

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



January 1988

Vol. 34 No. 5

Next Deadline: January 14

January Program:

Los Vaqueros Reservoir-- To Be or Not To Be?

Seth Adams, founder of the California Water Policy Group, will present a slide show, **January 7** at 8:30 p.m. He will air the pros and cons of the construction of a dam which would impound some one million acre-feet of water. The presently topical Hetch-Hetchy Reservoir in Yosemite contains at most a mere 360,000 acre-feet. To be located between Brentwood and Livermore, the proposed reservoir would sit less than five miles from the State Water Project pumps at Clifton Court Forebay and would inundate one of the last major valley regions common to both Contra Costa and Alameda Counties. The project is fraught with controversial pitfalls since several dozen archeological and historical sites would be deluged along with the habitats of an equal number of endangered and threatened wildlife species! And if that were not enough, the building of the Los Vaqueros Dam would triple the cost of water to Contra Costa Water District users as well as serving as a lure to entice a greater population to the affected areas. Some say that the choice is either this project or a peripheral canal with even more dire consequences.

Trained as a biologist, with both bachelor's and master's degrees, Mr. Adams has worked as an environmentalist with such organizations as Audubon, Friends of the Earth, and the Pesticide Education Action Project, as well as having founded CWPG which he represents at this meeting. Seth is well

versed in discerning the intricacies and dangers of complex environmental issues. Bring a neighbor as well as your concerns and constructive ideas since this issue has a profound effect upon the future of virtually every resident of the East Bay region.

The December meeting will be held at 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 be given by Cam Wolf of the Hayward Interpretive Center who will discuss winter-plumaged dowitchers.

**Christmas Bird Count and Potluck on January 2.
See Page 6 for details.**

The next board meeting will be Thursday, January 14, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Britta Cascio, 432 Veda Dr., Danville, 837-2895. Board meetings are open to all interested members.

CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

GETTYSBURG ADDRESS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL WORLD

One of the great times in my life involved the almost five years spent in Australia. The bird life is nothing short of phenomenal. The nation has many environmental problems. Some of the environmental issues are handled as well as or better than like problems in the USA. Other vital environmental issues aren't even being addressed. The conservation movement is active, energetic, committed and serious-minded. Much has been written the world over about conservation, the future and what WE as a people should be doing.

One of my Aussie friends has an 11 year old son, bright, interested and thoughtful. This young man recently wrote to Bob Hawke, Prime Minister of Australia (somewhat similar to the President of the USA). No one urged or guided his thoughts. The essence of the young man's comments follow:

I am just 11 years old. I have a long life in front of me. I hope my life will be lived in peace, without social disorders and in an environment not spoiled by man (emphasis supplied).

That 11 year old wrote what I often think. He did it in a far more precise and interesting way than I ever could. What do YOU, as an Audubon member, think about the comments?

HAVE WE SAVED THE LAST OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES, "OR" HAVE WE JUST GIVEN UP?

Experts predict hundreds of species of birds, plants, and animals will become extinct the world over early in the next century. Habitat destruction is the main villain. Here in the USA, until recently, we have at least been paying attention to the problem. A headline in the Nov. 25 edition of the *NY Times* reads: "At the Wildlife Service an Extinction with Irony." That means the Department of Interior has abolished the Office of Endangered Species. The staff of experts and caring people has been distributed throughout the country, on the "theory" there will be more consultation with local people. Furthermore, nearly 1/4 of the 130 positions were eliminated, although no one has (yet) been dismissed. (Interesting aside, do you know of a going, efficient business without 25% of its necessary staff?) The endangered species office was "broken up," its staff scattered the nation over, and combined with the Ecological Services Division, a department of the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

If I were an endangered species hawk, I'd surely have a lot to say to other hawks. For example, "Look out, there's no one to look out for you now." I'm not a hawk but I can write and

you should, too, to Senator Alan Cranston and Senator Pete Wilson, Senate Office Building, Washington D. C. Let them know what YOU think should be done to protect endangered species.

One comment may explain the major reason for the breakup of the Washington staff: "It was rather idealistically oriented" and had made recommendations and taken actions that had intruded on political and economic interests throughout the country. The *Times* article refers to extensive efforts being made in the Congress to revise, improve, and strengthen the Endangered Species program. Finally, with great irony, the *Times* reporter wrote: "The new legislation, however, would do nothing to resurrect the old endangered species office. That is as dead as the dodo."

HOW ABOUT A GOOD BRIDGE GAME?? OR SHELL MARSH - AGAIN!

Shell Marsh has stood strong against development, garbage people and others. The marsh may once again be under threat. The Joint Legislative Conference Committee on Toll Bridges will be holding a hearing at the Concord City Hall, 1950 Parkside Dr., Concord, on Monday, Dec. 21, from 9 a.m. to noon. One subject will be the Benicia-Martinez Bridge. All sorts of ideas are floating about as to "what to do" about the bridge. Whatever is done CAN have an adverse effect on Shell Marsh. If you have a thought on the matter, attend and "let 'em know what you think!"

OIL - ALASKA - WILDLIFE

The issues involving Interior Secretary Hodel's proposals for oil exploration along vast reaches of the California and other US coastal regions pose dangers to wildlife and wildlife habitat. Seemingly far away, but no less important are the proposals to permit lease sales in or adjacent to environmentally important areas in Alaska. The *Quail* is reliably informed that the Secretary is announcing the completion of an Environmental Report. Comment period will run for 60 days. Hearings are already scheduled for northern California and Oregon areas.

GENERAL PLAN CONGRESS - LATE NEWS

The General Plan Congress has been meeting for months in an attempt to harmonize the conflicting interests involved in drafting a General Plan for what remains of Contra Costa County that can be reasonably used for development. Some successes have been achieved on behalf of the "people" to ensure that life in CCC will still be livable in 20 years. Adequacy of transportation for the population of the County is a major issue. Parks, open space, population density, and bird and wildlife habitat to be maintained are all issues before the Congress. Dec. 17 may be a key date. The Growth-Management Plan sponsored by Supervisor McPeak and supported (in principle) by many General Plan members is likely to be up for a vote. The outcome is questionable, although most believe that Supervisor McPeak's support will be an important factor.

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, January 7, **Golden Gate Park**. Carpool 8:00 a.m., Acalanes Ave., off Pleasant Hill Rd., just north of SR24. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at North Lake in the park. From Fulton Street, turn left into the park at 43rd Street. If you plan to meet the group there, please be patient - traffic is unpredictable. Park is good for vagrants and ducks. One mile walking, can be muddy.

Leader: Barbara Vaughn, 376-8732.

Saturday, January 16, **Putah Creek**. Carpool 7:00 a.m. southwest corner of Sun Valley parking lot. Meet 8:30 a.m. at Solano County Park. Take I-80 east to Cherry Glen exit, cross I-80, go 1 mile and turn north on Pleasant's Valley Rd. Because of parking fees, we have been parking on the road outside the park. If not carpooling, watch for the group birding along Pleasant's Valley Rd. Dress warmly; this is a cold, windy area. About 1 mile total walking, some rough and muddy. Previous highlights include Osprey, Phainopepla, Canyon and Rock Wrens, Wood Ducks, and Hooded Merganser.

Leader: Florence Bennett, 689-3106.

Wednesday, January 16, **Sunol Regional Park**. Carpool 7:30 a.m. El Cerro Blvd., just west of I-680. Meet 8:00 a.m. in parking lot, Sunol Park. Go south on I-80 to Calaveras Rd. Go left under I-80 and 4 miles south on Calaveras Rd.; turn left on Geary Rd. 2 miles to park. Watch and listen for Turkey along Geary Rd. This is a walking trip - 2 to 3 miles roads and trails, some steep. Golden Eagles and other raptors are often seen. Last year we saw a Pygmy Owl. Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Dipper, and Canyon and Rock Wrens are possible.

Leader: Merv Ortez, 283-3072.

Thursday, January 28, **Grizzly Island Game Refuge**. Carpool 7:00 a.m. southwest corner of Sun Valley parking lot. Meet 8:30 a.m. at Refuge headquarters. Take I-680 north, I-80 east to SR12. Follow SR12 through Fairfield; watch for sign to Grizzly Island Refuge on right and follow the road to the headquarters. Watch for raptors and Short-eared Owls along the road. This is an outstanding raptor area. Mostly car birding.

Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486.

February 6-7, **Los Banos and Panoche Valley**. Anyone interested in the Los Banos trip should make motel reservations soon. Motels in Los Banos include the Stardust Motel, (209) 826-5016, and the Bonanza Motel, (209) 826-3872.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

CHARLESTON SLOUGH and PALO ALTO BAYLAND, November 18.

Thirteen members and guests made the trip on a lovely day, mostly clear and warm except when a passing cloud briefly hid the sun, and with little wind. Walking around Mountain View Forebay, we saw 8 Thayer's in the large gull flock, several cooperative Common Moorhens, and 2 Soras. From the levee along Charleston Slough, we saw American White Pelicans and many ducks of several species. A brief stop at the ponds on the frontage road produced an excellent view of a male Redhead, then we went on to the Bayland's Duck Pond for lunch and birding. We missed the reported Swamp Sparrow but did see a Kestrel. Intending to walk the Nature Center boardwalk, we drove to the parking lot but walked south instead to investigate raptors on the power towers. The nearest bird was a Prairie Falcon feeding on a small bird, while atop the next pair of towers were a Merlin on one and a Peregrine on the other. Within a small area we had seen four falcon species among the 83 species tallied for the day.

Jean Richmond

ALTAMONT PASS, November 21.

Sixteen members and guests enjoyed a great birding day. Highlights included 6 Ferruginous Hawks, 6 Golden Eagles, 2 Prairie Falcons, a Merlin, 16 White Pelicans circling over Altamont Pass, 40 Common Goldeneyes landing and taking off from Bethany Reservoir, and a Burrowing Owl and a single Mountain Bluebird going up Patterson Pass!!! A total of 52 species were seen.

George Finger

PALO ALTO BAYLANDS, December 2.

Two members and six guests spent a pleasant three hours on a warm drizzly morning at Palo Alto Baylands. About one hour was spent watching for Black Rails; there were several brief sightings. Clapper Rails were seen well. Common Yellowthroats were numerous and active, whilst a Marsh Wren conveniently spent several minutes on the boardwalk. Most exciting birds otherwise were a female Wood Duck and a Prairie Falcon amongst a total of 56 species.

Hugh and Norah Bain

PALO ALTO BAYLANDS, December 3.

Eight members enjoyed good weather and good birds, including glimpses of Black Rails and good looks at Clapper Rails. A Prairie Falcon and a Peregrine Falcon appear to be regular visitors on the towers by the marsh.

Elizabeth Dickey

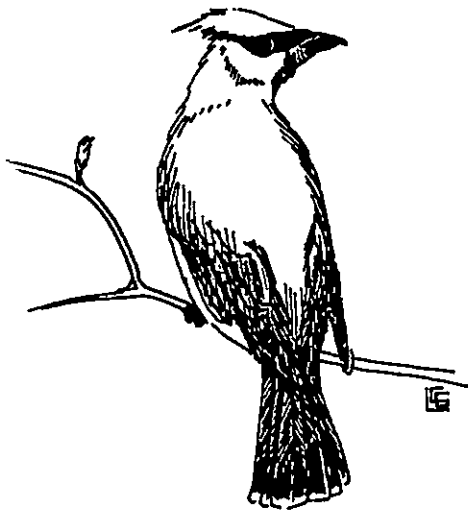
CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

Norah Bain will teach a field class Tuesdays, from February 16 through March 15, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please register at the Orinda Community Center on January 7th, 254-2445. The fee for Orinda residents is \$39 and for non-residents is \$41. Enquiries may be made to Norah at 254-4516.

Evening birding classes will again be offered by the San Francisco Community College District, sponsored by Golden Gate Audubon Society. Fees are \$40 per seven-week class and \$45 per eight-week class. For information call the Community Services Office at 776-8247.

The Lindsay Museum is offering a series of talks, trips and classes. Pre-registration is required for all programs. A brochure and registration forms may be obtained by calling 935-1983, visiting the Museum office, or writing to The Lindsay Museum, 1901 First Avenue, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

William S. Clark, author of the new *Peterson Field Guide to Hawks* will discuss the "State of the Art in Raptor Field Identification" on Tuesday, January 12, at 7:30 p.m. at the California Academy of Sciences. This event is co-sponsored by the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory and the California Academy of Sciences. For more information, call 556-2236.



BAEER FAIR

The Eleventh Annual Bay Area Environmental Education Resource Fair will be held on Saturday, January 30, at the Marin Civic Center, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be over 100 exhibits and numerous workshops promoting a special interest in the environment. Participants can explore a variety of new classroom materials, gain valuable experience in outdoor instruction, and discover new resources for future classroom use. General admission to the BAEER FAIR is \$5.00 and includes entry to all workshops and the main exhibit hall. For more information, call 657-4847.

OBSERVATIONS

By Donna Peake-Klein

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

From Humboldt County comes the following report sent along by Bud Widdowson of Arcata: 11/4 Pileated Woodpecker, Pygmy Owls and Red Crossbills (Fickle Hill); Black-billed Cuckoo, Least Flycatcher, and Tropical Kingbird (Lamphere Christenson Dunes) and Palm Warblers (Arcata Marsh).

11/7 A first winter male Oldsquaw was seen at Bodega Bay. (W&GY)

11/10 2 Buller's and 5 Sooty Shearwaters were observed off Pescadero Beach, and a Tundra Swan was seen in Pescadero Marsh. (FB, JR, MOB)

11/12 A female Barrow's Goldeneye, Common Murre, Common Tern and Eurasian Wigeon were sighted at Hayward Regional Shoreline. (BR)

11/14 Four Short-eared Owls were spotted flying about 4 p.m. "close enough for excellent viewing" on Grizzly Island. In a field near Pintail Ranch, more than 57 Elk were counted. "They were unperturbed by hunters shooting Pheasant in the field very near them." (G&WY)

11/18 A Sandhill Crane, Tundra Swan, and Eurasian Wigeon were sighted at Hayward Regional Shoreline. (BR)

11/19 A male Eurasian Wigeon at Arrowhead Marsh. (JR)

11/19 5 Hooded Mergansers and 2 Barrow's Goldeneye were seen at Foster City Lagoon, and the Prairie Warbler was sighted at Princeton Harbor. (JE)

11/20 A male Harlequin Duck was seen at MP 15.31 on SR1 at Bolinas Lagoon; female Hooded Merganser (5 Brooks Pond); 2 "Black" Brant (in Bodega Harbor); a Rough-legged Hawk (MP-13 north of Bodega Harbor); 8 Marbled Murrelets (off Goat Rock at the mouth of the Russian River); a Ferruginous Hawk (along Bodega Highway). (DN, JR)

11/21 At Hayward Regional Shoreline, up to 14 Lapland Longspurs were seen at least through the 21st, and a Mountain Chickadee was also spotted. (BR)

11/22 At Lake Solano, many American Wigeon, 3 Common Moorhens, and 2 Osprey were observed. (W&GY)

11/25 A Phainopepla was sighted on a telephone pole on the corner of Warring and Durant in Berkeley. (JT)

11/27 A male Harlequin Duck and many Barrow's Goldeneye were seen at Bolinas Lagoon. (JA)

11/27 A Cassin's Finch (MP 14.52 on Mines Road); Greater Roadrunner (MP 14.83 on Mines Road); and 4 Mountain Bluebirds (near MP 3 on Del Puerto Canyon Road). (BR)

11/28 At Bodega Bay, 100 species including Red-necked Grebe, Cattle Egret, Redhead, and Snowy Plover. (JA)

12/3 At Hayward Regional Shoreline were a Eurasian Wigeon, a Merlin and a White-throated Sparrow. (BR)

12/3 An immature Brown Booby was seen at Pt. Pinos in Pacific Grove. (DR)

Observers: John Ascher, Florence Bennett, Jimm Edgar, Duane Nelson, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Don Robertson, John Torpey, Bud Widdowson, Winnie and Gifford Young.

TRAVEL CORNER

Siberia and Mongolia *by Gen Graves*

My three week trip to Siberia and Mongolia was pleasant indeed, for in May it is not at all the harsh country one would imagine. Siberia is covered by forests of birch and pine, so it attracts many birds. We arrived in Bratsk on the Angara River and, after a short rest, sallied forth with our leader, David Fisher, to bird the area. It was very warm and the birds were quiet but we did find a Sparrowhawk, several Swinhoe's Snipe perched and displaying, a Wryneck, Grey-headed and Great Spotted Woodpeckers, Lesser Whitethroat, Stock Doves, and Willow Tit. The weather proved variable for the next day dawned grey and cold, with showers. The birds loved it, however, and we saw many more including Brambling, Long-tailed Rosefinch, Bullfinch, and Black-faced, Pine, Yellow-breasted and Pallas's Reed Buntings. For me, the highlight of the day had to be the Ruff, for while I had seen them before in non-breeding plumage, these were in full breeding attire and displaying actively.

Several days later we flew to Irkutsk, the capitol of Central Siberia, where our best find was a pair of Asiatic Dowitchers in full breeding plumage and staking out nesting territory. The weather was foul, but the next day we were actually enjoying a beautifully prepared picnic in the woods and it was warm again. It was here we saw the White-backed Woodpecker, Siberian Rubythroat, Siberian Thrush, European Nutcracker, Yellow-browed and Chestnut Buntings, Scarlet Rosefinch, and the beautiful Red-flanked Bluetail.

Our next destination was Lake Baikal, the world's deepest lake. Here we birded in a gusty snowstorm, and as I walked along I doubted we would see much bird life, but we dropped into a little valley that was protected from the storm. The birds had found this sheltered area also and were easily seen as they alighted to wait out the storm. It was at Lake Baikal we saw the Blue Hill Pigeon, Oriental Cuckoo, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Two-barred Greenish Warbler, Crested Honey-buzzard, Booted Eagle, Olive-backed and Tree Pipits, Yellow-hooded, Grey and White Wagtails, Sooty and Red-breasted Flycatchers, and the Chestnut Bunting.

The terrain in Mongolia is much more sparse than is Siberia's, ranging from the barren Gobi Desert to vast flat grasslands to the rugged mountains of the Altai. It is sparsely populated and in the countryside, nomadic life still predominates. We experienced some of the culture by staying in gers, or yurts, the round portable huts with the gaily painted doors.

We did not stay long in Ulan Bator, the capitol, but long enough to see Isabelline Wheatear, Chough, Siberian Blue Robin, Whitethroat, and the Thick-billed Warbler, before heading out to the Gobi Desert. It was surprising how much bird

life was to be found there. Some of the species seen were Upland Buzzard, Ruddy Shelduck, Grey Heron, Eastern Red-footed Falcon, and the beautiful Demoiselle Crane. Mongolian Larks were singing all about, and Pied Wheatear and Rock Thrush flitted among the sparse, low shrubbery. We drove across the desert to Karakorum and were pleased to see Daurian Jackdaws nesting on the roofs of the buildings that house the ancient Buddhas.

The highlight of our tour was the four days we spent at Orok Nur, an almost unknown lake that is so inaccessible that David told us that probably only 20 people, besides natives, had ever seen it. We flew to the site in an ancient single engine biplane that had to carry all our camping gear, food, and a native guide and the cook. Gear was packed in the aisle up to the ceiling and we sat on little bucket seats facing each other. Some became air sick on this turbulent flight. Ah, what birders will endure to see new birds! One of our target birds in this area was the unique, rare Relict Gull and we were pleased to see it well. It is a large gull with a blackish hood that extends only to the hindcrown, and has a white nape, prominent white ring about the eye, and blood-red feet, bill and legs. It has recently been rediscovered breeding in central Asia. Some other attractions seen at Orok Nur were Swan Geese, Whooper Swans, Greylag and Bar-headed Geese, many ducks, Saker, Pallas's Fish Eagle, Pallas's Grasshopper, Paddyfield, and Barred Warblers, Isabelline Shrike, and great views of the Bearded Tit. Another target bird was Henderson's Ground Jay and in this we were successful, following several with the Questor as they skipped from bush to bush. One day while at the lake, we drove into the Ikhe-Bugdo range, an area new to David and so little disturbed that three Chukar walked and pecked about not twenty feet away from us. Nice to see a lifer in its native habitat. We also saw a Twite and Rock and Grey-necked Buntings.

Leaving Orok Nur, we traveled to the valley of the Yol in the Altai mountains. Yol is the Mongolian word for Lammergeier and indeed we did see two adults and two young, evidently a family group. At the valley site we also saw Himalayan Griffon Vulture, Oriental Plover, Crag Martins, Brown, Kozlou's and Alpine Accentors, Pale Thrush, Wallcreepers, Snowfinch, Saxaul Sparrow, Beautiful Rosefinch, and Great Rosefinch. We took an early morning climb to the high peaks about the valley for the Altai Snowcock and were rewarded by good Questor views. It was beautiful up there with a large variety of wild flowers in bloom.

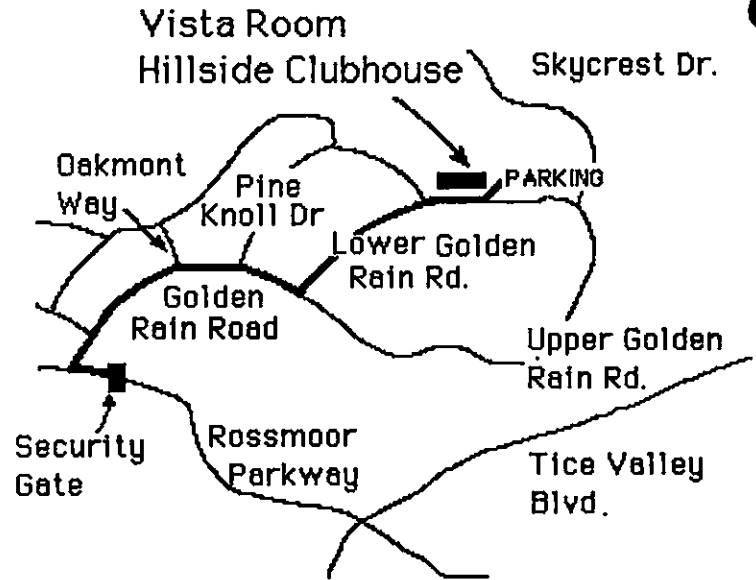
Mongolia does have some forest and our last day and a half was spent birding Terelj, a tourist camp in the mountains. The monk-like Ural Owl was seen very well in the daytime. At dusk we saw a Eurasian Woodcock in courtship flight. Finally we found the Black Woodpecker which had eluded us before, as well as the Daurian Redstart and the Spotted Flycatcher.

We flew to Moscow to start our journey homeward, where we had a layover of one and a half days. True birders to the end, we spent the next morning birding Lenin Hills. The birds added there were the icing on the cake and brought our trip total to 222, of which 97 were lifers for me.

88th CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The Mt. Diablo Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count will be held Saturday, January 2, 1988. 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. If you have not already signed up, contact either Maury Stern, 284-5980, or George Finger, 933-2468, immediately.

There will be an evening potluck dinner in the Vista Room of the Hillside Clubhouse at Rossmoor after the day's activities and we will learn about the birds seen during the day. All members are welcome, whether they participated in the Count or not. It is not necessary to sign up in advance. Bring your own table service and a dish to share. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and broth and crackers will be served. The potluck will begin at 7:00 p.m. and coffee and punch will be provided.



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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February 1988

Vol. 34 No. 6

Next Deadline: February 11

February Program:

Birds and Bird Habitats of Costa Rica

A tiny Central American country, smaller than the state of West Virginia, Costa Rica nonetheless boasts over 800 species of birds. These include not only members of familiar families such as hawks, flycatchers, wrens, and warblers, but also unfamiliar families such as motmots, puffbirds, toucans, woodcreepers, and antbirds. Costa Rica is also home to the Resplendent Quetzal, considered by some to be the most beautiful bird in the world. This diversity is due in large part to the variety of habitats, from the dry scrublands northwest to the humid Caribbean rainforests northeast, from the central highlands surrounded by volcanoes to the Pacific shores.

For 24 years our speaker, Ted Chandik, has been a naturalist for the city of Palo Alto where he works in both the city's nature centers as well as in the Palo Alto Junior Museum. An Audubon member since 1952 and currently Field Trip Chairman for the Santa Clara Audubon Society, Ted is very well known among northern California chapters for his naturalist lore and speaking ability. And he can be found almost anywhere, anytime, leading a field trip!

Mr. Chandik's credentials include both a B.S. and an M.S. from Indiana University where he majored in Education and in Biology. He is also fond of and well known for detailed photographic expeditions in which he amasses magnificent collections of colored

wildlife slides. During the program, Ted will share with us some of his impressions of Costa Rica's exotic birds and their varied and beautiful habitats. Bring a friend and a goodly number of "oohs and aahs" as you will need them during this most magnificent and richly illustrated program.

The **February 4** meeting will be held at the Willow Creek Center, 1026 Mohr Lane, Concord. The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

6:30 Doors open
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8:00 Social Half-hour
8:30 Program

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Christmas Count results - page 5.

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CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

THE BATTLE OF JERICO

The world has long heard about Joshua and the battle of Jerico. We may be ready for another such battle. If that's the case, the issues appear to be quite different than those involved in the long told story. Anyone who has had the good fortune to travel through the Palmdale area will have seen the Joshua trees. Longevity of these strange, magnificent objects of nature has fascinated many an observer. Now, Joshua (the tree) is under threat. Not from nature, not from disease or old age, but from development.

Recent articles (and photos) in the LA Times show rows of healthy (old) Joshua trees, lying on the ground. Felled by a developer's bulldozer. How many Joshua trees will be gobbled up by development? Right now, who knows? Should society do something about it? When we have something like the Joshua tree that grows slowly and doesn't proliferate rapidly or widely, society should look to the common good. Ensuring protection for these living legacies of nature must be a priority. So, Joshua, you may not be fighting the battle of Jerico, but you may well be fighting the fight of your life. The Joshua tree is but one of many, many natural wonders under threat from "progress." Do we as a society do something about these problems, or do we just stand by and watch as "progress" decimates wildlife and other natural wonders? It's OUR decision.

DID THE BIRD COUNT SPOT A SPOTTED OWL?????

Audubon people have worked for a couple of years to ensure survival of the Spotted Owl. This bird, threatened by prospects of clear-cutting old growth forests, cannot survive without such habitat. Governmental agencies in California, Oregon, and Washington have been studying the situation. Until now a general consensus existed. Most outside of the logging industry agreed "some sort of protective measures would have to be taken." Destruction of habitat would be fatal to the species. So, studies were in the works. The goal: create a plan to protect some portions of old growth forests from destruction by means of the loggers' power saws. The forests "saved" would maintain the species. Suddenly, the world turned upside down. California's protectorate of fish and wildlife announced something to the effect: the Spotted Owl is not endangered. There are lots of them around. It is presumed but unstated there is NO need to protect habitat. The species is so prevalent there is no action called for to provide habitat. As Jack Webb used to say on his TV-cop program, "Get the facts, ma'am." At this writing, Audubon conservation doesn't have ALL the facts. While not prone to "betting," in this instance a smallish wager (like a nickel) will be made. We say there'll be MUCH MORE heard about this matter before it's over.

HEY, IT'S A GAS

That headline refers to a proposal for construction of a drilling operation on "ONE ACRE OF WETLANDS" near Tosco Refinery in Martinez. The announcement asserts the operation is to try to locate gas. AMAZING!!!! Bay wetlands, reduced to but 10% of those existing 50 years ago should NOT be subject to further exploitation for ANY sort of development. The application indicates ONLY one acre of wetlands would be involved. Destruction of more than one acre of wetland will surely result of this application is granted. A protest has been lodged with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, together with insistence that an Environmental Impact Statement be prepared for the proposed project. Interestingly, the State Water Quality Control Board issued new rules to add protections for "vanishing bay wetlands" less than four months ago.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

Success! Yep, that's what many think took place when the Endangered Species Act moved from the appropriate House and Senate Committees to the floor of the two legislative bodies. Evidently forgotten: the action (reported last month) taken by the Department of Interior in ABOLISHING the Office of Endangered Species. Did you write your congressman?

WHAT'S NEW? SHELL MARSH

Caltrans, a Joint Legislative Committee, and probably others are holding public hearings in preparation for actual construction on the Benicia Bridge. Initial action proposes adding at least one lane to the existing span. Longer term: a proposed parallel span. Widening of I-680 to the south and possible relocation of the toll booth to the south all spell (possible) TROUBLE for Shell Marsh. Caltrans and the Joint Legislative Committee have been apprised of the value of Shell marsh. Whatever is finally done with the Bridge, Shell Marsh must not be adversely impacted. YOU can express YOUR OWN concerns to Senator Bill Lockyer, Chairman, Joint Legislative Conference Committee on Toll Bridges, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814.

WE WIN ONE,

OR, THE DEATH OF A COMMON MURRE

Introduction of gill nets to off-shore fishing along the California coast has had devastating impacts on birds, otters, seals and porpoises. Estimates indicate as many as 30,000 Common Murres were drowned in one year, after being trapped in gill nets. Anyone who cares about wildlife had to be outraged by the needless killings. Complaints produced proposals, in legislative form, on the State and Federal levels. All these worthy efforts produced NO final resolution. Now comes the GOOD news. SB40 (Sen. Milton Marks) was passed by the Legislature and has been signed into law by the Governor. The legislation does NOT totally eliminate all gill net problems. The new law DOES give more birds and mammals a "chance for survival."

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.

Note changes from original year schedule

Saturday-Sunday, February 6-7, Los Banos and Panoche Valley. Grassland refuges for ducks, geese, and waders such as ibis and bittern. Sunday at Panoche Valley, the Mountain Plover is the target bird. Call leader Jean Richmond, 837-2843, for further information. Motels in Los Banos include USA Budget Inn, (209) 826-5016, and Bonanza Motel, (209) 826-3872.

Wednesday, February 10, Thornton. Carpool 7:30 a.m., southwest corner of Sun Valley parking lot. Meet 8:45 a.m. in park at end of Glascock Rd. Take SR4 to Antioch Bridge (toll), go north along river to Rio Vista. Turn east on SR12 for 11.5 miles, then turn left onto Glascock Rd. Tundra Swans, Sandhill Cranes (may be dancing), hawks, and other grassland birds. Mostly car birding. Trip will go in light rain. If questions, call leader.

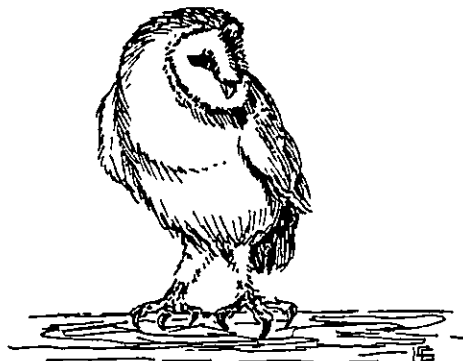
Leader: Merv Ortiz, 283-3072.

Thursday, February 18, Los Gallinos Sewer Ponds. Carpool 7:30 a.m. southwest corner of Sun Valley parking lot. Meet 9:00 a.m. at entrance to John McInnis County Park. Go west to Vallejo, take SR37 west to US101 and go south on 101 to Lucas Valley-Smith Ranch exit. Follow Smith Ranch Rd. to its end at the park. This is a new area for us. Ducks and various water and wading birds are to be expected. This is a walking trip, level, graveled trails, 2-3 miles.

Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486.

Saturday, February 27, Bodega Bay. Carpool 7:00 a.m. Sun Valley. Meet 9:00 a.m. at the Tides Restaurant in Bodega Bay. Bodega is a good area for loons, grebes, diving ducks; possible sea birds seen from the Head. Little walking. Leaders: Gifford and Winnie Young, (707) 745-4134.

