well worth a price tag of several dollars, it is available free from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744. Ask for technical series No. 32.

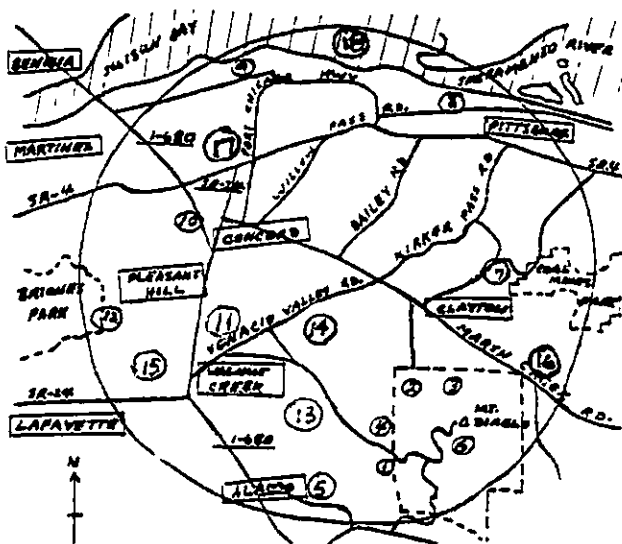




## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 1985

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 73 observers found 143 species, 53,356 individuals.

Our Count Day will be on Sat Dec 21 RAIN OR SHINE. The count will be co-compiled this year by Kevin Hintska, 2808 Ascot Drive, San Ramon, CA 94583, 829-6156 and by George Finger, 2371 Dapplegray Ln, Walnut Creek, CA 94596, 933-2468. Contact either Kevin 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. Alamo-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. Shell Ridge
14. Lime Ridge
15. Reliez Valley Road
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—Kevin and George have instructions. If you have any special birds staked out, alert them before count day. COST is \$3.00 per participant; MDAS will pay for students if necessary. Costs will help pay for publication of results in American Birds. If you see a rare or uncommon species in our CBC area during our COUNT PERIOD, the week of December 18-24, get details to Kevin 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 Kevin or George as soon as possible. Rarities must be confirmed.

Come to the post-count POULUCK/COUNTDOWN whether or not you work the CBC, learn of the day's events and preliminary report. Dinner is at 6:30 at the Hillside Clubhouse, Vista Room at Rossmoor, 3400 Golden Rain Rd. From the main gate turn right onto Golden Rain Rd, left on Lower Golden Rain Rd Hillside Clubhouse and parking lot on left; or check at the gate for directions. 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 General Meeting or call Margaret Wadsworth 939-8422 by Dec 10 as to what you will bring and how many attending. Come at 6:00 for hot beverages—chocolate, coffee, tea—and warm up before dinner.

Other CBC dates: Santa Clara, Dec 15, Los Baros Dec 19, Golden Gate/Oakland Dec 22, Napa-Solano Dec 26, Santa Rosa Dec 29, Golden Gate/San Francisco Dec 30.

Discovering Sierra Birds, the Yosemite Natural History Association and the Sequoia Natural History Association announce the joint publication of Discovering Sierra Birds-Western Slope. Authors Edward C Beedy and Stephen L Granholm, both respected ornithologists and holders of doctoral degrees from the UC Davis, have spent 3 years assembling the contents of this 230-page book, following earlier years in field research. The book, with 41 full-color plates deals with the 180 species of birds found in Yosemite and Sequoia/Kings Cyn National Parks, plus descriptions of habitats wherein the birds customarily may be sighted. Send \$9.95 + 6% tax plus \$1.00 handling to Yosemite Natural History Assn, PO Box 545, Yosemite National Park CA 95389.

## CONSERVATION NOTES

by Al McNabney

## TOXICS-AGAIN

California residents can breathe (or drink) more easily as a result of enactment of the "Toxic Injection Well Control Act of 1985". Assemblyman Lloyd Connelly indicated, "This bill was the product of nearly a year and a half of hard work by dozens of people and organizations". While this legislation will do a great deal of good, the problems of toxics in water and elsewhere will continue to pose major problems for the people, industry, to say nothing about the wildlife in the State of California.

## KESTERSON-SELENIUM WILD (BIRD) LIFE FARMING

Imagine, if you can, the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) and the Westlands Water District joining hands to try to solve the major water pollution problems in and around Kesterson Wildlife Refuge and the Westlands of San Joaquin Valley. Not only has such an event taken place, all parties are looking to the future with confidence. A major item of accomplishment was passage, by the US Congress, of a money bill providing for a Federal loan to Westlands Water District. Senators Pete Wilson and Alan Cranston wrote Interior Secretary Donald Hodel, "The urgent nature of the agricultural drainage problem in the San Joaquin Valley persuaded Congress to approve this proposal immediately and provide funds for it". The legislation was, in the words of one knowledgeable individual, whisked through the Congress in some 30 days. Major studies of the drainage and toxics problems in the Kesterson area will now go forward.

