



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 1986

Vol 32 No 6

next deadline: January 2, 1986

MEETING Thurs Jan 2, Contra Costa Jewish Commu-
 Center, 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 Doug Herr, a long time member of MDAS, has photo-
 graphed birds all over the North American Continent.
 His work has been published in Audubon Magazine.
 and several other books, calendars, periodicals
 and advertisements. Doug will present "A MID-
WESTERN SPRING" a slide presentation of the
 warbler migration in the midwest. Those of us who
 were fortunate enough to see Doug's other programs
 on Alaska and the Everglades will attest to his
 talents.

BOARD Board meetings are open to all interested
MEETINGS members. Thursday Jan 9, 7:30 pm,
 home of Al McNabney, 1161 Leisure
 Lane #7, Walnut Creek, 945-1785.

Trips are open to members and non-members
FIELD alike. Carpool time is departure time.
TRIPS 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 Jan 4, **SUNOL**, carpool 7:30, El Cerro Blvd,
 west of I-680. Meet 8:15, parking lot Sunol Regional
 Park. Go south on I-680 to Calaveras Rd exit. Go
 left under the freeway and 4 miles south on Calaveras
 Rd, turn left on Geary 2 miles to park. Golden
 Eagle and other raptors, Rufous-crowned Sparrow,
 Rock and Canyon Wrens possible. This is a walking
 trip, 2-3 miles, trails may be steep, muddy.
 Leader: Merv Ortez 283-3072

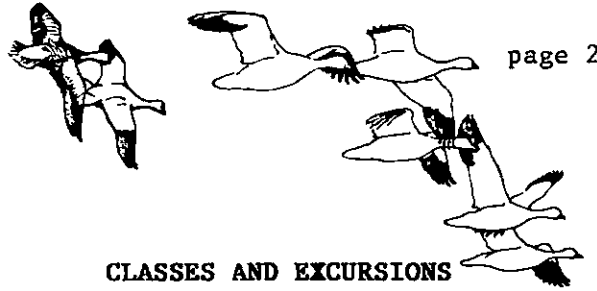
- * Wed Jan 8, **GOLDEN GATE PARK** carpool 8:15 Acalanes
 Ave off Pleasant Hill Rd, north of Fwy 24. Meet
 9:00 at North Lake. At Fulton and 43rd turn left
 into Park and park along north side of lake. Possible
 vagrants, ducks. Paths may be muddy.
 Leader: Elizabeth Dickey 254-0486

- * Sat Jan 18 **PUTAH CREEK** carpool 7:00 south west
 corner Sun Valley parking lot. Meet 8:30 Solano
 Co Park, Pleasant Valley Rd. Take I-680 north,
 I-80 east to Cherry Glen exit. Cross freeway, go
 1 mile north, then left on Pleasants Valley Rd 14
 miles to park. Wood Duck, mergansers, other water-
 fowl, Osprey, Phainopepla, Rock and Canyon Wrens.
 Walking is level, but often muddy or wet; cold and
 windy at the dam.
 Leader: Fred Safier 937-2906

- * Thurs Jan 23 **BERKELEY-EMERYVILLE SHORELINE**
 carpool 8:30 El Nido Rd (take Acalanes ROAD
 exit from Fwy 24 and follow signs for Upper Happy
 Valley Rd. Meet 9:00 at Seabird Sailing Center Berkeley
 Aquatic Park. From I-80 take University Ave exit,
 turn right on Addison to park. Water and shore
 birds. Level walking, windy.
 Leader: Norah Bain 254-4516

- * Thur Jan 30 **GRIZZLY ISLAND REFUGE** carpool
 7:00 southwest corner Sun Valley Mall parking lot.
 Meet 8:00 at Grizzly Island HQ. Take I-680 north
 and I-80 east to SR 12 exit. Follow 12 through
 Fairfield and watch for sign on right to Grizzly
 Island. Hawks, ducks, last year had Short-eared
 Owls. Much car birding, paths muddy.
 Leader: Maury Stern 284-5980

- * **RARITY CHASERS** Thur Jan 16 carpool 7:45 Acalanes
 Ave off Pleasant Hill Rd, north of Fwy 24. Call
 Elizabeth Dickey for further information.



* Looking ahead: Los Banos trip is Feb 1-2. Motels in Los Banos, Stardust Motel, 209-826-5016, Bonanza Motel 209-826-3874. Notify Jean Richmond if you are going, also if you wish to join group at Woolgrowers Restaurant Saturday night for family style Basque dinner.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

CANDLESTICK SHORELINE PARK, November 16

Eleven members and guests walked the shores of Bay and lagoon on a cool but occasionally sunny day November 16 on the Candlestick Point and environs field trip. 61 species were seen including a Whimbrel and several Spotted Sandpipers.

Fred Safier

ALTAMONT PASS, November 20

The weather was overcast and cold all day but at least there was no wind. A light drizzle off and on became light rain at the foot of Altamont Pass on the way home. We had beautiful views of Rough-legged Hawks including a dark phase. Two adult Golden Eagles had a gorgeous display of acrobatics then split in opposite directions. There were two large flocks of Lark Sparrows at close range. Frick Lake was dry and so was the pond and marsh on Altamont Pass Rd. That cut the shorebirds and gulls we usually see in the area, and we had no waterfowl.

Jean Richmond

LAKE MERRITT December 5

Five members and 3 guests enjoyed a beautiful day of sunshine at Lake Merritt. With an abundance of gulls and ducks to observe, the group delighted at views of a female Hooded Merganser, Redheads, Barrows Goldeneyes, and Bonaparte and Mew Gulls. The chance to compare Eared and Horned Grebes at close range was also rewarding. 52 species observed.

Mary Jane Culver

NILES CANYON GRAVEL PITTS December 7

Our field trip today to Niles Canyon Gravel Pits was in on/off rain throughout the morning; but we had 60 species including Hooded Merganser, Spotted Sandpiper, many Green-backed Herons and a flock of eleven parrots. These were mostly red crowned but some had blueish heads...didn't know what they were. Only 4 people braved the weather.

Jimm Edgar

PALO ALTO BAYLANDS Dec 11

Fifteen members and guest waited for rails in the cold. We were rewarded with several quick glimpses of the Black Rail. This was a life bird for several. Also very good looks at Clapper Rail. At high tide they are coming out close to the main boardwalk and easily seen.

Elizabeth Dickey

CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

GGAS Free evening bird classes will be offered through the John Adams Community College starting in January. Students may enroll at any time during the 18-week semester. Each class stresses identification, status, and habits of North American birds in a 2½ hour weekly slide lecture. Joe Morlan is the instructor. Info: John Adams Comm College 561-1900 or 239-3070.

FREMONT ADULT SCHOOL A Birding Field Trips Class is being offered to observe and learn about the field identification, life styles, and ecology of local birds. Tuesday mornings, 9:30-12:30 Jan 7th to Feb 11 for beginning and experienced birders. Alice Hoch, an experienced teacher and birder will lead.

A 1-day field trip Jan 25 to the Delta is being offered to view hundreds of Sandhill Cranes on their wintering grounds practicing their nuptial dance. Many other birds, including hawks, ducks, and gulls will also be observed. Also led by Alice Hoch. Info: Fremont Adult School 791-5841

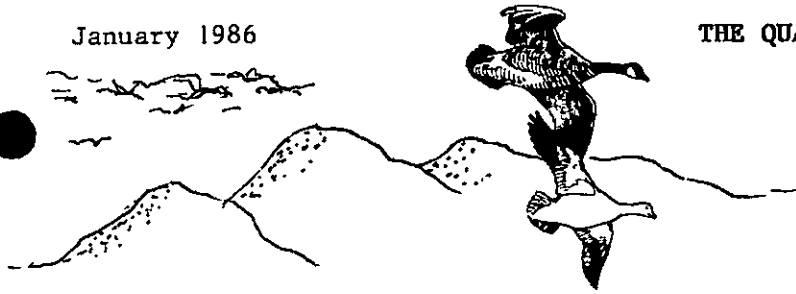
JOHN MUIR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE Birds of Briones, View birds of Briones with naturalist John Davis. Meet at the top of Briones Rd off Alhambra Valley Rd. Jan 4, 9-11.

Beginning Birders, Enjoy a frosty winter morning in the orchards viewing the many feathered inhabitants. Jan 18, 9-11. Info: 228-4210

Norah Bain will offer birding classes for beginning and intermediate birders through the Orinda Community Center. One course will consist of a morning classroom session, plus all day field trips to the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge and another to the Bolinas area. Orinda Residents: \$18, non-residents \$20. Another course will have one classroom meeting and 3 half-day field trips (9-12). Residents \$24, nonresidents \$26. Register Jan 3 at Orinda Community Ctr, 254-2445.

THE WHALE CENTER A Symposium on Whales and Whale-watching Jan 10-11 from 10-5:30 at the Oakland Museum. This symposium is open to the public as well as specialists. Registration, \$12/day. It will feature experts in cetology and marine biology. Whalewatching cruises will be featured on Jan 12 from Half Moon Bay. Info: 654-6621

NATURE SOUND SOCIETY will present a discussion of Nature Sound Recording on Jan 12 at 1:00 pm at the Richardson Bay Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary. We will receive the ideas and insights of four experienced field recordists. Info: 273-3884.



CONSERVATION NOTES

by Al McNabney

IS SHELL MARSH SHRINKING?

Public perception that the threat to Shell Marsh resulting from a proposed development project has "gone away" is wrong. Late word indicates a new proposed plan for development of the area will be unveiled on December 2nd. Another Environmental Impact Report has been drafted to support the revised project. Some, who have been close to the situation indicate the "new" plan calls for the filling of 5 acres of Shell Marsh with mitigation, which may well suit the needs and desires of the development company and the City of Martinez. Whether the same observation can be applied to migrating birdlife that look to the area for food, water and rest is another question. Existing federal regulations would appear to stop the filling or destruction of an area such as Shell Marsh. Time will tell who wins, the birds or the buildings.

IT'S EASIER SAID THAN DONE

The unauthorized fill of wetlands adjacent to Stauffer Chemical Co in Martinez has been subject to scrutiny and contention for over a year. Several "starts" have been attempted to finish the paper work so the fill could be removed. So far, despite a lot of effort by various interested people the actual fill is still in the wetland. A meeting in early December should set the stage for actual removal of the fill. Can it be done while the rainy season is on? Will it be done before the winter is over? Good questions!

MORE ABOUT BAY WETLAND USES

Bay Area Audubon Chapters and other conservation groups joined with officers of some governmental agencies to bring to the attention of Bay Area Congress people and the US Senators the importance of protection of San Francisco Bay wetlands. There appears to be more interest and understanding of the Bay, the problems being created as a result of failure of governmental agencies to follow the law and protect important bay wetlands. The naming of Robert K. Dawson as Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (US Army Corps of Engineers) has created grave concerns among environmental leaders. Indications are that some of those in the Senate and House are at least listening to environmentalists.

OBSERVATIONS

There weren't a lot of observations this month. I guess the weather kept us indoors more than usual.

The most interesting report this month comes from Al and Wanda Hamra, just back from a trip to Northern Thailand. Between mid-October and mid-November the Hamra's observed 71 species, including Hornbills, Bulbuls, Minavets, and Dronguls.

Also venturing far afield, but somewhat closer to home were Bob and Betty Gallagher, who saw the Jacana on the Guevari Ranch near Tucson, Arizona (11/27).

Close to home, Norma and Merv Ortez saw a Great Horned Owl in their backyard (12/4).

Barbara Vaughn spotted a Hooded Merganser at Aquatic Park (12/5). Jimm Edgar also saw a Hooded Merganser, as well as several Barrow's Goldeneye at Lake Merritt (12/5). Jimm saw a Wood Duck in Santa Cruz (12/4).

Tom Lee saw two Snipe in the middle of the soccer field at Ygnacio Valley High School. They stayed there for several hours and one bird was in the same spot the next day (11/13-14).

Jean Richmond reported several birding adventures. On November 11, along with George Finger and Marge Plant, Jean birded Monterey Bay. They spotted 8 Black-Vented Shearwaters near Pt. Pinos, and later, from Wharf #2 they saw 5 Northern Fulmars, a Fork-Tailed Storm-Petrel, a Leach's Storm-Petrel, a Peregrine Falcon, and an immature Sabine's Gull.

In scouting the Altamont Pass area for the MDAS field trip Jean reported seeing 4 Golden Eagles, an immature Bald Eagle, a Ferruginous Hawk and 2 Rough-Legged Hawks (11/17).

At Arrowhead Marsh with several friends, Jean observed a pair of Blue-Winged Teal, a pair and a second male Eurasian Wigeon (11/26).

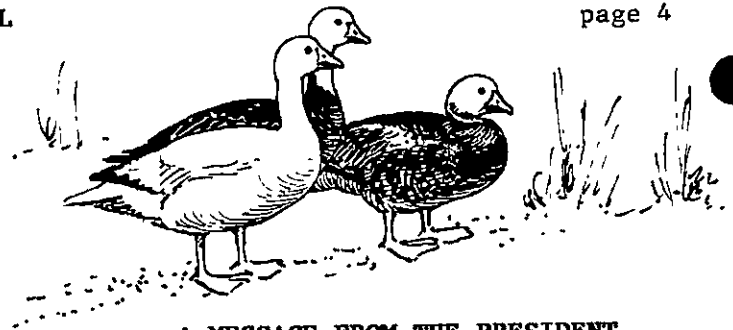
In her Alamo yard Jean reported seeing 2 Red-Shouldered Hawks (11/1), a Golden Eagle (11/25), and Golden-Crowned Kinglets all through the month.

* * * * *

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.



NEW MEMBERS

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

Arline Axtell, Pat Matl, Shirley Miller, Dr R Miller Arthur Beckman, Helen Chinitz, Jerry Kent, D Stuart Macrobbie MD, Helen Murphy, M C Richmond, J I Sherman, Herbert Tasker, Jon Tuttle, Josef Wiley, Irene Ray Wilson, and John Witte.

EDUCATION: AUDUBON ADVENTURES

Thank you 256 times to the following members of MDAS who sponsored classes for the Audubon Adventures program in local schools. That is the number of students who are benefitting from this stimulating program of environmental education through the generosity of our members.

June Mallory	5th grade	Glorietta School	Orinda
Sandy & Richard Raschke	5th grade	Happy Valley School	Lafayette
	5th grade	Chabot Elem	Oakland
Edna Mass	E H Class	Cambridge School	Concord
Lois Foster	4th grade	Muirwood School	Walnut Creek
	3rd grade	Valle Verde Elem	Walnut Creek
Helen & Al McNabney	5th	Valle Verde Elem	Walnut Creek
Barbara Vaughn	5th	Twin Creeks School	San Ramon

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members of Mt Diablo Audubon Society,

Our Chapter needs volunteers for most Board positions for the year 1986-1987. Most of the present Board members will be leaving their positions, many after several years of very active participation.

After three years of doing an excellent job as editor of The Quail, Shimi will be retiring from that role. We have a great need to have a smooth transition in editors. This means we need to think about filling this important position now!

The presidency will be open as well as other vital offices on the Board. Please volunteer for these positions which have been filled so competently by so many different people over the years. In keeping with the tradition of our Chapter, it's time for some new people to become involved in operation of the Board of Mt Diablo Audubon Society.

Thanks, *Maury Stern*
Maury Stern, President

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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The QUAIL

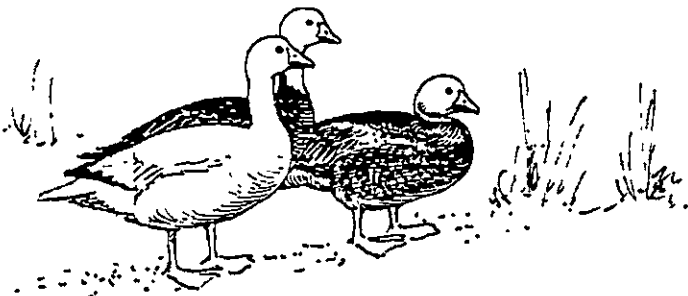
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Thanks, *Maury Stern*
Maury Stern, President

MEETING Thurs Feb 6, Contra Costa Jewish Community Center, 2071 Tice Valley Blvd, Walnut Creek. Doors open 6:30 pm, **BIRDING INFORMATION** 7:00 pm, Barbara Robinson, a member of the staff of Alexander Lindsay Jr Museum will discuss **RAPTOR REHABILITATION**. **BUSINESS MEETING** 7:30 pm, **SOCIAL TIME** 8:00 pm, **PROGRAM** 8:30 Doug

Cheeseman, a professor of zoology at DeAnza College and an active tour leader for Cheeseman's Ecology Safaris, Inc, will present a program complete with slides on **BIRDS AND MAMMALS OF NEW GUINEA AND QUEENSLAND**. He will discuss adaptations and behavior of the wildlife with an emphasis on the Bird of Paradise and its incredible displays. The Cheeseman's led a trip to New Guinea and Australia in the summer of 1985.

BOARD MEETINGS Board meetings are open to all interested members. Thursday February 13, 7:30 pm, home of Gifford and Winnie Young, 1451 Janet Ct, Benicia, (707) 745-4134.

FIELD TRIPS Trips are open to members and non-members alike. Carpool time is departure time. Carpool time is departure time. Carpool expense: 5c per mile per 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-Sun Feb 1-2, **LOS BANOS-PANOCHÉ VALLEY**, meet Sat 8:45 am Shell Station east of I-5, SR 140 interchange; Sun 8:00 am, Little Panoche Reservoir on Road J-1 west of I-5. **IF GOING:** contact leader, Jean Richmond, 837-2843. Also confirm with her if you wish to join the group for Basque dinner Saturday night. Motel info is in January Quail. Carpooling is difficult on this trip, but an effort should be made. Last year on Santa Fe Grade Rd, the people at the head of the parade didn't hear about the Bald Eagle until lunch time and those at the end never saw the Common Teal.

* Wed Feb 5, **LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR**, meet 9:00 am in the parking lot at the top of the reservoir. Have 4 quarters ready for the gate fee. This trip

is a good introduction to both the land and water birds of our county. A three mile walk, some trails paved, some dirt.

Leader: Mary Jane Culver, 682-0509

- * Sat Feb 15 **THORNTON** carpool 7:15 am southwest corner of Sun Valley parking lot. Meet 9:00 am at park on Glasscock Rd. Take SR 4 to Antioch Bridge continue north along the river to SR 12; just beyond the Mokelumne River Bridge, turn left onto Glasscock Rd. We should see Tundra Swans, Sandhill Cranes and ducks, geese, hawks, perhaps Bitterns and Green-backed Heron. This is mostly car birding with little walking. Trip will go in light rain.
Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486

- * Thurs Feb 20 **CLIFTON COURT-EAST CONTRA COSTA COUNTY** carpool 7:00 am by Burger King in Clayton Valley Shopping Center. Meet 7:45 at end of Clifton Rd. From shopping center go east through Clayton, continue on Marsh Creek 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 may turn back as desired. After lunch we may explore east county for Mountain Bluebirds, Burrowing Owl, and hawks
Leader: George Finger, 933-2468

* Wed Feb 12

- * Thurs Feb 27 **RARITY CHASERS** Meet 7:30 am Acalanes Ave off Pleasant Hill Rd, just north of Hwy 24.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

MDAS CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT December 21

Our 1985 Christmas Count was a record breaking success. The unofficial count indicates we have recorded 152 species, exceeding our goal of 150 species. The total census of individual birds exceeded 41,000, which is below last year's count of 52,000+ birds.

The lingering valley fogs covered much of our area on December 21, making viewing difficult at times. However, some of us who started out on Mt Diablo were treated to beautiful sunshine and spectacular views over the top of the fog layer at 1000 ft. The extensive fog layer may have been a help in disguise since several rarities wandered into our count circle.

Our species list is as follows: Red-throated Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Clark's Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, American Bittern, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Green-backed Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Tundra Swan, Greater White-fronted Goose, Canada Goose,

Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Surf Scoter, Common Goldeneye, Barrow's Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Common Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Black-shouldered Kite, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Golden Eagle, American Kestrel, Merlin, Prairie Falcon, Ring-necked Pheasant, California Quail, Black Rail, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Sandhill Crane, Black-bellied Plover, Killdeer, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Greater Yellowlegs, Willet, Spotted Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Western Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Long-billed Dowitcher, Common Snipe, Bonaparte's Gull, Mew Gull, Ring-billed Gull, California Gull, Herring Gull, Thayer's Gull, Western Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Rock Dove, Band-tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Common Barn-Owl, Western Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Burrowing Owl, Short-eared Owl, White-throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Acorn Woodpecker, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Stellar's Jay, Scrub Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Rock Wren, Bewick's Wren, Winter Wren, Marsh Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Western Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Varied Thrush, Wrenit, Northern Mockingbird, California Thrasher, Water Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Phainopepla, Loggerhead Shrike, European Starling, Hutton's Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Rufous-sided Towhee, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Sage Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Red-winged Blackbird, Tricolored Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Purple Finch, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Lesser Goldfinch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

It would be difficult to select one "bird of the day" this year. Strong candidates would have to be the eight Sandhill Cranes flying in echelon above the fog on the Mountain, seen by Joe Broyles' group, the Osprey seen in Pine Canyon by Tom Lee's group, the Barrow's Goldeneye seen by Bob Richmond's group or the Yellow-headed Blackbirds seen by Ed Hase's group in the fields near Pittsburgh.

Much of our success this year was due not only to the weather but to the enthusiasm and efforts of the 77 participant members and friends. Special thanks go to our good birder firends from the Golden

Gate, Napa-Solano and Ohlone Chapters who contributed so much to the success of our 1985 Christmas Bird Count.

George Finger

SUNOL REGIONAL PARK January 4

The day was overcast, wet and muddy with periodic showers. However, five members and guests enjoyed the day and found shelter from the showers under the park's large oaks. A total of 47 species were observed including those seen on a side-trip to Calaveras Reservoir. Some of our better sightings were Sunol: Belted Kingfisher, Red-breasted Sapsucker, American Dipper, Varied Thrush (several); Calaveras: Bald Eagle (two), Canada Goose (large number), and Say's Phoebe.

Merv Ortez

CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

OAKLAND MUSEUM John Woodhouse Audubon's Overland Journey: Sketches in the exhibition record of J.W. Audubon during a visit to California in 1849-1850. Feb 15-April 13. Oakes Gallery

COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY Featured speaker Bob Boekelheide, from Pt Reyes Bird Observatory Staff Biologist. UC Berkeley Life Sciences Bld Room 2503, Monday Feb 3, 8:00 pm.

MONO LAKE COMMITTEE MLC is again sponsoring bus tours to the elephant seal breeding grounds at Ano Nuevo State Reserve. Monday Feb 10, and Friday, Feb 28. \$21/person limited to 40 people.

Adventures in Galapagos, Ecuador, and Peru June 24-July 10. Aboard a 90 passenger cruise ship. \$1805-2035/person. \$300 is a tax-deductible donation to Mono Lake Fund. For info on both trips: Mildred Bennett, 2719 Marin Ave, Berkeley, 94708, 526-1260.

FREMONT ADULT SCHOOL Birding Field Trips Class taught by Alice Hoch, a different birding spot each week. 9:30-12:30 from Feb 25-Apr 8th. Info: Fremont Adult School 791-5841 or Alice at 657-0475.

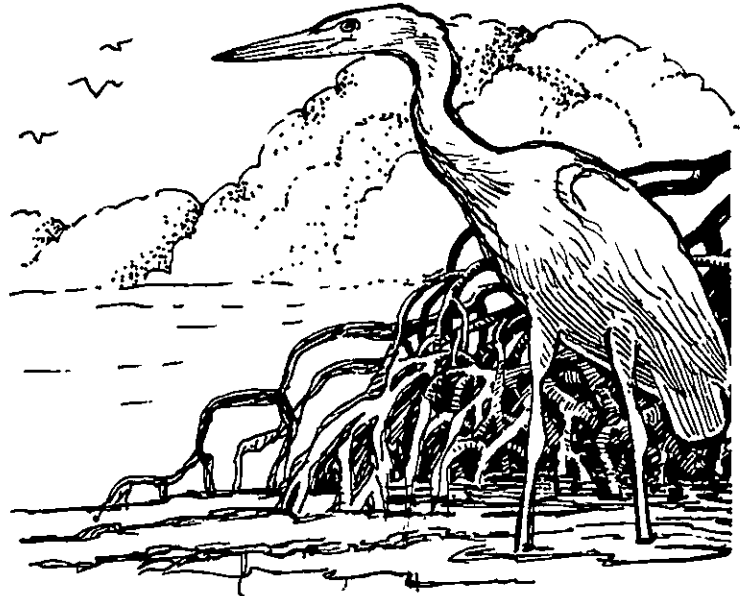
MORE MONO LAKE COMMITTEE Two \$1000 Fine Wine Cellars will be raffled off on Mar 21, to benefit Mono Lake. Only 500 tickets will be sold at \$50/ticket-tax deductible towards saving Mono Lake. For info and tickets: send a SASE to: Grace de Laet, MLC, 37 Calhoun Terrace, San Francisco, CA 94133.

CHEESEMAN'S' ECOLOGY SAFARIS, INC Offers a family trip to the Galapagos & Peru Natural History, Aug 3-26, 1986. Space available for 4 participants (10 altogether). \$2800 + airfare. Led by Doug and Gail Cheeseman.

Tanzania, Seychelles, & Kenya, June 27-July 26, 1986 3 spaces available. These trips are for avid birders, naturalists, and wildlife photographers who are in good physical condition, are non-smokers,

and enjoy being in the field all day. For info on these and many others: Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris 20800 Kittredge Rd, Saratoga, CA 95070, (408) 741-5330.

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH EXPEDITIONS PROGRAM (UREP) Research expeditions in various parts of the world, in various categories (archaeology, animal behavior, ecology, anthropology) cost is tax deductible. Some trips upcoming to: Alaska, Israel, Australia, Kenya many others. Contact UREP, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720, (415) 642-6586 for a complete list and brochure.



NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, WESTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

This year's Western Regional Conference at the Asilomar Conference Center features a unique gathering of Audubon members from both the Western Region and Alaska coming together to learn more about some of the key issues and resources that link these two parts of the country. Presentations and workshops will draw special attention to Wetlands and the Protection of Old Growth Forests. Some program highlights will be a keynote address by Audubon President Peter A.A. Berle, noted wildlife photographer Tupper Ansel Blake's new **WETLANDS OF THE PACIFIC FLYWAY** slide presentation, field trips include Pt Lobos, Elkhorn Slough, the UC Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Facility, Hastings Natural History Reservation, and a Monterey Bay Pelagic trip. Conferees will have numerous opportunities to participate in small group workshops focusing on a wide variety of topics: from issues such as Global and International Conservation, Urban Wildlife Protection, panels discussing conservation of the Sandhill Crane, California Condor, Peregrine Falcon, Pacific Fur Seal, Arctic Nesting Geese, Pesticides, and the Audubon Wildlife Report. For information contact Audubon Conference, 555 Audubon Place, Sacramento, CA 95825 (916) 481-5332. The conference runs March 22-25.

CONSERVATION NOTES

by AL McNABNEY

SHELL MARSH, IT'S STILL THERE!!!

Audubon people know that migratory water birds (and others) use Shell Marsh for food, water, and rest through much of the year. A development project is on the drawing boards which calls for the filling of up to 5 acres of the marsh, and many more buildings built around the perimeter of the wetland. All this will very likely have an adverse impact on the viability of the area as suitable habitat for the many species of birds that now use it.

Section 404D of the Clean Water Act precludes the use of wetlands for development if a significant degradation of US waters would be a result. Many are of the opinion the Bay would suffer from the run-off from the industrial park. The area is also a special aquatic site used by migrating and resident birds alike. A hearing in Martinez before the City Planning Commission will be the first step in a renewed effort to turn Shell Marsh into a venture producing income but likely to have significant (adverse) impacts on bird and wildlife.

GRAMM/RUDMAN/HOLLINGS WHAT AFFECTS?

This so-called budget reduction measure brings initial implications of creating horrendous results and affects on conservation in the US Government. Since birds don't vote, there is a possibility some governmental people may believe budget cuts can be made with impunity in conservation areas. Will the US Park Service—already cut and trimmed during the Watt era—be cut further? What about the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers? Both agencies have a responsibility to police the Clean Water Act. Budget cuts over the past 5 years have left both agencies below funding levels of earlier years. Substantial deficiencies already exist in manpower in the enforcement areas. If cut further, the agencies will not be able to carry out the overseeing functions mandated to them by the Congress.

