



# The QUAIL

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY

P. O. BOX 53

WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94596

(415) AUD-UBON

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JANUARY 1987

Vol. 33 No. 5

Next Deadline: Jan. 16

*NOVEMBER PROGRAM : JOHN KELLEY PRESENTS*

## SHOREBIRDS IN WINTER

John Kelley, Coordinator of Education at the Point Reyes Bird Observatory will present the January (8) program for Mount Diablo Audubon Society. During this slide-talk, we will learn about the feeding ecology and predator avoidance of shorebirds of the central California Coast, and much more.

John Kelley's color photography skills, combined with his research work and speaking ability have earned him the distinction of "summer lecturer of ornithology" at the Audubon Ecology Camp in the West.

Bird Information at the January Meeting will be the movie "Project Puffin". This movie chronicles the efforts of National Audubon Society Biologists to re-establish a breeding colony of Atlantic Puffins on an island off the Maine Coast.

Mount Diablo Audubon Society's monthly meeting will be held January 8th at the Willow Creek Center, 1026 Mohr Lane, Concord. Doors open at 6:30, Birding Information, 7pm; Business Meeting, 7:30; Social Time, 8; and Program at 8:30.

The Board Meeting (open to all interested members) will be January 15 at Neal Welsh's home, 4092 Tulare Drive, Concord at 7:30 pm.

### NEW YEAR / NEW LOOK

Where did the Quail get it's new look? The chapter recently purchased a Macintosh Computer that allows us to produce a typeset-look, at a fraction of type-set costs.



The computer's word processing and page make-up abilities make editing a snap. It even knows how to spell. Until we get accustomed to the new system, other changes may be made.

Feel free to make suggestions.

## CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

### WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE - BUT WILL YOU SOME DAY ASK WHERE?

December 17 should be a red letter day for every Californian. The Regional Water Quality Control Board will meet to adopt a plan for protecting the San Francisco Bay/Delta from the ravages of urbanization. The plan, long under study, confronts the fact that the Bay/Delta is a delicate ecosystem that is being threatened with further degradation. The water is used for human consumption, industry, wildlife, and agriculture. Citizens for a Better Environment have developed a comprehensive response, including many constructive suggestions as to how and why the Basin Plan proposed by the Regional Water Quality Control Board should be adopted, amended, etc. One major issue: proposed exemptions for certain "dischargers" from permitting toxics to enter the Bay/Delta System. Congressman George Miller has joined with many others in an effort to achieve rules that will protect the public interests, as well as those of industry, fishing, and wildlife.

### OIL AND WATER REALLY DON'T MIX, BUT US DEPT OF INTERIOR MAY NOT BELIEVE THAT'S SO!

Oil rigs in Texas are quiet. Oklahoma's wells aren't producing. Even Alaska's oil fields are feeling the oil glut and effects of US Conservation programs. But the department of Interior is moving on all fronts to open highly sensitive coastal areas for drilling and exploration. In Alaska, one of the world's greatest wild areas set aside as a wilderness in 1989 is under threat. Department of Interior wants to "open up" the area for exploration and drilling. At the same time, the US department of Transportation is eliminating requirements for auto manufacturers to engineer cars for "more" gas mileage - NO to conservation, YES to business as usual - except when the argument comes to oil drilling along the coast, in parks, wilderness areas and the like. Let your Senator know you feel on the issue. WHAT YOU CAN DO: Alan Cranston - Pete Wilson - Senate Office Building, Washington DC, 20510.

### SENATOR MILTON DEMURS FOR DE MURRES

Will the killing stop? There may be a chance. Senator Milton has announced he strongly supports action to stop the killing Common Murres in fishermen's gill nets. WHAT YOU CAN DO: Jack Parnell, Director, Ca. Department of Fish and Game, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 is the Agency Head in Charge.

### WETLANDS NEED YOUR HELP

Airplanes vs. Wetlands: that's the issue at Oakland Airport where the Oakland Port Authority is attempting to obtain permission to fill acres and acres of the Bay's precious wetland to expand the airport. Golden Gate Audubon and The Attorney General have sued to halt the project, so at least environmental requirements are filled. WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write a note to Jan Van De Camp, Attorney General, State of California, 3540 Wildshire Blvd., Room 800, Los Angeles, CA 90016

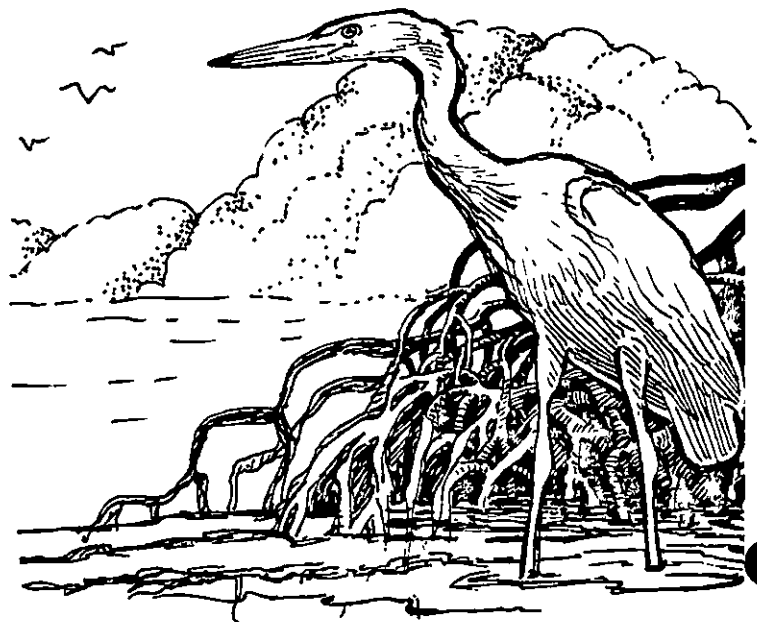
### ROSSMOORE DEER

A microcosm of what's happening to our whole world. More and more development is moving into the hills. Areas formerly left in a natural state are becoming urbanized. Combine this with our lack of rain and we have pressures on all wildlife.

Food sources in the hills are poor because of lack of rain. Lawns, flowers, hedges probably look great to hungry deer. That makes people angry: solution, kill the deer! Similar situations now exist all over the world. Forests are being destroyed at the rate of 80,000 square kilometers per year. Habitat is destroyed. WHAT YOU CAN DO: For more info write to Pata Baldi, Director of Population Programs, NAS, 801 Pennsylvania Ave., S. E., Suite 301, Washington DC, 20003

## ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATIVE SYMPOSIUM

The Planning and Conservation League is sponsoring the fourth annual California Legislative Symposium on January 31 and February 1, 1987 at California State University, Sacramento. The purpose of the conference is to inform environmental activists from throughout California of the major environmental issues to be considered by the legislature in 1987 and to develop priorities and strategies for action. Speaking at the conference will be assembly members Richard Katz, Burt Margolin, and Speaker of the Assembly Willie Brown. PCL is a nonprofit statewide environmental organization devoted to improving the quality of the environment in California. MDAS is on the Board of Directors of PCL. Details and Registration: 909 12th Street #203, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 444-8726



## ARE YOU DANGEROUSLY SERIOUS WHEN YOU DRIVE AND BIRD?

By Sharyn Fernandez

1. Do you keep binoculars in your car?  
Score 5 if Yes, 0 if no
2. Do you pull over to see birds?  
Score 10, yes always; 5, sometimes; 2, rarely; 0, never
3. Have you ever swerved to avoid animals, bicyclists, or traffic when glancing at a bird?  
Score 10, yes always; 5, sometimes; 2, rarely; 0, never
4. Do you use binoculars to look at birds if parked?  
Score 3 if yes, 0 if no

### RESULTS

If you scored: 20-25, please warn us when you'll be driving.

5-18, please confine your driving to evening hours.

3-5, Let us know if we can drive with you!

0-2, Are you sure you're into birding?

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## JANUARY FIELD TRIPS

Wednesday, Jan 14, **Rarity Chasers**. Christmas Counts turn up many unusual birds; this trip will be to find a few of these. Meet at 8 am at Acalanes Ave., off Pleasant Hill rd., just north of Hwy 24.

Leader: Jimm Edgar, 658-2330

Saturday, Jan 17, **Putah Creek**. Carpool 7 am southeast corner of Sun Valley Parking lot. Meet 8:30 am at Solano Co. Park parking lot. Take I-80 east past Fairfield to Cherry Glen Rd., cross the freeway, go 1 mile and turn north on Pleasants Valley Rd., approximately 13 miles. Parking lot is on left. If not carpooling watch for the group birding along Pleasants Valley Rd. en route. Dress Warmly, this is a cold windy area. About 1 mile walking, muddy or dewy. Highlights of previous trips include Osprey, Canyon and Rock Wrens, Phainapepla, Wood Ducks, and Green-backed Heron.

Leader: Fred Safir, 937-2906

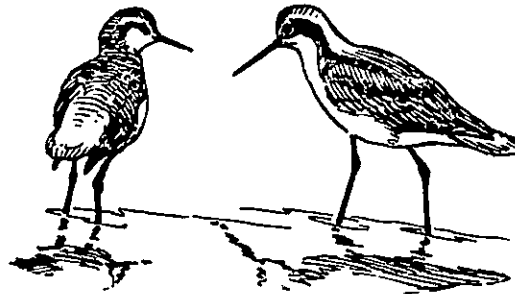
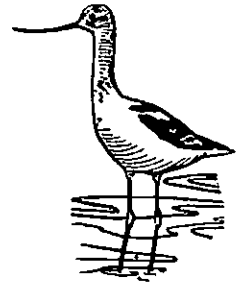
Thursday, Jan 22, **Emeryville, Berkeley Shoreline**. Carpool, 8 am off Pleasant Hill rd., just north of Hwy 24. Meet 8:30 am, Parking lot at north end of Emeryville Marina. Take Hwy 24, turn north onto I-80. Take Powell St exit (the first), turn left and follow Powell to end; turn right and drive along Marina road to turning circle at end and park in lot on left. Cold, windy, short walks at each stop. Many interesting birds turn up along this waterfront each year. Loons, Grebes, bay ducks including the occasional Old Squaw.

Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486

Saturday, Jan, 31: **Grizzley Island**. Carpool 7 am southeast corner of Sun Valley parking lot. Meet 8:30 at refuge headquarters. Take I-680 north to I-80. Take SR 12 exit and go

through Fairfield. Watch for sign to Grizzley Island Refuge on right. Follow road to headquarters. This is an outstanding area for hawks; Short-eared Owls are often seen. Not much walking.

Leader: Phil and Linda Myers, 932-3489




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## MDAS DAY AT RICHARDSON BAY

Sunday, February 8 is Mt Diablo Audbon Day at Richardson Bay Audubon Sanctuary. We are co-sponsors with the Center of a day long program "Birds on an Audubon Sanctuary". The day begins with a birdwalk at 9:30, walking along the cliffs on the eastern side of the sanctuary to see the wintering waterfowl on the bay. At 11 am there will be a slideshow entitled "Getting to know waterbirds". Bring a picnic lunch because from 12 to 1 there will be a picnic on the Lyford House steps. From 1 to 2 walk the Terwilliger Trail looking at and listening to a wide variety of winter bird species. At 2 there will be a tour of the beautiful Victorian Lyford House. TO REACH THE SANCTUARY take Tiberon exit from US 101 and head east on Tiberon Rd., SR 131. Turn right on Greenwood Cove Rd., which becomes Greenwood Beach Rd. Sanctuary headquarters are on the right, 376 Greenwood Beach Road.

Trips are open to members and nonmembers alike. Carpool time is departure time. Carpool expense: 5 cents per mile per rider is suggested; tolls and entry fees are shared equally by driver and riders. Bring binoculars, field guide and lunch. Trips go in light rain or drizzle; if in doubt call leader up to 1/2 hour before departure.

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### PT REYES- ABBOTT'S LAGOON AND PARK HEAD- QUARTERS, Oct. 18

Seven members and one guest spent a beautiful, fair-weathered day at Pt. Reyes. Most of the day was spent wandering around the large lagoon. We saw 88 species - including 14 duck species (Green-winged Teal, Canvas-back, Redhead, White-winged Scoter, red-Breasted Merganser), 5 raptor, 13 shorebird, (Greater Yellowlegs, a dozen Pectoral Sandpipers, and a Shortbilled Dowitcher), and also Red-breasted Sapsucker, Winter Wren. A Hermit Warbler was spotted in a flock of Townsend's Warblers at the Headquarters area.

Maury Stern

### SAN FRANCISCO BAY REFUGE, COYOTE HILLS, Oct. 25

Nine members enjoyed a beautiful day of birding and saw 61 species. At the refuge, hundreds of small shorebirds, mostly Western Sandpipers and Dunlin were in good view. The highlight was 2 Lesser Yellowlegs. At Coyote Hills we had a number of ducks and small landbirds, including a very late House Wren. After lunch, we went to Fremont to see a immature Purple Gallinule. Also seen were Sora Rail and a Burrowing Owl.

Elizabeth Dickey

### ALAMEDA, Nov. 13

Four members enjoyed a sunny morning of birding at high tide. The trip began with a pair of Common Yellowthroats in the anise at Alameda southshore and ended with a Burrowing Owl across from the parking lot at Arrowhead Marsh. Three Clapper Rails were well observed at Alameda. A single Snowy Plover was seen; also Willets, godwits, & several Whimbrels.

At Arrowhead Marsh, more than 50 Greater Scaup were present.

### ALTAMONT PASS, Nov 22

The trip was made by 7 members on a clear, cool day. Frick Lake was still dry due to no rainfall and thus there were no waterbirds or shorebirds except killdeer. We did see many raptors, however, including at least 60 Turkey Vultures, 3 Black-shouldered Kites, over 50 Red-tailed, 6 Ferruginous and 1 Rough-legged Hawks and 4 Golden Eagles. We saw 4 Yellow-billed Magpies at the south end of Greenville Road, at least 60-70 Mountain bluebirds on Midway Road, then an adult Bald Eagle at the intersection of Midway and Patterson Pass Roads. Along Patterson Pass Rd., a Rock Wren was at about MP 6.75 and a Hairy Woodpecker was in the willows near the western end. A total of 45 species was tallied.

Jean Richmond

### CANDLESTICK PT., Nov. 9

Nine members walked the shore of the bay on a clear mild day.

63 species were seen. Highlights of the trip were a Cooper's Hawk and a Merlin right at the beginning. Waterfowl numbers seemed low.

Fred Safier

### PALO ALTO BAYLANDS, Dec. 3

Fifteen members and guests saw at least 2 Black Rails at the extremely high tide. One bird was in flight, and the other walked between bushes several times to provide everyone with at least a glimpse. Four Clapper Rails were well seen and two Sharp-tailed sparrows were visible. Two Bitterns were seen at different times.

### GRAY LODGE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA AND SACRAMENTO NWR, Dec. 6 & 7

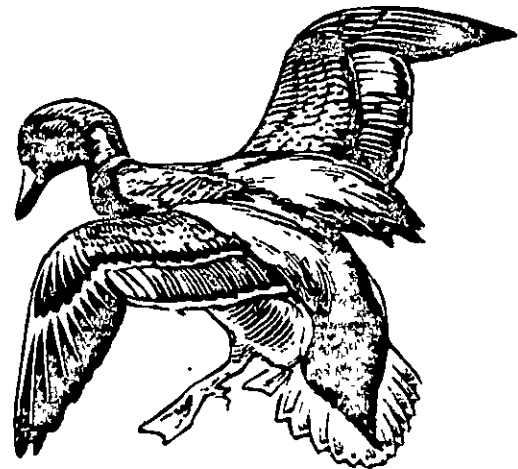
A Fantastic trip - good birding, good weather, and a good group of birders (21 on Sat, 11 on Sunday). A total 55 species were observed at Graylodge Saturday and 60 at the SNWR on Sunday with a total for the trip of 71. Highlights were thousand of Snow Geese, several Ross' Geese, one Blue phase Snow Goose, two Cackling Geese, over 200 Tundra Swans, and several Eurasian Widgeon.

Mervyn Ortez

### RAPTOR CENTER, SANTA CRUZ, Dec. 10

Ten members and guests toured the Santa Cruz Center to learn about this program to reintroduce endangered raptors in California. Besides the Peregrine Falcon Program, Harris Hawks are being introduced along the Lower Colorado River, and Aplomado Falcons in south Texas. We had close looks at the Peregrines and Harrisites, & the Prairie and Bat Falcons which are being studied. As we came out of the breeding building, we saw an immature Golden Eagle and an almost albino Red-tail overhead. Before visiting the Center, we saw at least 20 Wood Ducks at Nearey's Lagoon.

Elizabeth Dickey



## OBSERVATIONS

By Donna Peake-Klein

10/25 A **Great Horned Owl** was seen in a pine in the Walnut Creek yard of Shirely Ellis.

11/4 An albino **Marbled Godwit** was sighted in a large godwit flock at Alameda southshore. (JR)

11/10 A **Gloucouc-winged Gull** was spotted flying over Bishop Ranch Open Space in San Ramon. (KH)

11/11 A **Least Sandpiper** was observed at Pac Bell headquarters in San Ramon. (KH)

11/16 An **Eurasian Widgeon** was seen at Rodeo Lagoon. (EB,SE)

11/17 Viewed at Pine Canyon were the "Slate-colored" form of

**Dark-eyed Junco, a Red-Shouldered Hawk, a Brown Creeper and a House Wren.** GF,KH)

11/18 2 **Red-necked Grebes** were seen Bodega Bay Harbor, (JR)

11/25 a **Merlin** was seen flying over the Lafayette home of Maury Stern.

11/27 Ed Hase's Walnut Creek yard was visited by a **North-ern Saw-wet Owl.**

11/28 Several **Black-crowned Night Herons** were seen perched on a band at the intersection of Highway 37 and Skaggs Island; a **Peregrine Falcon** was spotted scattering shorebirds at Doran Beach, Bodega Bay; 1 **Green-winged**

**Teal** was observed at Highway 1 and Salmon Creek. (SE)

11/30 An **Osprey** was sighted at Doran Beach. (SE)

12/2 A **House Wren** and 19+ **Lincoln's Sparrows** were seen at Green Valley, Pine Canyon area. (KH) 2 female and 1 male **Hooded Mergansers** were sighted at Five Brooks Pond, Marin. (NB)

12/3 A **Rock Wren** was seen at the entrance to Briones (Lafayette, as well as a **Brown Creeper & Golden-crowned Kinglet.** (JA)

12/4 An **Oriental Greenfinch** was reported in Arcata, Ca by John Sterling.

12/5 The **American Dipper** reported to have left the Adamson yard was spotted there Dec. 5.

Also of interest this month: George Finger recently spotted a **Blue-grey Gnatcatcher** at Lime Ridge. The Youngs report very good birding in Glen Ellen. the Youngs also birded Lake Solano where they witnessed an **Osprey** with prey under attack by **Cormorants, Blackbirds and a Turkey Vulture.**

OBSERVERS: Betty and Harry Adamson, John Asher, Norah Bain, Ethel Beckerman, Shirley Ellis, George Finger, Ed Hase, Kevin Hintsa, Jean Richmond, John Sterling, Maury Stern, Winnifred and Gifford Young.

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

## CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

By Tom Streiffert

The **Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum** is offering a special lecture series to celebrate its half-way mark in its fund-raising program to relocate in a new building at Heather Farm Community Park. The first speaker of this series will be Gary Bogue with a *Walk on the Wilder Side* (January 17, 3-4:30 pm). Gary Bogue is a writer, columnist, naturalist and spokesman for wildlife. Join him for a lively dialogue of serious and often humorous views on the web of life that connects us all. Cost for the guest speaker series is \$4 per lecture for museum members; \$5 for non-members. For registration information, call the museum at 935-1978. The museum also offers many classes and day trips for children and adults. Ask for a Winter Programs Catalog.

The **Society of Animal Artists** annual exhibit - *Animals: The Best of '86* is currently at the California Academy of Sciences in Lovell White Hall. This juried exhibit is displayed each year at a different American museum and includes works by some of the nation's foremost animal artists. Paintings, drawings and sculptures by artists including Harry Adamson, Robert Bateman, Roger Tory Peterson, Kent Ullberg. The show will be on display through February 1.

**Audubon Canyon Ranch** will host a *New Year's Resolution Hike* to the Bouverie Audubon Preserve on Jan. 1. Other seminars this month are: *Highlights of Lower Plants in the Valley of the Moon* (mushrooms and ferns and their allies), Jan. 17 and *Chaparral Spring* on Jan. 24. Call the ACR at (415) 383-1644 for more information and a seminars brochure.

**Point Reyes Field Seminars** will have a *Whale Watching* trip on Jan 10 or 17 (fee \$26). On Jan. 24 a spectacular *Point Reyes Boat Trip* will be offered (fee \$37). The seminar program is a self-supporting non-profit activity, sponsored by the Coastal Parks Association.

The **Nature Sound Society** will conduct a *Winter Field Recording Trip to the Sacramento Wildlife Refuge* on Jan. 17 and 18. They expect excellent opportunities for recording, photographing, and viewing thousands of ducks, geese, swans, and perhaps sandhill cranes. A \$2 organizational fee is required, contact William Gilbert, 4630 Driftwood Court, El Sobrante, CA 94803.

The **San Francisco American Youth Hostel Club** sponsors day hikes and other weekend activities. In January they have the following day hikes: *Railroad Hike* (West Point Old Railroad Grade), *Muir Woods*, and *Tennessee Valley* (Marin Headlands). You need not be a member of AYH to participate in the activities, trip fee is 25 cents. Club activities are open to participants of all ages.

## HUMMINGBIRDS: THEIR LIFE AND BEHAVIOR

MDAS, Golden Gate Audubon, and Marin Audubon are jointly sponsoring a very special hummingbird program at Lawrence Hall of Science, February 7 and 8. The featured speakers will be writer Esther Tyrrell and photographer Robert Tyrrell. Robert Tyrrell is the world's foremost photographer of hummingbirds. The couple wrote the book **Hummingbirds: Their Life and Behavior** which is now in its 6th printing.

The full color slide show and program features discussion of field marks, courtship and mating, habitat, aggression, wild-flower pollination and more. many of the photos are very rare.

This show has been presented throughout the west, but this will be its only San Francisco area showing. The February 7th presentation is at 7:30 pm, and the February 8th show is at 2pm. Price is \$4 for general public and \$3 for museum members. Call Barbara Ando at the Lawrence Hall of Science for more information. 642-2858.

## NEW MEMBERS

WE extend warm greetings to these new MDAS members and hope to meet them at our activities: Elissa Fazio, Arther Gronner, Mr. and Mrs. Hans Kriel, Michael Tapie, Tricia Allen, Vanessa Banas, Robert Cane, Barbara Croft, RJ Dannels, Stanley Davison, Peter Geddis, Gerald Lindberg, Mrs. John Mack, Gay Maloney, Enstrom Osc, Philip Prosser, Denise Wight, Christine Zanassi, Marc De Benedictis.

## IN MEMORY OF...

Several past officers of MDAS have died recently, and contributions were made in their honor. In memory of Stuart Purcell, a donation was made to the American Cancer Society. In the memory of Margaret Schaller and Norma Warner, donations were made to the National Audubon Society's Legal Defense Fund for Mono Lake.



*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/year individual, \$38 family; introductory & senior 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. The Chapter benefits financially from membership applications it processes. Full membership is encouraged, but subscription to the Quail is available separate from membership at \$6/year. Check should be made to MDAS and mailed to MDAS Treasurer, Gifford Young, 1451 Janet Ct., Benicia, CA 94510. First class mailing of the Quail to member or nonmember is an additional \$3/year payable to MDAS & sent to Treasurer.*

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

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

Mt. Diablo Audubon Society  
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Walnut Creek, CA 94596

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FEBRUARY 1987

Vol. 33 No. 6

Next Deadline: FEB. 9

*February Program: Daniel Taylor Presents*

## Mono Lake, Condors, & Old Growth Forest

Daniel Taylor, Regional Representative of the National Audubon Society, will present the February meeting for Mount Diablo Audubon Society. During his slide-talk, Mr. Taylor will discuss Audubon Conservation Priorities. His topic will include reports and updates on Mono Lake, the California Condor, and the controversies surrounding the preservation of "old growth forests." Mr. Taylor will also detail the new and exciting approaches Audubon has developed to prevent further encroachment upon California's wetlands. In addition, he will highlight Audubon's role in the preservation of the Spotted Owl's habitat in Oregon and Washington; this too is a very heated issue.

Daniel Taylor is a local son, born in Pittsburg, and raised in Pleasant Hill. He has a personal interest in local conservation issues and urges you to bring your concerns to this meeting.

Don't forget, he is our ombudsman to the National office in New York.

**Birding Information** will be presented this month by Ed Hase and Jimm Edgar, two of our favorites. They will be discussing silhouettes as an identification tool.

Mount Diablo Audubon Society's monthly meeting will be held February 5 at the Willow Creek Center, 1026 Mohr Lane, Concord. Doors open at 6:30, Birding Information, 7pm; Business Meeting, 7:30; Social Time, 8; and Program at 8:30.

The **Board Meeting** (open to all interested members) will be Thursday, Feb. 12 at Gifford Young's, 1451 Janet Ct., Benicia, 707-745-4134.

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## CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

SAID THE POLITICIAN TO THE PARK DIRECTOR AND THE PUBLIC: "LOOK OUT - A CAR MAY BE COMING..."

The quiet of Castle Rock park is, in its own way, as eloquent as Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. That eloquence may be shattered by the suggested Diablo Hills Parkway. Money spent for land acquisition on the foothill slopes of magnificent Mt. Diablo saved (we thought) habitat for birds, animals and people. Diablo Hills Parkway is now under study. The Study could mean virtual destruction of the park as we now know it. Habitat for bird and wildlife will likely be at stake as well. Issues involve traffic in Contra Costa County:

1. How to best ease congestion.
  2. Use of park (open space) areas for freeways.
  3. Such uses vs. long term protection of parks and open space.
- First proposed by a member of the Walnut Creek City Council, Diablo Hills Parkway is a matter of concern to all who treasure parks, open space and bird life. WHAT YOU CAN DO: *YOUR* city council will be involved. Let your council people know what you think about having a freeway through a beautiful park and precious open space.

### U.S. FORESTS - GOING, GOING, GONE?

A drive along any major mountain highway permits us to view the magnificent forests. We bask in thoughts of the wild west, and the way we are caring for our beautiful environment. Terribly misleading. Proposals now moving forward envision destruction of huge tracts of national forest. Oh, yes, the areas would be "clear cut". An efficient way of logging. Or at least it saves the loggers money but destroys just about all forest related life. To make matters worse, the Administration has proposed spending some \$178 million to construct new logging roads in national forests. The LA Times said, editorially, "thousands of miles of those roads would penetrate forest areas to allow more timber sales..." The timber sales produce a loss for the government, estimated by some to range between \$250 million to as much as \$600 million. The Times editorialized further, "...the Administration is spending relatively less for recreation lands and facilities in both the national forests and the National Parks." This (called by some) profligate age is likely to be looked on with great disdain by generations to come. This will be particularly true when it is discovered the people stood by and permitted destruction of vital national resources.

### ALASKA - OUR LAST FRONTIER NEEDS HELP

One of the most extensive and diverse wild landscapes in North America is Alaska's 19 million acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The great coastal plain is now threatened by a Department of Interior plan to sell oil leases for exploration. Experts (outside the Department) assert that at best the amount of oil to be found is minimal. The Interior Department is required to take public comments into account in preparing it's final re-

port. It is said "long-term losses in fish and wildlife resources would be the inevitable consequence of long-term commitment to oil and gas development." It is asserted, "Development would mean an end to the area's wilderness values." WHAT YOU CAN DO: Let your senators Alan Cranston and Pete Wilson know what you think. (Senate Office Bld., Washington, D.C. 20510) Also write the Department of Interior, Sec'y Donald Hodel, Washington, D.C. and give him the benefit of your views.

write today  
write today  
write today

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## N.A.S. NATIONAL CONVENTION

It's not too early to begin making plans for the summer...and you can start by planning to attend the National Audubon Convention. Auduboners from around the nation will converge on the campus of Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington this August. The program will include speakers, workshops, entertainment, and a variety of field trips to the scenic areas of Puget Sound and the Pacific Northwest. Registration forms and additional information will soon be sent to members. For more information, contact the Western Regional Office, 555 Audubon Place, Sacramento, CA 95825; 916-481-5332.

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## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

NILES CANYON, DEC. 18  
Rained Out.

RARITY CHASE, Jan. 14

Six people showed up bright and early. We listened to the rare bird tape from the previous day, and then made a decision on where to go. We headed for Marin county where there was a possibility of four rare birds that were fairly close together. We saw all four and a couple more that weren't on the tape. Included in the 92 species, we saw for the day were 18 species of ducks. They included Harlequin, Eurasian Widgeon, Barrow's Goldeneye, and Hooded Merganser. We also got great looks at the Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker. There are only about 20 records of this bird in the state. The highlight was the probable Brown Shrike at Whitehouse pool. Kevin Hintsa was the first to wonder if this "Northern Shrike" might perhaps be a much more rare species. There are only 4 previous North American sightings of this bird, which is from Siberia or Korea. All in all a wonderful day.

\* Jimm Edgar



## FIELD TRIPS

### MDAS DAY AT RICHARDSON BAY

Sunday, February 8 is Mt. Diablo Audubon Day at Richardson Bay Audubon Sanctuary. We are co-sponsors with the Center of a day long program "Birds on an Audubon Sanctuary." The day begins with a birdwalk at 9:30, walking along the cliffs on the eastern side of the sanctuary to see the wintering waterfowl on the bay. At 11 am there will be a slideshow entitled "Getting to Know Waterbirds." Bring a picnic lunch because from 12 to 1 there will be a picnic on the Lyford House steps. From 1 to 2 walk the Terwilliger Trail looking at and listening to a wide variety of winter bird species. At 2 there will be a tour of the beautiful Victorian Lyford House. TO REACH THE SANCTUARY, take Tiberon exit from US 101 and head east on Tiberon Rd., SR 131. Turn right on Greenwood Cove Rd., which becomes Greenwood Beach Rd. Sanctuary headquarters are on the right, 376 Greenwood Beach Road.

Thursday, Feb. 5th, Sunol Regional Park. Carpool 7:30 am., El Cerro Blvd., just west of I-680. Meet 8:15 am., parking lot, Sunol Regional Park. (May be \$2 parking fee.) Go south on I-680 to Calaveras Rd. exit. Go left under freeway and 4 miles south on Calaveras Rd., turn left on Geary - 2 miles to park. Watch and listen for Turkey along Geary Rd. Golden Eagles and other raptors are often seen; Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Dipper, Rock and Canyon Wrens possible. This is a walking trip, 2-3 miles; trails may be steep and muddy.

\*Leader: Jimm Edgar, 658-2330

Saturday, Feb. 7th, Thornton. Carpool 7:30 am southeast corner of Sun Valley Parking lot. Meet 8:45 am in park at end of Glascock Rd. Take SR 4 to Antioch Bridge (toll), go north along river to Rio Vista; take SR 12 east 11.5 miles, turn left onto Glascock Rd. Tundra Swans, Sandhill Cranes (may be dancing), hawks, geese, sometimes Bittern or Green-backed Heron. Mostly car birding; trip will go in light rain. If questions, call leader.

\*Leader: Merv Ortez, 283-3072

Wednesday, Feb 18th, Lake Merrit. Carpool 8:15 am Acalanes Ave., off Pleasant Hill Rd., just north of Hwy 24. Meet 8:45 in front of flight cage at Lake Merrit. Take I-580 east to Grand Ave. exit, turn right 0.6 miles to Bellvue. Turn left into park and park in lot between boat house and the large aviary. Ducks, especially Barrow's Goldeneye, sometimes Red-head or Hooded Merganser; good place for close study of gulls.