Original sketches
by Carol Lutz



FIELD TRIP REPORTS

LIMANTOUR, November 14.

Thirteen members and guests spent a sunny but wind-chilled day at Pt. Reyes headquarters and Limantour areas. The non-bird highlight was the short battle between a garter snake and its potential prey, a large field mouse. The snake had obviously picked too large a mouse and was almost overwhelmed by it. After much squealing by the mouse and thrashing by the snake, both animals went their own ways. Eighty four bird species were seen including a Eurasian Wigeon, many dabbling ducks, an Osprey, Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, and Red-shouldered Hawks, seven gull species, Winter Wren, Townsend's Warbler, and several beautiful Western Bluebirds.

Maury Stern

GOLDEN GATE PARK, January 7.

A window between rainstorms afforded seven members and two guests from San Francisco a marvelous trip. Seventy one species were seen or heard, including Black-and-white, Nashville, and Townsend's Warblers. A must was the detour to Alameda Shoreline on the way home to view the Emperor Goose. A scope allowed us to marvel at the design of the wing and back feathering—a beautiful bird!

Barbara Vaughn

EAGLE WATCH

Local birders are not too familiar with Lake San Antonio, near the Hunter Liggett Military Reservation, yet because the lake is so abundant in fish and surrounding wildlife, it is one of the largest eagle winter habitats in Central California. Over 90 eagles, both Golden and Bald, have been spotted around the lake during the winter season. The Monterey County Parks Department offers guided houseboat tours around the lake to observe the eagles, ospreys, and other bird life. Tours leave rain or shine at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from December 26 through early March and are preceded by a 30 minute slide presentation. Cost is \$8.00 per person with a special rate for senior citizens of \$6.00 on Fridays only. On certain Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. a popular special tour is conducted with brunch and complimentary champagne for \$17.00 per person. Advance reservations are recommended for all trips and for camping. Call Lake San Antonio at (805) 472-2331 for information and folders.

Take highway 101 to King City, where there are motels and restaurants, turn on G14 and continue 40-45 miles on G14 to the South Shore entrance. A day use fee of \$4.00 or higher camping fee will be in effect. Park near the Resort Restaurant at the Marina.

CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

UNIQUE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

We are delighted and privileged to announce that DR. STEPHEN F. BAILEY has agreed to teach a three-session class "Hummingbirds Near and Far," sponsored by Mt. Diablo Audubon. The emphasis will be primarily on California species, and to a lesser degree on North American species with some reference to foreign hummingbirds. The class will include simple and advanced identification, distribution and status of North American hummingbirds, plus the biology and diversity of the entire family. Dr. Bailey is the Collections Manager for ornithology and mammalogy at the California Academy of Sciences. He formerly taught much appreciated classes in ornithology in the East Bay where he has a loyal following. The Western Empidonax section of the *Audubon Master Guide to Birding* was authored by Dr. Bailey, whose work is frequently seen in professional ornithological literature. Classes will be March 8, 15, and 22 in Room 13, Lafayette Intermediate School, 3455 School Street, Lafayette. Space is limited. Please register in advance by mailing \$17.00 to Norah Bain, Education Chairperson, 32 Via Farallon, Orinda, CA 94563. Make checks to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society.

Alice Hoch of the Ohlone Audubon Society and the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory will teach a class of six birding field trips from February 23 through April 5, with no class on March 29. Each Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., the class will visit a different birding spot. Registration will be at 9:30 a.m. on February 23 in Room 1 of the Fremont Adult School, 4700 Calaveras Ave., Fremont. For more information call either the Fremont Adult School Community Education, 791-5841, or Alice Hoch, 657-0475.

AUDUBON ECOLOGY CAMPS

MDAS is offering two 50% scholarships to an Audubon Ecology Camp in 1988. The camps and workshops are scheduled between June 17 and September 4, in Maine, Connecticut, and Wyoming, and generally last between one and two weeks. We would like one participant to be a teacher and one an active chapter member, or a person employed in a conservation capacity. Interested persons should call Norah Bain, 254-4516, for an application and more information. Recipients will be selected by a committee which will include the Education Chairperson and two other chapter members.

OBSERVATIONS

By Donna Peake-Klein

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

- 12/15 A male **Barrow's Goldeneye** was seen at Lake Merritt. (JR,RR,FB,MOB)
- 12/20 At Palo Alto Baylands, 2 **Black Rails**, 1 **Clapper Rail** and 1 **Virginia Rail** were seen. (JA)
- 12/21 18 **Snowy Plovers** and 3 **Thayer's Gulls** were observed at Princeton Harbor. (JA)
- 12/22 An **Emperor Goose** was seen at Alameda South Shore on this date by Florence Bennett, Jean Richmond, and friends, and again on 12/23 by John Ascher, who also spotted a **Red Knot**.
- 12/24 A **Townsend's Warbler** was seen at Briones. (JA,EH)
- 12/27-28 Observations at Arcata Marsh area include the following: a **Yellow-billed Loon** on Humbolt Bay, a female **Merlin** on a fencepost on Old Samoa Road, and several pairs of **Green-winged Teal**, and **Ring-necked Ducks**. About 50 **Black-crowned Night-herons** were sitting in two bare trees in the marsh. (EB,SE)
- * 1/6 The **Emperor Goose** and a female **Merlin** were sighted at Alameda South Shore. Jean adds, "As we were watching the goose, the Merlin zoomed by low and spooked the nearby shorebirds into panic flight, but the goose ignored all the pandemonium and continued feeding." (FB,MJC,JR,SS)
- 1/7 3 **Cattle Egrets** were spotted on the campus of Martinez Jr. High School. (SE)
- 1/8 A **Blue-winged Teal** and a **Bonaparte's Gull** were observed at Mt. View Sanitary District. (TC,SE)
- 1/9 Seen at Stockton Oxidation Ponds were a **Little Gull**, 8 **Sandhill Cranes**, and 1500 **Tundra Swans**. (JA)
- 1/9 A pair of **Eurasian Wigeons** was observed at Heather Farms. (SE)

* 1/5 *Emperor Goose* & ♂ *Barrow's Goldeneye* - Alameda So. Shore
4 *Bon Gulls* - Arcata Marsh (R+JR)

Other observations: During the week just prior to Christmas, a **Lincoln's Sparrow**, a **Varied Thrush**, and a **Townsend's Solitaire** visited the Lafayette garden of John Ascher. And from her home in Alamo, Jean Richmond reports "hundreds of **American Robins** fly over between 4 and 5 p.m. daily, apparently heading to a roost somewhere to the south. On our Christmas Count, Jan. 2, I estimated over 2500 robins flew over between 4:25 and 4:45 p.m."

Observers: John Ascher, Ethel Beckerman, Florence Bennett, Tom Castro, Mary Jane Culver, Shirley Ellis, Ed Hase, Many Observers, and Jean and Rich Richmond.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS

The 1987 MDAS Christmas Count occurred Saturday, January 2, 1988, which was a cold, drizzly, foggy day. One hundred participants in 17 field parties and 4 feederwatchers saw a combined total of 153 species and 53,742 individuals. This is a real tribute to the hard work of the participants. We thank especially the leaders, Joe Morlan of the Rare Bird Alert, and friends from other chapters. A special thanks to Britta Cascio, Edna Mass, and Sharyn Fernandez for their help at the post-count pot-luck dinner. Bird of the day was a Grasshopper Sparrow seen at Curry Point, Mt. Diablo, by Jimm Edgar's group and confirmed by Joe Morlan of the RBA.

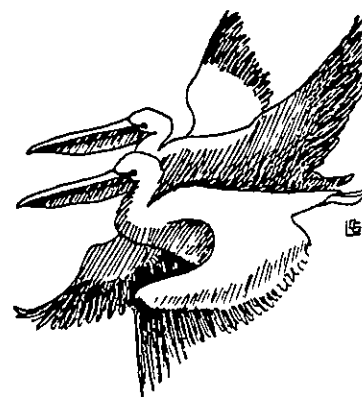
Maury Stern and George Finger

Red-throated Loon
 Pied-billed Grebe
 Horned Grebe
 Eared Grebe
 Western Grebe
 Clark's Grebe
 Double-crested Cormorant
 American Bittern
 Great Blue Heron
 Great Egret
 Snowy Egret
 Green-backed Heron
 Black-crowned Night-heron
 Tundra Swan
 Greater White-fronted Goose
 Snow Goose
 Canada Goose
 Wood Duck
 Green-winged Teal
 Mallard
 Northern Pintail
 Cinnamon Teal
 Northern Shoveler
 Gadwall
 Eurasian Wigeon
 American Wigeon
 Canvasback
 Ring-necked Duck
 Greater Scaup
 Lesser Scaup
 Surf Scoter
 Common Goldeneye
 Bufflehead
 Hooded Merganser
 Common Merganser
 Ruddy Duck
 Turkey Vulture
 Black-shouldered Kite
 Northern Harrier
 Sharp-shinned Hawk
 Cooper's Hawk
 Red-shouldered Hawk

Red-tailed Hawk
 Golden Eagle
 American Kestrel
 Merlin
 Peregrine Falcon
 Prairie Falcon
 Ring-necked Pheasant
 California Quail
 Black Rail
 Virginia Rail
 Sora
 Common Moorhen
 American Coot
 Black-bellied Plover
 Killdeer
 Black-necked Stilt
 American Avocet
 Greater Yellowlegs
 Lesser Yellowlegs
 Willet
 Spotted Sandpiper
 Western Sandpiper
 Least Sandpiper
 Dunlin
 Long-billed Dowitcher
 Common Snipe
 Bonaparte's Gull
 Mew Gull
 Ring-billed Gull
 California Gull
 Herring Gull
 Thayer's Gull
 Western Gull
 Glaucous-winged Gull
 Rock Dove
 Band-tailed Pigeon
 Mourning Dove
 Western Screech-owl
 Great Horned Owl
 Short-eared Owl
 White-throated Swift
 Anna's Hummingbird

Belted Kingfisher
 Acorn Woodpecker
 Red-breasted Sapsucker
 Nuttall's Woodpecker
 Downy Woodpecker
 Hairy Woodpecker
 Northern Flicker
 Black Phoebe
 Say's Phoebe
 Tree Swallow
 Steller's Jay
 Scrub Jay
 American Crow
 Common Raven
 Chestnut-backed Chickadee
 Plain Titmouse
 Bushy
 Red-breasted Nuthatch
 White-breasted Nuthatch
 Brown Creeper
 Rock Wren
 Bewick's Wren
 Winter Wren
 Marsh Wren
 Golden-crowned Kinglet
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
 Western Bluebird
 Hermit Thrush
 American Robin
 Varied Thrush
 Wrenit
 Northern Mockingbird
 Sage Thrasher
 California Thrasher
 Water Pipit
 Cedar Waxwing
 Phainopepla
 Loggerhead Shrike
 European Starling
 Hutton's Vireo
 Yellow-rumped Warbler

Black-throated Gray Warbler
 Townsend's Warbler
 Common Yellowthroat
 Rufous-sided Towhee
 Brown Towhee
 Rufous-crowned Sparrow
 Lark Sparrow
 Sage Sparrow
 Savannah Sparrow
 Grasshopper Sparrow
 Fox Sparrow
 Song Sparrow
 Lincoln's Sparrow
 White-throated Sparrow
 Golden-crowned Sparrow
 White-crowned Sparrow
 Dark-eyed Junco
 Red-winged Blackbird
 Tricolored Blackbird
 Western Meadowlark
 Brewer's Blackbird
 Brown-headed Cowbird
 Purple Finch
 House Finch
 Pine Siskin
 Lesser Goldfinch
 American Goldfinch
 House Sparrow



NEW MEMBERS

We extend warm greetings to these new MDAS members and hope to meet them at our activities: Georgette Armstrong, Mrs. J. M. Berger, Bradford Boling, Michelle Boutte, Bertha Brand, Mr. and Mrs. Denis Carey, Earl Clark, Donald Coleman, Shirley Coleman, the Sam Denise family, J. K. Farness, Edward Finsilver, Anne Fisher, P. Gallogly, Mr. and Mrs. Grefenius, John Grotefend, Mary and Dan Hardie, Mr. and Mrs. Barney Howard, Alice Johnson, Barry Johnson, Mrs. J. K. Kalsbeck, Deann Keefe, Dr. Rod Keener, Mr. and Mrs. D. Korogelos, Paul Lamphere, Francoise Langlois, Ella Larson, Mrs. Y. H. Lerner, Mrs. J. Lopas, Nathan Mahon, Leona Maillette, Michelle Martin, Martin Mazar, Gertrude McCaffrey, Teresa Medina, Robert Miller, Lorraine Mitchell, Evan Morgan, John Napoli, B. Neal, Mr. and Mrs. Kevin O'Neil, B. B. Richards, Cynthia Rybicki, Larry Sauers, Leo Schell, Julie Skinner, Norman Sloan, Harriet Smith, Marion Stephens, Terry Weskamp, Alice Woodhead, and A. M. Zaro.

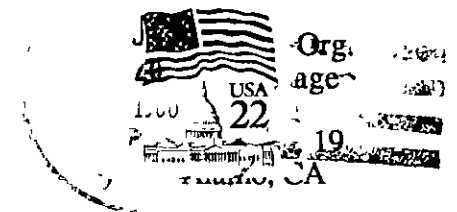
IN MEMORIAM

We regret to note the death of naturalist David Gaines, 40, in an automobile accident Monday, January 11. David's early interest was captured by Yosemite and he authored *Birds of the Yosemite Sierra*. His interest and concern turned to the plight of Mono Lake, and as founder of the Mono Lake Committee, he spent the last decade fighting diversion of water from the streams into Mono Lake. With the support of National Audubon as well as support directly from MDAS, in addition to the Sierra Club and Friends of the Earth, the Mono Lake Committee has worked in the field and in the courts to reduce the stream flows to the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. The renewed flows have helped restore the brine populations upon which many species including the California gull depend. A memorial service is scheduled for January 23, and his family has requested that memorial donations be made to the Mono Lake Committee for the purchase of a visitor's center. David is survived by his wife Sally, daughter Vireo, and son Sage.

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.

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



TIME VALUE MAIL



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: Diane Macario, 674-0920
Publicity: Barbara Vaughn, 376-8732
Hospitality: Britta Cascio, 837-2895
Education: Norah Bain, 254-4516
Secretary: Edna Mass, 945-7634

March 1988

Vol. 34 No. 7

Next Deadline: March 10

March Program:

Secrets of Mount Diablo

John Pelonio, State Park Ranger, is conducting a resource and wildlife management study of the "listed" species of Mount Diablo State Park. By definition, these are birds and mammals known as *endangered*, *threatened*, or *fully protected* and those which are called *species of special concern*. His slide show details the effects that these populations have on each other, on their representative food sources, and on the Mount Diablo ecosystem.

Some of his discoveries are quite exciting as they were not generally known to be species common to the mountain-park environment. In fact, his work has been so thorough that we would not be surprised if he claimed to know the whereabouts of a certain number of pixies, elves, trolls, and leprechauns! Not wanting to "steal his thunder" we won't tell you about his discoveries. We will, however, hint that he will tell you about his findings concerning raptors, including the Golden Eagle. He will also give his professional opinion about the long-range prospects for some of the wildlife groups on the mountain.

Mr. Pelonio, an undergraduate major in wildlife management, has already amassed a formidable resume in field biology including eleven years experience in resource management of both captive and wild populations for the Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum. His preparation, knowledge and enthu-

siam make this program a must! After all, our own Audubon chapter has many annual activities and programs centered in and about this scenic state park; and indeed, we proudly take our chapter name from magnificent Mount Diablo!

The March 3 meeting will be held at 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 be devoted to a presentation on the 1988 Audubon Birdathon. A short video on the Birdathon will be shown, as well as slides of birds that may be seen during April and May when we will hold the Birdathon. More information will follow in the April *Quail*.

The next board meeting will be Thursday, March 10, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Barbara Vaughn, 59 Donna Maria Way, Orinda, 376-8732. Board meetings are open to all interested members.

CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

Note from the Editor: Al McNabney is recovering from a heart attack on January 21. All of us wish him a speedy recovery and hope to see him back with us again soon. Friends and members wishing to contact Al may write him at his home at 1161 Leisure Lane, #7, Walnut Creek, CA 94595.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

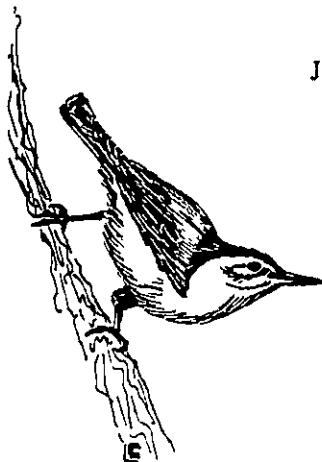
This column is not intended to become a regular feature, but I wanted to take the opportunity this month to share a few thoughts with you. First, there have been the following changes at the National level of Audubon which I believe to be significant and positive.

1. The election of nine Board members directly from the Society's chapters. The new member representing the Western Region is Bob Grant of Seattle. These people will surely give a grass-roots impact to all of the Society's decisions.
2. A whole new office has been created for Chapter services. Michele Ball is in charge of this office which was created to provide assistance and prompt replies to all Chapter requests.
3. As part of the Chapter Services Office, there is a 24-hour telephone hotline that is checked frequently and answered as soon as possible.

These efforts by the national office are indicative of their desire to help serve the local chapters as best they can.

Second, let me urge all of you to step forward and get involved in the local Chapter program. We always have a need for more folks to help out. Election of officers and Board members are coming up this spring; why not take some time to contribute. It is not costly and will give you an opportunity to be involved with some very fine people. We are planning to have a membership drive this spring and, of course, the annual Birdathon. Both need people to volunteer and make them successful.

Jimm Edgar



Original sketches
by
Carol Lutz

THE ESKIMO CURLEW LIVES!

The Eskimo Curlew (*Numenius borealis*) had been thought by some people to be extinct or nearly so. A flurry of observations in coastal Texas in the early 1960's raised speculation that the bird still survived at that time. But few observations were made in the following years, and hopes again diminished. In the 1980's, however, there have been several observations of this species on migration in the central and southern United States and in several areas of Canada. One bird was reported on the Platte River in Nebraska in mid-April 1987. At least two more were reported along the Texas coast in late April and early May 1987. Finally, in late May, Canadian Wildlife Service biologists found a pair in the Canadian Arctic. Preliminary reports indicated that a nest may have been located.

In response to the increased number of observations of Eskimo Curlews, a group of shorebird specialists from the United States and Canada at the recent American Ornithologists Union meeting in San Francisco met to discuss ideas for recovering the species from the brink of extinction. Among the ideas mentioned were increasing public awareness that the Eskimo Curlew is not extinct; characterizing migration, winter and nesting habitat; and protecting and managing known migration stopover areas.

FOR SALE FROM THE MDAS SALES MANAGER

Birding Northern California, by Jean Richmond, \$12.00.

Hawks; a Field Guide, by Clarke and Wheeler, \$13.00

Daily Field List of Birds of Northern California, \$0.25 +SASE.

Birds of Contra Costa County; a Checklist, \$0.25 +SASE.

Field List of California Birds, by Western Field Ornithologists, \$1.50.

Above prices include sales tax and handling. SASE = Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope. Mail your request and check to MDAS or call Gifford Young, the Sales Manager, (707) 745-4134.

FOR SALE FROM ARTEMISIA PRESS

A new edition of David Gaines' *Birds of Yosemite and the East Slope* is now available. This book details the distribution, status, abundance, and habitat of every species known to occur in the Yosemite and Mono Lake regions of California's Sierra Nevada. The text is complemented by Keith Hansen's superb color cover and line drawings as well as black-and-white photographs of rare birds. Approximately 368 pages, paperback, 6 x 9 inches, color cover, map, 10 line drawings, 12 photographs, \$16.50. Write Artemisia Press, P.O. Box 119, Lee Vining, CA 93541 for further information and order forms.

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, March 3, Hayward Regional Shoreline. Carpool 7:30 a.m. at El Cerro Blvd., just west of I-680. Meet at 8:15 a.m. in parking lot at entrance to Shoreline. To avoid the commute, try taking I-680 south to Crow Canyon Rd. and Crow Canyon to I-580. From I-580, go south on I-880 (Nimitz) to Winton exit and go west to the end of Winton Avenue. This is a good area for shore birds and water birds. 1-2 miles level walking; some trails can be muddy.
Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486.

Saturday, March 5, Mallory Ranch. A follow-up to our January program. An opportunity to see some of the area of the proposed Los Vaqueros Reservoir. Carpool 7:30 a.m. El Cerro Blvd., just west of I-680. Meet 8:00 a.m. at Mallory Ranch, 10501 Morgan Territory Road. Go south on I-680, east on I-580 and north at North Livermore exit. Turn left onto Manning and right onto Morgan Territory Rd., about 4 miles to top of grade and watch for mailbox. It is about 1 mile down a gravel road to the house. Dr. and Mrs. Mallory will lead the walk. Some trails are steep; 1-2 miles total walking. For additional information, call the trip co-leader Pat MacEachern, 934-3041.

Wednesday, March 9, Five Brooks - Bolinas Lagoon. Carpool 6:30 a.m. at southwest corner of Sun Valley parking lot. Meet 8:00 a.m. in front of Audubon Canyon Ranch. Go west through Vallejo and continue west on SR37 to Atherton Blvd. On crossing 101, Atherton becomes San Marin Drive. At junction with Novato Blvd, turn right and continue to end at Pt. Reyes - Petaluma Rd. Turn left and go to SR1; left again on SR1 to Audubon Canyon Ranch. This round-about route should avoid most of the commute traffic. About 1 mile walking at Five Brooks, steep in one place; can be muddy.
Leader: George Finger, 933-2468.

Thursday, March 17, Tilden Park. Meet 8:00 a.m. at Inspiration Point parking lot. We will explore some new trails. 3-4 miles walking.
Leader: Barbara Vaughn, 376-8732.

Saturday, March 26, Briones Reservoir. Meet 7:30 a.m. at Briones Staging area, intersection of Happy Valley and Bear Creek Roads. 2-3 miles walking. This is the beginning of spring migration.
Leader: Neal Welsh, 798-0213.

Wednesday, March 30, Briones Wildflower Walk. Meet 9:00 a.m. in parking lot at north entrance to Briones Regional Park. From Hwy 24 take Pleasant Hill Rd. north to Taylor Blvd. At 4th signal, turn left onto Pleasant Hill Rd., which becomes Alhambra Ave. At 3.1 miles make a sharp left at the stop light onto Alhambra Valley Rd. Go right at the stop sign and then left onto Briones Rd. to end. 2-3 miles walking, unpaved and up and down. We will see grassland and woodland wild flowers as well as birds.
Leader: John Davis, 228-9516.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

NILES CANYON, December 12.

The day was fairly cold and a bit windy, but ten hardy souls showed up to spend a day in this very diverse area. Of the 81 species seen, the highlights were Spotted Sandpiper and Green-backed Heron, which are specialties here. During the morning, we were also rewarded with good looks at a low-flying mature Golden Eagle. The variety of habitats from lakes and riparian areas to brushy hillsides make this trip interesting even if few birds are seen.

Jimm Edgar

PUTAH CREEK, January 16.

Six hardy and optimistic members and guests ventured forth in spite of a heavy rain. The rain stopped when we reached Solano County Park and a beautiful day with great birding began. Highlights included a White-throated Sparrow (tan-striped phase), 2 male and 7 female Hooded Mergansers, 10 Common Mergansers, 58 Ring-necked Ducks, Osprey, Phainopepla, Canyon and Rock Wrens, Spotted Sandpiper, and Rufous-crowned Sparrow. This birding day had a total of 80 species plus a beautiful drive home along Pleasant's Valley Road.

Florence Bennet

SUNOL REGIONAL PARK, January 20.

Sixteen members and one guest enjoyed a beautiful sunny day (cool to start) in the park with very good birding. Highlights included a Bald Eagle, at least 5 Golden Eagles, 2 Red-breasted Sapsuckers, numerous Varied Thrush, a Pygmy Owl, a Townsend's Warbler, several Rufous-crowned Sparrows, and a Lawrence's Goldfinch. A total of 56 species were recorded.

Merv Ortez

GRIZZLY ISLAND GAME REFUGE, January 28.

Twenty-five members and guests braved overcast skies for a good day of birding. Seventy five species were seen, including three Rough-legged Hawks, and Long-eared and Great Horned Owls.

Elizabeth Dickey

(Field Trip Reports continued on page 6.)

CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

HUMMINGBIRD CLASS POSTPONED!

Dr. Stephen Bailey has a sudden and extraordinary opportunity to participate in an expedition to Revillagigedo Islands, far off the west coast of Mexico. Most birds there other than sea birds are endemic species or subspecies, and two are near extinction. Steve will survey the bird life and try to record songs.

This expedition may help to save the threatened species but the dates conflict with the original class schedule. In keeping with our conservation beliefs, we have therefore arranged to re-schedule the Hummingbird Class for the following Tuesdays: April 5, 12, and 19, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., in Lafayette Intermediate School, Room 13, 3455 School St., Lafayette. Cost is \$17 for the course; please send a check made out to Mount Diablo Audubon Society to Norah Bain, Education Chairperson, 32 Via Farallon, Orinda, CA 94563. If you have already paid and the new dates are unacceptable, please call Norah at 254-4516 so that she can return your check.

Sign up at Orinda Community Center on March 17 for Norah Bain's spring field classes which will meet for four weeks from May 3 through May 24, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. More information is available from the Orinda Community Center, 254-2445, or Norah, 254-4516.

The Cooper Ornithological Society has organized a series of three lectures for the spring, co-sponsored by the National Audubon Society. They will be at the Richardson Bay Sanctuary, 376 Greenwood Beach Road, Tiburon, at 8 p.m., beginning with John Harris of Mills College on March 21. His topic will be "The Ecology of the Willow Flycatcher, a Declining Riparian Species." Future speakers will be Steve Laymon on April 18 and Geoff Geupel on May 16.

On the third weekend in April, Point Reyes Bird Observatory will hold its first census of shorebirds using the Bay's tidal flats. This census is designed for volunteer participation. Contact coordinators Dave Shuford or Lynne Stenzel for more information: PRBO, 4990 Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach, CA 94970, (415) 868-1221.

AUDUBON ECOLOGY CAMPS

MDAS is offering two 50% scholarships to an Audubon Ecology Camp in 1988. The camps and workshops are scheduled between June 17 and September 4, in Maine, Connecticut, and Wyoming, and generally last between one and two weeks. We would like one participant to be a teacher and one an active chapter member, or a person employed in a conservation capacity. Interested persons should call Norah Bain, 254-4516, for an application and more information. Recipients will be selected by a committee which will include the Education Chairperson and two other chapter members.

OBSERVATIONS

By Donna Peake-Klein

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

1/8 An American Dipper was seen in San Ramon Creek near Hillgrade Ave. in Walnut Creek. (JR, and spotted earlier by GF)
1/11 2 Green-backed Heron, 2 male and 1 female Blue-winged Teal and a Sora were observed at Mountain View Sanitary District. (JR)

1/12 A large flock of Mountain Plovers was seen fairly close to the road and close enough for excellent viewing in Panoche Valley. (ED,JH)

1/12 At least 71 Redheads, and 2 male Barrow's Goldeneyes were spotted at Berkeley Aquatic Park. (FGB,MOB,JR)

1/13 An American Bittern, Ross' Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, Red-shouldered Hawk, Golden Eagle (spotted from a distance of about 40 feet), Merlin, Sandhill Cranes, and several hundred Tundra Swans were all observed at Sacramento Valley NWR and Gray Lodge WMA. (ED,JH,MS)

1/14 The following species were sighted on the San Mateo county coast: Prairie Warbler (Princeton), Rock Sandpiper (Princeton Harbor), Tundra Swan (Pescadero Marsh), Orange-crowned, Nashville, Black-and-white Warblers, and American Redstart (all in the town of Pescadero). (GF,JR)

1/15 A Blue-winged Teal was seen at Lake Merritt Duck Pond and the Emperor Goose was viewed at Bay Farm Island, Alameda. (ED,JH)

1/15 A Cattle Egret and a male Redhead were seen at Lake Merritt. (JR)

1/19 Florence Bennett and Jean Richmond were among those who witnessed the release of a Yellow Rail and a Sora at Palo Alto Baylands. The rail had been found, exhausted on the boardwalk on 1/17. When released, it flew toward the Nature Center and dropped into the marsh.

1/21 Susan Nelson of Pittsburg reports several waves of migrating Snow Geese passed over her home across from Brown's Island on New York Slough. Susan estimates that there were over 1000 geese and that it took more than 20 minutes for the entire fly-over to pass.

1/24-26 On a trip to Sacramento NWR and Gray Lodge WMA, the following were observed: a male Eurasian Wigeon, 2 Ferruginous Hawks, 2 Rough-legged Hawks, 3 Lewis's Woodpeckers (on N. Butte Rd.), 2 Great Horned Owls, an Orange-crowned Warbler, and 5 Lincoln Sparrows. (FGB,JR,RR,MOB)

1/30 A Hammond's Flycatcher was spotted at Redwood Regional Park. (BR,JR)

2/2 San Joaquin County: 2 Rough-legged Hawks, many Tundra Swans and Sandhill Cranes (Thornton area), Bendire's Thrasher (Lodi), and a Little Gull (Stockton Sewage ponds). (FGB, JR,MOB)

Observers: Florence Bennett, Elizabeth Dickey, George Finger, Jan Hilton, Many Observers, Susan Nelson, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Rich Richmond, Maury Stern, and Winnie and Gifford Young.

TRAVEL CORNER

A Month in Argentina *by Sally Steller*

The variety of habitats makes Argentina a rewarding destination for birders. Being more than 2300 miles from north to south, the habitats range from subtropical forest at Iguassu Falls to snowy peaks overlooking the Beagle Channel at the tip of Tierra del Fuego. On Oct. 9, equivalent to April 9 in the northern hemisphere, our tour group (Victor Emanuel Nature Tours) flew north from Buenos Aires to Iguassu Falls and the adjoining subtropical forest. The best birds at Iguassu (just my opinion, of course) were Rusty-margined Piping-Guan, Surucua Trogon, Robust and Blond-crested Woodpeckers, Red-ruffed Fruit Crow, Plush-crested Jay (large, noisy, conspicuous), Guira and Green-headed Tanagers, and Red-rumped Cacique. Most memorable was a Toco Toucan on top of a tree with the setting sun shining through its black-tipped orange bill! Obviously I favor large and/or colorful species.

Returning to Buenos Aires, we made a loop by bus south and east through flat pampas of savanna and marsh. The marshy areas were alive with White-tufted Grebes, Maguari Storks, Coscoroba and Black-necked Swans, Chiloe Wigeon, Ringed and Silver Teal, Rosy-billed Pochard, Black-headed Ducks, three species of coots, and Spot-flanked Gallinules. In open grassy areas we saw Greater Rheas and numerous Southern Screamers. Screamers are distinctive birds nearly three feet tall with a velvety black collar around the base of the neck and a crest of pointed feathers at the back of the head. The mud oven-like nests of the Rufous Hornero topped fence posts and power poles as well as more natural sites. In a wooded area we found a monstrous communal nest with breeding Monk Parakeets, the nest being more impressive than the relatively drab birds.