CONDORS POLITICS THE FUTURE

You have lived during a time when this magnificent bird, the California Condor has been flying in our Southern California skies. It is now very likely your children won't have such an opportunity. It is NOW likely the Condor will be an extinct species, except for a pair in a zoo someplace. This gloomy picture is painted as a result of Federal and State agencies having acted to take all wild Condors and put them in a zoo. The argument for this action: The numbers of Condors in the wild (6) is so low that the entire species is threatened unless they are brought in and an effective captive breeding program set up to insure perpetuation of the species. It is then said that when the number of birds in the captive breeding program is large enough the birds will be released to the wild. BUT WHAT ABOUT HABITAT???? Congress authorized funds so the Secretary of the Interior could purchase the Hudson Ranch; a property considered vital and ideal for habitat for the Condors. The property has not been purchased. No word is given by the Secretary or anyone else as to what will happen to the Hudson Ranch. If it is sold by the present owners for development then the question to be asked is: So there is a large sized captive population—how do you release them to the wild when there is no adequate habitat? These magnificent birds can easily fly a couple hundred miles in a day just "looking around". They need space. Without it they cannot exist.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We extend warm greetings to these new MDAS members and urge them to become active members of our chapter: Jeanne Alexander, GR Anderson, Thomas Cole, Elizabeth Collier, Mr & Mrs Kurt Daniels, Janet Goodman, L E Greffenises Family, Terry Carol Gwin, Lindley Hall, Peg Humphreys, Mr & Mrs Robert Husted, Carole Penniman Fan, Thomas Sinclair, Rick Thompson, Kristi Bank, R Brownbridge, H V Davis, Mr & Mrs Tom DiMercurio P S Hamer, Ron Shahade, Mr & Mrs Charles Tupitza.

OBSERVATIONS

The winter season is a good time of year to pay attention to the birds at or near our backyard feeders. There were several reports of interesting birds feeding in the backyards. Some birds were at feeders, others were hunting the birds at the feeder.

Jackie Foott notes that a Red-Breasted Sapsucker has returned to her feeder for the second consecutive year. George and Molly Jane Monheit frequently see a Red-Breasted Nuthatch at the suet feeder and the birdbath at their Lafayette home.

Kevin Hintsa reported a Cooper's Hawk, a Sharp-Shinned Hawk and a Kestrel in his yard, all hunting other birds at his feeder. Lee and I noted that the flock of sparrows and finches that congregate at the feeder at our house were spooked by another bird. Upon closer inspection we found a Sharp-Shinned Hawk roosting in a tree next door. The hawk had obviously found a nice spot to look for dinner (12/14).

Moving farther afield, Jimm Edgar saw two Peregrine Falcons, a Black Rail, and a female Wood Duck at Palo Alto Baylands. Jimm also noted that a member of his birding party, Marv Reif, spotted a Sharp-Tailed Sparrow (12/12).

Doug Herr reported a Sharp-Shinned Hawk flying over Highway 24 in Lafayette (1/1).

George Finger participated in the Mount Hamilton Bird Count, covering Mines Road. George reported seeing a Ferruginous Hawk, Lawrence's Goldfinches, and Lewis' Woodpeckers.

Jean Richmond was the busiest of the holiday birders - at least she reported on more birding ventures than the rest of us.

At Lake Merritt with Bill and Mary Jane Greene and several friends, Jean observed a male and 2 female Redheads and 12 male and 5 female Barrow's Goldeneye (12/3).

On a trip to Saramento NWR and Gray Lodge WMA with the Greene's and other friends, Jean reported seeing 4 Cattle Egrets (2 perched on cows), a Ferruginous Hawk, 30 Rough-Legged Hawks, a Merlin, an immature Golden Eagle, a Prairie Falcon, a Vesper Sparrow, and a "Slate-Colored" Junco. And as Jean says, "all this plus thousands of Snow and Ross' Geese flying under a clear blue sky - WOW!!" (12/9-10).

Jean, along with many people spotted a Black Rail at Palo Alto Baylands (12/11).

On a December 17 trip to the Hayward Regional Shoreline with the Greene's and other friends, Jean reported seeing 4 Lapland Longspurs in "excellent light and at close range." Jean also spotted a Rough-Legged Hawk and 2 Ferruginous Hawks and provided the following report: "One Ferruginous Hawk was on the ground feeding on a small mammal. It fed for awhile and when finished, hopped off a few feet and wiped its bill. Then the Rough-Legged Hawk flew in and took over the carcass and started feeding. A female Northern Harrier waiting nearby was then out of luck and flew off."

Jean, the Greene's and 3 others birded Berkeley Aquatic park on New Year's Eve and reported seeing an adult Snow Goose, 65 Redheads, a female Barrow's Goldeneye and a male Hooded merganser.

I even got in a little birding this past month. On Christmas Eve, driving from Castro Valley into San Leandro along Lake Chabot Road, I spotted an Osprey in a snag across the road from the quarry. I stopped to take a closer look and noted that the Osprey had a fish in one talon. We eyed each other for a couple of minutes before I decided to leave and not disturb the meal any further.

At Aquatic Park in San Francisco, I saw a Red-Breasted Sapsucker and a Red-Tailed Hawk just inside the grounds of Fort Mason. There were also a number of Sanderlings out on the end of the pier.

* * * * *

We are still looking for someone to take over writing the Observations column. While we have enjoyed doing the column, the responsibility of a new family will not allow us to continue writing the column (the hatchling will be appearing on the scene very soon).

* * * * *

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.

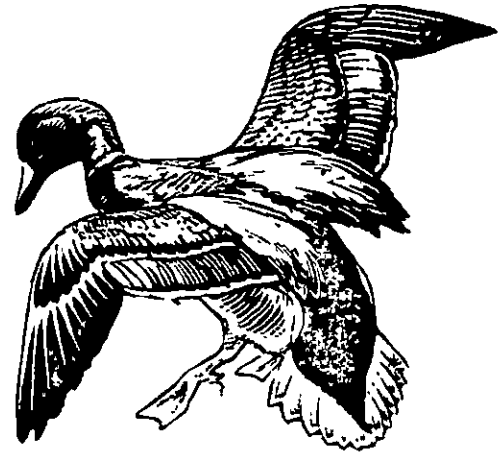
MISC STUFF

The Madrone Audubon Society and the Redwood Ornithological Society are planning to conduct a Breeding Bird Atlas in Sonoma County starting in April 1986.

Avid birders who are willing to assume responsibility for checking the breeding birds in a grid will be most welcome. This involves 4 or 5 trips to the area during the breeding season (April-June), recording the data, and mailing to the committee. If interested, please phone or write to Betty Burrige, chairman of the committee, 963 Crest Dr, Santa Rosa. CA 95404, (707) 527-0225.

PLANNING AND CONSERVATION LEAGUE FOUNDATION has released a new publication designed to provide a clear and concise explanation of the key requirements of Calif's centerpiece environmental protection law. The 16-page booklet explains the law's most important provisions including requirements for preparing EIRs and reducing environmental damage caused by projects. Copies are available from the PCL Foundation, 909 12th St, Suite 203, Sacramento, VA 95814 for \$2.00/copy.

Former MDAS Board Member, Winnie Orcutt has relocated to the San Luis Obispo area and has written to us that the "door is always open" for birders in or near the SLO area. Call or write Mr & Mrs H.D. Orcutt, 1095 James Way, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420, (805) 481-7317.



THE QUAIL, published monthly except a July/August combined issue, is sent to National Audubon Society members in Mt Diablo Chapter. To join NAS: \$30.00/year, family \$38, senior, student, and introductory levels available, consult Membership Chairperson, Linda Myers, (415) 932-3489. Make 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 to Quail only: \$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 for either member or subscriber an additional \$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
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Walnut Creek, CA 94596

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The QUAIL

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

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

March 1986

Vol 32 No 7

next deadline: March 6, 1986

Thurs March 6, Contra Costa
MEETING Jewish Community Center, 2071
Tice Valley Blvd, Walnut Creek. Doors
open 6:30 pm, **BIRDING INFORMATION** 7:00
pm, Pam Armstrong, **BUSINESS MEETING** 7:30
pm, **SOCIAL TIME** 8:00 pm, **PROGRAM** 8:30
pm **STEPHEN F. BAILEY**, Ph.D., Assistant
Curator, Department of Ornithology and
Mammalogy at the California Academy of
Sciences will give a program on **LOCAL**
OWLS. Those of you who have been lucky
enough to have heard Steve lecture, will
know how complete his knowledge of the
subject is. He has numerous clear slides
illustrating many fine points of field
identification. Anyone considering the
MDAS owling field trip would gain a preview
in owl identification.

BOARD MEETING Board Meetings are open
to all interested members.
Thursday March 13, 7:30
pm, home of Barbara Vaughn, 59
Donna Maria Way, Orinda, 376-5041.

Trips are open to members and
FIELD non-members alike. Carpool
TRIPS time is departure time. Carpool
expense: 5¢ per mile per rider
is suggested; tolls and entry fees are
shared equally by driver and riders.
Bring binocs, field guides, and lunch.
Trips go in light rain; if in doubt, call
leader up to ½ hour before departure time.

* Wed March 5, **HAYWARD REGIONAL SHORELINE**
Carpool 7:30 am, El Cerro Blvd just west
of I-680, Danville. Meet 8:15 in parking
lot at Shoreline entrance. Take I-680
south to Crow Canyon or I-580; go south
on Nimitz SR 17 to Winton Ave exit and
west to end of Winton. This is a good

area for shorebirds and waterbirds. Rarities
are often found here. About 1 mile of
walking, mostly level, but muddy after
rains.

Leader: Elizabeth Dickey 254-0486

* Sat March 8 **BODEGA BAY-2 PART SPECIAL**

1. **OWLING**, 3:00 AM in Occidental- Maury
Stern will lead an owling trip down Willow
Creek. This is an outstanding owling
area. For details and carpooling, call
Maury Stern, 284-5980.

2. **BODEGA BAY** carpool 7:00 am southwest
corner of Sun Valley parking lot. Meet
9:00 am at Tides Restaurant in Bodega.
This area is excellent for loons, grebes,
rails, and sea birds. Little walking.
Leaders: Gifford and Winnie Young (707)
745-4134



* Thurs March 20 **BOLINAS-FIVE BROOKS**
carpool 7:00 am Acalanes Avenue, off Pleasant
Hill Rd, just north of Hwy 24. Meet 8:30
in parking area across from Audubon Canyon
Ranch on SR 1. 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. Turn right and go south to Audubon
Canyon Ranch. Alternate route, shorter,
but winding-from bridge go south on US
101 and take SR 1 north to Stinson Beach.
Bolinás Lagoon has good shore birds and
ducks; Five Brooks has ducks, Green-backed
Heron and land birds. Piliated Woodpecker
has been seen. About 1 mile walking,
gentle slopes, possibly muddy.
Leader: George Finger 933-2468

* San Leandro Reservoir **CANCELLED** Access requires an East Bay MUD permit. Both leaders who have such permits are busy last 3 Saturdays of March. We would be interested in knowing of other members who have access permits; some sort of joint leadership might be worked out.

* Wed March 12

RARITY CHASERS

* Thurs March 27

Meet 7:30 am, Acalanes Ave off Pleasant Hill Rd. Call Elizabeth Dickey for information, 254-0486.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

GOLDEN GATE PARK January 8

On January 8th, two members went to Golden Gate Park. 27 species were seen; Brown Creeper and Golden-crowned Kinglet were the best birds. The trip was continued at Lake Merced in the afternoon; looking for the Summer Tanager reported from the Christmas count. No tanager, but 9 additional species were seen.

RARITY CHASERS January 16

On January 16, four rarity chasers had a most successful day—everything we were looking for. First the Bendire's Thrasher in north Lodi, then both Little and Common Black-headed Gulls at the Stockton water treatment plant, and finally, 20+ Mountain Bluebirds at Balfor and Fairview Rds in east Contra Costa County.

BERKELEY SHORELINE/AQUATIC PARK January 23

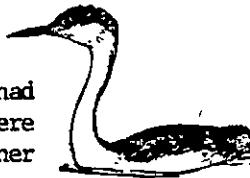
Nine members and one guest started in a shower and ended in warm sun and with a sparkling bay. Highlights were close-ups of a Red-throated Loon and over 12 Male Redhead ducks plus some females. Distant views of an Oldsquaw, Barrow's Goldeneye and four Greater Yellowlegs were among the 63 species.

Norah Bain

GRIZZLY ISLAND January 30

13 members and guests enjoyed a beautiful day with only 10 minutes of heavy showers. 62 species were seen including telescopic views of an American Bittern in typical posture, White-fronted and Canada Geese, 10 duck species, many Rough-legged Hawks, a Sora, 2 Great Horned Owls, Tree Swallows, and many good views of common marsh and open field birds.

Maury Stern



LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR February 5

Thirty four species of birds were seen on the pleasant walk around the reservoir by seven members. Excellent views of a Cooper's Hawk was the highlight of the day.

Mary Jane Culver

CONDOLENCES

On January 3, Isabella McGeehon passed away. She was 97. Some MDAS members may remember Mrs McGeehon as a charter member of our chapter. She served as editor of the Quail as well as being active in many community service organizations. A very special person, she will surely be missed.

CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

There is still time to sign up for Norah Bain's BAY AREA BIRD WALKS through the Orinda Community Center. February 25-March 18, Tuesdays 9-12. Orinda residents \$24, non-residents \$26. Call Norah 254-2445 for details.

The California Academy of Sciences is sponsoring a trip to ARIZONA, SONORAN DESERT AND CHIRICAHUAS April 12-20, led by Bonnie Moorhouse, Bob Love, and Dr Stephen Bailey. Inquiries to Betchart Expeditions, Inc, 10485 Phar Lap Dr, Cupertino CA 95014.

Tucson Audubon Society invites you to its 16th annual INSTITUTE OF DESERT ECOLOGY May 2-5. The program explores Sonoran Desert ecosystems with emphasis on relationships between plant life, animals and the physical characteristics of the desert rather than classification and identification. Info: Tucson Audubon Society, Institute of Desert Ecology, 30-A North Tucson Blvd, Tucson, Az, 85716.

NATIONAL AUDUBON, CAMP IN THE WEST is offering 3 sessions: Field Ecology, Nature Photography, and Wilderness Research Backpack Trip. Info: NAS, 4150 Darley Ave, Suite 5, Boulder, CO 80303, (303) 499-5409.

UCLA Extension lecture series IN CELEBRATION OF NATURE, a 5-week series featuring Robert Bateman, Joseph Sax, Ian McHarg, Peter Raven, and Thomas Lovejoy. For complete details Division of Letters and Science, UC Berkeley Extension, 2223 Fulton St, Berkeley, CA 94720.

CONSERVATION NOTES BY AL McNABNEY

THE CONDORS KEEP FLYING

Audubon said "No!!". A Federal Judge agreed. So the 5 California Condors still in the wild will be left in the wild. For how long? Will they survive? If Audubon has its way, these magnificent birds WILL survive in the wild and if properly handled, the captive breeding WILL work and there WILL be wild population. But, what about habitat? The Acting Director of Research for the US Fish and Wildlife

Service paid respects to the need for the Hudson Ranch as habitat for Condors in writing, "As to the Hudson Ranch, although we have withdrawn our offer to the owners with regard to a lease—the door has not yet been closed on purchase".

Since Congress appropriated the money for the purchase last year, the concerns over the program outlined by the US FWS to assure the future of the Condor appear mixed-up, to say the least. Secretary of Interior Donald Hodell has the money to make the purchase (if not messed up by Gramm/Rudman/Hollings). Let Secretary Hodell know how you feel about the issue.

OIL DRILLING OFF THE CALIFORNIA COAST

Secretary of Interior Donald Hodell is to announce new plans to allow oil drilling along the California coast. Already, widespread predictions are that the plan will fall far short of some sort of minimum protections for the unique California coast, for the bird and wildlife AND for the highly important commercial and sport fishing industry. The past few days have again demonstrated the disaster that occurs when oil leaks. A smallish spill, evidently from a barge, has left thousands of birds oil-covered; many have died and more are likely to. Beaches are fouled with oily blobs and the culprit is being sought. So, if during a drilling phase there's a blow-out, leak, or other disaster, we'll know who did it. I'm not certain we'll know WHY and I'd hate to have the task of trying to explain it to a flock of birds that have been oiled. If you have a view on the matter, let the Secretary know of it. NOW!!!



WORLD'S FAIR VISITORS ATTN

Anyone visiting the World's Fair this year in Vancouver may be interested in visiting the nearby George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary operated by the British Columbia Waterfowl Society, 5191 Robertson Rd, Delta, B.C. V4K 3N2, Canada. The Sanctuary is at the mouth of the Fraser River. This information was kindly sent by Ross and Carol Wagner, 327 Kwanzan Dr, Lynden, WA 98264, (206) 354-1274. They have offered to assist anyone making the trip.



CALIFORNIA TAX CHECK OFF

As a member of MDAS, you are already convinced of the importance of preserving our precious natural habitats and ecosystems. Come tax time, donate to the Rare and Endangered Species Program on Line 90 of the California Tax Form. Your donations will help a successful program of species and habitat preservation administered by the State Department of Fish and Game.

MOUNTAIN LION SLAUGHTER

The California Dept of Fish and Game officials are calling for the annihilation of every single mountain lion within a 250 mile area of US Forest Service lands and 50% within adjacent areas in Fresno County beginning in 1986 through 1989. Because mountain lions move freely into vacated territories, hundreds of lions will be killed over the next 4 years.

Why? Because a US Forest Service "study" showed lions eat deer. This doesn't take into account other factors ie hunting, poaching, habitat loss and competition from cattle. The problem is that the deer's natural predator (lions) competes with another predator (the hunter). The Mountain Lion Coalition is dedicated to protecting California's most magnificent species. Please try to help by contacting them: MLC, PO Box 1896, Sacramento, CA 95809, (408) 375-5161. Time is short, final recommendations will be given in early March and April.

OBSERVATIONS

As spring arrives and we look forward to the northern migration of our summer birds, we (your editors) are retiring to care for our new child, Sara Jeans. To date no one has volunteered to take over the fun of being observations editors for the Quail. If you might be so inclined please contact Maury Stern.

* * * * *

During the month of January, raptors were the most frequently reported birds. It is good to note a healthy overwintering population of these majestic birds.

Norah Bain reported seeing a Golden Eagle, a Rough-Legged Hawk, 30 Tundra Swans and thousands of Snow and Canada Geese at the Sacramento Wildlife Refuge (1/21).

Barbara Vaughn saw two Golden Eagles and a Peregrine Falcon at Abbotts Lagoon (1/23).

Shimi Edmondson observed a Rough-Legged Hawk over her home in Danville (2/1).

Shimi also reported that a Common Snipe spent most of the winter in the seasonal creek near her home.

Tom Lee added an immature Golden Eagle to the list of birds he has seen from Ygnacio Valley High School. The eagle was soaring over the soccer fields (1/10).

Gifford and Winifred Young observed three Osprey, two of them together, at Bodega Bay (2/4).

Gifford and Winifred also reported on several other birding trips taken during January. At a marsh to the south of Lopes Road near I-680 they saw over 1500 Canada Geese, 19 Tundra Swans, and numerous Pin-tails, Stilts, Avocets, Widgeons, Buffleheads, Shovelers, Western Meadowlarks and Kildeer (1/5).

At Lake Solano, also on 1/5, the Youngs observed a Red-Shouldered Hawk, a Great Blue Heron, a Flicker, numerous Western Bluebirds, Cedar Waxwings, Cormorants and Widgeons.

Gifford Young reported seeing 5 Snow Geese on the Waterfront along Maryland Ave. in Vallejo (1/13).

The Youngs also observed over a thousand Sandhill Cranes, Great Egrets, several dark phase Red-Tail Hawks; 5 Tundra Swans and two Burrowing Owls at Woodbridge Road in the Delta. They also saw over a thousand Tundra Swans coming in to land on the Cosummes River near Twin Cities Road (1/24).

Betty Gallagher and Mary Jane Culver saw two Phinopeplas along Northgate Road on Mt.

Diablo (1/8).

Lynn Farrar had an Allen's Hummingbird in his backyard in Lafayette (1/29). A Ruby-Crowned Kinglet has spent the winter at H. Deman's backyard birdcake.

George Finger reported seeing two Ancient Murrelets in the Monterey Bay Harbor (2/6).

Ethel Lazaroff recently returned from a trip to Arizona. She reported that the Jacana was still at the Guavavi Ranch near Tucson on 12/31. She also reported observing a Vermillion Flycatcher, a Pyrrhuloxia, Inca Doves and a female Cardinal.

Jean Richmond was busy birding during January. She saw 21 Redheads and a female Barrow's Goldeneye at Berkeley Aquatic Park (1/4). She finally spotted the Broad-winged Hawk near her home in Alamo (1/6). Jean also reported 2 Rough-legged Hawks, a male Merlin and a Prairie Falcon near Altamont Pass (1/6).

With Bob Richmond, Bill and Mary Jane Greene and others, Jean visited the Palo Alto Baylands and saw a female Wood Duck at the Duck Pond and the Ross' Goose and an immature Glaucous Gull at Mountain View Shoreline Park (1/7).

At Merced NWR with Rich and Bob Richmond, Jean saw a Green-backed Heron perched on a wire! (1/10).

Jean led a trip for the Napa-Solano Audubon Society to the Altamont Pass area. She saw a White Pelican, an adult Bald Eagle, 2 Rough-Legged Hawks, 2 Ferruginous Hawks, 2 adult and 1 sub-adult Golden Eagles, a male Merlin, and a Greater Roadrunner (1/11).

At Grizzly Island WMA with the Greene's, Jean reported seeing a Ferruginous Hawk, 7 Rough-legged Hawks, a Golden Eagle, 9 male and 50 female Tule Elk. They also saw the Bendire's Thrasher in North Lodi (1/21).

Jean reported that the 2 Little Gulls and the Common Black-headed Gull are still at the Stockton Oxidation Ponds. On the same trip Jean spotted 35 Mountain Bluebirds on Balfour Road west of Brentwood (1/27).

A trip to Bodega Bay yielded a Red-necked Grebe and a Northern Fulmar for Jean, the Greene's and others. They also saw a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at the Cheese Factory near Petaluma (1/28).

With the Green's, Jean saw 2 Rough-legged Hawks in Thornton and noted that the Bendire's Thrasher was still in north Lodi (2/4).



MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY

P. O. BOX 53

WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94596

PRESENTS

BIRDING NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

BIRDING NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, written by Jean Richmond, is a detailed, clearly mapped site guide to numerous birding areas in the Bay Area and beyond including Los Banos, Monterey, Bodega Bay, and many others. This 160-page bound publication is a compilation of the Greater Bay Area Site Guides that have appeared in the MDAS bulletin THE QUAIL in edited form. BIRDING NORTHERN CALIFORNIA will be distributed in early April, 1986.

MDAS MEMBERS ONLY

PRICE: BIRDING NORTHERN CALIFORNIA \$10.00
 Sales Tax .65
 \$10.65
 PLUS if packaged and mailed 1.35
 Total per book if mailed \$12.00

MDAS members will receive a 20% discount if ordered on or before April 3rd.

Member Price: \$8.00
 Sales Tax .52
 \$8.52
 PLUS if packaged and mailed 1.35
 Total per book if mailed \$9.87

NOTE: Copies purchased directly from MDAS have a \$5.00 tax deductible contribution.

Orders should be sent to the Treasurer:

Gifford A. Young
 1451 Janet Court
 Benicia, CA 94510 (707) 745-4134

Advance ordering and prepayment by check made out to MDAS is urged for the promptest delivery or to reserve one or more copies to be picked up at the meetings.

YES, I want _____ copy(ies) of BIRDING NORTH CALIFORNIA
 ___ I will pick them up at an MDAS monthly meeting.
 ___ Please mail my copy(ies) to:

 _____ Zip _____

Payment of \$ _____ is enclosed.



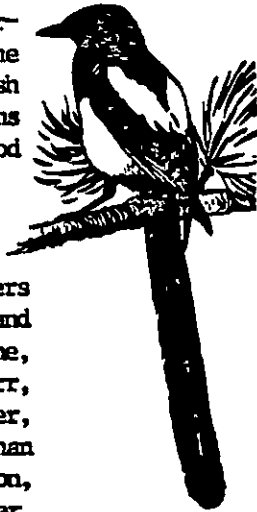
CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Congratulations to Rich Richmond who was presented the Silver Beaver at the Mt Diablo Council, Boy Scouts of America, dinner on January 17. This distinguished award is the highest honor which can be given to a volunteer scouter by a local council and must be approved by the National Council. The award was in recognition of Rich's many years' contribution of time, talents, and energy to the youth of our area.

Congratulations also to Kirk and Lee Robinson, proud new parents of Sara Jeane, a healthy 7 lb baby on February 10. Kirk and Lee's last Observations column was briefly interrupted by Sara's early arrival, but the Quail must go on and Kirk held on to finish their last column. MDAS thanks the Robinsons for doing the Observations Column...Good job, guys!!!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We warmly welcome these new MDAS members and hope to meet them at meetings and trips: Bonnie Applin, Maryalyce Carone, Grace Jean Collins, Mike Derkum, Joe Herr, Nichols Holz, J Keeler, Gordon Lisser, F T Lorenzen, Ben Mosley, Vicki Nye, Jonathan Plant, Michael Amette Weiner, W P Widdowson, Lauren Michael Yezbeck, Garth Jacober, George Slater, and Jeff Van Beveren.



LEAST TERN RESEARCH

The California Least Tern is an endangered species whose numbers are diminishing. In order to provide maximum protection to the bird it is important we know all of the areas which are essential to its survival and breeding success. It is not known how the Least Tern Migrates from the southern latitudes to the Bay Area, but we suspect it must rely on certain stop over locations for food and rest. Suitable habitat would be quiet, shallow waters along the coast such as that provided where creeks and rivers drain into the ocean. All observations of Least Terns are of great interest, but we would especially like birders to keep this small tern in mind while birding the coast or other waters this spring. The Least Tern arrives on the shores of S.F. Bay from late April to the first week in May. There are about 65 breeding pairs left in the Bay Area, and they need all of the help we can give them if we are serious about saving the population. Please send any observations to Leora Feeney, 1330 Eighth St, Alameda, CA 94501, (415) 522-8525 or Laura Collins, 1517 Woolsey St, Berkeley, CA 94793, (415) 843-3263. Include information on field identification, date, time, numbers of birds, activity, and of course location of observation.

THE QUAIL, published monthly except a July/August combined issue, is sent to National Audubon Society members in Mt Diablo Chapter. To join NAS: \$30.00/year, family \$38, senior, student, and introductory levels available, consult Membership Chairperson, Linda Myers, (415) 932-3489. Make 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 to Quail only: \$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 for either member or subscriber an additional \$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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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 1986

Vol32 No 8

next deadline: April 3, 1986

Thurs April 3, Contra Costa Jewish MEETING Community Center, 2071 Tice Valley Blvd, Walnut Creek. Doors open 6:30 pm, BIRDING INFORMATION 7:00 pm, Jean Richmond will continue her review of the National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds. Bring your books, notebooks, and taperecorders Jean goes fast! BUSINESS MEETING 7:30, SOCIAL TIME 8:00, PROGRAM 8:30 John Kelly, Science Programs Coordinator for the Point Reyes Bird Observatory will talk about **THE ECOLOGY OF BIRD SONG**. In his job he supervises PRBO science instructors, conducts training workshops for teachers, and contributes to the PRBO newsletter. During the summer he teaches ornithology at the National Audubon Ecology Camp in Wyoming. He has a Masters' Degree at Humboldt State University for which his research is on riparian forest birds' habitat and foraging relationships. He is a certified teacher with training in environmental education and has taught in a variety of contexts as naturalist, classroom teacher, and university lecturer.

BOARD MEETING Board Meetings are open to all interested members. Thursday April 10, 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. Carpool expense: 5c per mile per rider is suggested; tolls and entry fees are shared equally by driver and riders. Bring binocs, field guides, and lunch. Trips go in light rain; if in doubt, call leader up to ½ hour before departure time.

* Thur April 3, **NORTH BRIONES WILDFLOWER WALK** Meet 9:00 am at parking lot at north entrance to Briones Regional Park. From Fwy 24 take Pleasant Hill Rd north to Taylor Blvd. At 4th signal, turn left onto Pleasant Hill Rd (becomes Alhambra Ave). At 3.1 miles make a sharp left onto Alhambra Valley Rd and left onto Briones Rd to end. 2-3 mile walk to see grassland and woodland wildflowers and birds. Some rough and muddy trails. Leader: John Davis, 228-9516

* Wed April 9 **LAKE LAGUNITAS** Carpool 7:15 am Acalanes Ave, 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 two blocks, turn left, go through town and turn right onto Sir Francis Drake Blvd. In downtown Fairfax turn left, then right onto Broadway, ½ block; left onto Bolinas Ave, and left again onto Old Fairfax-Bolinas Rd. Land and water birds, early migrants; a good spot for Piliated Woodpeckers. 2-3 miles up and down on possibly muddy trails. Leader: Jean Richmond 837-2843

* Sat April 12 **BLACK DIAMOND MINES** carpool ^{7:30} from parking lot by Burger King, Ygnacio and Clayton Rds. Because parking is limited and we must go through a locked gate, this is the ONLY meeting place. Oak woodland and chaparral birds, gnatcatchers, Rock Wrens, possibly Phainopepla Wild flowers too! Uphill hiking, can be muddy. Leader: Kevin Hintsa 829-6156

* Thur April 17 **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-230.

Take SF State exit one block, turn right on Sagamor St, right on Brotherhood Way, right on Lake Merced Blvd. At Sunset Blvd, turn left into parking lot. This is THE trip to see Bank Swallows, also good for Marsh Wrens; often good waterbirds. ½ mile walk on beach to see swallows. Can be cold and windy.

Leader: Fred Safir 937-2906.