About 1 mile of walking on paved paths.

\*Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486.

Sat.&Sun, Feb 21-22, Sage Grouse Trip. We are setting this early in hopes of seeing some of the Basin winter birds as well. Norther Shrike, Bohemian Waxwing, and Tree Sparrow are found around Susanville in winter. If we are snowed out we

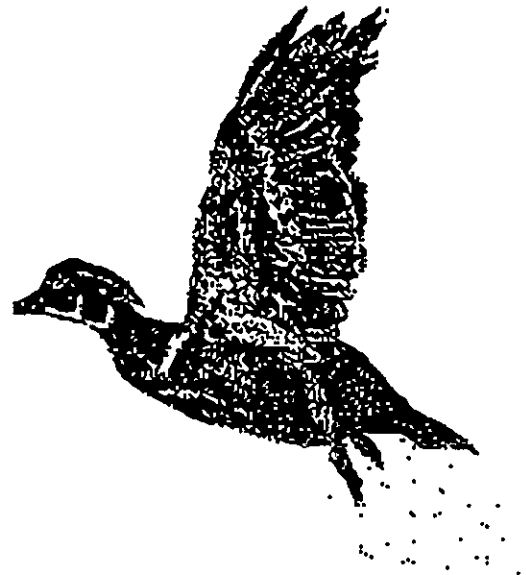
will try March 14-15. Bring lots of warm layered clothing. Susanville Motels: Frontier Inn, 916-257-4141; Best Western Trailside Inn, 916-257-4123. If going contact leader.

\*Leader: Maury Stern, 284-5980.

Wednesday, Feb 25th, Lafayette Reservoir. Meet 8 am, top of Dam. (\$1 parking fee.) The reservoir has a wide variety of land and water birds. From SR 24, take Acalanes Road Exit, go under freeway and turn left at light; entrance to park is on the right and up the hill. About 3 miles walking; most trails are paved, but we occasionally explore parts of the unpaved Rim Trail.

\*Leader Mary Jane Culver, 682-0509.

Trips are open to members and nonmembers alike. Carpool time is departure time. Carpool expense: 5 cents per mile per rider is suggested; tolls and entry fees are shared equally by driver and riders. Bring binoculars, field guide and lunch. Trips go in light rain or drizzle; if in doubt call leader up to 1/2 hour before departure time.



## PREDATORY BIRD RESEARCH

A study involving birds of prey which breed, winter and migrate through the hilly area of southern Alameda county is being conducted by the Predatory Bird Research Group of University of California, Santa Cruz. The study involves most of the area east of Mission Peak to Cedar Mountain ridge and those areas south of route 84 to the county line. The group would appreciate being informed of sightings of birds of prey, as well as historic nest sites in the area. Joseph E. DiDonato can be reached at Sunol Regional Park, P.O. Box 82, Sunol, CA 94586 until August of 1987. The phone number is 415-862-

## AUDUBON ADVENTURES

By Norah Bain

For student recipients of the Audubon Adventures newsletter, Christmas was enriched this year as they selected their trees in the Christmas tree lot. As well as imagining decorating their trees, the students were able to increase their knowledge of evergreens with the jingles in "Keys to Christmas Trees." Two of the jingles follow: *P is for Pine and P is for package; pine needles come in packages of 2 or more...S is for Spruce and S is for square; spruce needles are angled and roll between your fingers.*



This method of connecting natural history with the student's normal activities is very popular with members of Audubon Adventures classes and clubs. Thanks to the generosity of many members of MDAS, 645 students are enjoying the newsletter this year. Nationwide, we have 150,000 youngsters participating in 5000 classrooms in 49 states.

### Local Sponsors

John and Tammy Davis  
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 Edna Mass  
 Donna Peake-Klein  
 Florence Cole  
 Barbara Vaughn  
 Lois Foster  
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 Teacher Marie Simpson  
 Teacher Carole Kafel  
 PTA Silverwood Elementary

## CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

By Tom Streiffert

The Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum presents John McCosker, lecturing on the *Care and Feeding of Great White Sharks*, Feb. 28, 3-4:30 pm. This is the second in a series of great talks with inspired people to celebrate the half-way mark in the Museum's fund raising program to relocate in a new building at Heather Farm Community Park. Dr. McCosker has been described as a "cool fish" who, at the California Academy of Sciences, is Director of the oldest and grandest aquarium in all of North America. John will share his passion for the Great White Shark, the master of the marine world, unknown and spiritually unconquered. McCosker's excitement, graphically supported by the awesome photography of Al Giddings, will make for an afternoon you will never forget. Cost for the guest speaker series is \$4 per lecture for members; \$5 for non-members. For registration information, or information on other Museum classes and day hikes call 935-1978.

The Whale Center offers Gray Whale Watching cruises and flights. Observe whales, porpoises, seals, and marine birds during two and one-half hour cruises led by expert naturalists. Trips leave from Pillar Point Harbor, Half Moon Bay on Saturdays and Sundays, through April 26. One hour whale watching flights on a twin-engined Cessna airplane are also available. These trips are sponsored by the Whale Center, a non-profit educational organization working for whales and their ocean habitat. For more information and free literature on Gray Whale Watching Cruises and Flights as well as extended Nature Adventures, call the Whale Center at (415) 654-6621, or stop at their office/store at 3929 Piedmont Ave. in Oakland.

The Mono Lake Committee announces: *Alaska: An Adventure for You; A Benefit for Mono Lake*. This two week trip starts June 21 and will include visiting the fjordlands and wilderness refuges in Kenai Peninsula, crossing Prince William Sound to Valdez, traveling the scenic highway to Glenallen and Matanuska Valley, and spending five days at Camp Denali in Denali National park, plus an optional 5-day extension to Glacier Bay. For full information, send a self-addressed, stamped legal-size envelope to: ALASKA '87, c/o M. Bennett, 2719 Marin Avenue, Berkeley, 94708.

The Cooper Ornithological Society's monthly meeting will include a seminar by David F. Whitacre of U.C. Davis on his studies of the cave-dwelling swifts of Mexico. Everyone interested in birds is welcome, Monday February 2, at 8pm, Room 2503, Life Sciences Building, U.C. Berkeley.

Norah Bain will be teaching a 4 week field class for beginning and intermediate birders at the Orinda Community Center. Classes are Tuesdays, 9 am to 12 noon, Feb. 24 to March 17. Register at the Community Center, 254-2445. Fee is \$30 for Orinda residents, \$32 for non-residents. Class size is limited.

The San Francisco American Youth Hostel Club sponsors day hikes in the Mount Tamalpais area this month on the 8th and 21st. You need not be a club member to participate, trip fee is 25 cents and open to participants of all ages. For more information about these and other Club activities, contact Harold Otterstrom, evenings before 8pm at 467-8195.

## OBSERVATIONS

By Donna Peake-Klein

12/4 A Brown Creeper was seen in the yard of Harry and Betty Adamson.

12/5-8 A Snow Bunting was observed at King Salmon, Calif. (KH,MOB)

12/5 The American Dipper was seen in the Las Trampas Creek, and was spotted again on 12/27. (B&HA)

12/7 Observed at Merced NWR: White-faced Ibis, many Greater White-fronted Geese, Snow Geese, Sandhill Cranes, & Tundra Swans. In the Shotgun Pass area: Vesper Sparrow, 20 Mountain Plovers, many Mountain Bluebirds. (DW)

12/8 A female Townsend's Warbler was spotted and still is present in the garden of Betty and Harry Adamson.

12/9 Seen in the Altamont Pass area: 5 Ferruginous Hawks, 1 Rough Legged Hawk, 3 Golden Eagles, 1 Rock Wren, 15 Mountain Bluebirds, 2 Vesper Sparrows.(JR)

12/10 A Great Horned Owl was seen in Kevin Hintsa's San Ramon yard, apparently still hunting pigeons. (September "Quail")

12/11 2 Lawrence's Goldfinch were observed at Black Diamond Mines Park. (KH)

12/15 A White-throated Sparrow has been visiting Norah Bain's Orinda garden since 12/15. Norah also reports that recently there have been 4 female and 1 male Ring-necked Ducks in Lake Cascade, Orinda.

12/16 Seen at Lake Merrit: 3 Redheads, 39 female and 47 male Goldeneyes (most of them in the outlet channel through Lake Merrit) and 3 female Hooded Mergansers (2 on the Lake, 1 in the outer channel). (JR)

12/15-19 A Cattle Egret was seen on the lawn at Matinez Jr. High.(TC,SE,RS)

12/18 A Common Goldeneye was seen at Pac Bell Headquarters, San Ramon.(KH)

12/19 A Prairie Warbler was sighted at Princeton. (DW); in Black Diamond Mines Regional Park (Nortonville Area) 5 Phainopepla were observed. (GF, JR)

12/21 A House Wren was spotted at the Botanical Gardens in Berkely. (J&JE); 10 Wood Ducks were sighted at Upper San Leandro Reservoir. (KH, SF)

12/23 An American Dipper was observed at Lake Temescal. (J&JE)

12/24,25&27 A Cassin's Finch was seen in the yard of Betty and Harry Adamson.

12/24 3 House Wrens were sighted off Green Valley Rd., Mt. Diablo. (KH)

12/25 40 Brown-headed Cowbirds were seen at Heather Farms. (KH)

12/26 A Red-shouldered Hawk was spotted flying over the Alamo home of Jean Richmond. It was seen again on 1/5. While on a trip to Tahoe, Shimi and Rick Edmonson saw 2 Bald Eagles near Meek's Bay, close enough to identify without binoculars. They also saw a Townsend's Warbler and American Robin taking a bath next to some ice in a lake a

8 degrees during a snowstorm! Sora were seen enjoying bread handouts at Heather Farms. (KH, MW)

12/28 A White-throated Sparrow and Red-shouldered Hawk were observed at Ardenwood Historical Park, Hayward. (KH,JL)

12/29 A male Wood Duck was spotted at Heather Farms. (MW)

12/30 During a Pelagic Christmas Count at Monterey Bay, 2 first winter Black-legged Kittiwakes, and 2 Black-footed Albatrosses were seen. (DW); a Black-throated Gray Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, & Orange-crowned Warbler were all observed together at Caswell State Park. (KH)

12/31 Seen in John & Gail Torpey's yard were 12 Chipping Sparrows (male & female) and one Loggerhead Shrike.

1/1 An adult Night Heron and 2 immatures, a female Belted Kingfisher, 10 Ruddy Ducks, and a Canvas Back Duck were seen at the San Ramon golf course. (JT, GT)

1/1 A juvenile Nothern Shrike and 3 Black Rails (one of which was being eaten by a Great Egret) were seen at Olema Marsh. (DW)

1/2 A Marsh Hawk (female) was seen in the San Ramon hills.[JT,GT]

1/3 Observed at Mallard Reservoir, Martinez, were a Tufted Duck, 2 Eurasian Widgeons, and seen at North Gate Rd, Mt. Diablo were a White-throated Sparrow and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. (KH,MOB)

1/6 Seen at East Bay Shoreline were 3 male Redheads (W. frontage rd., Emeryville), 3 Barrow's Goldeneyes (Berkeley Aquatic Park). (JR)

1/7 A Townsend's Warbler and a Sharp-shinned Hawk were seen in the Lafayette yard of Maury Stern.

1/8 A Eurasian Widgeon was observed at Coyote Hills Regional Park. (BV); seen at Point Reyes: Nothern Shrike, 7 Godlen Plovers, Harlequin Duck, Swamp Sparrows & Barrow's Goldeneye. (GF); Kenvin Hintsa reports seeing a Sharp-shinned Hawk carrying a Mockingbird across a road in San Ramon.

On a recent trip to Kauai, Mike and Ginny Wallace observed many species, including several endangered species. Highlights: Newell's Shearwater, Black-necked Stilt, Hawaiian Gallinule, Hawaiian Duck, Hawaiian Coot, & Hawaiian Goose. Of particular interest were the birds they observed at the 3000-4000 ft. level of Kauai's Alakai Swamp. This swamp has about 20 of the rarest birds in the world, most of which are endangered. Seen here were the Elepaio, Omao (Hawaiian Thrush) Anianiau, Apapane, Iiwi. Anyone interested in the Wallace's complete list may contact Observation's Editor.

Observers: Betty and Harry Adamson, Norah and Hugh Bain, Tom Castro, Joan and Jimm Edgar, Shimi and Rick Edmonson, Shirley Ellis, Sharyn Fernandez, George Finger, Kevin Hintas, John Luther, many observers, Jean Richmond, Ron Shahade, Maury Stern, John and Gail Torpey, Barbara Vaughn, Margaret Wadsworth, Ginny and Mike Wallace, Dennis Wolff.

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

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## HUMMINGBIRDS: THEIR LIFE AND BEHAVIOR

MDAS, Golden Gate Audubon, and Marin Audubon are jointly sponsoring a very special hummingbird program at Lawrence Hall of Science, February 7 and 8. The featured speakers will be writer Esther Tyrrell and photographer Robert Tyrrell. Robert Tyrrell is the world's foremost photographer of hummingbirds. The couple wrote the book **Hummingbirds: Their Life and Behavior** which is now in its 6th printing. This show has been presented throughout the west, but this will be its only San Francisco area showing. The February 7th presentation is at 7:30 pm, and the February 8th show is at 2pm. Price is \$4 for general public and \$3 for museum members. Call Barbara Ando at the Lawrence Hall of Science for more information, 642-2858.

**Special Note:** Following the Feb. 8th presentation, the Tyrrells will be hosting a reception for all Audubon members and their guests. They would be honored if you would attend.

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## NEW MEMBERS

We extend warm greetings to these new MDAS members and hope to meet them at our activities: Joann Boltz, Varerie Buck, Ronald Gruszic, Mr. & Mrs. Ken Hoffman, Mrs. G. Khan, G. L. McFarland, Kathy Nelson, Cheryl Riepel, Jas Vetterli, John K. Wilder, Mrs. Donald Wort, Helen Deggen-dorf, John Ascher, Mary Anne Adamson, Andrew Adler, Kem Akol, Neil Anderson, Mrs. P. R. Andrews, Bonny Applin, R. Bruns, Deverl Carter, Mary Coffey, James Courtney, Ms E.K. Crandall.

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## TAX TIME

Those who bought Jean Richmond's *Birding Northern California* directly from this chapter are reminded that the base amount (not the handling or sales tax) they paid in excess of \$4 is a tax-deductible contribution to MDAS. If desired, a sales receipt can be obtained from the Treasurer. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

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*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/year individual, \$38 family; introductory & senior 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. The Chapter benefits financially from membership applications it processes. Full membership is encouraged, but subscription to the Quail is available separate from membership at \$6/year. Check should be made to MDAS and mailed to MDAS Treasurer, Gifford Young, 1451 Janet Ct., Benicia, CA 94510. First class mailing of the Quail to member or nonmember is an additional \$3/year payable to MDAS & sent to Treasurer.*

**ADDRESS CHANGES AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:** Consult Linda Myers (415) 932-3489.

*Kristi Streiffert, Editor, 1362 Pine Street, Pittsburg, CA 94565; (415) 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

President: Jimm Edgar, 658-2330

VP Programs: Neal Welsh, 798-0213

VP Conservation: Al McNabney, 945-1785

Treasurer: Gifford Young, (707) 745-4134

Field Trips: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486

Membership: Linda Myers, 932-3489

Publicity: Barbara Vaughn, 376-5041

Hospitality: Britta Cascio, 837-2895

Editor: Kristu Streiffert, 439-0759

Education: Norah Bain, 254-4516

Secretary: Edna Mass, 945-7634

MARCH 1987

Vol. 33 No. 7

Next Deadline: Mar. 12

*March Program: The Premier Presentation of*

## OUR GREAT WESTERN DESERTS

Mr. Phillip Gordon, twice past president of the Ohlone Audubon Chapter and biology teacher at Tennyson High School, will present the March 5th program of the Mount Diablo Audubon Society. During this slide-talk we will be treated to a discussion of the ecology of our great western deserts, with emphasis on bird ecosystems. This will be the premier presentation of this program.

Mr. Gordon was born in San Jose and raised in Hayward, where his reputation for expertise in biological and natural history topics has grown. Mr. Gordon is on the Board of Directors of the "Save the Bay Association." He also teaches "The Natural History of California Birds" for the Acalanes Adult Education Program, is an Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum field trip leader, and compiler of the Hayward Christmas Count.

Bird Information this month will be a presentation on **Shorebird Identification** by naturalist Suzanne Methvin. Ms. Methvin has led birding and natural history tours throughout the world. Shorebird identification is a favorite discussion topic for Suzanne.

Mount Diablo Audubon Society's monthly meeting will be held the first Thursday of the month at the Willow Creek Center, 1026 Mohr Lane, Concord. Doors open at 6:30, Birding Information, 7pm; Business Meeting, 7:30; Social Time, 8; and Program at 8:30.

The Board Meeting (open to all interested members) will be March 12th at Norah Bain's home, 32 Via Farallon, Orinda, CA., phone: 254-4516.

## CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

### PUBLIC AGENCIES DON'T HAVE TO OBEY THE LAW OR DO THEY?

Expansion of Oakland Airport is a HOT issue if you are a shore or water bird, a member of Golden Gate Audubon, or a member of the Staff of California's Attorney General. It does not seem to be an issue in which a public agency frets about the law. Unauthorized filling of wetlands has been a part of the activity around the airport. Complaints to the US Army Corps of Engineers, urging action brought no results. Now EPA has caused a Cease and Desist Order to be filed to halt the illegal filling of Bay Wetlands. This EPA action is in addition to the suit filed by Golden Gate Audubon, the Sierra Club, and the Atty. General of California. Public officials should be expected to obey the law, not flaunt it.

### SHELL MARSH IN THE NEWS AGAIN

We thought issues involving destruction of Shell Marsh to permit development of a business park were behind us. NOT SO! The City of Martinez and Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors joined in a request to BCDC to relinquish jurisdiction over the (former) wetland. Now referred to as Acme Fill and Shell Marsh. BCDC has agreed. While a public hearing is to be held February 16th it is not considered likely any (favorable) change will occur. Additionally, Caltrans and numerous public officials and agencies are calling for converting the I-680 approach to George Miller Jr. Bridge near Benicia so a parallel bridge can be built. Such construction may well affect Shell Marsh.

### WATER WATER - OR - THE SOUTHLAND RIDES AGAIN

N. California water continues to be a magnate drawing envious glances from the south. Suggestions by key legislators that they intend to introduce major water bills in the legislature this year are bringing friends and foes together. The Comm. for Water Policy Consensus urges legislators to "hold off." Legislation at this time will be premature, will likely affect (adversely) the substantial consensus built throughout the state. What is needed is not more confrontation but on concerted effort toward a "real" solution to Calif. water problems.

### C.C. COUNTY GENERAL PLAN REVISION

Audubon (and other organizations) continue to "do something" about rampant, almost uncontrolled growth in the county. A major step has been creation, by the Board of Supervisors, of the General Plan Congress. Audubon and other interested organizations are hard at work developing material for the New General Plan.

### MY NEW HOUSE WILL NOT HAVE AN OUTHOUSE

Development come home to roost. The Tri-Valley Wastewater Authority (Pleasanton, etc.) is seeking authority to construct an outfall for discharge of treated municipal wastewater to

Suisun Bay - near the city of Martinez!! As people are finding out, the mere sale of land to a developer for a housing project may well set in motion a series of problems that have to be resolved. Solutions may require expenditure of millions of dollars and hundreds of man-hours if solutions are to be found. One certainty these days is there will be **No More** discharges into Suisun Bay. Not just when serious efforts are underway to clean up the bay. Alan Pendleton, BCDC head, advises "I too share your concern for maintaining a high level of water quality in San Francisco Bay and the particular concerns raised by the possibility of a Tri-Valley discharge to the Suisun Bay." What if denial of permission to dump the "stuff" into the Bay results in no ability to get rid of such wastewater? Could be an **Outhouse** -maybe!

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### GRIZZLY ISLAND WILDLIFE REFUGE, Jan. 31th.

For our first day as Field Trip Leaders, we had plenty of support: a sunny day and **38 people!** Despite the fact that we all had to work pretty hard to find the birds we saw, and that we starved all those people until 1:30 pm, and the fact that everyone's cars were covered with mud by the end of the trip, we all had a fun day and managed to see 72 species of birds and lots of elk. We got some good looks at Pheasants, Rough-legged Hawks, Greater Yellowlegs, lots of Northern Harriers, and nine Tundra Swans. We saw 3 owls species, but it was still a little early to do much owling - maybe in March. Thanks to all for your kindness and patience, and a special thanks to the rangers at the refuge.

\*Phil and Linda Myers.

### SUNOL REGIONAL PARK, Feb. 5th.

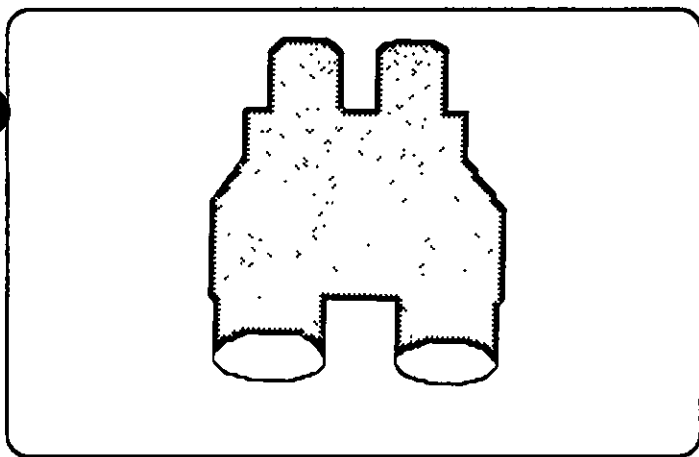
The day was warm and clear as four members went up the Alameda Creek in Sunol. There were many highlights to the day which included 51 species. Five or six Golden Eagles were seen, excellent views of Rufous Crowned Sparrows, an unusual Say's Phoebe, Golden-crowned Kinglets, and Townsend's Warbler. The highlight of the day was the Pygmy Owl that responded to our imitative call and came down to sit above our heads - a great view!

\*Jimm Edgar.

## NEW MEMBERS

We extend warm greetings to these new MDAS members and hope to meet them at our activities: Dyke Brown, Helena Burns, Mrs. FJ Cathcart Sr., Mrs. HB Crain, Mr.&Mrs. Jams Duncan, Barry Johnson, Joseph Knox, Louise Lawson, Ellen Minning, Larry Nolen, Lucille Quellmalz, Vivian Rorick, Duane Sample, Mrs. Douglas Scott, Ann Sweet, D.A. Vonsaxcobur, M.W. Jacobs, Patricia Wise.

March 1987



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## FIELD TRIPS

Wednesday, March 4, **Hayward Regional Shoreline**. Carpool 7:30 am El Cerro Blvd., just west of I-680 in Danville. Meet 8:15 in parking lot at entrance to Shoreline. Take I-680 south to Crow Canyon or I-580; so south on Nimitz I-880 to Winton Avenue exit and go west to the end of Winton. This is a good area for shorebirds and waterbirds. Last year we had longspurs. About 1 mile walking mostly level, can be muddy after rains.

Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486.

Saturday, March 7, **Willow Creek-Bodega Bay**. Owling along Willow Creek; meet 3:15 am in Occidental. We will bird by car along Willow Creek Road. Call leader Maury Stern for further details. 284-5980.

Late risers carpool 7 am, southwest corner of Sun Valley parking lot; meet 9 am at Tides Restaurant in Bodega. This area excellent for loons, grebes, shorebirds. Little walking.

Leaders: Gifford and Winnifred Young, 707-745-4134.

Thursday, March 12, **Limantour**. Carpool 7 am, southwest corner of Sun Valley parking lot; meet 8:30 at Pt. Reyes National Seashore Headquarters on Bear Valley Rd. Take Benicia Bridge, I-780 and I-80 to SR 37. From SR 37 take Atherton exit, go over US 101 and continue on San Marin Rd. Turn right on Novato Blvd., left onto Petaluma Blvd., which runs into Sir Francis Drake; turn right onto SR 1 and left onto Bear Valley Rd. Trails are fairly level, but may be muddy. 2-3 miles walking. Shorebirds, sea birds and waterfowl; also land birds at top of ridge.

Leader: Maury Stern, 284-5980.

Saturday & Sunday, March 14-15, **Sage Grouse Alternate**. If February trip is rained out, we will go to Susanville this weekend. Motel details in Feb. Quail. Call Jean Richmond for details. 837-2843.

Saturday, March 28, **Briones Reservoir**. Meet 7:30 at Briones Staging area intersection, Happy Valley and Bear Creek Rd. This is a new area (replaces scheduled trip to San Leandro

3

Reservoir) with varied habitat and the beginning of spring migration. All walking, could be muddy.

Leader: Neal Welsh, 798-0213.

Trips are open to members and nonmembers alike. Carpool time is departure time. Carpool expense: 5 cents per mile per rider is suggested; tolls and entry fees are shared equally by driver and riders. Bring binoculars, field guide and lunch. Trips go in light rain or drizzle; if in doubt call leader up to 1/2 hour before departure. time.

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## AUDUBON CAMP IN THE WEST

Wyoming, land of wide open spaces, of free roaming animals, blue-skies and snow capped peaks, trumpeter swans and alpine lakes, is the site of Audubon Camp in the West. This year a one week camp has been added to the traditional two-week sessions of this natural history experience that uses the outdoors as classroom. Fully accredited by the University of Wyoming, the program is open to the general public over the age of eighteen. In addition to the mini-courses, there is time for hiking, rock climbing, square-dancing, canoeing, and volleyball - plus an optional float trip down the spectacular Snake River in Grand Teton National Park. For more information, contact : NAS, 4150 Darley, Suite 5, Boulder, CO 80303. 303-499-5409.

Session 1: June 26-July 3, 1987, \$425.

Session 2: July 5-17, 1987, \$650

Session 2: July 19-31, 1987 \$650

Session 4: August 2-14, 1987 \$650

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## EDUCATIONAL TECHNIQUES FOR SHARING THE CONSERVATION ETHIC

Richardson Bay Audubon Center is offering a weekend mini course for developing your teaching techniques so that you can become an effective environmental educator in your community. Among the topics to be discussed will be teaching methods proven to be effective in promoting environmental awareness, how-to's for leading field trips, and techniques for making presentations. Among the instructors of the course are Beth Huning and Pam Armstrong, popular past speakers at MDAS meetings. The course will be held March 28 & 29. Saturday the course goes until 8:30 p.m.; Sunday, till 3. Three meals are included with the price of registration. If you are interested in going, please consult with Norah Bain before March 10 as to details.

## BIRD COUNT RESULTS

Eighty participants organized into 21 field parties and two feeder-watchers for the MDAS Christmas Bird Count. For the second year in a row we exceeded the magic 150 species barrier with a tally of 152 species. Special thanks to all participants and party leaders, to Joe Morlan of the Rare Bird Alert, and to friends from oth-

er chapters who helped make this count such a success. Thanks also to Britta Cascio and her volunteers who helped with the Potluck dinner and to members of the Rare bird Committee for reviewing details of the uncommon or rare species seen on our count.

-George Finger and Maury Stern

Red-throated Loon	Northern Harrier	Mew	Bushtit	Lark
Grebe, Pied-billed	Hawk, Sharp-shinned	Gull, Ring-billed	Nuthatch, Red-breasted	Sparrow, Sage
Eared	Cooper's	California	White-breasted	Savannah
Western	Red-shouldered	Herring	Brown Creeper	Fox
Clark's	Red-tailed	Thayer's	Wren, Rock	Song
Double-crested Cormorant	Golden Eagle	Western	Bewick's	Lincoln's
American Bittern	American Kestrel	Glaucous-winged	House	Golden-crowned
Great Blue Heron	Merlin	Rock Dove	Marsh	White-crowned
Great Egret	Falcon, Peregrine	Band-tailed Pigeon	American Dipper	Dark-eyed Junco
Green-backed Heron	Prairie	Mourning Dove	Kinglet, Golden-crowned	Blackbird, Red-winged
Black Crn. Night Heron	Ring-necked Pheasant	Common Barn-Owl	Ruby-crowned	Tricolored
Goose, Snow	California Quail	Western Screech-owl	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Western Meadowlark
Canada	Rail, Black	Great Horned Owl	Western Bluebird	Blackbird, Yellow-headed
Wood Duck	Virginia	White-throated Swift	Townsend's Solitaire	Brewer's
Green-winged Teal	Sora	Anna's Hummingbird	Hermit Thrush	Brown-headed Cowbird
Mallard	Common Moorhen	Belted Kingfisher	American Robin	Finch, Purple
Northern Pintail	American Coot	Acorn Woodpecker	Varied Thrush	Cassin's
Cinnamon Teal	Black-bellied Plover	Sapsucker, Red-naped	Wrentit	House
Northern Shoveler	Killdeer	Red-breasted	Northern Mockingbird	Pine Siskin
Gadwall	Black-necked Stilt	Woodpecker, Nuttall's	California Thrasher	Goldfinch, Lesser
American Wigeon	American Avocet	Downy	Water Pipit	American
Canvasback	Yellowlegs, Greater	Hairy	Cedar Waxwing	House Sparrow
Duck, Ring-necked	Lesser	Northern Flicker	Phainopepla	
Tufted	Willet	Phoebe, Black	Loggerhead Shrike	
Greater Scaup	Spotted Sandpiper	Say's	European Starling	
Surf Scoter	Long-billed Curlew	Tree Swallow	Hutton's Vireo	
Common Goldeneye	Sandpiper, Western	Jay, Steller's	Warbler, Yellow-rumped	
Bufflehead	Least	Scrub	Townsend's	
Common Merganser	Dunlin	American Crow	Common Yellow-throat	
Ruddy Duck	Long-billed Dowitcher	Common Raven	Towhee, Rufous-sided	
Turkey Vulture	Common Snipe	Chestnut-bkd Chickadee	Brown	
Black-shouldered Kite	Gull, Bonaparte's	Plain Titmouse	Sparrow, Rufous-Crowned	

**Bold-face type** indicates birds new to our historical list. The Tufted Duck, found by Bob Richmond and Jeff Greenhouse may be a new county record.

## CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

By Tom Streiffert

The Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum continues their guest speaker series this month. Michael Greenwald, the Curator of Paleontology at the U.C. Berkeley will be discussing the *Oldest Bones in America*, the dinosaurs. Greenwald is a highly esteemed scientist and patient digger who has discovered many important links to our past. Saturday, March 21. Tickets are \$4 for members, \$5 for non-members, call 935-1978.

Friends of the River will be hosting its *Third Annual Rivers Conference* in Sacramento on April 4th and 5th. The conference agenda includes a wide assortment of pertinent, informative workshops, focusing on the issues of river conservation and preservation, river history, nature and geology, and technical boating tips. There will also be a panel discussion on the controversial Auburn Dam, a special keynote speaker, auction, dance and river race. Contact Patty Hatfield in the Sacramento Friends of the River Office at (916) 442-3155.

The Cooper Ornithological Society's monthly meeting will feature Jeff Groth of U.C. Berkeley speaking on *Problems with Crossbills*. The meeting will be at 8p.m., Monday, March 2 in Room 2503, Life Sciences Building, UCB. Everyone interested in birds is welcome.