Returning to Buenos Aires, we next flew south to Trelew, about half way down the coast of Patagonia. From there we visited the Magellanic Penguin colony at Punto Tombo where we also saw Antarctic Skua, Southern Giant Petrel, and White-headed Steamer-ducks. The following day was spent on the Valdez Peninsula from which we saw Right Whales, Southern Elephant Seals, Southern Sea Lions, and to our delight, 2 Snowy Sheathbills. It was apparent from the abundance of wildlife along the shore that the coastal waters are a rich source of food. The land, in contrast, is flat desert much like our GreatBasin with its creosote bush and sage brush. A highlight that day was a male Elegant Crested-Tinamou with 6 to 8 downy young (they have crests when hatched) at the edge of the road by the bus. We also saw a Lesser Rhea and a Band-winged Nightjar on the ground among the desert scrub. There were also a few familiar species such as T.V. and Burrowing Owl.

From Trelew we flew south again, crossing the Strait of Magellan, to Rio Grande in Tierra del Fuego. Near there we saw our first Buff-necked Ibis high up on a vertical cliff near shore, and ponds with Ruddy-headed and Upland Geese. Nearby were Magellanic Oystercatcher and Magellanic Plover (we managed to walk close enough to enjoy the red of their eyes!).

Driving south to Ushuaia, the southernmost city in the world, we finally reached hills with *Nothofagus* Beech forest, then lakes between snow-capped peaks that are the tail end of the long Andean chain. During birding stops en route we saw Ashy-headed Goose, several pairs of Rufous-chested Dotterel nesting in a mat-like plant, Andean Tapaculo, Cinnamon-bellied and Dark-faced Ground-tyrants, Fire-eyed Diucon, Austral Thrush and Patagonian Sierra-finch. During a boat trip on the Beagle Channel we spotted Rock, King and Blue-eyed Cormorants, Kelp Goose, Flightless Steamer-Duck and Chilean Skua. Tierra del Fuego National Park produced a Torrent Duck and a spectacular pair of Magellanic Woodpeckers, the male black with flaming red head and crest.

After flying north to Rio Gallegos on the southern coast of Patagonia we drove west to the Andes then up to Lago Argentino and Moreno Glacier (spectacular!). In this area we found Austral Pygmy Owl, a flock of Austral Parakeets, and Rufous-tailed Plantcutters (my first in this South American family with only 3 species). We were successful in finding Hooded Grebes on the lake where our leader Maurice Rumboll discovered the species in 1974. Another unforgettable sighting was 3 Andean Condors, 3 Chimango Caracaras and a Crested Caracara on a carcass not far from the road. We finally realized how huge those Condors are!

We flew back to B.A. then on to Jujuy in the northwest. From there we visited forested El Rey National Park where we had great views of Dusky-legged Guans, Chaco Chachalacas, and an elegant and stately Red-legged Seriema, 30" long and standing at least as tall, gray with red legs and bill, crest at the base of the bill, long dark lashes, and white-tipped tail! In a pond at the park were numerous waterfowl including Brazilian Teal, 2 Gray-necked Wood-rail on the bank, and a pair of tapirs lolling in the water looking like a pair of "mini-hippos." Another northwest habitat with its own species is the Chaco, more desert but this time with cacti and resembling the Sonoran desert in Arizona.

Along the wooded Yala River north of Jujuy, we enjoyed a pair of Terrent Ducks, a Rufous-throated Dipper and gorgeous Red-tailed Comets (a long-tailed hummer). After two days of driving north to the Bolivian border, we reached 12,500' in the Andes and, at Lake Pozuelos, achieved our goal of finding Giant and Horned Coots, and Chilean, Andean, and Puna Flamingos.

Thanks to the diligent efforts of our leaders, Steve Hilty and Maurice Rumboll, and their familiarity with the birds and their calls, I was able to see about 440 species, and the group as a whole considerably more. It is a country worth birding.

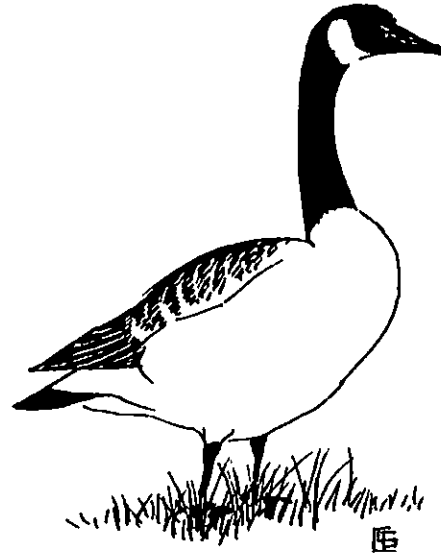
*Field Trip Reports, continued.***LOS BANOS, PANOCHE VALLEY, February 6-7.**

The Los Banos - Panoche Valley weekend was enjoyed by 23 members under glorious blue skies with warm temperatures as we tallied 106 species. Along SR140 on Saturday, 2 Ravens harassed a Ferruginous Hawk. Along Santa Fe Grade were only 2 Bitterns but many White-faced Ibis, ducks, and shorebirds, a Bald Eagle, and 2 Great Horned Owls. At Merced NWR, we were treated to the sight and sound of about 2000 Sandhill Cranes in flight, plus another Bald Eagle. Along the south section of Santa Fe Grade were 2 Short-eared Owls. Sunday morning, we were greeted by about 200 bicyclists (and their vehicles) at Little Panoche Reservoir, but still saw Ring-necked Ducks and a Common Merganser among the birds on the water. Along Little Panoche Road were a Golden Eagle and Rock Wrens while BLM access road produced 2 Roadrunners and a large flock of Mountain Bluebirds. In Panoche Valley were at least 150 Mountain Plovers, 3 Ferruginous Hawks, a Rough-legged Hawk, and a Vesper Sparrow. New Idria Road produced a few more species for the list.

Jean Richmond

IN APPRECIATION

MDAS would like to gratefully acknowledge a bequest from Mr. and Mrs. H. Pitner of Walnut Creek in loving memory of Katheryn Harris of Oakland.



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, Diane Macario, 2425 Maple Ave., Concord, CA 94520. 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 Diane Macario, (415) 674-0920.

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.

The Quail
Mt. Diablo Audubon Society
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The QUAIL

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY
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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
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Membership: Diane Macario, 674-0920
Publicity: Barbara Vaughn, 376-8732
Hospitality: Britta Cascio, 837-2895
Education: Norah Bain, 254-4516
Secretary: Edna Mass, 945-7634

April 1988

Vol. 34 No. 8

Next Deadline: April 14

April Program:

Hummingbirds and Various Dickeybirds

By overwhelming demand, your program chairman has been (ahem!) "induced" into inviting Dr. Luis Baptista back into our fold for another program. We had a large number of members telephone in just that request. This lighthearted, somewhat whimsical and, yes, very amusing person thoroughly charmed our chapter when last he visited us (see *The Quail*, October issue). Watching his animated and infectious performance leaves no doubt as to why his ornithology classes are generally SRO affairs. We sat on the edge of our seats nearly falling onto the floor as he regaled us with a variety of White-crowned Sparrow whistles, cheeps, calls and peeps. His is among the most popular programs we've ever had. This time he will doubtless mesmerize us with his rendition of hummingbird voices; and we won't be surprised in the least if he suddenly takes to the air in order to demonstrate their territorial and courtship displays of flight.

While caught up in one of Luis's enthusiastic presentations, one has some difficulty imagining this gentleman a stodgy professorial type, much less the Chairman and Curator of Ornithology and Mammalogy for the California Academy of Sciences. Let us assure you that he is all these, minus the stodgy adjective. If you enjoy being simultaneously entertained and educated about the natural world, then this program is a

a must! In short, if by some terrible fate you should miss this program, then you shall be much the poorer for it. By all means bring a friend and enjoy!

The April 7 meeting will be held at 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

Election of Officers - page 2.

Birdathon Information - page 2.

The next board meeting will be Thursday, April 14, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Neal Welsh, 4092 Tulare Dr., Concord, 798-0213. Board meetings are open to all interested members.

CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

OAKLEY DECISION - WE WIN ONE

Headline from the *Contra Costa Times*, March 10, 1988:

Oakley General Plan Ordered Rescinded after EIR Lawsuit

MDAS and the Sierra Club filed a lawsuit last spring against the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors to force the Board to rescind their approval of the General Plan filed by Oakley. Details of the reasons for the lawsuit were given in the July/ August *Quail*. On Tuesday, March 8, Superior Court Judge Coleman Fannin upheld the MDAS position and ordered the Oakley plan rescinded. The Court also ordered the County to pay all the court expenses. A more comprehensive report and comments from Kent Fickett will appear here later.

WHAT WILL WE DO WITH THE NEW TOXICS LAW?????

Have you noticed the latest, most obvious results of the "Toxics" initiative the people voted FOR? Rather vague notices on store walls, ads in newspapers, all indicating that "somewhere" some product may be about the MAY contain some harmful toxic. Have you also noticed the reluctance of elected and/or appointed governmental people to charge forward to fully carry out the mandate contained in the "Toxics" initiative? Up till now the public (and incidentally our birds and wildlife) have had to rely on dubious efforts (or lack thereof) of "government" to enforce laws on the books. Laws that require at least some protections for "we the people" from dangers in products, water, etc., from which we could not individually protect ourselves. Industry seems to be trying to tell us, nature has poisoned everything, so why are we even questioning uses of chemicals in our food, water and various products.

A prediction: IF "we the people" really meant what we said when we passed the "Toxics" initiative, the polluters will have a much, much harder time hiding behind double-speak, obfuscation and studied disregard of laws and regulations by public officials. We care about our birds. We know many toxics have had devastating impacts on some avian species. If we care so much about our birds, we must also care about ourselves. The future will be most interesting for those who want to see our world cleaned up.

MOUNTAIN LIONS STILL A BIG TARGET

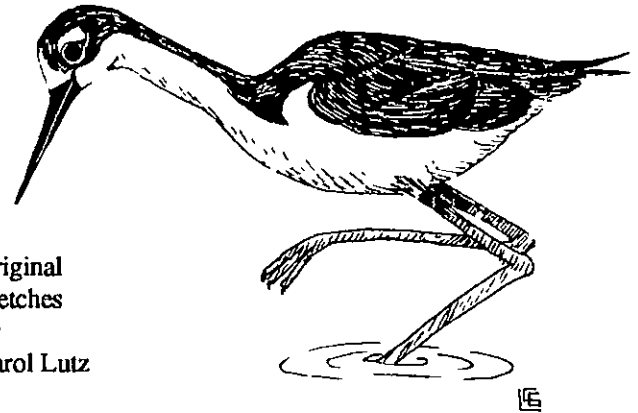
Disturbing, worrisome, yes, and even creating anger has been the attitude of California Fish and Game concerning the hunting of Mountain Lions. We should ask the question: WHY? Yes, "Why", so much interest in trying to get approval for sport shooting? Concerned and interested PEOPLE have prevented useless killing of Mountain Lions to take place up till now. If we keep at it we "MAY" someday meet a friendly Mountain Lion somewhere. Wouldn't that be a nice reward?

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

MDAS will elect chapter officers for next year at the April meeting. The nominations committee has proposed the following candidates:

President: Barbara Vaughn
 VP Programs: Neal Welsh
 VP Conservation: Al McNabney
 Treasurer: Florence Bennett
 Secretary: Britta Cascio

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor. In addition to the elected offices, MDAS needs chairmen for various committees. Members who have not served are encouraged to support the chapter and volunteer for these positions. Contact Barbara Vaughn, 376-8732, if you would be willing to help. Finally, Al McNabney would like some people interested in conservation to help him with his duties, particularly attending meetings. Call him at 945-1785 if you can help continue this very important work.



Original sketches
 by
 Carol Lutz

1988 BIRDATHON

The 1988 Audubon Birdathon is scheduled for April 1 to May 15. The Birdathon is Audubon's way of raising money while doing what we enjoy most - watching birds. Participants seek pledges from contributors for every bird species they can find in a 24-hour period. MDAS will have at least two groups in the field this spring. The Mines Road field trip on April 30 will be one designated Birdathon outing, and Jimm Edgar and Maury Stern will lead a trip to Point Reyes on May 7 for the second. All members are encouraged to get a pledge sheet and sign up some sponsors for either trip. If you wish to go with Jimm and Maury, you must get at least eight sponsors. They hope to see over 120 species that day. Last year the Mines Road trip tallied 85 species. Money raised by the Birdathon this year will be split between the local chapter and designated projects of the Western Regional Office of the National Audubon Society. More information will be given at the April meeting.

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, April 7, **Lime Ridge**. Meet 7:30 a.m. in the north end of the Boundary Oaks Golf Course. From I-680 take Ygnacio Valley Road east; turn right onto Oak Grove and left onto Valley Vista to the end. Grassland birds, possible spring migrants. 2-3 miles trail walking, some grades. For more information, call Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486.

Saturday, April 9, **Garin Regional Park**. Carpool 7:15 a.m. at El Cerro Blvd., just west of I-680. Meet in parking lot at end of Garin Rd., 8:00 a.m. Take I-680 south and I-580 west to SR238 (Mission Blvd.). Go south to Garin Rd. and turn left to park. This is a new area, grasslands, some streamside. 2-3 miles walking on fire trails, with some grades. Grasshopper Sparrow is one possibility.
Leader: Bob Richmond, 537-7408.

Wednesday, April 13, **Lake Lagunitas**. Carpool 7:15 a.m. at Acalanes Ave., off Pleasant Hill Rd., just north of Hwy. 24. Meet 8:30 a.m. in parking lot at lake (\$2.00 entrance fee). Cross San Rafael Bridge north to US 101, take San Rafael exit two blocks, turn left and go through town. Turn right onto Sir Francis Drake Blvd. In downtown Fairfax, turn left, then right onto Broadway, 1/2 block; turn left onto Bolinas Ave., and left again onto Old Fairfax - Bolinas Rd. Watch for signs for park entrance. 2-3 miles up and down trail walking. Both land and water birds, spring migrants. This is a good place for Pileated Woodpecker.
Leader: Jimm Edgar, 658-2330.

Thursday, April 21, **Briones Regional Park - West**. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in parking lot on right hand side of west entrance road, off Bear Creek Rd. Many spring birds; Lazuli Buntings are usually abundant. Also wildflowers. 2-3 miles walking, part up hill, mostly fire trails. Poison oak along shaded trails.
Leader: Merv Ortez, 283-3072.

Wednesday, April 27, **Ida Clayton Road**. Carpool 7:30 a.m. southwest corner of Sun Valley parking lot. This is a car birding trip to a new area and we will not have a meeting place in Napa County. Carpooling is important because of limited parking space on some roads. Mountain Quail have been reported in this area.
Leader: Florence Bennett, 689-3106.

Saturday, April 30, **Mines Road**. Call Elizabeth Dickey for reservations and carpool instructions. Because of limited turnout space along Mines Road, we must limit to 6 cars, with at least 4 people per car. This is a long car birding trip with little walking; the canyon can be hot. Bring lunch and liquids. Wild Turkey, Phainopepla, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Costa's Hummingbird, Roadrunner, and Lewis's Woodpecker are all possibilities.
Leader: Kamran Alavi, 831-0617.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

THORNTON, February 10.

Our trip to Thornton was truly great. We enjoyed a beautiful sunny day (windy in the afternoon) with 20 enthusiastic birders and guests participating. A total of 77 species were identified. Some of the highlights were thousands of Sandhill Cranes, hundreds of Tundra Swans, a Barn Owl, hundreds of Black-bellied Plovers, an American Golden Plover (Elizabeth found it), a Red-breasted Sapsucker, Horned Larks, and a Bendire's Thrasher (Jean led us right to it).

Merv Ortez

LOS GALLINOS, February 18.

Thirteen members and guests turned out despite wind which caused us to hang on to the scopes to keep them from being blown over. Very few land birds were seen because of the wind, but there were plenty of ducks and shore birds. The highlight was a Eurasian Wigeon. A search for the Tufted Duck at Bel Marin Keyes was unsuccessful. A total of 44 species was seen.

Elizabeth Dickey

BODEGA BAY, February 27.

Although enjoying less than ideal viewing conditions, with a heavy overcast all day, twelve members and guests were fortunate in the mild temperature, light wind, and the fact that sprinkles occurred only before and after the usual birding hours. Of the 70 species observed, highlights were a Peregrine Falcon perched, then in flight, at Doran Park, a Thayer's Gull at the headlands, together with the resident pair of Black Oystercatchers, eleven Brant off Spud Point, and an Osprey. Rails responded vocally to recorded prompting at the rail ponds, and a Virginia Rail was seen. Several Band-tailed Pigeons, an Allen's Hummingbird in brilliant plumage, and a Hermit Thrush also were seen in the pond area.

Gifford and Winifred Young

HAYWARD REGIONAL SHORELINE, March 3.

Five members and a very small guest saw a total of 45 species. Fog gradually cleared, and very light winds made for good viewing, especially of the ducks on the south pond. An early Barn Swallow was spotted, and everyone saw the Common Teal.

Elizabeth Dickey

CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

HUMMINGBIRD CLASS

There are still a few spaces available in Dr. Stephen Bailey's hummingbird class. If you haven't yet signed up, don't miss this unique educational opportunity to learn more about these tiny jewels who share our yards and gardens with us. The class will meet on the following Tuesdays: April 5, 12, and 19, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., in Lafayette Intermediate School, Room 13, 3455 School St., Lafayette. Cost is \$17 for the course; please send a check made out to Mount Diablo Audubon Society to Norah Bain, Education Chairperson, 32 Via Farallon, Orinda, CA 94563.

The Fremont Adult School is offering a series of six weekly classes, called "Birding Field Trips." Each week a different top birding spot will be visited by the class. Students are responsible for their own transportation, but carpools can be arranged. Class size will be limited. The Tuesday morning classes will meet from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. from April 19 through May 24. Registration will be at 9:30 a.m. in Room 1 of the Fremont Adult School on April 19. The class will be taught by Alice Hoch, a member of the Ohlone Audubon Society and the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory. For more information, call the Fremont Adult School at 791-5841.

The Mono Lake Committee has announced two Mono Lake Benefit trips: Bhutan, in late October 1988, and Antarctica in January 1989. Bhutan is a small, sparsely-populated country in the Himalaya east of Nepal. The 21-day trip will be part tour by minibus and part hiking on trails at moderate elevations through forests and alpine meadows between villages. The Antarctica expedition will cruise on Society Expedition's World Discover. Inflatable landing craft will allow visits to rookeries and beaches to observe wildlife and to visit research stations. For more information, send a self-addressed, stamped 4 1/2 x 9 1/2 envelope to: M. Bennett, 2719 Marin Ave., Berkeley, CA 94708.

Don't forget to check off a donation to the Rare and Endangered Species Preservation Program, Line 45, on your California Income Tax return. Contributions will be used for the conservation of endangered and rare fish, wildlife and plants.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Do you have any information on collisions of birds with wind turbines or any sort of powerlines? Do you have any comments on the effects of wind turbines on birds? If so, please contact Jim Estep at the California Energy Commission, (916) 324-9953, or write to him at the Department of Fish and Game, Nongame Birds and Mammal Section, 1416 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.

OBSERVATIONS

By Donna Peake-Klein

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

2/9 Kevin Hintsa spotted a **Chestnut-sided Warbler** at Navlet's Nursery in Livermore, and it has been seen daily since. (Also observed by GF, BR, JR)

2/12 A **Hooded Merganser** was seen on a lake at the Meadow Club Golf Course in Fairfax. (JE)

2/14-16 Bud Widdowson, a wildlife student at Humboldt State University frequently sends along interesting sightings from Arcata. This month he observed a **Hutton's Vireo**, **Lincoln Sparrow**, and **Red Crossbills** (at Lamphere Christensen Dunes), **Palm Warblers** and the Eurasian subspecies (crecca) of **Green-winged Teal** (Arcata Marsh Project), and **Bohemian Waxwings** among **Cedar Waxwings** in residential Arcata.

2/15 A male **Tufted Duck** was seen at Bel Marin Keys, Marin Co. (ED, JR) Also seen on 2/17 (FB, DS)

2/16 The **Emperor Goose** was still at Alameda South Shore at high tide, and remained at least through March 1. (FB, DS) Jimm Edgar also sent a beautiful photo he took of the goose, and anyone interested may contact the Observations Editor or Jimm.

2/18 A **Saw-whet Owl** was sighted near the archery range at Discovery Park in Sacramento and a **Bendire's Thrasher** was seen in Lodi. (FB, DS)

2/20 Seen at Lake Solano: 25 **Ring-necked Ducks**, 1 male and 3 female **Hooded Mergansers**, and 2 **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers**. On Pleasant Valley Rd., a tan-striped phase **White-throated Sparrow** was spotted. (JR, MOB)

3/1 A **Golden Eagle** was seen at the Oakland Airport. (FB) JR

Also this month. During her trip to southern California, Jean Richmond saw the following species: a male **Painted Redstart** (Santa Maria), **Common Grackle** (Santa Barbara), and male and female **Broad-billed Hummingbirds**, a female **Xanthus' Hummingbird**, and **Grace's Warbler** (Ventura). At home in Alamo, Jean reports an early **Swainson's Hawk** (2/12), and a visiting **Red-breasted Nuthatch** (2/2 and 2/4). Sam Smoker has had a single "Slate-colored" **Junco** in his Walnut Creek garden for the past month and has generously offered its viewing to anyone interested. Sam may be reached at 933-0884.

Observers: Florence Bennett, Elizabeth Dickey, Jimm Edgar, George Finger, Kevin Hintsa, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Donna Schluter, Sam Smoker, and Bud Widdowson.

For more observations in the Bay Area, please call the San Francisco Bay Area Rare Bird Alert, at (415) 528-0288

TRAVEL CORNER

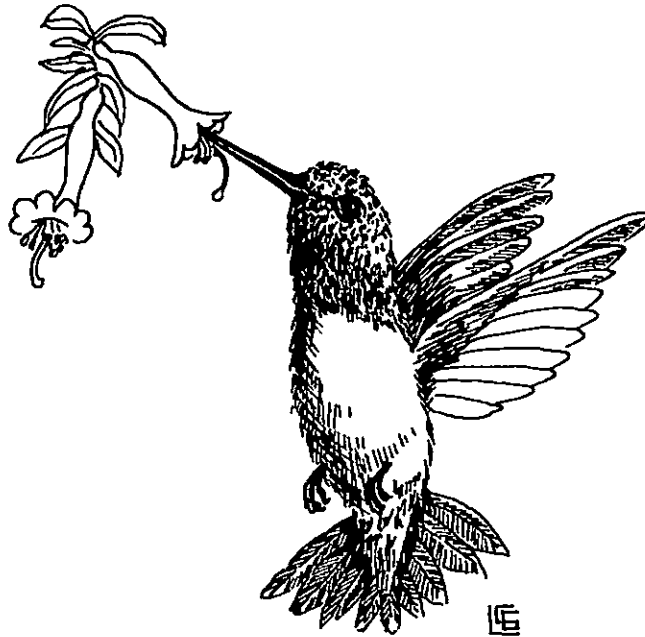
Trinidad's Asa Wright Nature Center by Ruth Stewart

In January, four of us flew to Trinidad to bird at the Asa Wright Nature Center. We opted for the week long visit concentrating on Trinidad, rather than take the extension to Tobago. As it developed, we needed even more time to do justice to the enormous number of tropical rain-forest birds dazzling our eyes. The Center is high in the hills in the northern part of the island and was once a coffee and cocoa plantation. Now it is a wildlife sanctuary with a lodge that has a screened porch for viewing where one could spend an entire day. Hummingbirds and tanagers abound. The Oropendolas were in constant flight around the lodge, preferring the tree called Immortelle, laden with orange blossoms, which was brought in originally to shade the coffee crop. One bird we listened to daily at our cabin was the Blue-crowned Motmot. In vain we kept the feeder supplied with bananas, but he didn't emerge, although he was spotted in another area before departure. Another ubiquitous bird was the Bananaquit, and the Palm Warbler was always to be seen at the feeders around the lodge.

The first day we hiked down to the grotto where the rare Guacharos live. It is called Dunston Cave and the birds are known colloquially as oilbirds. This was a most auspicious beginning for what became the most exciting birding we had ever experienced. On the way back up the trail to the lodge for lunch, we kept hearing the White-bearded Manakins and finally spotted them, as well as the Golden-headed Manakin, deep in the underbrush. We also heard the plangent notes of the Bearded Bellbird for the first time. The deep resonant bongs accompanied us during the entire week, tantalizing, until the bird was finally spotted. It was extremely secretive.

One famous sight not to be missed was the evening flight of the thousands and thousands of Scarlet Ibis, Trinidad's national

bird, coming in to roost in their special wooded island in the Caroni Swamp. This occurred with regularity at about 6:30 p.m. daily and boats full of viewers were moored some distance away so as not to disrupt their routine. Audubon magazine readers had a splendid picture of this unique event in a May issue, but the reality was breath-taking and unforgettable. It is too dark for pictures but no one could capture the incredible beauty of the scene on film. It belongs among treasured memories. That same night we saw the Potoo twice, and some Cayman, as well as dozens of birds among the mangroves.



There were also other areas to be explored, so each day we were taken by a most knowledgeable local guide to a different spot. Some of the other excursions that were memorable were to the Aripo Savannah and Forest, to the Variva Swamp, and to the north coast at Blanchisseuse. It would take pages to enumerate all the birds we saw, but each day was more wondrous than the previous one and our guide was so completely aware of the habitat that he could locate any one on the list, if not by sight, then surely by sound. I did not keep a list, but Marilyn O'Connor saw 144 birds. Of

these 52 were lifers, although she had previously birded other areas of Central America.

Arrangements for this trip were made with Caligo Ventures, Inc., P.O. Box 21, Armonk, New York 10504. We flew out of N.Y. - Kennedy on British West Indies Air and were met at Piarco Airport in Trinidad by a bus from the Center. There is a toll-free number for Caligo: 800-426-2753. This is not by any means a complete report on the amenities provided by the Center, but three delicious meals were served daily and picnic lunches were provided for our day-long drives. There were accommodations for about thirty people, which are usually booked way ahead. While we were there, we met Richard French who wrote the book on the birds of Trinidad and Tobago. He had led the Christmas bird count which had just ended before our arrival. It is a place one could return to with anticipation again and again.

NEW MEMBERS

It is with great pleasure that we greet these new MDAS members and we hope to meet them soon: Diane Accolla, Lydia Adams, Joel Albert, H. E. Albright, William Baker, Thomas Baldwin, N. Beising, Rosemarie Bonacum, Karen L. Bond, Fred Burkart Jr., S. R. Caniglia, Peter Castro, Richard Chamberlain, Jeff Conant, Bruce G. Cunningham, Deborah Dethier, Toni Dicapu, Kirk Dixon, John A. Dufro, Jean J. Duncan, S. Dunn, Howard Dyckoff, Marlene K. Eaton, Mrs. Adah Elliott, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Foley, Nancy Foord, Tom Fowler, Leona Galloway, F. F. Gebhart, W. Gill, Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Hall, Janess R. Hanson, B. L. Helbert, J. E. Herrick, Dr. and Mrs. D. W. Hilger, Julius C. Holbrook, A. H. Hollingsworth, Don and Lois Hudson, Lorae Hudson, Steve Hyland, Hope Irvin, Erika Jack, Wendy Jacks, Susan Johnson, Mary L. Kaufheil, Margaret J. Kelly, Lotte Kendall, Ed Kenney, Robert M. Kern, Graeme Kinsey, Will Koehler, Veta Larsen, Linda R. Lazare, Joyce Letts, Norman C. Lundberg, Bruce MacIver, Phyllis Matley, Jack McCormick, Linda McElheran, L. R. McGuire, W. N. McPherson, Pat Mosley, Richard

Munger, Gloria P. Newhouse, Richard Novak, Dr. Florence Oaks, D. Olmstead, Thelma Olson, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Outma, Judy Pace, Robert Pearce, Patricia Philbin, E. M. Philipps, Janis Poet, Katherine Pollin, Lynn Porto, R. J. Preece, Roger Prince, M. Rantz, Jackie Rego, Robert Reich, Kevin Roush, Mary Sanborn, William Schaefer, William Schrank, Suzanne Sciarretta, Gloria Sears, K. E. Sebrell, D. Sinclair, S. Smith, Winnifred Snyder, J. Stafford, William and Florence Stone, Robert Suryan, Jonathan Taylor, Sue Taylor, Mrs. Robert Thunen, Joyce Vandermeide, John Villa, R. B. Wale, Lorraine Walker, Maureen Wallace, R. V. Weaver, R. Winter, J. L. Wolthausen, L. Wood, Harold Young, and Andree Youngson.

MDAS would also like to welcome our new Membership Chairperson, Diane Macario, who is taking over for Linda Myers whose husband has been transferred out of our area. Many thanks to Linda for her fine work and greetings to Diane, who takes over her duties officially with this issue.

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, Diane Macario, 2425 Maple Ave., Concord, CA 94520. 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 Diane Macario, (415) 674-0920.

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.

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

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

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VP Programs: Neal Welsh, 798-0213
VP Conservation: Al McNabney, 945-1785
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Sales Manager: Gifford Young, (707) 745-4134
Field Trips: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486
Membership: Diane Macario, 674-0920
Publicity: Barbara Vaughn, 376-8732
Hospitality: Britta Cascio, 837-2895
Education: Norah Bain, 254-4516
Secretary: Edna Mass, 945-7634

May 1988

Vol. 34 No. 9

Next Deadline: May 12

May Program:

Greenbelt of the Bay Area

Freelance photographer Bob Walker will show "Treasures of the Greenbelt," a truly magnificent film which details the preservation and continuing struggle to maintain the nine-county greenbelt of the San Francisco Bay Area. Almost four million acres of connecting parks, watersheds, farms, ranches, wetlands, forests and chaparral will be featured. Much of this vital region is found in our own Contra Costa County. This film, narrated by television host Jerry Graham of "Bay Area Backroads," explores the greenbelt and introduces you to a fascinating array of "neighbors" including the unofficial Zen master of grapevine pruning, a true-blue cowboy working his ranch within one hour's drive from downtown San Francisco, an arm-waving, animated naturalist leading a field trip, the rare and endangered Mission Blue butterfly, and the thundering, antler-crashing Tule elk of Point Reyes National Seashore.

After the showing, Mr. Walker, one of the film's four cinematographers, will detail new and ongoing threats to this priceless rural heritage. He will also discuss ways and means to ensure the survival of this unique area. At this program, which is the season's finale, you are encouraged to bring your ideas and concerns about saving this beautiful and necessary region. Among his credits, Bob is a board member of "Save Mount Diablo" and he is currently president of the "East Bay Area Trails Council."

The May 5 meeting will be held at 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

Florence Bennett and Jimm Edgar will present this month's Birding Information, discussing differences between House, Purple, and Cassin's Finches.

The next board meeting will be Thursday, May 12, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Edna Mass, 2157 Golden Rain Rd., #7, Walnut Creek, 945-7634. Board meetings are open to all interested members.

Future events: Our June 2 meeting will be the annual potluck supper, with the program provided by members who wish to share bird slides with us.

The Yosemite weekend will be July 9-10. There will be no group campsite, so make your own reservations soon.

CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

SOLID WASTE (GARBAGE) DISPOSAL, 1989

Following a loaded garbage truck about is NOT everyone's cup of tea. Watching the serious, but (so far) futile effort of the County to find a site for solid waste (garbage) disposal is as tortuous as spinning a spider web over a snake's stomach. The present site for CC's solid waste disposal will be FULL within a year or so. A Task Force, named by the Board of Supervisors, spent months studying 13 "possible" locations for solid waste disposal. Study completed. Recommendations made to the Supes. Now, months later, an impasse exists. East County forces want a site in the Round Valley area, a site being looked at for future park and open space use. Two private sites draw both support and strident objection. One Supervisor is unable to vote due to a "conflict of interest." The remaining four split 2 to 2 on what to do. **THE IMPASSE SHOULD BE RESOLVED**, and quickly, too. Failure may see CC residents with mounds of garbage stacked here and there, with NO place to go. Mt. Diablo Audubon participated in the Solid Waste Task Force. The Supervisors should find a way to follow the recommendations of the Task Force so the location of a future solid waste site can be finalized.