- * Sat April 19 **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 Dr about ½ mile past the center of Clayton. This is a steep, rugged 5-mile hike; interesting scenery, good birds—last year warbler migration was at its peak. Carry lunch and liquids.
Leader: Maury Stern 284-5980

- * Thur April 24 **POINT REYES BIRD OBSERVATORY** carpool 7:00 am El Nido Rd. Take St Stephens exit from Fwy 24, turn sharp right at stop sign and park along El Nido. Meet 9:00 am at PRBO. Cross San Rafael Bridge, north on US 101. Take San Rafael exit two blocks, turn left go through town and turn right onto Sir Francis Drake Blvd. At Olema, turn left about 9 miles. Before you reach Bolinas Lagoon, take right hand fork—the Bolinas Rd. (Locals are notorious for removing any sign at this intersection!). After about ½ miles turn right onto Mesa Rd. Follow Mesa Rd about 2½ miles, look for PRBO building on left. This is to be a guided tour; please be on time. After the tour, we will visit Audubon Canyon Ranch.

Leader: Norah Bain 254-4516 CALL LEADER IN ADVANCE!!!

- * Sat April 29 **MALLORY RANCH** carpool 6:45 am El Cerro Blvd just west of I-680. Meet 7:30 am Mallory Ranch, 10501 Morgan Territory Rd Go south on I-680, east on I-580 to North Livermore exit; north on N Livermore, left on Manning Rd, right onto Morgan Territory Rd 4 miles to top of grade; watch for address on mailbox. About 1 mile gravel drive to house. Dr and Mrs Mallory have again invited us to visit their ranch in the east Contra Costa hills. Woodland and chaparral birds. Considerable walking up and down hill. May be hot, carry liquids.
Co-leaders: George Mallory, Elizabeth Dickey 254-0486

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

LOS BANOS AND PANOCHE VALLEY February 8

The day was beautiful, clear and sunny but cold. It was a little windy along Santa Fe Grade but mostly calm in the Panoche area. There was very good birding down Santa Fe Grade, including a flock of Pelicans, a huge flock of Snow and Ross'

Geese, many White-faced Ibis. A Cattle Egret was along SR 165 just north of the town of Los Banos. On Little Panoche Rd, there was a Rough-legged Hawk; at the I-5 exit, Ferruginous Hawk, in Panoche Valley about 250 Mountain Plovers just south of Shotgun Pass, and 1 Vesper Sparrow. New Idria Rd produced 2 adult Golden Eagles but we could not find the Northern Shrike. We returned to Los Banos for a delicious Basque dinner then drove home. It was a long day but the good birding was well worth it. A total of 87 species was sighted.

Jean Richmond

CLIFTON COURT February 20

The Clifton Court outing was cancelled due to flooding conditions, rains, muddy roads and generally difficult, potentially unsafe conditions for walking dikes at Clifton Court. Besides...no one showed up at the carpooling site!
George Finger

OBSERVATIONS

We have a new Observations editor! Donna Klein has volunteered to take over the job. Many have expressed support for an Observations Column but it can only be as good as the input. Please send any unusual sightings, anecdotes, or usual birds doing unusual things to: Donna Klein, Observations Editor, 51 Picardy Ct, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. Remember to include the date of observation location and any other people in your group.

OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW

This issue will be my last as editor of the Quail. The last three years have brought changes to the face of the Quail but not its heart and soul which have remained very much under Jean Richmond's (our previous editor) influence. My heartfelt thanks go to all of you these past years that have helped put the Quail together and out to our members, Joy Hall, George Finger, Marilyn O'Connor, Jimm Edgar, and so many others. Also my thanks to everyone for their patience through misplaced modifiers, dangling participles, and lines left off directions for field trips. Most of all I would like to thank my special husband, Rick, who never missed an opportunity to remind me that I had volunteered for the job but who nonetheless spent many a night at the kitchen sink doing dishes so I could meet my deadline. I hope everyone will be as supportive and helpful to our new editor, Kristi Streiffert, a freelance writer and new to our chapter who has volunteered to become editor. I'm sure the Quail will become an even better publication under her able hand.

CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

The Sierra Club and the American Trauma Society are offering a series of lectures on MOUNTAIN MEDICINE weekly starting on 4/9 7-10 pm at Treasure Island. Call 534-2086 for brochure.

The John Muir Historical Site is offering COLORS OF SPRING, a walk through Briones Regional Park led by John Davis on Sat. April 5 to view birds and wildflowers. John will also lead a trip for BEGINNING BIRDERS on April 19, and ALHAMBRA VALLEY WILDFLOWERS on May 3. Call JMHS for details 228-8860.

Sequoia Audubon Society will be sponsoring the BAY AREA AUDUBON COUNCIL meeting on Saturday April 5, at Beresford Park Garden Center in San Mateo.

The Cooper Ornithological Society will meet on Monday April 7, 8:00 pm. John Carothers of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, UC Berkeley, will present a seminar on HAWAIIAN HONEYCREEPERS. Room 2503, Life Sciences Bldg, UCB campus.

Norah Bain's BAY AREA BIRDWALKS will meet on Tuesdays 9-12 beginning April 8. Orinda Community Center 254-2445 or Norah 254-4516 for details.

Fremont Adult School is offering a MINES ROAD BIRD WATCHING TRIP on Saturday April 12, 9-3 led by Alice Hoch.

Also offered by FAS BIRDING FIELD TRIPS CLASS led by Alice on Tuesdays 9:30-12:30 starting April 22-May 27. For either class contact Fremont Adult School, 791-5841.

Point Reyes Bird Observatory is sponsoring SPRING IN CALIFORNIA DESERTS April 13-19. The trip begins at Joshua Tree National Monument, and travels through the Eastern Mojave Scenic Area to the Amargosa River Basin. Call 868-1271 for details.

Point Reyes Field Seminars will host ONE DAY BEGINNING BIRDING on Saturday April 26 led by Jules Evens. Call 663-1200 for further info.

UC Berkeley Extension is offering AN ARTIST'S UNIQUE PERCEPTION OF NATURAL LANDSCAPES by Robert Bateman, April 16, Wheeler Auditorium, UCB campus 7:30-9:30 pm, \$9.00. Call 642-4111 to register.

Birding Trip to EASTERN MOJAVE DESERT NATIONAL SCENIC AREA led by Stephen F. Bailey, Memorial Day weekend May 24-26. This will be a fairly rugged camping/hiking trip to a remote area. For information call Steve 731-0847 (home) or 750-7177 (daytime).



SOME INTERESTING STUFF

BANK SWALLOW OBSERVATIONS REQUEST The Department of Fish and Game is undertaking an investigation of the status and trends of Bank Swallow populations in California. The DFG is concerned that with declining riparian habitat, due to bank protection and flood control projects, that a significant loss of habitat has occurred. Please report any Bank Swallow sightings to: Kent Smith (916) 445-1146 or Ron Schlorff (916) 322-1261. They would be pleased to answer any questions. Observations should be sent to their attention at Department of Fish and Game, 1416 Ninth St, Sacramento, CA 95814.

In response to an overwhelming expression of interest in the future of the MONO BASIN NATIONAL FOREST SCENIC AREA, the Inyo National Forest is convening public workshops throughout California on the development of a comprehensive management plan. This may be the most meaningful opportunity for participation in the development and analysis of management options. The local workshop will be at the Oakland Convention Center, 11th and Broadway, Oakland on Wednesday April 2. There will be two sessions from 2-5 pm and from 7-10 pm. Participants will divide up into groups to focus on specific issues.



The League for Coastal Protection and the Planning and Conservation League Foundation announces a newsletter that will focus on issues affecting the California coast and San Francisco Bay. COASTLINES is available for \$20.00 per year for six bi-monthly editions. Contact PCL, 909 12th St, Sacramento, CA 95814.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service is soliciting comments and suggestions for operation of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The USFWS is beginning the process of issuing a new programmatic environmental impact statement. Please send comments to: National Wildlife Refuge E.I.S. Team, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240, Room 2343 MIB. Comments must be submitted by May 3.

CONSERVATION NOTES

BY AL McNABNEY

OIL (OR TROUBLE) ON CALIFORNIA WATERS

Is it a change of heart of a more enlightened look at the environmental consequences of off-shore drilling? Whatever the reason, Governor Deukmejian has had some change of heart about the issue. So far Secretary of Interior Donald Hodel doesn't seem to be paying attention. His plans for oil drilling off the California coast move forward. Opposition to the Secretary's plan appears to be increasing. To truly be effective, the people of the state have to say **LOUD AND CLEAR** "None of that drilling around here!". Write a letter to the Governor-State Capitol, Sacramento. Write your Congressman and your Senators. Tell the editor of your newspaper. Remember, people **DO** make a difference in setting legislative priorities **IF** the people make themselves heard.

IS THERE SOMETHING FLSHY????

Some experts say that the striped bass population in the Bay now is about 1/3 of the size it was just 20 or so years ago. During dry seasons when water is being pumped from SF Bay south, the water in the San Joaquin River actually flows upstream instead of down. Think **THAT** doesn't confuse the poor fish? They think they are swimming in the "right" direction and a lot of them wind up in the pumps instead of in the Bay. Toxics in Bay waters have been reduced to some degree but recent events indicate continued major discharges of pollutants is occurring. Water quality for domestic uses is degraded, unsafe or high levels of some substances are found in the food chain. Some good laws are on the books to control such things. Little good these laws do if they aren't enforced by the appropriate authorities.

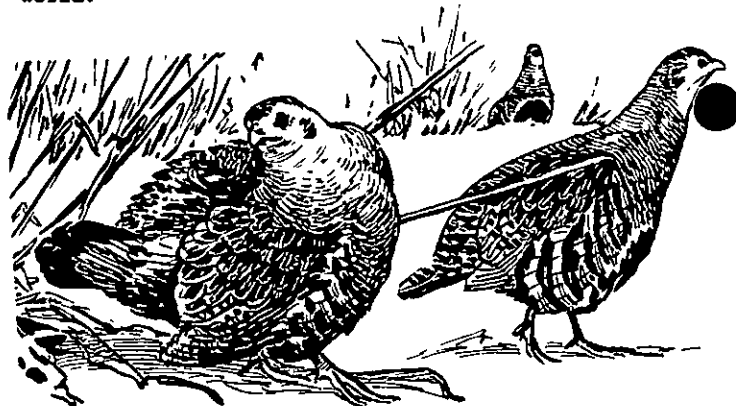
CONDORS STILL IN DEEP TROUBLE

A space flight fails! We can't balance our budget without destroying much of the nation and we're about to see to it that the California Condor will no longer exist as a wild species. The only one of those subjects to be addressed in this space is the plight of the Condor. Most of us have admired this country's beauties, wildlife and those lucky enough have actually observed the giant California Condor in flight and marvelled at that great bird. **HONEST** people may differ about captive breeding vs breeding in the wild and each school of thought has a lot of adherents. Such argument will all be academic if Secretary Hodel continues to procrastinate (for whatever

reason) about purchasing the Hudson Ranch so there will be habitat for ANY Condors wild or captive bred. If **YOU** want to do something about the issue, write or call Secretary of Interior Donald Hodel, (202) 343-7351, or write c/o Interior Department, Washington, D.C. 20414.

WINDFARMS, ARCHAEOLOGICAL TREASURES VS EIRs

The struggle initiated last August to protect bird and wildlife, riparian habitat and the important archaeological treasures seems to be nearing an end. The Contra Costa County Planning Commission recently voted overwhelmingly to insist that Environmental Impact Reports **HAD** to be completed before permits for windfarms in east Contra Costa County could be approved. Mt Diablo Audubon, the Sierra Club and the Greenbelt Congress have worked together to bring about this favorable result. The importance of the issues involved was expressed best by Commissioner Juanita Whitney when she said, "We're talking about something so rare, so valuable that if we lose this, we're never going to get it back. It belongs to the world."

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

It is with great pleasure that we greet these new MDAS members and hope to meet them soon: Mr and Mrs Singleton, Richard Wienholt, Mrs C W Alexander, Dr N L Bennington, A B Carson MD, Miss M Downing, B Mills-C Dunphy, O Forte III, Sonia Hansen, Joyce Haven, Mrs N J Hearn, Ellen Henderson, Mrs Howard E Kambach, Joan Libby, Olav G Lovtang, Elizabeth Lutz, Marion Mazur, Leroy R McCune, Kendrick Morrish, R Pillsbury, Marya Porter, John and Erna Rogers, J A Smith, Jay Randall Smith, M E Swinski, Mrs M Stewart, Barbara Sutcliffe, Grant J Winslow, Bernard Zentgraf, Marshall Childs, Elaine M Dobbis, A Hans Elgert, A Ewing, Mrs Margaret S Foster, Alice M Hansen, Patrick Hewson, Ms Gail Landis, David K Lindemuth, Miss Korene L Mangelsen, Brett Martinez, Mr & Mrs Gerald Mole, John O Ritchie.

National Audubon Society

AUDUBON BIRDATHON '86



WHAT IS AUDUBON BIRDATHON '86

The **AUDUBON BIRDATHON** is the National Audubon Society's annual fund-raising event for chapters and affiliated organizations. The **BIRDATHON** is similar to a walk-a-thon or bike-a-thon only instead of obtaining pledges of money for each mile you walk or bike, counters (birders) recruit sponsors who agree to pledge a specific amount for each bird species the counter identifies in one 24-hour period. The suggested minimum pledge is 10¢ per species although pledges can be in any amount. Each counter gives their sponsors some idea of how many species they expect to identify (sponsors may stipulate a maximum contribution). Counters then go birding with their local Audubon chapter or on their own, and keep a detailed field checklist, noting each species. After the **BIRDATHON**, counters call on each sponsor as soon as possible to report on their birding and to collect pledges.

WHEN IS BIRDATHON '86

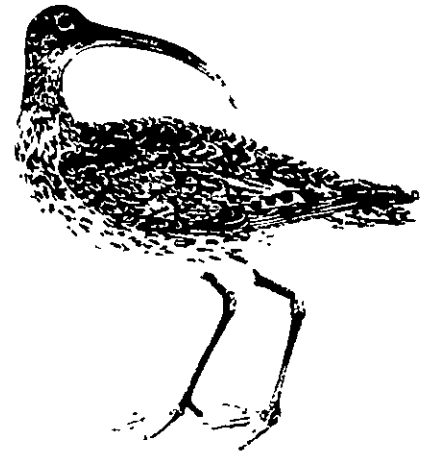
To commemorate the birth of the Society's namesake, John James Audubon, **BIRDATHON '86** will take place in many areas of the country on April 26, John James' 201st birthday. Of course, in some areas of the country, this is not the most optimum time for birding. Participants may choose any day for their **BIRDATHON**, but must limit their birding to a 24-hour period.

HOW TO BEGIN

Prior to the **BIRDATHON**, visit potential sponsors—friends, family, neighbors, fellow workers. Estimate how many birds you expect to see, and ask for a pledge. Successful participants from years past suggest sending a letter to a list of friends, a holiday greeting card list for instance, and following up with a phone call.

On the day of the **BIRDATHON**, each counter keeps a careful field list of the bird species identified over a 24-hour period and returns to each sponsor as soon as possible to report on the day's activities and collect the amount pledged. Checks should be made payable to the local National Audubon chapter that is conducting **BIRDATHON '86**, and should be presented, along with this sponsor sheet, to the chapter **BIRDATHON** coordinator. Once all the **BIRDATHON** contributions have been collected and compiled by the chapter coordinator, one-half of the total proceeds will be submitted by the chapter to the National Audubon regional office.

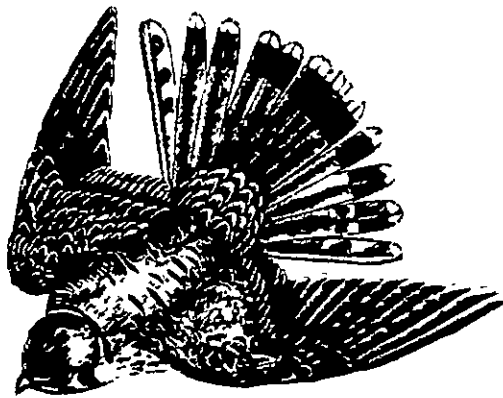
We ask that chapters participating in **BIRDATHON '86** submit one check, representing the NAS share and made payable to National Audubon Society, by June 16, 1986.



WHERE DO BIRDATHON PROCEEDS GO?

BIRDATHON contributions are tax-deductible and proceeds are divided two ways: one-half is kept by the chapter for important Audubon chapter projects such as protecting a natural area; "adopting" a national wildlife refuge; maintaining a community environmental education center; sponsoring Audubon Adventures youth clubs in nearby schools; and much more. The remaining half of **BIRDATHON** proceeds is sent by the chapter to the National Audubon Society regional office. **All Contributions Stay In The Chapter's Region** and support the Society's work on a range of projects including: the protection of birds and endangered and threatened wildlife and their habitats, wetland preservation, the enactment of strong national and state legislation to ensure clean air, water, and land for today and for future generations. Of course there's much more that your participation in **BIRDATHON '86**, either as a sponsor, or a counter, will support.

Last year's **BIRDATHON** raised \$115,000 (\$51,000 by chapters, \$64,000 from national leaders) with hundreds of individuals counting nationwide.



WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Anyone, even non-members, can participate. If you aren't a birder, go with an experienced partner or your local Audubon chapter, but you must locate your own sponsors. Organizations wishing to take part in **AUDUBON BIRDATHON '86** should contact the nearest National Audubon regional office or National Audubon Society Headquarters, 950 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022, for information. Or, simply call (212) 546-9149.



MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY

P. O. BOX 53

WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94596



PRESENTS

BIRDING NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

BIRDING NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, written by Jean Richmond, is a detailed, clearly mapped site guide to numerous birding areas in the Bay Area and beyond including Los Banos, Monterey, Bodega Bay, and many others. This 160-page bound publication is a compilation of the Greater Bay Area Site Guides that have appeared in the MDAS bulletin THE QUAIL in edited form. BIRDING NORTHERN CALIFORNIA will be distributed in early April, 1986.

MDAS MEMBERS ONLY

PRICE: BIRDING NORTHERN CALIFORNIA	\$10.00
Sales Tax	.65
	<u>\$10.65</u>
PLUS if packaged and mailed	1.35
Total per book if mailed	<u>\$12.00</u>

MDAS members will receive a 20% discount if ordered on or before April 3rd.

Member Price:	\$8.00
Sales Tax	.52
	<u>\$8.52</u>
PLUS if packaged and mailed	1.35
Total per book if mailed	<u>\$9.87</u>

NOTE: Copies purchased directly from MDAS have a \$5.00 tax deductible contribution.

Orders should be sent to the Treasurer:

Gifford A. Young
 1451 Janet Court
 Benicia, CA 94510 (707) 745-4134

Advance ordering and prepayment by check made out to MDAS is urged for the promptest delivery or to reserve one or more copies to be picked up at the meetings.

 YES, I want _____ copy(ies) of BIRDING NORTH CALIFORNIA
 ___ I will pick them up at an MDAS monthly meeting.
 ___ Please mail my copy(ies) to:

 _____ Zip _____

Payment of \$_____ is enclosed.

TICK BITE WARNING

Very rarely people get ticks while on field trips. There is a relatively new infectious disease being spread by a tick "bite". It is called Lyme Disease, named for Lyme, Connecticut. This bacterial disease is caused by a spirochete Borrelia burgdorferi. In its early stages, it can be cured by oral antibiotics. Chances of getting Lyme disease are 1% of all tick bites. It is transmitted by "hard" ticks only, not the "soft" ticks.

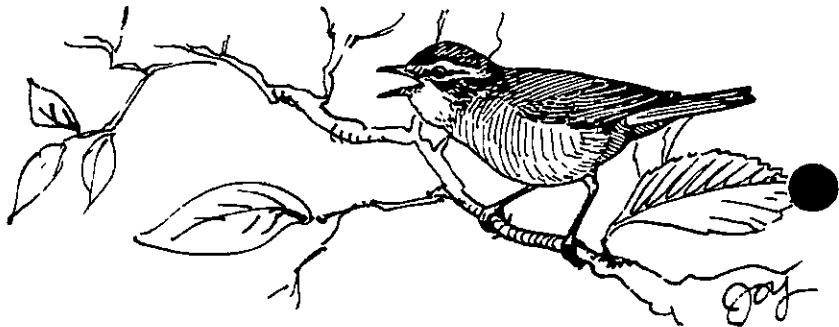
Symptoms occur within a few days of the tick bite up to a month after. Usually a ring of discoloration around the bite occurs, looking similar to a target. However, symptoms can include a rash on a part of the body that was not the location of the tick bite. This rash can appear as round mosquito-type bumps turning into lines, accompanied by high fever. It could appear to be a case of hives.

If untreated in the first stage, it is believed that 10-20% of the victims advance to a second stage, and about 60% of those go on to a third stage. The second stage can include neurological and cardiac problems, including headaches, stiff neck, facial paralysis and tingling of the hands and feet. Also possible are arrhythmias of the heart, which can cause dizziness. These symptoms decrease with time.

The third stage, which starts anywhere from several weeks to two years after the skin rash, is what appears to be a type of arthritis, which has flareups and remissions. Joints, particularly the knees, become swollen and painful. Treatment only works in two of three cases at this stage. This is something everyone should be aware of, but based on the rate of incidence, it's extremely unlikely one would be involved. Self-awareness is the key, in addition to occasionally checking the hair and body for ticks during and upon returning from field trips. Often a tick will remain on the body for some time before biting.

Ticks can be removed by tweezers. Grasp it firmly and pull slowly, being careful not to squeeze the tick's body fluids. If part of it remains, contact your doctor.

The above information from The Trinity Journal courtesy of Petrine Lockhart and Pat Jacobson.



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NOTE CHANGE → Kristi Streiffert, Editor, 1362 Pine St, Pittsburg, CA 94565 439-0759
Exchange bulletins for MDAS to this address, please.

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284-5980

May 1986

Vol 132 No 9

next deadline: May 1, 1986

Thurs May 1, Contra Costa Jewish
MEETING Community Center, 2071 Tice Valley
Blvd, Walnut Creek. Doors open 6:30
pm, **BIRDING INFORMATION** 7:00 pm. Jean Richmond
will be autographing copies of **BIRDING NORTHERN
CALIFORNIA**, MDAS's newly published site guide to birding
in the Bay Area and beyond. **BUSINESS MEETING**
7:30, **SOCIAL TIME** 8:00, **PROGRAM** 8:30 Chris
Carpenter will speak on **BIRDS OF PERU**. Mr.
Carpenter is in charge of the extended field
trips program for the Golden Gate Audubon Society.
He is widely traveled and his lectures feature
excellent slides and stimulating information.
ELECTION OF OFFICERS will be held at the meeting.

BOARD MEETING Board Meetings are open to all interested
members. Thursday May 8, 7:30 pm
home of Margaret Wadsworth, 247 Los
Felicias Ave., Walnut Creek, CA 939-8422.

FIELD TRIPS Trips are open to members and non-
members alike. Carpool time is departure
time. 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.

* Thur, May 1, **BRIONES WEST**, Meet at 8:00 am in right
hand parking lot at west entrance to Briones
Regional Park. At this hour, Lower Happy Valley
Rd from downtown Lafayette may be the quickest
way. This is the street just west of the Bart
station. At intersection with Upper Happy Valley
continue straight ahead; turn right at Bear Creek
Rd. Many breeding land birds, including Lazuli
Bunting. Wildflowers in bloom. Poison oak along
trails. 2-3 miles walking, part uphill.
Leader: Merv Ortez 283-3072

* Sat May 3, **MINES ROAD** carpool 6:30 am, El Cerro
Blvd just west of I-680. **CALL LEADER IF YOU
ARE GOING**. Because of the narrow road, we **MUST**
keep number of vehicles to a minimum! This is
a long car birding trip with little walking.
Bring lunch and lots of liquid. Phainopepla,
Lawrence's Goldfinch, Roadrunner, Wild Turkey,
Lewis' Woodpecker, Costa's Hummingbird are frequent
highlights.

Leader: Jean Richmond 837-2843

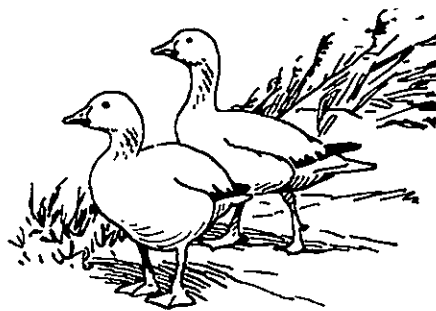
* Wed May 7, **MT DIABLO**, carpool 7:30 am, El Cerro
Blvd just west of I-680 in Danville. Meet 8:15
in parking area of left just before the entrance
to Rock City. There is a \$2.00 entrance fee
for the State Park. Sage, Rufous-crowned and
Black-chinned Sparrows, Lazuli Bunting, hawks,
flycatchers, sometimes a warbler wave. Hot,
carry liquid. 1-2 miles walking on varying narrow,
steep, or rough trails.

Leader: Jean Richmond 837-2843

* Sat May 17 **MITCHELL CANYON WILDFLOWER
WALK** meet 8:30 Mitchell Canyon parking lot.
There is a \$2.00 fee on weekends. From I-680
in Walnut Creek, take Ygnacio Valley Rd to Clayton
Rd, right on Clayton to Mitchell Canyon Rd and
follow to end. This trip takes most of the morning
with emphasis on wildflowers. 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 birding later.

Leader: John Davis 228-9516

* Wed May 21, **CASWELL STATE PARK/DURHAM
FERRY** carpool 6:30 am, El Cerro Blvd, just west
of I-680 in Danville. Meet 8:00 am at Caswell
State Park. Take I-680 south to I-580 and east
to I-205. Turn east on SR 120 to US 99. South
on US 99 to Austin Rd and follow this to end
at entrance to park. \$2.00 fee. This has been



This has been a consistently good spot for Swainson's Hawk; also riparian species. Durham Ferry has Blue Grosbeak. Level walking, possibly muddy; probably mosquitos. San Joaquin Valley weather. Leader: Maury Stern 284-5980

* Thur May 29, **TILDEN PARK** meet 7:00 am in parking lot at Nature Center. From Hwy 24 take San Pablo Dam Rd to Inspiration Point Rd. At Botanical Gardens go right and continue through park. Summer birds, singing and nesting. 1 1/2-2 miles walking, hill, poison oak.

Leader: Barbara Vaughn 376-5041

* Thur May 15 **RARITY CHASERS** meet 6:00 am at Acalanes Ave off Pleasant Hill Rd just north of Fwy 24. For more information call Elizabeth Dickey 254-0486

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

THORNTON, February 15

Two observers dared the rain and saw 51 species between light showers. The real rain began as we started home. Tundra Swans, White-fronted and Snow Geese were observed in flight. Flocks of Sandhill Cranes were seen on Woodbridge Rd and also on New Hope Rd. Seven Cattle Egrets were seen in a pasture; both Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks and a Rough-legged were seen. The Bendire's Thrasher appeared after a 10-minute wait.

CLIFTON COURT, February 20

Cancelled because of the weather.

HAYWARD REGIONAL SHORELINE, March 5

Seven observers spent a foggy morning and sunny mid-day spotting a total of 71 species. Highlights were 5 Lapland Longspurs, an Eurasian Wigeon, a Clark's Grebe, and an excellent view of a Ferruginous Hawk flying low because of the fog. Barn Swallows were present and an early Rough-wing was seen at lunch time.

RARITY CHASERS, February 12

Two people went to the Thornton area where they spotted flocks of geese and cranes as well as two Cattle Egrets.

RARITY CHASERS February 27

Three people went to San Francisco and Oakland to see the female Tufted Duck (which could be overlooked as a hybrid Mallard) and the Red-naped Sapsucker were located in Golden Gate Park. Arrowhead Marsh turned up nothing unusual, but the female Hooded Merganser was seen in the channel by Laney College.

RARITY CHASERS March 12

Two people went to Marin and saw the Eurasian Wigeon. Other species included Hairy Woodpecker, Townsend's Warbler a large flock of Pine Siskins and a Osprey carrying nesting material.

All of above Field Trip Reports by Elizabeth Dickey

BODEGA BAY March 8

Discouraged by rain storms in Contra Costa County, no birders the leaders to Bodega Bay, missing a clear, sunny day; ideal for birding except for strong winds on the headlands. The two leaders observed 51 species, including a female Oldsquaw in the Spud Point Marina, an Osprey hovering over the outer bay, 14 Brant, all 5 Grebes—the Rednecked and Eared in breeding plumage, and many shorebirds, diving ducks and scoters, including 2 Black Scoters. A Rufous Hummingbird and many California Quail were seen on Bay Flat Rd. No unusual sea birds were observed in the very rough ocean.

Gifford and Winnie Young

BOLINAS AND 5 BROOKS March 20

A lucky 13 members and guests enjoyed beautiful "bluebird" weather at Bolinas Lagoon and Five Brooks. 95 species were seen or heard. highlights included a male Harlequin Duck, 2 male Eurasian Wigeons, Barrow's Goldeneyes, breeding plumage Egrets and Grebes, an Osprey and a good close-up study of an immature Cooper's Hawk. For those who birded enroute or pushed on to Las Gallinas Sewer Ponds, the species count went well over 100, but strangely, no bluebirds!