The Golden Gate Audubon Chapter's March program will feature a slide-discussion by Yoav Sagi, Secretary General of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel. Mr. Sagi will present a program on characteristic plant and animal life, as well as landscape phenomena, in Israel. He will give particular attention to Eliat, a center for a million migratory birds of prey such as the steppe eagle, steppe buzzard, and the black kite. He will also discuss conservation problems in Israel and how his organization has been instrumental in solving them. Everyone is welcome, March 12 at 7:30p.m. in the Josephine Randall Junior Museum in San Francisco, call 863-1399.



## OBSERVATIONS

By Donna Peake-Klein

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

1/6 Jimm Edgar spent an ambitious holiday season, participating in 6 Christmas Counts from L.A. to Spokane. Jim observed a **Rustic Bunting** on 1/6 in Renton Washington, one of many interesting species seen.

1/9 Seen at Pescadero: a **Rusty Blackbird**, **White-throated Sparrow** (white phase), **Orange-crowned Warbler**. (DW)

1/11-1/13 A **Purple Finch** was present in the Orinda garden of Hugh and Norah Bain, and a pair of **Varied Thrushes** was visiting until last report on 1/17. The **White-throated Sparrow** was also observed on this date.

1/14 Winnie and Gifford Young spent a sunny, cold and windy day at Bodega Bay. At Doran Pond they observed **Willetts**, **Godwits**, **Ruddy Turnstones**, **Black Turnstones**, **Wigeons**, **Pintails**. At Bodega Bay the Youngs saw **Red-throated Loon**, **Common Loon**, **Horned Grebe**, **Least Sandpipers**, **Dunlin** (many were banded) **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, **White-crowned Sparrows**.

1/15 Seen at White House Pool, Pt. Reyes, the **Brown Shrike**, 2 **Swamp Sparrows**; at 5-Brooks Pond: 2 male and 7 female **Hooded Mergansers**, male and female **Wood Ducks**, at Bolinas Lagoon: a male **Eurasian Wigeon**, male **Harlequin Duck**, male **Barrows Goldeneye**; at Nicasio Reservoir: **Ross' Goose**; and in the town of Nicasio: **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**. (B& JR)

1/16 Dennis Wolf and George Finger saw the **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** in Nicasio and the **Brown Shrike**, **Cattle Egret**, **Swamp Sparrow** in Olema.

1/18 An adult **Bald Eagle** was seen at Frick Lake (dry). (DW)

1/19 An adult **Bald Eagle** was observed on Santa Fe Grade Rd. (Merced NWR) (N&BF)

1/20 On a sunny trip to Thornton, Winifred and Gifford Young report the following: On Ramsey Rd beside route 680 near Benicia, The Youngs counted 108 **Tundra Swans** in marsh pond. They also saw many **Canada Geese** in the fields. On Route 12, going east past Grizzly Island turnoff, many **Whimbrels** were spotted. And on Woodbridge Road near Thornton, the Youngs observed **Great Blue Heron**, **Great Egret**, **Snowy Egret**, **Tundra Swans**, **Northern Harrier**, **Red-tailed Hawk**, **Kestrel**, **Black-shouldered Kite**, and several **Water Pipits**.

1/20 Seen at White House Pool: **Brown Shrike**, **Cattle Egret**; at the town of Inverness Park: **White-throated Sparrow**; at Spaletta Plateau: 8 **Lesser Golden-plovers**; at Pt. Reyes Lighthouse: 21 **Black Scoters**; and seen at 5-Brooks Pond: 2 male and 8 female **Hooded Mergansers**. (JR, MOB)

1/23 (and again 2/5) A **Lewis' Woodpecker** was seen at Bishop Ranch Open Space, San Ramon. (KH)

1/23-4 **Snowy Plovers** were spotted at Alameda South Shore (seen here again after being absent in recent years), and a male **Eurasian Wigeon** was seen at Arrowhead Marsh in Alameda. (JR, LM)

1/23-25 150 **Bald Eagles** and 10 **Eurasian Wigeons** were seen at Tule Lake NWR. (KH)

1/23-24 A **Barred Owl** was seen and on 1/25 an **Emperor Goose** was observed at Tule Lake. (KH)

1/26 5 **American Bittern** were seen standing on Santa Fe Grade Road. (JB, ED, JH, MS)

1/27 Seen at Bodega Bay were 1 **Marbled Murrelet** and 2 **Ancient Murrelets** (seen off Bodega Head), and a **White-throated Sparrow** (at Rail Ponds). (JR, MOB)

1/28 A **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** was observed at Palo Alto Baylands. (KH, GF)

1/29 A **Ferruginous Hawk** was spotted in San Ramon. (KH)

1/29 5 **Eurasian Wigeons** were sighted in San Leandro Bay and a **Harlequin Duck**

was seen in Bolinas Lagoon. (ED, JH)

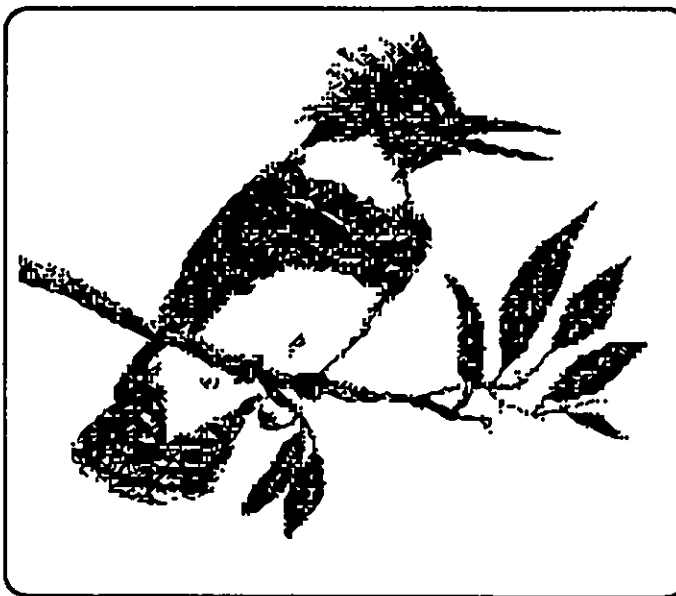
1/31 2 pairs of **Wood Ducks** were observed at Welsh Creek (near Sunol Regional Park) (DW) and 5 pair were seen on the west side of the Bridge. (M & JF)

2/3 1500 **Tundra Swans** were seen just north of Antioch Bridge; 2000 were in a flooded field along SR-12 east of Glascock Rd; 2000 **Sandhill Cranes** were observed along several roads between SR-12 and Peltier Rd; and 6 **Mountain Bluebirds** were seen along Murphy Rd, SE of Stockton. (JR, MOB)

2/5 A female **Merlin** was seen west of San Ramon Jr. High in Danville. (KA)

Also: A **Townsend's Warbler** is still frequenting the feeder in the Lafayette yard of Maury Stern. Margaret Wadsworth reports that a male **Wood Duck** was present at Heather Farms, and Linda Myers spotted a **Sora Rail** there as well (seen also by T&K Streiffert).

Observers: Kamran Alavi, Norah & Hugh Bain, Jed Baird, Elizabeth Dicky, Jimm Edgar, George Finger, Nancy & Bill La Framboise, Marcia & Jay Furry, Jan Hilton, Kevin Hintsa, Linda Myers, Bob & Jean Richmond, Maury Stern, Margaret Wadsworth, Dennis Wolff, Gifford & Winnifred Young.



**UNITED STATES RARE BIRD ALERTS**

- ALASKA: 907-274-9152
- ARIZONA: Tucson, 602-881-9464
- CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles, 213-874-1318  
Modesto, 209-571-0246  
Monterey, 408-449-6100  
Morro Bay, 805-528-7182  
Northern Calif., 415-528-0288  
Sacramento, 916-481-0118  
San Bernadino, 714-793-5599  
San Diego, 619-435-6761  
Santa Barbara, 805-964-8240
- COLORADO: Denver, 303-759-1060
- CONNECTICUT: 203-572-0012
- DELAWARE: 301-652-1088, 215-567-2473
- DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: 301-652-1088
- FLORIDA: 305-644-0190
- GEORGIA: Atlanta, 404-321-6079
- ILLINOIS: Central Illinois, 217-785-1083  
Chicago 312-671-1522
- IOWA: 319-622-3353
- KANSAS: 316-343-7061
- LOUISIANA: Baton Rouge, 504-927-2134
- New Orleans, 504-246-2473
- MAINE: 207-781-2332
- MARYLAND: 301-652-1088
- MASSACHUSETTS:  
Boston, 617-259-8805  
Western Mass., 413-569-6926
- MICHIGAN: 616-471-4919  
Southeast Michigan, 313-592-1811
- MINNESOTA: 612-544-5016  
Duluth, 218-525-5952
- MISSOURI: 314-449-7938  
Kansas City, 816-795-8177
- NEW HAMPSHIRE: 603-224-9900
- NEW JERSEY: 201-766-2661  
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Buffalo, 716-896-1271  
New York, 212-832-6523  
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- NORTH CAROLINA: 704-875-2525
- OHIO: S.W. Ohio, 513-277-6446
- Cleveland, 216-289-2473  
and 216-861-2447  
Columbus, 614-221-9736  
Toledo, 419-867-9765
- OREGON: 503-292-0661
- PENNSYLVANIA: West, 412-963-6104  
Philadelphia, 215-567-2473  
and 652-1088  
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- RHODE ISLAND: 401-521-4252
- SOUTH CAROLINA: 704-875-2525
- TEXAS: Austin, 512-451-3308  
Northcentral, 817-237-3209  
Rio Grande Valley, 512-565-6773  
San Antonio, 512-699-3013  
Texas Coast, 713-821-2846
- UTAH: 801-530-1299
- VERMONT: 802-457-2779
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- WASHINGTON: 206-526-8266
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- WYOMING: 307-265-BIRD

*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/year individual, \$38 family; introductory & senior 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. The Chapter benefits financially from membership applications it processes. Full membership is encouraged, but subscription to the Quail is available separate from membership at \$6/year. Check should be made to MDAS and mailed to MDAS Treasurer, Gifford Young, 1451 Janet Ct., Benicia, CA 94510. First class mailing of the Quail to member or nonmember is an additional \$3/year payable to MDAS & sent to Treasurer.*  
**ADDRESS CHANGES AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: Consult Linda Myers (415) 932-3489.**

*Kristi Streiffert, Editor, 1362 Pine Street, Pittsburg, CA 94565; (415) 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

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Education: Norah Bain, 254-4516  
Secretary: Edna Mass, 945-7634



APRIL 1987

Vol. 33 No. 6

Next Deadline: APRIL. 16

## April Program:

### SEA BIRDS AND MARINE MAMMALS OF MONTEREY BAY

Our speaker for the April meeting will be Debra Shearwater. Her presentation, "Sea Birds and Marine Mammals of Monterey Bay", has resulted from guiding hundreds of pelagic trips on Monterey Bay. Last year she spent 100 days on the Bay; this year she expects to spend 140.

Ms. Shearwater is a very astute observer and in her 10 years of Pelagic trips has managed to compile a list of sightings which are both national and state records. She has seen 303 Blue Whales, 3 Leatherback Turtles, and a megapod of 54 Killer Whales. In addition to these records, she has 5 single sight records of Streaked Shearwaters in Monterey Bay, the first of which was "taken" a la John J. Audubon style by an ornithologist with a permit. The remaining four she saw alive from her own craft. And yes, Shearwater is her legal name; she had it changed by court decree.

During our Bird Information section this month, Jean Richmond will continue her series of corrections to the **National Geographic Field Guide to Birds**. Bring your notebooks and tape

recorders. She'll be beginning with Fringillidae.

### ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS

The nominating committee is beginning its work in the search for next year's officers. If you are interested in serving on the committee, call Jimm Edgar right away to volunteer. If you are interested in serving as an officer of MDAS or in any of the committee positions, now is the time to get involved. Qualifications are minimal and we really need some enthusiastic workers to join our hardworking team.

*April 2*

Mount Diablo Audubon Society's monthly meeting will be held January 8th at the Willow Creek Center, 1026 Mohr Lane, Concord. Doors open at 6:30, Birding Information, 7pm; Business Meeting, 7:30; Social Time, 8; and Program at 8:30.

The Board Meeting (open to all interested members) will be April 9 at Barbara Vaughn's home, 59 Donna Maria Way, Orinda, 7:30 pm.

## CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

### DO YOU HAVE A MOUNTAIN LION AS A TROPHY ON YOUR WALL?

Latest information from the lair of the California Mt. Lion is they've been denied the right to vote. Some Mt. Lion leaders argue this is handicapping them in their battle to stave off "sportsmen" who wish to shoot the creatures. An unidentified, but reportedly reliable source tells CONSERVATION NOTES "it is true the lions' lack of a vote is a consideration in this whole dispute." Informed sources advise: prior to 1972 the population of the Mt. Lion was in serious decline. The State Legislature established a moratorium on lion hunting. A series of hearings is under way. The last is to be held in Sacramento, April 10th in the Resources Building Auditorium, 1416 Ninth St. So far CONSERVATION NOTES has been able to scotch rumors that the lions intend to pack the meeting. "Not True", asserts our informed source. If you want to write on the matter, send your letter to Calif. Fish and Game Comm., 1416 Ninth St., Sacramento, CA 95814. Info is available from Lion Preservation Fund, P.O. Box 1896, Sacramento, CA 95809, Phone: 915-442-2666

### WHITEWATER? OR DO YOU GIVE A DAM?

American Rivers Inc. asserts the "Kings River is the most endangered river in America." Congressman Richard H. Lehman has introduced H.R. 799 (with 100 co-sponsors) to designate Kings River as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system. If you want to help, write Richard H. Lehman, U.S. Congressman and Alan Cranston - Pete Wilson, U.S. Senators, Calif. Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510.

### DO YOU LIKE HARD BOILED EGGS?

If you answer "yes" then get the eggs out of the fridge and put them in a pan of California H<sub>2</sub>O. California water issues are once again starting to boil. One result of passage of the Clean Water Act is a requirement for EPA to be responsible for the undertaking of a major comprehensive study of the Bay, the Delta, Suisun Marsh, and the entire estuarian system. A group of environmental organizations will be part of the committee looking into the issues. Bay Area Audubon Chapters will select an individual to represent various interests.

On another front, hearings before the State's Water Quality Control Board will kick off early in July. Hearings, to be held throughout the State, may take more than a year to complete. The end result will be major determinations as to where the water goes, and where it doesn't. How can people, wildlife, birds, agriculture, fisheries, boating recreation all have a part of what is more and more seen as a diminishing resource? That will be a major goal of the hearings.

### CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Meeting of the General Plan Congress continue with heavy involvement of Audubon. Others who have particular desires to protect some of the county from over development are involved as well. The end result will be a revised General Plan

for Contra Costa County. Included in the County activity is a task force with responsibility of reviewing all existing County water policies. Senator John Nejedly, well known for his political activity, chairs the committee. The Committee is also providing proposed policy suggestions to the County General Plan Congress for study and possible inclusion in the new General Plan.

### DAMAGED WETLANDS - A POSSIBLE WIN??

Reports of an unauthorized filling of wetland involving creation of a yacht harbor in east County were directed to the attention of regulators. Under the date of March 9th a representative of BCDC wrote the property owner, in part: "That work is not authorized by a commission permit--I am writing to request that you cease this work immediately and either remove the violations or apply for the required permit. If you do not stop voluntarily, the Executive Director is prepared to issue a cease and desist order to compel you to stop." The next chapter will be awaited with interest.



1985 Cheryl Sweeney/Illustrator

## MONO LAKE CONTRIBUTIONS

The December issue of our newsletter stated that all Audubon members in California would be contacted by mail about the Mono Lake Legal Defense Fund. Unfortunately, not everyone was contacted. For those of you who want to support Audubon's continuing commitment to Mono Lake, please send contributions to National Audubon Society, Western Regional Office, 555 Audubon Place, Sacramento, CA 95825; attn: Daniel Taylor. Make checks to N.A.S.- Mono Lake Legal Defense Fund.

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## FIELD TRIPS

Trips are open to members and nonmembers alike. Carpool time is departure time. Carpool expense: 5 cents per mile per rider is suggested; tolls and entry fees are shared equally by driver and riders. Bring binoculars, field guide and lunch. Trips go in light rain or drizzle; if in doubt call leader up to 1/2 hour before departure time.

Wednesday, April 1, **North Briones Wildflower Walk.** Meet 9 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

Wednesday, April 8, **Special Trip to Nature Area at Walnut Heights Elementary School.** Meet 8:30 school parking lot, 4064 Walnut Blvd. Judy Alder, Coordinator of Nature Studies at Walnut Creek School District, will show us around. Depending on time, we may continue on to adjoining Shell Ridge Open Space.

For more info, call Elizabeth, 254-0486.

Saturday, April 11, **Donner Canyon.** Meet 7 am. at trail head, 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 1/2 mile past the center of Clayton. This is a steep, rugged 5 mile hike; interesting scenery, good birds. Carry lunch and liquids.

Leader: George Finger, 933-2468.

Wednesday, April 16, **West Briones.** Meet at 8 am in right hand parking lot at west entrance to Briones Regional Park. 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.

Thursday, April 23, **Lake Merced & Golden Gate Park.** Carpool 8 am, Acalanes Ave. off Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Fwy 24. Meet 8:45 Sunset Circle, San Francisco. Cross Bay Bridge, to south on US 101 and I-280. 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 for waterbirds. 1/2 mile walk on beach to see swallows. Can be cold and windy.

Leader: Elizabeth Dicky, 254-0486.

Saturday 25th, **Mines Road.** Call Jean Richmond for reservations and car pool instructions. There will be a maximum of 6 vehicles, at least 4 persons per car. Carpool 6:30 am, El Cerro Blvd just west of I-680. This is a long car birding trip with little walking. Bring lunch and liquid. Phainopepla, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Roadrunner, Wild Turkey, Lewis' Woodpecker, Costa's Hummingbird are frequent highlights. If we have sufficient interest, we will schedule another trip for those unable to get reservations (April 29th).

Leader: Jean Richmond, 837-2843.

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## CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

By Tom Streiffert

Norah Bain's *Bay Area Bird Walks* fields trips class will be on Tuesdays from 9am to 1pm, April 21, 28 and May 5. On May 12 a whole day is scheduled from 9am to 3pm. Register at the Orinda Community Center, \$33 for Orinda residents, \$35 for non-residents.

The Oakland Museum presents *Audubon of the West*. The graceful bird paintings of Andrew Jackson Grayson, a 19th-century pioneer, artist and naturalist, will be given their first public showing at the Museum April 25 to June 14. The exhibition of 156 watercolors and Grayson's field notes, journals and sketches, will also include bird specimens he collected for the Smithsonian Institution. This premier unveiling of the lifework of "Audubon of the West" follows the publication of *Birds of the Pacific Slope*, a full-scale portfolio of Grayson's bird portraits with an accompanying volume of his field notes. The Oakland Museum is located at 10th and Oak Streets, open Wed. to Sat. 10-5 and Sunday 12-7. Call 273-3401.

The Planning and Conservation League Foundation is offering a spectacular 12 day cruise to magnificent Alaska aboard Sitmar's luxurious TSS Fairsky. The cruise begins in San Francisco on August 18th and returns on August 30th, 1987. By purchasing your cruise through PCL Foundation, you not only receive a discount, but a portion of your cost is a tax-deductible donation. Your contribution helps fund their research and public education programs in their efforts to protect the environment. For more information write to: PCLF Alaskan Cruise, 909 12th Street Ste. 203, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Save Mt. Diablo and Mt. Diablo Interpretive Association, have published *April on the Mountain 1987 - A Schedule of Events*. Listed are numerous outings on Mt. Diablo with many local groups; this is a good way to get to know these groups and help preserve Mt. Diablo. Contact Bill or Gen Sattler at 685-5315.

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## AUDUBON ADVENTURES

Beautiful certificates for participating classes have been received by the chapter. If you are a sponsor and would like to personally present the certificates that bear your name, contact Norah Bain. She will give you the certificates, teacher name and information you will need to contact the teacher. Then call or write the teacher to arrange a time. Some sponsors may want to share some birding experiences, show slides (our chapter has a fine collection) or read a story during the visit. It is not too early to make plans for a classroom visit; the school year will be over before you know it. If Norah has not heard from sponsors, she will mail the certificates on May 15.

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## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### THORTON, Feb. 7th

Weather very good, birding excellent, 15 enthusiastic birders: who could want for anything more? Some of the highlights among the 67 species observed: 1000 Tundra Swans, 2000 Sandhill Cranes, Great Blue Heron in dark gray to black plumage, Red-Shouldered Hawk, Barn Owl, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and Ruff. Ruff was 2 1/2 miles west of Hwy 5 on Woodbridge Rd.; bird initially observed on Feb. 7th by David Lee, Stockton Audubon.

\*Merv Ortez

### SUSANVILLE WEEKEND, Feb 21-22.

Eleven members and guests traveled to Susanville for a beautiful weekend in the Eastern Sierra and Great Basin Habitats. On Saturday we spent the early morning at the Sage Grouse area in 15 degree cold, crisp weather and saw 15 male sage grouse; 3 were actively displaying. The rest of the day was spent exploring the Honey Lake Wildlife Refuge and the Jonesville area. Three Northern Shrikes were seen as well as many raptors. Late in the afternoon we were treated to the settling in of tens of thousands of Snow Geese. On Sunday morning we explored the new Susan River trail which would be an ideal springtime birding spot. Jimm Edgar found a house in town with many feeding evening grosbeaks, Cassin's Finches, Pine Siskins, and tame Mountain Chickadees. After a visit to Lake Leavitt where two adults and one immature bald eagles were seen, we disbanded.

86 species were seen by the group and an additional 5 species were seen at other times. The highlight birds included: 60 American White Pelicans, Tundra Swans, 3 goose species, 15 species of ducks, 4 Bald Eagles, a probable Northern Goshawk, Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks (many), 1 Merlin, 1 Prairie Falcon, Chukar (heard), 15 Sage Grouse, Sandhill Cranes, Common Barn Owl, Great Horned Owl, 3 Short-eared Owls, Lewis' Woodpecker, Canyon and Winter Wrens, and Cassin's Finch.

\*Maury Stern

# AUDUBON ADVENTURES



## 1986-87

This is to certify that this class is a member of the AUDUBON ADVENTURES CLUB, a national network of young conservationists committed to improving the quality of their environment.

*Marshall T. Case*  
Marshall T. Case  
Vice President, Education

*Peter A.A. Berle*  
Peter A.A. Berle  
President, National Audubon Society

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

### BODEGA BAY, March 7th.

The field trip to Bodega Bay was plagued by low tide for the whole day so birds were far out and hard to see in some of our favorite places. Our group included owlers who joined us at the Tides. Altogether there were 14 birders. 83 species were seen. The most unusual was the Rock Sandpiper found at Bodega Head, and 25 Surfbirds seen at the same place, counted by Maury Stern. Everyone enjoyed watching an immature Sora at the Rail Pond.

Gifford and Winnie Young.

### LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR, Feb 25th.

Many of our members enjoy Lafayette Reservoir's pleasant birding in our own back yard. The pleasant day of our walk gave us excellent views of the frequently heard but seldom seen Wrentit. Also observed were Hutton's Vireos calling, White-throated Swifts, and a loon on the lake (possible Red-throated). A total of 40 species for the day.

\*Mary Jane Culver.

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## MDAS PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

**BIRDING NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**, Jean Richmond. A Valuable 144 page guide to 72 birding sites. This book is so popular it has gone to second printing. On sale at nature book stores, museums or ranger stations, or order from MDAS for \$10.00 plus \$1.35 handling. Calif tax is \$0.65, for a total of \$12.

**Audubon Daily Field List: Birds of Northern California.** 4x7 inch list of all birds normally found in the area. Cost: 25 cents and self addressed stamped envelope.

**Birds of Contra Costa County, Checklist.** 4.25x7 inch list gives occurrences of all birds for each month of year, brief comments on habitat. Cost: 35 cents and self addressed stamped envelope.

## OBSERVATIONS

By Donna Peake-Klein

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

2/3 A male **Yellow-rumped Warbler** has made daily visits to the hummingbird feeder in the Concord yard of Betty Gallagher.

2/9 A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was observed at Hall Ranch, Pt. Reyes. (DW,MS)

2/9 Jean Richmond reports a **Prairie Falcon** over her Alamo yard. This is also the date of the first sighting of **Allen's Hummingbird** - 2 weeks later than usual for Jean's garden.

2/10 Seen at Stafford Lake near Novato: 1 **Ross' Goose**, 3 **Cattle Egrets** were seen at White House Pool; in the town of Inverness Park, 5 **Tundra Swans**, and 3 **White-throated Sparrows** were sighted; again at Hall Ranch the **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was seen; and also at Petaluma Rd. at Novato Blvd. a

beautiful adult **Ferruginous Hawk** perched on a rock outcrop was observed. (JR, MJC, GF, MP)

2/14 A **Spotted Owl** was spotted at Tomales Bay State Park (DW). Also this date, 30 **White-faced Ibis**, 1 immature **Bald Eagle**, and 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs** were seen at Sante Fe Grade Rd.; 2 **Ferruginous Hawks**, 19 **Mountain Plovers** and 1 **Vesper Sparrow** were observed at Little Panoche Rd.; 35 **Mountain Bluebirds** were sighted at BLM Access Rd.; and 4 **Ferruginous Hawks**, 2

**Golden Eagles** and 60 **Lesser Golden-Plovers** were seen in Panoche Valley (J&RR).

2/15 Winifred and Gifford Young report seeing many species at Lake Solano and Putah Creek. Especially interesting were a **Snow Goose**, **Ross' Goose**, **Canada Goose** & **Mute Swan**. Winnie says its "wings were held high, neck in S shape - Has anyone else seen one there?" This sighting was near Diversion Dam. A beaver was seen swimming in Lake Solano.

2/15 A **Peregrine Falcon** was observed at Hayward Shoreline (DW).

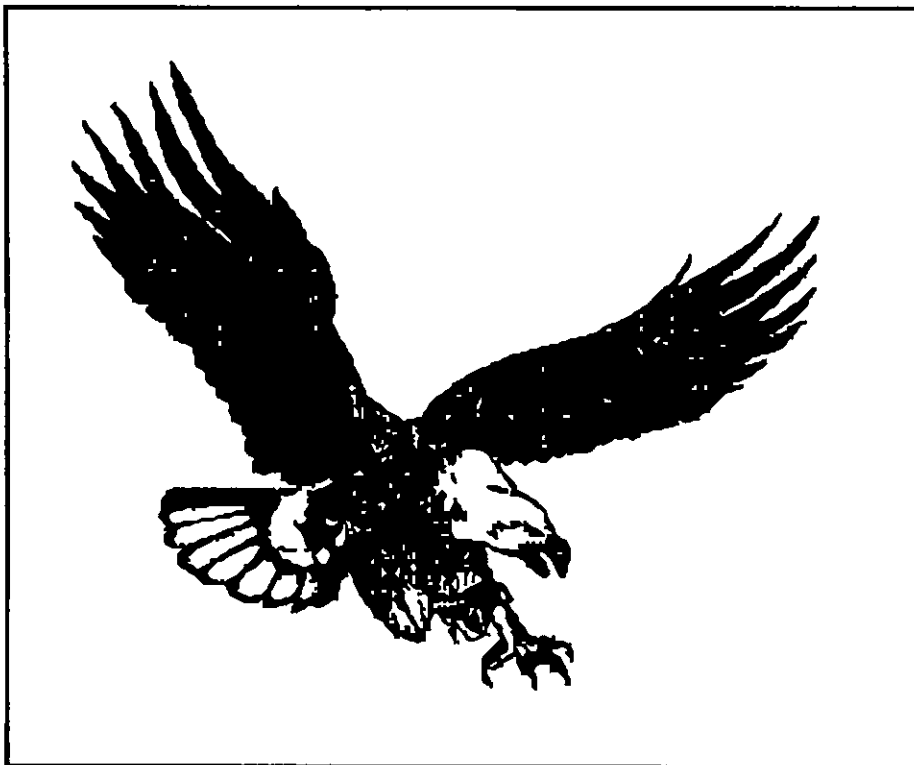
2/20 10 **Bald Eagles** were seen on a Park Ranger led boat

trip on Lake Antonio (SW of King City on G14). 2 **Osprey**, hundreds of **Western Grebes**, **Mergansers**, **American White Pelicans**, **Canada Geese** were also observed. (46 **Bald Eagles** roost here Jan. through early March).

2/21-22 On a trip to Arizona, John Ascher observed many species in the Madera Canyon area, including the following: **Stickland's Woodpecker**, **Eastern Bluebird**, **Crissal Thrasher**, **Pyrrhuloxia**, **Yellow-eyed Junco**.

2/23 7 adult and immature **Bald Eagles** and 1 **Eurasian Wigeon** were seen at Tule Lake, and 1 male and 2 female **Hooded Mergansers** were observed at Lower Klamath Refuge (ED).

3/1 Bolinas Lagoon had a male **Harlequin Duck** in full breeding plumage. A male **Eurasian Wigeon** was seen at Bodega Bay, and an **Osprey** was spotted on the road between Bodega and Bolinas (EF).



3/3 1 male **Eurasian Wigeon** and a female **Blue-winged Teal** were sighted a Limantour Natural Area (JR).

3/4 A **Cattle Egret** was spotted at the Berkeley Marina (SM). Seen at Hayward Regional Shoreline were **Common Teal**, **Osprey** (ED). And **Cattle Egret**, **Snipes**, **Killdeer**, **White-fronted Geese**, and **Canada Geese** were observed at Martinez Shoreline (JD).

Other observations this month: Maury Stern reports 2

"Slate-colored" **Juncos** in his Lafayette garden. Norah Bain also has "Slate-colored" **Juncos** in her Orinda yard, as well as a **White-throated Sparrow** and **Townsend's Warbler**. Jean Richmond has spied **Red-shouldered Hawks** above her Alamo home several Feb. dates. And Kristi and Tom Streiffert saw adult and immature **Bald Eagles** while rafting the Eel River between Dos Rios and Fort Seward.

Observers: John Ascher, Norah and Hugh Bain, Mary Jane Culver, John Davis, Elizabeth Dickey, Elissa Fazio, George Finger, Betty Gallagher, Suzanne Methvin, Marjorie Plant, Jean and Rich Richmond, Maury Stern, Krisit and Tom Streiffert, Dennis Wolff, Winifred and Gifford Young.

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONSERVATION AWARD TO MDAS MEMBER

Jean Richmond is has been chosen to receive the 1987 John Muir Award. We are very proud of her. Congratulations, Jean!

### BIRDATHON '87

The 1987 Audubon Birdathon will be April 26, Audubon's 202 birthday. To participate in this fund raiser, call John Bornem an at (805) 658-6064 for sponsor sheets.

### AGENDA ITEMS FOR BUSINESS MEETING

Those who have discussion items for monthly meetings, please call the President to have these announcements put on the agenda. Our monthly meetings have been running long and this will be one way we can streamline the proceedings.

### NOT AN APRIL FOOLS JOKE!!

If you are willing to donate any frozen dead birds for chapter use in a taxidermy class, please bring them frozen to April 2 meeting. Questions: Norah Bain, 254-4516.

### SECOND PRINTING

This month, MDAS's publication *Birding Northern California* by Jean Richmond is going into it's second printing. Many thanks to all who helped make it so successful, particularly Gifford Young.