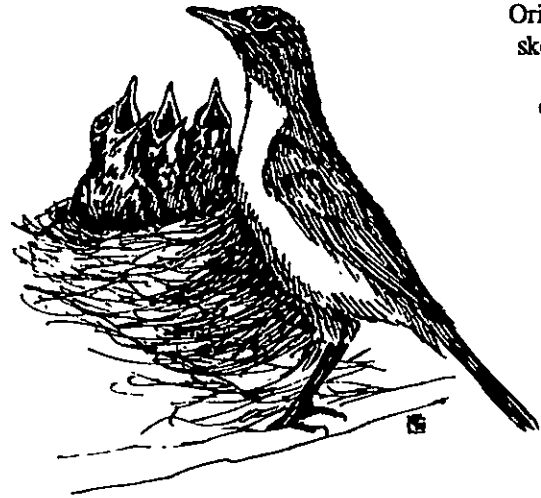
THE TRI-VALLEY WASTE DISPOSAL ISSUE!!!!

Growth in the Livermore-Pleasanton areas has moved apace. Present facilities for disposal of treated waste water (sewage) are inadequate. Future growth is threatened unless there is a solution to the problem. Now proposed, the Tri-Valley Waste Disposal Project. Treated waste water would be piped from the Tri-Valley area west, to the vicinity of Alcatraz in San Francisco Bay, and dumped into the bay. Several organizations have filed suit to stop the proposed project before it ever becomes a reality.

QUESTION: Why, at this late date should anyone even entertain thoughts of dumping MORE sewage into SF Bay? Perspiration, money, effort and much study has been put forth over the past few years to "CLEAN UP" SF Bay. If every city, industry, and activity having a sewage problem NOW wants to dump their problem in the Bay, we've gained nothing. The Tri-Valley area needs more capacity for treatment of sewage created as a result of development, people, and business already in place or anticipated. The Tri-Valley area should fund and develop its OWN sewage treatment facility. This attempt to send their problem away must not be permitted.

DID YOU KNOW?

Our national forests provide habitat for more than 3000 vertebrate species. Endangered species looking to our forests for a place to live number 129. One of the major avian species involved in the clear-cutting (destruction of old-growth forest) is **THE SPOTTED OWL!!!!!!**



Original sketches
by
Carol
Lutz

MDAS WINS OAKLEY LAW SUIT

On March 8, Judge Coleman Fannin ruled that the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors had not adequately addressed alternatives in the Oakley General Plan Amendment. Mt. Diablo Audubon and the Sierra Club had challenged the County that to allow 55,000 people in Oakley was going to destroy the environment and quality of life in east Contra Costa County. We felt that a less-impacting alternative would have allowed some growth while preserving some key environmentally sensitive areas.

The victory (the first EIR court loss for the County) now sends the plan back to the Board of Supervisors to reevaluate. It also sends a clear message to the political decision makers in the County that they can not do sloppy planning. This suit in effect delayed the developers' efforts to pave over some of the last good agricultural land in the County. Also, the plan was rammed through the County over local people's objections.

Our success in this suit will hopefully send a message to the cities and the County that they've got to put their parochial self-interest aside and start responding to what's in the public's interest, which is to allow growth to occur only to improve our living conditions.

In order to make this suit really help change the way the county does business, everyone should drop a note to your City Council person or member of the Board of Supervisors and let them know you want to protect agricultural lands, you want to see urban limit lines, and you want controlled growth. Please write or phone the politicians.

A big thank you should go to the Mt. Diablo Board of Directors and the Sierra Legal Defense Fund (Attorneys Julie McDonald and Steve Blum). Judge Fannin should also get a big thank you for also ordering the County to pay our legal fees (over \$100,000). It's nice to know you don't always have to pay to be right.

Contributed by Kent Fickett

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, May 5, Lake Merced - Golden Gate Park. Carpool 8:00 a.m. Acalanes Avenue, just off Pleasant Hill Rd., north of Hwy 24. Meet 9:00 a.m. Sunset Circle, San Francisco. NOTE to those meeting us there: please be patient, traffic is unpredictable! From the Bay Bridge, go south on US101 and I-280. Take SF State exit one block, turn right on Sagamor St., right onto Brotherhood Way, and right onto Lake Merced Blvd. Watch for left turn lane for the Sunset Circle parking lot. We should see Bank Swallows and Marsh Wrens, possibly water birds. Half mile walk on beach to see swallows; some walking in Golden Gate Park.
Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486.

Wednesday, May 11, Mount Diablo. Carpool 7:30 a.m. El Cerro Blvd., just west of I-680. Meet 8:00 a.m. in first parking lot on left after entering South Gate. There may be a \$2.00 entrance fee. Sage, Rufous-crowned, and maybe Black-chinned Sparrows, Lazuli Buntings, gnatcatchers, hawks, and sometimes a warbler wave. Hot! Carry liquids. 1-2 miles walking on varied narrow, steep, or rough trails.
Leader: Jimm Edgar, 658-2330.

Saturday, May 14, Mitchell Canyon. Meet 9:00 a.m. Mitchell Canyon parking lot. There is a \$2.00 parking fee on weekends. From I-680 in Walnut Creek, take Ygnacio Valley Rd. to Clayton Rd., right on Clayton, right on Mitchell Canyon Rd., and follow it to end. This trip takes most of the morning with emphasis on wild flowers. Birders can continue in afternoon to look for gnatcatchers, summer sparrows, etc. 1-2 mile walk up gently sloping dirt road. Hot! Carry liquids and lunch if birding later.
Leader: John Davis, 228-9516.

Thursday, May 19, Alum Rock Park. Carpool 8:00 a.m., El Cerro Blvd., just west of I-680. Meet at park at 9:15 a.m. Take I-680 south to Alum Rock exit in San Jose. Follow Alum Rock Rd. east to park. Meet at east end of first parking lot. Hot, remember liquids. 1-2 mile walking.
Leader: Barbara Vaughn, 376-5041.

Wednesday, May 25, Caswell State Park. Carpool 6:30 a.m., El Cerro Blvd., just west of I-680. Meet 8:00 a.m. at Caswell State Park. Take I-680 south, I-580 east, and I-205 east. Turn east on SR20 to US99. Go south on US99 to Austin Rd. and follow this to end at park entrance. \$2.00 fee. This has been a consistently good spot for Swainson's Hawks and riparian species. Level walking, mosquitos, possibly poison oak. San Joaquin Valley weather.
Leader: Maury Stern, 284-5980.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

BOLINAS LAGOON, March 9.

Nine Mt. Diablo and three Napa-Solano Audubon Society members spent a sunny, mild day at Bolinas Lagoon and Five Brooks. Highlights at Bolinas Lagoon included Clark's and Red-necked Grebes, Lesser Yellowlegs, and Bonaparte's Gull. An adult male Harlequin Duck was adjacent to Audubon Canyon Ranch. One Osprey was seen from a long distance, but an excellent close-up of a pale Red-shouldered Hawk was had by all the participants. Near Pine Gulch Creek entrance, we all watched a grey fox casually stretched out on the opposite bank observing us in a very unafraid manner. Landbirds included both Allen's and Rufous Hummingbirds, Hairy Woodpecker, Cedar Waxwing, and Winter Wren. 87 species were seen.

Maury Stern

TILDEN PARK, March 17.

Twelve Mt. Diablo Auduboners and guests took the Seaview Trail from the Inspiration Point parking lot on a cold morning which warmed considerably towards late morning. 36 species were seen, and the day's highlight was a good, if not too close, look at a female or immature male Red Crossbill. Red-breasted Nuthatches were everywhere, it seemed, and we located a nesting hole of one bird.

Barbara Vaughn

BRIONES RESERVOIR, March 26.

Twenty-five members and guests saw 54 species despite shell racing practice in the reservoir. Among the better discoveries were Red-necked and Eared Grebes, a Common Loon, Cinnamon Teal, a Northern Harrier, a Red-breasted Sapsucker, an Olive-sided Flycatcher, a Hermit Thrush, a Warbling Vireo, many Orange-crowned Warblers, and a Northern (Bullock's) Oriole. The best find was the discovery by Harry Adamson of a single Osprey floating about in a kettle of Turkey Vultures. A warm, sunny-bright and windless day was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Neal Welsh

BRIONES PARK WILDFLOWER WALK, March 30.

Twelve stalwart members of our Society gathered at the Briones Rd. entrance of Briones Park for a morning of wild-flowering and bird-watching. The hills wore their finest green color, and the weather was delightful. We found about 25 wild-flowers in bloom. The bush lupine was the most striking flower of the day. Others of interest were Shooting Stars, 3 wild geranium species, Blue Dicks, Blue-eyed Grass, and Dutchman's Pipe. Of the 30 or so birds observed, the Hutton's Vireo seemed to excite the most interest.

John Davis

LIME RIDGE, April 7.

Seven members hiked up and down Lime Ridge on a pleasant birding day. Birding was slow but 42 species were seen or heard. Highlights were a Cooper's Hawk nest, many breeding-plumage "Audubon" Warblers, and a young rattlesnake.

George Finger

AWARDS AND THANK YOU'S

1988 AUDUBON CHAPTER ACTIVIST AWARD

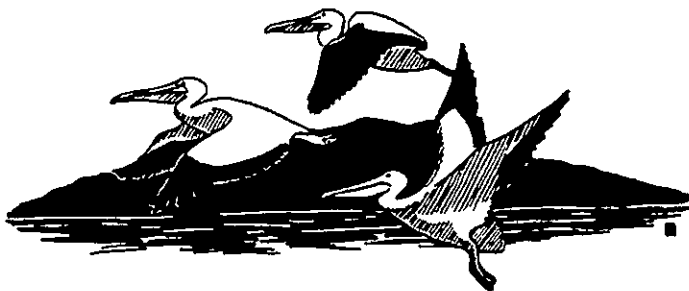
At the 1988 Western Regional Conference of the National Audubon Society, March 26 - 29, Al McNabney was one of 31 people honored for their outstanding contributions to conservation. His citation read as follows:

Al spearheaded efforts to save "Shell Marsh," generally considered to be the most important wetlands in Contra Costa County. A member of the Urban Creek Task Force and the Committee for Water Policy Consensus, he has been deeply involved with regional transportation issues, and with both the County and the City of Walnut Creek, as they amend their General Plans. Vice-President of Conservation and author of a monthly column for the newsletter, he has done an excellent job in keeping the chapter abreast of what is happening and where action should be taken.

AUDUBON ADVENTURES

GRATEFUL THANKS to all the MDAS members listed below for sponsoring school classes with AUDUBON ADVENTURES materials. During the 1987-88 school year, fifteen classes in nine schools in six cities were provided with nature education newsletters for students and guides for teachers. Several people received very welcome and encouraging mail in the form of thank-you letters from teachers and students, plus student art work. Three teachers sponsored their own classes. Look for the coupon in the June *Quail* if you wish to sponsor a class or request a sponsor for 1988-1989. The price remains \$25 per class, per year. The new administrator of Audubon Adventures will be Dana Jordan, 1236 Lindell Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94596, 932-3045.

Genevieve Baird	June Mallory
Florence Cole	Edna Mass
John and Tami Davis	Al and Helen McNabney
Sharyn Fernandez	Daisy Ray
Lois Foster	Barbara Vaughn



CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

Interested in Birds of Prey?

The Golden Gate Raptor Observatory is a volunteer group dedicated to studying the migration of more than 10,000 birds of prey over the Marin Headlands each fall. During Spring 1988 we are recruiting new hawkwatchers and banders to volunteer twice a month from August through December 1988. Interested folks should attend an Orientation Meeting either Thursday, May 5, at 8 p.m., or Saturday, May 7, at 10 a.m. The meetings will be held at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area Headquarters, Building 201, Upper Fort Mason. Enter at Franklin and Bay. For information, call the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory, 331-0730.

Mono Basin Spring Breeding Bird Count

Sunday, June 12, 1988, will be the date of the Mono Basin Spring Breeding Bird count. This weekend should be the greenest, songiest time to enjoy the high country spring. Everyone is invited to attend regardless of their birding experience. The county circle includes Lundy Canyon, Lee Vining Canyon, and the County Park, although birders will be split into parties to ensure thorough coverage. Please meet at 6:00 a.m. in front of the Lee Vining Visitor Center. Bring binoculars, water and a lunch. For more information, call (619) 647-6620. The event will be followed by a potluck dinner and listing of birds seen.

Nesting, Singing Birds Field Trip

On Saturday, May 21, the Fremont Adult School will offer an all-day birding trip to watch and listen to local birds as they go about their territorial, courtship, and nesting activities. The trip will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 2:30 p.m. Bring binoculars, snacks, lunch and beverage. Students must preregister by Tuesday, May 17, by mail or in person at the Fremont Adult School, 4700 Calaveras Rd., Fremont, CA 94538. Enclose a fee of \$15 and a stamped, self-addressed envelope. The field trip will be led by Alice Hoch. For more information, call the Fremont Adult School at 791-5841.

MDAS BIRD SLIDES

MDAS now has a collection of over 600 slides, mainly birds, but also including butterflies and habitats. The collection is the property of the chapter; some slides were donated, other purchased with Education Funds. Members may use the slides for presentations to our chapter, for example, for Bird Information, or to other organizations. Please call Norah Bain, 254-4516 well in advance with your request. Donations of slides are welcome. Some needed species are shearwaters, petrels, warblers, nighthawks, and sparrows.

OBSERVATIONS

By Donna Peake-Klein

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

3/4 At Pigeon Point: 25 "Black" Brant, 4 Lesser Golden-Plovers, and 1 Marbled Murrelet. (JR, FB, BF, EG)

3/5-6 From northern California, Bud Widdowson reports a Harris's Sparrow at a friend's feeder (Blue Lake, CA) and a pair of Oldsquaw and 4 Harlequin Ducks (Crescent City harbor).

3/6 A Northern Pygmy Owl was seen being mobbed by lbb's in an oak along a trail on the way to Little Yosemite, Sunol Regional Park. (SF, KH)

3/12 A Virginia Rail and a Peregrine Falcon (Bodega Bay), a Harlequin Duck (Bollinas Lagoon), and Red Crossbills (Pt. Reyes Station). (JE)

3/15 At Bodega Bay, 38 "Black" Brant. (JR, FB, BF, MOB)

3/16 An Eastern Kingbird along Hwy 5. (H&NB)

3/19 A flock of 18 "Black" Brant and 50 Surf Scoters all flying together past Pigeon Point. (JR, RR, B&VH)

3/26-4/2 On a trip to Fort Meyers Beach, Florida: Reddish Egret, nesting Great White Heron, Roseate Spoonbill, Glossy Ibis, 14 Piping Plovers, 2 Roseate Terns, Smooth-billed Ani, 2 Chuck-wills-widows, and a manatee. (JA)

3/27 A male Bullock's Oriole arrived in the Danville garden of Kamran Alavi.

3/29 First male Hooded Oriole at their Lafayette feeder. (G&MJM)

4/1 An Olive-sided Flycatcher ("Quick! Three Beers!") was heard in Gifford and Winifred Young's Benicia yard.

4/2 At Hunter Liggett Military Reservation, a Golden Eagle. (H&NB)

4/2 At Grizzly Island in clear, very dry weather: Green-winged and Cinnamon Teal, Greater Yellowlegs changing to breeding plumage, 60 Black-necked Stilt sleeping in a group, Song, Fox, and Savannah Sparrows, nesting Mallards, and a Short-eared Owl flying at mid-day. (G&WY)

4/2 Sighted on Mines Rd. were a Golden Eagle, Lewis's Woodpecker, Phainopepla, and Rufous-crowned Sparrow. (JE)

4/3-4 In the Monterey peninsula area: a Harlequin Duck, 5 "Black" Brant, nesting Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorants, Brown Pelican, White-throated Swift, Black Oystercatcher, and Pigeon Guillemot. (H&NB)

4/5 12 Yellow-rumped Warblers in a flock, in the yard and bird bath of George and Molly Jane Monheit.

- 4/5 Seen in Mitchell Canyon, 5 Orange-crowned, 1 Yellow, 15 Yellow-rumped, 1 Black-throated Grey, 4 Townsend's, and 1 Wilson's Warblers. (JR, MOB)

4/5 20 Caspian Terns seen at Bodega Bay Harbor. (FB, JD)

4/10 At Bodega Bay, 60-75 Horned Grebes in various stages of plumage from winter to full breeding plumage. Also several Common Loons in full breeding plumage. (G&WY)

4/12 In their Orinda garden, 2 Rufous Hummingbirds and an

Orange-crowned Warbler. (H&NB)

4/12 A male Phainopepla spotted sitting on a nest in an almond tree (with female nearby) at Solano County Park. (FB, JR, MJ&BG) Also, along Pleasant Valley Road, a pair of Phainopepla and a male Western Tanager.

Observers: Kamran Alavi, John Ascher, Hugh and Norah Bain, Florence Bennett, Janice Dinatale, Jimm Edgar, Sharyn Fernandez, Bud Fry, Mary Jane and Bill Greene, Ecks Grigsby, Bob and Vivian Herman, Kevin Hintsa, George and Molly Jane Monheit, Jean Richmond, Rich Richmond, Bud Widdowson, and Gifford and Winifred Young.

TRAVEL CORNER

Birding on a Middle-East Bus Tour
by Betty Gallagher

Most of us have experienced "birding at 55 m.p.h." A new challenge for us was "birding on a bus tour." Bob and I spent 19 days on a very demanding routine of site-seeing the Bible lands and a Nile River cruise. In Israel, we commandeered the back seats of the bus in order to get as much window space as possible, as well as room for all of our binocs, scope and photo equipment. These countries are not exactly birding hot spots and the season was "in between," but we made the most of it and felt fortunate to see the number of birds we did.

In Galilee, the sighting of water birds was most frustrating as we sped by the Hula Nature Reserve fish ponds. Still, we had, at other locations, three grebes, Little, Great Crested, and Eared, plus a Western Reef Heron. Other species included Griffon Vultures, the Pied, Common and Smyrna Kingfishers, Common Hoopoes, Syrian Woodpecker, Crested Lark, Eurasian Jay, Black Redstart, Great Tit, White-crowned Black Wheatear, Blackbird, Lesser Grey and Red-back Shrikes, Palestinian Sunbird, and of course Common Bulbuls, Hooded Crow, Wagtails, and Tristram's Grackle.

On our beautiful Nile River cruise, we spent a lot of time scoping the shores, sandbars and islands, from the top deck. Some of the species we were able to check were Great Cormorant, Purple, Grey and Goliath Herons, Great, Little, Cattle and black phase Egrets, White Spoonbills, Squacco and Black-crowned Night-Herons, Egyptian Goose, Common Pochard, Ferruginous and Tufted Ducks, moorhens, Purple Gallinule (Egyptian race), Common Stilt, Spur-winged Plover, Common Sandpiper, Black-headed, Little, and Mediterranean Gulls, Bridled and Little Terns, Black Kites, Common Swift and many Pied Kingfishers along the banks. On a twenty minute visit to a botanical garden, we saw a Little Green Bee-eater and a Sardinian Warbler, and at other landings, we found Syrian Woodpecker, Pied and Gray Wagtails, Goldfinch and Trumpe-terfinch, and Laughing Doves.

NEW OFFICERS

Chapter officers were elected by the members at the April meeting. The officers, who will start their terms in July, are as follows:

President: Barbara Vaughn
 VP Programs: Neal Welsh
 VP Conservation: Al McNabney
 Treasurer: Florence Bennett
 Secretary: Britta Cascio

In addition to these elected positions, there are still various committee chairmanships which need to be filled. If you would be willing to work on a committee, contact Barbara Vaughn, 376-8732. Al McNabney would also like some people who would be willing to assist the Conservation Committee, particularly by attending meetings. If you are interested in conservation, please call Al at 945-1785. Finally, we would like to thank those officers and board members who have served this past year. You have helped make this a great chapter!!

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to these new MDAS members and hope to meet them in person soon:

Doris Allison, Joan Baty, Russell Beatty, Michael Beeve, Graciela Berndorf, Carl Boswell, Teresa Bradshaw, Donna Campbell, Elvira Cardin, Mary Clasen, Fiels Cobb Jr., Ronda Collmer, Margaret Cox, Nancy Crakow, John Dana, Eugene DeProsse, Cindy Dix, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Ducke, Mabel Ecker, Carolyn Erdman, Stephen Gerber, Howard Gonsalves, Alice Goodman, Nancy and Greg Gorder, Marie Graham, S. L. Greene, E. Greenlee, Kathy Guenther, R. Chris Kubota, James Kwiecinski, Robert Lind, J. S. Lomax, Darlene Lopez, Terry Mason, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Michaels, David Misserian, J. Mudd, C. Bruce Myers, Jim Nirenstein, Thomas Nolan, B. Noorda, Patricia Phillips, Kenneth Rank, Julie Rowlings, Jean Saylor, James Sears, Jim Slusser, Mary Smith, Joseph Thayer, Jill Toibin, Arlene Ustin, Mary Vaughn, Jerry Wood, and Marloe Woollet.

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, Diane Macario, 2425 Maple Ave., Concord, CA 94520. 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 Diane Macario, (415) 674-0920.

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.

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

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BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY
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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
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Field Trips: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486
Membership: Diane Macario, 674-0920
Publicity: Barbara Vaughn, 376-5041
Hospitality: Britta Cascio, 837-2895
Education: Norah Bain, 254-4516
Secretary: Edna Mass, 945-7634

June 1988

Vol. 34 No.10

Next Deadline: June 9

June Meeting:

END OF THE YEAR POTLUCK

The next meeting of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society will be Thursday, June 2, at 6:30 pm, at the Willow Creek Center, 1026 Mohr Lane, Concord. This will be the end-of-the-year potluck. Please bring a salad, casserole, or dessert for ten as well as your own table service and any serving utensils you may need. Coffee and punch will be provided.

6:30 Doors open
7:00 Dinner

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

FUTURE EVENTS

The next board meeting will be on Thursday, June 9, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Elizabeth Dickey, 113 Hillcrest Dr., Orinda, 254-0486. Board meetings are open to all interested members.

The Yosemite weekend will be July 9 and 10. There will be no group campground, so reservations must be made right away!

The annual picnic will be Friday, July 15, at Castle Rock. More information will be in the July /August *Quail*.

TRAVEL NOTES

As you travel this summer, ask for an extra copy of the facility map and any bird lists or check lists when you visit parks, refuges, or sanctuaries. Pass extras along to Jean Richmond to place in the chapter file. When planning a trip, contact Jean, 837-2843, as she may have information on the area you plan to visit and you can learn what birds to expect there.



LE

CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

OIL AND FEATHERS DON'T MIX

Oil, great for heating houses, for conversion to gasoline for our autos. Then there was "oil for the Lamps of China," really kerosene, now used to power jet planes 'round the world. All these worthwhile uses were balanced against the mucky, gunky stuff that flowed into Shell Marsh, the Martinez Marina, and the Bay. All this, as a result of an oil spill from a Shell Oil Co. holding tank. Overnight, the marsh, some of the bay, and the marina became black, gooey places. Birds usually seek out these areas for feeding, resting and, at this time of year, nesting. The birds have found the entire area to be a virtual death trap. Hundreds of birds were "oiled." Some were rescued and cleaned by volunteers. Many of those birds just didn't "make it," unable to stand the stress of being caught and handled so much. Other birds died in the marsh and wetlands. Still others will die later. Birds which have been oiled will preen themselves and ingest quantities of oil. Most of these birds will ultimately die. Some experts say the migratory birds may well die in far-off places, after making migratory trips to their seasonal nesting areas.

Damage to Shell Marsh appears to be great. Dispute exists as to how much time will have to pass before the marsh can again be considered to be THE most important wetland in Contra Costa County. It is clear lots of time, and lots of rehabilitation work will HAVE to be carried out (under the eyes and direction of experts) before Shell Marsh can again be said to be THE most important wetland in Contra Costa County.

SOOOOOOOO, we have a major disaster before us.

WHAT WE'VE DONE

A series of letters was sent to editors of major California newspapers. Damage to the marsh was decried. Each letter made the point that this oil spill took place IN a refinery area. The spill occurred under circumstances where, 'tis said, such a disaster could NOT take place. The spill did happen in an area like this. Just think of the disastrous results that could be before us, if the Secretary of Interior's oil drilling proposals for the northern California coast are ever permitted. A "blow-out" in an offshore oil rig could spread oil along the entire coast. Ecological damage could be irreversable. Birdlife, fisheries, the crab industry, and tourism all along the northern coast could suffer.

We should tell our Senators (The Honorable Alan Cranston, Honorable Pete Wilson, Senate Office Building, Washington D. C. 20510) and Congressman (The Honorable George Miller, Dist. 7, 20515) to say "**NO**" to the Hodel proposals.

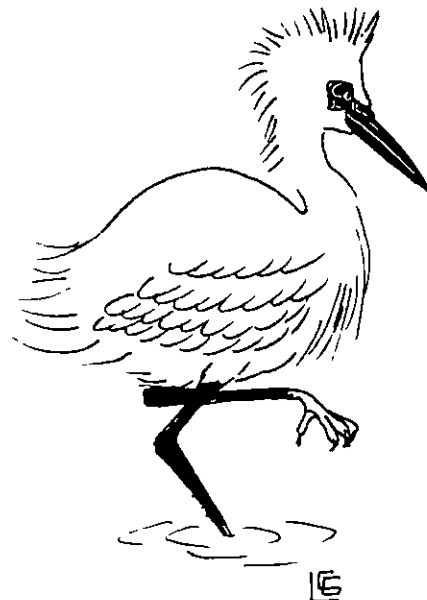
MDAS arranged a major press conference on Monday, May 2, and proposed a 7-point program, urging Shell and others to:

1. Continue the clean-up.
2. Take the lead in the transfer of 240 acres of wetland from private to public ownership.
3. Fund rehabilitation of ALL affected areas.
4. Fund long-term studies and rehabilitation.
5. Establish a trust fund for long-term rehabilitation and enhancement for wetlands along the Martinez and Contra Costa County North Shore.
6. Have State and Federal agencies conduct a study by September 1 assuring no such spill can happen again.
7. Investigate all oil and chemical facilities in the Bay Area and take steps to keep storm waters on site and out of public waters. Assure that all State and Federal fines against Shell be returned to the local area for use in protection of fish and wildlife. Urge the Board of Supervisors and the Martinez City Council by resolution and ordinance to support these demands and encourage the State Legislature to adopt legislation so this type of environmental disaster will NOT again occur.

Ten environmental organizations participated in the press conference. Supervisors Sunne McPeak and Nancy Fahden spoke in favor of the proposals, as did Kathy Radke, a member of the Martinez City Council.

To MDAS members, we say this: WE'VE fought for years to prevent Shell Marsh from being turned in to a business park AND we WON! We couldn't prevent the oil spill and ensuing catastrophe. However, let's make something worthwhile come of the disaster:

**SAY "NO" TO SECRETARY OF INTERIOR
HODEL'S PROPOSALS FOR OIL DRILLING
ALONG THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
COAST!!!!!!!!!!!!**



THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND BOND ACT

Proposition 70, the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Bond Act, is a statewide measure that will preserve California's magnificent wildlife habitat, coast, parks, and open space lands. It would provide \$776 million dollars to acquire habitat for endangered species, protect natural areas near cities and throughout the state, acquire threatened wetlands, open new parks, and provide funds for new recreation facilities.

A few of the specific areas that will benefit from Proposition 70 include:

\$41 million dollars to preserve land which supports California's endangered species.

\$6 million dollars to protect critical habitat areas for game birds and mammals, which includes routes of migration for wildlife, and breeding and nesting areas for the Sage Grouse.

\$3 million dollars to preserve specific endangered animals, such as the Bald Eagle, the California Condor, and the Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

\$79 million dollars for additional wildlife lands throughout California.

Proposition 70 will also provide \$15 million dollars for the protection of lands along rivers and streams. Further, another \$38 million dollars will help preserve coastal and inland wetlands, and \$30 million dollars will protect key coastal areas. All of these projects are crucial to the survival of a variety of animals and birds.

More than 200 conservation, civic, and historic groups and government agencies have endorsed Proposition 70, including nearly every county in the Bay Area and Southern California. Sixteen local Chambers of Commerce have endorsed the proposition, despite the opposition of the State Chamber of Commerce. For more information, contact Californians for Parks and Wildlife at 909 12th Street, Suite 203, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 448-1786.

REMEMBER TO VOTE ON JUNE 7

FROM AUDUBON'S WESTERN REGIONAL OFFICE

The chapter representatives assembled at our western regional conference voted to affirm the following list as the top conservation priorities for Audubon in the Western Region:

1. Wetland and Riparian Habitat Protection.
2. Old Growth Forest Protection.
3. International Programs for Wildlife and Habitat.
4. Reauthorization of the Clean Air Act / Acid Rain.
5. Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Protection.

The priorities listed above directly correspond to the order dictated by responses from the 49 chapters in California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, and Hawaii who participated in our biennial conservation priority survey.

"These issues will guide Audubon's conservation planning in the West through 1989," according to Glenn Olson, Audubon's Western Regional Vice President. This year's vote reflects Audubon's continuing involvement in the crisis over the future of our nation's most threatened wildlife habitats: the wetlands, the riparian forests, and the great virgin forest of the Pacific Northwest. New on the list are calls for international action and for the need to protect Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, now threatened by oil development proposals being heard in the Congress.

NEW BIRDER'S HANDBOOK

In June, Simon & Schuster is publishing a valuable new book, *The Birder's Handbook*. Subtitled *A Field Guide to the Natural History of North American Birds, the Essential Companion to your Identification Guide*, the pages are laid out like those in a bird guide, but instead of identification, the blocks on each page give associated information, for 660 species, on habits and habitats, where and how nests are built, eating and mating behavior, rearing of the young, conservation status, etc. This is a big book, 752 pages, 6-1/8 x 9-1/4 inches, not a pocket handbook but well worth taking along on any field trip. It's a portable encyclopedia of bird information.

MDAS plans to carry this for sale at a reduced rate. It would cost you \$15.92 to pick up at retail book stores and about \$18.50 to order through the mail. From MDAS, you can pick it up at a meeting or elsewhere for only \$13.00, or it will be mailed to you for only \$14.50 (sorry, postage rates have gone up even for books). Both prices include sales tax. If you would like to have the Birder's Handbook mailed to you as soon as our shipment arrives, probably in July, send your name, address, and telephone number with a check for \$14.50 for each copy (made out to MDAS, please) to Gifford Young, Sales Manager, 1451 Janet Ct., Benicia, CA 94510, or call (707) 745-4134.

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, June 1, East Contra Costa County. Carpool 6:30 a.m. southwest corner of Sun Valley parking lot. Meet 7:00 a.m. on Cypress Rd., just beyond Shortstop Market. Go north on I-680, east on SR 4 through Oakley and turn left onto Cypress Rd. We have not visited this area for two years. In the past we found Blue Grosbeak, Black-chinned Hummingbirds, Burrowing Owl, and sometimes Chats. Hot! About 1 mile walking along levee in full sun to look for the Chats; other birds are found close to the road.
Leader: Maury Stern, 284-5980.