George H Finger

LAKE LAGUNITAS April 9

Walking around Lake Lagunitas on April 9, six members had a good opportunity to leisurely study bird sounds as many birds were in full song. A male Purple Martin was in the swallow flock over the dam and an Osprey was soaring above the parking lot. We had a superb view of a singing Hutton's Vireo at eye level only 12-15 feet away. After lunch, we looked for Pileated Woodpeckers beyond the southeast end of Lake Bon Tempe. We heard a call once at fairly close range but could not find the woodpecker in spite of an intensive search. A total of 54 species was heard or seen on the trip. Weather was cool in the

morning then warm by noon, calm with a few scattered little clouds.

Jean Richmond

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We added another member to MDAS with the arrival on March 3rd of Daniel James Beemer Fickett. Parents Becky and Kent note that they are all doing fine and looking forward to some field trips later this year.

CONSERVATION NOTES

by AL McNABNEY

GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS

Protection of some of the vast east county area appears assured. The Contra Costa County Planning commission reviewed the issue of awarding land use permits for proposed windfarms on east county land. Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs) will have to be prepared when, in the future, a land use allocation is made for a windfarm. As one wag put it, "Well, blow me down!". The new wind generators are BIG; if one is ever blown down there will be a thud heard 'round the world. In the meantime, it looks as though the extended effort by the Greenbelt Congress, Sierra Club and MDAS was worthwhile. Archaeological rarities and bird and wildlife habitat will have some protection.

CONDOR SUPPORT

A year from now will we look at our efforts to Save the Condor and say "well done", or will we be given a black mark in history for bumbling? The struggle is not yet lost but the Secretary of Interior has not yet acted to purchase the Hudson Ranch, so the question of continued availability of suitable habitat is a major worry. Both our US Senators and Congressman George Miller support the efforts to "save the Condor" which means obtaining the Hudson Ranch.

SALLY BELL...NOT JUST A PRETTY GIRL

The Sally Bell Grove of redwoods in Mendocino County has long been sought after by interested groups as a suitable park area. It's still possible Senator Barry Keene advises. Last year the Legislature approved funds for purchase of the area from Georgia-Pacific but the proposed appropriation was vetoed by the Governor, assertedly due to local opposition. Since that time, the Coastal Conservancy has become involved. An effort is on-going to bring the diverse views of the local citizens into harmony. Some optimists believe there will be a positive result and the 7000 acres of giant redwoods will be added to the state parklands this year.

GEORGE...TAKE OUT THE GARBAGE

Garbage trouble...we have it at home, we have it on the streets, we have it on the highways and elected officials in Contra Costa County have a real worry at home. The trouble is, one of these days when George tries to "take out the garbage" there will be NO place to put it. Acme fill, recipient of much of Contra Costa County garbage (non-toxic) is living on borrowed time. There are indications that requests may again be made to extend the area used by Acme into more of the Bay Area's rapidly disappearing wetland. Alternative sites bring opposition and we often hear "Take your garbage somewhere else". Filling additional wetland for use as a garbage dump is clearly NOT an acceptable solution.

NEW MEMBERS

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

James Courtney, Michel Craffey, Robert Decker, Mrs. A. Dunham, Laurette Gelatti, H.A. Kraft, J. Martinez, Philip Nelson, Ruth Taylor, Sandy Taylor, Mr.&Mrs. Roger Wod, Mark Armstrong, Madeleine Baaba, Agnes Blick, Diane Caldis, Deverl Carter, Irene Cowan, D. Crowley, Gary Dahl, Joanna Davidson, Mrs. Degomez, Chris Delorenzo, Mrs. Dempsey, Anene Feves, K.A. Fraser, Kathlyn Furnish, Estalee Granger, Elizabeth Henry, Neal Higgins, James Hill, Fay Hytholt, Beverly Jones, Robert Kain, Ailsa Kew, William Kitz, David Kormel, Ruth Lockhart, K. Lofthouse, Dean Lucas, P. Maceachern, Lorna Mc Aneny, Victor Merolla, Kathey Miller, Vernon Mingham, Steven Morin, George Muller, Jay O'Brien, Sandra Padgett, Marie Pomfret, Redmond Shea, Rafael Siero, Laurel Singer, Ken Teakle, Hank Venema, Mrs. David Walbolt, A. Wetmore, Frank Wick, Mr.&Mrs. Burton, Jean Hawthorne, Victor Taylor family

CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

THE LEK MATING SYSTEM OF THE GULANAN COCK-OF-THE-ROCK will be the topic to be discussed by Pepper W. Trail at the next meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Society, Monday, May 5, at 8p.m., Room 2503, Life Sciences Building, U.C. Berkeley Campus.

Oakland Museum Natural Sciences Guild has three May events for birders. BIRDING IN PAPUA, NEW GUINEA will be at noon Thursday May 1 in the lecture Hall. A field trip on BIRD HABITATS AND IDENTIFICATION IN COASTAL MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES will be held on Saturday, May 17. TUNING INTO BIRD SOUNDS will be offered Saturday and Sunday May 31 and June 1. For details on these activities call Lynn Luthi at 893-6823.3

OBSERVATIONS

by DONNA PEAK-KLEIN

As your new Observations editor, I was pleased to receive one-but alas, only one, terrific report prior to the April 3 MDAS meeting. On February 7, while visiting the Monterey Plaza in Monterey, Marilyn O'Connor and her husband discovered a PEREGRINE FALCON eating a kill on their balcony. They were able to watch, unnoticed, for 15 minutes from a distance of 4 feet!

Following are the observations reported at the monthly meeting:

While in the Philippines in late February, Gen Graves heard reports of a Philippine Eagle (formerly Monkey-eating Eagle) seen on Mt Matutum on the island of Mindanao. After a 3 hour climb, a nest with a 3 month old chick was located. Gen waited and finally saw a parent swoop in with a macaque monkey in its talons, which was deftly fed to the young one.

Jean Richmond's Alamo garden had lots of activity in March. She reports several sightings of Red-shouldered Hawk over her yard, as well as a female Merlin on March 9. A male Rufous Hummingbird visited her feeder on March 8. Several regular Spring visitors arrived early in Jean's garden this year. A Western Flycatcher was spotted April 1, earliest there by a week. A Black-headed Grosbeak came on March 31, 3 days early. A Hooded Oriole arrived on March 24, and a Bullock's Oriole visited on March 21, earliest by 4 days.

In her Orinda yard, Dee Mitchell reports seeing a pair of Brown Creepers, a White-breasted Nuthatch, 2 Rufous Hummingbirds, a Violet-green Swallow, and a Bewick's Wren.

3 flocks of "Black" Brant (250, 50, 150) were seen flying north at Drake's Beach on March 4. (JR, BR, B&MJG, MOB). On March 19, a PEREGRINE FALCON was spotted in Berkeley on the corner of Telegraph and Ashby; (JE). On March 1, a pair of Hutton's Vireos was observed building a nest in a riparian oak in Mitchell Canyon (SF).

2 PILLATED WOODPECKERS were sighted at Lake Lagunitas on March 18 (JR, MEMJG, mob). A Red Cross-bill was heard at Elk Glen Lake in Golden Gate Park on March 11 (JR). A Red-naped Sapsucker was seen at Mines Rd on March 13 (JR, BR).

Observers: Jimm Edgar, Sharyn Fernandez, Gen Graves, Bill & Mary Jane Greene, Dee Mitchell, Marilyn O'Connor, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond.

Spring migration is at its peak this month, and we'll look forward to some exciting reports. Please send observations to: Donna Peake-Klein, 51 Picardy Ct, Walnut Creek, CA 94596, 930-9819

THE QUAIL, published monthly except July/Aug combined issue, is sent to National Audubon Society members in the Mt Diablo Chapter. To join NAS: \$30.00/year, family \$38, senior, student, and introductory levels available, consult Membership Chairperson, Linda Myers, (415) 932-3489. Make check payable to National Audubon Society to Membership Chairperson, 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 Quil delivery. Chapter affiliation changed on member's request. Subscriptions to Quil only: (does not confer membership status) \$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 for either member or subscriber and additional \$3.00/year, payable to Mt Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, address above.

Kristi Streiffert, Editor, 1362 Pine St, Pittsburg, CA 94565; 439-0759
Exchange bulletins for MDAS to this address, please.

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

June

June 1986

Vol 32 No 10

next deadline: July 1, 1986

MEETING The annual pot luck is Thursday June 5, 7:00pm at the Willow Creek Center, 1026, Mohr Lane, Concord. If you did not sign up at the May meeting to bring food, please call Margaret Wadsworth, 939-8422, to let her know what you can bring. Please bring your own plates, silverware, and any serving pieces needed for your dish.

Mohr Lane is off of Monument Blvd, approximately 1/2 mile east of Contra Costa Blvd. The Willow Creek Center is 1/2 mile south of Monument Blvd on Mohr Lane.

BOARD MEETING Board Meetings are open to all interested members. Thursday June 12, 6:00pm potluck dinner for both old and new boardmembers at the home of Maury Stern, 939 Carol Lane, Lafayette, 284-5980.

FIELD TRIPS Trips are open to members and non-members alike. Carpool time is departure time. Carpool expense. 5¢ per mile per rider is suggested; tolls and entry fees are shared equally by riders and drivers. 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, June 5, **LAS TRAMPAS**, meet at 7:30 in parking lot at park. From I-680 go west on Crow Canyon Rd. Turn right onto Bollinger Canyon Rd. to end. This will be a half-day trip. Las Trampas may be hot so carry liquid. Grasshopper Sparrow is usually found here as well as other grassland birds; also oak woodland birds. 1-1 1/2 miles walking, some steep.
Leader: Norah Bain, 254-4516

Sat June 7, **OUTER POINT REYES**, carpool 6:30 am, Acalanes Ave. off Pleasant Hill Rd. just North of Hwy. 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 1/2 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 trip is for spring vagrants and anything may turn up. About 1/2 mile easy walking to lighthouse; 1/2 mile rough trail to the New Willows. Weather may be hot; may be cold and foggy - be prepared.
Leader: Maury Stern 284-5980

Wed June 11. **ANNADEL STATE PARK**, carpool 6:30 am, southwest corner of Sun Valley parking lot. Meet 8:00, parking lot Annadel Park. Go north on I-680, west on I-780, north on I-80 to SR 37; west on SR 37, north on SR 121, left onto SR 12 for about 17 miles past Sonoma. Turn left on Los Alamos Rd., right on Melite Rd., then left on Montgomery Dr. for 0.6 mi. Turn left on Channel Dr., 2 mi. to road end. We have had Yellow-breasted Chats and MacGillivray's Warblers. Pilated Woodpecker is a possibility. 1-1 1/2 miles walking on dirt trails.
Leader: Mary Jane Culver 682-0509

Sat June 21-Sun June 22, **YUBA PASS**. Saturday we bird the Yuba Pass area for mountain birds. Last year we had William's Sapsucker, usually Black-backed Woodpecker, Calliope Hummingbird, Hammond's Dusky Flycatchers. Sunday we go into Sierra Valley for Great Basin birds: Yellow-headed Blackbird, Wilson's Phalarope, sometimes Black Terns, Gray Flycatcher. Call leader for exact meeting times. Motels in Sierra City: Harringtons Sierra Pines - 916-862-1151 and Sierra Chalet - 916-862-1110; Shannon's Cabins (less

expensive) - 916-862-1287. In Sierraville: Canyon Ranch - 916-994-3340. There are forest service campgrounds at Yuba Pass and Chapman Creek.

Leader: Jean Richmond 837-2843

Thurs June 26 BRIONES-THE DAWN CHORUS, Meet 7am west entrance of the park. We will probably have to park along the road and walk in. This is an opportunity to hear bird songs and see summer birds before the day heats up.

Leader: Barbara Vaughn 376-5041

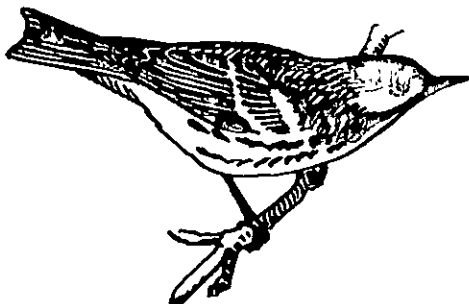
YOSEMITE TRIPS July 12-13. Make reservations early. Yosemite Park/Curry - 209-373-4171; Sugar Pine Ranch, Groveland - 209-962-7823. Camping at Hodgdon Meadow, Yosemite - in the past this has not been a reservation campground, but it might be well to check with Ticketon.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Raptor Migration Observatory of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (co-sponsored by the San Francisco Zoological Society and the Golden Gate National Park Association) is a group of bird banders, watchers, and biologists dedicated to studying the large migration of birds of prey through the Marin Headlands. This July they will launch a pilot, volunteer-based, Hawk Watch Program to record the numbers and species of raptors as they cross the Golden Gate.

The Hawk Watch Program will run the length of the fall migration: August 18th through December 14th. Volunteers will need to commit to several weeknights of training in late July, and to hawk-watching on one scheduled day every two weeks during the migration season. Some prior bird ID experience is essential.

If you want to contribute your birding skills to a long-term ecological research program with conservation implications, please attend the Orientation Meeting - to be held June 26th, 1986 at 7pm in the Conference Room at the National Park Service Headquarters, Building 201, Fort Mason, San Francisco. For additional information or directions, call Allen Fish at 415-331-0730.



AUDUBON ADVENTURES

Audubon Adventures is an education program for 4th and 5th grade school classes offered by the National Audubon Society and its chapters. In a participating class, each student receives a newsletter six times a year covering environmental education and natural history with stories, projects, quizzes, games and puzzles. The class receives a membership certificate signed by their sponsor and each child is given a membership card and an owl decal. A leader's guide is provided to the teacher. A sponsor can, for \$20, give all this to a class of 32 for a whole year! During the school year of 1985-86 members of the MDAS reached 256 students. Now is the time to plan for the 1986-87 year. If you would like to promote love and respect for the natural world among our youth, please fill out and mail this coupon to Norah Bain, Education Chairman, 32 Via Farallon, Orinda, CA 94563.

I am applying for my class and would like a sponsor... []
Teacher's Name
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Grade..... Number of students.....

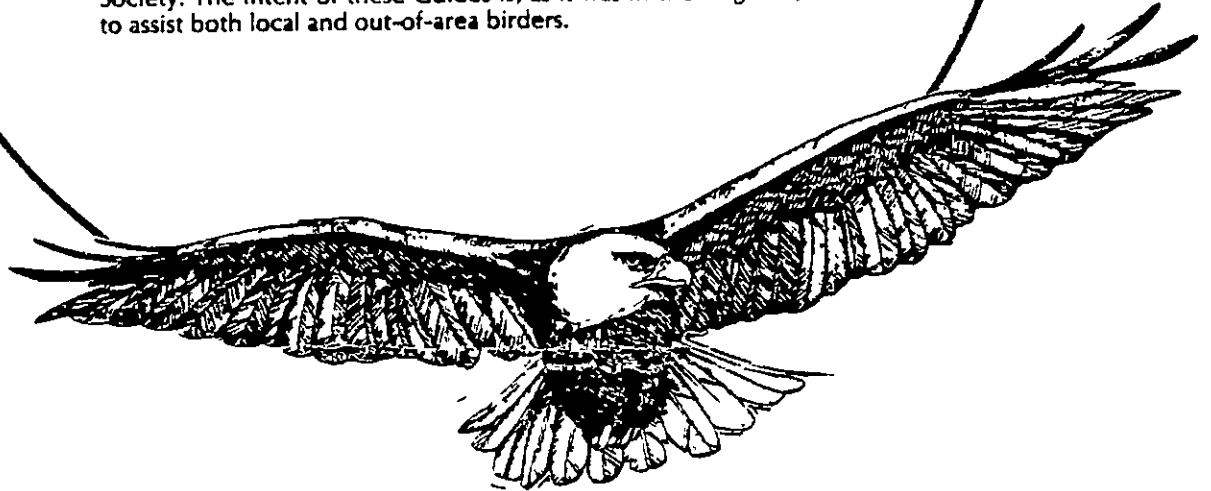
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School and Address.....
Grade..... Number of students.....
I will sponsor class/classes designated by the MDAS chair... []
Signature
Address & Telephone

BIRDING NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

BIRDING NORTHERN CALIFORNIA is a guide to 72 birding localities, primarily within 100 miles of the San Francisco Bay Area. Many of the sites are located in western California between Bodega Bay and Monterey, others range up the coast into Humboldt County. In the eastern part of the state, there are Guides to areas from Yosemite to the Oregon border. In the interior, places included are from the Tehachapi Mountains to the northern Sacramento Valley.

The book includes directions to each locality, where to look after arriving, and what birds are to be expected and when. This area's diverse habitats, rich birdlife, and temperate climate encourage year-round birding. The greatest number and diversity of birds is fall through spring. Many birds are to be seen in summer, which is also the season to enjoy the delightful weather and montane species of the Sierra Nevada.

This publication has been made possible through the interest and encouragement of many who wished to see in book form, revised and updated, the Guides originally published 1976-85 in *The Quail*, monthly newsletter of Mt. Diablo Audubon Society. The intent of these Guides is, as it was in the originals, to assist both local and out-of-area birders.



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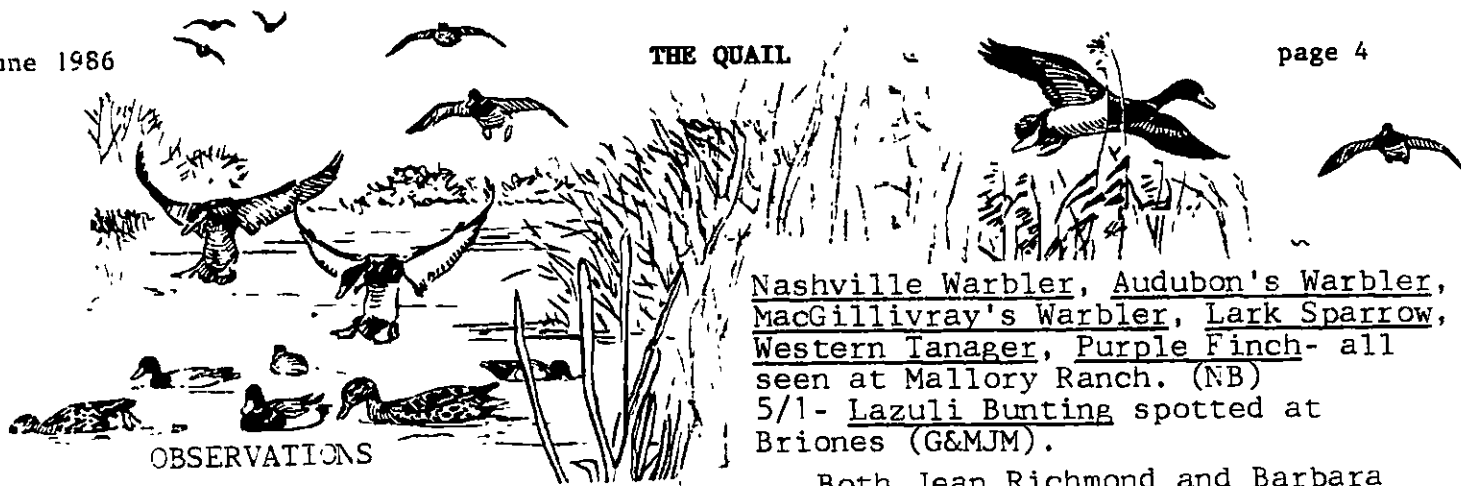
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OBSERVATIONS

3/18- 1 pair of Wood Ducks, 2 Osprey, White-throated Swift, Tree Swallow, Violet-green Swallow, Canyon Wren all sighted at Lake Solano (NB et al)
 4/1- 1 Canada Goose at Bolinas Lagoon (JR, B&MJG et al). 4 Swainson's Hawks, hundreds of Tricolored Blackbirds seen at San Luis NWR, Merced Co. (JR)
 4/5- 1 Spotted Dove, Porterville, Tulare Co. (JR)
 4/6- At least 2-3 Spotted Doves again in Porterville (JR and also seen by Bob Barnes, the town birder-First county record)
 4/8- A Golden Eagle, Northern Oriole seen at Sunol RP (NB)
 4/11- Rufous Hummingbird in her Alamo garden (JR) and her Orinda garden (BV)
 4/17- 3 male Wild Turkey, Costa's Hummingbird, Rufous Hummingbird, Lewis' Woodpecker, Canyon Wren, 2 male, 1 female Phainopepla, Purple Finch, 1 male, 1 female Lawrence's Goldfinch-all seen at Mines Road (NB)
 4/22- Numerous Sooty Shearwater at Pigeon Pt.-PP- and Pescadero-Pesc- 2 Pink-footed Shearwater PP, 25 Brown Pelican PP, and 8 more Pesc, 1000+ Brant PP, and 15 more Pesc, 18 Red Phalarope PP, 1 Pomarine Jaeger PP, 1 Parasitic Jaeger Pesc, 1 Sabine's Gull PP, 15 Marbled Murrelet PP (JR) Also reported 4/22- Cooper's Hawk, Golden Eagle, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Solitary Vireo, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Lark Sparrow. All sighted at Briones RP (NB)
 4/29- Several Warblers moving through- Ida Clayton Rd., Sonoma Co. 2 Mountain Quail seen at Western Mine Rd. (extension of Ida Clayton Rd.), Lake Co. 4 Lawrence's Goldfinch sighted at Detert Reservoir. (JR)
 Also on 4/29- Olive-sided Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Horned Lark,

Nashville Warbler, Audubon's Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler, Lark Sparrow, Western Tanager, Purple Finch- all seen at Mallory Ranch. (NB)
 5/1- Lazuli Bunting spotted at Briones (G&MJM).

Both Jean Richmond and Barbara Vaughn have Hooded Orioles regularly visiting their gardens.

While on a family vacation to the L.A.-San Diego area from 4/4-4/13, Dennis Wolff reported seeing 170 species. A few of those highlighted as Dennis' "new birds" are Yellow-footed Gull (Salton Sea area), Royal Tern (San Diego coast), Crissal Thrasher, LeConte's Thrasher and Scott's Oriole (Anza-Borrego State Park). Anyone interested in seeing his impressive list can contact Dennis at 828-6084 or observation editor at 930-9819.

Observers: Norah Bain, Bill & Mary Jane Greene, George & Molly Jane Monheit, Jean Richmond, Barbara Vaughn, Dennis Wolff.

Please send observations to: Donna Peake-Klein, 51 Picardy Ct., Walnut Creek, Ca 94596, or call 930-9819

CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

Fatrallon Island Cruises and Air Flights are offered by the Whale Center, 3929 Piedmont Avenue, Oakland 94611 (415) 654-6621. Fatrallon cruises are \$44 and air flights are \$130. Cruises to the Pioneer and Guide Seamounts offshore of San Mateo Coast are also available. Proceeds benefit the Whale Center, an Oakland-based conservation and education organization working for the whales and their habitat.

Birds and Flowers of Point Lobos Class is offered by the Fremont Adult School (Fremont Unified School District) on Saturday June 21, 8:30 to 12 noon. \$13 fee. Preregister by June 17. The trip is timed to coincide with the height of nesting activity of Brandt's Cormorants there. Call the Adult School at (415) 791-5841.

Birding Field Trips Class is offered by the Fremont Adult School. Six Thursday classes beginning June 24. Observe and learn about field identification, life styles, and ecology of local birds. Phone the School at (415) 791-5841

REGRETS

The QUAIL's brand new editor must leave after working on only two issues. We are being transferred to Louisiana and will be leaving shortly. *Please send your contributions for the July/Aug QUAIL to Maury Stern, who will be directing operations until a **new editor volunteers**. We are disappointed to be leaving so soon, but are looking forward to seeing the Louisiana Heron!

MDAS WANTS YOU!

Mount Diablo Audubon Society is still in need of a new **president, secretary, and editor**. You needn't be highly qualified for these positions, just eager to learn and ready to give some time and effort to this worthy group. If you've thought about volunteering, but put it off, please consider again.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

LAKE MERCED, April 17

Ten members and guests birded Lake Merced and Fort Funston on a sunny, breezy morning. Sixty-one species were seen. Allen's Hummingbirds displayed; we found a Marsh Wren's nest. Bank Swallows were at their holes and we saw them mob a hapless Kestrel. We studied all three Scoters including the Black and had at least two loons in breeding plumage. Finally, just in time for the list, an Osprey appeared right over our heads.

Fred Safier

BLACK DIAMOND MINES-NORTONVILLE, April 12

Nine members braved winds up to 20 mph on a sunny but cool day to bird the Nortonville area of Black Diamond Mines Regional Park. A total of 51 species and one additional race were seen or heard in spite of the wind. Highlights included a great view of a Great Horned Owl perched on a rock on the canyon wall, many colorful male Bullock's Orioles and Wilson's Warblers, a gray fox, and two adult Racer Snakes.

George Finger

DONNER CANYON, April 19

Twelve members and guests enjoyed a beautiful spring day on Mt. Diablo with a vigorous hike to the waterfalls while seeing 61 species of birds and many wildflowers. Highlights included: a Golden Eagle, Western Wood-Pewees, many Ash-throated Flycatchers, several Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, large flocks of Cedar Waxwings, Nashville, Black-throated Gray, Townsend's and Wilson's Warblers, Western Tanager, and Rufus-crowned Sparrows.

BRIONES WEST, May 1

Although the weather was overcast and cool the Lazuli Buntings, Chipping Sparrows and Warbling Vireos were out in force in Briones. Fifteen friendly members and guests enjoyed a fruitful walk and saw or heard a total of 45 species. In addition to the above, highlights included Vaux's Swift, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Nashville and Black-throated Gray Warblers, and Western Tanager.

Merv Ortez

POINT REYES OBSERVATORY, April 24

On a windy but sunny day, twelve members and one guest enjoyed a lively and informative presentation at PRBO given by John Kelly. Two Wrentits and one Orange-crowned Warbler were seen during the demonstration of banding. Twenty Great Blue Heron pairs are nesting at Audubon Canyon Ranch, many with young. Ninety-three Egrets are nesting, most have eggs. During walks at both areas, among 63 species were: Hairy Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatchers; Tree, Violet-green, Northern Rough-winged, Cliff and Barn Swallows; and a Wilson's Warbler showing itself bravely. Heard frequently were Purple Finch and Winter Wren. Four Ospreys put on a delightful fishing display at Bolinas Lagoon and later flew in front of us at the overlook at ACR.

Norah Bain

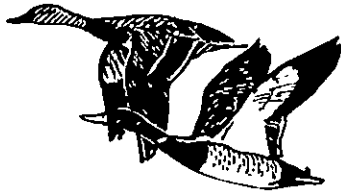
IN MEMORANDUM

Mack N. Davis, a long time member of our society, died early in April. In response to a request by Mrs. Maxine Davis and his children, Mack Jr. and Debbie, a number of his friends have made donations to M.D.A.S. in his memory. We greatly appreciate these donations as expressions of Mr. Davis' long interest in Audubon goals and programs.

NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to welcome these new MDAS members and hope to meet them in person soon:

Mrs. H.W. Graves, Carol Johnson, Manuel Letamza, Barbara Matthews, Spike Nail, Sharon Richey, Phillis Rosenburg, Georgia Schnaitman, Pearl Seidman, Kristi Streiffert, Toni Tischler, Luis Da Silva, Heidi Ferguson, Mrs. Thomas Fish, M. Kuchins, Edward Lacava, Deborah Larsen, Janet Ladoto, A.M. McCallum, W.R. McDowell, Peter Nieman, John Ornellas, Ellen Prk, Mrs. Cliff Sauvain, Petey Schmitt, Frank Schneidermeyer, Doris Shusta, Laura Stevens, Joan Taylor, M. Turkington, Kay Wright.



CONSERVATION NOTES

by Al McNabney

SHELL MARSH

To birds who will be looking to Shell Marsh for a place to rest, nest, and feed on their next trek south - what do we say? Do we extend the invitation to come back next year, or do we end up destroying a smallish but important wetland? The Planning Commission, City of Martinez has, in a show of understanding, turned down the application of the Development Co. to convert part of the marsh and surrounding hills into a business park. But the developer will be back before the Planning Commission in May to further argue that a business park will enhance the property and will be good (or at least not bad) for wildlife.

COUNTY GENERAL PLAN TO BE UPDATED

MDAS and other groups interested in life (human and wild) have called for a major update of the County General Plan. A broadbased advisory committee has been called for by the CCC Board of Supervisors and the committee is being established to carry out initial phases of this important activity. Kent Fickett, a well-known MDAS member will serve as a member of the Committee.

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE - WILL IT ALWAYS BE?

The State Water Resources Control Board has started the process of updating existing water policy. An important hearing will involve future allocations and uses of the State's waters. The Committee for Water Policy Consensus, of which MDAS is a member, is involved in developing policy positions. Watch this activity for its results will play a major role in the future of life of the Bay.

TERRORISM - U.S. PARKS AND YOU

Visitors to U.S. parks are likely to find reservations for accommodations cannot be obtained. All sold out due to increased U.S. tourism. Visitors to some parks will find management differences, since Park Administration and or facilities have been leased out. With increased visitation to parks we hope the people will give a thought to the future. Our population is growing. Forest lands are being gobbled up in huge chunks for timber products; developers have bought up what used to be prime open space. At the present rate of development and present rate of population growth, our parks will be totally inadequate - what legacy will we be leaving? Maybe terrorism by-products will produce thoughts that may eventually turn our view of parkland acquisition and maintenance to a better way.