## NEW MEMBERS

We extend warm greetings to these new MDAS members and hope to meet them at our activities: Georgia Resh, Leon Wyrick, P. Alexander, Glenn Allen, Nancy Anderson, Marie Arden, Joseph Baker, T. Barton, Catherine Beaunae, Paul Belden, Donald Benson, Jeanette Bergman, Betty Bias, Mrs. Den Boasberg, N. Boero, H. Bump, Jim Burch, Mr. Emerald Chao, Ann Clayworth, Mrs. George Clute, Roberta Cooney, Alfred Courchesne, Alma Davies, barbara Deeming, Joan Deiro, Mrs. Robert Downing, Candace Dunn, Tracy Dunn, George Edgerton, W. Edmonson, John Eseltine, William Faisst, Betty Franceschi, Sandy Gangwer, Laurance Grady, Donald Green, A. Grissom, Dale Hendrickson, Loretta Hogan, Mr&Mrs W. Holmes, Val Hubert, Ruth Johnson, Richard Kohler, William Laird, Robert Landfear, P. Lapointe, Robert Lausten, Rene Lazure, V. Lebrun, James Merys, Irene Minao, Robert Minogue, Mrs. Donald Mitchell, Sally Mueller, Jeff Myrs, Mrs. Wm Nelson, Mrs. R. Nielsen, John Oneil, Sheila Pedersen, Susan Phalen, Mr&Mrs J. Phillips, Ben Pickles, Mrs. V. Radosevich, Joan Ranallo, Kristine Rasnussen, Alan Riodan, E. Roman, C. Roybal, Charles Rutter, J. Sage, Doris Schaub, Monique Schneider, Mrs. Renate Schroeder, Margaret Shaw, Jean Shebanek, Paula Shideler, Lucy Smith, Randy Smith, Robert Sparrow, J. Sterling Jr., Inez Stuart, Randall Sturgeon, Sandy Taylor, D. Tinnes, Patricia Townsend, Mrs. L. Tycker, Glenn Umont, T. Van Skike, Pat Vincnet, L. Wagner, Mrs. Wm Whitsell, Diane Wiliamson.

*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/year individual, \$38 family; introductory & senior 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. The Chapter benefits financially from membership applications it processes. Full membership is encouraged, but subscription to the Quail is available separate from membership at \$6/year. Check should be made to MDAS and mailed to MDAS Treasurer, Gifford Young, 1451 Janet Ct., Benicia, CA 94510. First class mailing of the Quail to member or nonmember is an additional \$3/year payable to MDAS & sent to Treasurer.*

**ADDRESS CHANGES AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:** Consult Linda Myers (415) 932-3489.

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

### **THE QUAIL**

Mt. Diablo Audubon Society  
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Walnut Creeck, 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

President: Jimm Edgar, 658-2330  
VP Programs: Neal Welsh, 798-0213  
VP Conservation: Al McNabney, 945-1785  
Treasurer: Gifford Young, (707) 745-4134  
Field Trips: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486  
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Publicity: Barbara Vaughn, 376-5041  
Hospitality: Britta Cascio, 837-2895  
Editor: Kristi Streiffert, 439-0759  
Education: Norah Bain, 254-4516  
Secretary: Edna Mass, 945-7634



MAY 1987

Vol. 33 No. 6

Next Deadline: May 15

## May Program:

# THE JOY OF BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY

Doctor Dennis Mallory will be the speaker at our May 7 meeting of the Mount Diablo Audubon Society. Dr. Mallory, a retired dentist, is a graduate of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, where he completed courses in both Bird Biology and Bird Photography, and was later retained by them as a photographic consultant. During the program we will see slides of North American birds, full-framed and uncropped, taken with the most modern Nikon equipment.

Dr. Mallory is both a rancher and an ardent environmentalist. He is a pioneer advocate of habitat stewardship who finds no conflict with the goals of land usage. Operating from an array of five different blinds, he manages to photograph birds and other wild creatures without upsetting territorial, courtship and nesting behavior.

Among his other credits, Dr. Mallory is past president of the Northern California Council of Camera Clubs and he is vice-chairman of the Nature Division of the Photographic Society of America. And, of course, he is a member of our own Mt. Diablo chapter of N.A.S.

During our bird information segment this month, Hugh and Norah Bain will cover **Spring Bird Songs**. This instruction with slides and tape recorder will give us a good start on spring birding.

## NOW'S YOUR CHANCE!

Have you ever wished for access to a top-of-the-line personal computer? Have you ever wanted to make a special contribution to the workings of the MDAS chapter? Well, now's your chance. The current editor of **The Quail** is moving to Texas in May, and we need an immediate replacement. The job requires 12-15 hours per month and is great fun. Call Jimm Edgar for details.

Mount Diablo Audubon Society's monthly meeting will be held the first Thursday of the month at the Willow Creek Center, 1026 Mohr Lane, Concord. Doors open at 6:30, Birding Information, 7pm; Business Meeting, 7:30; Social Time, 8; and Program at 8:30.

The Board Meeting (open to all interested members) will be announced at May meeting.

## CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

### GARBAGE: MY YARD OR YOURS?

A helicopter trip over the County. A 4-wheel drive vehicle skids and slithers over rough terrain. In both instances the occupants are seeking out, or looking at suitable landfill sites. Such activity is but a small part of the ongoing, serious study underway to find one or more location in Contra Costa County where solid waste (garbage) can be put for the next 25 to 50 years. A site near the Naval Weapons Depot appears to have advantages but requires a naval engagement (discussions with navy brass). Kirker Pass, where even mention of the area brings huge outcries. (Like NO! NO!) A site near Hercules - said to be off limits due to a "proposed" housing development some distance away. An apt comment in the Contra Costa Times put it this way: "County Supervisor Sunne McPeak of Concord, task force chairwoman cautioned against dismissing a site just because nearby land had the potential for homes some day. We could plan the whole....county for houses and have no room left for landfill."

No one wants a landfill site nearby. The serious approach being taken to finding a solution for the County Solid Waste disposal problems seems to indicate there WILL be a site selected.

### MY LAWN WAS GREEN

Contra Costa residents have enjoyed some wonderful, mild, dry winter weather. The arrival of Spring has continued the great weather. The flowering shrubs, trees, acacia (and weeds) have become evident and in profusion. Outside my house the resident and visiting birds have been so cheerful with their springtime song they've jarred the stillness of the dawn. AH, but wait!!! What's that we are seeing on the horizon? Yep, it's dust. For our beautiful winter has left us with the spectre of a very dry summer. Water conservation is being called for by the water agencies serving Contra Cost County. Pundits say, "plenty of water for peoples, & usual needs but take care in watering gardens, lawns and even washing the car." Get out your most recent water conservation material and read up on it. Use too much water and shortages will be the order of the day. Then just wait till next year!

### DEVELOPMENT, WILDLIFE, PEOPLE

Evidences of unrest among people in Calif. over the pace of growth, lack of planning and allied problems appears in the media almost daily. Voter action, demanding controls on growth and construction are now important political considerations. Growth has come so rapidly to the Contra Costa area there has been little opportunity to upgrade much of the infrastructure. The result, as just about everyone knows, is jammed city streets. Highway traffic so dense it creates substantial hazards for motorists. Fire prevention facilities are strained. Water resources, if adequate now, face costly changes to ensure supply is adequate and quality upgrades.

Prime agricultural land is purchased by developers. Habitat for the Burrowing Owl, for example, will soon be covered with concrete and houses, unless someone speaks up. Huge development projects produce hundreds of new houses (mostly expensive). Soon after completion of the houses and office buildings people begin to move in. Traffic worsens, infra-structure problems increase.

Residents have the right to decide what sort of world they want to live in. Right now the County and several cities are involved in the initial process of revising and updating the "General Plan". Citizens have a vital interest in how the General Plan(s) accommodate the problems of growth/quality of life. Those who know and understand environmental matters have great responsibilities to watch the general plan make-up, lest inadequate attention be given to environmental issues.

From the point of view of people who know and understand nature, development has to be made aware of the needs of wildlife, birdlife, native plants. If such awareness is not evidenced by planners, developers and regulators, concerned people have to act. The world in which we live is changing rapidly. You have the right and obligation to try to soften the changes so as to improve, not destroy nature. Decisions having long, long term effects are being made. If you want your voice heard, contact YOUR district's member of the Board of Supervisors and your City Council.



1985 Donna J Barr

## FIELD TRIPS

Trips are open to members and nonmembers alike. Carpool time is departure time. Carpool expense: 5 cents per mile per rider is suggested; tolls and entry fees are shared equally by driver and riders. Bring binoculars, field guide and lunch. Trips go in light rain or drizzle; if in doubt call leader up to 1/2 hour before departure time.

**Saturday, May 2, Mallory Ranch.** Carpool 7 am El Cerro Blvd. just west of I-680. Meet 8 am Mallory Ranch, 10501 Margan Territory Rd. Go south on I-680, east on I-580 to North Livermore exit; north on North Livermore, left on Manning, right onto Morgan Territory Rd; 4 miles to top of grade; watch for address on mailbox. About 1 mile of gravel drive to house. Dr. and Mrs. Mallory have invited us to visit their ranch in the east Contra Costa Hills. Woodland and chaparral birds near the peak of nesting season. Considerable walking, may be hot. Carry water.

Leader: Elizabeth Dicky, 254-0486

**Thursday, May 7, Alum Rock Park, San Jose.** Carpool at El Cerro Blvd. just west of I-680, 8 am. Meet at park at 9:15. Take I-680 South to Alum Rock Rd. exit, east. Follow Alum Rock Rd. to park. Meet east end of first parking lot.

Leader: Barbara Vaughn, 376-5041

**Wednesday, May 13, Mt. Diablo.** Carpool at El Cerro Blvd. just west of I-680, 7:30 am. Meet 8 am in parking area on left just before the entrance to Rock City. There is a \$2 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: Jimm Edgar, 658-2330

**Saturday, May 16, Mitchell Canyon Wildflower Walk.** 9 am, Mitchell Canyon parking lot. There is a \$2 fee on weekends. From I-680 in Walnut Creek take Yganicio Valley Rd. to Clayton Rd, right on Clayton Rd. to Mitchell Canyon Rd and follow to end. This trip takes up most of the morning with emphasis on wildflowers. Birders can continue in the afternoon to look for gnatcatchers, summer sparrows, etc. 1-2 mile walk up gently sloping dirt road. Often hot, carry liquids and lunch if birding later.

Leader: John Davis, 228-9516

**Thursday, May 21, Caswell State Park.** Carpool at 6:30 am, El Cerro Blvd. just west of I-680. Meet 8 am at Caswell State Park. Take I-680 south to I-580 and east to I-205. Turn east on SR 20 to US 99. South on US 99 to Austin Rd and follow this to end at entrance to park. \$2 fee. This has been a consistently good spot for Swainson's Hawks also riparian species. Durham Ferry has Blue Grosbeaks. Level walking, often muddy; probably mosquitos. San Joaquin Valley weather.

Leader: Maury Stern, 284-5980

**Saturday, May 30, Outer Pt. Reyes.** Carpool 6:30 am, Acalanes Ave. off Pleasant Hill Rd. just North of Hwy. 24 or 242. Meet at Drakes Beach 8:30. Cross San Rafael Bridge, from US 101, take San Rafael exit. Go 2 blocks, turn left 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 Drakes 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: Fred Safier, 934-2906



© Laura Zerzan From "ECONEWS"

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## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

**OWL TRIP, March 3.**

Thirteen members and guests gathered at 3:15 am for 3 hours of owling on Willow Creek Road near Occidental. Several Great Horned Owls and Screech Owls were attracted by the owl tapes, but only two Screech Owls were seen by one member of the group. Next year we'll try evening owling earlier in the breeding season.

\*Maury Stern

**PT REYES, LIMANTOUR TRIP, March 12.**

Four members and 1 guest traveled to Pt. Reyes on a rainy morning. We had several hours of dry weather before the heavy rains began in earnest. 70 species were seen including: 12 duck species, Rough-winged and Barn Swallows, Orange-crowned and Townsend's Warblers. Several life birds were seen by our guest from Michigan.

\*Maury Stern

**DONNER CAYNON, April 11.**

Thirteen birders enjoyed a beautiful, cool day on the mountain. Although the wildflowers were not as lush as in other years, the view of the canyon from the trail to the waterfalls was still spectacular. It wasn't always easy to find the birds because the trees seemed to have leafed out before the migrants arrived. But, there were sharp eyes and ears in our group and 72 species were seen or heard (about 20 more than average for this outing). Highlights included two Golden Eagles, a probable Swainson's Hawk, Dusky Flycatchers and a Prairie Falcon as we were leaving the parking lot. While the total number of birds was low, we did see many of the usual migrants.

\*George Finger

**AUDUBON ADVENTURES**  
**Attn: Members and Teachers**

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 sponsorer and each child is given a membership card and an owl decal. A leader's guide is provided to the teacher. A sponsorer can, for \$20, give all this to a class of 32 for an entire year! Now is the time to plan for the 1987-8 school 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 Chair, 32 Via Farrallon, Orinda, CA 94563

NOTE: Those current sponorerers who wish to present this year's certificates in person may contact Norah or Sharon Fernadez (687-2548) for ideas.



I am applying for my class and would like a sponsorer: \_ \_ \_ \_  
 Teacher's name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 School & Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of students: \_\_\_\_\_



I wish to sponsor \_ \_ \_ class/classes.  
 Enclosed is \$20 for each class.  
 Teacher's name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 School & Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Students: \_\_\_\_\_

Or: I will sponsor class/classes designated by MDAS chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address & Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



**CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS**

*By Tom Streiffert*

**Natural Excursions** is an extension of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory education program, offering outstanding bird and natural history courses to dynamic habitats of the bird world. Destinations this summer include the United Kingdom, Colorado, Sequoia-King's Canyon and other two and three day classes. Contact the PRBO at (415) 868-1221 for a 1987 schedule.

An **Oakland Museum** exhibition entitled "*California Species*", is designed to celebrate the diversity of California's native species of plants and animals. The juried exhibit features 60 works on paper and in other media by 39 artists, most of them Californians, and will be on view until June 21. The work ranges from black and white drawings of ferns to vivid serigraphs of rockfish; wolf eels lying in wait for a meal to precise scientific renditions of beetles; the extinct saber-tooth cat to the common western fence lizard; life-size sandhill cranes; fanciful owls. The Museum is located at 10th and Oak Streets in downtown Oakland. Call 273-3401 for more information.

Kristi and I went on a Delta trip with **Biological Journeys** this last month and recommend them highly. **Biological Journeys** offers *Golden Gate Whale Cruises*, and cruises to the *Farallon Islands*. Extended whale watching and natural history expeditions also go to Baja California, Galapagos and Southeast Alaska. Call (415) 527-9622 for a brochure.

**Point Reyes Field Seminars** offer a variety of courses in natural history, environmental education, and the arts. May courses include nature photography, drawing, botany, birding, and family outings. The program is a self-supporting non-profit activity, sponsored by the Coastal Parks Association. Call (415) 663-1200 for a Spring catalog.

**NOTE FROM THE EDITOR**

It has been an honor for me to work with such a wonderful group as MDAS. This is truly a special organization filled with caring, kind, and interesting people. I had been looking forward to a couple more years as editor, then maybe something new. This is the kind of organization that fosters loyal and dedicated workers. Thanks to all of you for your support and input this last year. Thank you to all those who contribute monthly: Neal, Al, Donna, Elizabeth, Tom, and field trip leaders. Production of **The Quail** is a complicated process involving many people. Thanks to all those who participate in the labeling and mailing process, especially Mary Jane and Marilyn.

## OBSERVATIONS

By Donna Peake-Klein

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

- 3/10 Seen at Lake Lagunitas: 9 male and 9 female Ring-necked Ducks. A Pileated Woodpecker was also heard here. (JR, MOB)
- 3/11 A male Green-winged "Common" Teal, 2 Lapland Longspurs, and 100 Tricolored Blackbirds were observed at Hayward Regional Shoreline. (BR, JR)
- 3/14 Spotted at Annadel State Park were a Pileated Woodpecker, Wood Duck, Common Goldeneye. (W&GY)
- 3/15 While on vacation in the Dragoon Mountains of Southeast Arizona, Florence Schultz saw the following species: Gilded Flicker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Vermillion Flycatcher. Observed at Oregon Pipe Cactus National Monument were Hooded Orioles and several species of hummingbirds, including Broad-billed, White-eared, Blue-throated, Black-chinned.
- 3/17 23 Snowy Plovers were sighted at Pillar Point Harbor in Princeton. (JR)
- 3/23 A White-throated Sparrow stopped by Jean Richmond's Alamo garden.
- 3/24 A Golden Eagle was spotted on a ridge top fence post at Briones. (NB)
- 3/24 The Brown Shrike was seen at White House Pool, and observed at Spaletta Plateau were 1 Lapland Longspur in winter plumage, and 1 male Chestnut-colored Longspur going into breeding plumage. (JR,BF,F&RN)
- 3/25 Bullocks Orioles arrived in Jean Richmond's Alamo yard, and on 3/28 Hooded Orioles first visited.
- 3/29 A male Blue-winged Teal and 2 male Tufted Ducks were seen at Lake Merrit near the Rotary Science Center.(ED)
- 3/31 Seen at Bolinas Lagoon was a male Harlequin Duck in full breeding plumage; a singing Yellow Warbler was spotted at Volunteer Canyon entrance; a female Barrow's Goldeneye off Audubon Canyon ranch; and seen at White House Pool was the Brown Shrike going into adult plumage, and a singing Wilson's Warbler. (JR)
- 4/1 A "Myrtle Warbler" in full breeding plumage was observed in the Lafayette garden of Maury Stern.
- 4/4 A Spotted Dove was seen collecting nesting material on the corner of Darlene and William Way in Concord. (KA)
- 4/5 A White-throated Sparrow visited the Martinez yard of Elinore Wheeler.

Also this month: Jean Richmond has observed 1-2 Red-shouldered Hawks over her Alamo home on several March dates. Jean also reports an Osprey nest at St. Columba's Church in Inverness is occupied again this year. One bird appears to be incubating, another at or near the nest. Eric and Elissa have seen male Allen's Hummingbirds while working in southeast Walnut Creek. George Finger advises to watch for Black-legged Kittiwakes at Moss Landing and Monterey areas.

Observers: Kamran Alavai, Norah Bain, Elizabeth Dickey, Eric & Elissa Fazio-Rhiscard, George Finger, Bud Fry, Curran Jensen, Fran & Roy Nelson, Jean & Bob Richmond, Florence Schultz, Maury Stern, Elinore Wheeler, Winnie and Gifford Young.

## LIFETIME CONSERVATION AWARD

At the annual dinner of the John Muir Memorial Association on March 23, John Davis was presented the Lifetime Conservation Award. This honor is in recognition of his years of tireless efforts on behalf of conservation in this area, his work on many civic affairs in Martinez, and his lengthy contribution to the projects of the association. He has given unselfishly of his time and talents to so many worthwhile programs in our area, including MDAS, and it is indeed a pleasure to see him so highly honored.

## NEW MEMBERS

We extend warm greetings to these new MDAS members and hope to meet them at our activities: Henry Bagley, Mrs. Geo Brose, Emma Bureri, Lisa Gorrell, Charles Johnson, Mrs. Penn Keller, D. R. Maslenikov, Janet Miller, James Morrow, V. Nelson, John W. Olander, Barbara Phillips, Harold Reay, Ron Reese, Arnold Ridings, Mr.&Mrs. E.G. Rossman, Philip Sapunor, Djonald Schoux, Raymond Theiss, John Tonner, Sayf Alusi, Russell Andrews, Karol Bassett, Kathleen Bradford, J.B. Churchill, M. Crow, Lois Dean-Anderson, Mrs. Timothy Finn, Patti Foust, X. Holm, Jane Hansaker, Elaine Leontini, Nancy Marshall, Jack McFadin, John Nattkemper, Peter Pellegin, Alexandra Saunders, L. Seidenfein, Andrea Stevens, Donald Tallman, Bill Wylie, Mrs. N. Ahern, Justin Alkanlowder, Jere Anderson, Patricia Barron, Mrs. J. Alan Campbell, Gary Caspillo, Kathryn Funk, William Gates, Paul Godbold, Judith Goodrich, Cheryl Haigh, Henry Hanson, Donald Hardin, Mrs. Floy Harman, Barbara Holway, Robert Huffstutler, A. Iremonger, Dennis King, John Liu, L.J. Marek, Don Mathews, Mike Nelson, Mary O'Donnell, M. Patterson, Ruth Roskelley, Betty Smith, Rita Spies, H.E. Sobalvarro, Richard Stansberry, Patti Staples, Carla Thompson, William Wakeman, Dorothy Wanamaker.



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## ANCIENT FORESTS... PRICELESS TREASURES

Come join us in the Pacific Northwest for five action packed days at the National Audubon Society Biennial Convention! Provocative speakers, a variety of interesting field trips, entertainment, and social interaction opportunities will make this an and timely Convention, one that you won't want to miss.

For those who can spent a few days before or after the convention in the Pacific Northwest, a varied selection of outstanding pre-Convention and post-Convention tours will be offered by local chapter experts.

The theme of this year's convention is "Ancient Forests - Priceless Treasures" and will focus on this international topic of great importance. We will be examining the old growth forest of the Pacific Northwest, as well as the tropical rainforest around the world. Other topics include the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, endangered species, Platte River, radioactive waste disposal, acid rain, wetlands, and fishery resources. The multifac-

ceted program offers something for everyone, with workshops delving into activism, leadership training, educational outreach, chapter effectiveness and administration, fundraising, priority setting, and land management. There will also be special opportunities for chapter representatives to meet with Audubon's leadership.



The Convention will run from Monday, August 24th to Saturday, August 29th. There is a \$50 per person registration fee to offset convention expenses. A daily registration of \$10 will be charged for part-timers. Call 916-481-5332 for a registration form and brochure. Lodging and meals are available from Western Washington University; cost is around \$220. The Convention Brochure has complete details. Make reservations early to assure yourself a place on the Field Trips and tours.

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*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/year individual, \$38 family; introductory & senior 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. The Chapter benefits financially from membership applications it processes. Full membership is encouraged, but subscription to the Quail is available separate from membership at \$6/year. Check should be made to MDAS and mailed to MDAS Treasurer, Gifford Young, 1451 Janet Ct., Benicia, CA 94510. First class mailing of the Quail to member or nonmember is an additional \$3/year payable to MDAS & sent to Treasurer.*

**ADDRESS CHANGES AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:** Consult Linda Myers (415) 932-3489.

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

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Mt. Diablo Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 53  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

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# The QUAIL

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

President: Jimm Edgar, 658-2330  
VP Programs: Neal Welsh, 798-0213  
VP Conservation: Al McNabney, 945-1785  
Treasurer: Gifford Young, (707) 745-4134  
Field Trips: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486  
Membership: Linda Myers, 932-3489  
Publicity: Barbara Vaughn, 376-5041  
Hospitality: Britta Cascio, 837-2895  
Editor: Barbara Burek, 229-0394  
Education: Norah Bain, 254-4516  
Secretary: Edna Mass, 945-7634

JUNE 1987

Vol. 33 No.10

Next Deadline: June 15

## *June Meeting:*

## END OF THE YEAR POTLUCK AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The next meeting of the Mount Diablo Audubon Society will be Thursday, June 4, at 6:30 pm, at the Willow Creek Center, 1026 Mohr Lane, Concord.

At this meeting, we will elect the new officers of MDAS. The offices to be selected and the current candidates are as follows:

President: (open)  
VP Programs: Neal Welsh  
VP Conservation: Al McNabney  
Treasurer: Florence Bennett  
Secretary: Edna Mass

The nominations committee is still interviewing people for the office of President. Anyone who is interested in serving on any of the committees, should contact Merv Ortez, 283-3072. This is your chapter; help support it.

This will also be the end-of-the-year potluck. Please bring a salad, casserole, or dessert for eight as well as your own table service and any serving utensils you may need. Coffee and punch will be provided.

The program will be provided by the members. Do you have natural history slides or pictures? Bring them along to share with the group! Have you found a bird nest or built an unusual feeder or house? Show them to us! All members are encouraged to participate.

The next board meeting will be on Thursday, June 11, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Edna Mass, 1301 Canyonwood Ct., Apt. 1, Walnut Creek. 945-7634. Board meetings are open to all interested members.

## A THANK YOU FROM THE NEW EDITOR

I wish to thank the members of the Board for their support during the change of editors, especially Gifford Young and Al McNabney. I also want to thank Kristi Streiffert for making the transition as easy as possible. Finally, to all of you who read the Quail: I would like to make the Quail as interesting and informative for you as possible. Please let me know if you have any ideas or suggestions or contributions. Thank you. I look forward to meeting you at the meetings.

Barbara Burek



## CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

### TOXICS: WHO DECIDES WHAT'S GOOD AND BAD

Last November, voters looked at the state of the water, land, and food resulting from uses of various toxics. Clearly voters didn't like what they saw. California Ballot Proposition 65, the "Toxics Initiative," was approved by an overwhelming vote. Most expected a "Law and Order" State Administration would quickly act to implement the terms of the new law.

So, what happened? The initial list of toxics issued by the Governor was confined to 29 substances known to cause cancer or birth defects. That shortened list brought an immediate reaction. A suit was filed in Superior Court by proponents of Prop 65. The Governor lost. Supporters of Prop 65 won.

In issuing his ruling, Sacramento County Superior Court Judge Roger K. Warren asserted Deukmejian and his attorney had used "strained and tortured" arguments to defend their decision to include on the initial Prop 65 list only chemicals known to cause cancer in humans and to exclude those shown to cause cancer in animal experiments. Did Judge Warren's decision settle the issue? A RESOUNDING NO!!!! May 8 found the Governor's attorneys in court appealing Judge Warren's ruling. So the legal process lingers on. In the meantime, what of the issues having to do with the use of toxics? Sorry 'bout that. The issue lingers on. Carl Pope of the Sierra Club asserts the fight over warnings about uses of toxics is now being fought by the Governor at the public's expense. A strange way to handle a voter initiative.

### THERE'S A NEST IN THE FIELD - WHAT CAN I DO?

A phone call came from a distraught young lady a few days ago. She had been hiking through an open field, which was being readied for a development project, when she saw a couple of very agitated birds. She looked about and found a nest with two eggs in it. The excited parents tried to drive the young lady away. She left the scene worried and upset. Reason? The developer's heavy equipment was standing by ready to clear the field. Leveling of the field was expected to take place at any time. The lady asked, "What can I do about this nest and the two eggs to protect them from being smashed by the tractor?" As just about anyone knows there's little one can do about moving the eggs to another location and "expecting" the parents to continue to care for the eggs and/or young. So, what does one do? Remember, the issue does not ONLY go to this pair of birds with their carefully guarded eggs in a nest on the ground. The question applies to most birds and wildlife.

### WILDLIFE REHABILITATION

What should you do with that hurt bird you found? John Fowler in *Bird News* (East Bay Regional Park District) advises:

First, assess the situation. If you find a baby bird on the ground, try to put it back in the nest. Mom can provide better care than a surrogate human parent. Also, if you see a young feathered bird on the ground, leave it alone; it probably is a fledgling. It's supposed to be on the ground and Mom or Dad are somewhere near, still caring for it. But, if you find an animal that is truly orphaned or injured, place it in a box with an old towel or blanket and if possible, keep it warm by placing a heating pad, set on low, under the box. (Be careful, even low may be too hot if too close.) Warmth and dark will minimize stress, "it's like being under Mom." Do not try to feed or water the animal. The most important thing is to get it a qualified rehabilitation center, such as the following, as soon as possible.

Open to receive wildlife 9 am - 5 pm 7 days a week:

The Lindsay Museum	Sulphur Creek Nature Center
1901 First Avenue	1801 D Street
Walnut Creek, CA	Hayward, CA
(415) 935-1988	(415) 881-6747
	(Only Hayward-Castro Valley-San Leandro wildlife)

Open to receive wildlife 6 pm - 10 pm 7 days a week:

Contra Costa Veterinary Clinic	Pet Emergency Service
1410 Monument Blvd.	1048 University Ave.
Concord, CA	Berkeley, CA
(415) 798-2900	(415) 548-6684

### SHELL MARSH -- WHAT? AGAIN?

The protection of wetlands seems to be a never-ending battle. Shell Marsh is again in our news. The Mt. View Sanitary District is acquiring 46,209 acres of wetlands from the developer who owns the wetland. Even if this acquisition is concluded, some 46 more acres of Shell Marsh will remain in the hands of the developer. We do not know the exact uses to which the Mt. View Sanitary District will put the wetland, but we assume, based on that organization's history, that the wetlands will be managed in such ways as to retain and sustain them. Now we have to "fret" about the remaining wetlands.

### BALLONA WETLAND: AUDUBON LIVING MUSEUM

After many years of negotiation and effort the Ballona Wetland (located near LA Int. Airport) is close to reality. A major item for National Audubon and the people is approval, funding, and completion of the Audubon Living Museum to be located at a strategic point in the wetland. In AB 3253, Assemblyman Moore calls for appropriation from the California Environmental License Plate Fund the sum of \$400,000 to go to the State Coastal Conservancy for expenditure during the 1986-1987 year as a grant to NAS for capital costs of the Audubon Living Museum at Ballona Creek. The Conservancy Board will meet in Sacramento on May 22. Keep your fingers crossed. If the money comes through, NAS will complete an excellent educational project.

CONSERVE WATER - SEPARATE GARBAGE



## FIELD TRIPS

Trips are open to members and nonmembers alike. Carpool time is departure time. Carpool expense: 5 cents per mile per rider is suggested; tolls and entry fees are shared equally by driver and riders. Bring binoculars, field guide and lunch. Trips go in light rain or drizzle; if in doubt call leader up to 1/2 hour before departure time.

Thursday, June 4, **Las Trampas Regional Park**. Meet 7:00 am in parking lot. From I-680, turn west on Crow Canyon Road, and right onto Bollinger Canyon Road. Parking lot is to the left at the end of the road. This will be a half-day trip; be sure to carry liquids. 1-1 1/2 miles walking, some of it steep. Grasshopper sparrows are usually found as well as other grassland, chaparral and oak wood birds.  
Leader: Norah Bain, 254-4516.

Wednesday, June 10, **Annadel State Park**. Carpool 6:30 am southwest corner of Sun Valley parking lot. Meet 8:00 am parking lot of 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. Turn left onto SR 12 for about 17 miles past Sonoma. Turn left onto Los Alamos Rd., right on Melite Rd., then left on Montgomery Rd. for 0.6 mi. Turn left on Channel Dr., 2 mi. to road end. We have had yellow-breasted chats and MacGillivray's warblers. Pileated woodpeckers are also possible. 1-1 1/2 miles walking on dirt trails.  
Leader: Jimm Edgar, 658-2330.

Thursday, June 18, **Redwood Regional Park**. Carpool 7:15 am Acalanes Ave. off Pleasant Hill Rd., just north of Hwy 24. Meet 8:00 at last parking lot in Redwood Park. Go through Moraga, turn left on Pinehurst Rd., and right onto Redwood Rd.  
Leader: Barbara Vaughn, 376-5041.

Saturday and Sunday, June 20-21, **Yuba Pass**. Saturday we bird Yuba Pass for mountain birds, Sunday, Sierra Valley for basin birds. Call leader for more information. Motels in Sierra City: Herrington's Sierra Pines, 916-862-1151; Sierra Chalet, 916-862-1110; Shannon's Cabins (rustic, but less expensive), 916-862-1287. In Sierraville (east side), Canyon Ranch, 916-994-3340. Forest Service campgrounds at Yuba Pass and Chapman Creek.  
Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486.

A word of apology to anyone who came to Sunset Circle April 23 for the Lake Merced trip. The meeting time was based on driving time from Lafayette, and allowed nothing for sitting time on the Bay Bridge approaches.

Yosemite trip is July 11-12. Because for the last two years, the leaders and the chapter were stuck with the cost of the group campground, there will be no effort to arrange a group campsite. Those interested in going should consider reservations early.

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### West Briones, April 15.