## ENERGY CONSERVATION?

Gasoline distributions in California in July topped 1 billion gallons. The usage was the highest level ever recorded for the month of July; a 5.1% increase over the month of June. This was the first July to exceed 1 billion gallons since 1978.

## COUNTY-WIDE PLAN UPDATE CALLED FOR

Supervisor Tom Torlakson has again called attention to the need to update the County's general plan. He wrote, "Much attention has recently been focused on the need for revising the General Plan and no better opportunity exists than the present. The private sector and government should work together to facilitate the effort. The future is now being decided and we must assure reasonable and balanced growth which recognizes the need for preserving a suitable living environment for future generations". Said one observer, "Wonderful words but we the people will have to be active and alert if we are to be certain those words have real meaning."

## CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

The Cooper Ornithological Society Northern meeting will be held on December 2. The speaker will be Ethan Temeles, of UC Davis, his topic: Sexual size dimorphism in predatory birds. The meeting will be held in Room 2503, Life Sciences Bldg, UC Berkeley, at 8 pm, preceded by a business meeting at 7:45 pm.

University Research Expeditions Program (UREP) an extension of UC Berkeley, is currently recruiting members for December field teams. Contributions to join the expeditions vary and are **tax-deductible**. People interested in obtaining a free catalog describing these and other expedition offerings in 1986, should contact University Research Expeditions Program, University of California, Desk D-10, Berkeley, CA 94720 or call (415) 642-6586.

The Whale Center is offering Gray Whale Watching cruises and flights to see the migrating 30-ton gray whales off our coast. 2½ hour cruises accompanied by expert naturalists who provide information on whales, seals, dolphins, marine birds and the ecology of the coast are featured. Trips leave from Pillar Point Harbor, Half Moon Bay, on Saturdays and Sundays, Dec 28th thru April 27th. Also available are 1-hour flights also accompanied by a naturalist. Spectacular aerial views of the scenic California coast and San Francisco Bay combined with sightings of whales make these trips unforgettable nature experiences. These trips are sponsored by the Whale Center, a non-profit educational and conservation organization working for whales and their aquatic habitat. Part of the cruise and flight fee is a contribution to Whale Center's whale conservation efforts. For more info and brochure call 654-6621 or write W.C. 3929 Piedmont Ave, Oakland, CA 94611.

Norah Bain will offer birding classes for beginning and intermediate birders through the Orinda Community Center in 1986. See the January Quail for details or call Norah at 254-4516.

Western Ornithologists' 11th Annual Convention

The 11th Annual Convention of Western Field Ornithologists, publishers of Western Birds, will be held February 7-9, 1986, in Sacramento, CA. Outstanding field trips, workshops, presented papers, and the annual banquet will make for an event-filled meeting.

OBSERVATIONS

From the number of observations reported this month, it is apparent that many of us have been doing some birding. Whether it has been in search of those off course migrants or noting the arrival of overwintering birds in our backyards, October was an excellent month for observations.

Jimm Edgar reported spotting a Yellow-Headed Blackbird along with Pectoral and Baird's Sandpipers at the Moon-Glo Dairy near Moss Landing (10/22). Jimm also saw a Horned Lark at Point Reyes (10/26) and a Eurasian Wigeon in Golden Gate Park on 10/15.

On a 10/5 trip to Point Reyes, Bob Dunn spotted a Clay-Colored Sparrow and a Palm Warbler at the Nunes Ranch and saw a Prairie Falcon harrassing a Broad-Winged Hawk at the Spaletta Ranch. Bob also reported a Eurasian Wigeon at Arrowhead Marsh (10/22).

One of the more intriguing sightings was reported by Betty and Harry Adamson. They saw a Dipper in the creek in their backyard in Lafayette (10/8). The Adamsons also reported a Lincoln Sparrow in their yard (11/7).

Winnie and Gifford Young noted the return of the Sandhill Cranes to Thornton. They saw at least 1500 Cranes along Woodbridge Road (10/13).

Bob and Betty Gallagher also reported on the return of an overwintering species. The Cedar Waxwings returned to their yard in Concord on 11/2, a little later than usual.

Molly Jane and George Monheit spotted a Sage Thrasher in the parking lot at Briones Regional Park (10/13 and 10/27). Their yard was visited on 11/3 by a Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, a Fox Sparrow and a Hermit Thrush.

Barbara Vaughn also reported spotting a Sage Thrasher, this one at Coyote Hills on 10/23.

Shirley Ellis reported that two Western Bluebirds at Martinez Jr. High School during September and October.