THE QUAIL, published monthly except July/Aug combined issue, is sent to National Audubon Society members in the Mt Diablo Chapter. To join NAS: \$30.00/year, family \$38.00, senior, student and introductory levels available, consult Membership Chairperson, Linda Meyers, (415) 932-3489. Make check payable to National Audubon Society to Membership Chairperson, MDAS, P.O. Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. Address change: Send notice to NAS Membership Data Center, P.O. Box 2667, Boulder, CO 80321; a copy of your letter should be sent to Membership Chairperson, Linda Meyers, 1624 Springbrook Road, Lafayette, CA 94596 to ensure uninterrupted Quail delivery. Chapter affiliation changed on member's request. Subscriptions to Quail only: (does not confer membership status) \$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 for either member or subscriber an additional \$3.00/year, payable to Mt Diablo Audubon Society, to Treasurer, address above.

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

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The QUAIL

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



July/Aug 1986

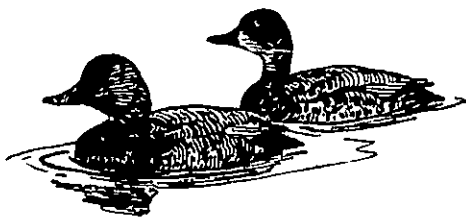
Vol.32 No.11

next deadline: August 1

ANNUAL PICNIC Friday, July 18, 7:00 pm. Old Borgess Ranch, 1035 Castle Rock Rd. About 1/4 mile past Northgate High School, look for sign to Ranger Station (Walnut Creek Open Space). Drive up road on right to ranch headquarters. \$1 per car entry fee. After supper we will look for owls so bring binocs as well as supper. Last year we saw Western Screech Owl. For further information, call Maury Stern 284-5980.

BOARD MEETINGS Board meetings are open to all interested members. Thursday, July 10, 7:30 pm, home of Gifford Young, 1451 Janet Ct., Benicia, 707-745-4134

Thursday, August 7, 7:30 pm, home of Barbara Vaughn, 59 Donna Maria Way, Orinda, CA 376-5041



FIELD TRIPS Trips are open to both members and nonmembers. Carpool time is departure time. Carpool expense: 5c/mile per rider is suggested; tolls & entry fees are shared equally by riders and drivers. Bring binocs, field guide, and lunch. Trips go in light rain; if in doubt, call leader up to 1/2 hour before departure time.

Sat-Sun, July 12-13, **YOSEMITE**, Saturday we bird Tioga Road for Pine Grosbeak, Townsend's Solitaire, Rosy Finch and other high mountain birds. Sunday we bird the Badger Pass area where we often high mountain woodpeckers. Camping and motel information in June Quail. For times and meeting places call leader.

Leader: Jean Richmond, 837-2843

* Sat Aug 2, **San Mateo Coast**, Carpool 6:30 am El Cerro Blvd, west of I-680. Meet in parking lot off SR 1 opposite Pescadero Rd. Cross San Mateo Bridge, continue west on SR 92 to Half Moon Bay, go left on SR 1 15 miles to Pescadero Rd., turn right into parking lot. Can be cold and windy, sometimes hot. 1-2 miles walking, partly over sand dunes. May see early shorebirds possible Black Swift, Bank Swallow, Marbled Murrelet.

Leader: Maury Stern, 284-5980

* Sat Aug 16, **Bodega Bay**, Carpool 6:30 am southwest corner of Sun Valley parking lot. Meet 8:30 am at the Tides Restaurant. Go north on US 101; take Washington St. exit in Petaluma, go west on Bodega Hwy to SR 1, turn left to Bodega Bay. Tides is on left opposite Union station. Can be cold and windy, little walking. Early shorebirds, waterbirds, rails, post-breeding migrants. Leaders: Helen & Jerry Gentile 228-6733

* Thur Aug 21 **Black Point-Crator Ponds**, Carpool 8 am southwest corner of Sun Valley parking lot. Meet 8:45 am in parking lot of Orchard Supply and Hardware, at intersection of SR 37 and SR 29, to Napa Hwy in Vallejo. This is another good shorebird area. Some walking. Leader: Jimm Edgar 658-2330

FIELD TRIP Meeting, July 17, Home of Elizabeth Dicky, 113 Hillcrest Dr., Orinda.

PLANNING If you have suggestions, requests, or special birds, call Elizabeth Dicky after July 14. 254-0486

MDAS PRESIDENT - WHERE ARE YOU?

MDAS is starting a new term with some key positions still open. President, Membership Chairman, and Bird Information Co-ordinator places are still empty. If you are considering volunteering, call Jimm Edgar at 658-2330.



AUDUBON ADVENTURES

Audubon Adventures is an education program for 4th and 5th grade school classes offered by the National Audubon Society and its chapters. In a participating class, each student receives a newsletter six times a year covering environmental education and natural history with stories, projects, quizzes, games and puzzles. The class receives a membership certificate signed by their sponsor and each child is given a membership card and an owl decal. A leader's guide is provided to the teacher. A sponsor can, for \$20, give all this to a class of 32 for a whole year! During the school year of 1985-86 members of MDAS reached 256 students. Now is the time to plan for the 1986-7 year. We already have applications from 14 classes. If you would like to promote love and respect for the natural world among our youth, please fill out and mail (with your check to MDAS) this coupon to Norah Bain, Education Chairman, 32 Via Farallon, Orinda, Ca 94563.

I wish to sponsor class/classes. Enclosed is \$20 for each class..../

Teacher's Name

School and Address.....

.....

Grade..... Number of students.....

I will sponsor class/classes designated by the MDAS chair....

Signature

Address & Telephone

.....

CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

STAUFFER - MORE NEWS

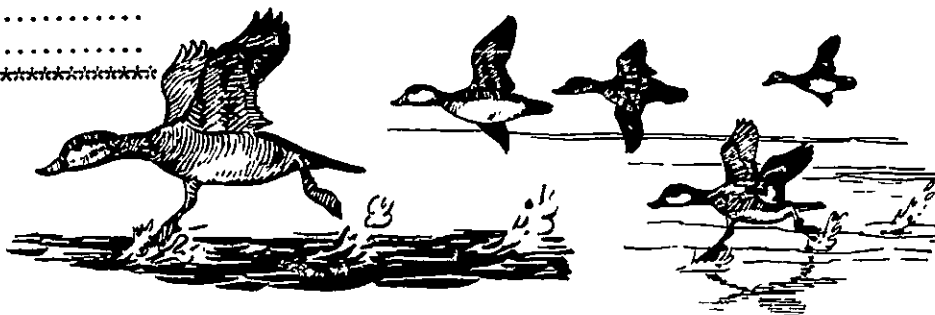
Some 18 months ago, the accidental discovery of an illegal wetland fill near the Stauffer Chemical Co. Plant in Martinez set a chain of events in motion. Complaints were filed with Martinez authorities. Conferences, letters, meetings, ad in finitum with a lot of promises but little action. Finally agreement was reached. The illegal fill would be removed from the wetland and the area returned to its normal condition. Then, months of NOTHING. Winter came and went. More promises of action. NOW- Eureka! A phone call from an Audubon member provided news that crews are actually on-site and wetland restoration is underway. So, 18 months or so from date of discovery to date clean-up work began. Good or bad? You decide.

SB1717 - A CHANCE FOR OPEN SPACE

If you feel closed in... if your favorite birding area looks as though it is going to wind up under someones development project - take heart. Help is (possibly) on the way. A bill traveling through the California legislative maze involves placement on the November ballot of a proposal which would authorize a \$500 million bond issue to purchase and preserve some of the irreplaceable natural lands from development etc. Habitat would be saved which would be valuable to bird and animal life - Jerry Meral, Planning and Conservation League Cmm said SB1717 is a landmark bill that will preserve thousands of acres of natural, scenic, and open space lands near our cities. If YOU think SB1717 is worthy of support write the Governor, urging him to support SB1717 so the people of the state can vote on the matter in November.

SHELL MARSH - MUCH MORE

Due to the Planning Commission, City of Martinez turning down (unanimously) the development project that would have adversely affected the wetland, we can again invite the shore and sea birds, the migrants, and any others interested to come back to Shell Marsh. Undoubtedly the end of the effort has not yet come about, however, and the residency of birdlife may still wind up a temporary thing.



CONSERVATION CONT.

LUMBER REPORT

The US Forest Service is mapping plans for lumbering in National Forests. Even on paper some of the proposed cuttings look as though they will do irreparable damage to the forests and habitat. In the Pacific N.W. there is a proposal to clear cut thousands of acres of first growth timber. Such activity will eliminate the entire habitat for the Spotted Owl. The old axiom jobs vs. environment is a hot issue. Shouldn't we as intelligent beings work out a system which maintains both? The OWLS can't do it. If the species is to survive, we will have to act so survival is possible. Are we doing something effective?

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

MINES ROAD, May 3

On the Mines Road trip we had a Nashville Warbler at the first stop and Vaux's Swifts not far beyond but birding was a little slow along the flatland. At Del Valle Reg. Park were a number of birds including a Common Merganser which flew under the bridge where we stood. We had had overcast and cold, but as we started up the canyon, the weather got even worse. I stood in drizzle to watch Rufous Hummingbirds and Phainopeplas and soon after that we were in light rain. At the Branding Iron we lunched in the cars, then reluctantly started home, but stopped at MP-9.94 to look for wild turkeys - and saw 3-4. The clouds began to break so we decided to try to salvage the trip. Skies rapidly cleared, the temperature warmed considerably along Mines and San Antonio Valley Roads, and more birds began to appear, including a singing male Lawrence's Goldfinch, 3 Lewis' Woodpeckers, and 3 Wood Ducks. Down Del Puerto Canyon there were male Costa's Hummingbirds at close range, singing Canyon Wren, and many Western Kingbirds in the rolling grassland beyond. The 13 members tallied 92 species on what had begun as a slow, wet day.

Jean Richond

DONATIONS AND REQUESTS TO MDAS

Our society has from time to time received generous donations in memory of friends or relatives as a spontaneous donations to the society's general activities. Gifts, donations, and requests are welcomed as significant support of our goals of wildlife appreciation and conservation. All gifts are tax deductible, and will be acknowledged in The Quail as well as personally on behalf of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society.

LAS TRAMPAS REGIONAL WILDERNESS, June 5

An intrepid group of 7 members and 3 guests arrived at Las Trampas on a cold, windy day with the rain showers! The highlights were sightings of four different Lazuli Bunting males and two Grasshopper Sparrows, all singing. One guest from Holland got five life birds. Most species were invisible and inaudible - total 35.

Norah Bain

MT. DIABLO STATE PARK, May 7

Scouting the park the day before, I nearly froze but May 7 was clear, warm, and calm all morning then somewhat windy by noon. Thirteen members found a number of Warblers around Rock City, including Orange-Crowned, Nashville, Black-throated Gray, Townsend's, and Hermit. At the nearby overlook were cooperative Sage Sparrows, but the Rufous-crowned and Black-chinned Sparrows sang out of sight down the hillside. Along the road to Pioneer Camp a male Calliope Hummingbird sat atop a little snag, turning this way and that showing off his beautiful streaked gorget. Nearby we had a California Thrasher singing his heart out while perched in clear view on a snag. There were several Blue-grey Gnatcatchers, one Warbling Vireo, and we saw no Lazuli Buntings, although we heard several singing. Before leaving in early afternoon, we tallied 54 species seen and/or heard.

Jean Richmond

CASWELL STATE PARK & DURHAM FERRY STATE RECREATION AREA May 21

Eight members and guests enjoyed a beautiful spring day among the riparian areas of the Stanislaus and San Joaquin Rivers. 61 species were seen, including: Green-backed Heron, a flock of 10 White-faced Ibis, Red-shouldered Hawk, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Greater Yellowlegs, 5 swallow species, many house wrens, Hutton's and Warbling Vireos, and Purple Finch. Notably absent were Swainson's Hawks, Bank Swallows and warblers.

Maury Stern

OUTER POINT REYES, June 7

23 members and guests enjoyed a beautiful but windy day at Pt. Reyes. A breeding plumaged Magnolia Warbler at the Fish Docks and a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak at the New Willows were the vagrant highlights. A breeding plumaged Red-necked Grebe, a Brant, three Ospreys (including an active nest), and a male Lazuli Bunting were other highlight birds among the 74 species seen or heard. Many people enjoyed the oysters at Johnson's Oyster Farm, also.

Maury Stern

OBSERVATIONS

4/7- A Chipping Sparrow visited her concord garden (BG)

5/13- A Greater Roadrunner was seen at Mines Road, MP-5.99 (JR, BF). A female Costa's Hummingbird was spotted at MP-3.5, and a male at MP-10.8, Del Puerto Canyon Rd. (JR, BF et al)

3 Pygmy Nuthatches were seen at the Japanese Tea Garden, S.F. (G&MJM). About 10 Grasshopper Sparrows were spotted at Bishop Ranch Open Space, San Ramon (KH)

5/15- A male Black-chinned Hummingbird arrived in her Alamo Garden, and a pair of Western Tanagers was seen in her Concord yard, the female having been present for a week prior to the 15th. (CW)

5/17- A Townsend's Warbler was spotted at Mitchell Canyon (KH), and 2 Hooded Orioles were seen at David Drive in Concord (KH, SF).

5/18- A Golden Eagle was observed being mobbed by a Red-tailed Hawk at Bishop Ranch Open Space. Also seen there, a Golden-crowned Sparrow, and a pair of Lawrence's Goldfinch. (KH)

5/19- A singing male and or female Purple Finch was seen and heard in her Alamo garden, remaining until 5/26. This was the first she's ever had this time of year (JR).

5/21- A male Costa's Hummingbird was seen briefly in her Concord garden, only to be chased off by her proud resident Anna's (BG). A Brown Creeper was spotted at Bishop's Ranch (KH).

5/24- A Swainson's Thrush and a Yellow Warbler visited his San Ramon yard (KH).

5/25- An immature female Peregrine Falcon was seen intruding on a Scrub Jay nest in the Oakland Hills (JF). 4 individual Flammulated Owls were sighted at Tahoe National Forest (BC, EH, CH, KH).

5/26- Gifford and Winifred Young enjoyed a clear, windy, mild day at Grizzly Island and observed the following: Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Mallard, Cinnamon Teal, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, Ring-necked Pheasants (both cocks and hens-two hens with young), Mourning Dove, Rock Dove, Horned Lark, Northern Rough-winged Swallows, Barn Swallows, American Crow, Loggerhead Shrike, Common Yellowthroat (heard only), Marsh Wren (heard only) Red-winged Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch. Also seen 5/26- Several Purple Martin nesting under the freeway at "Old Sacramento" (BC, EH, CH, KH).

5/27- A Golden-crowned Sparrow was spotted and remained at her Walnut Creek feeder through 6/6 (GG).

5/31- A Fox Sparrow was seen in her Walnut Creek yard (GG).

6/3- 2 Yellow-breasted Chat were observed at Anna del State Park (JR et al)

6/4- A fledgling Black-crowned Night-Heron was seen in Concord on Olivera St. at the entrance to the UPS building (GY). Jean Richmond also reports Hooded Oriole fledglings now in her Alamo garden.

Kevin Hintsa was kind enough to send along information regarding the North Carolina Gulf Stream Pelagic Trips for Summer and Fall. If interested, please contact observations editor, or call Paul G. DuMont, (202)447-7570 between 4:30 and 6:00 p.m. only.

Observers: Bill Chilson, Jerry Fager, Sharyn Fernandez, Bud Fry, Betty Gallagher, Gen Graves, Ed Hase, Charles Hines, Kevin Hintsa, George and Molly Jane Monheit, Jean Richmond, Cathy Wyatt, Gifford and Winifred Young.

Please send observations to: Donna Peake-Klein, 51 Picardy Ct., Walnut Creek, Ca. 94596 or call 930-9819

NEW MEMBERS

We warmly greet these new MDAS members and hope to meet them at meeting and field trips: Iris Birge, Azalee Gardner, David Kuhre, Barbara Papini, K. Pruet, Essie Schneidemyer, Harold Caddel, Barbara Carleton, G. M. Cross, Robert Greenlee, Jan Horrocks, F.E. Howeth, Wanda Longnecker, Erenesto Lopez, Victoria Micu, Virginia Porter, Rose Pribilovics, Glen Weber.

EDITOR RETURNS

Tom Streiffert's transfer was cancelled, and so Kristi Streiffert will be Quail's editor after all. Thanks to Winnie Young for volunteering to take the job had it remained open.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The California Department of Fish and Game is initiating a survey of Bank Swallow nesting ecology in California. They need data on Bank Swallow nesting colonies for an analysis of current and historical statewide distribution. Please submit information on colony locations as precisely as possible (include map), date colony size, historical swallow use if possible, current and historical land use practices, and any other pertinent information. Please include your name, address, and phone number. Send information to Joan Humphrey, 733 M St., Davis, CA 95691, (916) 756-9531

PRESIDENT'S FAREWELL LETTER

I have enjoyed being President of Mt. Diablo Audubon Society for the past two years. The greatest satisfaction has been working with the many fine people who have worked so hard to make our chapter work well.

The publishing of Jean Richmond's outstanding book occupied us for much of the past year but the results were well worth the effort. Many people worked very hard to accomplish this project, and I want to thank them for this: Gifford Young, Jimm Edgar, Winnie Young, Fred Safier, Elizabeth Dickey, Norah Bain, and George Finger. The chapter hopes to use the profits from the book (if any) for good works related to conservation and education.

Al McNabney, our conservation vice-president continued his outstanding campaign to keep Contra Costa County from being inundated with development. Al has become as recognized leader in the regional conservation community. Kent Fickett has continued to represent us well at commission and council meeting.

Winnie Young has been a wonderful secretary the past two years. Her minutes have been a valuable reference for us. She has also been an eager helper in providing hospitality and coordination of our meetings.

Gifford Young has been a tower of strength for the chapter. Besides careful record keeping of chapter expenses, he has co-ordinated the sales of Jean's book throughout the country.

Elizabeth Dicky once again arranged a full schedule of field trips very well. She will continue to do so. I thank all the volunteers who acted as leaders during the past year.

Linda Myers did her usual excellent job as membership Chairman and made many changes making this position easier to perform. Linda will continue this valuable job until a new chairman can be found.

I want to thank Margaret Wadsworth for her devoted work she put in as hospitality chairman. Her co-workers this year, Edna Mass and Sharyon Fernandez are also greatly appreciated.

Barbara Vaughn has done a terrific job as Publicity Chairman. Many people became aware of our chapter through Barbara's efforts. We are very fortunate she will continue to serve on the board.

Shimi Edmondson, after three years of hard work on The Quail, has retired. We thank her for the excellence of The Quail during her tenure as editor. Kristi Streiffert will continue in this role.

Thanks to the Robinsons (now three) for their work on the Observations column and to Donna Peake-Klein for taking over that role.

A special thanks to Norah Bain for her continuing good work as Education Committee chairman. In addition, Norah worked very hard on the Nominating Committee along with Marjorie Plant and Jimm Edgar.

George Finger did a super job compiling the Christmas Bird Count. It will be hard to improve on his efforts.

Winnie Orcutt did very well with Birding Information. Unfortunately for us, she has moved to the San Luis Obispo area, but lucky for that location. We will need a new chairman for that segment of our monthly meeting.

Marilyn O'Connor has done a very fine job mailing out The Quail each month. Thanks to all the people who share in that endeavor.

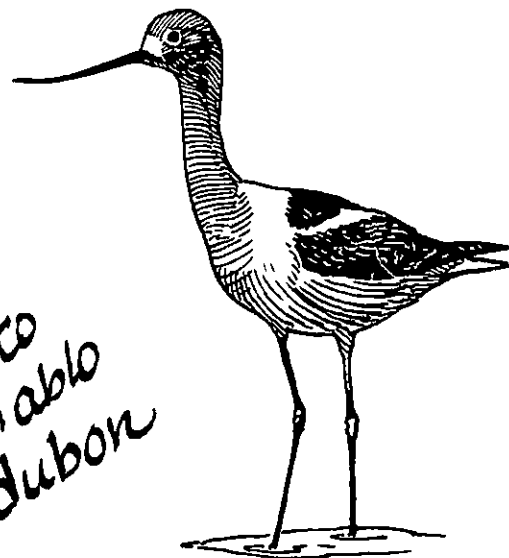
Joy Hall has been doing the layout and graphics for several years and deserves a special thank you from us.

Last, Jimm Edgar has as usual, come forward to be of assistance to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society. He will be acting President until we can fill that important position.

Maury Stern

*from all of us!!
Thank You
Maury!*

*for your
precious
time
given to
Mt Diablo
Audubon*



OFFICERS OF THE MT DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY, 1986-7. Save for reference

President: open
 Acting President: Jimm Edgar, 4614 Jacobus Ave., Oakland, CA 94618, 658-2330
 VP Program:
 VP Conservation Al McNabney, 1161 Leisure Ln., #7, Walnut Creek, CA 94595, 945-1785
 Secretary: Edna Mass, 1301 Canyonwood Ct., #1, Walnut Creek, CA 94595, 945-7634
 Treasurer: Gifford Young, 1451 Janet Ct., Benicia, CA 94510, (707) 745-4134
 Field Trips: Elizabeth Dicky, 113 Hillcrest Dr., Orinda, CA 94563, 254-0486
 Membership: Open
 Acting Membership: Linda Myers, 1624 Springbrook Rd., Lafayette, CA 94596, 932-3489
 Hospitality: Britta Casio
 Publicity & Historian: Barbara Vaughn, 59 Donna Maria Way, Orinda, CA 94563, 376-5041
 Editor: Kristi Streiffert, 1362 Pine St., Pittsburg, CA 94565, 439-0759
 BAAC Rep.: Jimm Edgar, address above
 Christmas Bird Count: George Finger, 2371 Dapplegray Ln., Walnut Creek, CA 94596, 933-2468
 co-compiler: Maury Stern, 939 Carol Ln., Lafayette, CA 94549, 284-5980
 Education: Norah Bain, 32 Via Farallon, Orinda, CA 94563, 254-4516
 Birding Information: Open
 Quail Mailing: Marilyn O'Connor, 42 Comistas Ct., Walnut Creek, CA 94598, 939-2961

Thank you to the nominating committee - Norah Bain, Jimm Edgar, Marjorie Plant.

THE QUAIL is published monthly except the July/Aug combined issue. Audubon membership (local and national) includes subscriptions to The Quail and Audubon Magazine. To join (\$30/year, \$38/family, introductory, senior, student rates available) send payment to National Audubon Society, c/o Membership Chairman, Linda Myers, 1624 Springbrook Rd., Lafayette, CA 94596. Subscriptions to The Quail separate from membership are \$6/year payable to MDAS, Treasurer, Gifford Young, 1451 Janet Ct., Benicia, CA 94510. First class mailing (member or nonmember) additional \$3/year payable to MDAS, Treasurer, above. **ADDRESS CHANGE:** Consult Linda Myers, (415) 932-3489

Kristi Streiffert, Editor, 1362 Pine St., Pittsburg, CA 94565; 439-0759
Exchange bulletins for MDAS to this address, please.

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September 1986

Vol33 No1

next deadline: September 1

NEW MEETING LOCATION



MEETING Thurs, Sept 4, at the WILLOW CREEK CENTER **NEW LOCATION**
1026 Mohr Lane. SEE DIRECTIONS, page 2. Doors open 6:30 pm, Birding Information: 7:00, A slide presentation will preview future field trips. Business Meeting: 7:30 pm. Social Time: 8:00 pm. Program: 8:30, Kathy Taylor of the Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum will present, via slide show, "Wildlife Rehabilitation."

BOARD MEETING Board meetings are open to all interested members. Thursday September 11, at home of Kristi Streiffert, 1362 Pine St., Pittsburg, 439-0759.

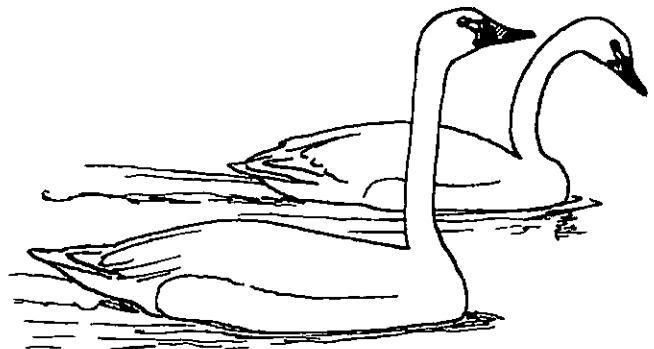
FIELD TRIPS Trips are open to members and nonmembers alike. Carpool time is departure time. Carpool expense: 5c/mile per rider is suggested; tolls and entry fees are shared equally by riders and drivers. Bring binocs, field guide, and lunch. Trips go in light rain; if in doubt, call leader up to ½ hour before departure time.

Wednesday, Sept. 10, TILDEN, meet at parking lot by Nature Center, 7:00 am. From San Pablo Dam Road 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: Elizabeth Dicky, 254-0486.

Saturday, Sept. 20 **OUTER POINT REYES**, carpool 6:30 am, Acalanes Ave., off Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Hwy 24. Meet at Drakes 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 onto Bear Valley Rd. about 3 miles and onto Sir Francis Drake again. Continue about 14 miles to Drakes Beach Rd. on left. This trip is for fall migrants and anything may turn up. About ½ mile easy walking to lighthouse; ½ mile rough trail to New Willows. Weather variable - be prepared. Leader: Jean Richmond 837-2843

Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 27-28, **MONTEREY WEEKEND TRIP**. Those interested in this trip may call the leader for details. Leader: Maury Stern 284-5980

A full schedule of the **YEARS FIELD TRIPS** will be published in the October issue of the Quail. There will be fewer trips this year due to lack of leaders, but there will be a good number, none the less. This years Christmas Count will be held Saturday December 27.



OBSERVATIONS

6/3-6/7- Kevin Hints visited Duluth, Minnesota, and saw many species, including Black-billed Cuckoo, Alder Flycatcher, Sedge Wren, Golden-winged Warbler, Mourning Warbler, and Scarlet Tanager.

6/3- A Pileated Woodpecker and 2 Yellow-breasted Chats were seen at Annadel State Park (JR)

6/15- A Lazuli Bunting nest was spotted at Las Trampas Wilderness parking lot (KH&SF)

6/16-A rural Pleasant Hill yard with resident bantam chickens has had several baby California Quail who have apparently imprinted. The last report on 7/7 found them still with the banties (M&BT)

6/16- 2 Great Horned Owls, one an immature, have been observed in San Ramon near Ascot Dr. They have been seen at dusk hunting Rock Doves and littering the streets with feathers. The neighborhood reports no more pigeon problems (KH)

6/19-6/22- Jan Hilton was fortunate to bird Machias Seal Island, off the coast of Maine, and had a fantastic trip. Jan saw 75 species, including nesting Arctic Terns, Razorbill, an immature Bald Eagle, the illusive Ruffed Grouse, 12 species of Warbler, and White-winged Crossbills. For her complete list or further information on this trip, please call Jan at 939-6573.

6/21- A Northern Harrier was sighted at Lime Ridge in Concord (KH&SF).

6/24-A juvenile White-throated Swift was found at Montevideo Dr., San Ramon. It had fallen from its nest and was treated at Alexander Lindsey and later released (KH).

7/4- On a pelagic trip from San Francisco to Cordell Banks, several birds were seen, including Black-footed Albatross, Northern Fulmar, Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel, Leach's Storm-Petrel, Skua, and Tufted Puffin. The group was looking for Petrels in the Pterodroma family, and did see 2, but was unable to identify specific species (JE).

7/6 -2 Brant and 3 American Black Oystercatchers were spotted by the Bay Bridge toll plaza. (JR)

7/9 On a Bodega Bay trip, 8 Virginia Rails were seen, as well as 2 pairs of Black Oystercatchers, each pair with one chick. (JR)

7/18-A Walnut Creek garden had a male, a female and an immature Hooded Orioles visiting. (RH)

7/20-A Mountain Quail and several young were seen on the trail to Westfall Meadows at Yosemite National Park. (BC, EH, CH, KH)

7/22- A pair of Wood Ducks was seen at Middle Lake in Golden Gate Park. (JR)

7/22- 6 Red Crossbills were sighted at Lincoln Park in San Francisco. (JR)

7/26- A Western Kingbird was sighted at the intersection of Bollinger Canyon Rd. & San Ramon Valley Blvd (also observed 6/16-6/19). (KH)

6/27- Several Cliff Swallows were seen feeding over the Oakland Coliseum until nearly 10:00 p.m., evidently aided by the field lights. (KH&SF)

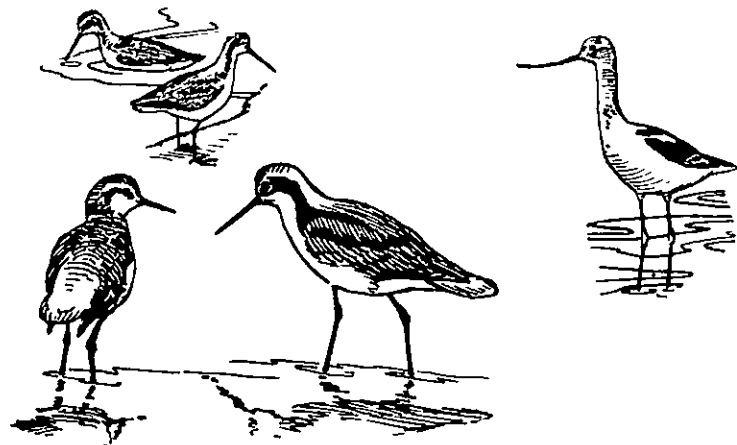
7/29- A Sabine's Gull was sighted at Limantour, Pt. Reyes. (JR)

7/31- A single White-crowned Sparrow is still frequenting a south Walnut Creek garden. (RH)

During July, 11 or more adult and immature Turkey Vultures have been observed roosting in a eucalyptus tree on Walnut Blvd. in Walnut Creek. (JH&ED)

Observers: Bill Chilson, Elizabeth Dickey, Jimm Edgar, Sharyn Fernandez, Ed Hase, Jan Hilton, Charlie Hines, Kevin Hints, Ralph Hudgins, Jean Richmond, Marie & Bill Toaspen.