Although the 14 trip participants failed to see some of the old faithfuls, we did enjoy a beautiful spring day in West Briones and saw or heard 53 species. Some of the more interesting species observed were lazuli bunting, brown creeper, black-headed grosbeak, chipping sparrow, Lincoln's sparrow, and warbling vireo.

Merv Ortez

### Mines Road, April 25.

The Mines Road and Del Puerto Canyon trip was made by 16 members. It was clear and hot all morning, but the high, light overcast in the afternoon cut down the temperature only a little. We saw a pair of wood ducks and a pair of common mergansers at the first stop on Mines Road. Del Valle SRA produced a good bird count including white-throated swifts and 5 species of swallows, all at close range. Along upper Mines Road, we found wild turkeys in two places, rock wrens, Lewis' woodpeckers, phainopeplas and several Lawrence's goldfinches. Down along Del Puerto Canyon Road, we saw three adult golden eagles flying along the ridge, a downy young eaglelet in the nest, a singing canyon wren and a rufous-crowned sparrow. Although we could find no greater roadrunner, we had a great day with a count of 85 species.

Jean Richmond

### Alum Rock Park, May 7.

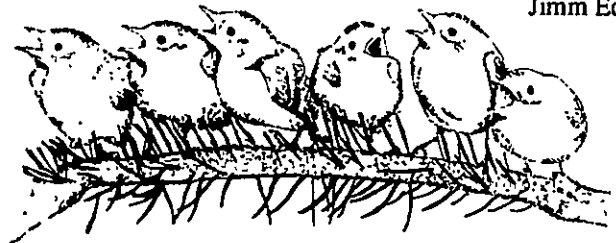
Nine members and two guests spent the morning at Alum Rock Park, high above the city of San Jose. This was a new location for a field trip and was a delightful discovery experience for those unacquainted with this beautiful park. The day was comfortably warm most of the morning and 42 species were seen or heard, including solitary, warbling and Hutton's vireos and a pair of golden eagles at fairly close range. We also heard a strange, unrecognized bird or mammal calling from the chapparal nearby. After a few minutes of speculation as to what it could be, a few-days-old fawn ran to join his mother who was standing nonchalantly under a tree.

Barbara Vaughn

### Mount Diablo, May 13.

A very hot day greeted eight members and guests as we traveled up Mt. Diablo. The weather seemed to quiet the birds early and though we saw 52 species, the numbers were very low. Townsend's warblers seemed to be the most abundant bird. Sage sparrows were seen, but the black-chinned sparrow eluded us. Lots of lazuli buntings brightened up the day, too.

Jimm Edgar



Barbara J. Brown

# AUDUBON ADVENTURES

Audubon Adventures is an education program for 4th and 5th grade school classes offered by the National Audubon Society and its chapters. For 1987-88, the program is as follows:

August-September	Marine mammals
October-November	Spiders and snakes
December-January	Endangered species
February-March	Weather and microclimates
April-May	Songbirds
June-July	Fish and fisheries resources

AUDUBON MONTH - April  
Alaska - The arctic tundra

A sponsorer can, for \$25, give all this to a class of 32 for an entire 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 Chair, 32 Via Farallon, Orinda, CA 94563.

Please make checks to National Audubon Society.

I am applying for my class and would like a sponsorer: \_ \_ \_ \_

Teacher's name: \_\_\_\_\_

School & Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of students: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to sponsor \_ \_ \_ class/classes.

Enclosed is \$25 for each class.

Teacher's name: \_\_\_\_\_

School & Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Students: \_\_\_\_\_

Or: I will sponsor class/classes designated by MDAS chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Address & Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## THANK YOU Audubon Adventures Sponsors

During the 1986-87 school year, MDAS enrolled 675 students in 20 classes for the Audubon Adventures program. Grateful thanks are due the following ten individuals who generously sponsored 13 classes as an expression of their approval of the program: Florence Cole, John and Tammy Davis, Lois Foster (2), Sharyn Fernandez, Donna Klein, June Mallory, Edna Mass (2), Al McNabney, Barbara Vaughn, and Daisy Ray. Teachers Carole Maples, Marie Simpson, and Carol Kafel sponsored their own classes. Silverwood PTA sponsored four classes at their school. To all of you, 675 **big thank yous!**

## CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

Audubon Canyon Ranch will sponsor a seminar, *Once Upon a Time*, on Saturday and Sunday, June 27 and 28, and butterfly counts in Marin on Saturday, July 11, and in Sonoma on Sunday, July 12. Call the ACR at (415) 383-1644 for more information and a seminar brochure.

Golden Gate Raptor Migration Observatory is looking for new volunteers to be trained as Hawkwatchers. Hawkwatchers must be able to commit one day every two weeks during the fall migration, August 17 to December 13, and to several weeknight classes in late July. For additional information, call coordinator Allen Fish at (415) 331-0730.



© Pete McDannel From "RE-SOURCES"

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## OBSERVATIONS

By *Donna Peake-Klein*

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

4/1 Norma and Merv Ortez share the following: "(We) experienced one of those spectacular birding moments at the Kilauea Lighthouse NWR, Kauai. In the sky above were four red-tailed tropicbirds, four Laysan albatrosses, a great frigatebird, several red-footed boobies, and, on a nest at our feet, a pair of wedge-tailed shearwaters."

4/3 A male blue-winged teal and 4 Swainson's hawks were observed at San Luis NWR, Merced Co. (J&RR)

4/4-4/5 2 spotted doves were seen in Porterville, Tulare Co. Jean says that this is the same area as the first county record, which she found a year ago. (JR)

4/6 A pair of cinnamon teals was spotted at Heather Farms Pond. The pair was seen again on 4/23, possibly nesting.

4/7 A Lawrence's goldfinch was seen on Pleasant Valley Road, Solano Co. (JR)

4/12 Winnie and Gifford Young report nesting osprey on the north shore of Clear Lake, close to the road. "One offspring was visible in the nest, an adult nearby. Also, a red-shouldered hawk was within 100 feet (!) of the osprey nest, but the parent did not seem alarmed." (W&GY)

4/12 2 female hooded mergansers were seen at Lake Merritt (J&RR,L&PM)

4/14 At Lake Lagunitas, a pileated woodpecker was heard, and 7 warbler species were seen, including 2 yellow, 6 black-throated gray, and 1 hermit warbler. (JR, MOB)

4/17 A varied thrush and a "myrtle" warbler were seen at Briones. (JA)

4/20 Jimm and Joan Edgar report that since their move from Lafayette to Oakland, they've missed some regular visitors to the feeder, particularly the orioles. However, they've gained a few new birds, including an olive-sided flycatcher, a nesting pair of Bewick's wrens, and in the school across the street from their new home, nesting white-throated swifts.

4/20 2 least sandpipers in breeding plumage were seen at Heather Farms Pond. (MW)

4/21 Seen on San Mateo Co. coast were the following: 1 black-legged kittiwake, 12 marbled murrelets, 1 ancient murrelet, 2 Cassin's auklets (all at Pigeon Point), and 1 bank swallow (Pescadero Beach). (JR, MOB)

4/22 Observed along Mines Road and Del Puerto Canyon Road were a pair of wild turkeys (MP 12.48), 2 Lewis' woodpeckers, several rock wrens, 8 phainopeplas, a male western tanager (Raines Park), and a pair of Lawrence's goldfinches (MP 5.93). (MJC, BG, CL, JR, MS)

4/25 A black-shouldered kite, a northern harrier, and a nest of short-eared owls were seen at Bear Island. (JA)

4/28 On Ida Clayton Rd., Sonoma Co., the following species were observed: a male mountain quail, calling, 8 warbler species, including 4 Nashville, 3 black-throated gray, 1 hermit, and 1 MacGillivray's. (JR, MOB)

5/1 A Vaux's swift and an olive-sided flycatcher were seen in the Lafayette garden of John Ascher.

5/2 A flock of Lawrence's goldfinches was observed on Mt. Diablo. (JA)

Observers: John Ascher, Mary Jane Culver, Jimm and Joan Edgar, Betty Gallagher, Chris Lamoureaux, Many Observers, Linda and Phil Myers, Norma and Merv Ortez, Jean and Rich Richmond, Maury Stern, Margaret Wadsworth, and Winnie and Gifford Young.

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## TRAVEL CORNER

Birding in the Big Bend country of Texas  
by *Jimm Edgar*

After several months of planning, Ed Hase and I flew to Midland/Odessa, rented a car, and drove all night to Big Bend on the Mexico border. Before dawn, we were hiking up the Laguna Meadow trail. By call and song, we identified ladder-backed woodpecker, Scott's oriole, canyon wren, black-throated sparrow, and black-chinned sparrow. As dawn came, we were about a mile up the trail at nearly 6000 ft., listening intently for the song of the colima warbler. Finally, it appeared just where Rich Stallcup had predicted. We spent about an hour getting good looks and noting field marks of this rare and elusive Mexican warbler.

Afterwards, a quick hike down the Window Trail from the parking lot produced blue bunting, varied bunting, cardinal, summer tanager, and brown-crested flycatcher. Our next goals were the Lucifer hummingbird and gray vireo, also specialties of Big Bend. Up the Blue Creek trail we headed. As we approached the steep canyon walls, we played the song of the gray vireo and listened. Finally we were rewarded as the bird responded to our invasion of its territory. As we hiked on, suddenly a gray flycatcher was seen, a very good bird for the area. Then an unexpected black-capped vireo appeared, a bird which is almost never seen outside of the hill country around San Antonio. Still no Lucifer and we decided that the absence of flowering plants was going to make our task very difficult.

The next day we were to leave Big Bend, but we took a short hike early in the morning. We found another pair of black-capped vireos and then heard a hummer. Looking quickly around we saw it: a beautiful male Lucifer hummingbird! The sun was at our backs and the violet-colored gorget and chin glowed in the light. We noted the location and happily returned to our campsite and departed for Rio Grande village for a couple of hours of birding on the river. Cottonwoods and mesquite are here and, of course, lots of water. Within minutes, we had Bell's vireo, orchard oriole, pyrrhuloxia, yellow-billed cuckoo, and roadrunner. Further searching produced the stunning vermilion flycatcher. Yellow-breasted chats were everywhere and a painted bunting with all its colors delighted

(Continued on Page 6)

*Travel Corner, Continued.*

us. Our first of many lark buntings was seen here and our only clay-colored sparrow and bronzed cowbird.

That afternoon, we drove to Roswell, NM, to prepare for our early morning attempt for the lesser prairie chicken. At 5:30 am of our final day, we drove to their booming grounds. As we drove up, we could hear the booming and see the dark shapes on the Mescalero Sands. As dawn came, we set in our car and watched 50 or so of the strikingly beautiful males perform their ritual: puff up the air sacks, extend the "horns", stamp their feet, etc. Using the car as a blind, we were able to get excellent photos of the birds, often within 30 feet of the car. It was a tremendous experience.

The rest of the morning, we birded the desert area, looking for migrant traps. At one such spot, we had 32 species, including MacGillivray's, yellow, Nashville, and Wilson's warblers. Cassin's sparrows were all around and a green-tailed towhee. Then we went on to Carlsbad Caverns to see the only reliable colony of cave swallows in North America. We ended our trip at a local birding hot spot called Rattlesnake Springs, where we found blue grosbeaks in abundance, Cassin's and western kingbirds, pine siskin, and a lovely brown thrasher.

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## NEW MEMBERS

We extend warm greetings to these new MDAS members and hope to meet them at our activities: Arlene Angel, F. J. Ashworth, Louis K. Barnes, M. M. Benkert, Harry A. Campbell, George B. Coover, S. Dorrington, August C. Enderle, Mary C. Engstrom, James Fogerty, Mr. & Mrs. R. V. Galbreath, Bonnie Gallaway, Mrs. A. I. Harry, Michael R. Hern, Dan & Sydney Howlett, G. D. Hyatt, Rebecca Jones, Klara Kaufmann, Jill Kohler, Paul Kujawa, Betty Miles, D. Mulligan, Gordon W. Odell, Edwin L. Ogan, Ella E. Ryken, Evert I. Schlinger, Christopher Seides, Mrs. Warren Swing, George A. Vdovin, Robert Wherritt, Carol Wong, Marilyn Blaj, Patrick L. Cunningham, Connie L. Gossage, Fernando R. Gummucio, Andrew J. Halton, Linda Kothgassner, Harold P. Neilsen, Mr.&Mrs. James C. Spowart, Sheryl Thorburn, Lori L. Bond, Hardyd H. Calston, Wendy Chapple, James E. Dick, Kathy Donohue, Mrs. Timothy Finn, Teresa M. Fleming, Patti Foust, Kellin D. Francis, Mark F. Le Clerc, Elaine Leontini, Jack A. McFadin, Elisabeth A. Napper, Peter B. Pellegrin, Hope H. Robertson, Dr. Stephen A. Rothstein, Ruth Stanton, Terrance Starr, Andrea Stevens, Donald J. Tallman.

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*Barbara Burek, Editor, 778 Center Ave., Martinez, CA 94553 (415) 229-0394*

*Exchange bulletins for MDAS to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, P. O. Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94596, please.*

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JULY/AUGUST 1987

Vol. 33 No.11

Next Deadline: August 15

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## Upcoming Events:

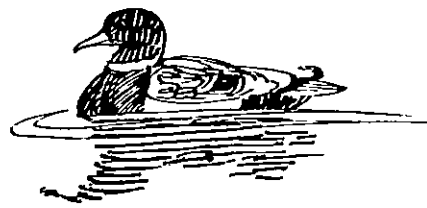
As usual, there will be no meetings of the Mount Diablo Audubon Society during July and August. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be September 3, details to be given in the September issue of the *Quail*.

The next board meeting will be on Thursday, July 16, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Gifford and Winnie Young, 1451 Janet Court, Benicia, (707) 745-4134. Board meetings are open to all interested members.

The ANNUAL PICNIC will be held on Friday, July 17 at 6:30 pm, at the Old Borgess Ranch, 1035 Castle Rock Rd. About 0.25 mile past the Northgate High School, look for a sign to the Ranger Station (Walnut Creek Open Space). Drive up the road on the right to the ranch headquarters. There is an entry fee of \$1 per person or \$10 per table. After supper, we will look for owls, so bring binoculars as well as supper.

The yearly Field Trip planning meeting will be on July 23 at the home of Elizabeth Dickey, 113 Hillcrest Drive, Orinda. 254-0486. If you have suggestions, requests, or special birds you are interested in, or if you would be willing to lead a field trip, call Elizabeth Dickey after July 14.

As part of the Monterey Weekend, there will be a pelagic trip on Saturday, October 10. We need to know how many people would be interested in going, as there is a 25 person minimum and a 40 person maximum. The cost per person will be \$40. If you want to go on the pelagic trip, please contact Elizabeth Dickey as soon as possible.



1985 Danna J. Barr

1/18m

## CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

### OAKLEY - A METROPOLIS OR PART OF A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?

A headline in a local paper states, but at the same time understates, the situation:

"County Sued Over Oakley General Plan".

MDAS and the Sierra Club have joined in the filing of a lawsuit. The legal action is intended to ensure reason will prevail in planning for the future growth and development in Contra Costa County. Oakley, a sleepy town, (only 750 of its citizens voted in a recent election) produced a General Plan calling for dramatic increases in growth. Housing would replace open space. In fact, one news article indicated there are ten developers proposing to construct a total of 1200 homes in the area. At the same time, the General Plan Congress, a "Blue Ribbon" body established by the Supervisors, is carefully drawing the basics of a new County General Plan. The GP Congress expects to produce a consensus document. Growth, development, and infrastructure will be carefully designed to produce quality living in the area. At the same time, impacts on the County and other cities will be minimized. Orderly growth and development in the County would be the rule for many years to come.

April 28, the Board of Supervisors approved the General Plan produced by Oakley representatives. The plan calls for increasing the population to 56,000 people. Traffic problems throughout the County and many cities are already approaching gridlock. NO attention has been given to the impact the dramatic increases proposed for Oakley will have. The overall traffic and infrastructure problems have not been addressed. Highway 4 is a long, long parking lot at rush hours. The City of Walnut Creek is awash with traffic, much of which does NOT originate or terminate there. The Oakley GP does not take into account the impacts that will result on water supply, fire services, waste disposal, and school populations. Someone HAS to look at the BIG picture. The action by MDAS and the Sierra Club may dictate this will be done.

### SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

Mt. Diablo Audubon has been ably represented on the Solid Waste Blue Ribbon Task Force by Kent Fickett, who resigned earlier this month to avoid a possible conflict of interest. Al McNabney will take over. Created by the County Board of Supervisors early in the year, the Task Force has met every Tuesday evening for close to six months. The Task Force is to recommend a site or sites to the Board of Supervisors for future disposal of solid waste. The work of the Task Force is

urgent. Present CC landfill arrangements have to be halted within two years, but no one wants a dump site in his or her backyard. Of the 13 sites originally examined, some 6 or 8 are still under study. None of the remaining sites has the full support of the entire task force. The Task Force expects to complete its work, making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors late in June or early July.

### WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE

BUT WILL THERE BE ENOUGH TO DRINK?????

All water authorities predict a dry, dry summer. Water supplies for domestic consumption appear adequate, BUT is there enough water for gardens, car washes, lawns? At the same time, Southern California legislators are moving to try to force legislation that would require more Northern California water to be moved south, possibly sensing that EPA studies now underway will clearly demonstrate the Bay, the Delta, etc., will not survive if substantially more water is diverted. Water bills calling for all sorts of actions to permit MORE water to be moved south are now in the mill. Many predict the "water wars" are returning. Advice from all water agency leaders to the public: "CONSERVE WATER".



© Phyllis V. Saroff

Save the Wetlands auto shades are now available from MDAS, for \$5 each. They will be available at the field trips and at the Annual Picnic. If interested, call Gifford Young, (707) 745-4134 to make arrangements for delivery.

Editorial reprinted from:



# THE TRIBUNE

*An independent newspaper  
serving the Greater Bay  
Area from Oakland  
since 1874*

Thursday, June 11, 1987

Oakland, California

## *General plan should come first*

What's the point of going to the trouble to revise the county general plan if individual jurisdictions jump the gun before it's approved or pay little attention afterward?

That question, implicit in the lawsuit recently filed against the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors by two environmental groups, deserves addressing. The future livability of the rapidly growing eastern section of the county depends on the answer.

The suit, brought by the Sierra Club and the Mount Diablo Audubon Society, seeks to put the brakes on the Oakley General Plan, an ambitious development blueprint just approved by the county supervisors. The suit says the Oakley plan didn't consider the impacts of massive development on traffic, agriculture, and air and water quality beyond the boundaries of the 9,000-acre planning area.

The plan would allow the small, east county town of Oakley, population 12,000, to expand to absorb an eventual 55,700 people. Trouble is, the county general plan allows for a far smaller total of 30,000 people in Oakley and nearby Brentwood combined.

The general plan is currently being revised by a 67-member General Plan Congress. The broadly representative citizens committee is nearing the end of a long and meticulous process.

The updated version, due in January, may well increase the Oakley-Brentwood total. But the supervisors should have waited to see before approving the Oakley plan.

Not to worry, says county Community Development Director Harvey Bragdon. The supervisors will consider a moratorium on local development if the new general plan is not adopted by January; the new Oakley plan doesn't dramatically upset provisions of the previous Oakley plan adopted in 1978; and the general plan will require that public services be in place or assured before new development is allowed anyway.

Still, approving the local plan in advance of the new general plan sends the wrong signal to jurisdictions throughout the county. If one locality can get a plan approved ahead of, or contrary to, the revised county general plan's provisions, why not others? Localities with separately approved development proposals could be tempted to use them as rationales for being exempted from general plan requirements.

It's that history of piecemeal and hopscotch growth that has landed Contra Costa where it is today: a county where roads and bridges cannot absorb the population increases brought about by massive commercial and residential construction. The environmental group filing the suit "aren't trying to louse up the county," says Al McNabney, vice president of the Mount Diablo Audubon Society. "We're trying to make people think where they're going to be five years from now."

The supervisors ought to admit that approval of the Oakley plan was premature. To avoid a clash between local and county needs, they should ask the people of Oakley, and of all communities in the county, to await the results of the revised general plan.

## AUDUBON ADVENTURES

Audubon Adventures is an education program for 4th and 5th grade school classes offered by the National Audubon Society and its chapters. For 1987-88, the program is as follows:

August-September	Marine mammals
October-November	Spiders and snakes
December-January	Endangered species
February-March	Weather and microclimates
April-May	Songbirds
June-July	Fish and fisheries resources

AUDUBON MONTH - April  
Alaska - The arctic tundra

A sponsorer can, for \$25, give all this to a class of 32 for an entire 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 Chair, 32 Via Farallon, Orinda, CA 94563.

Please make checks to National Audubon Society.



I am applying for my class and would like a sponsorer: \_ \_ \_ \_

Teacher's name: \_\_\_\_\_

School & Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of students: \_\_\_\_\_



I wish to sponsor \_ \_ \_ class/classes.

Enclosed is \$25 for each class.

Teacher's name: \_\_\_\_\_

School & Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Students: \_\_\_\_\_

Or: I will sponsor class/classes designated by MDAS chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Address & Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## EDUCATIONAL NEWS

Our chapter now has a California Fish and Game permit to possess dead wildlife. This means that if you legally acquire a dead bird which is an interesting species, our chapter may have it made into a study skin for teaching purposes. The usual "legal" method of acquiring birds is through the habits of pet cats or by the birds hitting windows. If you think you may have something of interest, please call Norah Bain, 254-4516. Used nests in good condition are also useful. Sometimes bird skeletons are found and can provide valuable lessons in biology. With the cooperation of our membership, it will be possible to build a useful kit of "hands on" items for use during presentations.



## CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

The Golden Gate Audubon Society is sponsoring three evening bird classes through the San Francisco Community College, starting in September. Subjects covered include an introduction to avian biology, identification and status of landbirds including longspurs, buntings, blackbirds and tanagers, and waterbirds including gulls and terns. Fees will be \$45 for each eight-week course. For information, call the Community Service office, 776-8247.

The Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum is offering a number of classes, trips, and safaris for various age groups during the summer. For a brochure, write or call the Lindsay Museum, 1901 First Avenue, Walnut Creek, CA 94596, 935-1978.



## DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS TO MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY

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



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## OBSERVATIONS

*By Donna Peake-Klein*

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

5/23 Grasshopper Sparrows were seen at the Bear Valley entrance to Briones. (JA)

6/2 Kristi and Tom Streiffert have settled in their new home in Joshua, Texas. From their livingroom window, they view a small pond which supports much bird life, including egrets and Little Blue Heron. Other "yard" birds are Northern Bobwhite, Yellow-bellied Cuckoos, Belted Kingfishers, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, and Northern Cardinals.

6/5 Seen at Pine Ponds, Mt. Diablo, were 2 Lawrence's Goldfinches, and Hutton's, Solitary, and Warbling Vireos. (JA)

6/6 All 3 species of vireos, 5 Grasshopper sparrows and one Rufous-crowned Sparrow were seen at the Bear Creek entrance to Briones. (JA)

6/7 Seen at Mitchell Canyon were California Quail, Nuttall's and Downy Woodpeckers, Western Wood-Pewee, Western and Ash-throated Flycatchers, Western Kingbird, Cliff Swallows, White-breasted Nuthatch, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Black Phoebe, Western Bluebird, Warbling Vireo, a female Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Song Sparrow (heard), Lesser Goldfinch, and one Coyote. (SF&KH)

Observers: John Ascher, Sharyn Fernandez, Kevin Hints, Kristi and Tom Streiffert.

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## FIELD TRIPS

Trips are open to members and nonmembers alike. Carpool time is departure time. Carpool expense: 5 cents per mile per rider is suggested; tolls and entry fees are shared equally by driver and riders. Bring binoculars, field guide and lunch. Trips go in light rain or drizzle; if in doubt call leader up to 1/2 hour before departure time.

Saturday and Sunday, July 11-12, Yosemite. Call Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486, if you are planning to go on the Yosemite trip.

Tuesday, July 28, San Mateo coast. Carpool 7:15 am at El Cerro Blvd, west of I-680. Meet at 8:30 am in parking lot off SR 1 opposite Pescadero Road. Cross San Mateo Bridge, continue west on SR 92 to Half Moon Bay, go left on SR 1 for 15 miles to Pescadero Rd., turn right into parking lot. Can be cold and windy, sometimes hot. 1-2 miles walking at Ano Nuevo State Reserve, partly over sand dunes. May see

early shorebirds, possibly Black Swift, Bank Swallow, Marbled Murrelet.

Leader: Maury Stern, 284-5980.

Saturday, August 15, 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 the Washington St. exit in Petaluma, go west on Bodega Hwy to SR 1, turn left to Bodega Bay. The Tides is on left, opposite a Union station. Can be cold and windy; little walking. Early shorebirds, waterbirds, rails, post-breeding migrants.

Leaders: Helen and Jerry Gentile, 228-6733.

(Alternates: Gifford and Winnie Young, (707) 745-4134.)

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## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

CASWELL STATE PARK, May 21.

Eight members spent a beautiful day at Caswell State Park and Durham Ferry State Park in 70 degree, fair weather. 58 species were seen or heard, including several good looks at Swainson's Hawks. The sighting of the day was a fledgling Great Horned Owl being harassed by crows, with a nervous parent hooting nearby. Seven flycatcher species were seen, including a Dusky Flycatcher. Six swallow species included many Bank Swallows. Many House Wrens were seen and especially heard.

Maury Stern

OUTER POINT REYES, May 30.

Thirteen members enjoyed a relatively mild, calm day, visiting the standard birding areas at Point Reyes. 62 species were seen, including a Rhinoceros Auklet seen from the lighthouse, but the highlight of the trip was an extremely cooperative black-throated blue warbler at scenic Nunes Ranch. Finally, after the official end of the trip, several members stopped at Inverness to see a yellow-throated vireo.

Fred Safier

ANNADEL STATE PARK, June 10.

Thirteen members and guests arrived at Annadel State Park for a beautiful morning. The specialties of this field trip escaped us today: the Yellow-breasted Chat and the Pileated Woodpecker were nowhere to be seen. We did see 53 other species, including Western Flycatchers and Northern Juncos at nests with young. We also saw five species of woodpeckers and more Brown Creepers than anyone had seen on any one day. It was a great day to be out and enjoy nature at its best.

Jimm Edgar

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## TRAVEL NOTES

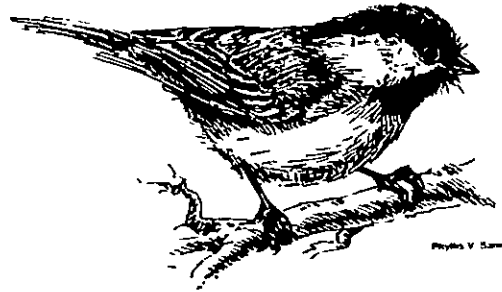
As you travel, please ask for an extra copy of the facility map and any bird lists or check lists when you visit parks, refuges, or sanctuaries. Pass the extras along to Jean Richmond to place in the chapter file. When planning a trip, contact Jean as she may have information on the area you plan to visit and you can learn what birds to expect there.

### Rare Bird Alert update:

A list of 64 Rare Bird Alert telephone numbers throughout the U.S. was published in the March 1987 *Quail*. The number for Tucson, Arizona, has since been changed to 602-798-1005, and the office phone for the Tucson Audubon Society at its new location is 602-629-0510.

## NEW MEMBERS

We extend warm greetings to these new MDAS members and hope to meet them at our activities: Sayf Alusi, Karol Bassett, P. Bearup, Sal J. Billeci, Clifford R. Davis, Lois Dean-Anderson, Helen Fisher, D. Gamble, K. Grana, Patricia Gruenewald, Jane S. Hunsaker, J. Q. Laundenslager, George Lubbs, Jennifer R. Mauler, Bob and Barbara Nelson, Nathalie Oram, Jill Ramsay, Joel B. Speights, Thomas B. Sprague, Henriette W. Wise.




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*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/year individual, \$38 family; introductory & senior 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. The Chapter benefits financially from membership applications it processes. Full membership is encouraged, but subscription to the Quail is available separate from membership at \$6/year. Check should be made to MDAS and mailed to MDAS Treasurer, Florence Bennett, P.O. Box 31435, Walnut Creek, CA 94598. First class mailing of the Quail to member or nonmember is an additional \$3/year payable to MDAS & sent to Treasurer.*  
**ADDRESS CHANGES AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: Consult Linda Myers (415) 932-3489.**

*Barbara Burek, Editor, 778 Center Ave., Martinez, CA 94553 (415) 229-0394*  
*Exchange bulletins for MDAS to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, P. O. Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94596, 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

President: Jimm Edgar, 658-2330  
VP Programs: Neal Welsh, 798-0213  
VP Conservation: Al McNabney, 945-1785  
Treasurer: Florence Bennett, 689-3106  
Sales Manager: Gifford Young, (707) 745-4134  
Field Trips: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486  
Membership: Linda Myers, 932-3489  
Publicity: Barbara Vaughn, 376-5041  
Hospitality: Britta Cascio, 837-2895  
Education: Norah Bain, 254-4516  
Secretary: Edna Mass, 945-7634

September 1987

Vol. 34 No. 1

Next Deadline: September 15

## September Program:

### MONO LAKE, AN UPDATE AND CONTROVERSIAL DEVELOPMENTS

Because of the Labor Day weekend, the date of the September meeting has been changed to **September 10**, at Willow Creek Center, 1026 Mohr Lane, Concord. Phil Gordon will be doing Birding Info on hummingbird identification with a discussion of females and the limits of identification, or when not to make a definite identification.

David Wimpfheimer, former Bay Area Regional Mono Lake Committeeman for over 2 years, will present our September program at 8:30 p.m. In years past he has presented well received and very popular topics. During this slide-talk, Mr. Wimpfheimer will discuss Mono Lake history, its ecological importance, preservation efforts, and recent developments which will impinge on its continued survival. Very recently, the National Academy of Sciences reported that the lake is stable and not in immediate jeopardy. This opinion is probably not held uniformly.

Mr. Wimpfheimer is now a free-lance naturalist engaging in personally-led natural history tours, nature hikes, and whale watching expe-

ditions. He also teaches "birding." Among his credits, he was employed for 3 years as a professional naturalist by the National Park Service. His topic promises to be both lively and well balanced as he has the advantage of many points of perspective as a result of his variety of professional duties. He asks that you bring an interested guest as well as your concerns, opinions and questions as there will be an audience participation forum after his slide-talk.

The Monterey pelagic trip will be Saturday, October 10. Interested members **must** have their money to Elizabeth Dickey by September 26. Cancellations will be accepted and money refunded until October 1.

The next board meeting will be on Thursday, September 17, at 7:30 pm, at the home of Hugh and Norah Bain, 32 Via Farallon, Orinda, 254-4516. Board meetings are open to all interested members.

## CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

### HOUSES, TRAFFIC, INFRASTRUCTURE AND OAKLEY

Item from the agenda of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors:

"Decision on appeal of Mt. Diablo Audubon Society and the Bay Area Chapter of the Sierra Club from the decision of the East County Regional Planning Commission with respect to the request by Bellecci & Associates (applicants) and County Investors (owners) for approval of a Tentative Map for Subdivision 6924, Oakley area (hearings closed June 23, 1987). Estimated Time: 20 minutes". The actual hearing process on August 11 took no more than the allotted time.

The stage is now set for legal action. It is not the intent to halt ALL development. However, planners HAVE to be interested in finding solutions for the major problems (roads, traffic, police and fire protection, for example) already evident. If one has a cup that's full, it would make no sense to keep pouring more and more liquid into the cup. So it is with development. Infrastructure problems must have solutions before more and more building permits are issued. As one individual was heard to say, "It'll be interesting."