Saturday, June 4, Outer Point Reyes. Carpool 6:30 a.m. Acalanes Ave. off Pleasant Hill Rd., just north of Hwy 24. Meet at Drake's Beach, 8:30 a.m. Cross San Rafael Bridge. From I-101 north, take San Rafael exit. Go 2 blocks, turn left and continue west to Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Right on Sir Francis; at SR 1, turn right 1/2 mile, left onto Bear Valley Rd. about 3 miles, and onto Sir Francis Drake Blvd. again. Continue about 14 miles to Drake's Beach Rd. on left. This trip is for spring vagrants and may turn up anything. About 1/2 mile walk on good road to Lighthouse; 1/2 mile rough trail to the New Willows. On some trips the weather has been unpleasantly hot, on other, cold and windy.
Leader: Fred Safir, 937-2906.

Wednesday, June 8, Las Trampas Regional Park. Meet 7:00 a.m. in parking lot at park entrance. From I-680, go west on Crow Canyon Road, and right onto Bollinger Canyon Road. Parking lot is to the left at the end of the road. Carry plenty of liquids, the area can be hot. 1-1 1/2 miles walking, mostly on roads, some of it steep. Grasshopper Sparrows are usually found as well as other grassland and oak wood birds.
Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486.

Thursday, June 16, 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, turn west on I-780, go through Vallejo, and west on SR 37 to 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. In the past we have found 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.

Saturday and Sunday, June 18-19, Yuba Pass. Saturday we bird Yuba Pass for mountain birds. Sunday, we go into Sierra Valley for basin birds. 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 are at Chapman Creek and Yuba Pass. Please call leader, Barbara Burek, 229-0394, if you are going.

Saturday, June 25, Tilden Breakfast Walk. Meet at 6:00 a.m. in parking area at Nature Center for an early morning walk to enjoy bird songs. This will be a fairly short trip, followed by a bring-your-own picnic breakfast.
Leader: Barbara Vaughn, 376-8732.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

GARIN REGIONAL PARK, April 9.

Eleven members and guests explored this new area on a hot, sunny day. The total of 54 species for the day did not include a Grasshopper Sparrow, but a Golden Eagle was seen along with an unusually orange Purple Finch. Nests of a Hutton's Vireo and a Chestnut-backed Chickadee were found.

Bob Richmond

LAKE LAGUNITAS, April 13

A chilly April day on which even some rain fell greeted 14 members and guests as we headed for Marin County and Lake Lagunitas. The target bird, the Pileated Woodpecker, were heard calling only, but we saw and heard 50 other species including 5 species of woodpeckers, some warblers, and Hutton's and Warbling Vireos. The highlights of the day were good looks at a breeding-plumaged Common Loon and a spectacular display put on by an Osprey who successfully caught two large trout while we watched.

Jimm Edgar

BRIONES REGIONAL PARK - WEST, April 21.

Nine members enjoyed pleasant birding under sunny skies. Spring arrivals, including Lazuli Bunting, Northern Oriole, Black-headed Grosbeak, Ash-throated Flycatcher, and Warbling Vireo, were among the 38 species seen.

Elizabeth Dickey

IDA CLAYTON ROAD, April 27.

Fifteen members and guests identified a total of 70 species. Mountain Quail were heard calling but not seen. Western Tanager, Olive-sided and Ash-throated Flycatchers, Black-headed Grosbeak, Western Kingbird and Northern (Bullock's) Oriole were observed with wonderful looks thru the scope. At Detert Reservoir, 5 miles east of Middletown, we saw a pair of Osprey displaying and what appeared to be the beginnings of a nesting platform. Gifford Young spotted a well-hidden Green-backed Heron there also.

Florence Bennett

*Field Trips, continued.***MINES ROAD, April 30.**

Sixteen Auduboners and guests braved cold and at times hot, wind, torrential rains, a few flakes of snow, and some hail to see 83 species. At the first stop we hit the jackpot with several species, including Wood Ducks, Red-shouldered Hawks, Northern Orioles, a Wild Turkey and Yellow-billed Magpies. We went on to take good looks at Phainopeplas, Golden Eagles, and others. We were late for our usual lunch appointment with Lawrence's Goldfinches, but finally got there. The day was capped with a song and dance show by three Rock Wrens. Thank you, Jean Richmond, for your book and detailed directions to this trip.

Kamran Alavi

MINES ROAD II, May 4.

Six people who could not go on Saturday made the Mines Road drive. The weather was better, though very windy, and the sun was shining. We saw 62 species, although we missed some of Saturday's birds. Highlights included Cooper's Hawk, Green-backed Heron, Allen's Hummingbird, Roadrunner, and Barn Owl. Another highlight was a Gray Fox at Del Valle.

Elizabeth Dickey

LAKE MERCED, May 5.

Seven members and guests birded around Lake Merced and Golden Gate Park. We had quick looks at Bank Swallows at the lake, and watched a Marsh Wren weaving another strand of grass into its nest. At North Lake in Golden Gate Park, we found a small flock of Red Crossbills and were able to observe them closely with the scope. A Brown Creeper nest was found under the loose bark of a eucalyptus tree.

Elizabeth Dickey

MT. DIABLO, May 11.

The May 11 field trip to Mt. Diablo was as fine as could be hoped. Nearly all the target species for this location were seen with some special treats added. The day was warm even early on, as 14 of us met at the South Gate entrance. Of the 52 total species seen, the highlights were a Western Kingbird at Rock City, as well as excellent looks at the Black-chinned and Rufous-crowned Sparrows. Further up the mountain, we saw a number of Lazuli Buntings with some approaching as close as 30 feet. Three species of vireos (Hutton's, Warbling, and Solitary) were seen, and the real treat was at Blue Oak where 6 species of warblers were seen, many in abundance. Yellow, Townsend's, Orange-crowned, and Wilson's were plentiful, with a few Hermit and one Black-throated Gray.

Jimm Edgar

OBSERVATIONS

By Donna Peake-Klein

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

4/3 The first male Hooded Orioles and first Barn Swallows (north end of Limeridge along the canal) were sighted in Towne and Country M. H. Park, Concord. (Over 1 month later, May 7, the first female orioles appeared). (SF, KH)

4/16 From Humboldt County, an immature male Tufted Duck was seen (Arcata Marsh Project) and a Tufted Puffin ("Puffin Rock," Trinidad). (BW)

4/22 On Jetty Road, Monterey Peninsula, 17 Black Brant were seen. (ED)

4/22-24 On a waterfowl class trip to Lower Klamath NWR, Bud Widdowson saw 142 species including an adult Little Blue Heron in full breeding plumage (Strait's drain). (BW, SH, MOB)

4/24 Jimm Edgar spotted a Peregrine Falcon while driving across the Bay Bridge at 7:00 p.m.

4/26 2 Least Terns were seen at Alameda South Shore. (ED)

4/26 2 Black-throated Gray Warblers and 2 male Lazuli Buntings were observed at Black Diamond Mines. (MB)

4/28-5/1 On another ornithology class trip to Lower Klamath NWR, Bud reports 210 species. Highlights were Black-backed Woodpeckers, Green-tailed Towhees, Sage Thrashers, Lewis's Woodpeckers, Spotted Owls (Willow Creek), and Yellow-breasted Chat. (BW, SH, MOB)

4/30 Along Mines Road, Lewis's Woodpecker, Roadrunner, Lawrence's Goldfinch. On Del Puerto Canyon Road, a pair of Golden Eagles displaying in flight. (FB, MP)

5/1 On an Ohlone chapter trip to Bethel Island led by Bob Richmond, the following species were seen: American Bittern, Blue Grosbeak, Black-chinned Hummingbird, 3 Whimbrel, 13 White Pelicans in flight, and 1 American Crow "diving a la tern." (SF, KH, A&BL, BR, MOB)

5/3 At Mt. Diablo State Park, White-throated Swift, Hermit Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Sage Sparrow, and Lincoln's Sparrow. (FB, MJ&BG)

5/5 14 Black Rails were heard at Mallard Island in Pittsburg. (See Page 8.) (JE, EH, RS)

5/7 A Male Wood Duck and 6 Lawrence's Goldfinches at Detert Reservoir in Napa County north of Calistoga. (FB, H&JG)

Observers: Mike Beeve, Florence Bennett, Elizabeth Dickey, Jimm Edgar, Jules Evens, Sharyn Fernandez, Helen & Jerry Gentile, Stanley Harris, Ed Hase, Kevin Hints, Ann & Bob Landfear, Many OBServers, Bob Richmond, Richard Stallcup, Bud Widdowson.

TRAVEL CORNER

Rarity Chasing in Texas
by Ed Hase

The second week of January was highlighted by the national rare bird hotline buzzing with news of rare birds in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas. These included the first U.S. record of a Crane Hawk, at Santa Ana NWR, a Golden-crowned Warbler at the same place, a Crimson-collared Grosbeak at Brownsville, Blue Buntings at Bentsen State Park, Clay-colored Robins and Tropical Parulas at several locations, Muscovy Ducks on the Rio Grande River, and White-collared Seedeaters near San Ygnacio. All of these plus the attraction of the many unusual birds normally found in the Valley was too much to resist for Bill Chilson, George Finger and myself. On the 19th of January, we jetted to the Rio Grande Valley for a six-day bird tour.

The Crane Hawk had top priority, so we began our trip at Santa Ana Refuge, near McAllen. Neither weather nor the Crane Hawk cooperated, so after a fruitless day and a half, we decided to try to break the pattern of frustration in Brownsville. Day Three started at the Sabal Palm Sanctuary under cloudy skies, with a light breeze. Not the best conditions for finding small songbirds in thick vegetation but better than trying under windy conditions. Within 15 minutes, two Clay-colored Robins showed themselves and spirits began to improve. On the hike through the Sanctuary, we heard the call of the female Crimson-collared Grosbeak. Bill located it, but before anyone got a good look, it flew off. Bill reckoned its new location and we got to that area just in time to hear it calling again. This time it showed itself about 50 feet away. George got a great life-bird and Bill and I added a second Crimson-collared Grosbeak to our lists.

We were off to a great start for Day Three. The next quest was the Tropical Parula on the other side of the Sanctuary. It was reported to be in a feeding flock with other warblers. We searched the ebony trees at the location of the last sighting the day before. A few warblers were around but no feeding flock. Suddenly George hollered "Tropical Parula" and we all observed a beautiful bird. It was a life-bird for Bill and myself. Then an adult Black-throated Green Warbler made an appearance nearby for an added treat. We observed the two birds for about ten minutes and then went to the other side of the Sanctuary to search for Groove-billed Ani's which can be very elusive. This day they weren't elusive. Six of them were waiting in a leafless tree about 100 feet away. Bill got another life bird.

Spirits were soaring now. We decided to try for Blue Buntings in the afternoon at Bentsen State Park, about 60 miles away. Upon arrival at Bentsen, we were informed by local birders of the location where the male Blue Bunting had been seen that day. We waited at a feeder for awhile and were rewarded by the

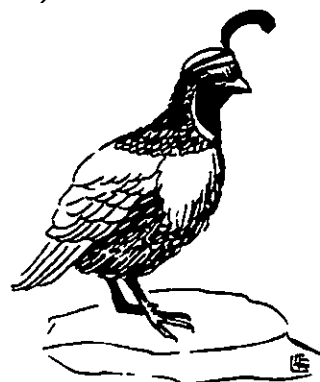
appearance of a male Blue Bunting. Beautiful bird! The field guides really don't do it justice. The female bunting is reported as irregular and infrequent so we decided to make another run for the Crane Hawk. Local birders indicated both the Crane Hawk and Golden-crowned Warbler were already seen several times earlier in the day.

As we hiked out the trail to the Crane Hawk location, we met a couple who had been searching without success for a few hours. As we talked to them, I observed a hawk shape on a dead snag about 200 yards away in the opening between two groves of trees. My 40X scope revealed a slate-gray hawk with long orange legs...the Crane Hawk! Before moving closer, all of the birders (now six of us) looked through the 40X scope at their new life bird. We quickly moved closer to the bird using intervening tree cover to disguise the movement of six people. Our next view of the hawk was at less than 50 yards. This time we clearly saw his tail pattern (wide bands) and the long orange legs. Then he flew off showing upper and under-wing detail to us. Nobody could ask for more in observing the first recorded North American occurrence of the Crane Hawk.

Now it was 4:15 p.m. but two hours of daylight remained so we decided to make another try for the Golden-crowned Warbler. We quick-stepped our way across the refuge to the last reported location and thoroughly searched for the bird. (Along the way Bill found a Hook-billed Kite flying in the distance.) After about a half hour search I detected what I believed to be the "tuck" call note of the Warbler coming from dense brush. George and I crouched down in the path to locate the bird. It appeared 10 feet away from us and gave spectacular views of all details. Bill and George celebrated another great life bird. I celebrated, too, because of the successful search and because this individual bird was much brighter plumaged than the one I chased for an entire day in Brownsville about a year ago.

Day Three came to a close with a great Mexican dinner in McAllen. We all agreed that we have just experienced one of the most fabulous days of rare bird chasing in our collective birding experience. The day's birding successes made up for the disappointments of the first two days.

(Editor: This is an excerpt from Ed's account of their trip. Anyone who would like the full account is encouraged to call Ed at 944-5659.)



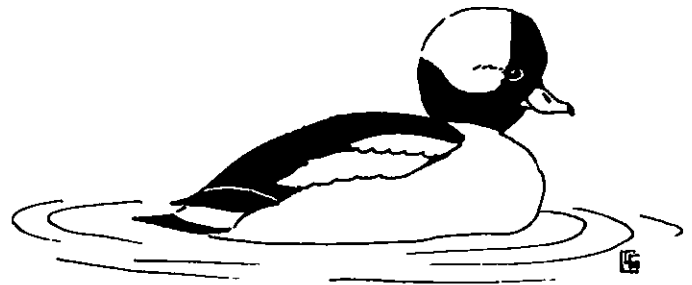
Original
sketches
by
Carol
Lutz

BAY AREA BLACK RAIL CENSUS

Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO) is conducting a census of Black Rails in the San Francisco Bay Area. The study is being done at the request of the State Department of Fish and Game to determine if the species is a nominee for "threatened" status on the federal list of critical and declining species. If a species is declared as threatened, its habitat can be better protected from the effects of development so that its population isn't reduced to the point of "rare and endangered" status. Currently, the Black Rail has no federal protection and, although it is listed by the state as "rare," there is no state statutory protection. East Contra Costa County has been a bright spot in the PRBO census. On May 5, Rich Stallcup, Jules Evens, and Ed Hase heard 14 Black Rails on Mallard Island (offshore of West Pittsburg). Rich indicates the sampling reveals a heavier than usual density of Black Rails is present - perhaps up to 45 birds on the island. Undoubtedly one of the best Black Rail locations in the S. F. Bay Area. Most important - it appears the Martinez oil spill did not affect this location or any other Black Rail habitat east (upriver) of the Concord Naval Weapons Station.

NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to welcome these new MDAS members and hope to meet them in person soon: Jeff Asbill, Patricia Barnard, Mary Brandeau, Dr. Russell Buss, Evelyn Carlson, Russ Cheesman, Marlis Coons, Hannah Davidson, Lola Hampton, Gene Hubbard, E. Kenworthy, Jenny Kerry, F. Knapp, Evelyn Lawton, John McLaughlin, Alvin Monroe, Sandi Perlman, Kyle Renouf, John Tonda, N. S. Tullao, Ginger Vanatta, Jerome Wilcox, and Nadean Zitelli.



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, Diane Macario, 2425 Maple Ave., Concord, CA 94520. 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.

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BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY
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VP Programs: Neal Welsh, 798-0213
VP Conservation: Al McNabney, 945-1785
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Sales Manager: Gifford Young, (707) 745-4134
Field Trips: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486
Membership: Diane Macario, 674-0920
Publicity: Shirley Ellis, 939-9091
Hospitality: Denise Wight, 228-2601
Education: Norah Bain, 254-4516
Secretary: Britta Cascio, 837-2895

July/August 1988

Vol. 34 No. 11

Next Deadline: August 11

Upcoming Events:

Again this year, there will be no general meeting of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society in July or August. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be September 1, details to be given in the September issue of the *Quail*. Have a good summer!

The next board meeting will be on Thursday, July 14, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Hugh and Norah Bain, 32 Via Farallon, Orinda, 254-4516. Board meetings are open to all interested members.

The ANNUAL PICNIC will be held on Friday, July 15, at 6:30 pm, at the Old Borgess Ranch, 1035 Castle Rock Rd. NOTE THE CHANGE OF LOCATION FROM THAT INDICATED IN THE JUNE QUAIL. 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 Monday, July 18, 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.

MDAS will have its first Pewee Bird Walk on July 30 (see page 3 for trip details). This outing for children comes in response to inquiries by members who would like to begin introducing their children to the wonderful world of nature and birding. If successful, other trips will be arranged in the future.

The new *Birder's Handbook* from Simon & Schuster announced in the June *Quail* will be available in July. This companion volume to the field guide gives information on habits and habitats, how and where nests are built, eating and mating behavior, rearing of the young, conservation status and more. To order your copy at the reduced rate, contact Gifford Young, Sales Manager, 1451 Janet Ct., Benicia, CA 94510, (707) 745-4134.

CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

FREEWAYS, BYWAYS, AND OUR TRAVEL FUTURE

You can no longer purchase a three-wheeled Honda cycle (too dangerous). That's going to be too bad. Caltrans people have commented (re: the widening of I-680) on projected traffic growth. We judge, on that basis, there is a strong likelihood many commuters will be needing something like a three-wheeled Honda to get about. Traffic projections indicate before the widening, modernization program for I-680 and Hwy 24 has been completed, auto density on the freeways will be equal to or worse than it now is.

MDAS is urging the median strip to be "held" as an option for light rail, express bus, or some combination, as an alternative to the continued movement of people ONLY by auto. An alternative for moving people must be considered, but so far, Caltrans has ignored ANY other means of moving people. Such lack of planning is, in the opinion of knowledgeable people, contrary to requirements of CEQUA. MDAS insists an Environmental Impact Report HAS to be drafted for the entire project. Failure on the part of Caltrans to so do will probably mean expenditure of many millions of \$\$\$\$\$, with NO long-term improvement in the freeway traffic situation.

MOUNTAINS LIONS

OR, WANT A TROPHY?

MDAS, along with essentially ALL organizations with interests in wildlife has "fussed" about the decision of the BOARD of the California Department of Fish and Game to issue permits for sport shooting of Mountain Lions. Mr. Pete Bantadelli, Director of said Department, has written, in part, as follows: "In response to direction from the Fish and Game Commission and in compliance with State law and policy regarding wildlife conservation, the Department has evaluated the mountain lion population statewide. Biologically sound options for management including sport hunting, have been considered. You should be aware that on February 5, 1988, the Commission received the Department's proposal to authorize limited sport hunting of mountain lions in four areas. The proposal was further discussed at public meetings on March 4 and April 8. The Department determined that the proposed level of sport hunting would NOT be detrimental to the mountain lion population. An environmental document has been prepared and certified which evaluates the potential effects of the proposed action." (Emphasis and capitals supplied.) What all that gobbledegook means is: Permits to allow sport shooting of 190 mountain lions are now authorized. We wonder IF the 190 lions who will ultimately be shot, so they can become a trophy on someone's mantle would agree "...if asked, will the proposed level of sport hunting be detrimental to the mountain lion population." We would bet any of the lions subject to being shot would respond with a BIG, LOUD, NO!

SHELL MARSH "FOR SALE!!!!!"

The development company owning Shell Marsh has posted "FOR SALE" signs on the property. MDAS has urged the developers to advise any prospective buyer on the wetland status of the area and restrictions as to the ultimate use of said land.

SHELL MARSH, CONTINUED

The big clean-up of the marsh areas seems to have slowed dramatically. MDAS has observed a few birds, ignoring the blast of the guns (supposedly going off to deter birds from using the area), landing in the wetland. What becomes of those birds? The flurry of activity that took place immediately after the oil spill gave some hope for an early clean-up. Present activity levels don't give much promise of ANY chance for a useful wetland for many months. Incidentally, did you as an MDAS member convey your thoughts about oil drilling in sensitive areas to Senators Cranston and Wilson? Clearly, oil and feathers just don't mix. Decision makers should understand that to be a fact.

HOW GREEN WAS MY VALLEY?

Did you realize that since 1950 over three quarters of a million acres of farmland have been lost to development pressures? In southern California the areas of open space we used to see are nearly ALL GONE! Only an alert, determined citizenry can protect Contra Costa's rapidly diminishing farmland and open space. There are predictions that, unless there is some slowing of conversion of farmlands, the next two decades we will see 225,000 acres of greenbelt being consumed by development. Such things don't HAVE to happen, IF "we the people" decide we don't want it to.



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 9-10, Yosemite. Call Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486, if you are planning to go on the Yosemite trip. Unless you have already made reservations, do not plan to camp.

Saturday, July 23, San Mateo Coast. Carpool 7:15 a.m. at El Cerro Blvd, west of I-680. Meet at 8:30 a.m. 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, July 30, Pewee Bird Walk. This bird walk for children will visit the Lafayette Reservoir from 8:00 a.m. to noon. Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult. Meet in the parking lot at the top of the dam. Parking costs \$2.00 and is prohibited at the bottom of the hill. Possibly up to 2-3 miles walking on good trails, depending on the energy of the group. Contact Jimm Edgar, 658-2330, if you would like to have your child participate.

Saturday, August 13, Bodega Bay. Carpool 6:30 a.m., southwest corner of Sun Valley parking lot. Meet 8:30 a.m. 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: Gifford and Winnie Young, (707) 745-4134.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

MITCHELL CANYON WILDFLOWER WALK, May 18. The Mitchell Canyon wildflower walk provided 15 members with lovely wildflowers as well as birds. The most unusual wildflowers were the Mt. Diablo endemic globe lily, mariposa tulips, wind poppies, golden ear drops and prickly poppy. The

group was honored with the presence of Dr. Mary Bowerman, author of *Mt. Diablo Flora*, and her expertise. The Lazuli Bunting as well as numerous birds completed for our attention.

Genevieve Sattler and Mary Jane Culver

ALUM ROCK PARK, May 19.

Thirteen MDAS members and one visitor from Mountain View enjoyed a beautiful morning in the Park high above San Jose. 48 species were seen; among the more unusual were Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, White-throated Swift and the find of the day, a singing Rufous-crowned Sparrow.

Barbara Vaughn

CASWELL STATE PARK, May 25.

Four members spent a beautiful day in the San Joaquin Valley river areas of Caswell State Park and Durham Ferry. The weather was fair, with cloudless skies and 70 to 75 degree temperatures. The predominant bird, especially by sound, was the House Wren. Highlight birds included Wood Duck, a light-phase Red-shouldered Hawk, wonderful views of Swainson's Hawks, a breeding-plumaged Spotted Sandpiper, a male Black-chinned Hummingbird, six species of flycatchers, six swallow species including Bank Swallow, and Northern Oriole.

Maury Stern

EAST CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, June 1.

Eleven members had a beautiful day to bird the Bethel Island and surrounding areas. We saw 3 or 4 male Blue Grosbeaks very well, 2 Black-chinned Hummingbirds, and heard 2 Chats in the riparian habitat along Piper Slough (at the end of Bethel Island Road). Other birds of interest included a pair of Green-backed Herons, a Common Barn-owl, a Burrowing Owl, an Olive-sided Flycatcher, a Western Tanager, and Bullock's Orioles. A brief stop at Marsh Creek Reservoir was productive, with a Golden Eagle seen there.

Maury Stern

OUTER POINT REYES, June 4.

Twelve members explored the scenic haciendas and wild cliffs of Pt. Reyes on a mild, breezy, sunny day. Presumably as a result of the lovely weather, no vagrants were found, but we did have a fine view of an Osprey with a fish in its talons. A total of 61 species were seen and heard.

Fred Safier

LAS TRAMPAS REGIONAL PARK, June 8.

The Grasshopper Sparrows were heard well but not seen as well except by two of the eight members and guests who visited Las Trampas Park. Excellent displays of Lazuli Buntings were enjoyed by all, as were the numerous House Wrens. A total of 43 species was recorded for the day.

Elizabeth Dickey

AUDUBON ADVENTURES



Audubon Adventures is an environmental education program for 3rd through 6th grade school classes offered by the National Audubon Society and its chapters. During the school year, six different themes are presented. For \$25 a sponsor can educate, excite and involve young people in our environment. If you would like to promote love and respect for the natural world among our youth, please fill out and mail this coupon to Dana Jordan, 1236 Lindell Dr., Walnut Creek, CA 94596. Please make checks to National Audubon Society.

 I am applying for my class and would like a sponsor: _____

Teacher's Name: _____

School and Address: _____

Grade: _____

Number of Students: _____

 I wish to sponsor _____ class/classes.

Enclosed is \$25 for each class.

Teacher's Name: _____

School and Address: _____

Grade: _____ No. of Students: _____

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

Signature: _____

Address and Phone: _____

CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

Point Reyes Field Seminars

The Point Reyes Field Seminars offer a variety of courses in natural history, environmental education, and the arts for this summer and fall. Particularly recommended by our Education Chairperson are "Birding Point Reyes", on Saturday, September 10, and "Birds of Prey: The Migration", from September 24 to 25. For a catalog, write Seminar Coordinator, Point Reyes Field Seminars, Point Reyes, CA 94956, or call (415) 663-1200 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Fall Birding Classes in San Francisco

Fall evening birding classes will be offered by the Community Services Program of the San Francisco Community College District. These classes are recommended by the Golden Gate Audubon Society. The three classes include 1) an introduction to avian biology, 2) an in-depth study of waterbirds including diving ducks, rails, and shorebirds, and 3) landbirds including owls, swifts, hummingbirds, woodpeckers, and flycatchers. The instructor will be Joe Morlan. For information call the Community Services Office at 776-8247.

WALTZ OF THE WHIPPOORWILL

The musical tape based on bird call themes played at the MDAS Potluck on June 2 may be purchased from the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, 415 Cambridge Ave., Suite #21, Palo Alto CA 94306. The price of the tape, including postage is \$8.50. Note, however, their office will be closed from June 15 until July 25.

DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS TO MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY

MDAS has from time to time received generous donations in memory of friends or relatives or as spontaneous contributions to the society's general activities. These 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

OBSERVATIONS

By Donna Peake-Klein

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

4/22-25 On a trip to the desert, 137 species, including White-faced Ibis, Red-necked Phalarope in breeding plumage, Gull-billed Tern, Black Tern, Lesser Nighthawk, Rufous Hummingbird, Costa's Hummingbirds, Gila Woodpecker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Vermilion Flycatcher, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Phainopepla, Verdin, Blue Grosbeak, Abert's Towhee, Black-chinned Sparrow, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and Scott's Oriole. (H&NB)

4/29 A Red Crossbill was seen flying over Navlet's Nursery in Livermore. (KH)

5/2 Two Vaux's Swifts and a Solitary Vireo at its nest were observed at Pine Canyon, Mt. Diablo, and a Green-backed Heron was seen flying over Stone Valley Rd., Alamo. (MJC,BG,KH,MP)

5/3 At Briones Park, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Western Woodpecker, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Hutton's and Warbling Vireo, Orange-crowned and Audubon's Warblers, Hooded and Northern Oriole, Lazuli Bunting, and Western Tanagers. (H&NB)

5/10 At Mallory Ranch, Morgan Territory Road, an immature Golden Eagle, Horned Lark, and Black-chinned Sparrow. (H&NB)

5/21 A Swainson's Thrush was seen inside Navlet's Nursery, Livermore. (KH)

5/22 At Pine Canyon, 3 Sharp-shinned Hawks and a Tree Swallow were observed. Also, the following nests were found: Cooper's Hawk (female banded), Brown Creeper, American Robin, Black-headed Grosbeak, Brown Towhee, Black Phoebe, Bushtit, Violet-green Swallow, Steller's Jay and Northern Oriole. Also of interest: A female Anna's Hummingbird stole a down feather from the Cooper's Hawk's nest, and the female Tree Swallow perched constantly at the entrance of the woodpecker nest, possibly attracted by the calls of the young Nuttall's Woodpeckers. (KH)

5/23 Two male Red Crossbills were sighted at Tomales Bay State Park. (GF,KH)

5/29 Four singing male Black-throated Gray Warblers, 2 singing Purple Finches, and 2 Swainson's Thrushes were seen at Pine Canyon, as well as the nests of a House Wren, Dark-eyed Junco, and Red-winged Blackbird. (KH)

5/30 Three Western Tanagers, 3 Swainson's Thrushes, and Chipping Sparrows (including one with nesting material) were seen at Curry Canyon, Mt. Diablo. (SF,KH)

6/5 A female Pileated Woodpecker, a Chipping Sparrow nest, and 2 Brown Creepers were seen at Curry Canyon. (KH)

Observers; Kamran Alavi, Hugh and Norah Bain, Mary Jane Culver, Sharyn Fernandez, George Finger, Kevin Hints, and Marjorie Plant.

1988 BIRDATHON RESULTS

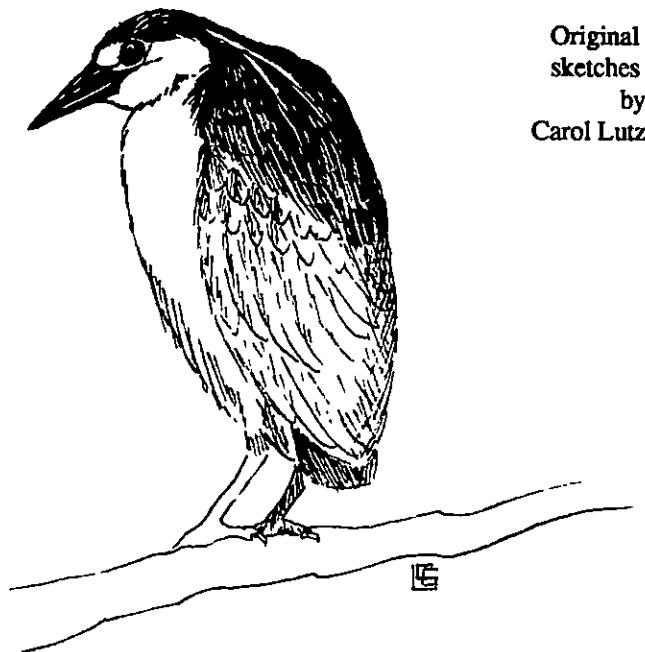
The 1988 Audubon Birdathon was held between April 1 and May 15. Four members of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society participated during that time, to raise money for the chapter.

Denise Wight went on the Mines Road field trip on April 30. Those of you who read the Field Trip Reports will recall what unusual weather the members had on that trip - cold, hot, wind, rain, snow, and hail at various times during the day. Denise persevered from 6:30 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. and saw 67 species. This raised \$87.00 from her four donors.

Bob Landfear birded the seashore on April 30, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., working his way from Bodega Bay south to Bolinas, with a stop at Point Reyes. His weather was better, and so was his birding. Bob saw 74 species, which raised \$122.00 from his 12 donors.

Jimm Edgar and Maury Stern birded Point Reyes on May 7 from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. They encountered scattered showers in the morning but only overcast skies later in the day. The birding was quite good, with "lots of ducks," an Osprey, a Western Kingbird, and, for the last bird of the day, a Merlin on the way to Drake's Beach. Jimm saw 117 species, which raised \$200.00 from his 12 donors. Maury found one more bird, for a total of 118, which raised \$210.00 from his 18 donors.

The Mt. Diablo Board wishes to thank those who participated in the Birdathon and those donors who pledged their support. The money raised will be split between the National Audubon Western Regional Office (in particular, toward their efforts to defend Mono Lake) and the Friends of Charleston Slough, who are working to save this important wetland near Palo Alto.