Please send observations to: Donna Peake-Klein, 51 Picardy Ct., Walnut Creek, Ca. 94596, or call 930-9819



LAST

MINUTE

REPORT

Heather Farm Pond has been drained, leaving mud flats exposed. Seen Aug. 8 and 9 were one Greater Yellowlegs 8 Avocets, a flock of Long-billed Dowitchers - all birds that are not usually there, even during migration. -Margaret Wadsworth, 939-8422

CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

Birding Classes by Norah Bain - beginning and intermediate birding in conjunction with the Orinda Community Center. Three weeks of field trip classes, Sept 9, 16 & 23, 9am to 1pm. For details call the OCC at 254-2445 or Norah at 254-4516.

California Raptors: Hawks and Owls, an exhibit of photographs by John Hendrickson and others will be at The Oakland Museum, Sept 27 to Jan 4, in the Natural Sciences Special Gallery. Exhibition text will describe raptors' physical designs for survival, their hunting habits, nest-building and parenting. A major theme of the show is the ecology of predation - how raptors help balance the environment, directly affecting the quality of human life. Conservation and rehabilitation agencies, such as The Peregrine Fund, will be represented in the exhibit by photographs and text. The Oakland Museum is located at 10th and Oak Street. For more information call the Museum at 273-3401.

Kenya, Southern Mexico, Costa Rica, three extended field trips with the Golden Gate Audubon Society. Kenya trip is Oct 27 to Nov 19; Southern Mexico trip is Nov 15 to Dec 1; and Costa Rica trip is Mar 15 to 29. Information or brochures are available from the GGAS, 843-2222.

Natural History of California Birds will be taught by Phil Gordon at the Acalanes Adult Center, Walnut Creek. Fee is \$35, register at the first class. This class is for beginning to advanced intermediate students. Laboratory workshops with specimens, slide shows, videos, and field trips are planned. Wednesdays (10 weeks) Sept 10 to Nov 12, 7:30pm-9:30. For more information contact the Acalanes Adult Center, 935-0170 or Phil Gordon at 538-3550.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

ANNADEL STATE PARK, June 11

Four members and two guests were rewarded with the sighting of the Pileated Woodpecker family, four were seen at one time. The elusive Chat, a family of Brown Creepers, Chipping Sparrows, warblers, and vireos were other sightings during the fine birding at Annadel. An enthusiastic report on the new site guide, Birding Northern California, was received from the guest from Pleasanton.

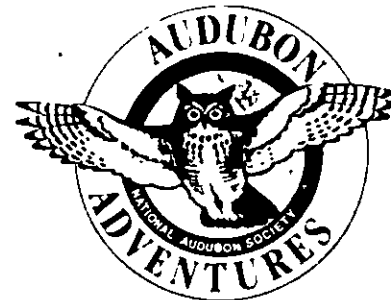
Mary Jane Culver

SUMMER CAMP FIELD TRIP, CROW CANYON INSTITUTE
On July 8th, Linda Myers and Shirley Elliott led a field trip for children on property owned by Mudds Restaurant in San Ramon. A summer camp was being held there in cooperation with the San Ramon recreation department. Seventeen children ages 8-13 participated. In their illustrated thank you letter, the children said they especially enjoyed the "Punk Rocker" Jay!

SAN MATEO COUNTY COAST, August 2

20 members and guests had a beautiful day at Pescadero Beach and Marsh, Pigeon Point, and Ano Nuevo State Reserve. In addition to almost 100 bull elephant seals, 101 bird species were seen. Highlights included Green-backed Heron, 2 brant, 2 early Bufflehead, Virginia Rail, Snowy Plover, Lesser Yellowlegs, Wandering Tattler, Surfbird, Pectoral Sandpiper, Marbled Murrelet, Black Swift, six swallow species (including Bank), Yellow Warbler, and MacGillivray's Warbler.

Maury Stern



AUDUBON ADVENTURES

The following are comments from teachers who used the Audubon Adventures program in their classes last year:

"...a delightful way to impart environmental information to the youngsters. They look forward with great anticipation to each issue. What better way to spark the interest and enthusiasm of our young people for appreciating and protecting our environment..." "The issues greatly enriched our study of California flora and fauna." 4th grade, Walnut Creek. "What a marvellous publication Audubon Adventures is." 4th grade, Orinda. "Audubon Adventures was enjoyed by all. Some students continue to ask when the next one is coming." 4th grade, San Ramon.

ANYONE INTERESTED IN SPONSORING a class for a year please send \$20 (checks to MDAS) to Norah Bain, 32 Via Farallon, Orinda, Ca 94563. For further information call Norah at 254-4516.

CONSERVATION NOTES

BY Al McNabney

SHELL MARSH CELEBRATES

How does a bird convene a champagne party? If we care about wildlife, birdlife, wetlands, and the future, we all have cause to celebrate. The developer's ruinous proposal for a 245 plot has been buried - at least for the time being. An appeal to the Martinez City Council plus a rather inept proposal to "give" the City \$500,000 for the Park Service produced a unanimous NO! from the City Council. Threats to appeal to the County Board of Supervisors have (so far) not been followed up. It does not appear likely the project will be resurrected soon. HOWEVER, standing in the wings is Caltrans with proposals to widen or duplicate the George Miller Jr. Bridge at Benecia. Such an action could produce an even worse disaster for the marsh than the development project that was just killed.

WALNUT CREEK LOOKING TO THE YEAR 2000

What seems to be a good idea will be developed over the next six months as the City of Walnut Creek calls on the skill, talent, and knowledge of almost 100 volunteers to assist in developing the revised General Plan. Open space, parks, trails, creeks, birdlife - all will come in for a "look" by at least some of the people.

STAUFFER TO BURN TOXIC WASTE

Informal sessions called for by officers of Stauffer Chemical Co. (Martinez) indicate the Company is preparing plans to burn various types of waste (some toxic) in its Hydrochloric Acid Producing plant. Assertions at this early date indicate that burning will be completely "safe". No danger will threaten the public, wildlife or surrounding bay and marshland habitat. The informal meetings have been held with representatives of the City of Martinez, Audubon, John Muir Society.

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome these new MDAS members and hope to meet them at our activities: Dan Faletti, Mona Fisher, Margaret Hallock, Reginald Huggins, Elena Lass, Andree Morrison, Mary South, Barbara Torres, Wm. Trunick, Barbara Waddell, Mr&Mrs Scott Whittaker, Angela Bennett, Arthur Danzig, Cynthia Frederick, Katherine McDowell, H. McLaughlin, Mary Palmer, Ada Lou Peterson

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT, FY 85-86

BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD:	<u>\$5,857.53</u>
INCOME:	
National Audubon Soc. dues	7,160.00
'Quail' subscriptions	423.00
Donations to MDAS	334.55
Interest earned	412.87
MDAS publications:	
'Birding Northern California, a Site Guide'	
Receipts	\$6,530.98
Expenses	<u>8,738.75*</u>
Net income	(2,207.77)
Check lists	46.03
Bird-a-Thon	165.00
Miscellaneous income	79.42
TOTAL INCOME:	<u>\$6,413.10</u>
EXPENSES:	
'Quail' publication	\$3,762.80
Rent	495.00
Office supplies	339.47
Equipment	159.61
Hospitality	51.56
Conservation	364.50
Program presentation	575.00
Education (slides)	149.56
Telephone (including move)	270.23
Field trips	13.24
Christmas Bird Count	139.00
Bay Area Audubon Council	58.11
Miscellaneous	33.93
TOTAL EXPENSES:	<u>\$6,412.01</u>
DONATIONS:	125.00
TOTAL EXPENSES, DONATIONS	<u>\$6,537.01</u>
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD:	<u>\$5,733.62</u>

*Note: Receipts have since exceeded expenses.

IN MEMORIAM

The chapter extends its deepest condolences to Florence Bennett in the July 2 death of her father, G. Glenn Coleman, of Spokane, Washington. Mr. Coleman subscribed to the Quail and during his frequent visits took an active part in chapter activities.

We also express sincere regrets for the passing of Janet Campell of Pittsburg, a member, on February 22 of this year.

DON'T MISS THE MIGRANTS

Fall migration is in full swing. Jean Richmond's Birding Northern California, in 144 information packed pages, gives birders 72 sites to choose from, and tells where to look when they arrive and what birds they can expect to find.

Carefully mapped and described locations range from Mount Pinos south of Bakersfield to Arcata and Tule Lake in the North. This is a must companion book for every birder!

Copies are on sale at many nature book stores and nature centers, or order directly from the Treasurer (see address, last page).

Price: \$10.00 plus \$1.35 mailing. California residents add 65¢ sales tax - total \$12.00. Wholesale and libraries: 1-9 copies, \$7.00; 10 or more \$6.00 each.

All MDAS members can be proud of this outstanding publication. Please help broaden birders' awareness of Birding Northern California by showing your copy to others, by suggesting that your bookstores carry it, by asking your local paper to review it, and by helping interested persons to order copies.

PROPOSED CHANGE OF BYLAWS

A vote will be held at the September general meeting to amend the by-laws as such:

The Board of Directors, by a majority of present members, may appoint any member of Mount Diablo Audubon Society in good standing to be a designated Board Member for a special purpose.

HELP WANTED

MDAS is grateful for the many wonderful people who work at the various tasks that are necessary to make us an effective organization. One of our newest volunteers is Neil Welsh (phone 798-0213). Neal is our new vice-president in charge of programs.

Many other jobs are available for those members who would like to volunteer. The positions of president, and membership chairman remain open. We are also in need of someone to arrange the birding information programs. There are any number of other jobs - auditing the books, or writing articles for the Quail to name but two. Let's combine our time, talent, and commitment to Audubon Society ideals and make our chapter better than ever. Call acting president Jimm Edgar to volunteer.

THE QUAIL is published monthly except the July/Aug combined issue. Audubon membership (local and national) includes subscriptions to The Quail and Audubon Magazine. To join (\$30/year, \$38/family, introductory, senior, student rates available) send payment to National Audubon Society, c/o Membership Chairman, Linda Myers, 1624 Springbrook Rd., Lafayette, CA 94596. Subscriptions to The Quail separate from membership are \$6/year payable to MDAS, Treasurer, Gifford Young, 1451 Janet Ct., Benicia, CA 94510. First class mailing (member or nonmember) additional \$3/year payable to MDAS, Treasurer, above. **ADDRESS CHANGE:** Consult Linda Myers, (415) 932-3489

Kristi Streiffert, Editor, 1362 Pine St., Pittsburg, CA 94565; 439-0759
Exchange bulletins for MDAS to this address, please.

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

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



October 1986

Vol33 No2

next deadline: October 6, 1986

MEETING Thursday, Oct. 2, at the
WILLOW CREEK CENTER, 1026
Mohr lane. Doors open 6:30 pm, Birding Informa-
tion:7:00, Bob Richmond will tell us all
about GULL IDENTIFICATION. Business Meeting:
7:30 pm. Social time, 8:00. Program: 8:30,
Beth Huning of the Richardson Bay Audubon
Center in Marin will present a slide show
entitled, "PACIFIC WETLANDS AND WINTERING
WATERFOWL - AUDUBON'S SANCTUARY IN THE BAY".

FIELD TRIPS

Trips are open to members
and nonmembers alike. Carpool
time is departure time. Carpool
expense: 5c/mile per rider is suggested; tolls
and entry fees are shared equally by
riders and drivers. Bring binocs, field guide,
and lunch. Trips go in light rain; if in doubt,
call leader up to ½ hour before departure time.

Thurs., Oct. 2, **LINCOLN PARK**: Carpool 7:45
am. Acalanes Ave., off Pleasant Hill Rd.
just 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 and vagrant warblers.
First part of trail is steep and rough.
Leader: Barbara Vaughn, 376-5041

Wed., Oct. 8, **POINT DIABLO (Hawk
Mt.) 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 Ave.
exit and follow signs for Ft. Cronkite in
Golden Gate NRA. If weather is clear we
may see migrating hawks and swifts; waterfowl
and shorebirds at the lagoons. Weather is
highly variable. A short, steep walk on

good road to hawk watch point. If weather
is suitable, we will carry lunch up and stay
at Hawk Pt. until mid-afternoon.
Leader: Jimm Edgar, 658-2330

Sat., Oct 18, **ABBOT'S LAGOON**:Carpool
7:00 am Acalanes Ave. off Pleasant Hill Rd.,
just North of Fwy 24. Meet 8:30 am Bear
Valley Visitors' 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 on Sir Francis Drake
Blvd. At SR-1, turn right ¼ mile, left onto
Bear Valley Rd., and left into Visitors'
center. We should see waterfowl and shorebirds,
possibly hawks and eagles. Weather unpredict-
able; 3 mile level trail to lagoon and back.
Leader: Maury Stern, 284-5980

Sat., Oct. 25, **COYOTE HILLS**:Carpool 7:00
am. El Cerro Blvd., just west of I-680.
Meet 8 am at parking lot of SF Bay Refuge
Headquarters. I-680 to I-580 west; take
Washington Ave. exit, turn left onto Washington
and right into ramp to SR-17. Take SR-84
exit toward Dumbarton Bridge; at Thorton
Ave. exit turn left on Thorton and right
into Refuge. Follow signs to headquarters.
Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486

Wed., Oct 29, **MOUNTAIN VIEW SANITARY
DISTRICT**: Meet 9:00 am in parking lot
at 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 fill entrance road, turn left onto road
to Mt. View plant. This is a good trip
for **BEGINNING BIRDERS**; we have close looks
at many waterfowl. ½ mile walking on level,
often muddy trails. Trip usually includes
a visit to Waterfront Rd. and Martinez Shoreline
Park.
Leader: John Davis, 228-0516

BOARD MEETING Board meetings are open to all interested members.

Thursday, Oct 9, 7:30 pm, home of Edna Mass, 1301 Canyonwood Ct., #1, Walnut Creek, 945-7634

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

YUBA PASS AND SIERRA VALLEY, Jun 20-22

The trip was made by 22 members on a warm and clear weekend. Among many nesting birds in the Pass area were Williamson's Sapsucker, White-headed & Black-backed Woodpeckers. Other montane species included Mountain Quail, Calliope Hummingbird, Pileated Woodpecker, American Dipper, Townsend's Solitaire, 9 warbler species, Red Crossbill and Evening Grosbeak. A search along Chapman Saddle Road after dark produced many calling Common Poorwills but only a couple birds were seen. A few people, walking back to the cars, got a good look at of Poorwill beside the road. In Sierra Valley, among the nesting birds were House and Marsh Wrens and Mountain Bluebird. Other valley species included Sandhill Crane, Black Tern, Lewis' Woodpecker Sage Thrasher, Green-tailed Towhee, Brewer's and Vesper Sparrows. A few of us continued to Red Rock Rd. where a Pinyon Jay was heard and Blue-grey Gnatcatcher seen. A possible Gray Flycatcher was heard but could not be found. Temperature in the canyon was very hot. A total of 103 species was tallied.

Jean Richmond

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, July 11-13

The weekend trip was made by 17 members in clear, very warm weather. Saturday had a good start with an excellent view of a Great Gray Owl perched high in a tree. Williamson's Sapsuckers were seen at a number of places on the weekend. We found a pair of Pine Grosbeaks with a nest which appeared to have just been started near the top of a small conifer. Also seen or heard were Mountain Quail, Calliope Hummingbird, Black-backed and Pileated Woodpeckers, Clark's Nutcracker, Rock and Winter Wrens, Townsend's Solitaire, 8 warbler species, Green-tailed Towhee and Rosy Finch. We searched in vain for Blue Grouse but did tally 68 species on the trip. Weather conditions in the park apparently caused breeding to occur early this year as many birds were feeding fledglings. Our weather was considerably warmer than our trips in previous years.

Jean Richmond

BODEGA BAY, Aug 16

-Drizzle, overcast, then sunny. No wind. Weather, sitings, and company all conducive for that day of perfect birding. 23 members and guests observed 64 species. At Doran Park one lone bird had most birders researching various field manuals, shifting from one foot to the other, changing telescopes, talking to themselves, each other and the wind, but no unanimous identification. After 30 minutes the subject in question decided to be more accommodating and took a short flight—identification was immediate and unanimous: a Wilson's Phalarope. We wish to thank all those on this trip for responding to simple ground rules of a responsible birder. For any group the one important rule is to "Single File" if walking on the road. We must not in any way be a hazard to drivers of vehicles. Thanks again - we enjoyed the day in your company.

Helen & Jerry Gentile

BLACK POINT & CADER LANE PONDS, Aug 21

Three members saw 56 species. The day started cool and windy but ended up very warm. Highlights were the Virginia Rail, Elegant Tern, good looks at Whimbrel and Long-billed Curlew. The ponds at Cader Lane are almost gone (they've been drained) and Marine World has pretty much destroyed the habitat at Lake Chabot. This area may not warrant a full field trip in upcoming plans.

Jimm Edgar

WHAT THE PRESS HAS BEEN SAYING ABOUT BIRDING NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

"Masses of information..."

The Contra Costa Times

"What every birder has been waiting for... a well organized, handy guide..."

The Yodeler

"Tells you where to go...what birds are around, and how to find them."

Oakland Tribune

"A must companion book for every birder!"

The Quail

Copies are on sale at many nature book stores and nature centers, or order directly from the Treasurer (see address, last page).

Price: \$10.00 plus \$1.35 mailing. California residents add 65¢ sales tax - total \$12.00. Wholesale and libraries: 1-9 copies, \$7.00; 10 or more \$6.00 each.

CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

A DUSTY ROAD WELL TRAVELED

A tunnel "rammed through Castle Rock"! An awful thought to those interested in existing open space, wildlife, birds and the future. August 15 a majority of the City Council of Walnut Creek voted to refer an idea now called Diablo Hills Parkway to a newly developed committee for "additional study". A very similar idea was killed in 1972 and a like proposal was voted down by the WC City Council in April 1986. Asserting Diablo Hills Parkway would transgress mostly private land, the proponent urges creation of the new road. History demonstrates the people of Walnut Creek have exerted a strong financial and ideological effort to maintain open space, parks and the like. An alert informed citizenry will ultimately make the decision on this matter - if given a chance to do so.

MODEL BOATS A PROBLEM FOR BIRDS AND PEOPLE

Ellis Lake, Concord, has been discovered. Not by more birds, but by modelers with model power boats. The lake is being used for testing, floating, and racing the small boats. Equipped with small reciprocating engines, the boats make lots of noise. An issue is now before the Planners of the City of Concord. Longtime Audubon members who have carried out bird counts in the area are providing data which will hopefully aid in the decision making process.

OAKLAND AIRPORT PROPOSES TO EXPAND

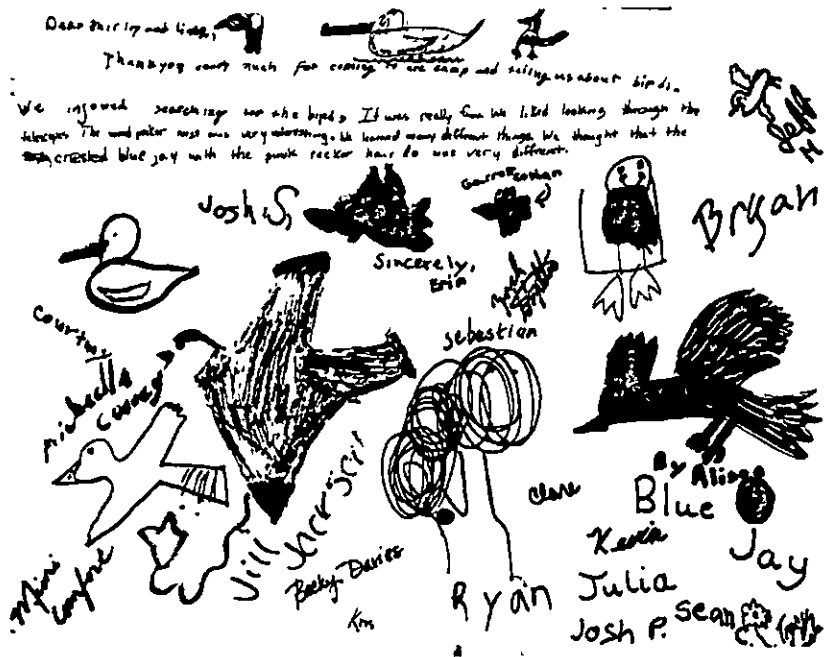
Some hope to create more business for the Oakland Airport. Based on 1986 thinking the best way for an airport to do more business is to GROW. So, the regulatory body owning the airport is proposing to enlarge it. That means taking a huge chunk of the remaining SF Bay wetland and turning it into runways, roads, taxi areas and the like. Regulatory processes require an environmental impact report. Properly done such a report demonstrates what may be right or wrong with the proposed project and gives an opportunity to overcome problems. However, authority has been given which, uncontested, would have permitted the "taking" of the bay wetlands without regard for the impact on wildlife, the water system, plant life, and people. Golden Gate Audubon Society initiated legal action to halt further action on the proposed airport pending completion of the EIR and various other legal items.

MACINTOSH SEARCH

MDAS is seriously considering purchasing computer equipment to upgrade the appearance of The Quail and to simplify the editor's task. A computer would enable us to take advantage of the new Laser printing technology. This printing method would give The Quail the professional look of a typeset newsletter, at a very low cost.

The initial cost of a computer can be high, however. We are hoping our members can help us find the following equipment at the lowest possible cost to MDAS. The hardware needed is: a Macintosh 512K computer, a disk drive, an Imagewriter printer. Software: MacWrite, ReadySetGo (or Pagenaker), MacDraw or MacPaint. Please call Jimm Edgar or Kristi Streiffert with information or ideas you may have regarding these items. Thank you.

AUDUBON ADVENTURES



18 classes are now receiving the environmental newsletters. Please note that during October and November 1986 enquiries about Audubon Adventures should be directed to Norah Bain c/o Mary Jane Culver, 806 Wilmore Avenue, Concord, CA 94518. 682-0509.

CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

By: Tom Streiffert

Audubon Canyon Ranch - Offers seminars throughout the fall and winter. October seminars include Birding for Beginners, Native American Lifestyles, Bats, Toads & Autumn (a Halloween special), and a Double Special: Cypress Grove and Tom's Point hike. Call the ACR at (415) 383-1644 for a brochure.

Norah Bain, through the Orinda Community Center, offers two six hour field classes which may be registered for separately, take one or both. Marin County - Eight Habitats on Tuesday, December 3, 9am-3pm. Palo Alto Baylands on Tuesday, December 9, 9am-3pm. Price for each day is \$10 for Orinda residents, \$12 for non-residents. Please register at the O.C.C. Enrollment is limited.

The Cooper Ornithological Society will present a seminar on the natural history, biology and conservation of the San Clemente Island Loggerhead Shrike. Tom Scott of the U.C.B. Forestry Department will be the speaker on Monday, October 6, 8pm, in Room 2503 - Life Sciences Building, U.C. Berkeley. Everyone interested in birds is welcome.

Diablo Valley College - will have a class on Northern California Waterbirds. This will be two weekend trips, October 25-26 (includes a pelagic trip on Monterey Bay), and November 22-23 (to the Central Valley). The instructor, Chris Swarth, is also a member of the Golden Gate Audubon Chapter. The first meeting is October 16 at DVC. This is a good class (instructor) especially for beginners. More information will be available from Sharyn Fernandez at the October MDAS meeting.

Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum - offers classes and day trips for children. For information on the October schedule call the museum at 935-1978.

Point Reyes Field Seminars - offer an extensive fall/winter schedule. The program is a self-supporting non-profit activity, sponsored by Coastal Parks Association in cooperation with Point Reyes National Seashore. The courses are taught by recognized professionals, and many offer optional credit through Dominican College. Subjects include photography, watercolor, nature hikes and horse back rides, birding, and family outings. Call (415) 663-1200 for a fall/winter catalog.

The Whale Center - offers a Pioneer/Guide Seamount Exploration Cruise on October 4. This is a 14 hour natural history trip to the Pioneer and Guide seamounts south of San Francisco forty miles offshore of the San Mateo Coast. The cruise leaves from Sausalito - price is \$ 89. Proceeds benefit the Whale Center, a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to saving whales and their habitat. Call for reservations or information at 654-6621.

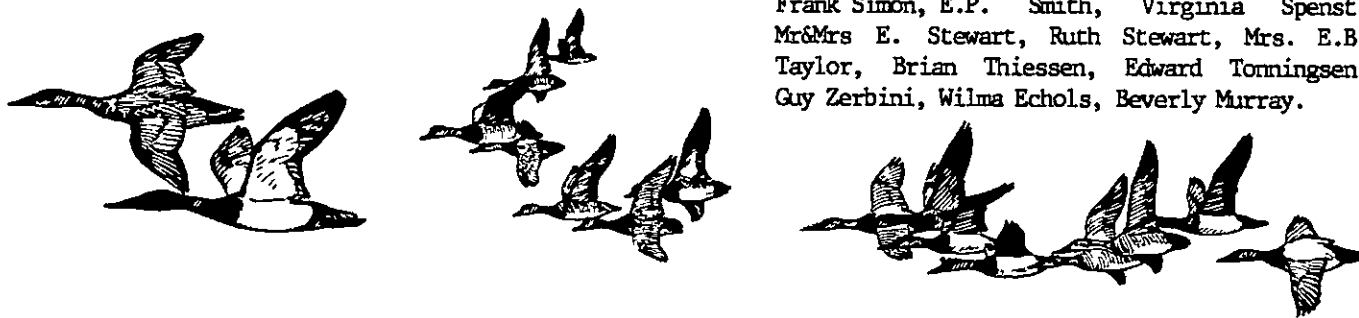
The Oakland Museum - presents California Raptors: Hawks and Owls, an exhibit of photographs by John Hendrickson and others. Museum hours are Wednesday through Saturday 10-5, Sunday 12-7, at 10th and Oak Streets.

Ed. Note: Tom has been writing this column for several months and has finally consented to a credit line. I really appreciate all the columnists who fill out the pages of this letter. Thanks to Donna, Al, Tom, and all the field trip reporters.

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome these new MDAS members and hope to meet them in person at meetings and trips.

Sallyann Andrews, R. V. Ansell, Elizabeth Boardman, Jeanne Cantwell, Dorothy Crump, Mary Fishencord, Mateo Gofata, Neil Guiney, Heather Harper, Anton Holieck, Mary Hook, Susan James, Mona Lange, Hilary Lerner, Victor Matusek, Virginia Monds, Jack Roberts, Judd Rogstad, Kris Rothacher, Sheila Sawyer, Frank Simon, E.P. Smith, Virginia Spent, Mr&Mrs E. Stewart, Ruth Stewart, Mrs. E.B. Taylor, Brian Thiessen, Edward Tomningsen, Guy Zerbini, Wilma Echols, Beverly Murray.



OBSERVATIONS

Nani Ahern and Bob Luebke had a wonderful trip to the Island Park, Idaho area and Yellowstone NP between 5/27 and 8/12. Following are some highlights: Many pairs of Trumpeter Swans, including a nesting pair which eventually hatched 3 cygnets; numerous Osprey-many observed fishing, and a nesting pair with two young; a pair of Bald Eagles and several Golden Eagles; large flocks (100's) of Sandhill Cranes, including several nesting pairs; large flocks of White Pelicans; 100's of Franklin's Gulls; and 20-30 Long-billed Curlew. The couple reports that Red Rocks Lake Wildlife Refuge is a particularly good area for birding.