### WATER -- MORE ABOUT IT

Two major legislative items dealing with water, one by Senator Ayala and the other by Assemblyman Costa were introduced in the recently concluded legislative session. Both measures would have permitted (required) the transfer of more water from the Delta to the south. Both measures were put on hold in late stages of the legislature. What will happen when the Legislature reconvenes? Who knows? There is some likelihood another statewide ballot measure may be necessary to "save" Northern California. Recently released studies argue more water is already being transferred south than is safe for the Bay-Delta. In the meantime the State Water Resources Control Board is holding hearings. The EPA study of the Bay-Delta estuarine system is going forward. It'll be easy to get one's feet wet with this issue before it is all over.

### DOES IT NEVER, NEVER END?????

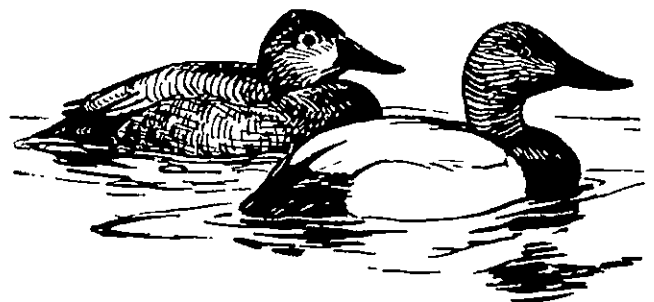
Shell Marsh, the birds' friendly area in CCC has been in the news for the past several years. Seems the issue just WON'T go away. The State of California is considering building an additional bridge across Carquinez straits. Widening of I-680 all the way to the connection with I-80 is an additional part of the proposed project. Shell Marsh will be impacted when and if the bridge is built and the highway widening is actually undertaken. We'll be watching!

### INITIATIVE - WHAT'S YOUR ROLE????

CWCPI - every Californian interested in birds and wildlife should know what these initials stand for! CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL and PARKLAND INITIATIVE. Petitions are now being circulated (you can help do this). Assuming enough signatures are collected through the voluntary petition process, the Initiative will appear on the June, 1988, statewide ballot. Passage of the Initiative will provide \$776,000,000 to acquire wildlife habitat, endangered coastal areas and parklands throughout the state. We've asked the birds to help get the petitions into areas where they can be signed by voters. The birds are willing but don't know how. We expect people will be willing and will know how to get the petitions signed and turned in. Development pressures on Contra Costa County lands continue. Birdlife and all sorts of wildlife are being by-passed with one probable result being loss of species. Some birdlife such as hawks, eagles and falcons may be deprived of habitat to the point where survival may be an impossibility. Passage of CWCPI will help ensure some areas can be saved from progress.

### DIABLO HILLS PARKWAY

August 3rd, if not a red letter day was at least one to remember. That was the day people in the area who think parks are important proved their point. The Mayor of Walnut Creek earlier introduced a meandering proposal calling, among other things, for the City to spend money on a study to see if a freeway (Diablo Hills Parkway) should be constructed through open space along the Mt. Diablo foothills. The proposal also called for placement of the issue on the November 1987 ballot. Voices of reason urged the Mayor to "forget it." The Mayor was assured that placement of the issue of the November ballot would create an outcry that could hamper efforts to find real solutions to Walnut Creek's traffic problems. The good sense of some of the Council members prevailed, and a public hearing was called for. August 3rd the Council Chambers were FULL. A crowd, estimated at 300+ people turned out for the hearing. A handful of folks were FOR the Mayor's misguided proposal; the rest were solidly AGAINST! After the public hearing, which ran for several hours (with many a Mt. Diablo Audubon member in the audience), the Council voted 4 to 1 to drop the issue. A famous expression can be applied to such a situation: Eternal vigilance is a requirement for protection of parks, open space and birdlife and wildlife from development, now and in the future, if we want to ensure there will be a future.



## ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT, FY 86-87

BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD:

Operating Account:	\$7,941.39
Conservation & Education Fund:	(2,207.77)

## INCOME:

National Audubon Society dues	\$7,499.00
<i>Quail</i> subscriptions	381.00
Sales, <i>Birding Northern California</i> (To Conservation & Education Fund)	10,916.35
Sales, miscellaneous	26.85
Donations to MDAS	175.94
Interest earned (Home Federal) (Part to Conservation & Education Fund)	492.86
Miscellaneous income (loss)	(26.00)

## INCOME + BALANCE FORWARD:

Operating Account:	\$16,447.48
Conservation & Education Fund	8,752.14

## DISBURSEMENTS:

<i>Quail</i> production and distribution	\$4,531.46
Rent, Willow Creek Center hall	126.00
Office supplies, administration	260.93
Equipment (Macintosh 512KE computer, Imagewriter II, Ready-Set-Go 3! publishing program, Thunderscan digitizer)	2,125.26
Conservation	618.00
Program presentation	612.50
Education	127.89
Birding Information	162.50
Hospitality	249.28
Telephone (AUD-UBON)	163.90
Christmas Bird Count	301.84
Presentation to Jean Richmond	259.61
Reprinting <i>Birding Northern California</i> and sales expenses	2,601.27
Bay Area Audubon Council	147.86
Other expenses	131.47

CAMPERSHIP (John Ascher, Camp Chiricahua, AZ)	416.00
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## CONTRIBUTIONS

Lindsay Museum, Save Mt. Diablo, Mono Lake Committee, Audubon Canyon Ranch, Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory, Nature Conservancy, others	2,100.00
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TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$14,936.77
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BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD:

Operating account:	\$4,111.98
Conservation & Education Fund:	6,150.87

## 1987-88 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

Thanks to Elizabeth Dickey and her planning committee for an interesting schedule of field trips for the upcoming year. Also thanks to those people who will be leaders. Changes may occasionally be made in the schedule, and shifts between Wednesday and Thursday may be made to take advantage of tides or other opportunities. Weekend trips may be done either day alone. Trips marked \* are new areas.

<b>Sept</b>	12	Sat.	San Mateo Coast	<b>Mar.</b>	3	Thur.	Hayward Regional Shoreline
	16	Wed.	San Francisco Bay Refuge		5	Sat.	Bodega Bay
	24	Thur.	Tilden Regional Park		9	Wed.	Five Brooks - Bolinas Lagoon
	26	Sat.	Outer Point Reyes		17	Thurs.	Tilden Regional Park
					26	Sat.	Briones Lake Trail
					30	Wed.	North Briones Wildflowers
<b>Oct.</b>	1	Thur.	Alameda South Shore	<b>Apr.</b>	7	Thur.	Lime Ridge Open Space
	10-11	S-S	Pelagic Trip and Monterey		9	Sat.	Garin Regional Park *
	14	Wed.	Point Diablo - Marin Headlands		13	Wed.	Lake Lagunitas
	17	Sat.	Abbott's Lagoon		21	Thur.	Briones Park - West
	28	Wed.	Lake Merritt		27	Wed.	Ida Clayton Road, Napa Co. *
					30	Sat.	Mines Road
<b>Nov.</b>	5	Thur.	Mountain View Sanitary Plant	<b>May</b>	5	Thur.	Lake Merced
	7	Sat.	Limantour		11	Wed.	Mt. Diablo
	18	Wed.	Mountain View Forebay - Charleston Slough *		14	Sat.	Mitchell Canyon - Wildflowers
	21	Sat.	Altamont		19	Thur.	Alum Rock Park
					25	Wed.	Caswell State Park
<b>Dec.</b>	3	Thur.	Palo Alto Baylands	<b>June</b>	2	Thur.	East Contra Costa County
	9	Wed.	Lafayette Reservoir		4	Sat.	Outer Point Reyes
	12	Sat.	Niles Canyon		8	Wed.	Las Trampas Regional Park
					16	Thur.	Annadel State Park
<b>Jan.</b>	2	Sat.	<b>CHRISTMAS COUNT</b>		18-19	S-S	Yuba Pass - Sierra Valley
	7	Thur.	Golden Gate Park		25	Sat.	Tilden Regional Park, Breakfast Walk
	16	Sat.	Putah Creek - Lake Solano	<b>July</b>	9-10	S-S	Yosemite
	20	Wed.	Sunol Regional Park		15	Fri.	Picnic
	28	Thur.	Grizzly Island Wild Life Refuge		23	Sat.	San Mateo Coast
<b>Feb.</b>	6-7	S-S	Los Banos - Panoche Valley	<b>Aug.</b>	13	Sat.	Bodega Bay
	10	Wed.	Thornton- Stockton Ponds				
	18	Thur.	Los Gallinos Water Treatment Ponds*				
	20	Sat.	Owling, 5 p.m.				

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## FIELD TRIPS

Trips are open to members and nonmembers alike. Carpool time is departure time. Carpool expense: 5 cents per mile per rider is suggested; tolls and entry fees are shared equally by driver and riders. Bring binoculars, field guide and lunch. Trips go in light rain or drizzle; if in doubt, call leader up to 1/2 hour before departure time.

**Saturday, September 12, San Mateo Coast.** Carpool 6:30 am at El Cerro Blvd., west of I-680. Meet at 8:15 am in parking lot off SR1 opposite Pescadero Road. Cross San Mateo Bridge, continue west on SR92 to Half Moon Bay, go left on SR1 for 15 miles to Pescadero Rd., turn right into parking lot. Can be cold and windy, sometimes hot. 1-2 miles walking at Ano Nuevo State Reserve, partly over sand dunes.  
Leader: George Finger, 933-2468

**Wednesday, September 16, San Francisco Bay Refuge.** Carpool 8:00 am El Cerro Blvd., west of I-680. Meet 9:00 am at parking lot at entrance to refuge. We will first bird on the flats east of Thornton Ave.; look for people with binocs on the levee. Traffic is difficult. As an alternate route to I-880 and SR 84, take I-680 south to Fremont; exit Washington Ave. and continue to end. Go right on Fremont Blvd., and turn left onto Stevenson to I-880. Go north on freeway to Thornton exit and go west (to left) on Thornton Rd. This will eventually bring you to the refuge entrance. Walking is mostly level, 1-2 miles.  
Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486

**Thursday, September 24, Tilden Regional Park.** Meet at 8:00 am in parking lot at entrance to the Nature Center, at the north end of the park. For further information, call Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486.

**Saturday, September 26, Outer Point Reyes.** Carpool 6:30 am, Acalanes Ave., off Pleasant Hill Rd., just north of SR24. Meet at Drake's Beach at 8:30 am. Cross San Rafael Bridge. From US101, take San Rafael exit, go 2 blocks, turn left onto 3rd St. In San Anselmo, turn right onto Sir Francis Drake Blvd. At SR1, turn right 0.25 mile, left onto Bear Valley Rd. for about 3 miles, then onto Sir Francis Drake again. Continue 14 miles to Drake's Beach Rd. on left. Much birding is done near cars; about 0.5 mile easy walking to lighthouse, 0.25 mile of rough trail to the New Willows.  
Leader: Jimm Edgar, 658-230

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## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

**YUBA PASS, June 20-21.**

Twelve members and guests enjoyed two days of birding in excellent weather. Fifty-two species were seen or heard. At

Yuba Pass, we had five species of woodpeckers; Black-backed and White-headed were seen feeding young. All three species of nuthatches were seen on the trip. In Sierra Valley, we had Black Tern and Wilson's Phalarope. Probably the best birds of the trip flew into the marshes after everyone but the leader had left - two White-faced Ibis.

Elizabeth Dickey

**YOSEMITE, July 11-12.**

Ten members saw forty-seven species. Five species of warblers were seen, with Hermits being abundant. The season was early and we missed the Rosy Finches which had fledged. Williamson's Sapsucker was seen at White Wolf, and crossbills were seen both days. On Sunday, a Calliope Hummingbird was seen at Badger Pass and a fine male Pine Grosbeak at Bridalveil campground.

Elizabeth Dickey

**SAN MATEO COAST, July 28.**

Nine members enjoyed a pleasant day at the coast from Pescadero to Ano Nuevo. High winds in the afternoon made hiking at Ano Nuevo difficult, but many bull elephant seals were seen. Seventy-two species were seen or heard, including three cormorant species, Black Scoters, Red-breasted Merganser, Common Tern, Marbled Murrelet, Cassin's Auklet, a Belted Kingfisher flying over the water, and five swallow species with several Bank Swallows at Ano Nuevo. The anticipated Black Swifts were not seen nor were there any unusual shorebirds.

Maury Stern

**BODEGA BAY, August 15.**

Nineteen members and guests shared and enjoyed a day of very good birding. Seventy-seven species were sighted, observed and recorded. At Doran Park, we found Brants (in August??), one Common Murre, and one Marbled Murrelet. Other finds were a Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Baird's Sandpiper and Elegant Terns. See what you missed? Leaders made no wrong "turns" this year and mis-identified only once. We sincerely thank all of you who made another day in the field one of happy memory.

Jerry and Helen Gentile



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## CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

Norah Bain will teach a five-week field class for beginning and intermediate birders Tuesdays from 9 am to 1 pm, September 22 through October 20. Please register at the Orinda Community Center; class size is limited. For more information, call the Orinda Community Center, 254-2445, or Norah at 254-4516.



### ATTENTION TEACHERS

Teachers of 4th and 5th grades, have you applied for your subscription to Audubon Adventures? "Marine Mammals" will be the subject of the August-September issue. If your budget is too tight for the cost of \$25 for a class of 32 students, maybe MDAS can help. Please see the application form in the July-August or June issues of the *Quail*. Contact Norah Bain, 254-4516, for more information.

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## MDAS SALES

### HAWK WATCHERS!

With the peak of hawk migration approaching, you will need this new publication in the Peterson Field Guide Series: *HAWKS, a Field Guide to Hawks of North America*, by William S. Clark and Brian K. Wheeler, Houghton Mifflin, August 1987. It includes 26 color plates and 233 photographs of hawks in many flight and perched positions with identifying features indicated. Paperback copies are available at MDAS meetings for \$12.00, including sales tax, or by mail from MDAS for \$13.00 (\$12.25 out of state). For promptest mailing, call the MDAS sales manager Gifford Young, (707) 745-4134.

### SECOND EDITION

The popular National Geographic Society's *Field Guide to the Birds of North America* has been published in a second edition with corrections to some color plates and a number of description changes. Not available commercially, it may be purchased from Richardson Bay Audubon Center, Pt. Reyes National Seashore Bear Valley Visitor Center, and other nature centers, or by mail from the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, 2253 Park Blvd., Palo Alto, CA 94306 (415/329-1811) for \$13.69 including sales tax and postage.

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## OBSERVATIONS

By Donna Peake-Klein

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

6/10 From Mitchell Canyon, Bud Widdowson and James Millington report having seen 43 species, including a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** (spotted about 300 yards from the trail entrance).

7/20-31 A **Black-headed Grosbeak** visited Maury Stern's Lafayette yard.

7/28 A pair of **Ospreys** with food and their nest were seen on Limantour Road at Point Reyes by Hugh and Norah Bain.

8/4 In July and August of 1986, Ralph Hudgins reported a single lingering **White-crowned Sparrow** in his south Walnut Creek garden. This year the same bird, presumably, is still residing and Ralph observes that he is a nonbreeder and a loner.

8/5 Spotted at Limantour was a **Solitary Sandpiper**. (MS)

8/9 A **Caspian Tern** was found at Lake Cascade, Orinda. (H&NB)

8/9 A breeding male **Hooded Oriole** in his Lafayette garden. (MS)

8/9 Kamran Alavai spotted an immature **Golden Eagle** carrying a **Kestrel** at Redwood Regional Park.

8/12 Twenty **Canada Geese** were seen at Lake Cascade. (H&NB)

8/13 Seventy **White Pelicans** were observed at Bodega Bay. (H&NB)

8/14 Barb Burek had a **California Thrasher** in her back yard, the earliest fall visit of the thrasher in four years.

8/15 In his Danville yard, a **Golden Eagle** and **Hooded Oriole** were seen. (KA)

8/20 At Ano Nuevo, among 60 species seen were a **Marbled Murrelet**, two **Brants**, a **Peregrine Falcon**, and 53 **Surfbirds**. (H&NB)

Observers: Kamran Alavai, Hugh and Norah Bain, Barb Burek, Ralph Hudgins, James Millington, Maury Stern, Bud Widdowson.

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## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

There appear to have been problems the last several months with late delivery of the *Quail*. In an effort to pinpoint exactly where the problems are occurring, the mailing committee will be taking this issue to the post office on Friday, August 28. If you receive your copy more than a week after the mailing date, please let either myself, at 229-0394, or one of the other officers know. If the problems are at one or more of the local post offices, we may be able to work with them to expedite delivery.

I have also received some comments to the effect that the printing of the *Quail* is harder to read on the tan paper, so I have asked the printer to return to white paper. Please let me know which you prefer. Thank you for your help.



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## TRAVEL CORNER

### Birding and Sightseeing in Alaska by *Jean Richmond*

Rich and I drove our van up I-5 to Seattle and boarded the marine ferry in late afternoon on June 2 for the 3<sup>1/2</sup> day trip north to Skagway. Among the birds seen from the comfortable observation lounge aboard were all 3 scoters, many Bald Eagles, Pomarine Jaeger, Sabine's Gull (near Sitka), and several alcids, including Marbled and Ancient Murrelets, and Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets. Outstanding was the sight of over 25 adult Bald Eagles in one tree as we approached Ketchikan. During the trip we also had super views of several Humpback Whales, one of which breached over and over again, another "waved" its tail out of the water, and yet another stuck its head out of the water as if to look at us as we passed. An unexpected 7-hour stop at Sitka allowed us to see beautiful St. Michael's Cathedral as well as numerous Northwest Crows.

From Skagway, we drove north to Fairbanks. Birding in and near the city, we saw Solitary Sandpiper, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Veery, Northern Waterthrush, nesting Rusty Blackbirds, White-winged Crossbill, and Common Redpoll. From north of Fairbanks, we were treated to a beautiful view of snow-covered Mt. McKinley far to the south.

We drove down George Parks Highway to Denali Park and took a shuttle bus late in the morning out to Eielson Visitor Center, 66 miles out on the dirt road. In two days of birding at the park, we saw many birds including Upland Sandpiper, Northern Wheatear, Northern Shrike, Rosy Finch, Willow and Rock Ptarmigans, Long-tailed Jaeger on a nest, Boreal Chickadee, American Tree Sparrow, Arctic Warbler (after five hours of searching!), and Northern Hawk-owl, plus moose, Dall Sheep, many caribou, Grizzly Bear, and Red Fox.

We next headed south to Anchorage where we birded that afternoon and the following day. Here, we saw Red-necked Grebe, Barrow's Goldeneye among the ducks, a Golden Eagle being harassed by gulls, Lesser Yellowlegs and many other species. Bank Swallows seemed to be everywhere here and throughout south coastal Alaska. It was also here that Rich was sent sprawling when run down by a speeding bicyclist while we were on a hiking/biking trail. His severe bruises lasted 3-4 weeks.

We flew the following morning to windswept St. Paul Island in the Pribilofs for a 3-day stay. We expected the worst in weather but were fortunate to have only overcast, occasional drizzle, and generally light winds. Breeding on the spectacular bird cliffs were Northern Fulmar, Pelagic and Red-faced Cormorants, Black-legged and Red-legged Kittiwakes, Common and Thick-billed Murres, Parakeet, Least and Crested Auklets, and Tufted and Horned Puffins. Also on St. Paul were an (almost certain) Common Pochard, Common and King Eiders, Harlequin Duck, Oldsquaw, Rock Sandpiper, Red Phalarope, a

Cliff Swallow (rare there), Yellow Wagtail, Rosy Finch, Lapland Longspur, and Snow and McKay's Buntings. Among the fur seals, the first female of the season had arrived and had a day-old pup by her side.

Back on the mainland, we headed south from Anchorage. Along the way, we found Fork-tailed Storm-petrels, many Arctic and Aleutian Terns, and a Sea Otter close offshore at the end of the Homer Spit. Also in the area were Red-faced Cormorant, Harlequin Duck, Oldsquaw and many Common Eiders. Part of this leg of the trip included a train trip from Portage to Whittier and a ferry crossing from Prince William Sound to Valdez. The train trip was quite different from any either of us had experienced before. After driving onto the flatcar, we sat in our van during the half-hour trip through narrow valleys and two long tunnels to the ferry terminal on Prince William Sound. On the ferry crossing, we were delighted to see three Orcas swimming not far from the ferry. From Valdez, the Richardson Highway heads northeast from Valdez through narrow and spectacular Keystone Canyon where many beautiful cascades and waterfalls dash down the high mountains. Soon after turning east on the Tok Cutoff, we found a pair of Trumpeter Swans in a small pond beside the road.

When we reached the Alaska Highway again in Tok, we headed southeast and went into Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge. We found many ducks, Lesser Yellowlegs, Arctic Tern, and a number of landbirds which included an Arctic Warbler (heard), American Tree Sparrow, and Common Redpoll. After working hard for Northern Hawk-owl in Denali, we happened across three of them in this refuge.

We continued on the Alaska Highway to Haines Junction, then turned south to Haines, an enjoyable little city where we spent two pleasant days. We watched a female Common Merganser with 13 downy young bobbing in the rushing Chilcoot River north of town. On the Chilkat River mudflats south of town were at least 24 Bald Eagles, including both adults and immatures. Also in the Haines area we saw Harlequin Duck, scoters, Arctic Tern, Three-toed Woodpecker, Northwest Crow, and Rusty Blackbird.

From Haines, we continued south by marine ferry to Juneau. Seen from the ferry were loons, Pelagic and Pomarine Jaegers, gulls, Arctic terns, and many Bald Eagles. From Juneau, we took another ferry to Glacier Bay National Park, again seeing loons, jaegers, gulls, Marbled Murrelets, and many Kittlitz's Murrelets. For our three days at Glacier Bay we had excellent weather, the first nice days of the year, and so had clear views of the fabulous Fairweather Mountains as well as of the many park glaciers. From only a quarter mile away, we watched as a huge ice pinnacle fell with a loud roar from the face of Muir Glacier and plunged into the water with a tremendous splash, sending out several large waves which rocked our boat.

Found in the park were loons, Harlequin Duck, Black Oystercatcher, Black-legged Kittiwake, Sabine's Gull, Arctic Tern,

(Continued on Page 8)

*Travel Corner, Continued.*

Marbled and Kittlitz's Murrelets, Tufted and Horned Puffins, Three-toed Woodpecker, and many landbirds. We were also treated to the sight of a pair of Bald Eagles in courtship flight where they locked talons and tumbled earthward, then separated and soared high again. A male Blue Grouse was strutting and hooting on the ground within 5 to 6 feet of us. Also seen in the park were Grizzly and Black Bears, Mountain Goats, River Otter, Humpback Whale, many Harbor Seals on ice floes, and Harbor Porpoise. We flew back to Juneau and spent two days birding and sightseeing, including a visit to the beautiful Mendenhall Glacier.

On July 3, we started our trip home with another ferry trip to Ketchikan. From there we went south to Prince Rupert, B. C., then east to Highway 97 in Prince George. After stops at Scout Island Nature Area in Williams Lake, Mt. Rainier National Park, Klamath and Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuges, and Yuba Pass, tired and happy to be back, we arrived home on July 17 with a trip list of 282 species of birds, including 5 lifers. We had clocked 6377 miles in our van plus about 2000 miles by marine ferry. The beauty of the area through which we had travelled in Alaska must be seen to be believed - it is absolutely incredible!

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## NEW MEMBERS

We extend warm greetings to these new MDAS members and hope to meet them at our activities: B. Airriess, Kenneth L. Alexander, J. A. Barnes, J. Bauer, Dale Baumbach, Sandy Bustillo, Mrs. Johnson Clark, Florence J. Cole, Roy R. Cox, David F. Davis, Jr., Bob Derr, Shimi Edmondson, Mary Esser, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Flewelling, Susan Folk, Dorothy M. Grim, Les Hewitt, Myrtle Hopper, Ross A. Hunsinger, Pamela J. Hunter, E. E. Ivy, Lucille M. Jacobs, Mr. and Mrs. James M. Jensen, A. G. Kidd, P. Kinney, the P. C. Kromschroder family, Joseph M. Long, Mildred G. Mico, J. Moore, William F. Riggs, Ann Russell, David Russell, Alexandra Saunders, Harvey P. Schneiber, Leon H. Schultz, Cindy Siegel, Michael W. Smith, Mrs. R. T. Stagner, Edna Staton, Dr. Howard Sturtz, R. W. Turner Fred H. Venker, Larry Viel, L. T. Vinson, Jean Marie Walker, H. Milton Watchers, Don Wilkes, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Wils, Violet A. Witzel

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*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/year individual, \$38 family; introductory & senior 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. The Chapter benefits financially from membership applications it processes. Full membership is encouraged, but subscription to the Quail is available separate from membership at \$6/year. Check should be made to MDAS and mailed to MDAS Treasurer, Florence Bennett, P.O. Box 31435, Walnut Creek, CA 94598. First class mailing of the Quail to member or nonmember is an additional \$3/year payable to MDAS & sent to Treasurer.*

*ADDRESS CHANGES AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: Consult Linda Myers (415) 932-3489.*

*Barbara Burek, Editor, 157 Mt. Kennedy Dr., Martinez, CA 94553 (415) 229-0394*

*Exchange bulletins for MDAS to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, P. O. Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94596, please*

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Mt. Diablo Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 53  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

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# The QUAIL

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

President: Jimm Edgar, 658-2330  
VP Programs: Neal Welsh, 798-0213  
VP Conservation: Al McNabney, 945-1785  
Treasurer: Florence Bennett, 689-3106  
Sales Manager: Gifford Young, (707) 745-4134  
Field Trips: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486  
Membership: Linda Myers, 932-3489  
Publicity: Barbara Vaughn, 376-5041  
Hospitality: Britta Cascio, 837-2895  
Education: Norah Bain, 254-4516  
Secretary: Edna Mass, 945-7634

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October 1987

Vol. 34 No. 2

Next Deadline: October 15

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## *October Program:*

### **Song Dialects of the White-crowned Sparrow**

Luis Baptista, Chairman and Curator of Ornithology and Mammology, California Academy of Sciences, will present a special **October 8** program, at 8:30 p.m., at the Willow Creek Center, 1026 Mohr Lane, Concord. Dr. Baptista will discuss the relationship of reproductive isolating mechanisms to their effects upon the evolution of the White-crowned Sparrow. In particular, he will show how these fascinating facets of evolutionary biology result in the differing morphologies and song dialects of these birds. Come and see evolution in action - - bring a friend!

Luis Baptista (pronounced Batista - silent p) earned his Ph.D. in Zoology at the University of California, Berkeley, and afterward conducted research in bioacoustics, systematics and DNA hybridization at the world famous Max Planck Institute for Behavioral Physiology. His mastery and subsequent chairmanship of two distinct zoological sciences is a tribute to his intel-

lectual versatility. The rule in most museums is that each discipline rates a separate curator. Dr. Baptista is conversant in virtually all the life sciences and his infectious enthusiasm makes this program a must!

The agenda for the rest of the October meeting will be as follows:

7:00 Birding Info  
7:30 Business Meeting  
8:00 Social Half-hour

In preparation for the Monterey pelagic trip, Birding Info will deal with pelagic birding.

The next board meeting will be Thursday, October 15, at 7:30 pm, at the home of Al McNabney, 1161 Leisure Lane No. 7, Walnut Creek, 945-1785. Board meetings are open to all interested members.

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## CONSERVATION NOTES

*By Al McNabney*

### TRACKS IN THE SKY - A SIGNIFICANT EVENT!!!!!!!!!!!!

A gala evening involving wine and cheese tasting, a reception, book signing, and a special lecture/slide-show. All celebrating release of a new ( and significant) book. Along with release of the new book will be a traveling exhibition at the California Academy of Sciences of TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, at the Academy from 7 to 9 p.m. The book is *Tracks in the Sky*, photography by Tupper Ansel Blake and text by Peter Steinhart.

The event, hosted by National Audubon's Regional Office and the eight Bay Area Audubon Chapters will give an opportunity to see what will be a traveling display of Tupper Ansel Blake's photography. The traveling display is sponsored by the Smithsonian Institute and features Tupper's spectacular photographs, along with sounds and artifacts of the Pacific Flyway from Alaska to Mexico.

Audubon will have exclusive use of the exhibition gallery for this event. Tupper Ansel Blake and Peter Steinhart will be on hand to autograph books and tell of their experiences while the wine and hors d'oeuvres are being served.

In an important and exclusive finale, Tupper and Peter will invite those present to the Auditorium, where they will show slides, taken in preparation for the book. They will also discuss issues relating to Wetlands/Wildlife associated with the Pacific Flyway.

ALL PROCEEDS OVER AND ABOVE COST WILL GO  
TOWARDS MONO LAKE, AN INTEGRAL AND  
THREATENED PART OF THE FLYWAY.

Tickets can be purchased through Lynn Teneffoss, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, (415) 329-1881. Replys should be made by October 5, 1987. Tickets are \$25.00 per person. Make checks payable to SCVAS-Tracks, and send to SCVAS, 415 Cambridge Ave., Suite 21, Palo Alto, CA 94306.

The book, *Tracks in the Sky*, a major publication, is available at the pre-publication price of \$32.00 You can specify that you will pick up the book at the event, or have it mailed to you. If you wish the book to be mailed, please add \$1.20 per book to cover postage.

AN AUDUBON SPONSORED EVENT YOU SHOULDN'T  
MISS!!!!!!

### WANT OR NEED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT WATER? HERE'S YOUR CHANCE

The State Water Resources Control Board has started what will be a process of hearings covering a period of three years to provide a basis for adoption of new water quality standards. The plans apply not only to San Francisco Bay, the Delta and Estuarian System, but the entire state.

These hearings, historic in many senses, can and will have a great impact with far-reaching implications for the Bay and related ecosystems.

The State Water Resources Control Board will be holding its FIRST and ONLY San Francisco Bay Policy Statement hearing TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, at 7:30 p.m. at the CONTRA COSTA WATER DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS, 113 Concord Ave., Concord.

This is the ONLY session the Board has scheduled in the Bay Area to hear concerns of the public. We urge every Audubon member to attend the hearing, even if you do not intend to speak. Interest of the public in this matter is expected to have "some" weight in the attention the Board eventually gives to the decision on the all-important matter of water needs of the Bay/Delta and estuarian system.

Remember: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, at 7:30 p.m. at the Contra Costa Water District Headquarters, 113 Concord Ave., Concord.

### ONCE AGAIN, SHELL MARSH

Reported earlier, plans of Cal/Trans to (first) widen the George Miller Jr. Bridge near Benicia and then study the possibility of constructing a parallel span at some later date. Words of caution expressed to the Department of Transportation have brought a (so far) reassuring response.

Mr. Robert H. Coleman advises: "We fully agree with the importance of the wetland area described in your letter. As a part of our environmental study for this project, we will be contracting with consultants for marine and natural environment studies and an endangered species biological assessment. Your concerns will be fully examined in those studies. While it is too early at this stage to determine the extent of any impact the proposed project may have on the wetland area, you may be assured that we will work closely with you and the consultants to minimize impacts to the wetlands and develop a workable plan while providing the necessary highway improvements."

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## FIELD TRIPS

Trips are open to members and nonmembers alike. Carpool time is departure time. Carpool expense: 5 cents per mile per rider is suggested; tolls and entry fees are shared equally by driver and riders. Bring binoculars, field guide and lunch. Trips go in light rain or drizzle; if in doubt, call leader up to 1/2 hour before departure time.