Shirley and Ethel Beckerman birded the Fort Cronkite and Rodeo Lagoon areas on 10/20. They spotted several hundred Brown Pelicans flying over the Lagoon and five

Elegant Terns. In addition, Shirley notes, "We saw a Great Horned Owl sitting in the same spot for several hours. A Sharp-Shinned Hawk flew into the tree near it and was scolding the owl loudly. The owl ignored the hawk - didn't move."

Jean Richmond reported several excellent observations from her backyard in Alamo: a subadult Golden Eagle (10/7), a Red-Breasted Nuthatch (10/14), a Red Crossbill (10/21), 1-2 Red Shouldered Hawks (several sightings), and Golden-Crowned Kinglets (several sightings).

Jean also spotted a Prairie Falcon at Hawk Mountain (10/5). On a 10/29 trip to Point Reyes, Jean observed a Ferruginous Hawk at the Drake's Beach turnoff, 2 Lesser Golden-Plovers at the RCA station, 2 Swainson's Thrushes at the Nunes Ranch, and 2 Lapland Longspurs and a Chestnut-Collared Longspur at the Spaletta Plateau. Jean saw the Yellow-Green Vireo at Stinson Beach (10/29). And on 11/3 Jean spotted a Rough-Legged Hawk at the Volta ponds on Henry Miller Ave. in Merced County.

Norah Bain saw a Eurasian Wigeon and a Ferruginous Hawk at Hayward Regional Shoreline (11/5).

A Fox Sparrow, of the eastern race, visited the yard of Norma and Merv Ortez on 11/3.

Margaret Wadsworth reported a couple of sightings from her backyard: 27 Mountain Bluebirds (overhead) on 10/21 and a juvenile Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker on 11/5.

Marilyn O'Connor finally saw the Western Screech Owl in her Walnut Creek yard after one year of trying to spot it (11/6).

George Finger reported seeing some 25 Wood Ducks on Lake Solano (11/7).

I even got into the act, spotting a Sharp-Shinned Hawk flying overhead as I drove down a street in Castro Valley (10/19).

\* \* \* \* \*

Observations should be sent to:

Kirk and Lee Robinson  
19046 Mayberry Drive  
Castro Valley, CA 94546  
(415) 538-2655 (after 6pm)

Deadline for Observations is the monthly meeting.

Expert birders will lead wide-ranging excursions to some of Central California's exceptional water-bird concentrations in the Central Valley and the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta. Workshops will focus on field identification and regional breeding bird atlas efforts. Banquet speaker, Dr. Arnold Small, author of The Birds of California, headlines the program of talks.

For more information and registration forms, write Tim Manolis, 3532 Winston Way, Carmichael, CA 95608. A preregistration discount is offered to participants preregistering before January 1.

Alexander Lindsay Museum is offering a trip to Pescadero Tidepools on Saturday & Sunday December 7&8 for ages 12-adult. Fee: \$35 members, \$50 nonmembers plus \$3 transportation fee. John Pelonio, Leader.

Snowshoe Camping Sunday & Monday December 29 & 30 ages 12- adult. Fee \$35/members \$50/nonmembers plus \$8 transportation fee. John Pelonio, leader.

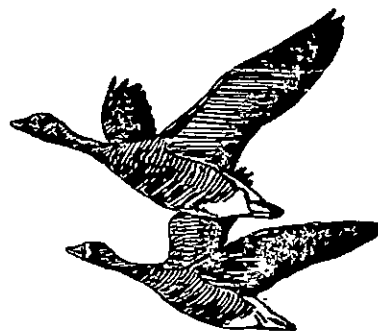
Introduction to Snowshoing, Sunday December 14 ages junior high - adult. Fee: \$20/members \$25/nonmembers plus \$8 transportation fee. Sam Smoker, leader.

Preregistration required for all programs. Call 935-1978.

#### FLORA AND FAUNA BOOKS

Flora and Fauna Books, a specialty bookstore in Seattle which carries books on all aspects of natural history, is publishing a free catalog of new, used, and rare bird books. In particular they specialize in foreign field guides, and they do not charge for shipping. For your copy of catalog, write: Flora and Fauna Books, PO Box 3004, Seattle, WA 98114.

The above information taken from Ben Feltner's Peregrine Tours Newsletter; they offer many tours for the birder and naturalist. For a schedule of trips write: Peregrine Tours, PO Box 2074, Humble, TX 77347.




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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: \$30.00/year, family \$38, other levels available; check payable to National Audubon Society to Membership Chairman, MDAS, P O Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. Address change: Send notice to NAS Membership Data Ctr, P O Box 2667, Boulder, CO 80321; a copy of your letter should be sent to Membership Chairperson, Linda Myers, 1624 Springbrook Rd, Lafayette, CA 94596 to ensure uninterrupted Quail delivery. Chapter affiliation changed on member's request. Subscriptions: \$6.00/year payable to Mt Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, Gifford A. Young, 1451 Janet Ct, Benicia, CA 94510. First class mailing in envelope: \$3.00/year, payable to Mt Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, address above.

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

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