Sharyn Fernandez visited the Hawaiian Islands during July and saw many species including: Apapane, Northern Cardinal, Spotted Dove, Hawaiian Hawk, Brown and Black Noddies, Wedge-tailed Shearwaters, Japanese White-eye- all seen on Hawaii. Seen on Kauai were Mockingbirds, Laughing Thrush, Shama, Red-tailed Tropicbird, Great Frigatebird, and Apapane. Also seen in captivity at the State Fish and Wildlife's Endangered Species Project were: Nene, Hawaiian Duck, Laysan Duck. (Mauna Kea) Other Observations:

8/1- A Brown Creeper was seen in a San Ramon yard. (KH)

8/7- 9 Wild Turkeys, a Roadrunner, Lewis' Woodpecker, and 15 Lawrence's Goldfinch were observed at Mines Road. Seen at Del Puerto Canyon Rd: a Golden Eagle and a Prairie Falcon sighted at the same spot; 2 Roadrunners; and also seen at the same spot were a Costa's Hummingbird and 23+ Lewis' Woodpeckers. (JR&AA)

8/9- A Caspian Tern was seen in downtown Concord. (KH&SF)

8/13- A Semipalmated Sandpiper and 3 Baird's Sandpipers were observed at Spalletta Ranch, Pt. Reyes. (JR)

8/15- The lingering White-crowned Sparrow which was reported last month was still present in its Walnut Creek yard (RH)

8/17- An Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen at Bishop Ranch Open Space. (KH)

8/19- A Wilson's Phalarope was sighted at Pescadero Marsh, and 2 Marbled Murrelets and 2 Bank Swallows were seen at Año Nuevo State Reserve. (JR)

8/23- Seen on a pelagic trip off Monterey Bay were South Polar Skua, Black-footed Albatross, 10 Sabine's Gulls,

and an Arctic Tern. Additionally, a rare Leatherback Turtle (approx. 1000lbs.) was seen. (KH&SF) Also on 8/23- A Baird's Sandpiper, Osprey, and a Red-breasted Nuthatch on thistles and lupin were observed at Abbott's Lagoon, Pt. Reyes. (NB)

8/26- An Osprey was sighted at Doolittle Beach, San Leandro Bay Regional Shoreline, Alameda. (JR)

8/28- An Orinda garden was visited by a Wilson's Warbler. (NB)

8/31- A Lewis' Woodpecker and 13+ Pinyon Jays were seen at Indian Creek Reservoir Alpine Co. near Markleeville. Jean reports good birding here. (J&RR)

9/1- Many White-faced Ibis, a Prairie Falcon, and several Black Terns were sighted at Stillwater NWR near Fallon, Nevada. (J&RR)

9/2- 80+ Long-billed Curlews were seen in an irrigated field on the north side of Avenue 12, 8 miles east of Firebaugh, Madera Co. (NB)

Correction: Last month I reported that several Quail chicks had imprinted on a Bantam hen in a Pleasant Hill yard. Rather, a full grown male Quail joined 9 banty chicks, taught them a few tricks and stayed with the chicks until they were 6 weeks old. The same yard has had a male and a female Hooded Orioles visiting all summer. (M&BT)

An especially interesting letter came from Doreen and Tom Uphouse of Concord. After reading about "Backyard wildlife habitats" in a 1983 issue of National Wildlife, the couple transformed a weedy sloping pasture into a beautiful terraced area replete with stream and two ponds. Some of the species now visiting their habitat are Green-backed Herons, a Great Blue Heron, Great Egrets, Mallards, Northern Pintail, Killdeer, Black Phoebe, and Swallows. Anyone interested in seeing pictures of their beautiful habitat may contact Doreen at 798-7926 or Observations editor.

Observers: Nani Ahern, Andy Aldrich (visiting from North Berwick, Maine), Norah Bain, Sharyn Fernandez, Kevin Hints, Ralph Hudgins, Bob Luebke, Jean and Rich Richmond, Bill and Marie Toaspern, Doreen and Tom Uphouse.

Please send observations to: Donna Peake-Klein, 51 Picardy Ct., Walnut Creek 94596 or call 9309819

1986-7 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

(Tentative) Thank you to Elizabeth Dickey and those who helped her arrange this list. The schedule is shorter this year because we have fewer people to lead trips. If there is a place you want to go, and can lead or arrange a leader, contact Elizabeth Dickey at 254-0486. If you are interested in trips similar to the Rarity Chasers of last year, (that is, date and time announced with destination decided by group at meeting place) contact Mrs. Dickey.

OCT	2	Thur	Lincoln Park	FEB	5	Thur	Sunol Regional Park
	8	Wed	Hawk Mt., Rodeo Lagoon		7	Sat	Thorton
	18	Sat	Abbot's Lagoon		19	Wed	Lake Merrit
	25	Sat	Coyote Hills		21-22	S&S	Sage Grouse trip-Susanville
	29	Wed	Mountain View Sanitary District		25	Wed	Lafayette Reservoir
NOV	8	Sat	Candlestick State Park	MAR	5	Thur	Hayward Regional Shoreline
	13	Thur	Alameda Regional Shoreline		7	Sat	Willow Creek Owling (before dawn) - Bodega Bay
	22	Sat	Altamont		11	Wed	Limmentour
DEC	3	Wed	Palo Alto Wetlands (7.1 tide for rails)		14-15	S&S	Sage Grouse Alternative (if rained out in Feb)
	6-7	S&S	Graylogde-Sacramento Game Refuges		28	Sat	San Leandro Reservoir
	18	Thu	Niles Canyon	APR	1	Wed	North Briones
	27	Sat	CHRISTMAS COUNT		11	Sat	Donner Canyon
JAN	8	Thur	Post Count Rarity Chase		16	Thur	Wet Briones
	17	Sat	Putah Creek		23	Thur	Lake Merced, Golden Gate Park
	21	Wed	Emerville-Berkely Shoreline		25	Sat	Mines Road - Del Puerto Canyon
	31	Sat	Grizzly Island	MAY	6	Wed	Alum Rock State Park
					14	Thur	Mt. Diablo
					16	Sat	Mitchel Canyon
					21	Thur	Caswell State Park
					30	Sat	Outer Point Reyes
				JUN	3	Wed	Las Trampas
					11	Thur	Annadel State Park
					18	Thur	Redwood Regional Park
					21-22	S&S	Yuba Pass
				JUL	11-2	S&S	Yosemite
					17	Fri	Picnic
				AUG	1	Sat	San Mateo Coast
					15	Sat	Bodega Bay

THE QUAIL is published monthly except the July/Aug combined issue. Audubon membership (local and national) includes subscriptions to The Quail and Audubon Magazine. To join (\$30/year, \$38/family, introductory, senior, student rates available) send payment to National Audubon Society, c/o Membership Chairman, Linda Myers, 1624 Springbrook Rd., Lafayette, CA 94596. Subscriptions to The Quail separate from membership are \$6/year payable to MDAS, Treasurer, Gifford Young, 1451 Janet Ct., Benicia, CA 94510. First class mailing (member or nonmember) additional \$3/year payable to MDAS, Treasurer, above. **ADDRESS CHANGE:** Consult Linda Myers, (415) 932-3489

Kristi Streiffert, Editor, 1362 Pine St., Pittsburg, CA 94565; 439-0759
Exchange bulletins for MDAS to this address, please.

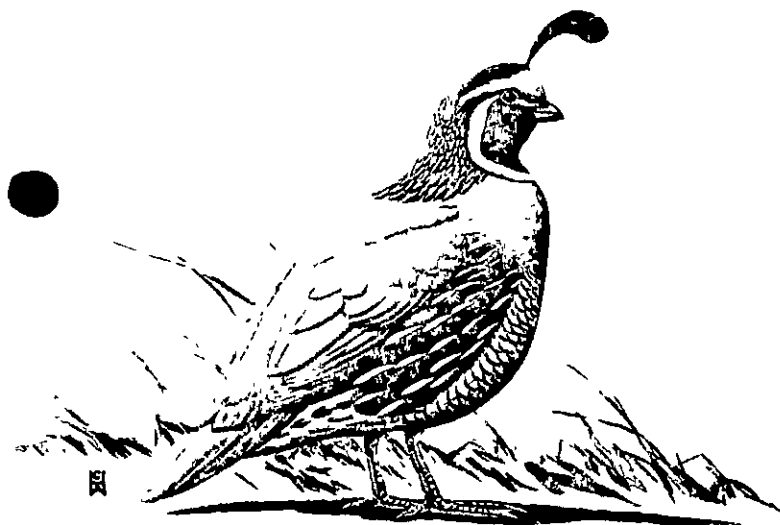
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The QUAIL

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



November 1986

Vol 133 No 3

next deadline: Nov 8

MEETING Thurs, Nov. 6, at the Willow Creek Center, 1026 Mohr Lane, Pleasant Hill. Doors open 6:30 pm. Birding Information, 7 pm. Beginning birders will enjoy learning the TOPOGRAPHY OF THE BIRD and those more experienced will appreciate this review in preparation for the Christmas Count. Business meeting: 7:30; social time: 8. Program: 8:30. Our own chapter president, Jimm Edgar, will present a double-barreled slide program, THE BIRDS OF SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA & HIGHLIGHTS OF THE AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE. Don't miss this spectacular presentation. Southeastern Arizona, known as the Hummingbird Capital of the World, has more species of birds and a greater concentration of North American "exotics" than any other area in the continental U.S.

BOARD MEETING Board Meetings are open to all interested members.

Thursday, Nov 11, 7:30 pm, home of Kristi Streiffert, 1362 Pine Street, Pittsburg. 439-0759

FIELD TRIPS Trips are open to members and non-members alike. Carpool time is departure time. 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.

Saturday, Nov. 8, **Candlestick Shoreline Park**, carpool 7:30 am Alacanes Avenue, off Pleasant Hill Rd., just 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 parking fee. Water and shore birds; ½ mile of level walking. Fog and wind likely. Trip may also include other sites along Bay shore.

Leader: Fred Safir, 937-2906.

Thursday, Nov. 13, **Alameda South Shore**, carpool 7:45 am, Alacanes Avenue, off Pleasant Hill Rd., just north of Hwy 24. Meet 8:30 corner Broadway and Shoreline Drive. From SR17, follow signs for Webster St. and go through tunnel; continue on Webster to Central Ave. Turn left to first light, then right. Continue to bay and turn left onto Shoreline Dr. There is a 6.0 tide at 9:15, so there is a possibility of seeing clapper rails. Level but sandy walking. Trip will end at noon.

Leader: Elizabeth Dicky, 254-0486

Saturday, Nov. 22, **Altamont**, carpool 7:30 am El Cerro Blvd., just west of I-680. Meet at Frick Lake, north of Livermore, 8:00. Go south on I-680 and east on I-580 to Vasco Rd. exit; cross the freeway and turn right onto the frontage road to Laughlin Rd. Continue on Laughlin Rd to Frick Lake on right. Outstanding Raptor area. Car birding with little walking. Carpooling makes parking much easier.

For information call Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486

Sat and Sun, Dec 6 & 7 will be a weekend trip to **Sacramento Wildlife Refuge**. Here is lodging information.

Blue Gum Motel, 10 mi N. of the Refuge. Phone 916-934-5401 for reservations.

Best Western Golden Pheasant Motel, Willows. Phone: 800-528-1234

Super 8, Willows. Phone: 800-843-1991

Motel 6, Williams (17 miles south of Refuge). Phone: 916-473-2995



FIELD TRIP REPORTS



POINT REYES, Sept 20

19 members were present on a day with light wind, though sunny and warm after a cool start. We had 5 Baird's and 3 Pectoral Sandpipers at Spaletta Ranch. Western Flycatchers were all over the place, and both Hermit and Swainson's Thrushes were at Nunes Ranch along with an American Redstart and a stunning Prothonotary Warbler. Two members saw a Tennessee Warbler at Nunes Ranch where 3 people saw a possible Canada Warbler. We searched in vain at the New Willows for the Ovenbird which had been seen again 15 minutes before we arrived. We had a very good day which included 82 species, with the Prothonotary a lifer for many in the group.

Jean Richmond

MONTEREY, Sept 27

Eight members spent a beautiful day at Elkhorn Slough, Carmel River, Pt. Pinos, and the Monterey Coat Guard Pier in a one day trip. After 10 minutes of drizzle the morning changed from overcast to bright sunshine and 65 degree weather. The most unusual birds were seen at Moonglow Dairy, where a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and Pectoral Sandpiper were seen, but best of all was a good view of a juvenile Ruff. A pair of Golden Eagles was seen across Elkhorn Slough. From Pt. Pinos many Sooty Shearwaters were seen, as well as Red Phalaropes, and several Arctic Terns. Many flocks of chickadees and bushtits were examined but only Yellow Warblers and an occasional Western Flycatcher were seen along the Carmel riverbed.

On the return trip home, four members visited a wonderful Mexican restaurant, Jardines de San Juan, in San Juan Bautista.

Maury Stern

LINCOLN PARK, Oct. 2

Three members plus a visitor from San Francisco, who joined us in the park, enjoyed a flawless day of the City's October weather. Highlights of the trip were 10-15 Flickers in one small area near the golf links; two Black-throated Gray Warblers; a Red-shouldered Hawk sailing overhead; and a Red-tailed Hawk plucking feathers from a bird he had just caught, while in the air. An interesting sidelight was viewing the new Jacques Cousteau state-of-the-art, wind powered vessel heading out to sea.

The Migration of Hawks
Discounted for Members

Indiana University Press is offering Donald S. Heinzelman's new book to MDAS members at a discounted price. The Migration of Hawks is a "monumental" study of the migration of 40 species of hawks in North America, Central American, and the West Indies. If interested send \$28 plus \$2.50 postage and handling to: Indiana University Press Attn: Hawks/KLL, 10th & Morton, Bloomington, IN 47405. They will accept Mastercard or Visa also.



Ruddy Ducks

MEMBERS WITH HANDICAPS WELCOME

For those who have been wondering, Willow Creek Center is wheelchair accessible. Those with handicaps wishing to attend field trips, please call Field Trip Chairperson, Elizabeth Dickey for information. Her number is 254-0485.

CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

PARKS-ROADS-TRAFFIC-WILDLIFE

Environmentally attuned individuals were stunned when a member of the Walnut Creek City Council proposed creation of **Diablo Foothills Parkway** to run from E. County through the Castle Rock Park area, exiting in the vicinity of Alamo. The road was proposed at a WC City Council meeting. NO advance information was available to the general public — but strangely a number of individuals favoring the road were present and spoke for the proposal. The Council, reversing a decision made in April, voted 3 to 2 to refer the proposal to Trans/Pac. However, demands of interested citizens for a public hearing before the WC City Council on the matter were agreed to. Bob Doyle (Save Mt. Diablo) presented a slide show depicting the Castle Rock area. Citizens spoke (by a large majority) AGAINST the proposed destruction of costly, important parkland. The Council voted on the issue and agreed (by a 3 to 2 vote) to NO LONGER consider the proposed Diablo Hills Parkway. Late word indicates that despite the admonitions of the people and the Council's own vote the issue was left on the agenda of Trans/Pac. The issues are basic. As California moves closer to the year 2000 the need for open space/parklands will become ever more important. Various species of birds and wildlife that have used California locations for breeding, nesting and living will be further endangered if parklands are "taken" for development. The parklands have been purchased (with taxpayer's money, donations, etc.). The "taking" of such lands for some development project involves important public policy, the future and what future generations will find their quality of life to be.

What You Can Do ...

If YOU as a resident of Contra Costa County believe open space, parklands, etc., are safe from development — think again! Pressures throughout the County are demanding more and more land in the names of progress and development. Involved, active, interested citizens can ensure a future that will still be liveable. Let YOUR City Council and your representative on the CC County Board of Supervisors know what YOU think.

GILL NETS

Most efforts to stop the mass slaughter of bird and sea life in fishermen's gill nets have not done much so far to halt the killings. The Common Murre, otters, seals and some dolphins are dying each day by drowning. Senator Marks produced helpful legislation. Protective measures HAVE to be extended further to ease the serious problem. This can be done by the Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game.

What You Can Do ...

Drop a line to Mr. Jack Parnell, Director, Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game, 1416 9th St., Sacramento, CA 95814. His office is working on the matter. WRITE — GIVE him YOUR views and do it NOW!

BRIDGE TO ANOTHER QUAGMIRE

Legislation has been passed calling for additional lanes on the George Miller Jr. Bridge across the Carquinez Strait in the vicinity of Benicia. Actual work on the additional lanes will go forward promptly. Long range studies will be undertaken to determine feasibility (need), cost, and environmental impacts if a parallel bridge is built to expedite traffic movements. Public hearings will be and are being held. A major issue for Mt. Diablo Audubon is continued protection of the Shell Marsh area. Much attention will be focused on this issue in the next year.

VOTE!!!!!! IT'S YOUR FUTURE.

The highest offices of the State will be "up for grabs." All of the State's representatives in Congress and a Senator, to say nothing of individuals running for Government offices in cities, towns, counties everywhere. Then there's the multiplicity of ballot propositions. KNOW the issues.

Environmental matters are of more importance these days that may have been the case years ago. A great deal of the State's prime, open land has been used (or will be) by some development project. Environmental mistakes may not be correctable or reversible so the "right" choices on environmental matters may be crucial at this election.

What You Can Do ...

Know the issues and VOTE — keeping the environment in mind when you do vote.

WHERE, OH, WHERE HAS MY FOREST GONE????

HEADLINE, S. F. Chronicle, Sept. 20: "Reagan's Plan for Doubling Timber Harvest." E. (Kika) de la Garza, Chmn., US House Comm. on Agriculture, to Mt. Diablo Audubon: "As you know, the Subcommittee on Forest, Family Farms, and Energy — chaired by Congressman Charles Whitely of North Carolina — held a hearing on this document on September 23," the opening shot in what may be one of the most important environment/business issues. Do you want huge bare mountains with logging roads (not useable by the public), paid for with tax money for the benefit of loggers?

What You Can Do ...

Congressman Leon Panetta is a Californian on the House subcommittee. Let him know what YOU think. You can express YOUR views to YOUR Congressman, % House Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20515.

OBSERVATIONS

9/3, 9/11 – A Western Tanager was observed at the Lafayette home of Betty and Harry Adamson. (B&HA)

9/6 – An Eastern Kingbird, Eurasian Dotterel, Lesser Golden-Plover, Magnolia Warbler, and American Redstart were observed at Pt. Reyes. (JE)

9/7 – A Eurasian Dotterel and American Redstart were spotted again at Pt. Reyes. (DW) A Blackpoll Warbler was seen at Moss Beach, and a Bobolink was sighted at Santa Cruz. (DW)

9/12 – Winifred and Gifford Young spent a sunny, windy day at the north end of the Bay, Route 37. They report seeing Pied-billed Grebes, an estimated 150 White Pelicans, 1 Brown Pelican, Double-crested Cormorants, Great Blue Heron, Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets, Ruddy Ducks, American Coot, approximately 200 Red-necked Phalaropes (at Skagg's Island), Ring-billed Gulls, Forster's Terns, Black-shouldered Kite, Northern Harrier, and American Kestrel.

9/12-9/14 – A Lesser Golden-Plover, Tennessee Warbler, Northern Parula, Black-and-white Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, American Redstart, and Clay-colored Sparrow were seen at Pt. Reyes. (DW)

9/13-9/14 – Norah Bain's Orinda garden was visited by a pair of Western Tanagers.

9/14 – A Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was spotted at the Salinas Sewage Ponds, and a juvenile Ruff was seen at the Carmel River mouth. (DW)

9/15-9/16 – Observed at Pacific Grove were a Prothonotary Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, and a Bobolink. (DW)

9/19 – A Willow Flycatcher, Prothonotary Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, and Blackpoll Warbler were sighted at Pt. Reyes. (JE)

9/20 – Seen on a pelagic trip off Monterey Bay were Flesh-footed and Buller's Shearwaters, South Polar Skua, Sabine's Gulls, and Arctic Terns. (DW)

9/24 – Fourteen Vaux's Swifts were seen flying over the home of Betty and Harry Adamson, Carol Lane, Lafayette. (B&HA)

9/26 – Winnie and Gifford Young share the following from a trip to Moss Landing: "A Common Loon was observed out of the water on the sand, apparently basking in the sun. He was alert, seemingly uninjured, changed positions easily when he wished to and preened. Unusual behavior? Have others observed this behavior? While we were watching the loon, a Common Murre swam into sight, came directly to the same beach area, not far from the loon, came out of the water and stood upright like a penguin. Both were still out of the water when we left after about half an hour."

9/26-28 – An immature Chipping Sparrow was observed by Betty and Harry Adamson in the yard of their Lafayette residence. (B&HA)

9/26 – A Ruff and a Palm Warbler were observed at Pt. Reyes. (DW)

9/28 – A Broad-winged Hawk was spotted at Diablo Point, and at Pt. Reyes a Tropical Kingbird and a Least Flycatcher were seen. (DW)

10/2 – A Semipalmated Sandpiper was sighted in Martinez. (BR)

Observers: Betty and Harry Adamson, Norah Bain, Jimm Edgar, Bob Richmond, Dennis Wolff, Winifred and Gifford Young.

Please send observations to: Donna Peake-Klein, 51 Picardy Ct., Walnut Creek, CA 94596, or call 415/930-9819.



1986 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Saturday, December 27, 1986 is THE date! Mark it on your calendar! This is the day for Mt. Diablo Audubon Society's annual Christmas Bird Count! We join over 1500 other groups throughout the US, Canada, and Central America in a winter bird count during the holiday season. It's a chance for an enjoyable birding outing as well as a contribution to knowledge of the distribution of bird species on their wintering grounds.

The object of the count is to find as many birds as possible within a 15 mile diameter circle. Our circle is centered near Cowell-Ygnacio Valley Road intersection. It includes parts of Mt. Diablo State Park, Black Diamond Mines Regional Park, Briones Regional Park, Shell and Lime Ridge Open Spaces, as well as urban areas, salt marshes, reservoirs, rolling hills and shore lines. The circle is divided into about 18 different areas, each area birded by a separate group.

Our count began in the 50's averaging 125 species. With more experience and more participants, we were finding over 140 species in the early 80's. Our goal was to break the 150 species barrier. Last year we exceeded our goal for the first time with a count of 152 species. Our 1986 goal is 155 species.

While the total number of each species seen is important, part of the fun of the count is to try to find as many species as possible.

The count this year will be co-compiled by Maury Stern and George Finger. **EVERYONE is invited to participate.** One need not be an experienced birder. Beginners can help by being a scribe, watcher, counter, or an extra pair of eyes. We use counters at feeders/gardens in our circle, also. If you have any special birds staked out, alert Maury or George before count day. If you see a rare or uncommon species in our CBC area during our count period, get details to Maury or George. These sightings are included in our report to be published in American Birds. If you find a RARE bird in our area, write down all the details, preferably before consulting field guides; then contact Maury or George as soon as possible. Rarities must be confirmed!

Cost is \$3 per participant, which helps pay for publishing the results in American Birds.

Come to the post-count **POT LUCK/COUNTDOWN** whether or not your work the CBC to learn of the day's events and preliminary report. No need to change, birding clothes are fine. Bring utensils, dishes, serving spoon, food for at least 4-5 times the number in your group attending. Tea, coffee, and punch provided. Sign up at the meeting or call Maury Stern as to what you will bring and how many are attending. Come early for a hot beverage and warm up before dinner. Details of time and place to be announced.

Maury Stern
939 Carol Lane
Lafayette, 94549
284-5980

George Finger
2371 Dapplegray Ln
Walnut Creek, 94596
933-2468

Clip and send to Maury Stern, or turn in at Nov or Dec meeting

MOUNT DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY 1986 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

_____ YES, I would like to bird with one of the field parties on Christmas Bird Count Day, December, 27 1986.

_____ I would like an area that includes hiking.

_____ I would prefer a less strenuous area.

_____ I would like to monitor a bird feeder/ garden on count day.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

By: Tom Streiffert

Richardson Bay Audubon Center and Wildlife Sanctuary - has guided tours and scheduled nature walks. Located at 376 Greenwood Beach Road, Tiburon. Open 9am to 5pm, Wednesday through Sunday. The Lyford House is open Sunday from 1 to 4pm.

Norah Bain, through the Orinda Community Center, offers two six hour field classes which may be registered for separately, take one or both. Marin County-Eight Habitats on Tuesday, December 3, 9am to 3pm. Palo Alto Baylands on Tuesday, December 9, 9am to 3pm. Price for each day is \$10 for Orinda residents, \$12 for non-residents. Please register at the O.C.C. Enrollment is limited.

Audubon Canyon Ranch - offers one and two day seminars throughout the fall and winter. Extension credit and overnight accommodations are available. November seminars include Double Special: Cypress Grove and Tom's Point, Birding on the Fault, Introducing the Monarch: Royalty Among the Migrants. Call the ACR at (415) 383-1644 for a brochure.

Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum - offers classes and day trips for children and adults. The November children's classes include Dinosaurs, Wednesday Walks, Science Experiments and a trip to the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Adult day trips include a Walk Across Calif. at the Oakland Museum, and the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory. Visit the Museum at Larkey Park or telephone 935-1978 for a fall schedule and museum hours.

The Cooper Ornithological Society - will host David F. DeSante, Ph.D., Land Bird Biologist at Point Reyes Bird Observatory. He will speak on: A Reproductive Failure in Coastal California Landbirds in 1986. The meeting is at 8pm, Room 2503, Life Sciences Building, U.C. Berkeley, Monday November 3. Everyone interested in birds is welcome.

Point Reyes Field Seminars - offer an extensive fall/winter schedule. The program is a self-supporting non-profit activity, sponsored by Coastal Parks Association in cooperation with Point Reyes National Seashore. The courses are taught by recognized professionals, and many offer optional credit through Dominican College. Subjects include photography, watercolor, botany, birding, nature hikes and family outings. Call (415) 663-1200 for a fall/winter catalog.

NEW MEMBERS

It is a pleasure to welcome these new MDAS members and we hope to meet them soon:

Mary Barry, Kathy Baxter, Kimberlee Baxter, Gertrude Beggs, W. Burgess, Marie Carzol, Christina Cotes, Virginia Dane, Alta Fernandez, Laura Geigle, Arne Gemignani, David Glover, J. Hicks, Dirk Johnson, Sally Johnson, Barbara Jones, Bryan Mortenson, Lauren Moulin, Mary Odmark, Harriett Olsson, Bruce Peters, Mrs. V. Porter, Ben Shikano, Vicki Wind, Eugene Wolfe, Betty Zarn, Diane Macario, Robin Miller, James Millington, C. Morash, Charles Murray, D. Peterson, Diane Ransdell, O. Rowly, Patricia Sager, Penny Scoggins, Rosemary Steiner, Wayne Stevenson, Helen Tyler, Susan Weiland, Claudia Whitnah, Margaret Wolf, Peter Akiyama, Karla Angle, Joel Austad, Dennis Barry, Neil Bell, Patricia Berkow, Robert Crow, Ethel Davis, Karen Driscoll, Dorothy Earls, Ann Faut, Mrs. Gilbert Fitch, M. Fowler, J. Frobose, Mrs. M Gustavson, Erik Hansen, Charles Harper, Don Henderson, Mrs. Sterling Himel, Mrs. Glen Hogg, Jan Jacobson, Jay-Eileen Kerr, James Lee, Robert Lefebber, Shirley Luthy, J. Madruaga, Mrs. Howard Martin, Thomas Martin, Susan McCoy, T Medsker, John Shaw, Ben Shikano, Andrea Soegaard, Martha Steelman, R. Stone, Dan Stormes, Bryan Walter, Michelle Wiese, Denise Wight, J. Willson, Patricia Wise, Christine Zanassi, Advanced Graphics, Doris Allison.

*Snowshoe Rabbit*

VOTE NO ON THE TRANSPORTATION SALES TAX, MEASURE C

Dear Fellow Audubon Member:

The Board of Directors for Mt. Diablo Audubon and the East Bay League of Conservation Voters, along with other Environmental organizations, have voted to oppose Measure C, the half-cent Transportation Sales Tax.

WHY? Because the tax would be a subsidy for private development that will encourage urban sprawl, and the destruction of wildlife habitat and agricultural land. By throwing our money at a problem that has its roots in bad planning, the sales tax will increase traffic congestion, not improve it.

We believe it is time to stop the vicious cycle of higher taxes, bigger roads, more sprawl, and increased traffic congestion. We do not want to see the East Bay become another Los Angeles.

Other reasons why you should vote No on Measure C include:

THE TAX IS A SUBSIDY FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT

Developers are being allowed to build new offices and houses in rural and semi-rural areas, where land is cheap because good roads and highways are lacking. Now we, as taxpayers, are being asked to pick up the tab. For example:

On Tuesday September 16, 1986, the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors voted not to charge developers in the Oakley area of Contra Costa County for a new lane on Highway 4 unless Measure C fails. Why should there be any question of who pays?

In San Ramon, the County is holding up approval of five major housing developments until after the election. We suspect this delay is to see if the voters are crazy enough to pay for the improvements to 680 that the developers of these projects would otherwise have to pay for.

Further, the voters should review who is supporting Measure C. Its the developers (many from southern California) who have put up over \$600,000 to finance support for Measure C, and the politicians who approved the vary projects that presently are causing the problems. Its the classic fox guarding the hen house. Why don't those developers put that \$600,000 towards solving traffic problems instead of trying to raise our taxes?

THE TAX COMPOUNDS THE PROBLEM OF BAD PLANNING, WHICH IS WHY WE HAVE THE TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS IN THE FIRST PLACE

The politicians who want to get the voters to approve this tax are looking for an easy solution to problems created by past decisions to allow growth without planning. They wanted to please developers who helped them get elected, re-elected and elected to higher office.

In Contra Costa County over 34,000 housing units and offices for 40,000 workers have been approved for construction over the next five years. None of these projects have been built, so what roads will these people

use? Measure C doesn't address the traffic from these projects. Infact, as these new projects are built, the traffic levels will increase and the voters will suffer even worse traffic problems.

By voting No on Measure C, the tax payers will send a clear message to the politicians to solve the real problem, mismanaged growth. Our elected officials will have to stop helping the developers build and start serving the public interest by planning for the needed facilities (such as parks, roads, fire, police, schools, libraries and cultural centers), that will make this a better place to live.