Thursday, October 1, Alameda South Shore. Carpool 8:00 am, Acalanes Ave., off Pleasant Hill Rd., just north of SR24. Meet at 8:45 am at Broadway and Shoreline Ave. in Alameda. Take SR24 to I-880, go south to Government Island exit. Continue on Kennedy St. to bridge approach. Alameda side of bridge is Park St. Continue on Park; left on Shoreline. Park at end of Broadway or on Bayview. Not much walking, but some may be in sand. We should see a wide variety of shorebirds, and Clapper Rails are possible.

Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486.

Saturday, Sunday, October 10-11, Pelagic Trip and Monterey. Please note that the pelagic trip is on Saturday this year. For more information on the boat trip, call Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486. For information on Sunday's land birding, call Jean Richmond, 837-2843. Two inexpensive motels are the Sixpence Inn on Reservation Rd., just off SR1 in Marina, (408) 384-1100, and the Budget Inn, 1893 Fremont Avenue, Seaside, (408) 394-8566.

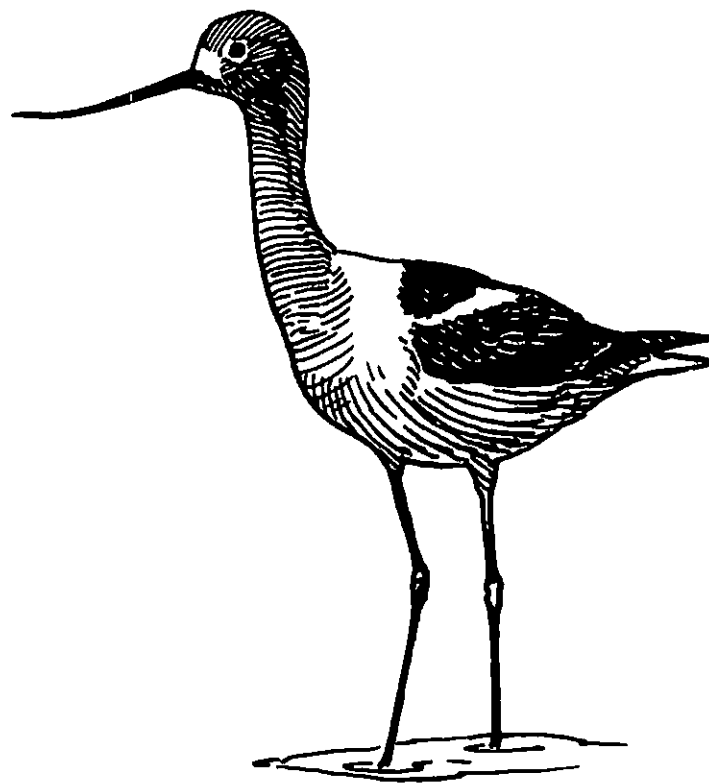
Wednesday, October 14, Point Diablo (Hawk Mountain). Carpool 8:00 am, Acalanes Ave., off Pleasant Hill Rd., just north of SR24. Meet at 9:00 am at first parking lot west of lighted tunnel. From Golden Gate Bridge, take Alexander Ave. exit; follow signs for Ft. Cronkite in Golden Gate NRA. If weather is clear, we should see migrating hawks and possibly swifts, and waterfowl and shorebirds around the lagoons. If weather is suitable, we will carry lunch and stay on Hawk Mountain until mid-afternoon. Bring liquids; it can be hot. A short, steep walk up the hill for hawk watching.

Leader: Jimm Edgar, 658-2330.

Saturday, October 17, Abbott's Lagoon. Carpool 7:00 am, Acalanes Ave., off Pleasant Hill Rd., just north of SR24. Meet 8:30 am at Bear Valley Visitor's Center, Point Reyes. Cross the San Rafael Bridge. From US101, take the San Rafael exit, go 2 blocks, turn left onto 3rd St. In San Anselmo, turn right onto Sir Francis Drake Blvd. At SR1, turn right 0.25 mile, left onto Bear Valley and left again into Visitor's Center. We should see waterfowl, shorebirds, and possibly hawks or eagles. We will carry lunch and liquids. 2-3 mile level walk to lagoon and back.

Leader: Maury Stern, 284-5980.

Wednesday, October 28, Lake Merritt. Carpool 8:00 am, Acalanes Ave., off Pleasant Hill Rd., just north of SR24. Meet 8:45 am at aviary at Lake Merritt. From SR24, take Grand Ave. Turn left onto 27th Street, right onto Harrison, and left onto Grand Avenue. Turn right into park at Fairyland. Park in lot between boat house and the large aviary. We will see ducks and other waterbirds. This is an opportunity for new birders to see ducks at close range. About 1 mile of walking on paved paths. For further information, call Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486.




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## FIELD TRIP REPORT

SAN MATEO COAST, September 12.

Eleven members and guests enjoyed an overcast day along the San Mateo Coast. A total of 91 species were seen, including 40 winter-plumaged marbled murrelets, hundreds of Western/Clark's Grebes, Sooty Shearwaters, a jaeger, and the usual shorebirds. Also seen were numerous ducks in eclipse plumage, an American Bittern, a Sora, a Virginia Rail, and Vaux's Swifts on a walk along the dike at Pescadero Marsh. An interesting mammal list included a Long-tailed Weasel, Sea Otter, Elephant Seals, Harbor Seals, whales, deer, and Brush Rabbits.

George Finger

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### AUTO SHADES

*Save the Wetlands* auto shades are also still available from MDAS, for \$5 each. They will be available at the field trips. If interested, call Gifford Young to arrange for delivery.

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## REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Elizabeth Dickey would like reports from members on successful methods of attracting birds to a yard. What birds like what plants? What type of feeders are popular and what types of food? Are there any especially inexpensive but attractive ones? How is water provided? This is in preparation for a slide and talk script which can be presented to groups requesting bird talks.

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## OBSERVATIONS

*By Donna Peake-Klein*

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

While on a birding trip to Southern Arizona in July, Jan Hilton observed the following species: an **Elegant (Coppery-tailed) Trogon**, adult and juvenile **Flammulated Owls** (roosting in a pine in broad daylight), **Berylline Hummingbird**, and **Masked Bobwhite**. In Big Bend, Texas, Jan also heard the famed **Colima Warbler** and saw a **Gray Vireo** and **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**.

7/9-10 Shimi Edmondson hiked to the summit of Mt. Shasta, 14162 feet. At 13000 feet, she saw 30 **Rosy Finches** which were very tame and not concerned about people, and at the base camp was a flock of more than 20 **Red Crossbills**.

8/11 Jean Richmond and six friends saw three **Baird's Sandpipers** at Indian Beach pond at Tomales Bay State Park, and an immature **Green-backed Heron** out in the middle of the pond making no attempt to hide.

8/24 Elizabeth Dickey, Jan Hilton, and Marjorie Plant saw five **Baird's Sandpipers** at Abbott's Lagoon.

8/31 A **Sharp-Shinned Hawk** visited the Danville garden of Kamran Alavari. On 9/1, Kamran also reports having a pair of **Hooded Orioles** return to his yard, with the male in full breeding plumage. The pair has nested twice already this year and should be molting.

9/1 From Point Reyes, Jean Richmond reported two **Pectoral Sandpipers** at Spaletta Ranch slop ponds, a **Black-and-white Warbler**, four **American Redstarts** including one adult male at Nunes Ranch, and two **American Redstarts** at the Lighthouse.

9/10 A few **Hooded Orioles** were still in Jean Richmond's Alamo garden at least through September 10.

In September, Shimi Edmondson visited Yosemite and saw a **Great Grey Owl** at White Wolf meadow at 12:30 p.m. Afterwards, she went on to the White Mountains of bristlecone pine fame and hiked to the summit of one mountain (14246 feet). Along the entrance road were numerous birds of prey, including **Rough-legged Hawks**, a **Prairie Falcon**, and a pair of **Golden Eagles** "dancing together."

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## TRAVEL CORNER

### Birding in Southeast Arizona

by John Ascher

After visiting Tucson in February and reading about the exotic Mexican birdlife of Southeast Arizona, I decided I wanted to go as soon as possible. It didn't seem possible until Jimm Edgar called and MDAS offered to sponsor me to attend Camp Chiricahua. I flew to Tucson where I met the other members of Camp Chiricahua and got to know the leaders, Victor Emanuel and Rick Taylor. Walking around the Sonoran Desert Museum grounds, we saw many of the common birds of the saguaro desert, including Gambel's Quail, White-winged Dove, Inca Dove, Pyrrhuloxia, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Curve-billed Thrasher, and Purple Martin. The next day, the hard-core birders in the group woke up at 1:45 a.m. and rushed down to Sycamore Canyon in pursuit of a Fan-tailed Warbler. The hike down the canyon was a frustrating way to be introduced to Arizona birding. We were constantly hearing birds such as Elegant Trogon, Broad-billed Hummingbird, Vermilion Flycatcher, Painted Redstart, and Strickland's Woodpecker, but because we were rushed for time we were unable to stop. Three miles down the canyon, we spent half an hour searching the oaks and sycamores for the elusive warbler. Finally it appeared in a sycamore along the streambed and everyone got a good look. The hike back was more relaxed and we were treated to good views of Hepatic Tanager, Summer Tanager, Zone-Tailed Hawk, Costa's Hummingbird, and all the birds heard on the way down. On our drive to the Chiricahua Mountains that afternoon, many typical grassland birds were seen from the vans including coveys of Scaled Quail, several Swainson's Hawks, and flocks of Chihuahuan Ravens and Eastern Meadowlarks.

Most of my trip was spent in Cave Creek Canyon in the Chiricahuas. Around our cabins at Cave Creek Ranch, Elf Owl, Blue-throated Hummingbird, Magnificent Hummingbird, Prairie Falcon, and Plumbeous Vireo were seen regularly. In the lower part of the canyon near the town of Portal, birds of the desert riparian habitat such as Crissal Thrasher, Bell's Vireo, Verdin, Bronzed Cowbird, and Indigo Bunting were common. Higher up in the S fork of the canyon in forests of apache pine and sycamore, Grace's Warbler, Bridled Titmouse, Gray-breasted Jay, and Myarchius flycatchers were common. Highlights of this area were a pair of Elegant Trogons at their nest hole, a family of five Pygmy Owls, and a Flammulated Owl peering out of its home in a pine. On side trips to nearby lowlands, three Western Screech Owls, four Barn Owls in a mine-shaft, a pair of Great Horned Owls, and a male Collared Lizard were exciting sightings.

We made many trips to see birds which are not found in Cave Creek. Around Rodeo, New Mexico, we identified five species of mimids in 15 minutes, including a vagrant Gray Catbird, and many Bendire's Thrashers. We then took a dirt road to a ranch in the Peloncillo Mountains to see two male Lucifer Hummingbirds which frequently visited a feeder while we watched from a few feet away. A highlight of the camp was an overnight campout in Guadalupe Canyon on the Mexican border. That night, we found a Buff-collared Nightjar by seeing its eyeshine on a brushy slope above the road. We got fair views as it flew along the hillside and we heard its strange call several times. The next day we hiked up the canyon for about three miles. Thick-billed Kingbird, Violet-crowned Hummingbird, Varied Bunting, Northern Beardless Tyrannulet, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and Bell's Vireo were seen well by everyone. As I was walking down the wash in search of a calling tyrannulet, a pair of Montezuma Quail ran across the wash in front of me and disappeared in the brush before the others could get a look. We searched for the quail afterwards, but none ever showed up again.

On our return to the Chiricahuas, we headed for the high country. On the way to our camping area at Rustler Park, we stopped at the Herb Martyr Trail where I found a Whiskered Screech Owl with a fledgling after walking past them four times. At Rustler Park, Mexican Chickadee, Yellow-eyed Junco, and Pygmy Nuthatch were very common in the ponderosa pines. On the Barfoot Trail, we saw Evening Grosbeak, Olive Warbler, Red-faced Warbler, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, and Greater Pewee in the coniferous forest.

The last day of the camp was spent trying to see everything we still needed to see. We visited the Huachuclas where we found three Buff-breasted Flycatchers and a Goshawk nest with three young in Sawmill Canyon. In Scheelite Canyon, Rick Taylor found a Spotted Owl exactly where he predicted it would be, and we got incredible views of it as it perched within a few yards of the trail. Farther down the canyon, some MPs from Ft. Huachuca were trying to get a baby Black Bear out of a tree. We then drove to Nogales. On the way, Grasshopper Sparrows and a herd of Pronghorn Antelope were alongside the road. We were all amazed at the sight of a pair of Swainson's Hawks attacking a Golden Eagle. At Nogales, three Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, a Tropical Kingbird, and many Lesser Nighthawks and Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seen at a group of ponds.

The camp was an incredible opportunity for me to see Southeastern Arizona wildlife, and to meet other young birders my own age. One 14-year-old has already seen over 700 species in Mexico! There is a good article on last year's Camp Chiricahua in the May, 1987, issue of *Audubon*, but it overemphasizes the competitiveness of the birders. I would like to thank the chapter, and especially Jimm Edgar, for sponsoring me and making the trip possible. I saw 42 lifers and many exciting mammals and reptiles, including Kit Fox, Banner-tailed Kangaroo Rat, Black-tailed Rattlesnake, Apache Fox Squirrel, and Texas Horned Lizard.

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## TRAVEL NOTES

**Rare Bird Alert update:**

The Monterey Bay Area rare bird number has been returned to a Peninsula exchange. The new number is (408) 375-9122.

**Change of address:**

The Santa Clara Valley Audubon chapter has moved to a new address, 415 Cambridge Ave., Suite 21, Palo Alto, CA 94306.

**Banding study:**

Golden Plovers on Oahu, Hawaii, have been banded as part of a study dealing with their wintering biology. Each bird wears a FWS band on one leg and one or more color bands on the other. If more than one color band, combinations are 2 of same color, 2 of different colors, 3 of 2 colors, or 3 of 3 colors. Observers are asked to note which leg is color banded and exact sequence of colors. Please send observations with as much information as possible to Bird Banding Laboratory, Laurel, MD 20708 and to Oscar W. Johnson, Dept. Biology, Moorhead State Univ., Moorhead, MN 56560.



## INTRODUCING PROJECT FEEDERWATCH!

The Cornell University of Ornithology and Canada's Long Point Bird Observatory will conduct a survey of feeder birds this winter, sponsored by *Bird Watcher's Digest*. Project Feeder-Watch will gather data weekly on winter bird populations, using volunteer observers from across North America. If you can identify the birds that visit your feeder, you are invited to participate. You will use special data forms to record the birds that visit your feeders on one or two days each week throughout the winter. In return for your efforts, you'll receive reports about the distribution and abundance of feeder birds in your region and throughout North America. An annual registration fee of \$7.00 will help cover costs of printing special data forms, postage, and computer analysis of results. To register, send your name, address, and \$7.00 check (made payable to Bird Watcher's Digest) to *Bird Watcher's Digest*, P.O. Box 110, Dept. FW, Marietta, Ohio 45750. You will receive record forms and full instructions from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in October.

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*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/year individual, \$38 family; introductory & senior 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. The Chapter benefits financially from membership applications it processes. Full membership is encouraged, but subscription to the Quail is available separate from membership at \$6/year. Check should be made to MDAS and mailed to MDAS Treasurer, Florence Bennett, P.O. Box 31435, Walnut Creek, CA 94598. First class mailing of the Quail to member or nonmember is an additional \$3/year payable to MDAS & sent to Treasurer.*

**ADDRESS CHANGES AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: Consult Linda Myers (415) 932-3489.**

*Barbara Burek, Editor, 157 Mt. Kennedy Dr., Martinez, CA 94553 (415) 229-0394*

*Exchange bulletins for MDAS to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, P. O. Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94596, please.*

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# The QUAIL

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November 1987

Vol. 34 No. 3

Next Deadline: November 12

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## *November Program:*

### Kenyan Wildlife Safari

With our next program on **November 5**, we return to our regular "first Thursday" schedule. Our speaker, Chris Carpenter, was recently co-leader of a wildlife safari filled with memorable events. In Samburu, Cheetahs raced along with a charging Loxodont. In Kakmega Forest, endangered Black and White Colobus Monkeys hurtled through space leaping wildly from treetop to treetop. The snow-capped peaks of Mt. Kenya and Mt. Kilimanjaro loomed over migrating herds of Antelope, Water Buffalo, Giraffe, and Zebra. The safari visited areas as diverse as volcanic lava flows, dry thornbush, lush farmland, freshwater lakes, and the warm clear waters of the Indian Ocean with its shoals of rainbow colored fishes. And EVERYWHERE there were "new" birds! In this 8:30 p.m. slide-show talk, Chris recounts the excitement of this latest trip on which were seen almost 50 mammalian and more than 500 bird species.

In addition to leading a myriad of local birding trips, Chris Carpenter has led tours to Kenya, China, Peru, Panama, Costa Rica and Mexico, as well as throughout Texas and California. He has seen more than 2,000 bird species. Chris has spoken to MDAS about some of his other trips and his sense of humor, wildlife lore, and obvious kinship to the living world have always made for an entertaining and inspirational program. Wear your best pith helmet and bring a friend.

**Sleigh bells ring - must be time to start thinking about the annual MDAS Christmas Bird Count. See page 5 for details.**

The next board meeting will be Thursday, November 12, at 7:30 pm, at the home of Florence Bennett. Members interested in attending the board meeting should contact her at 689-3106.

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## CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

### TRAINS, PARKS, BIRDS vs ?????

Mt. Diablo Audubon recently "made" the editorial pages of the *Contra Costa Times*. All because MDAS joined with John Muir Society in "suggesting" to the Martinez Railroad Historical Society and the Martinez City Council that a proposed display of used rail equipment should NOT be located in a way that would disrupt important habitat. Twenty-one species of birds feed, nest, and rest in the area. The Martinez City Park located just across the tracks from the SP Station is the proposed site. Following presentations by MDAS, the John Muir Society, and interested individuals, the City Council instructed the staff to "look further." The important area is small. It is (we believe) covered by federal restrictions on uses of wetlands. No one is particularly interested in turning the issue into a major confrontation. So, the obviously simple solution is to place the rail equipment somewhere else in the park. Stay tuned to this station for other earthshaking developments. (Nothing to do with quakes in LA.)

### DID YOU SEE THE WHITE PELICANS???????

Birders passing Shell Marsh, which MDAS has battled to save for so long, were startled to see a flock of BIG white birds resting near the northerly end of the marsh. Closer observation showed the birds to be White Pelicans. These are birds not usually seen in this area. A reporter for the *Quail* attempted to interview the pelicans to find out WHY they were there. The contrary, uncooperative birds wouldn't stay put long enough to provide an answer. The *Contra Costa Times* carried a major front page article, with a picture, calling attention to the visitors. MDAS points out to all who are interested: had the development project proposed for Shell Marsh not been stopped, neither the White Pelicans nor almost any other migratory birds would have been able to find a place to rest and feed in Shell Marsh.

### WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD HEARING

The State Water Quality Control Board met in Concord on September 28. The session produced a great turnout of interested people. Close to 100 individuals signified an interest in presenting a statement to the Board. MDAS was represented by three capable speakers who presented statements applicable to the Bay Area Audubon Chapters. The main issue for Audubon people: WETLANDS! The Honorable Sunne Wright McPeak, speaking for the public in general, led off. Using a balance and two glasses, she demonstrated in a graphic way that 60% of the water entering the estuarian system is being diverted. That leaves but 40% for ALL the varied uses tied to the Bay. McPeak called for a balancing of waters. One ingeni-

ous individual who came on at a late, late hour asserted there is NO problem with the Bay. It is all a disinformation campaign carried on by "powerful" (Hmmmmm) people and the Bay Area press. A truly amazing presentation. We believe the theory presented was knocked into a cocked hat by testimony of truly EXPERT witnesses. Hearings will take three years. The outcome may well affect California residents and bird and wildlife for years to come.

### PARKS AND WILDLIFE INITIATIVE (PAW)

Late word indicates petitions being circulated for the Parks and Wildlife bond issue are continually gaining signatures. Reports indicate we're about half way to having enough signatures. Can YOU devote some time to acquiring signatures in your nearby supermarket?

### ELECTIONS

November 3rd, citizens in many communities in Contra Costa County will be electing individuals to serve on a City Council seat. Do YOU know who these people are in YOUR city? What do the various candidates indicate they want to do? YOU should know, so you can cast an intelligent vote on Nov. 3rd.

### CANADA GEESE: FRIEND OR FOE?

Many locales are reporting that flocks of Canada Geese have "moved in." In one local area, geese frequent the golf course. The golfers have discovered there are sometimes hazards in driving a golf ball from a point on the fairway. What the golfer thought was a tee turned out to be something else (a calling card left by the geese), so a drive may produce unexpected results. Many of us enjoy seeing the geese, but there is concern because the geese have seemingly lost their fear of man. The most worrisome part of the entire scenario: the indication geese seek out such locales for feed and rest because traditional habitat is disappearing under concrete and building due to development. Even more troubling: "people" sooner or later want to "get rid of the messy geese." When that happens, the geese are "dundee", unless they decide to move on.

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## MDAS SALES

Both land and pelagic birders will find good use for the new field checklist of California birds. The 4 x 7 inch, 16 page multicolumn checklist was compiled by the Western Field Ornithologists. All possible bird species that might appear in California or offshore, a total of 565!, are listed, followed by ten checkoff columns for comparing different sites or dates. A unique feature is the asterisking of those birds for which claimed sightings should be confirmed by the California Bird Records Committee, Don Robertson, Secretary. Copies are available from the MDAS Sales Manager for \$1.25 picked up, plus \$0.25 or a self-addressed stamped envelope if mailed.

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## FIELD TRIPS

Trips are open to members and nonmembers alike. Carpool time is departure time. Carpool expense: 5 cents per mile per rider is suggested; tolls and entry fees are shared equally by driver and riders. Bring binoculars, field guide and lunch. Trips go in light rain or drizzle; if in doubt, call leader up to 1/2 hour before departure time.

**Thursday, November 5, Mountain View Sanitary Plant.** Meet at 9:00 am at the parking lot at the plant. Take the Pacheco Blvd. exit from I-680, turn right onto Arthur and go under the freeway. Arthur turns left, then right; at the second turn, turn sharp left onto a non-county maintained road. Follow the road into the sanitary plant. This is a good place for close looks at ducks and other water birds; we have often had bittern and Green-backed herons. About 0.25 mile walking on level, sometimes muddy paths.

Leader: John Davis, 228-9516.

**Saturday, November 14, Limantour.** Carpool 7:00 am at southwest corner of Sun Valley parking lot. Meet at 8:30 am at headquarters, Pt. Reyes National Seashore. Cross the San Rafael Bridge. From US101, take the San Rafael exit, go 2 blocks, turn left onto 3rd St. In San Anselmo, turn right onto Sir Francis Drake Blvd. At SR1, turn right 0.25 mile, left onto Bear Valley and left again into Visitor's Center. Trails are fairly level, but may be muddy. 2-3 miles total walking. Shore birds, seabirds, and waterfowl, as well as land birds on the ridge.

Leader: Maury Stern, 284-5980.

**Wednesday, November 18, Charleston Slough, Mountain View Forebay.** This is a new area for our trips. Carpool 7:00 am El Cerro Blvd., just west of I-680. Meet at end of Terminal Rd., Mountain View. Take Dumbarton Bridge and go south on US 101 to San Antonio exit. Go north on San Antonio and turn right on Terminal. Park near end. This has been a good area for water and salt marsh birds. Trails are level, may be muddy. Probably 1-2 miles of walking.

Leader: Jean Richmond, 837-2843.

**Saturday, November 21, Altamont.** Carpool 7:30 am, El Cerro Blvd., just west of I-680. Meet at 8:00 am at Frick Lake, just north of Livermore. Go south on I-680 and east on I-580 to Vasco Rd. exit; cross freeway and turn right on frontage road to Laughlin Rd. Watch signs carefully. Turn left on Laughlin and continue to Frick Lake on right. (Lake may be dry). This is an outstanding raptor area. Mostly car birding.

Leader: George Finger, 933-2468.

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## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

**SAN FRANCISCO BAY WILDLIFE REFUGE - COYOTE HILLS, September 16.**

Six members and two guests enjoyed a good morning of birding and good weather. The tidal flat at the Refuge produced good looks at the usual tideland birds, including both Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs. At Coyote Hills, several duck species were seen. The highlight was the Virginia Rail which answered a tape call. A total of 46 species of birds was seen, plus a family of raccoons which visited our lunch table. On the way home, two cars stopped to see the Cattle Egrets at Durham and Christy Roads.

Elizabeth Dickey

**OUTER POINT REYES, September 26.**

Eighteen members and guests enjoyed a cool but nice day of birding at Point Reyes. At Spaletta Ranch were 3 Baird's and eleven Pectoral Sandpipers. A Burrowing Owl was found at New Willows, four Palm Warblers were at the Fish Dock, a tailless American Redstart was skulking around Drakes's Beach, and a Lark Bunting was seen at Mendoza School. A total of 86 birds was seen for the day.

Jimm Edgar

**ALAMEDA AND ARROWHEAD MARSH, October 1.**

High tide at Alameda South Shore pushed out two active Clapper Rails to provide good views for eight members and a guest. Other shore birds were present in good numbers including Red Knots. One Common Tern was among the Forster's Terns. At Arrowhead Marsh, two Burrowing Owls were found in the parking lot. A total of 42 species was seen or heard.

Elizabeth Dickey

**PELAGIC TRIP AND MONTEREY, October 10, 11.**

Thirteen members and two leaders went on the pelagic trip on an unusually calm, smooth bay. In addition to the usual pelagic species, the highlight of the trip was the sighting of both the scrippsi and rare southern hypoleucus forms of Xantus' Murrelets. Seven mammal species were seen, including two almost completely albino Pacific White-sided Dolphins. After the pelagic trip, the group drove down to the Carmel River. A total of 78 birds was seen for the day. On Sunday, five members again birded the Carmel River, as well as other Monterey land areas, finding 97 species for a two-day total of 130 species.

Jean Richmond

**HAWK MOUNTAIN AND RODEO LAGOON, October 15.**

The trip to Hawk Mountain on this day found the mountain shrouded in overcast all day and consequently few raptors were seen. It was, however, a spectacular day to be in the right place at the right time. While watching a small flock of sandpipers at Rodeo Lagoon, Gifford Young saw a Bobcat which we all briefly observed before it disappeared into the reeds near the lagoon. Five or ten minutes passed when suddenly the Bobcat burst out of the reeds into the lagoon and captured a female scaup that had floated too near the edge. It was right before our eyes and something one would very rarely see. We did also see 85 species of birds during the day, including a good view of one Broad-winged Hawk and three Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, but surely the highlight was the Bobcat and the duck.

Jimm Edgar

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## CLASSES AND EDUCATION

### COASTAL WETLANDS SYMPOSIUM AND WORKSHOP

The Monterey Bay Aquarium and ten wetlands nature centers are sponsoring a symposium on Saturday, November 14, and follow-up workshops on November 21, December 5, and December 12, for teachers of grades K-12. The symposium will be at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The workshops will be held at Elkhorn Slough and other Bay Area nature centers. The \$15 fee covers both symposium and the follow-up workshop. Enrollment is limited, so call the Education Reservationist at (408) 649-3133, for information and to register.

### FALL BIRDING CLASSES IN SAN FRANCISCO

Evening bird classes will be offered through the San Francisco Community College, sponsored by the Golden Gate Audubon Society. The fee will be \$40 for each of three seven-week courses. For information on registration, call the Community Services Office, 776-8247.

### POINT REYES FIELD SEMINARS

Point Reyes Field Seminars offer a variety of courses in natural history, environmental education, and the arts for this fall and winter. Seminars will meet at Point Reyes National Seashore. For a catalog, write Seminar Coordinator, Point Reyes Field Seminars, Point Reyes, CA 94956, or call (415) 663-1200.

### AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

Audubon Canyon Ranch is offering a number of educational programs and hikes this fall, at the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve, Cypress Grove Preserve, and Bouverie Audubon Preserve. For a calendar of events, write Audubon Canyon Ranch, 4900 Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach, CA 94970, or call (415) 868-9244.

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## AUSTRALIAN BIRDS

Bill Martin and Dennis Carlisle of the Australian National Park Service will present an audio-visual talk on Australian birds, on Friday, November 27, at 7:30 p.m., at the Auditorium of the Contra Costa Water District, 1331 Concord Ave., Concord, CA. The presentation is sponsored by the Avian Society of Concord, and all Audubon member are invited. There is no admission charge. For further information, call Luella Desborough at 372-6174.

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## OBSERVATIONS

*By Donna Peake-Klein*

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

- 9/1 Several Sandhill Cranes were seen on Woodbridge Road near Highway 12 in the Thornton area. (J&IF)
- 9/3 Observed at Nunes Ranch were many American Redstarts. (ED,JH)
- 9/12 The following species were spotted at Pt. Reyes: 3 Baird's Sandpipers, 2 Pectoral Sandpipers and one Pomarine Jaeger. (BC,EH,JR)
- 9/14 A Stilt Sandpiper was sighted at Bolinas Sewer Ponds. (ED,JH)
- 9/15 Seen at Pt. Reyes: 6 Lesser Golden Plovers, a Black-billed Cuckoo, a Northern Waterthrush, and an immature Black-throated Sparrow. (FB,JR)
- 9/19 On a Monterey Bay Pelagic Trip, 15 miles off Point Pinos: Pigeon Guillemot, Ruddy Turnstone, Common Murre, Sooty Shearwater, Pomarine Jaeger, Rhinoceros Auklet, Pink-footed Shearwater, Sabine's Gull, Arctic Tern, Buller's Shearwater, South Polar Skua, Long-tailed Jaeger, Parasitic Jaeger, Brown Pelican, and Western and California Gulls. (SF,KH)
- 9/22 In their Lafayette garden, a first-time Townsend's Warbler and unusually early Golden-crowned Sparrows. (M&GM)
- 9/22 At Pt. Reyes: 3 Lesser Golden Plovers, a Chestnut-sided and a Blackpoll Warbler, and an immature Black-throated Sparrow. (FB,JR)
- 9/25 A Golden Eagle was sighted on a power tower near Vallejo corners on Columbus Parkway. (W&GY) *W&GY*
- 9/27 At Heather Farms, a Green-winged Teal, and continuing to appear daily, a Green-backed Heron. (MW)
- 9/29 Spotted at Pt. Reyes: 3 Baird's Sandpipers, 12 Pectoral Sandpipers and 1 Lark Bunting. (FB,JR,MOB)
- 10/3 A Long-eared Owl, Least Bittern and 4-5 Blue-winged Teals were spotted at Briones. (KA,S&NW)
- 10/3 On Hill 129 in Marin Headlands, 2 Broad-winged Hawks, the first of which soared around a low ridge just north of the lookout for nearly half an hour when it was joined by another and both circled together for some time. (JR,NB)
- 10/3 A male Black-throated Blue Warbler was sighted at Middle Lake in Golden Gate Park. (BC,EH,JR)
- 10/7 Observed at Pt. Reyes: 3 Pectoral Sandpipers, American Redstart, and Magnolia, Cape May, Black-and-White, Palm, Blackburnian and Blackpoll Warblers. (FB,JR)

Observers: Kamran Alavai, Norah Bain, Florence Bennett, Bill Chilson, Elizabeth Dickey, Shirley Ellis, Sharyn Fernandez, Jerry & Irene Fritzke, Ed Hase, Jan Hilton, Kevin Hints, Many Observers, George & Molly Monheit, Jean Richmond, Margaret Wadsworth, Sue & Neal Walsh, Dean Williams, Winnie & Gifford Young.

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## TRAVEL CORNER

### European Birds by Maury Stern

During late June and the first half of July, our family traveled to several European cities, mainly to see the sights and visit museums, monuments and churches. However, I did some birding in the early mornings and while traveling by train between major cities. The first thing I noticed in European cities was the amazing number of Swifts. There was a constant large number overhead with a continuous "scree" sound.