Original sketches
by
Carol Lutz

NEW MEMBERS

We extend warm greetings to these new MDAS members and hope to meet them at our activities: Marion Anderson, Evelyn Arndt, C. Coleman, Clyde Eller, Laura Feren, Georgia Fisher, Susan M. Flautt, Victoria Gordon, Vicki Wingo Grant, M. Griffiths, Thomas Grimm, Kathleen Hegen, Randy Hromika, Susan M. Layne, Lois Marten, Melissa Morhardt, Betty and Lenny Nowacki, N. Ohara, Pamela Ryan, Diane Seaman, and Harriette Sparling.

IN APPRECIATION

MDAS would like to gratefully acknowledge a bequest from Mr. and Mrs. Glen Meadows of Walnut Creek in memory of Guy F. Street, Jr.

THE LAST WORD

At this, the end of my first full year as editor of the *Quail*, I would like to take the opportunity to thank formally those people who have helped with their contributions, written and otherwise. First, to my "regulars", Neal Welsh for the program write-ups, Al McNabney for the conservation notes, Elizabeth Dickey for the field trip descriptions, Norah Bain for the Education information, Donna Peake-Klein for coordinating the Observations, and Linda Myers and Diane Macario for the new member lists. You people are the backbone of the *Quail*. Second, to the field trip leaders for their reports, to the Travel Corner contributors for sharing their experiences, and to all those others who have sent me special items of interest. You all have added to the diversity of the *Quail*. Third, a special thank you to Carol Lutz, who has so generously contributed her original sketches. Fourth, to Mary Jane Culver and her mailing crew, for assembling and posting the finished *Quail* so efficiently. Finally, a special thank you to Winnie and Gifford Young for their support and for their help proofing the *Quail*. I would also like to thank all the members whose kind words have made my work in putting the *Quail* together worthwhile. Thank you all.

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September 1988

Vol. 35 No. 1

Next Deadline: September 8

September Program:

For the Birds

Welcome back! The first fall meeting of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society will be on September 1.

Did you know that about two-thirds of all North American migratory bird species (about half of all North American landbirds) are dependent upon the primary tropical forests for their continued existence? And that these forests are being cut so that, at present rates, they will be gone by the year 2050? Are any remedies available to prevent the resulting ecological disasters? Is there hope, and, if so, what can we do as individual Auduboners and as caring Earth citizens to halt this pillage?

Our speaker, Jill Hedgecock, will address these concerns. For more than two years, she has been a spokeswoman for the Rainforest Action Network. During her slide show, she will show how her organization is foremost in using Audubon Christmas Count and Bird Breeding Survey data in assessing the impact that clear-cutting tropical forests has on our beloved migratory songbirds.

Mrs. Hedgecock, a 1982 graduate in Biological Science from U. C. Davis, as well as a dedicated environmentalist, will show how she was able to obtain financial support from Chevron in order to help stop the elimination of both migratory and indigenous birds. Come and hear how we too can take a personal and effective hand in this most noble of efforts. There is good news; bring a friend to share it.

General meetings of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society are held on the first Thursday of the month, September through June, at the Willow Creek Center, 1026 Mohr Lane, Concord. The agenda for the meetings is as follows:

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

Bird Information for September will be given by George Finger. He will talk about coming attractions of fall and early winter MDAS field trips, including special birds to be found at these locations.

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Year Field Trip Schedule - Page 4

The next board meeting will be on Thursday, September 8, at 7:30 pm, 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

HERE WE GO AGAIN

The last thing Audubon people want to hear about in Contra Costa County is an oil spill. Another spill has happened. PG&E bears responsibility for the latest spill. How much oil? Good question. PG&E asserts a smallish amount. The evidence indicates much more oil was spilled than asserted by the PG&E estimate. The oil spill leached into the finger areas of the adjacent wetlands. How many birds were oiled? At this point no one knows. Evidences of the oil spill are easily found. PG&E is reportedly taking responsibility for the clean-up. We do know when oil is around environmentally sensitive areas, some disaster will take place, be it sooner or later. When such a catastrophe occurs it is easy to see that oil and feathers don't mix. If oil and feathers do mix, the birds, owning the feathers, always lose. MDAS concludes: Either existing laws and regulations are inadequate, supervision of such laws is inadequate, or penalties for violations are not severe enough. Regulators and responsible officials **MUST** protect environmentally sensitive areas from the continued disasters created by oil spills.

NO! YOU JUST CAN'T USE A WETLAND FOR DEVELOPMENT

McAvoy Yacht Harbor, near Pittsburg, was created, at least in part, from wetland areas. Inspection by BCDC representatives on March 2 found substantial violations of existing wetland law. Despite warnings about creation of any further damage to wetland areas, another BCDC inspection June 28 found additional wetland encroachment had taken place. BCDC's Executive Director issued a Cease and Desist order on July 15. Violation of that order can result in fines of as much as \$6000 per day. Now to clean up the mess! The continuing battle over wetland uses is one of THE most important facing MDAS in these days of a development-oriented society.

OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING

MDAS requested that the CCC Board of Supervisors adopt a resolution opposing the U. S. Department of Interior's proposed oil drilling projects in off-shore areas along the northern California coast. MDAS also suggested that the Board sponsor legislation that would assess a charge to each oil (refinery) company doing business in the county, with the funds derived to be used for purchase, upgrading, restoration, and protection of wetlands. Both matters have been referred to the Board's "Shell Task Force" for information and consideration.

GARBAGE AND STUFF

CCC is nearing the crisis stage as a result of lack of decision concerning a future solid waste site for County garbage. MDAS participated in the work undertaken by the Board-appointed, blue-ribbon Solid Waste Task Force. Six months of study, consideration, and debate produced several possible

solid waste sites. These sites were presented to the Board of Supervisors, with Bay Point being THE site with the least opposition and an obvious location for the future dump. ALL sites have some opposition. Too close to "MY" house, too much traffic, too close to a park, and so on. On July 26 (BIG day for garbage) the Board voted to place four of the possible sites on the November ballot. "We the people" will be asked to express our support or opposition to the proposed locations. Selected for ballot placement were Bay Point, a proposed merged site involving a Bailey Road and Kirker Pass area, a site at so-called Marsh Canyon, and an East CCC landfill site. The Board's decision represents a significant movement from the impass that has been evident for months. More on this issue in future editions of the *Quail*.

MORE ABOUT THE LIONS

As the old saying goes, cats have nine lives. The California Mountain Lion must be demonstrating that it is part of the cat species. At the last minute, the Judge said "NO"!!!! NO to the sport killing of mountain lions. So, once again the lions will survive for a while. The trophy hunters will continue to be thwarted. The Governor, who appointed the pro-hunter Board, doesn't even respond to letters on the issue, all such queries being referred to the Board. Incidentally, one of those lions dropped by a week or so ago (created a bit of consternation) and said "THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!" Wasn't that nice?

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF BIRDING ETIQUETTE

by Victor Emanuel

1. Do not approach nesting birds too closely.
2. Obey all posted rules when visiting sanctuaries or preserves.
3. Do not enter private property without permission.
4. Do not use tape recorders in heavily birded areas during the nesting season. In other areas, use tape recorded bird vocalizations or imitations with discretion.
5. Be careful not to obstruct the view of fellow birders by stepping in front of them.
6. When the leader gets a bird in the scope, take a quick look when it is your turn, then come back for a second view after everyone has seen the bird.
7. Don't smoke in vehicles or near your fellow birders.
8. Be careful not to spray on insect repellent while standing near or upwind of other birders or while in vehicles.
9. Alternate position in the vehicles and on the trails so that everyone has a chance to have the best position.
10. In general keep conversation to a minimum while on forest trails. Bird vocalizations are the best way to locate forest birds and are difficult to hear above conversation.

(Reprinted with permission of the author.)

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT, FY 87-88

BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD:

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

INCOME:

National Audubon Society dues	\$7,681.50
<i>Quail</i> subscriptions	534.00
Sales, <i>Birding Northern California</i> (To Conservation & Education Fund)	7,670.98
Sales, books, checklists, etc.	1,195.85
Donations to MDAS	1,139.21
Bird-a-Thon Donations	598.88
Interest earned (Home Federal) (Part to Conservation & Education Fund)	666.93

INCOME + BALANCE FORWARD:

Operating Account:	\$14,898.58
Conservation & Education Fund	14,851.62

DISBURSEMENTS:

<i>Quail</i> production and distribution	\$5,447.49
Rent, Willow Creek Center hall	199.50
Office supplies, administration	334.18
Equipment (Computer upgrade, Kodak slide projector, 2 CB radios)	1,102.86
Conservation	155.00
Membership	224.04
Program presentation	735.00
Education	200.43
Birding Information	70.00
Hospitality	123.48
Telephone (AUD-UBON)	170.89
Christmas Bird Count	117.71
Sales expenses, reprinting <i>Birding Northern California</i> , purchase of books, etc.	5,278.51
Bay Area Audubon Council, conventions	417.82
Other expenses	105.68

CAMPERSHIP (Denise Wight, Camp of the West, WY)	325.00
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CONTRIBUTIONS

Richardson Bay Audubon Center, Save Mt. Diablo, Mono Lake Committee, Mono Lake Legal Defence Fund, Audubon Canyon Ranch, Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory, etc.	3,695.00
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TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$19,294.06
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BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD:

Operating account:	\$1,559.84
Accounts receivable	836.00
Conservation & Education Fund:	8,896.30
Accounts receivable	1,050.34

1988-89 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.

Sept	10	Sat.	San Mateo Coast	Mar.	1	Wed.	Hayward Regional Shoreline
	14	Wed.	San Francisco Bay Refuge		4	Sat.	Bodega Bay - Owling
	22	Thur.	Tilden Regional Park		9	Thur.	Five Brooks - Bolinas Lagoon
	24	Sat.	Outer Point Reyes		15	Wed.	Berkeley Shoreline
	29	Thur.	Lincoln Park		25	Sat.	Briones Reservoir
					30	Thur.	North Briones - Wildflowers
Oct.	5	Wed.	Point Diablo - Marin Headlands	Apr.	1	Sat.	Garin Regional Park
	8-9	S-S	Monterey		12	Wed.	Lake Lagunitas
	22	Sat.	Abbott's Lagoon		15	Sat.	Donner Canyon
	27	Thur.	Lake Merritt		20	Thur.	Ida Clayton Road, Napa Co.
					26	Wed.	Briones Park - West
					29	Sat.	Mines Road
Nov.	2	Wed.	Mountain View Sanitary Plant	May	3	Wed.	Lake Merced
	5	Sat.	Limantour		6	Sat.	Mitchell Canyon - Wildflowers
	17	Thur.	Charleston Slough		11	Thur.	Mt. Diablo
	23	Wed.	Alameda - Arrowhead		13	Sat.	Bothe - Napa, with owling at dusk *
Dec.	3-4	S-S	Sacramento - Gray Lodge Refuges		31	Wed.	East Contra Costa County
	10	Sat.	Niles Canyon	June	3	Sat.	Annadel State Park
	15	Thur.	Altamont		8	Thur.	Las Trampas Regional Park
	31	Sat.	CHRISTMAS COUNT		10	Sat.	Outer Point Reyes
Jan.	7	Sat.	Putah Creek - Lake Solano		17-18	S-S	Yuba Pass - Sierra Valley
	11	Wed.	Los Gallinos Water Treatment Ponds		24	Sat.	Tilden Regional Park, Breakfast Walk
	19	Thur.	Palo Alto Baylands	July	8-9	S-S	Yosemite
	25	Wed.	Sunol Regional Park		15	Sat.	Bobelaine Refuge *
	28	Sat.	Grizzly Island Wildlife Refuge		21	Fri.	Picnic
Feb.	4	Sat.	Thornton - Stockton Ponds		29	Sat.	San Mateo Coast
	12	Sun.	Cristman Island *	Aug.	12	Sat.	Bodega Bay
	15	Wed.	Golden Gate Park				
	25-26	S-S	Honey Lake (Sage Grouse)				

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 10, San Mateo Coast. Carpool 6:30 a.m. at El Cerro Blvd., west of I-680. Meet at 8:15 a.m. 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: Fred Safier, 937-2906.

Wednesday, September 14, San Francisco Bay Refuge. Carpool 8:00 a.m. El Cerro Blvd., west of I-680. Meet 9:00 a.m. at parking lot at entrance to refuge. We will first bird on the flats west 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 on left. Walking is mostly level, 1-2 miles. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486.

Thursday, September 22, Tilden Regional Park. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in parking lot at entrance to the Nature Center, at the north end of the park. Leader: Mary Jane Culver, 682-0509.

Saturday, September 24, Outer Point Reyes. Carpool 6:30 a.m., Acalanes Ave., off Pleasant Hill Rd., just north of SR24. Meet at Drake's Beach at 8:30 a.m. 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: Maury Stern, 284-5980.

Thursday, September 29, Lincoln Park. Carpool 7:45 a.m. at Acalanes Ave., off Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of Fwy. 24. Meet 9:00 a.m. on El Camino Del Mar, just beyond the Legion of Honor. From Kennedy Dr. in Golden Gate Park, go north on 30th Ave. to Clement St., left to 34th Ave., and right on Legion of Honor Dr. Fall migrants and vagrant warblers. First part of trail is steep and rough. Leader: Barbara Vaughn, 376-8732.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

YUBA PASS, June 18-19.

Fourteen members and guests enjoyed a weekend of beautiful, sunny weather and good birding. Saturday was spent at the pass and highlights included both Black-backed and White-headed Woodpeckers feeding young in their nests. Sunday was spent in the Sierra Valley, and highlights included Mountain Bluebirds, Black Terns, White-faced Ibis, Sage Thrashers, and a Townsend's Solitaire. A total of 87 species was seen or heard.

Barbara Burek

TILDEN BREAKFAST WALK, June 25.

Ten guests, including several beginning birders, and three MDAS members met me at 6 a.m. for a grand chorus of vireos, grosbeaks, robins, finches, and an abundance of Swainson's Thrushes. Forty species were seen or heard, although nothing spectacular.

Barbara Vaughn

YOSEMITE, July 9-10.

Twelve members enjoyed good weather at Yosemite. On Saturday, we watched Brown Creepers feeding their fledglings at Siesta Lake, but the highlight was the female Blue Grouse which was well-seen in the meadow opposite to Porcupine Flat Rd. Sunday we had excellent birding at Badger Pass (6 species of warblers), but the high point was the sight of a brown bear ambling across the hillside. A total of 41 species was seen.

Elizabeth Dickey

SAN MATEO COAST, July 23.

Fourteen members traveled to the San Mateo coast on an overcast day with some afternoon sun. Most of the morning was spent on the lower levels of Pescadero Marsh. We enjoyed a brief sighting of a Peregrine Falcon harassing the shorebird flocks and surprised a Sharp-shinned Hawk during its chase of a small bird. Many rock and other shorebirds were well seen along the coastal shores, including Black-bellied Plovers, Ruddy Turnstones, Surfbirds, Red Knots, Sanderlings, and Short-billed Dowitchers. At Ano Nuevo, the Elephant Seals were numerous, along with at least a dozen eclipse-plumage Brant. Other highlights of the 82 species of birds seen were Red-shouldered Hawk, Virginia Rail, Black Oystercatcher, Wandering Tattler, Whimbrel, Pigeon Guillemot, Marbled Murrelet, Black Swift, and 6 species of swallows, including Bank Swallow.

Maury Stern

PEEWEE BIRD WALK, July 30.

Our first ever Peewee bird walk was only attended by one "Peewee," 7-year-old Meghan Kefsdever, but five other young-at-hearts came along. It was a warm morning that produced 40 species including what Meghan said was the "best bird," a Cooper's Hawk. We had four species of swallows ("Why are they called swallows?" Meghan asked), and both Hutton's and Warbling Vireos. Baby Coots, a snake in the reeds, and a turtle rounded out the morning walk around the Lafayette Reservoir.

Jimm Edgar

CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

Field Classes for beginning and intermediate birders, taught by Norah Bain, will take place October 18 through November 15. For more information or to register, please call the Orinda Community Center, Orinda Way, 254-2445.

Audubon Canyon Ranch will begin a new training session for docents on September 7. Telephone 435-3562 or 388-0215 for details. Also, Norah Bain, 254-4516, will be glad to share her experience with the Ranch with you.

AUDUBON ADVENTURES

Would you like to sponsor an environmental education program for 3rd thru 6th grade classes? For \$25.00 a sponsor can provide a course which will instruct and excite our youth about the natural world in which they live. Perhaps this cost could be shared by 2 or more members. One of our members has already responded. If you would like to participate, please fill out and mail this coupon to Dana Jordan, 1236 Lindell Dr., Walnut Creek, CA 94596. Please make checks to National Audubon Society.

I am applying for my class and would like a sponsor: _____

Teacher's Name: _____

School and Address: _____

Grade: _____

Number of Students: _____

I wish to sponsor _____ class/classes.

Enclosed is \$25 for each class.

Teacher's Name: _____

School and Address: _____

Grade: _____ No. of Students: _____

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

Signature: _____

Address and Phone: _____

OBSERVATIONS

By Donna Peake-Klein

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

In mid-June, Jimm Edgar observed a Swainson's Hawk at El Macero Country Club in Davis.

6/18-6/30 On a Victor Emanuel Nature Trip in Minnesota, John Ascher reports some wonderful sightings: 22 warbler species, a juvenile Boreal Owl, Greater Prairie Chicken, Ruffed Grouse, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Rusty Blackbird, and Henslow's Sparrow.

6/25 Shirley Ellis and Ethel Beckerman witnessed this tragic sight: "As a dredged out area of Shell Marsh was being drained of the last bit of water, these birds were all feeding in the pathetic place: 5 Black-crowned Night-herons, 3 Black-necked Stilts, 6 Avocets, 10 Killdeer, 3 Mallards, 3 Cinnamon Teal, and 1 Snowy Egret." On the same day and on a happier note, Shirley and Ethel observed the following at Bodega Bay: 50 White Pelicans, 23 Brown Pelicans, and 24 Brants.

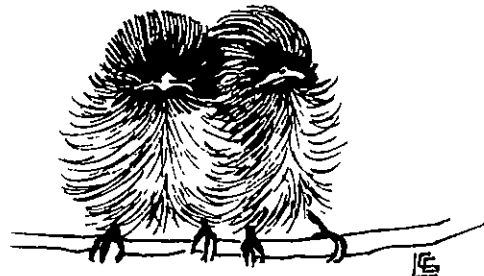
6/29 Barb Burek spotted a male Wild Turkey along the Fish Ranch Road on-ramp to Highway 24.

7/20 From King's Canyon N.P., Hugh and Norah Bain report Rufous Hummingbird, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Western Wood-pewee, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Nashville, Yellow, and MacGillivray's Warblers, Western Tanager, and Green-tailed Towhee.

7/24 15 White Pelicans were seen flying over the Martinez home of Barb Burek.

8/2-5 At Lake Tahoe, Hugh and Norah Bain found 150 Canada Geese, Bufflehead, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, Spotted Sandpiper, Northern Phalarope, Calliope Hummingbird, Lewis's Woodpecker, Western Wood-pewee, Pygmy Nuthatch, and Western Tanager.

Observers: John Ascher, Hugh and Norah Bain, Ethel Beckerman, Barbara Burek, Jimm Edgar, Shirley Ellis.



Original sketch by Carol Lutz

Bay Area Bird Photographers

Meetings are the first Wednesday of each month except July and August at 7:30 p.m. at the Baylands Interpretive Center in Palo Alto. The \$10 membership includes the monthly newsletter. The group is co-sponsored by the Santa Clara Valley Audubon chapter and the city of Palo Alto. For more information, write Peter Tournette, 1019 Loma Prieta Ct., Los Altos, CA 94022.

TRAVEL CORNER

Report from the ABA Convention at Duluth, Minnesota
by Ed Hase and Kevin Hintsa

After three days of birding North Dakota, Wisconsin, and Minnesota as a warm-up, we arrived in Duluth late in the afternoon of June 27, where we found an old friend at the American Birding Association Convention registration area. He calmly informed us of recent Spruce Grouse, Three-toed Woodpecker, and Hawk Owl sightings. We did not stay very calm. Unfortunately, plans for the next day required attendance at seminars on bird identification (and ABA field trips the following day), so we could not give chase until later in the week.

After an hour or so of socializing with old friends at the ABA registration area, many of us assembled to load tour buses for a trip to Yellow Rail habitat. This was to be one of the most exciting events of the Convention, but the excitement was muted by reports of very few Yellow Rails anywhere because of the drought conditions. After a one and one-half hour journey and a marginally nourishing box dinner, we left the buses and walked single file in the dark for about one-half mile into the grassy marsh. At about 11 p.m., we made contact with a Yellow Rail. The bird responded to the sound of tapping two stones together. At least 40 people saw the Yellow Rail at a distance of 10 feet. (A life bird for Kevin.) A few Sharp-tailed Sparrows were singing late at night as we hiked back through the marsh to the buses.

The birding workshops (seminars) at the convention were excellent. The next morning, Ken Kaufman provided valuable new information on resolving confusion in identifying species that closely resemble each other. In the afternoon, Jon Dunn's workshop on identifying difficult shore birds was superb. After the workshops concluded and an appropriate happy hour passed, dinner was served to most of the 390 people attending the convention. Bob Janssen, author of *Minnesota and Its Birds*, followed with a presentation on the subject.

The following day was our first full-day ABA field trip complete with box breakfast and box lunch. Two full tour buses departed at 4:15 a.m. for a tour of Aitken County and Rice Lake NWR, west of Duluth. The target birds were Sharp-tailed Grouse, Alder Flycatcher, Sedge Wren, and Le Conte's Sparrow. En route, Boreal Chickadees and a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher were found in an isolated grove of spruce trees. At Rice Lake, our birding group assembled in a grassy field, formed a skirmish line, and advanced (almost shoulder to shoulder) across the field. The movement caused a Sharp-tailed Grouse to flush out. Other notable species in the area were Bald Eagle, Sandhill Crane, and Short-eared Owl. The next stop was in a pine woods area where a male Blackburnian Warbler appeared. The very successful day of birding was topped off by a relaxing visit to the sauna at the Hintsa summer cabin on the shore of a beautiful private lake north of Duluth.

Finally, the day arrived to chase Hawk Owls and Spruce Grouse on our own self-guided tour. The female Hawk Owl was found quickly at tree-top level 400 yards away which was too distant to observe any detail, just a silhouette. So the two of us advanced across the Alder-filled bog toward the owl. After she was refound and observed at close range, two young Hawk Owls announced their presence with hissing noises. The female responded with food. As she approached the young, they hissed more rapidly. On the way out of the bog, two male Hawk Owls were found. We walked very close to them (within 50 feet) but both owls showed little concern for our presence. Several attempts for Spruce Grouse during this day were not productive. However, on the return trip to Duluth, a female Ruffed Grouse with young appeared alongside of the road, giving a spectacular view at a distance of 10 feet. We were also rewarded with a close view of the largest Black Bear that either of us have encountered. He pronounced his dominance over us and our car by rearing up on his hind legs, extending arms and claws high and giving a mighty growl. After the trip, we attended the Convention banquet, which was followed by Peter Harrison's (author of *Seabirds*) slide presentation of a harrowing experience at Cape Horn during a seabird study. His presentation was very lively and inspirational.

The fifth day of the convention was filled with more seminars, including a thorough one by Paul Lehmen on how to locate good birding spots through an understanding of migration patterns, regional geography, and weather effects on birds. A second seminar was given by Claudia Wilds, a renowned bird ID expert from Washington, D.C., and major contributor to the recently revised *National Geographic Guide*. Her presentation on identification of terns and small gulls was excellent.

Activities the next day started with the 4:30 a.m. departure of an ABA tour bus on a field trip to the Isabella area in northeastern Minnesota. Our tour guide was Kim Eckert, author of *A Birder's Guide to Minnesota*. The Isabella area is noted for its boreal forest and spruce bogs and is visited regularly by birders to observe Spruce Grouse, Boreal Chickadees, Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, and certain warblers such as Blackburnian and Ovenbirds. A Spruce Grouse hen with chicks had been observed several times in the same location earlier in the week, but did not make a showing this day. However, we had spectacular views of Boreal Chickadees, Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, and many species of singing warblers. One of the Hawk Owls was still in the area, and an unexpected treat on this trip was the presence of a moose along the tour route. The ABA dinner program that evening was a presentation by Doug Pratt on Hawaiian birds.

Half-day tour bus field trips were scheduled to several popular locations near Duluth for the last day of the convention. It was an excellent day for warblers. Black-throated Green, Mourning, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Ovenbird, and Redstart were observed. However, the star of the warbler show was a singing male Canada Warbler. The convention ended with a buffer luncheon and farewells to friends until we meet again at the next ultra-rare bird location. It was a never-to-be-forgotten "quality" fellowship experience with birders from many locations.

FROM MDAS SALES

HAWK WATCH SEASON COMING!

Hawks will begin their migration southward soon, with peak numbers in October. Be ready with a copy of *Hawks, A Field Guide to Hawks of North America*, by William S. Clark and Brian K. Wheeler. It includes 26 color plates and 233 black and white photographs of hawks in flight and perched positions with identifying features highlighted. Paperback copies are available at MDAS meetings for \$12.00 (includes sales tax), or by mail for \$13.50 (\$12.75 out of state). For promptest mailing, call the MDAS Sales Manager, Gifford Young, (707) 745-4134.

ALSO AVAILABLE FROM MDAS SALES

The Birder's Handbook from Simon & Schuster, \$13.00 at meetings or \$14.50 by mail.

Daily Field List of Birds of Northern California, \$0.25 + SASE.
Birds of Contra Costa County, Checklist, \$0.35 + SASE.

Field List of California Birds compiled by the Western Field Ornithologists, \$1.50.

NEW MEMBERS

We extend warm greetings to these new MDAS members and hope to meet them at our activities: Edith Argento, Jane Barnes, Doris Benzenitoefer, Sue Boice, Carole Brebender, Burt Bream, Edith Dick, Mrs. Cobb Dickey, Sheree Doucette, Meredith Edgcomb, Eva Garrett, Phyllis Gomez, Shana Hansell, Mrs. H. H. Hargrove, Barbara Hayes, James Ketsdever, David Klein, Lenette Lawton, Carol MacKenzie, Lynne McManus, Anita McMonigle, Marian Mills, Richard Morris, Robert Pillsbury, Mario Sarracino, Nicolas Temnikov, Paul Thomas, Kay Tindel, Iris Wood, and Janice Yeh.

IN MEMORIUM

We regret to note the death of Karen Dale (Perry) Schwartz, 46, on August 3 after suffering a stroke. She had been an administrator and naturalist at Audubon Canyon Ranch in Stinson Beach since 1975. She is survived by her children Alisa Marie, Shala Adele, and Aaron, and her husband Maurice (Skip) Schwartz, who is administrator of the Bolinas Preserve.

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, Diane Macario, 2425 Maple Ave., Concord, CA 94520 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 Diane Macario, (415) 229-0920.

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.

Mt. Diablo Audubon Society
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The QUAIL

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(415) AUD-UBON

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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: Diane Macario, 674-0920
Publicity: Shirley Ellis, 939-9091
Hospitality: Denise Wight, 228-2601
Education: Norah Bain, 254-4516
Secretary: Britta Cascio, 837-2895

October 1988

Vol. 35 No. 2

Next Deadline: October 13

October Program:

Raptors – Some Answers and Many Questions

Contrary to what was once popular belief, banding of wild birds is not an end unto itself, but rather a means of finding out more about the total ecology of avian species. Our **October 6** speaker, Allen Fish, Coordinator of the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory, will unravel some of the mysteries of "hawk" migration as shown by his observations and research. He will show that the seasonal and daily movements of his beloved raptors is a rich and complex tapestry of activities which we are just beginning to understand. Each species has its own movement pattern, and even such seemingly innocuous events as the arrival of fog mediates raptor ebb and flow. There is still, however, much more to discover and enjoy.

While earning his B.S. in Zoology at U.C. Davis, Mr. Fish became enamored of and consequently worked in the school's raptor rehabilitation program. (He claims that his activity with this program had a negative effect on his G.P.A.) After graduation and upon hearing of the opening of a raptor coordinator slot, he applied. Within a week the job was his and he has since established a banding, research, education and conservation program calling it the "Golden Gate Raptor Observatory." If your curiosity and interest have been whetted, we suggest that you bring a friend to share the richness of raptor ecology. You might even be interested in becoming involved in the program as it expands into Contra Costa County!

General meetings of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society are held on the first Thursday of the month, September through June, at the Willow Creek Center, 1026 Mohr Lane, Concord. The agenda for the meetings is as follows:

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

Bird Information for October will be given by Jean Richmond who will discuss several similar but confusing pairs of birds.

For the Early Bird(er)s: Start thinking now about participating in the 1988 Christmas Bird Count, which will be held on December 31 this year. All birders, both beginning and experienced, are needed to make this Christmas Bird Count a success.

The next board meeting will be Thursday, October 13, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Al McNabney, 1161 Leisure Lane, #7, Walnut Creek, 945-1785. Board meetings are open to all interested members.

CONSERVATION NOTES

By *Al McNabney*

SHELL MARSH – or – A BRIDGE TOO FAR?

If you drive an auto, frustration often leads to language that isn't usually used in polite society. The "cuss words" usually come out as you sit on a freeway waiting for traffic to move. Legislators see the George Miller, Jr., Bridge, at the north end of I-680, as a bottleneck. SB45 introduced in the California Legislature proposes, among other things, the eventual construction of a second bridge. Such construction could have a disastrous effect on Shell Marsh. The Planning and Conservation League, in Sacramento, zeroed in on this issue. The PCL and CCC Assemblyman William P. (Bill) Baker had the following inserted in the bill:

"The department shall not include, in the plans for the new Benicia-Martinez Bridge, toll plazas, highways, or other facilities leading to or from the Benicia-Martinez Bridge, any construction which would result in the new loss of any wetland acreage."

Supervisors Nancy Fahden and Sunne McPeak have also been active on Shell Marsh issues.

STRANGE - STRANGE SAID ALICE IN WONDERLAND!

While Alice could have been talking about the well-known fairy tale, a real-life drama appears to be unfolding re the Highway I-680 - 24 (interchange) improvements. Various spokespeople have asserted in public hearings that 92% of the funds for the job will come from the Feds and 8% from the State. No one has bothered to tell the public about a CTC (California Transportation Commission) policy put in place under date of April 12 containing some "interesting" language:

"Self-help counties shall include those counties where jurisdiction(s) have established on-going fees or taxes for funding capital improvements to state highways."

Interesting? Question: Are the funds for the project available NOW, or are such funds to be held up?

SOLID WASTE LANDFILL

There now have been months of debate and "tie" votes on the Board of Supervisors. (Supervisor Schroder has not voted on the issues, due to a conflict of interest. The Supervisor's inability to vote on landfill issues has finally brought a call for his resignation as a Supervisor, in a major editorial by-lined by the Publisher of the *Contra Costa Times*). MDAS has urged the Supervisors to put ALL of the proposed solid waste landfill sites on the November ballot. The Supes voted to put four sites on the Ballot. MDAS supports the BAY POINT landfill site. Bay Point was given FIRST priority by the Blue Ribbon Task Force, appointed by the Supervisors last year. Months of study, discussion, and hearings brought the Com-

mittee to the conclusion that the Bay Point site was the least injurious to ALL parties and would provide the best long-term solution for solid waste disposal in the County. Marsh Canyon, reviewed by the Committee, was the LAST, least preferable site. MDAS opposes that site. The Marsh Canyon area has been described by some as another Yosemite. The Park District is attempting to develop sufficient funds to purchase the area for inclusion in the open space, park area for CCC. Part of the Ballot Argument AGAINST Marsh Canyon reads:

"Approving Marsh Canyon as a landfill site would permanently destroy the last beautiful, unspoiled open space in Contra Costa County and open the region to major development."

OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING

Isn't it a shame? Citizens (northern California coast) involved are opposed. Massive numbers of people throughout the state are opposed. The California Legislature passed a bill that had for its purpose the banning of off-shore oil drilling along the northern California coast. The California congressional delegation is opposed. The Governor, ignoring ecological reasons, ignoring the interest of the people involved in fishing, tourism, and allied activity, saw fit to VETO the bill barring off-shore oil drilling.

IT'S NOT ONLY THE LIONS

Are you aware that shooting of bears has been legalized by the same Board that has been attempting to permit shooting of California Mountain Lions? According to recent news reports, several large lumber companies are "upset" because bears have been eating planted trees. Where are the supporting studies demonstrating the damage the bears are (assertedly) causing? Suspicions abound about the decision to open a bear shooting season. (250 bears are slated to be shot, to say nothing of the cubs that may well be left orphans as a result of kills.) Skeptics are convinced this is just another decision for sport shooters, having little or nothing to do with damage bears (may) cause.

SAN FRANCISCO BAY NWR EXPANSION

A turnaway crowd met on August 24 at Ohlone College with Congressman Don Edwards to talk about expansion of the Refuge. Speaker after speaker urged support of Cong. Edwards' bill (HR4272) for expansion of the Refuge through purchases of wetlands from willing sellers. Public officials from bayside cities appeared. They praised the Refuge, the goal of Edwards' legislation but argued, "Don't use OUR wetlands, we want to develop them." Bay wetlands are under serious threat. Cities, developers, authorities (Oakland Airport), and private individuals and companies see huge financial returns IF wetlands can be filled and developed into housing, shopping malls, race tracks, and commercial enterprises. ALL evidence shows California wetlands are absolutely essential to migratory birds. They also have value for the public. BCDC, looking at anticipated results of the "Greenhouse Effect," have studies demonstrating present wetlands will be inundated as a result of the rise of water in the Bay. We, as concerned citizens, should insist wetlands are totally off-limits to development.

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 carpool time.

Wednesday, October 5, **Point Diablo (Hawk Mountain)**. Carpool 8:00 am, Acalanes Ave., off Pleasant Hill Rd., just north of SR24. Meet at 9:15 a.m. in parking area at entrance to tunnel to Golden Gate NRA. Take the San Rafael Bridge and US 101 to the SECOND Sausalito exit. Turn right toward Sausalito and left into the parking area. 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 8, **Monterey**. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Jetty Road, off Highway 1. Allow 2 hours driving time. This will be a one-day only trip this year. Water and shore birds, and possible vagrants. Those wishing to spend a second day could visit the Nature Conservancy on Elkhorn Slough or attend the meeting of the Western Field Ornithologists (see Classes and Excursions).

Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486.

Saturday, October 22, **Abbott's Lagoon**. Carpool 7:00 a.m., Acalanes Ave., off Pleasant Hill Rd., just north of SR24. Meet 8:30 a.m. at Bear Valley Visitor's Center, Point Reyes. Cross the San Rafael Bridge. From US 101, 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.

Thursday, October 27, **Lake Merritt**. NOTE change of date. Carpool 8:00 a.m., Acalanes Ave., off Pleasant Hill Rd., just north of SR24. Meet 8:45 a.m. 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 a good opportunity for new birders to see ducks at close range. About 1 mile of walking on paved paths.

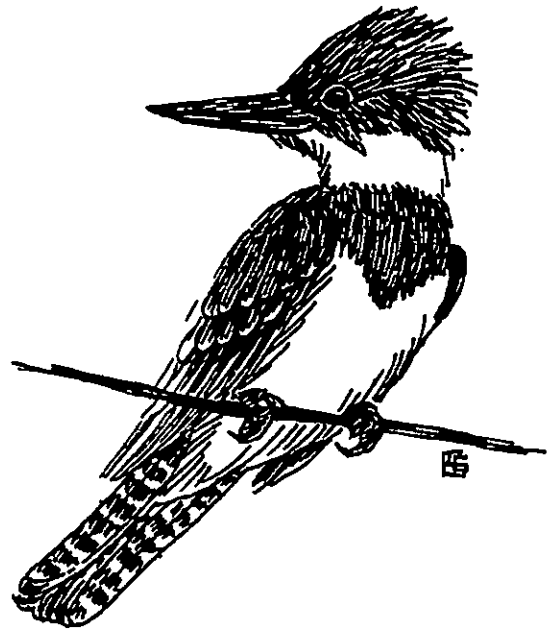
Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

BODEGA BAY, August 13

Nineteen members and two guests enjoyed perfect weather, sunny but cool with a light breeze. A Baird's Sandpiper in the company of Least Sandpipers was observed close-up, a Virginia Rail was watched at the rail pond, and an Osprey flew directly overhead by the Bay and later at the Headlands (possibly two individuals.) About 25 Brant were resting opposite the Coast Guard Station. Red-necked Phalaropes were found in the sewer pond and at the "Hole in the Head," where four Black-crowned Night-herons also were located. Two winter-plumaged Marbled Murrelets were seen in the main channel, although some members believe the identification to be uncertain, preferring "immature alcids," e.g., Pigeon Guillemots. All cormorant species, a Wandering Tattler, and the usual Oystercatchers were viewed from the Headlands. Sixty species total.

Gifford and Winifred Young



MEASURE AA

Probably the most important measure on the November ballot to the future of open space in Contra Costa County is Measure AA. This measure provides for the purchase of open space and shoreline access, both rapidly vanishing quantities as development continues unabated. We urge you as a member of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society to support this measure with your contributions as well as at the polls. Please send your check today to Committee for Wildlife, Open Space, and Parks, P.O. Box 1654, Lafayette, CA 94549.

CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

There is still time to sign up as a sponsor for Audubon Adventures. This environmental education program for 3rd thru 6th grade classes will let you share your love of the natural world with our youth. For more information, write Dana Jordan at 1236 Lindell Dr., Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

Golden Gate Audubon Society is sponsoring a lecture by the National Audubon Society's Vice-President for Science, Dr. Pete Myers, on Saturday, October 15 at 2:00 p.m. Dr. Myers will speak and show slides on shorebirds in a lecture entitled, "Great Exertions and Immense Gluttony: Shorebirds Across the Americas." The lecture will take place at the Oakland Museum Theater, 1000 Oak Street in Oakland.

The 1988 Annual Meeting of Western Field Ornithologists will be held on Thursday through Sunday, October 6-9, in Monterey, California. A Breeding Bird Workshop will be held on Friday, October 7, and a Papers Session will be held on Saturday, October 8. Field trips will include Elkhorn Slough, Moon Glow Dairy, and Salinas sewer ponds for shorebirds; Carmel River for vagrants; and several pelagic trips during the peak of the seabird migration. For information and registration forms, please write Debra Love Shearwater, P. O. Box 1445, Soquel, CA 95073, or telephone (408) 688-1990. The meeting is open to the general public.

Steven D. Emslie of PRBO will be the speaker at the next meeting of the Northern California Chapter of the Cooper Ornithological Society on Monday, October 17, at 8:00 p.m. at the Richardson Bay Audubon Sanctuary in Tiburon, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd. His topic will be the origin, evolution, and extinction of condors in North America.

The Nature Sounds Society presents: "Eternal Sands," a multimedia presentation combining nature photography by Candy Lowe with new-age electronic music and sound recordings by her husband/collaborator Ron Alford. The program will take place in the James Moore Theatre of the Oakland Museum at 1:00 p.m., Saturday, October 22.

MARTINEZ BIRDING

Do you bird in Martinez and its environs? We are revising the bird checklist and would appreciate a copy of your sightings. Include month(s) seen and if seen weekly, monthly, etc. Areas included are: the city proper, Briones Regional Park (specifically, the area off the Briones Road entrance in Martinez and those trails to Mott Peak, Sindicich Trail and Sindicich Lagoon or Table Top), the Mt. View Water Treatment Plant and Shell Marsh, Hidden Lake, and the Martinez shoreline and its marsh. Send observations to Helen Gentile, P.O. Box 109, Martinez, CA 94553 by October 30. Thank you.

OBSERVATIONS

By Donna Peake-Klein

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

Two rare visitors to our area provoked a great deal of interest at the end of August. A Terek Sandpiper and a Long-toed Stint were found in the Monterey area on August 28 and 31, respectively. These were the second verified sightings south of Alaska for each bird and the first California sightings. The birds were seen by most of the observers listed below.

Other sightings from the past few months:

Pacific Loons: 50+ on 9/6 at Pt. Reyes. (FB, MJ&BG)

American White Pelicans: 2 on 8/2, 25 on 8/16, and 15 on 8/23 in ponds along SR 37 in Solano Co., 100+ on 8/30 at San Francisco Bay NWR, (FB, JR), and 12 on 9/5 in flight along Rte. 12 near Fairfield (W&GY).

Green-backed Heron: 1 on 8/23 at 5 Brooks Pond. (FB, JR)

White-faced Ibis: 8 on 8/10 at Consumnes River Sanctuary. (KH,GF,JR)

Wood Ducks: 8 immatures on 8/2 at Pt. Reyes (JR), and 4 on 8/6 at 5 Brooks Pond (FB, JR).

Osprey: 1 on 8/2 at Pt. Reyes. (JR)

Lesser Yellowlegs: 2 on 8/2 at Bolinas Sewer Ponds (JR), 1 on 8/16 at Spaletta Ranch, (FB, JR), and 25+ on 8/30 at San Francisco Bay NWR (FB, JR)

Baird's Sandpipers: 2 on 8/9 at Rodeo Lagoon (JR), 4 on 8/16 at Spaletta Ranch (FB, JR), 4 on 8/28-31 at Carmel River State Beach (FB, JR, MOB), and 3 on 9/6 at Pt. Reyes (FB, MJ&BG).

Pectoral Sandpipers: 1 on 8/16 (FB, JR) and 1 on 9/6, both at Pt. Reyes (FB, MJ&BG).

Nuttall's Woodpecker: 1 on 8/20 at Towne & Country Mobile Village, San Miguel Rd., Concord. (SF)

Pileated Woodpeckers: A male and a female in mid-June on Curry Creek Trail, Mt. Diablo, (GF), and 1 on 8/23 at Sky Trail trailhead, Limantour Rd. (FB, JR)

Also, Jean Richmond reports the following from her home in Alamo: on 9/3, 3 Red Crossbills flew over, on 8/8, a Rufous Hummingbird visited her feeder, and on 8/15, the first Olive-sided Flycatcher (an immature) since 1973. From Modoc County, Bud Widdowson and John Sterling report 101 species in two days, 8/20-21, including Williamson's and Red-naped Sapsuckers (Warner Mts.), a female Black-and-white Warbler (Modoc NWR), and a close look at a Short-eared Owl. Finally, Winifred and Gifford Young found on 9/5 no Sandhill Cranes at Thornton, but, in a flooded field, a large mixed flock of shorebirds, including at least 15 Red-necked Phalaropes.

Observers: John Ascher, Florence Bennett, Bill Chilson, Elizabeth Dickey, Jimm Edgar, Sharyn Fernandez, George Finger, Mary Jane and Bill Greene, Peggy Gross, Ed Hase, Kevin Hintsa, Many Observers, Marge Plant, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Maury Stern, Denis Wolff, Winifred and Gifford Young.

TRAVEL CORNER

Birding the Pacific Coast by Bill Chilson

In early August, my wife Linda and I enjoyed a week of good birding and wonderful scenery along the Pacific Coast between the Bay Area and Puget Sound. We followed U. S. 101 north to Port Angeles, Washington, and returned on Interstate 5 to the Bay Area. Adding to our enjoyment were 101 species of birds and the many National Parks along our route. The trip takes seven to ten days. Accommodations are plentiful, but reservations are required. The following travel notes from our trip are provided in the hope that others may enjoy our summer coastal experience.

From San Francisco, we drove north on U. S. 101 to Humboldt Bay. Some returning shorebirds are present at this time of year. Enjoyable birding awaits in the many forests and woodlands. Use the section of Jean Richmond's *Birding Northern California* for the Arcata area. Thanks to active birders, directions to rare birds are available on the Arcata RBA, (707) 826-7031. Listen for Varied Thrush in redwood forests. Early morning birds walks will produce excellent results. Don't miss Louisiana Pacific's famed Samoa Cookhouse located on the Samoa Peninsula.

On the second day, we continued north on U. S. 101 to Redwood National Park. Park information is obtained at Orrick, California. There are wonderful views of Roosevelt Elk at Prairie Creek. Look for the spectacular Columbia Lily in the ferns and brush in virgin forests and cutover areas. Stop and search alder thickets north of the town of Klamath. These are good locations in California for Black-capped Chickadee. Blue Grosbeak are found in the blackberry brambles along the roadside here. Overnight accommodations are available at campgrounds and there are motels in Crescent City.

On day three, we drove the Oregon Coast to Astoria, Oregon, at the mouth of the Columbia River. Sea birds nest on the cliffs and rock islands along the Oregon coast in spring. You may still see some in early August. Among the possibilities are Pigeon Guillemot, Pelagic Cormorant, Brandt's Cormorant, Common Murre, Tufted Puffin, Rhinoceros Auklet, Cassin's Auklet, Leach's Storm-petrel and Fork-tailed Storm-petrel. While watching offshore rocks, look for Steller's Sea Lion which is occasionally seen here. A location for returning shorebirds is the Warrenton Mudflats off U. S. 101 south of the Youngs Bay Bridge, just south of Astoria. In 1988, a Long-toed Stint visited this location for several days in late July. Rare bird watchers will want to call the Oregon RBA at (503) 292-0661 and the Washington RBA at (206) 526-8266 for up-to-date information.

North of Astoria, we took a short detour from U.S. 101 to Long Beach, Washington. Follow Highway 103 to Ocean Park. Stay at the Sunset View Resort, (206) 665-4494, reason-

ably priced. Walk the sandy beaches to see Northwest Crows, Snowy Plovers, Semipalmated Plovers, Sanderlings, and Western Sandpipers. Eat at the Ark Restaurant in Oysterville. As might be expected, oysters are their specialty.

We then returned to U.S. 101 and drove to the Olympia National Park shoreline annex. A memorable stay is the Kataloch Lodge, (206) 962-2771. Prices are reasonable, but you must reserve 3 to 6 months in advance.

On the following day, we continued on to Port Angeles. West of town, turn right from Highway 112 on Place Road. Follow this road to its end at Angeles Point. Park in front of a large house there. Walk a short distance to the mouth of the Elwha River overlooking the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Look for gulls and waterbirds and especially for Harlequin Duck.

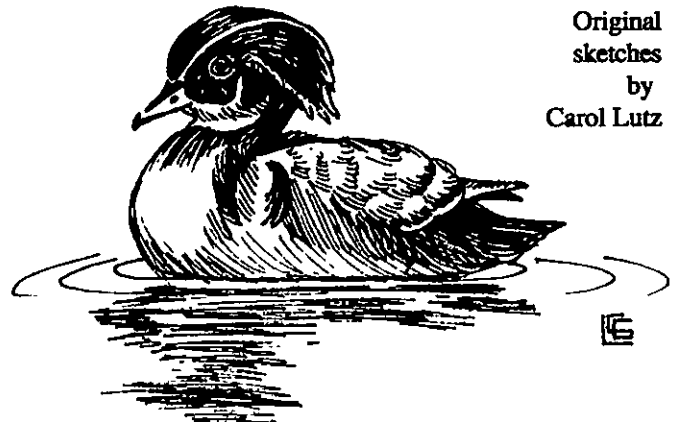
We then went to Hurricane Ridge in Olympia National Park. In this subalpine habitat, look for Gray Jay, Blue Grouse and other high elevation birds. Black-capped Chickadee is common here. Tiger Lily can be found along the road to Hurricane Ridge.

The next day, we drove to Port Townsend and went to Fort Worder State Park. Look for seabirds from the picnic area and overlook located west of the lighthouse, including Tufted Puffin, Marbled Murrelet, Pigeon Guillemot, and Common Murre.

Finally, we visited Victoria, B. C., by returning to Port Angeles and taking the ferry. For the morning ferry, you must place your car in the ferry line at 5:00 p.m. the night before. Stay at the Red Lion Inn adjacent to the ferry for maximum convenience in this mildly annoying procedure.

We returned to Seattle via Vancouver, B.C. Accommodations are readily available near Seatac Airport, south of Seattle. Eat at Anthony's in Des Moines, Washington, near Seatac for a memorable finish to your northwest experience.

We returned to the Bay Area by Interstate 5, which is the quickest route, although two days should be allotted. If you have time, take side trips to Mt. Rainier and Mount St. Helens. Each year there is a Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, Oregon. Advanced reservations are required to attend performances.



Original sketches
by
Carol Lutz

TAX DEDUCTIBILITY OF MDAS SALES

A recent Internal Revenue Service publication, *Deductibility of Payments Made to Charities Conducting Fund-Raising Events*, Publ. 1391 (6-88), stresses that if a buyer pays fair market value for any publication or any other item sold by fund-raising organizations such as MDAS, no part of the sales price, such as the excess of the sales price over the wholesale cost, may be considered as a charitable deduction. As all MDAS sales prices are comparable to, or less than, equivalent commercial sales, the purchaser therefore should not take a tax deduction for any part of the purchase price.

All gifts, donation, and bequests to MDAS are, of course, fully deductible, and very welcome. If they accompany a sales payment, they should be separately stated.

Erratum

The following line was omitted under "Disbursements" in the Annual Financial Report, FY 87-88, p. 3, of the September *Quail*:

Field Trips	\$591.47
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NEW MEMBERS

We warmly greet these new MDAS members we hope to meet in person at meetings and on trips: Daniel Baltzo, Martha B. Billman, Sally Bly, Richard Bottarini, Terry Brooks, Robert J. Capra, the W. Caruso family, Roy Christman, Richard Clayton, Norma Clerici, Debi Collis, George Diffenderfe, Andrew Dupree, C. Eisenbeis, L. L. Emerson, Jr., Duane Flemming, Jackie Flores, Elizabeth French, Marjorie M. Gaston, Janet L. Goodban, Carol Grigorian, Marlene Hall, Virginia Harezlak, Stanley Heyse, Gayl James, Patricia Johnson, Ellen Jones, John Kennedy, Jay and Eileen Kerr, Melinda Keys, Douglas King, Jocelyn Last, Joan Ludlam, W. Maguire, S. B. Markert, Clarence Marten, Jan McDonald, Robin Miller, Clark Nelson, Lora Osterloh, J. Ott, Lester Robinson, Russel Rohlicek, C. C. Romig, Robert Rowell, Jean Scott, Douglas Smith, Bill Solomon, Wendy Sutherland, Leon Szymanski, R. Thompkins, Aleta Vang, Anne Vellom, Patricia Warden, Celia Watkins, and Bill Whitnell.

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, Diane Macario, 2425 Maple Ave., Concord, CA 94520. 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 Diane Macario, (415) 674-0920.

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.

Mt. Diablo Audubon Society
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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: Diane Macario, 674-0920
Publicity: Shirley Ellis, 939-9091
Hospitality: Denise Wight, 228-2601
Education: Norah Bain, 254-4516
Secretary: Britta Cascio, 837-2895

November 1988

Vol. 35 No. 3

Next Deadline: November 10

November Program:

MONO LAKE - Endangered Oasis

On November 3, our speaker and fellow chapter member, Dr. Dennis Mallory, will present the story of Mono Lake - its location, geological origins, ecological value and modern problems. Just returning this spring, he has filmed the area and will present news which will be of interest to us "old-timers" as well as to those of us who have never even heard of the place. We will tell you now, however, that this lake is an isolated, critical, California habitat which annually feeds some two million birds, most of which are migratory. Furthermore, Denny will detail the monumental efforts and hopes for saving this natural asset by various environmental groups since the lake is literally under siege by the Southern California Water and Power Company.

Dr. Mallory, a retired area dentist, is retired in name only. Not only are he and his wife June tireless conservationists, but they are currently converting their beloved 500-acre ranch into a "perpetual" wildlife sanctuary in cooperation with the East Bay Regional Park District and the Contra Costa Water District. At home they provide nesting boxes for both bluebirds and Ash-throated Flycatchers and have logged some 135 species on the property. Denny is also Associate Photographer with the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology and is a member of the Bay Area Bird Photographers Association. This program was shown to some 800 critical (professionally speaking) and often competitive members of the Photographic Society of America where he is First Vice-chairman

of the Nature Division. Come hear and see the story of Mono Lake as well as slides of two bird species not previously photographed there.

General meetings of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society are held on the first Thursday of the month, September through June, at the Willow Creek Center, 1026 Mohr Lane, Concord. The agenda for the meetings is as follows:

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

Denise Wight will present Bird Information for the November meeting with an account, accompanied by slides, of her two weeks at the Audubon Ecology Camp in the West, Wyoming.

The next board meeting will be Thursday, November 10, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Florence Bennett. Members interested in attending the board meeting should contact her at 689-3106.

CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

YOU CANT DUMP IT HERE

The war cry of '88
sounded by many,

heeded by few,
it has an awful lot
to do with YOU!

As Senator Dan Boatwright said recently: Marsh Canyon (Round Valley) **MUST not** be turned into a garbage dump. Michelle Pieroit, Sierra Club Board Member says, "This (Round Valley) is the Yosemite of Contra Costa County. IT **MUST** be a park, not a dump." The CC Supervisors placed four possible sites on the November ballot and seek the views of voters as to "which site is preferred."

Mt. Diablo Audubon, having served on the blue-ribbon Solid Waste Task Force, concluded the Bay Pointe site was THE preferred location for CCC's solid waste disposal. The site now referred to as the Central Super site is second choice. MDAS **OPPOSES** the Marsh Canyon (Round Valley) site under ANY circumstances.

(Measure F) Bay Pointe ----- YES
(Measure G) Central Super Site (second) -- OK

(Measure D) "MARSH CANYON" ----- NO
(Measure E) Garavanta----- NO

PARKS -- WE NEED THEM

East Bay Regional Park District has a bond measure on the ballot to raise funds for acquisition of

- Open Space
- Shorelines
- Park Areas

MDAS strongly supports preservation of open space. Passage of Proposition AA will provide funding for completion of various open space projects in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. Habitats will be preserved and parklands will be obtained for today's uses and for **FUTURE generations**.

YES ON AA

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE

NOW YOU SEE IT / NOW YOU DONT

Bedford Properties propose to flood four islands in the Delta during highwater season (think we'll ever have another?). The water will be retained on the flooded islands until late in the year when water needs are heavy. The water will then be pumped out of the flooded islands into the Delta channels on through the Central Valley System to areas in the San Joaquin Valley, and south, for agricultural uses. Bedford expects to sell the water involved to either the State or Federal Agency that is in need of water to adequately supply farmers and others who have water contracts. Jimm Edgar recently reviewed the project (from a helicopter) for MDAS. Comment, "interesting." Clearly, the approach is a new one. There is at least a potential for creating a more satisfactory arrangement for delivery of water from the Delta to the South. A BIG plus for MDAS. Bedford has promised that some of those doing the Christmas Count can use the area as a part of the count section. (The islands will be not be flooded at that time).

MDAS, SHELL MARSH & THE **BIG SPILL!** or, MDAS PROPOSES & WHO DISPOSES?

MDAS announced a major proposal following a series of meetings held by EPA's Kathleen Shimmin. EPA reported on the oil spill (last April's), its effects (known and speculated), and what has been done to clean up the mess. Various EPA people reported most of the spill has now been cleaned up. Shell Marsh was drained to permit removal of oil and oiled grasses and to prevent further damage during the clean-up. It is expected that water will be released into the area before long.

MDAS proposes to EPA and others:

The approximately 240 acres involved in the Shell Marsh area be transferred from private ownership to the East Bay Regional Park District.

That Shell provide funds for the rehabilitation of ALL affected areas and enhancement of wetlands.

That County, State and Federal agencies:

1. Conduct studies to prevent recurrences.
2. Ensure storm waters are retained on the property of the refinery and not be permitted to drain into the Bay.
3. Return fines and/or payments made as a result of litigation brought against Shell to the local area to be used for future protection of birds, fish, and wildlife.
4. Establish a \$25 million Trust Fund, operated as a non-profit entity by a Board of Directors made up of environmentalists, EBRP members, industry representatives, and Parks and State Fish & Game personnel.

Money from the fund will be used for long-term rehabilitation of wetlands in the Contra Costa/Suisun area, and management and creation of allied activites involving wetlands. Part of the Trust Fund monies will be used for assisting agencies in observing uses of wetlands and bayshores so no illegal, adverse environmental activities will be permitted.

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 carpool time.

Wednesday, November 2, Mountain View Sanitary Plant. Meet at 9:00 a.m. 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 5, Limantour. Carpool 7:00 a.m. at Acalanes Avenue off Pleasant Hill Rd., north of Fwy. 24. Meet at 8:30 a.m. 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: John Ascher, 283-7134.

Thursday, November 17, Charleston Slough, Mountain View Forebay. Carpool 7:00 a.m. 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 and east 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, could be muddy. Probably 1-2 miles of walking.

Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486.

Wednesday, November 23, Alameda South Shore. Carpool 8:00 a.m., Acalanes Ave., off Pleasant Hill Rd., just north of SR24. Meet 8:45 a.m. 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: Pat MacEachern, 934-3041.

Co-leader: Elizabeth Dickey.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

SAN MATEO COAST, September 10.

Nine members toured various parts of the San Mateo coast on a day that started foggy and turned very warm. 85 species were seen, including Pectoral and Baird's Sandpipers. Lively discussion was occasioned by one gray bird, clearly *Calidris*. But no one could decide whether it was a Red Knot, a Semipalmated Sandpiper, or a Least Sandpiper. Photos were taken, so the matter will be settled soon.

Fred Safier

SAN FRANCISCO BAY / COYOTE HILLS, September 14.

Seven observers enjoyed clear weather. This was planned as a shorebird trip, but warblers were the highlight; six species including Black-throated Gray were seen, mostly at Coyote Hills. Other good sightings were the Great Horned Owl in the pines at Coyote Hills and the opportunity to compare directly Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs. 63 species were seen or heard.

Elizabeth Dickey

TILDEN REGION PARK, September 22.

Five members enjoyed a morning of good birding with a spot on the Bush Rat Trail and the dam at Jewel Lake making it all worthwhile. 40 species were seen, with Fox Sparrows putting on a great display.

Mary Jane Culver

OUTER POINT REYES, September 24.

Nineteen members spent the day at outer Point Reyes in cool, overcast weather. A few unusual vagrants and migrants were seen among the total of 74 species. At our meeting point of Drake's Beach, a White-winged Scoter was well seen and a Ferruginous Hawk flew over. At Nunes Ranch, a Magnolia Warbler was very cooperative and there were Fox and Lincoln's Sparrows, and a large flock of Tri-colored Blackbirds. The Fish Docks had a Western Wood-pewee, a Western Flycatcher, and two Great Horned Owls in the trees. Along the way to the New Willows, we saw five grebe species: Horned, Eared, Red-necked, Western and Clark's. In the cypresses at the Mendoza Ranch, there were a Townsend's Warbler and two Barn Owls. On the Spaletta plateau, eight Lesser Golden-plovers and several Horned Larks were seen. We ended the day at the lovely Spaletta slop ponds with six Pectoral Sandpipers.

Maury Stern

LINCOLN PARK / GOLDEN GATE PARK, September 29.

The day was clear and hot for five MDAS members and two guests. 43 species were seen, with warblers especially abundant in the trees edging the golf course at Lincoln Park. At one point, while on the lookout for errant golf balls, it appeared each viewer had his own warbler sighted. The abundant Pygmy Nuthatches appeared to be in more brilliant plumage than one would expect in fall, and a pair of Western Tanagers were also a treat for the eyes.

Barbara Vaughn

OBSERVATIONS

By Donna Peake-Klein

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

- American White Pelican: 15 on 9/13, 9/27, and 10/5 along SR37. (JR, FB)
American Wigeon: 1 seen on several days from 9/14 through 10/2 at Pine Canyon, Mt. Diablo. (SB, AE, GF, SF, EH, KH, HF) 5 4
Wood Duck: 1 on 9/7 at Sunol Regional Park. (KH)
Sora: 1 on 9/7 at Sunol Regional Park. (KH)
Lesser Golden Plover: 8 on 9/20 at Spaletta Plateau, Pt. Reyes. (FB, JR, et al.)
Hudsonian Godwit: 1 on 9/6 at the mouth of the Salinas River. (JE)
Greater Yellowlegs: 1 on 10/2 at Pine Canyon. (SB, AE, GF, SF, EH, KH, JM)
Stilt Sandpiper: 1 on 10/2 at Pine Canyon. (SB, AE, GF, SF, EH, KH, JM)
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 1 on 9/19 at Hayward Regional Shoreline. (JM, BR, JR)
Tufted Puffin: several seen 8/16 at Cape Flattery, Washington. (B&BG).
Bald Eagles: 14 seen circling on 8/16 at Cape Flattery, Washington. (B&BG)
Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 on 9/28 at Curry Point, Mt. Diablo. (KH)
Osprey: 1 on 9/27 at Pine Canyon. (KH)
Peregrine Falcon: 1 on 9/8 at Coyote Hills Regional Park. (JE)
Parakeet (green, species unknown): 1 on 10/2 at Pine Canyon Pond. (SF, KH)
Vaux's Swift: 6 on 10/1, flying over her Alamo garden. (JR)
Lewis's Woodpecker: 9 on 9/27 at Mt. Diablo (KH) and 3 on 10/2 at Pine Canyon Pond. (SB, AE, GF, SF, EH, KH, JM)
Tropical Kingbird: 1 on 10/5 along Avenue 152 near SR99, Tulare Co. (JR)
Willow Flycatcher: 1 on 9/20 at Pine Canyon. (KH, BR)
Canyon Wren: 1 on 9/14 at Pine Canyon (KH, BR) and Kevin thinks probably a different Canyon Wren was heard on 9/27 at Pine Canyon.
Northern Wheatear: 1 found by Steve Laymon on 10/13 and seen thru 10/15 along Walsh Rd. near Orland (southern Tehama Co.). (JR, MOB, including many MDAS members)
Gray Wagtail: 1 found 10/9 and seen 10/10 at the mouth of the Salinas River. (FB, BC, SF, EH, KH, MOB)
Tennessee Warbler: 1 on 9/13 at the Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes. (FS, JE, GF, MP, JR, MS, MOB)
Northern Parula: an adult male on 9/13 at the Mendoza Ranch, Pt. Reyes. (FB, JE, GF, MP, JR, MS, MOB)
Black-and-white Warbler: 1 on 9/13 at the Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes (FB, JE, GF, MP, JR, MS, MOB) and 1 on 9/20 at the Fish Docks (FB, JR).
Blackburnian Warbler: 1 on 10/3 at Pt. Reyes. (GF, KH)

Magnolia Warbler: 1 on 9/13 at the Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes. (FB, JE, GF, MP, JR, MS, MOB)

Mourning Warbler: 1 on 9/27 at the Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes. (FB, JR)

Common Yellowthroat: 1 on 9/13 at the Lighthouse, Pt. Reyes. (FB, JE, GF, MP, JR, MS)

Yellow-breasted Chat: 1 on 9/13 at the Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes. (FB, JE, GF, MP, JR, MS)

American Redstart: 1 on 9/13 at the Nunes Ranch, Pt. Reyes. (FB, JE, GF, MP, JR, MS)

American Tree Sparrow: 1 on 10/3 at Pt. Reyes. (GF, KH)

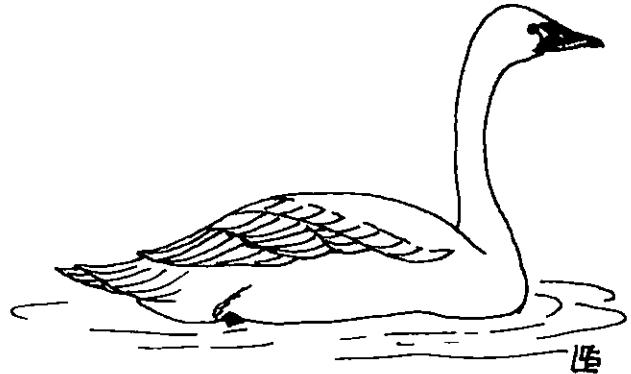
Clay-colored Sparrow: 1 on 9/13 at the Lighthouse, Pt. Reyes. (FB, JR, et al.)