THE TAX WILL NOT PAY FOR ALL THE PROJECTS THAT ARE SUPPOSED TO BE FUNDED

In Santa Clara County, where a similar half-cent sales tax was approved, there has been a \$500 million shortfall between the expected expense of highway projects and the expected income from the tax. In addition, the costs for the projects proposed were underestimated. For example the Highway 237/I-880 interchange was initially expected to cost \$32 million. It is now budgeted for \$150 million.

When this occurs here which projects will get funded first; BART, AC Transit or the projects that help the most developers build their new buildings?

THE TAX TAKES AWAY LOCAL DECISION MAKING

Measure C promotes back room deals to get roads built that don't serve the general public interest. What better example than the proposed Foothill Parkway through the Mt. Diablo State Park, the Castle Rock Regional Park and the Walnut Creek Open Space.

This proposal is sponsored by developers and politicians as a way to build more houses at the expense of the millions of tax dollars the voters spent to protect these parklands.

How many more projects similar to the Foothill Parkway, that put the public interest last when it comes to using our tax dollars, will be suggested?

CONCLUSION

We stand ready to work with all members of the community to support reasonable taxes for transportation improvements that are linked to good land use planning, not pork barrel politics. But first, developers must be made to pay their fair share of the cost.

Vote No on Measure C because you want our elected officials to know that you want this to be a better place to live, not just another place to live.

Sincerely,


Kent L. Fickett
(Home phone 283 8290)
Director

QUAIL READERS READ ABOUT QUAILS

Our state bird, the California Quail, has given me many pleasant hours of backyard bird watching. Because their feeding times are regular, I can count on seeing them under the feeder gleaning every seed scattered by messier feeders. Each family, during the spring and summer, takes turn at seemingly prescribed times. Then, in fall, as many as 60 birds gather into coveys. Maintaining his vigil, the dominant male sits atop a rock, the roof, or a tree branch, ever-alert to danger.

The male quail is most dignified in appearance and posture. He appears to be dressed for a formal occasion with a gray "jacket", a "waistcoat" which is blue-grey above and a handsome scaled pattern below. He sports a white "tie" and a black chin. Topping off this sartorial splendor is a perky plume which points forward and bounces with his every gesture. His bride is not quite as colorful but is patterned similarly. They move quietly together in tandem.

All attempts at dignity disappear when quail are startled. They prefer to scurry to the safety of underbrush, but will burst into the air with a terrific whirr of wings, each flapping in a different direction. Given enough space, they are quite good gliders. Once they've landed in safety, a male sets up an assembly call to regroup the troops. This can get on a listener's nerves if the covey isn't quick to reassemble. The call is a monotonous "ka-ka", ringing out at very regular intervals for ages (it seems).

In the wintertime, while large numbers of quail are together, the male quail begin fighting (it's more like chasing). When a female has been properly impressed, the pair go off together without fanfare. By April the coveys have broken up into pairs, roosting together at night in trees. Nests are not elaborate, a slight hollow in the ground or a clump of grass lined with leaves and grasses, often near a house or garden. Between May and July, females lay 12-16 eggs and incubate them alone for 21-23 days. Chicks are precocial, that is, able to run about and peck at interesting objects almost immediately upon hatching.

Moving as a group, the chicks resemble fuzzy ping pong balls on toothpicks, setting up a "community peep" which is quite musical. Within ten days they can fly short distances, but prefer to run to escape. The parents continue to brood them on the ground until the young are able to roost in trees, usually within a month.

From what I observed among quail families, it is not easy to gain adulthood. The number of chicks who survive to become gangly teenagers is about one in four. Cats, foxes, and opossums claim the lives of many.

As a pair of quail tiptoe by my lounge chair, I realize how dull my yard would be without their regular visits.

This article, by Meg Pauletich, is reprinted from The Gull, Golden Gate Audubon Society's newsletter.

Mountain Quail



LEARN TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

AUDUBON ACTION, National Audubon's newsletter of conversation and chapter news has been discontinued and replaced with **AUDUBON ACTIVIST**. This bimonthly publication of National Audubon Society will help you put your concern for the environment to work. Help safeguard our natural heritage. Join with other activists across the country who are fighting to preserve a clean, healthy environment where wildlife can live in abundance and diversity, and where people can find fresh air, pristine waters, and stirring vistas. \$6 will bring you a year's worth of the new newsletter, which will focus on providing up-to-date information on conservation issues. Subscriptions are available from **AUDUBON ACTIVIST**, 950 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022.

BUDGET APPROVED

The budget for Fiscal Year July 1, 1986 - June 30, 1987 was voted on and approved at the October general meeting. Complete copies of the budget can be obtained from the Treasurer. Here is an overview:

Balance brought forward:	\$5734
Total expected income:	\$16,000
Total disposable funds:	\$21,734
Total operating expenses:	\$10,560
(included is up to \$2000 for newsletter computer)	
Total donations:	\$1850
Unassigned funds:	\$5324
(intended for use this FY, as yet undetermined)	
Suplus carried forward:	\$4000

THE QUAIL is published monthly except the July/Aug combined issue. Audubon membership (local and national) includes subscriptions to The Quail and Audubon Magazine. To join (\$30/year, \$38/family, introductory, senior, student rates available) send payment to National Audubon Society, c/o Membership Chairman, Linda Myers, 1624 Springbrook Rd., Lafayette, CA 94596. Subscriptions to The Quail separate from membership are \$6/year payable to MDAS, Treasurer, Gifford Young, 1451 Janet Ct., Benicia, CA 94510. First class mailing (member or nonmember) additional \$3/year payable to MDAS, Treasurer, above. **ADDRESS CHANGE:** Consult Linda Myers, (415) 932-3489

Kristi Streiffert, Editor, 1362 Pine St., Pittsburg, CA 94565; 439-0759
Exchange bulletins for MDAS to this address, please.

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The QUAIL

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(415) AUD-UBON

December 1986

Vol. 33 No.4

Next deadline: Dec. 6

>> **SPECIAL RAPTOR EDITION** >>

Thurs., Dec. 4, at the Willow MEETING Creek Center, 1026 Mohr Lane, Concord. Doors open 6:30 p.m. Birding Information, 7 p.m. George Finger will discuss details of the CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. Business meeting: 7:30; social time, 8:00. Program: 8:30: **RAPTORS OF CALIFORNIA**. An exciting and educational ecological presentation of their current status, with a professional photographer's secrets, by JOHN HENDRICKSON, the noted wildlife photog- rapher. Mr. Hendrickson currently has an outstand- ing photographic exhibit, **California Raptors; Hawks and Owls**, at the Oakland Museum through January 4. [See article, this issue of the Quail.]

BOARD MEETING Board meetings are open to all interested members.

Thursday, Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m., home of Edna Mass, 1301 Canyonwood Ct., Apt. 1, Walnut Creek. 945-7634.

FIELD TRIPS Trips are open to members and nonmembers alike. Carpool is departure time. 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 1/2 hour before departure time.

Wednesday, Dec. 3, Palo Alto Baylands. Carpool 9:00 a.m., El Cerro Blvd. just west of I-680. Meet 10:30 at parking lot near Palo Alto Nature Center. The late start is in hope of missing the worst of commute traffic. Take I-680 south, right on I-580 to Washington Ave. exit. From center lane turn left onto Washington Ave., then right onto ramp to I-880 (SR 17). Take SR 84 west across Dumbarton Bridge

to Bayshore, south to Embarcadero exit, east on Embarcadero to stop sign; go left toward Yacht Harbor, follow road to end in parking lot on right. We should arrive shortly before high tide; clapper rails are almost certain and there is a good chance of black rails. If we are rained out Wednesday, trip will go on Thursday. Trails are level, often muddy; 1 to 1-1/2 miles walking.

Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, (415) 254-0486.

Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 6-7, Sacramento Valley Game Refuges. For information, call the leader, Jean Richmond, (415) 837-2843.

Wednesday, Dec. 10, **SPECIAL FIELD TRIP: Santa Cruz Raptor Center**. As a follow-up to our December program on raptors we will have a tour of the UC Santa Cruz Raptor Breeding Center. Numbers are limited: the first eleven to call will go on trip; others will be placed on a waiting list. We will leave about 8:30 a.m. Tour lasts 1-1/2 to 2 hours. **MUST** wear soft-soled shoes. Cameras and binocs are OK.

If there is enough interest, I will try to arrange another trip. This could be on a Saturday or Sunday. It must be before the end of the year as the breeding season starts in January.

For more information call Elizabeth Dickey (415) 254-0486.

Thursday, Dec.18, Niles Canyon Gravel Pits. Carpool 7:45 a.m. El Cerro Blvd. just west of I-680 in Danville. Meet 8:30 a.m. Vallejo Mill Historical Park, Fremont. Take I-680 south through Dublin to SR 84 and go west 7 miles to park entrance on right. Varied habitats. Green-backed heron, spotted sandpiper, ring-necked duck, many tree birds often found. 1-2 miles level walking.

Leader: Jimm Edgar, 658-2330.

CONSERVATION NOTES

By: Al McNabney



LET'S DEMUR FOR THE MURRES

As a bird lover are you mad at the fishermen, governmental regulators, and our society in general for permitting the decimation of bird populations through gill netting? If you aren't angry about it, you should be! A breeding colony of Common Murres used to be located at Devil's Slide, San Mateo County. That colony has ceased to exist.

In 1980, 2900 Murres nested on the offshore rock, one of the 5 coastal sites used by this species. The suspected number one reason of the disappearance is GILL NETTING. The Director of California Dept. of Fish and Game used emergency powers October 1 to extend a gill netting closure in the area through December 31, 1986.

WHAT YOU CAN DO...

Contact David Ainley or Harry Carter, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, 415-868-1221 - for information. Also: Don Schultze, Ca. Dept. of Fish and Game, 916-445-8386.

IF YOU CAN'T GET THE DISHES CLEAN, READ ON!

Months of testimony, hearings, and debate produced solid information about the quality of water now available to many communities. The evidence proved, beyond question, there IS a serious quality problem. It has also been determined that Federal Standards HAVE to be mandatory if the people and wildlife are to have clean water. But legislation doing just that, the CLEAN WATER ACT, was vetoed by the President once election was over. For Bay Area residents the loss is great, for the bill would have allocated funds to the EPA to study and control pollution problems in the Bay. As Supervisor Sunne McPeak said, "I'm appalled at the veto. This removes the funding mechanism for doing a good...job of looking at the state of the Bay and doing something to protect it."

DIABLO HILLS PARKWAY - A ROAD TO DISASTER

With the massive growth in population in the area and the loss of more and more open spaces for development purposes, open space now existing must be protected lest we leave a legacy of short term actions which will have huge adverse impacts on the future. Traffic problems in our county weren't caused by open space, parkland and conservation. The problems involving today's traffic demand solutions, but not at the expense of the open space and parkland still existing.

NEW MEMBERS

We extend warm greetings to these new MDAS members and hope to meet them at our activities:

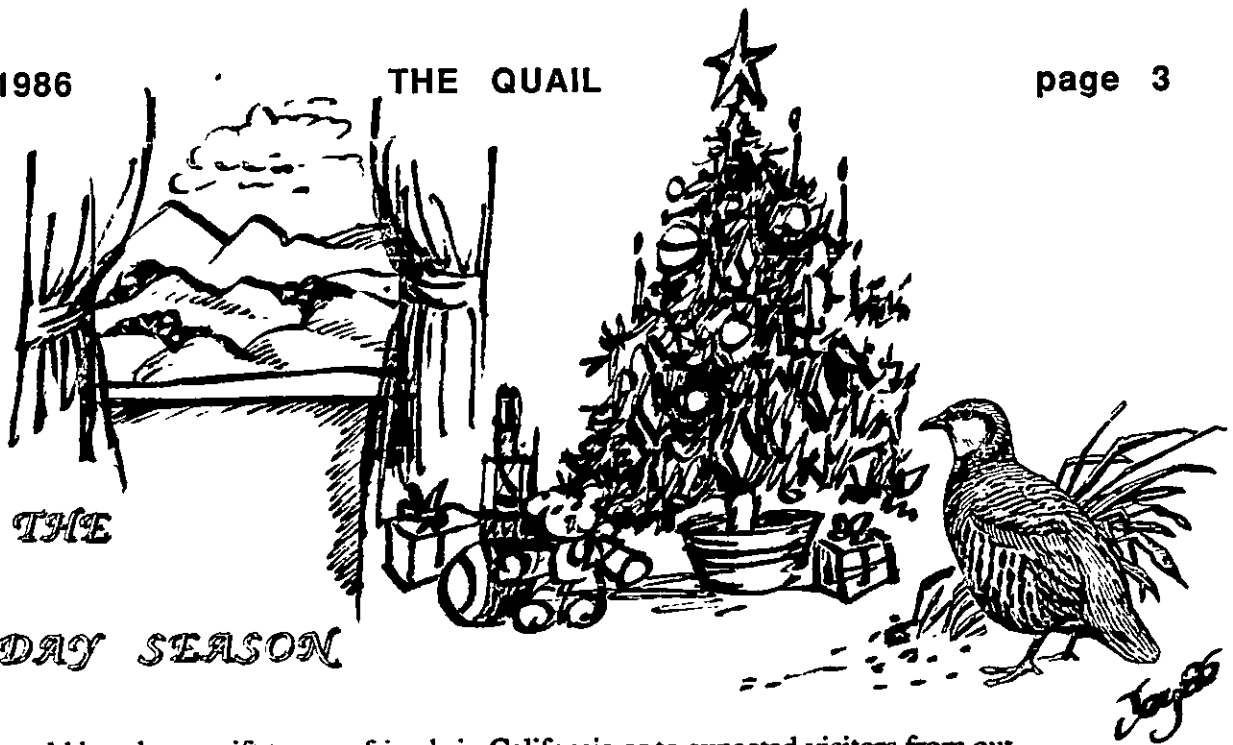
Nannette Beauvias, L.C. Christiansen, Leroy Kennedy, S.W. Lemessurier, Charles Negley Family, Kathy Olund, Keith Rodgers, Martha Surges, Don Walls, Mr&Mrs Neal Welsh, Frank Wooten, Marjorie Bellici, Beth Burnett, Barbara Burr, Michael Casey, John Coie, Mark Hailey, Tammy Jacobson, Lorrane Keith, Connie Kellough, Michael Martin, Georgia Michell, B.F. Murray, Marilyn Norton, Judith Oneill, C. Parks, John Rose, R.W. Stone, Dan Stormes, Peter Van Alderwerelt, Bryan Walter, J. Willson, Gayle Wilson, Alice Windrem, Arline Axtell, Mrs. E. Brinkerhoff.

MONO LAKE
MONO LAKE

In December, National Audubon will mail to every Audubon member in the state and ask for donations to the Mono Lake legal defense fund. Mono Lake is a special place with friends throughout the world. Audubon at the local, regional, and national level has maintained an enduring commitment to the lake. We have much to show for our collective work, and the future for saving Mono Lake has never been brighter. However, if we stop now we will not succeed. When you receive your Mono Lake appeal in December, please dig down deep and make an extra generous contribution to protect the lake.



FOR THE
HOLIDAY SEASON



What could be a better gift to your friends in California or to expected visitors from out of state than up-to-date guides to points of natural interest, guides which focus on or emphasize bird watching? The following informative publications would be helpful even to the experienced birder, and educational and stimulating to the amateur.

BIRDING NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, by Jean Richmond, a member of MDAS. Based on the author's over 10 years of writing birding site guides published in the *Quail*, this 142-page, 5-1/2 X 8-1/2 inch, glossy paperback gives directions to 72 sites with exceptionally good birding possibilities, describes the area, tells what birds are to be expected and when, includes trail guides, and refers to facilities available. In western California, numerous sites within 100 miles of San Francisco Bay are covered, but the described locations also range south to Monterey and Carmel, and north along the coast to Humboldt Bay. In the east, site guides range from Yosemite north to the high desert area of Honey Lake and farther to the Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge, with its immense flocks of migrating waterfowl. The Great Central Valley is well represented with sites from Mount Pinos in the Tehachapi Mountains, where there may be a chance of seeing the last surviving California condors, to the migrating bird refuges on the northern Sacramento River.

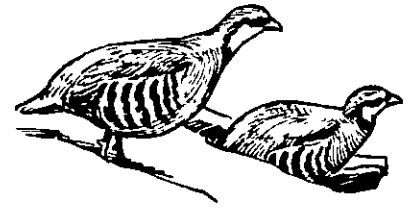
Sold at many nature book stores and certain museums and parks, or may be ordered directly from the MDAS treasurer (address on last page of the *Quail*) at \$10.00 plus \$1.35 postage and handling. For delivery within California add \$0.65 sales tax, total \$12.00.

A MARTINEZ NATURAL HISTORY, featuring five local natural history walks, by John A. Davis, Past President, John Muir Memorial Association. Martinez, the county seat of Contra Costa County and former residence of naturalist John Muir, is located on the south shore of Carquinez Strait. Rugged terrain, ranging from sea level to 1483 feet at nearby Briones Peak, leads to a great diversity of habitats in its immediate vicinity: shoreline, fresh and salt water marshes, mudflats, hilly grasslands, oak - bay - buckeye woodlands, and well-watered, heavily forested valleys rich in bird, animal, and plant life. In this 78 page, 6-1/2 x 9-1/2 inch, spiral bound paperback, guides are offered to bird and flower walks in 5200 acre Briones Park, around the reedy ponds of treated water from the Mt. View Wastewater Treatment Plant, along the Martinez Regional Shoreline, and on the grounds of the 8.8 acre John Muir Historic Site (residence and fruit ranch). Full inventories of birds in the various habitats, as well as mammals, fish, plants, etc., are listed among reprints of more technical studies of geology and rock formations and biology of the marshes and mud flats.

Sold currently at John Muir Historic Site, Martinez; Alexander Lindsay Jr. Museum, Walnut Creek; and Gay Lee's Bookshop, Martinez. Send all mail orders to Gay Lee's Book Shop, 815 Main St., Martinez, CA 94553, \$6.10 plus \$2.00 postage and handling. California residents add \$0.40 sales tax, a total of \$8.50.



The Holidays Are Coming



Why not make your holiday season even more special with a membership in Audubon?

A special introductory membership in the Mt. Diablo Chapter of the National Audubon Society costs only \$20.00.

Give yourself and a friend a year-long gift of fun and learning with Audubon.

____ Please enter a one-year gift membership in the National Audubon Society.

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Please make checks payable to the National Audubon Society. Send this application along with your check to:

Linda Myers
Membership
1624 Springbrook Road,
Lafayette,
California, 94596

or call 932-3489 for more information.

Mt.Diablo Aud. Soc. C25 XCH

OBSERVATIONS

10/4- On a Monterey Bay pelagic trip, a Short-tailed Shearwater and Tufted Puffin were seen. (DW)
 10/4-15 Lewis' Woodpeckers were sighted at Napa River in Yountville. (KH, SF)
 10/10- Chestnut-collared Longspurs and Lapland Longspurs were seen at Pt. Reyes. (DW)
 10/12- An American Dipper was seen in the back yard of Harry and Betty Adamson's Lafayette home. (It was seen last year in their yard on 10/8) Since this year's sighting, it has been seen several times by Harry and Betty and Molly Murphey. It was seen again 10/27 through 11/4 by Maury Stern, who spotted it in Las Trampas Creek, west of Carol Lane, Lafayette. (H&BA, MM, MS)
 10/12- A Black-throated Gray Warbler was observed at Mt. Diablo. (KH, SF)
 10/12-10/14- A Red-throated Pipit was sighted at Moss Landing. (KH, MOB)
 10/15- Seen at Hayward Regional Shoreline were a Chestnut-collared Longspur and 2 Merlin (KH, BR) and a McCown's Longspur. (MOB) Spotted at Stockton Sewage ponds was a Little Gull. (KH)
 10/17 through 10/25- A Purple Gallinule was seen at Fremont Central Bank (AH, KH)
 10/18- Sighted at Lake Elizabeth were a Purple Gallinule and Bobolink, and again at Hayward Shoreline a McCown's Longspur was observed. (DW)
 10/19- In Marin Co., a Bobcat and a Golden Eagle were seen on the Tennessee Valley Trail. (V&DB)
 10/22- A Ruddy Duck was spotted at Pac Bell headquarters, San Ramon. (KH)
 10/23- The Purple Gallinule was seen again in Fremont, and the McCown's Longspur was spotted at Hayward Shoreline. (JE)
 10/24- 4 Fox Sparrows were observed in the San Ramon yard of Kevin Hintsa.
 10/24- A Sedge Wren and a Peregrine Falcon were sighted at Fort Funston. (DW)
 10/26- 2 male Wood Ducks were seen by the Walnut Creek Women's Club, and several Golden-crowned Kinglets were observed at Pine Canyon, Mt. Diablo. (GF)
 10/31- A Little Gull was spotted again at Stockton Sewage Ponds. (DW)
 11/3- A Townsend's Warbler and 20+ Pine Siskins were sighted at Otto Trail, Danville. (KH)
 11/3- 15 Wood Ducks, both male and female, were seen at Alameda Creek Quarries. (MS)

11/5- 2 Little Gulls were spotted again at Stockton Sewage Ponds, 6 Lawrence's Goldfinch at Black Diamond Mines Park, and a Lewis' Woodpecker was observed at Milepost 0.2 Mines Rd., Livermore. (KH)
 11/7- Seen at Pine Gulch Creek, Bolinas, were Swamp and Sharp-tailed Sparrows (DW)

Observers: Betty and Harry Adamson, Viola and Dick Breitigam, Sharyn Fernandez, George Finger, Kevin Hintsa, Alice Hoch, Many Observers, Molly Murphey, Bob Richmond, Maury Stern, Dennis Wolff.

Please send observations to: Donna Peake Klein, 51 Picardy Ct., Walnut Creek, CA 94596, or call 930-9819.

OWLS

Raptors with large heads and short necks that fly noiselessly and are generally nocturnal.



VULTURE

A black raptor with broad wings and naked head. Soars with angled wings and tilting flight.



CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

By Tom Streiffert

Audubon Canyon Ranch - offers one and two day seminars throughout the winter. Extension credit and overnight accommodations are available. In December join them for one or more of these seminars: ACR Holiday Celebration, Resolution Hike (Bouverie Audubon Preserve in Sonoma County), Highlights of Lower Plants in the Valley of the Moon, and Chaparral Spring. Call the ACR at (415) 383-1644 for a seminar brochure.

Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum has a two part class on Whales, Whales, Whales... in December for children age 4 to 10. There is also a Winter Day Camp on Dec. 22, 23 and 24 for ages 4 to 8. Visit the Museum at Larkey Park or telephone 935-1978 for information and museum hours.

Point Reyes Field Seminars is a self-supporting non-profit program, sponsored by the Coastal Parks Association in cooperation with Point Reyes National Seashore. In December they offer a drawing course: Illustration and Perception in Nature. In January there is Whale Watching and a Point Reyes Boat Trip. Call (415) 663-1200.

The Cooper Ornithological Society will host Paul Dubowy of the U.C. Davis Zoology Dept. as speaker at their next meeting. His title will be Seasonal Variation in the Structure of North American Duck Communities. The meeting will be on Monday, December 1, at 8pm in Room 2503, Life Sciences Building, U.C.B. Everyone interested in birds is welcome.

**CALIFORNIA RAPTORS SOAR
IN OAKLAND MUSEUM SHOW**

Raptors such as hawks and owls are the most elusive animals of all to photograph. They see, hear and fly far beyond our reach. A bald eagle can spot a fish below the surface of the water from a distance of one mile, and owls can locate and catch prey by hearing alone. A photographer who would capture them memorably on film must have great dedication and patience.

Such dedication has its rewards, as is evident in "California Raptors: Hawks and Owls", an exhibit of photographs by John Hendrickson and other. It will be at The Oakland Museum through January 4 in the Natural Sciences Special Gallery.

"Raptor" describes birds of prey with these specific anatomical features: powerful feet equipped with talons for grasping and crushing prey, hooked upper beaks for tearing prey into edible pieces and excellent binocular vision. Among the 32 species encountered in California are the golden eagle, red-tailed hawk, barn owl, merlin, peregrine falcon, snowy owl and black-shouldered kite.

Hendrickson, who lives in Clipper Mills, California, has been photographing raptors in the wild since 1969. He grew up in the Orinda-Lafayette area of the East Bay, where open space was abundant until relatively recently. He was fascinated by raptors and learned to recognize individuals, such as the pair of red-tailed hawks who lost their nesting tree to a housing development. They moved across the highway, but a year later their new habitat was excavated to widen the highway. A third nesting place down the road was soon lost too—this time to BART construction. Hendrickson never saw the hawks again.

Nearly all California raptors live in increasingly stressful circumstances. All are protected by federal and state laws, and a number are listed as endangered by the Fish and Wildlife Service. According to the show's curator, Don MacNeill, their numbers are declining, some by as much as 90 percent.

The exhibition text describes raptors' physical designs for survival, their hunting habits, nest-building and parenting. A major theme of the show is the ecology of predation—how raptors help balance the environment, directly affecting the quality of human life. Conservation and rehabilitation agencies, such as The Peregrine Fund, are represented in the exhibit by photographs and text.

"California Raptors: Hawks and Owls" is as interesting for its sounds as for its sights. Each day, the gallery is filled with taped sounds of raptors in the wild.

Paul Matzner, head of the Museum's California Library of Natural Sounds, selected more than 20 distinct sounds for the raptor show, ranging from the shrill cry of the Red-Shouldered Hawk to the ghostlike hoot of the Great Gray Owl. His sources were the Museum's own collection, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's Library of Natural Sounds, and the Borror Laboratory of Bioacoustics at Ohio State University.

"Recorded sounds as an integral part of natural science exhibits are still pretty new," Matzner said. "Sound recording is now where photography was in the early 1900's. Because of new advances in technical equipment, it's possible to present museum-quality sound materials. Previously, only people with a great deal of money and expertise could make quality recordings."

Sounds in the "California Raptors" gallery are grouped to allow easy identification of the species, Matzner said, and include a diversity of individual sounds and interactions between adults, young birds and mates. An identification guide to raptor sounds will be available in the gallery.

The Oakland Museum is located at 10th and Oak Streets, one block from the Lake Merritt BART station and five blocks from the Nimitz Freeway in downtown Oakland. Museum hours are Wednesday through Saturday 10-5, Sunday 12-7. Admission is free.

Editor's Note: John Hendrickson will be the guest speaker at the December MDAS meeting.

ACCIPITERS

Hawks with long tails and short, wide wings. Several wingbeats are followed by a glide.



EAGLES

Large hawks that soar on long, rounded wings held in a flat plane.



OSPREY

A hawk with long wings that are bent at the wrist resembling a gull. Seen near water.

BUTEOS

Stocky hawks with broad wings and short, rounded tails that are commonly seen soaring.



FALCONS

Hawks with long, pointed wings and long tapered tails. Flight with rapid wingbeats.



HARRIER

A hawk with long, narrow wings held at an angle. Tail long with a white rump patch.

CALIFORNIA CONDORS

The November 1986 Western Tanager (the newsletter of the Los Angeles Audubon Society) contains the article "The California Condor: A Different Approach, Another Chance" by David White. The article explains the current state of the condor population, and a proposed new program for management of the condors.

Says White, "The new program forces us to seriously re-think our position on the matter of habitat and the feasibility of its adequate protection." The proposal argues that the Condor cannot survive in its traditional territory as long as traditional behavior patterns are preserved. This is because traditional behavior patterns involved the Condors' eating of deer carcasses that contain lead bullets. The only feasible alternative is to release only captive-bred birds into Sespe and Sisquoc Condor Sanctuaries. Captive-bred birds are expected not to fly long range in search of food because they will be fed, and because long flights are believed to be a learned behavior.

If this new approach is adopted, Condors would not be released until the captive-bred population is self sustaining - perhaps 1995. Although White finds the approach disturbing because it seems the Condor population will be 'more managed than wild', he sees this approach as the Condors' only chance to avoid extinction.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Hospitality Chair, Britta Casio, would like someone to volunteer to be co-chairman with her. Providing cookies and hot & cold drinks for all of us at the meetings is a two or three person job. Please volunteer at the December meeting or call Britta at 837-2895.

Our January General Meeting will be held the **second Thursday (the 8th)**, because the first Thursday falls on New Years.

The Quail is published monthly except for the combined July/August issue. Audubon membership includes subscriptions to the Quail and Audubon magazine. To join [\$30.00/year individual, \$38.00 family; introductory, senior and student rates available] write check to National Audubon Society, but send it, with letter or subscription card, to Membership Chairperson, Linda Myers, 1624 Springbrook Rd., Lafayette, CA 94596. This will ensure that there will be no delay in placing you on distribution for the Quail. This chapter also benefits financially from membership applications it processes. Full membership contributes most to achieving the goals of Audubon and is encouraged. Subscription to the Quail separate from membership is \$6.00/year. Check should be made payable to MDAS and mailed to the MDAS Treasurer, Gifford Young, 1451 Janet Court, Benicia, CA 94510; (707)745-4134. First class mailing of the Quail to member or nonmember is an additional \$3.00/year payable to MDAS, sent to Treasurer.

ADDRESS CHANGES and MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: Consult Linda Myers, (415) 932-3489.

*Kristi Streiffert, Editor, 1362 Pine St., Pittsburg, CA 94565; (415) 439-0759
Exchange bulletins form MDAS to this address, please.*

Mt. Diablo Audubon Society
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