The first stop was London, where the parks - Hyde Park, St. James's, Green, and Regency - provided the best city birding of our trip. The ponds in the parks contained large number of interesting waterfowl. These included Tufted Ducks in profusion, Shelducks, Pochards, Mandarin Ducks, as well as familiar Mallards, Goldeneyes, Ruddy and Wood Ducks. Geese included Barnacle, Bar-headed, Greylag, Red-breasted, Canada, and White-fronted. Mute Swans were very common. One spectacular waterbird was the Great Crested Grebe. Among the many landbirds were those found on the lawns - Stock Dove, Wood Pigeon and feral pigeons, Blackbirds (really equivalent to the American Robin), Song Thrush, Jackdaw, and Carrion Crow. In the trees and bushes, there were Blue Tits and Great Tits, along with Robins, House and Tree Sparrows, and Starlings. At the Tower of London were six impressively large Ravens. Along the Thames in London, Herring Gulls were the predominant bird, but in the quieter areas of the Thames on the way to Hampton Court were Buzzards (a Buteo), and Night Herons. On the train ride to Dover through the countryside, I saw Buzzards, Kestrels, and Magpies. Any hope of seeing birds on the Hovercraft ride across the English Channel was thwarted by the large amount of spray generated by the airboat.

In Paris, there were fewer birds, consisting mainly of Swallows, Swifts, Starlings, House Sparrows, pigeons, and Blackbirds. At Notre Dame, there was one very active Kestrel using a tower for its flights. By train from Paris to Berne, Switzerland, and on to Grindelwald, I could only spot an occasional Buzzard or Kestrel.

Grindelwald is a beautiful Swiss Alps town at about 3100 feet surrounded by 10 to 13,000 foot mountain peaks. At the Jungfrau mountain pass (11,800 feet) there was one lone Alpine Chough sunning itself. Around Grindelwald, there are lovely paths through the hills with many conifers adjacent to open fields with deciduous trees along the creeks and rivers. Birds in Grindelwald included Blackcap, Brambling, Chaffinch, Coal Tit, Goldfinch, Redstart, and Alpine Swift.

We then moved on to Lucerne, where there is a large lake as well as a large river through the city. There were also many green areas of forest accessible nearby. The varieties of birds

in Lucerne included Treecreeper, Jay (very different in behavior from our jays), Siskin, Black-headed Gull, Mistle Thrush, Treecreeper, and Garden and Wood Warblers.

Next by train we went to Venice, where I saw Red-backed Shrike. Neither Venice nor Florence was good for birds except for pigeons, Tree Sparrows, Swifts, and Swallows. However, the Renaissance art, churches, and museums made up for the lack of variety among actual birds. There were many birds in the paintings with symbolic meanings; for example, the dove in Annunciation paintings represents the Holy Ghost, and the Goldfinch is an allusion to Christ's crown of thorns, because the Goldfinch can eat thistles and thorns.

The end of our trip was Milan, and during the train ride we were able to see Grey Herons and Night Herons. On our last day in Milan, I was sitting reading in a small park when the most unusual bird of the trip flew over my head and landed twenty feet away - a Hoopoe, with its spectacular buffy-red color and black and white tail and wing barring. It was a great ending bird for the trip.

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## 88th CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The Mt. Diablo Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count will be Saturday, January 2, 1988. Last year 80 participants in 21 field parties and 2 feeder watchers counted 152 species. This year we hope to have more participants than ever to help spot birds. We invite all interested people to participate. You do not have to be an expert birder. There are important roles for beginners to play as helpers in each group - every extra pair of eyes is very useful. Feeder watchers are also welcomed.

The Mt. Diablo Christmas Count is one of about 1500 counts in the period December 17, 1987, through January 3, 1988. The information gained from these counts helps in understanding the distribution of birds and provides knowledge of the status of the ecosystem. Our count will cover many areas of Contra Costa County including Mt. Diablo, Black Diamond Mines, Briones Park, Heather Farms, Shell Ridge, some of the Pittsburg marshes, reservoirs, urban parks, local creeks, and green spaces. Maury Stern and George Finger will be the co-compilers of the count and everyone is invited to notify us of any rare or unusual birds that one sees around the period of the count.

There will be an evening potluck dinner after the day's activities and we will learn about the birds seen during the day. Details will be announced in the December *Quail*, including the cost per person. This money helps to defray some of the publishing and data-gathering costs of the National Audubon Society.

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

George Finger  
2371 Dapplegray Lane  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596  
933-2468

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## NEWS FROM NATIONAL

by Peter A. A. Berle  
President, National Audubon Society

The decision by the board of directors at their May meeting to reduce Audubon field staff in order to meet budget goals generated a lot of confusion and turmoil. This was understandable, because we did not at the time have a workable plan for maintaining chapter liaison services and Audubon's work on a regional basis. In addition, we did not do a good job of communicating with chapter leaders. After a healthy internal debate, some positive results emerged:

First: The restructuring of the field offices, while still painful, has not been as drastic as it seemed at first. We lost some valuable people, but we still have nine regional offices and four state offices. In some areas, chapters are helping with the fundraising to keep offices open.

Second: A board committee and an advisory group made up of chapter leaders developed a plan by which chapters will directly

elect nine of the 36 board members. This is an important and complicated process that must be accomplished quickly this first year. Your chapter leaders have been fully briefed on the process, and we hope all of you will participate. (Editor's note: proxies are to be sent to members in late October.)

Third: Any consideration of changing the way members are assigned to chapters or the formula by which chapters and National share dues will be deferred and will only take place (if at all) after the election of chapter-selected board members. This election will take place at the annual meeting, December 4, 1987.

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## IN MEMORIAM

We regret to report the death of Helene Beyer in Port Orchard, WA, on September 23 following a lengthy illness. She and Frank, her husband of nearly 56 years, were long active in MDAS in various capacities before their move north several years ago. A dear lady with a happy smile and sparkling eyes, Helene was a joy to us all. We send our deepest sympathy to Frank and to their family. Please send cards and letters to Frank at 6031 K. C. Place SE, Port Orchard, WA 98366.

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*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/year individual, \$38 family; introductory & senior 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. The Chapter benefits financially from membership applications it processes. Full membership is encouraged, but subscription to the Quail is available separate from membership at \$6/year. Check should be made to MDAS and mailed to MDAS Treasurer, Florence Bennett, P.O. Box 31435, Walnut Creek, CA 94598. First class mailing of the Quail to member or nonmember is an additional \$3/year payable to MDAS & sent to Treasurer.*

**ADDRESS CHANGES AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:** Consult Linda Myers (415) 932-3489.

*Barbara Burek, Editor, 157 Mt. Kennedy Dr., Martinez, CA 94553 (415) 229-0394  
Exchange bulletins for MDAS to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, P. O. Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94596, please.*

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Mt. Diablo Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 53  
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# The QUAIL

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

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VP Programs: Neal Welsh, 798-0213  
VP Conservation: Al McNabney, 945-1785  
Treasurer: Florence Bennett, 689-3106  
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Field Trips: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486  
Membership: Linda Myers, 932-3489  
Publicity: Barbara Vaughn, 376-8732  
Hospitality: Britta Cascio, 837-2895  
Education: Norah Bain, 254-4516  
Secretary: Edna Mass, 945-7634



December 1987

Vol. 34 No. 4

Next Deadline: December 10

## *December Program:*

### **Mother Nature's Insurance — Endangered Species Propagation**

Our December 3 speaker, John Vanderhoof, operates an enterprise devoted to the propagation of exotic birds with special emphasis on Lories and Lorikeets. These birds, which range in size from that of a house finch to that of a crow, are probably the most spectacularly colored members of the parrot family. These most elegant birds feed almost exclusively upon nectar with their brush-tipped tongues. As a result of habitat destruction and their very specialized feeding habits, more than a few kinds of lory are threatened with extinction. Mr. Vanderhoof, with the aid of his most beautiful slides, demonstrates how he has met the challenges of precise housing, feeding and breeding of the demanding tropical denizens.

John Vanderhoof is one of those rare and gifted souls with more than a few talents. He works three thirteen-hour shifts weekly as a psychiatric counselor and spends most of the remainder of his time with his beloved bird breeding concern which he began in 1982 as a formal enterprise. Before that he gained experience collecting and breeding other exotic bird species at his Woodlake, California, home. From 1978 until 1982, he directed the Australian Finch Division of "Birds Unlimited" where he managed three thousand breeding cages housing twelve finch species. Bring your concerned curiosity and a

friend so that John may show you how he has helped secure the survival of some of the world's most beautiful and endearing birds.

The December meeting will be held at our regular meeting place, the Willow Creek Center, 1026 Mohr Lane, Concord. The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

6:30 Doors open  
7:00 Birding Info  
7:30 Business Meeting  
8:00 Social Half-hour  
8:30 Program

Birding Information this month will discuss the upcoming **Christmas Bird Count** (see page 4 for details).

The next board meeting will be Thursday, December 10, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Barbara Burek, 157 Mt. Kennedy Dr., Martinez, 229-0394. Board meetings are open to all interested members.

## CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

### EVERYONE KNOWS A BARGAIN, OR IS THAT CORRECT?

So, you ask, "What brings that up?" Easy, says our investigative department: the Price Club, an entity designed to bring bargains, low prices, and lots of goods (many of which will be made at some off-shore establishment). Audubon cares about this project. Not for the promised bargains but because the buildings are set to be erected on a WETLAND!!!! As all Audubon people know, wetlands are important to birdlife. Bay area wetlands now constitute the major portion of remaining wetlands in California. The remaining wetlands total about 10% of those that existed a mere 50 years ago. An alert Audubon member called to ask about the area, located near Clyde in eastern Contra Costa County. Many shore, water and wader birds frequent the wetland. Now the Price Club is slated to have a business building on the wetland. Investigation discovered that the wetland has been illegally filled (by someone). A draft Environmental Statement has been developed that acknowledges the value of the area as a wetland. BUT efforts are being made by the Developer, the City of Concord and possible others to obtain permission to build the Price Club building on the land. MDAS has filed appropriate objections with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Concord. Watch this space for future reports.

### TRAINS, PARKS, BIRDS vs. ???????, NO. 2

Take three pieces of used railroad equipment, propose to put them in a LARGE park (for the sake of history) and what do you find? Response from one knowledgeable birder, "A mess." Martinez Planning Officials drafted an "Environmental Initial Study" of the proposed location for the used rail equipment. Questions posed by John Muir and MDAS, as well as some private individuals, caused the Study. The Study contains the interesting comment: "It is clear that the current proposal would result in the loss of vegetation which provides a small area of habitat for birds. Questions to be resolved include: Is the loss of this habitat significant, or are there other nearby areas where the birds can relocate to?" Every birder knows avian species are territorial. That means birds dislocated by placement of the used R.R. equipment have to "try" to go somewhere. In all likelihood, some birds are already "there." So, a battle ensues. The strong dislocate the weak, and eventually the weak die. So, for the sake of locating an engine, a box car, and a caboose (all of which are old and in bad repair) a bit of precious habitat has to go. WE say NO!!!! You can help. Contact your representative on the Martinez City Council.

### PAW – MORE ABOUT IT

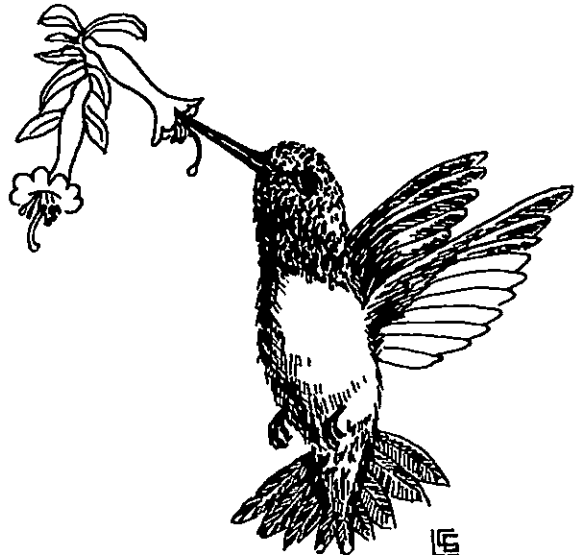
MDAS and the people of California are greatly indebted to MDAS members Mr. and Mrs. William Satler. They obtained and worked with others to develop petition signatures for the Parks and Wildlife Initiative. Their magnificent efforts resulted in double the signatures expected. If others did but half as well, we will surely see the Initiative on the ballot next year. That will be good news for all who love birds and animals and who want parks and open space.

### A BEAUTIFUL NEW PARK OR DO WE GIVE A DAM?

Interior Secretary Hodel proposed dismantling Hetch Hetchy Dam and turning the area into another Yosemite. A "WONDER"-ful idea. The future could use another beautiful park. The people of tomorrow's generation will be seeking open space, restful havens and places where bird and wildlife can thrive. Is Hetch Hetchy such a place? If the original thought wasn't just mischievous, then real life dictates a lot of thought be given to cost, not only to the communities obtaining water supplies from the Hetch Hetchy project, but replacement of lost power sources. If it was YOUR decision, what would you do?

### WE CELEBRATE THE CROWNING OF A KING

No, no, Matilda, not to a real live human king, but the lively, beautiful Kings River. After a long and tortuous journey (somewhat reminiscent of the way the river runs), protective legislation, sponsored by Congressman Richard Lehman and others has become the law of the land. The new law provides wild and scenic status for 81 miles of the river. It also would create the 48,000 acre Kings River Special Management area. The law limits construction of any dam or diversion and adds a new layer of protection for the river and its beauties. In this matter, "we the people" won!





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## FIELD TRIPS

Trips are open to members and nonmembers alike. Carpool time is departure time. Carpool expense: 5 cents per mile per rider is suggested; tolls and entry fees are shared equally by driver and riders. Bring binoculars, field guide and lunch. Trips go in light rain or drizzle; if in doubt, call leader up to 1/2 hour before departure time.

Thursday, December 3, Palo Alto Baylands. Carpool 7:00a.m., El Cerro Blvd., just west of I-680. Meet 9:00 a.m. in parking lot near Nature Center at Baylands. 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. This is a high tide day and we will surely see Clapper Rails and probably Black Rails. Prepare for muddy conditions and cool breezes. There is a lot of waiting for the rails; probably a total of one mile walking on level, possibly muddy, roads.

Leader: Norah Bain, 254-4516.

Wednesday, December 9, Lafayette Reservoir. Meet 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot at the top of the dam. Parking costs \$2.00 and is prohibited at the bottom of the hill. 2-3 miles walking on good trails, some paved, some hilly. A good place to learn local birds, and the chance of a surprise on the lake.

Leader: Barbara Vaughn, 376-8732.

Saturday, December 12, Niles Canyon Gravel Pits. Carpool 8:00 a.m., El Cerro Blvd., just west of I-680. Meet 8:45 a.m., Vallejo Mill Historical Park in Fremont. Take I-680 south through Dublin to SR 84, and go west 7 miles to park entrance on the left. Varied habitats; Green-backed Heron, Spotted Sandpiper, Ring-necked Duck, many land birds often found. 1-2 miles level walking; can be muddy.

Leader: JImm Edgar, 658-2330.

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## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

ABBOTT'S LAGOON, October 17.

Sixteen members and guests spent a grey, cool day at Pt. Reyes, with occasional sunny times with blue sky. After an hour or so at the headquarters area where we saw a Hairy Woodpecker and a Red-shouldered Hawk, we went to Abbott's Lagoon for the remainder of the day. There we found fourteen species of ducks, including a beautiful male Eurasian Wigeon, as well as Canvasbacks, Redheads, and Northern Shovelers. A Merlin was probably seen on two occasions by two observers.

A large number of Snowy Plovers was present on the far shore of the lagoon. 83 species were seen during the day.

Maury Stern.

MOUNTAIN VIEW SANITARY PLANT, November 5.

Twenty members enjoyed this field trip. Resident biologist Dick Bogaert, a member of MDAS, had time to accompany us

and lead this trip. At the Treatment Plant, we had splendid views of Black-crowned Night-Herons, Green-backed Herons, American Bitterns, and Common Moorhens. There were many Cinnamon Teal and one Blue-winged Teal. At the Martinez shoreline, there were several Common Egrets and Snowy Egrets, plus newly arrived Canvasbacks, Lesser Scaups, and a Surf Scoter. A Ring-necked Pheasant was heard, and we saw several Western Bluebirds. Our day total was 41 species.

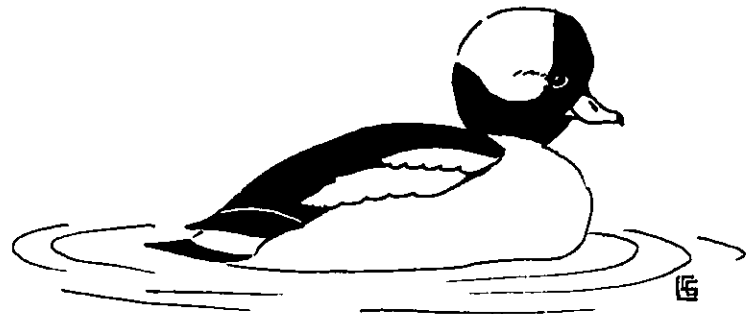
John Davis

### SPECIAL FIELD TRIP REPORT.

On September 27, we tried our hand at a new way of birding the Solano Lake/ Putah Creek area - in our own canoe. What a fun trip it was! We could get close to many birds, including over 20 Wood Ducks and a stray Green Parrot. We would be interested in hearing from others owning canoes or willing to rent one, so that we could investigate the possibility of organizing some birding-by-canoe outings. Please contact Phil and Linda Myers, 1624 Springbrook Rd., Lafayette, CA 94596, 932-3489.

### SANDHILL CRANES AT THORNTON.

The Greater Sandhill Cranes have arrived in the Thornton area. Their size and great numbers make them an outstanding attraction. The cranes will be there through February, when their courtship dancing becomes most pronounced as they prepare for the long flight north to their breeding grounds. From Antioch, go north on Route 160, right on Route 12 to just past its intersection with Freeway 5. This crossing (Saddle City) has gas stations with groceries, and Rocky's, an excellent restaurant. Go north on Thornton Rd. three miles to Woodbridge Rd. Turn left for 2.4 miles to the Ecological Reserve on the left (indicated by yellow signs on fences). The Reserve extends for the next 0.4 miles and includes the Eldorado Marsh. Park on the short parallel road for good observation. Cranes and Tundra Swans congregate here, but will also be seen flying and in the surrounding fields. Bird along Woodbridge Rd. to its end at a levee. Cranes may also be numerous at other nearby spots. Drive north to Thornton, right on New Hope Rd., left on Orr Rd., left on Christensen, left on Twin Cities Rd. Scan the marshes and course of the Consumnes River to the north of the road for cranes and Tundra Swan.



### EDITOR'S NOTE:

Carol Lutz has generously agreed to provide *The Quail* with original pen and ink drawings, for this and future editions. A very hearty thank you to her from all of us.

## 88th CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The Mt. Diablo Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count will be held Saturday, January 2, 1988. Last year 80 participants in 21 field parties and 2 feeder watchers counted 152 species. This year we hope to have more participants than ever to help spot birds. We invite all interested people to participate. You do not have to be an expert birder. There are important roles for beginners to play as helpers in each group - every extra pair of eyes is very useful. Feeder watchers are also welcomed.

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There will be an evening potluck dinner at Rossmoor after the day's activities and we will learn about the birds seen during the day. Details will be announced at the December meeting, including the cost per person. This money helps to defray some of the publishing and data-gathering costs of the National Audubon Society.

Maury Stern	George Finger
939 Carol Lane	2371 Dapplegray Lane
Lafayette, CA 94549	Walnut Creek, CA 94596
284-5980	933-2468

If you would like to participate in the Christmas Count, please mail this form to Maury or George, or turn it in at the December meeting.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to bird with one of the field groups on Christmas Bird Count Day, January 2, 1988.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like a hiking area.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like a less strenuous area.

\_\_\_\_\_ I can monitor a feeder or garden.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

## OBSERVATIONS

By Donna Peake-Klein

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

- 10/2 Seen at Hayward Regional Shoreline were American Redstart and Yellow-breasted Chat. (BR)
- 10/13 Seen at Pt. Reyes: Black-throated Green, Prairie, Blackpoll, 2 Palm, and Black-and-white Warblers, Clay-colored Sparrows, and Lapland and 4 Chestnut-collared Longspurs. (JR and friends)
- 10/16-18 Observed at Lake Tahoe were 200 Canada Geese, Black-billed Magpies, American Dipper, and Clark's Nutcracker. (N&HB)
- 10/17 Pt. Reyes: Clark's Nutcracker, Red-eyed Vireo, male Cape May, Pine, and 7 Palm Warblers, American Tree, Swamp, and 2 White-throated Sparrows, and "Slate-colored Junco". (JR)
- 10/19 Pt. Reyes: male Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blackpoll, 3 Palm, and Black-and-white Warblers, 2 White-throated Sparrows, Harris's Sparrow, and 2 Lapland and 12 Chestnut-collared Longspurs. (JR&FB)
- 10/20 At Hayward Regional Shoreline: Ashy Storm-petrel and Arctic Tern. (BR)
- 10/20-11/5 Hayward Regional Shoreline: up to 6 Lapland Longspurs. (BR)
- 10/25 Pt. Reyes: Palm and Black-and-white Warblers, Harris's and 2 White-throated Sparrows, McCown's and 2 Lapland Longspurs, and "Baltimore" Oriole (found by George Finger and Ed Hase). (JR&DN)
- 10/25 Bolinas Lagoon: male Eurasian Wigeon (MP 1.01 on Bolinas Rd.) and a Bay-breasted Warbler (very bright, in the town of Bolinas). (JR&DN)
- 10/26 In Bolinas, 2000 Dunlin and a Bay-breasted Warbler. (N&HB)
- 10/26 A Boreal Chickadee in northeast Washington. (JE)
- 10/27 Seen in Golden Gate park: 20 Red Crossbills (Chain of Lakes and Elk Glen Lake). (FB&JR)
- 10/29 Hayward Regional Shoreline: McCown's Longspur and up to 4 Chestnut-collared Longspurs. (BR)
- 10/29 Hayward Regional Shoreline: 1 McCown's, 4 Lapland (including 1 bright bird), and 2-3 Chestnut-collared Longspurs. (FB, JR, BR)
- 10/31 Pt. Reyes: Lapland Longspurs, Chestnut-collared Longspurs, and a Peregrine Falcon. (JE)
- 11/1 Along I-680 just south of Parish Rd., Solono Co., a Broad-winged Hawk was spotted. (JR)
- 11/3 Bodega Bay: 75 Greater White-fronted Geese and 1 Snow Goose, 5 male Ring-necked Ducks, a Tropical Kingbird, and a singing White-throated Sparrow. (FB, JR)
- 11/5 Hayward Regional Shoreline: a Golden Eagle. (BR)
- Observers: Norah and Hugh Bain, Florence Bennett, Jimm Edgar, George Finger, Ed Hase, Duane Neldon (of Golden, Colorado), Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond.

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## TRAVEL CORNER

### A "Long Weekend" of Spring Birding at Pt. Pelee and Eastern Michigan *by Ed Hase*

A very early departure from Detroit on May 16 assures arrival at Pt. Pelee National Park in time for the first tram ride of the day out to the Point. A Bay-breasted Warbler and Eastern Pewee both sing above me as we board. The birdlife is incredible! Warblers, orioles, tanagers, thrushes, and vireos are everywhere in a beautiful setting of deciduous trees, woody shrubs and vines, criss-crossed by paths giving easy access for viewing. A birder's paradise! I estimate of the 1000 people at the park, at least 500 are out at the Point this day. Despite the crowd, birding is great. Bay-breasted, Chestnut-sided, Blackburnian, Blackpoll, Cape May, and Tennessee Warblers are common and singing. Northern Orioles, Indigo Buntings, Least Flycatchers, and Scarlet Tanagers are well-represented. Even the Veeries manage to tolerate the presence of many people nearby.

After four hours of fantastic birding, I return to the Visitor's Center. There, a giant bird checklist on the wall shows the species recorded each day for the past month. Interesting that the flycatchers I wish to see haven't shown up yet. They're late for some reason. Also, Mourning Warblers are seen but usually only one a day. This situation coupled with the fact that Sunday will be a repeat of the large number of people at the park causes me to start thinking about pursuing the target birds elsewhere. I decide to just look over the rest of the park and leave late that afternoon to get a good shot at Henslow's Sparrow early the following morning between Detroit and Port Huron.

The Michigan RBA gives good directions to the Henslow's location. However, no mention was made about it being private land adjacent to the owner's farmhouse. After an hour wait out in the road, the owner's son comes out and gives me permission to enter. He suggests I try the last of three weedy fields. So, I'm off to the fields with my backpack, tape recorder, scope and bins. As I enter the third field, I hear "seelick" from three different locations. Through the scope, I carefully examine the three birds at about 50 feet. Beautiful sparrows...odd shape, olive nape down to the back, rusty tertials and a face pattern like no other sparrow. The examination goes on for 15 minutes during which the birds repeat their simple song. All these years I've been told that Henslow's are a bear to locate and I get a "walk-up" from the Michigan hotline of May 13. Happy doesn't describe the feeling. I put a note in the man's mailbox thanking him, indicating I came from California to see the birds. Bet that opened his eyes!

The next thing to do is check the area recommended by Jeff Greenhouse for Mourning Warblers about 20 miles away. A

short walk down the trail from the parking area produces a Mourning Warbler song...very much like MacGillivray's. However, although the bird is only 25 feet in front of me in relatively open vegetation singing repeatedly, I can't see it. Even when it changes perches I can't see it move. Then it stops singing! Pure frustration! I get impatient and resort to tapes which succeed in restarting the singing. I stalk him and finally find him singing partially obscured under some leaves overhanging his perch. Now I'm glued to him and getting all the field marks: no eye ring, a vivid black bib extending down the front of his hood toward his bright yellow belly. Fancy bird!

After birding the area thoroughly, I spend the night camping at Lakeshore State Park on Lake Huron. The next day, after an early morning rain, I return to Black River for another day of birding. A singing Blackburnian Warbler greets me as I leave the car. The storm blew in some migrants. Heading out of the hardwood into an area of tall shrubby vegetation, I am attracted to the song of a Golden-winged Warbler. When I finally see the bird, something doesn't look right. What a surprise when I raise the bins to my first Brewster's Warbler (Golden-wing x Blue-wing hybrid) singing the Golden-wing song. As if this wasn't enough, my eye is then attracted to another bird above a singing Blue-winged Warbler. Sorting through the field marks leads me to the conclusion it is an Alder Flycatcher - another life bird! I spend another hour just enjoying the sights and sounds of this beautiful area, then it's time to head for Greyling to see Kirtland's Warbler.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has an office in Greyling where tours to see Kirtland's Warblers originate. At 7:00 a.m., a US Fish & Wildlife Service employee takes the group to a classroom and gives a short lecture on the status of the birds and efforts to restore their habitat. I learn that only 200 pairs exist in all of creation, they rely on fires for survival (the heat opens the Jack Pine cones to release and germinate the seeds), and they nest close to the ground near the Jack Pines using surrounding tall grass for cover. Their nickname is the "Bird of Phoenix" because they rely on fire to start new trees and to continue their specific habitat requirements. A slide show illustrates these facts.

After the lecture, everyone caravans out to one of the observation sites in their personal vehicles following the USF&WS guide. The day is chilly (upper 40's) and overcast but no rain. A 10-15 mile drive northeast of Greyling puts us in Kirtland habitat. It is acres of Jack Pine trees resembling a Christmas tree farm, only not as well manicured. The Jack Pines average about 8 feet tall. Here and there are taller snags leftover from a fire or disease many years ago. The warbler sings from these old snags. Today is no exception. Our first sighting is of a singing male not more than 100 feet off a paved road. We all get good looks through scopes but naturally everyone wants to get closer. We follow a narrow road into the pines and stop to listen. A bird pops up no more than 20 yards away and provides everyone with a clear view in good light. What a way to wrap up a bird trip to Pt. Pelee and eastern Michigan!

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## NEW MEMBERS

It is a pleasure to welcome these new MDAS members and we hope to meet them very soon: John Adams, Mr. and Mrs. Noel Adams, S. Adams, Carol Allison, Kamran Alavi, Margaret Anderson, Carol Baier, Rod Baldra, Vickie Benner, Mrs. Seymour Berek, Thomas Borbely, Davi Boyle, Dr. E. E. Boysen, Ruth Breedlove, Brant Brumbeloe, Terry Buck, Robert Burbank, E. Cecchini, Ralph Chappell, J. W. Cuninghame, P. Cussen, Mrs. E. L. Danielson, Barbara Dean, H. Max Deblander, Joseph Dellofrano, Marguerite Doyle, Dora Duran, Mrs. E. H. Eastwood, Eve Eliseian, E. Enke, Rebecca Evans, Steven Evans, Laurie Farmer, Michael Farrar, Renay Figel, Dale Fink, Philip French, Ronald Gammon, John Gaylord, Sandra Geiger, Gina Gerken, Lita Gloor, S. Golvinveaux, Joseph Good, John Gravell, Bonnie Grisham, Mrs. E. G. Guthrey, Jr., Margaret Hallock, Ann Hallstone, Margaret Harlow, Hugh Harvey, Jan Hautala, Warren Hayashi, Chancey Henneman, Melody Herder, Florence Hess, Gerald Hill, Steve Holroyd, Milton Hughes, Susan Jenkins, Beverly Jones, Jacqueline Jones, Ron Jons, Gloria Karakashian, Steven Kaspar, Victor Kaste, John Kearney, P. A. Keeble, Jane Kennedy, Mrs. George Kirkman, E. J. Kroll, Helen Lacroix, Mariel Landy, Carol Lane, Arne Larson, Mark Lee,

Thomas and Liz Little, Jeanne Marie Lucenti, Mr. and Mrs. Dana Lund, M. Madeau, Eva Mah, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Mallary, Raymond Marta, Kathy Martin, Gary McAdam, Annette Miller, Russell Miller, B. Minneman, Audrey Morse, Shawne Moylan, Richard Murtaugh, S. Nalipinski, Candice Nissim, Ann Ormsbee, Carla Owens, Amy Patton, Sheryl Pederson, Debra Pennell, M. Peterson, P. Peterson, Laurie Prather, Richard Price, Peter Profant, Donald Rahlmann, Esther Railton, Sue Reedy, Lee Reipel, A. L. Renker, Mrs. Chas J. Revtyak, D. P. Rice, L. Rice, Carol Richard, Susan Rodgers, Michele Roma, Steven Sanborn, Dorothy Sanderson, Maryanne Sandlin, R. M. Scherbarth, Brigitta Schneider, Randy Scott, Richard Scott, Nancie Secher, Linda Shahade, Beatrice Shankel, Jeff Sheldon, Mona Shepard, Arletta Sherry, S. J. Skead, Philip Smith, Mrs. Reid Soper, Doreen Stadler, Dr. Victor Stallone, Jr., Sandra Stewart, Edward Strelow, Smoke Sudduth, Bill Sullivan, Robert Tafelski, Jr., Myrl Taylor, John Thorslev, Richard Torsen, Mr. Toscano, Eleanor Trimmer, Leona Umstot, Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Varney, Betty Wagner, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Waldo, Cheryl Waldrop, Carole Walker, K. S. Warner, Michael Weiner, John Wells, K. Wenninger, Walter Whitmore, Marie Wiechmann, Sandra Wilgenbush, A. H. Williams, Marilyn Williams, B. A. Winge, James Woolever, and Jeanette O. Yu.

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