Brewer's Sparrow: 1 on 9/13 at the Lighthouse, Pt. Reyes. (FB, JR, et al.)

Hooded Orioles: last seen in Jean Richmond's Alamo garden on 9/29, several days later than usual.

Albino House Finch: 1 regularly visiting the feeder in Andree Youngson's Concord yard during the first 3 weeks of September

Observers: Florence Bennett, Stephen Bailey, Bill Chilson, Jimm Edgar, Art Edwards, Sharyn Fernandez, George Finger, Bob & Betty Gallagher, Ed Hase, Kevin Hintsa, Steve Laymon, Many OBServers, Joe Morlan, Marge Plant, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Maury Stern and Andree Youngson.



CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

Point Reyes is offering courses in natural history, environmental education, and the arts, taught by recognized professionals, for the fall and winter. Seminars meet at Point Reyes National Seashore. For further information, write Point Reyes Field Seminars, Point Reyes, CA 94956, or call (415) 663-1200 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Brenda Johnson of the U.C. Davis Department of Zoology will be the Cooper Ornithological Society speaker on Monday, November 21, at 8:00 p.m. Her talk will be on the Ecology and Conservation of the Burrowing Owl. The meeting will be at Mills College, Life Sciences Building, Room A-3. Ask for directions at the college entrance gate, on MacArthur Boulevard. Everyone interested in birds is welcome.

RARE BIRD ALERT NUMBERS

UNITED STATES

ALASKA: (907) 248-2473
 ARIZONA:
 Tucson: (602) 798-1005
 CALIFORNIA:
 Arcata: (707) 826-7031
 Los Angeles: (213) 874-1318
 Modesto: (209) 571-0246
 Monterey: (408) 375-9122
 Morro Bay: (805) 528-7182
 Northern California: (415) 528-0288
 Sacramento: (916) 481-0118
 San Bernardino: (714) 793-5599
 San Diego: (619) 435-6761
 Santa Barbara: (805) 964-8240
 S. W. Sierral San Joaquin: (209) 782-1237
 COLORADO: (303) 423-5582
 CONNECTICUT: (203) 254-3665
 DELAWARE: (215) 567-2473
 DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: (301) 652-1088
 FLORIDA:
 Statewide: (407) 644-0190
 Tropical Audubon Society: (305) 666-5111
 GEORGIA: (912) 987-1052
 IDAHO:
 Southeast: (208) 236-3337
 ILLINOIS:
 Central Illinois: (217) 785-1083
 Chicago: (312) 671-1522
 IOWA: (319) 524-3569
 KANSAS: (316) 343-7061
 LOUISIANA:
 Baton Rouge: (504) 293-2576
 New Orleans: (504) 246-2473
 MAINE: (207) 781-2332
 MARYLAND: (301) 652-1088
 MASSACHUSETTS:
 Boston: (617) 259-8805
 Western Mass.: (413) 569-6926
 MICHIGAN:
 Statewide: (616) 471-4919
 Southeastern Mich.: (313) 592-1811
 MINNESOTA:
 Statewide: (612) 544-5016
 Duluth: (218) 525-5952
 MISSOURI:
 Statewide: (314) 445-9115
 Kansas City: (816) 795-8177
 NEW HAMPSHIRE: (603) 224-9900
 Monday through Friday - 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m.
 Saturday and Sunday - 24 hours

NEW JERSEY:

Statewide: (201) 766-2661
 Cape May: (609) 884-2626

NEW YORK:

Buffalo: (716) 896-1271
 New York: (212) 832-6523
 Rochester: (716) 461-9593
 Schenectady: (518) 377-9600

NORTH CAROLINA: (704) 332-2473

OHIO:

Blendon Woods Metro Park: (614) 895-6222
 Cleveland: (216) 289-2473
 Columbus: (614) 221-9736
 Southwestern Ohio: (513) 277-6446
 Toledo: (419) 877-5003
 Youngstown: (216) 742-6661

OREGON: (503) 292-0661

PENNSYLVANIA:

Western Penn.: (412) 963-0560
 Philadelphia: (215) 567-2473
 and (301) 652-1088
 Wilkes-Barre: (717) 825-BIRD

RHODE ISLAND: (401) 231-5728

Thursday and Friday after 5:00 p.m.
 Saturday and Sunday - 24 hours

SOUTH CAROLINA: (704) 332-2473

TENNESSEE: (615) 356-7636

TEXAS:

Austin: (512) 451-3308
 Houston: (713) 821-2846
 Northcentral Area: (817) 237-3209
 Rio Grande Valley: (512) 565-6773
 San Antonio: (512) 733-8306
 Stinson: (512) 364-3634

UTAH: (801) 530-1299

VERMONT: (802) 457-2779

Monday through Saturday - 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.
 Sunday - 24 hours

VIRGINIA: (703) 898-3713

WASHINGTON: (206) 526-8266

WISCONSIN: (414) 352-3857

WYOMING: (307) 265-BIRD

CANADA

ALBERTA:

Calgary: (403) 237-8821

BRITISH COLUMBIA:

Vancouver: (604) 876-9690

Victoria: (604) 592-3381

ONTARIO:

Ottawa: (613) 596-4888

Windsor/Detroit: (313) 592-1811

Windsor/Pt. Pelee: (519) 252-BIRD

QUEBEC:

E. Quebec: (819) 778-0737 (in French)

PRESIDENT'S ELECTION MESSAGE

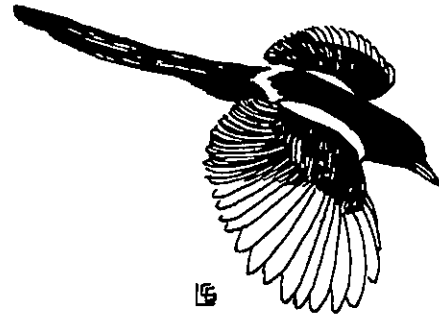
Your Board of Directors has voted to formally oppose Measure C, the 7% Sales Tax Initiative which is on the November ballot. While Measure C proponents promise controlled growth and a panacea to the County's transportation problems, careful scrutiny reveals weak checks on proposed growth, far too little attention given to alternatives to more and more roads, an Authority panel not answerable to the voters, and a general continued despoiling of the environment. To those of us who value the quality of life in Contra Costa County, Measure C does not provide solutions for the future.

MDAS recommends:

VOTE NO on C
 VOTE NO on D and E
 VOTE YES on F and G
 VOTE NO on Z
 VOTE YES on AA

NEW MEMBERS

It is a pleasure to welcome these new MDAS members and we hope to meet them soon: David Bogolub, Beverly Bortin, Brigitte Brandriff, Robert Carter, John E. Cressman, Christine Dunbar, V. E. Feazell, Chas E. Frech, Stephen Gerstle, Jean Henry, Ruth Holl, Gerald Koch, Marjorie Locklear, Wanda Longnecker, Michael Manuel, Peter Margiotta, Pam McGill, Robert J. Miller, Erin Montalbo, Harlan Moore, Mrs. J. M. Murdock, Linda Regan, Gail Richardson, J. Michael Santos, Marilyn Schinnerer, L. F. Scott, Jack Sheets, Karen L. Smith, Vija Strauts, M. C. Trown, and Mark Vandort.



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, Diane Macario, 2425 Maple Ave., Concord, CA 94520. 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 Diane Macario, (415) 674-0920.

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.

Mt. Diablo Audubon Society
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 Walnut Creek, CA 94596

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The QUAIL

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

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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: Diane Macario, 674-0920
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Hospitality: Denise Wight, 228-2601
Education: Norah Bain, 254-4516
Secretary: Britta Cascio, 837-2895

December 1988

Vol. 35 No. 4

Next Deadline: December 8

December Program:

A Journey with John Muir - an illustrated reading from his works

Our speaker John Davis, with his wife Tammy, has extensively hiked and photographed the John Muir Trail in Yosemite National Park. The December 1st program consists of a reading of selected Muir quotations which are illustrated and enhanced by the slides of Mr. Davis. Mr. Muir, a naturalized U. S. citizen born in Scotland, is probably best remembered as a preservationist of our country's most scenic and threatened forest lands. His studies and explorations also included forests of Russia, Siberia, Australasia, India, and the Philippines. A colorful eccentric, Muir was not above going on very long forest journeys without any provisions whatsoever. He would amble off on one of his famous sojourns, as though going on an evening's stroll, wearing just a tattered felt hat and a grey wool suit even during the dog days of summer. By climatological contrast, Muir also explored Alaska, studying its forests and glaciers. A competent glaciologist, Muir discovered a major glacier in 1878 near Mount Fairweather which now bears his name.

John Davis, a fellow chapter member and a retired county probation officer, is also a very competent naturalist in his own right. He has served six years as president of the John Muir Memorial Association where he is now the Director of Conservation. John also inaugurated and regularly leads natural history and bird walk programs in and around Martinez in connection with the John Muir Historic Site. Bring a friend and enjoy an evening of scenic beauty comple-

mented by Muir readings, artfully rendered with feeling by our own past-president, John Davis.

General meetings of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society are held on the first Thursday of the month, September through June, at the Willow Creek Center, 1026 Mohr Lane, Concord. The agenda for the meetings 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 for December will be given by Maury Stern on the **1988 Christmas Count**. More information on the Christmas Count on page 4.

The board meeting will be Thursday, December 8, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Jimm Edgar, 4616 Jacobus Avenue, Oakland, 658-2330. The board meetings are open to all interested members.

Happy Holidays to All
from the Board of MDAS

CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

DUMP IT HERE!!!!!!

CCC voters were not decisive about where to put CCC's garbage for the next 40 or 50 years. Clearly, the public wanted the Supervisors to make the site selection. They finally did just that. A majority vote on Friday the 10th produced the Bailey Road site. This will be without Kirker Pass being added to it. The Supes seem to be saying it is THE site with the best chance of going through the entire selection process without any major problems. Important to MDAS members is the fact that Marsh Canyon with its adverse impacts on Round Valley is completely out of the running. The entire issue is NOT completely settled yet for there may well be lawsuits waiting in the wings.

NAVAL WEAPONS STATION NEWS

The U. S. Naval Weapons Stations is in the news. For one thing, there is much of the area that is polluted due to years of neglect. Major efforts are now underway to "clean-up" the toxics. Important to MDAS members is the proposed closure of the main highway through the Naval Depot. MDAS is asking that the area remain open for birding, regardless of what happens to the highway.

DID YOU SEE THAT BIRD?

If you did see the Marbled Murrelet, a robin-sized sea bird of the Pacific Northwest, then YOU are unusual. The bird flies at night, roosts, nests, and rests in "old growth" forests in the Pacific N. W. It has now joined the Spotted Owl as a reason for not clear-cutting old growth timber on U.S. Public lands. The US Fish & Wildlife Service has been requested to list the Marbled Murrelet as an endangered species. Even the effort to achieve such a designation has increased the battle over "old growth" forests. The F&WLS declined to list the Spotted Owl as "endangered," so Audubon has asked a Federal Judge to act on the matter. A tree takes a couple of hundred years to grow. A chain saw, in the hands of an expert, can cut that tree down in a matter of minutes. The sad part of this is the trees are YOURS, they are located in the U.S. Forests. Those forests will GO, if the loggers and some Federal agencies have their way. Brock Evans, Audubon VP, says, "We are going to make the survival of the ancient forest a national issue." YOU can help do this. Write your Congressman and Senators.

MDAS AND BAY AUDUBON CHAPTERS ADOPT TOUGH WETLANDS POLICY

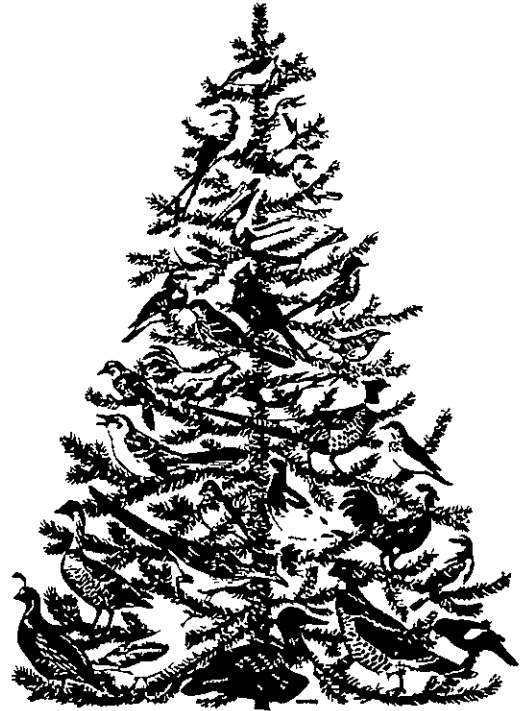
MDAS and the Audubon Chapters around the Bay have had a good wetland protection policy; however, it was agreed it wasn't good enough. The policy has been rewritten. It is tough. Participating Audubon Chapters will soon be announcing the policy to local, State, and Federal agencies having to do with wetland protection.

McAVOY YACHT HARBOR

This boat harbor, created out of wetlands without permission from governing agencies, has been on notice since last March that filling, degrading, and otherwise damaging wetlands is illegal. It has now been put on notice by SF Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC). As of October 28, the owners etc. are on notice that something has to be done by December 27, 1988, to "determine as quickly as possible what issues actually exist." MDAS will be watching this matter closely. Remaining Bay wetlands cannot be "taken" for development of any kind without full compliance with applicable laws.

PARK BONDS PASS

The vote of the people showed a desire to continue to have open space, parks, trails, habitat and birds when they voted FOR the bond issue for EBRP. While some 400,000 absentee ballots remain to be counted, it is not believed they will affect the announced outcome of the vote. MDAS hails the passage of the measure, for it will give an opportunity to protect some of our open space for future generations.



NATURE TRIMS THE TREE by Chuck Ripper
Reprinted with permission of the National Wildlife Federation

ELEPHANT SEAL TOURS

Ano Nuevo State Reserve has announced its reservation schedule for tickets to winter tours of the Elephant Seal breeding grounds. Group tours are available daily (except Christmas Day) throughout the breeding season from December 10 through March 31. Tickets, at \$4 per person, are obtainable exclusively through Ticketron. Call (415) 392-SHOW.

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 carpool time.

Saturday and Sunday, December 3-4, **Sacramento and Gray Lodge Refuges**. Saturday, Gray Lodge, 9:00 a.m. There is a \$2.00 entrance fee. Meet at the first parking lot beyond the Headquarters. Sunday, meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Sacramento Refuge in the parking lot at visitor's center. If you are going on Sunday only, please call Norah Bain by Friday, December 2. To get to Gray Lodge, take I-80 to SR113; at Tudor, take US99 north to Pennington Rd. Follow Pennington Rd. to the refuge entrance; there are several turns and the road eventually runs north. For the Sacramento Refuge, leave I-5 at the Norman exit and go north on the frontage road to the refuge.

Leaders: (Saturday) Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486.

(Sunday) Hugh and Norah Bain, 254-4516.

Saturday, December 10, **Altamont Pass**. Carpool 7:00 a.m. at El Cerro Blvd., west of I-680. A caravan trip, with mostly car birding. We will be look for migratory hawks, Mountain Bluebirds, and the usual grassland species.

Leader: George Finger, 933-2468.

Thursday, December 15, **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.

ECOLOGY WORKSHOP

The National Audubon Society's Winter Ecology and Nature Photography Workshop this year will provide participants with a first-hand opportunity to learn of fire ecology and the remarkable regenerative capability of the Yellowstone National Park ecosystem. The program will cover a number of subjects including plant and animal adaptations to snow and cold, the geology of fire and ice, winter photography skills, animal social systems, the politics of endangered species, fire ecology, and the future of Yellowstone. The price for this program, scheduled for December 31, 1988, to January 7, 1989, is \$875.00 per person. For additional information and registration forms, call or write: The Registrar, Audubon Camps & Workshops, National Audubon Society, 613 Riversville Road, Greenwich, CT 06831, (203) 869-2017.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

HAWK MOUNTAIN/RODEO LAGOON, October 5.

The field trip to "Hawk Mountain" was a great success even though the fog never cleared off and we never saw any migrating raptors. The eight members and guests spent the time near the lagoon and in various landbird migrant traps around the lagoon. Of the 62 species seen during the day, perhaps none was more exciting than the Virginia Rail - not one but three - that paraded around right in front of us. A real treat for everyone. Some Pectoral Sandpipers, a Say's Phoebe, and a suspicious warbler that appeared to be a Black-throated Green Warbler rounded out the fine day.

Jimm Edgar

MONTEREY, October 8.

There were only four members and a guest for birding the Monterey area. Weather was good, birds were abundant, but none of the goodies mentioned on the Monterey tape were found!! The best sightings probably were the seven Pectoral Sandpipers at the Moonglow Dairy. A total of 78 species were seen or heard. The trip did not produce a rail sighting as Crespi Pond is completely dry.

Elizabeth Dickey

ABBOTT'S LAGOON, October 22.

Nineteen members spent an overcast but pleasant day at the Pt. Reyes headquarters area, White House Pool access, and Abbott's Lagoon. Many people and their sharp eyes contributed to the 103 species seen. The highlight of the day was the Peregrine Falcon standing on the beach at Abbott's Lagoon and occasionally making a few passes at the shorebird and duck flocks. Other birds of interest were the Red-necked Grebe, White Pelican, Brant, Redheads, Ferruginous Hawk, Merlin, a dozen Snowy Plovers, Bonaparte's Gull, Common Barn Owl, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Varied Thrush, Townsend's Warbler, and an albino White-crowned Sparrow.

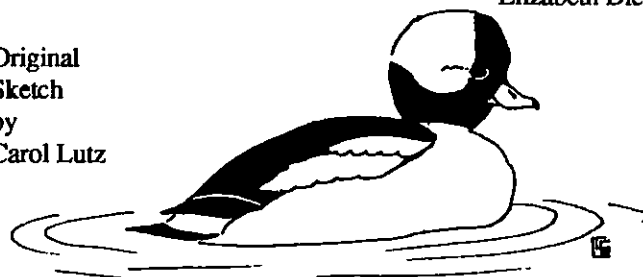
Maury Stern

LAKE MERRITT, October 27.

Fourteen members and guests met under overcast skies to observe early winter birds at the lake. The most unusual bird was a female Surf Scoter (not normally seen away from the Bay). An usually large number of Double-crested Cormorants - 300 or more - were present. Very few migratory ducks had arrived. Including land birds in the garden area, 38 species were seen.

Elizabeth Dickey

Original
Sketch
by
Carol Lutz



OBSERVATIONS

By Donna Peake-Klein

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

Please include your telephone number with your observations.

American White Pelican: 4 seen on 10/18 along SR37, Solano Co. and 2 seen at Nicasio Reservoir, Marin Co. (FB, JR); 7 seen on 11/1 at Hayward RS (H&NB).

Green-backed Heron: 1 on 11/1 at Elk Glen Lake in Golden Gate Park. (FB, JR, et al.)

Tundra Swan: 20 on 11/6 on Woodbridge Road at Eldorado Marsh (W&GY) and 200 on 11/8 east of Stockton on Hwy. 4 (FB, JR).

Wood Duck: A pair seen on 10/30 in San Ramon Creek. (JK)

Ring-necked Duck: 6 males and 11 females on 11/1 at Elk Glen Lake. (FB, JR, et al.)

Black Scoter: 9 ducks, all females and immatures, seen 10/27 at Lafayette Reservoir. (G&MJM)

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 on 10/30 at Pine Canyon, Mt. Diablo. (KF, SF)

Sandhill Crane: 2500 to 3000 on 11/6 on Woodbridge Road at Eldorado Marsh. (W&GY)

Prairie Falcon: 1 on 10/30, Pine Canyon. (KH, SF)

Lesser Golden-plover: 7 on 10/18 at Spaletta Plateau, Pt. Reyes. (FB, JR, et al.)

Lesser Yellowlegs: 1 on 10/25 at Garretson Point, San Leandro Regional Shoreline. (JR, FB, et al.)

Wandering Tattler: 1 on 11/1 at Lincoln Park, SF. (JR)

Black Tern: 1 on 10/21 along I-680 north of the Benicia Bridge. (JR)

Spotted Dove: 1 to 3 from 10/7 to 10/11 and 1 on 10/29 in Porterville, Tulare Co. (Probably established here. Jean Richmond has seen them several times since she found the first county record on 4/5/86). (JR)

Mourning Dove: Winnie and Gifford Young observed a pair on 9/15 doing a "broken-wing act" in their Benicia yard to distract their cat.

Burrowing Owl: 1 on 10/20 seen on a fencepost on the approach road to Arrowhead Marsh. (EB, SE)

Tropical Kingbird: 1 on 10/18 at Drake's Beach parking lot, Pt. Reyes. (JMS discovered it; seen by FB, JR)

Pygmy Nuthatch: Many more than usual in Lincoln Park and Golden Gate Park on 11/1. (FB, JR, et al.)

Canyon Wren: Seen again at Pine Canyon, Mt. Diablo, on Elephant Rock, 10/30. (KH, SF)

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 1 seen on 10/25 at Marin Headlands (H&NB), 1 seen on 10/30, Pine Canyon (KH, SF), 50 seen at Lincoln Park and 40 seen at Golden Gate Park on 11/1 (FB, JR, et al.), and 8 around Jean's Alamo home, 10/22-11/3 (JR).

Bendire's Thrasher: 1 on 11/8 at Lodi. (FB, JR)

Swamp Sparrow: 1 on 10/18 at Nunes Ranch. (JR)

Lapland Longspur: 4 on 10/18 at Spaletta Plateau, Pt. Reyes. (FB, JR, et al.)

Chestnut-collared Longspur: 1 on 10/18 at Spaletta Plateau. (FB, JR, et al.)

The following birds were seen at the Monterey Peninsula by Hugh and Norah Bain from 10/4 to 10/11: Lesser Golden-plover, several Whimbrel, Pectoral Sandpiper, Elegant Tern, Great Horned Owl (which flew past their restaurant window at dinner time), 3 Tropical Kingbirds, Pygmy Nuthatch, Water Pipit, Red-eyed Vireo, Black-throated Blue Warbler, and Orchard Oriole.

Observers: Hugh and Norah Bain, Ethel Beckerman, Florence Bennett, Shirley Ellis, Kevin Hintsa, Sharyn Fernandez, Jim Ketsdever, George and Molly Jane Monheit, Jean Richmond, Jean-Marie Spoelman, and Winifred and Gifford Young.

89th CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The Mt. Diablo Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count will be held Saturday, December 31, 1988. There will again be a New Year's Eve countdown pot-luck dinner afterward at a location to be announced. All members and interested people are invited to attend. We can fit you in groups in many ways - you do not have to be an expert bird-watcher.

Last year 100 participants in 26 field parties and 5 feeder-watchers tallied 153 species (our all-time high) and 54,000 individual birds. There are about 1500 Christmas counts across the nation and the information gained is valuable in understanding the ecosystem and distribution of birds. We will cover many parts of Contra Costa County, including Mt. Diablo State Park, Black Diamond Mines, Briones Park, Heather Farms, Shell Ridge, the Diablo foothills, and many urban creeks, ponds, meadows, parks and open areas.

Please notify Maury Stern, 284-5980, or George Finger, 933-2468, if you would like to participate. Please call, write or sign up at the December meeting. The cost for participants this year is \$4.00. There is no charge for feeder watchers.

_____ I would like to bird with one of the field groups on Christmas Bird Count Day, December 31, 1988.

_____ I would like a hiking area.

_____ I would like a less strenuous area.

_____ I can monitor a feeder or garden.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

TRAVEL CORNER

Impressions of Africa

At the November meeting last year, Chris Carpenter of the Golden Gate Audubon chapter gave a talk on and showed slides of his trip to Kenya the previous year. Several members of our chapter found this talk and the pictures so inspiring that we signed up to accompany Chris on this year's safari. The sixteen members of this year's tour met Chris in London on October 3 for the overnight flight to Nairobi. There we were met by Terry Stevenson, the Kenyan co-leader of the trip and some of our luggage. After a breakfast at the Norfolk Hotel in Nairobi, we departed for Meru National Park and the official start of the tour. Each of us formed impressions of Africa and Kenya in particular during the trip. Five of us will treasure the following memories:

Imagine waking on your first morning in Kenya, looking out the window, and seeing a gorgeous big Maribou Stork flying by. On the ground were many beautiful Superb Starlings and in the trees - the Pied Kingfisher and Yellow-vented Bulbuls. Of course, I didn't know the names then, but eventually they were common and so became well known. Then further away were lots of zebra, and beyond were the mountains shaped like pyramids, and of course, the umbrella trees - the acacias. What a sunrise! What a beginning!

Ilene Holgrem

From our balloon, gazing down upon hues of green forestland, rivers winding in "S" curves with crocodiles, hippopotamuses, and among many birds, the flashes of red of the Ross Turacos. Across the grasslands, with wildebeest, lions, giraffes, gazelles, elephants, baboons, etc., will be only one of the many memorable scenes I will remember of our trip in Kenya.

Dee Mitchell

A bird safari with Kenya's Terry Stevenson is the ultimate experience! I have never seen so many species of new birds in such a short time in my life. By the end of the fourth day (208 new birds), I was so saturated and confused that I actually opted to stay at the lodge and relax, swim, and bring my bird list and book up to date rather than go on another bird walk! How frustrating not to know the bird songs and flight patterns. That was the only walk I missed, however, because the excitement shared by the group on their return made me wish I had gone. By the beginning of the second week, many of the birds were "old friends" and I could rattle off their names along with Terry and Chris. Favorite bird: Lilac-breasted Roller! Wonder-filled trip!

Rudi Thomas

I wondered, are we really in Africa? The trip from London to Nairobi was long and by the time we reached Meru Park, it was dark. But, oh, how wonderful, when at dawn I looked out the window to the plains (it was as I imagined) and saw herds of zebra, buffalo, and bushbuck, and below on the ground weaver birds and the Superb Starling. It was the start of an exciting African safari.

Betty Ann Williams

The impression of this trip that will stay with me came near the end of the trip. We had had a long drive to the Masai Mara area and I was tired, so I skipped the afternoon game drive to rest. I was sitting on the porch in front of our tent, enjoying the peace and quiet, writing postcards, when I suddenly heard a loud noise. Mrrmph! Mrrmph!! I remembered that we had seen hippos in the river in front of the tents when we arrived at noon, so I ran to the bank to see what was happening. Normally all you see of a hippo in the water is the eyes and ears and nose. Then the hippo disappears back under the water. Now, however, Momma Hippo was just across the river and standing up out of the water. I never realized hippos are so BIG! Even her baby was good size. And the river didn't seem very wide at all. She watched me for a few minutes and I watched her. Then she opened her mouth in a threat display. With all those teeth going every which way in that very large mouth, I was suitably impressed. Finally, she subsided and settled down again in the water. I went back to the postcards, but now there were calls all up and down the river. Apparently the whole herd was starting to move upstream, where I assume they leave the river to graze on the banks at night. I could see first one hippo, then another swimming or walking (under water? I thought only dippers did that) up the stream past me. At times they would come quite a ways out of the water. I have never seen anything like it. Finally they were all gone and the river was quiet again.

Barb Burek

In all we spent two weeks visiting different parts of Kenya, from the lowlands at Meru to the highlands on Mount Kenya to the plains of the Masai Mara. We stayed at three of the Rift Valley lakes - Baringo, Naivasha, and Nakuru (someone should have written about the flamingos!). We ended the tour by returning to civilization in Nairobi and a tour of Nairobi National Park just outside of town. The bird list for the entire group had 414 species, from Ostriches to Paradise Flycatchers to Lilac-breasted Rollers. The sunbirds and weavers were also favorites with many of us. We also saw 52 species of animals, which included lions, cheetahs, giraffes (all three subspecies), hippos, rhinos, Cape buffalo, baboons, monkeys, warthogs, elephants, and all manner of "hooved animals." All of us had a truly memorable trip, particularly thanks to Chris and Terry, who did a terrific job of finding and identifying the birds and animals.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Christmas is a wonderful time to give someone a gift membership in the National Audubon Society. There is a special \$20 membership fee for all new members. This special fee will also continue into 1989. Please contact Diane Macario when you need applications (her phone number and address are on this page of the *Quail*) or pick them up at the general meetings. A new membership received directly through MDAS also is a way of giving to the Chapter, as the Chapter receives \$15 instead of \$5.50 as its share of the membership fee from National. NOTE: membership renewals should be mailed directly to the National Audubon, not to Diane. The chapter split for renewals is the same and the renewal will be processed more quickly.

For those who are already Audubon members, why not give them one of the special bird books available from MDAS Sales. A copy of *The Birder's Handbook* will last them through all of the new year. Also Available are *Hawks, A Field Guide to Hawks of North America* and *Birding Northern California*. For prices and availability, contact Gifford Young, the MDAS Sales Manager, 1451 Janet Ct., Benicia, CA 94510, (707) 745-4134.

NEW MEMBERS

We warmly welcome these new MDAS members: J. Abdulla, Mrs. Darrell Adams, Mrs. Wyndom Anderson, Denise Barkasy, A. S. Boren, Thomas Bressemer, Bette Brockman, Grant Brohard, Sally Bullard, Charles Carlson, Hamilton & Bobbi Cate, Henry Colarich, Jerry Connors, Kathleen & K. C. Coyle, Stephane Crantz, John Cronister, Virginia Dane, Barbara J. Dunn, Tim Edwards, Cathy Erasquin, Mrs. G. E. Ervin, Thierry Fensie, Rebecca Fish, Phoebe T. Force, F. Franet, Celeste Graham, Mrs. R. Grasso, Marie Gutierrez, Scott Hampton, E. Hansen, Kay Hogg, S. Hopps, David James, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Jarratt, Barry Johnson, J. Kavanaugh, Rita Kearns, Jo Kenney, G. Khan, F. Kovar, Sarah Loomis, C. Lutz, Alice Lynn, Dolores Mauritz, Olga McKay, John McMillan, Victoria Micu, Tara Mikesh, Chris Miller, Mary Mirsky, James Mitchell, Christy Monahan, D. Mullens, Connie Myers, Karen Nelson, Kevin O'Connell, Timothy O'Connor, Ellen M. Ohan, Mrs. D. E. Oldfather, Beverly Parker, Mary Pass, Lauren Powell, Peter Raisbeck, Florence Reynolds, G. N. Scott, Jean Sinclair, Gary Smith, C. A. Squire, Jr., Marie C. Starr, Cathy Stephenson, Randall Surgeon, William Talley, Joanne Taylor, Richard Van Natta and Mrs. N. Wong.

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, Diane Macario, 2425 Maple Ave., Concord, CA 94520. 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 Diane Macario, (415) 674-0920.

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.

Mt. Diablo Audubon Society
P.O. Box 53
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