

The QUAIL

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



President: Barbara Vaughn, 376-8732
VP Conservation: Al McNabney, 945-1785
Treasurer: Florence Bennett, 689-3106
Sales Manager: Gifford Young, (707) 745-4134
Programs: Maury Stern, 284-5980
Field Trips: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486
Membership: Diane Macario, 674-0920
Publicity: Shirley Ellis, 939-9091
Hospitality: Winifred Young, (707) 745-4134
Education: Jan Cooper, 372-8680
Secretary: Britta Cascio, 837-2895

January 1990

Vol. 36 No. 5

Next Deadline: January 11

January Program:

Birds of Southeastern Arizona

Many birders travel to Tucson and to southeastern Arizona to enjoy a combination of desert birds and Mexican vagrants which does not occur anywhere else in the United States. Jim Lomax of our chapter has spent three weeks each summer the past few years in southeastern Arizona photographing the unique birds of that area. Come and see his slides of the Lucifer Hummingbird, the Gray Hawk, the Five-striped Sparrow, the Red-faced Warbler, the Varied Bunting, the Elegant Trogon, the Mexican Chickadee, the Sulphur-breasted Flycatcher, and the newly-split species, the Canyon Towhee. Jim will show slides of and discuss the unique birds of Southeastern Arizona at our **January 4** meeting. Those of you who saw Jim's slides at the last chapter potluck dinner will know what an outstanding bird photographer he is. (For another view of birding this area, see Maury Stern's *Travel Corner*, Page 5.)

January Bird Information will be given by Beth Huning, Director of the Richardson Bay Audubon Sanctuary, who will show us a video and give us some new and innovative ideas on making our Spring Birdathon a huge success.

The February program will be given by Paul Matzner of the Natural Sciences section of the Nature Sound Society and the Oakland Museum on "Quiet Places: an Endangered Habitat."

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

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

The next board meeting will be Thursday, January 11, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Shirley Ellis, 353 Westcliffe Circle, Walnut Creek, 939-9091. Board meetings are open to all interested members.

The 1989 MDAS Christmas Bird Count will be held on Saturday, December 30. Following the Bird Count, the potluck supper will be at the San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church, 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo, at 6:15 p.m. Members and guests are invited to attend, even if not participating in the Bird Count. For more information about the potluck, please call Barbara Vaughn, 376-8732.

CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

SHELL MARSH

The day of reckoning is near. The retribution process for permitting 423,000+ gallons of oil to spill onto Shell Marsh, and the bay and estuarine system in April, 1988, is reaching the final stages. Sixteen sets of attorneys have represented the interest of the "people" in one way or another. Two more sets of attorneys represented the Shell Oil Company. The lengthy negotiations, involving many local, county, state, and federal agencies, took many months. The settlement was announced recently by John Van de Camp, Attorney General of the State of California. Shell has agreed to pay a total sum of \$19,750,000. The sum is divided as follows:

To a "Trustee's Fund" to compensate for alleged damages to natural resources: \$10,838,000.00

For cleanup and abatement of oil spills, projects devoted to the preservation of California plants, wildlife and fisheries, land acquisition and land improvements, and species propagation projects: \$750,000.00

For a "Studies Fund": \$1,312,000.00

For cost reimbursement to the State of California and Contra Costa County: \$500,000.00

For the U. S. Department of the Interior: \$93,000.00

For fish and wildlife pollution cleanup and abatement, Fish and Game Preservation Fund: \$193,229.68

To the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account (State Water Quality Control Fund): \$62,352.67

To the CA Department of Parks and Recreation: \$20,125.88

For the Bay Fill and Cleanup Fund: \$9,516.53

To the State Lands Commission: \$12,000.00

To the California Department of Justice: \$59,775.24

To Contra Costa County: \$50,000.00

To the City of Benicia General Fund: \$250,000.00

To Benicia for reconstruction, rehabilitation, and enlargement of the 9th Street fishing pier: \$75,000.00

To Benicia for construction of marsh overlooks at the ends of First and Second Streets: \$275,000.00

To Solano County for material purchase: \$150,000.00

To the City of Martinez General Fund: \$250,000.00

To Martinez and Contra Costa County, to be administered jointly, for the enhancement of the area from the Martinez fishing pier to the Italian Fisherman Monument: \$500,000.00

To the East Bay Regional Park District: \$200,000.00

To the The United States (penalties): \$2,050,000.00

To the State of CA, for statutory violations: \$2,100,000.00

To Contra Costa County (penalties): \$250,000.00

A super-committee of representatives from applicable agencies will have responsibility for overseeing and dispensing the funds that will be used for various land purchases. Some of the monies will be used to conduct studies to develop information concerning effects of oil spills on vegetation and resulting changes in composition of the soil in estuarine and coastal habitats, a study to measure natural resource values relevant to California oil spills, and evaluation of lands for acquisition. So while the money is not yet in the bank, it does appear the disastrous oil spill will eventually produce "some" beneficial results.

THE COUNTRY WINS ONE

Remember Mr. James Cason, proposed by the President for a HIGHLY sensitive, important position? He would have had a direct impact on logging, mining, conservation, the Spotted Owl, and many other important matters. The President DID propose Mr. Cason for the position. Cason DIDN'T get it! In fact, because so many people contacted their congressmen and senators, urging opposition to the appointment, the "word" was passed to the President and the proposed appointment was withdrawn.

\$60,000 - DOES THAT EQUAL A REAL FUTURE?

The MDAS effort to develop funding for a study to determine the possible value of Shell Marsh as a site for an interpretive center has FINALLY born fruit. Legislation initially proposed by Senator Dan Boatwright and Assemblyman Bill Baker at the urging of MDAS and the PCL finally made its way through the legislative maze, including the signature of the Governor. \$60,000 is now in the hands of the Department of Fish and Game. The PCL has put substantial effort into the development of the legislation and its enactment into law. Pete Bontadelli, Director of the Department of Fish and Game, extends thanks in writing to Cory Brown, Legal Counsel for the PCL: "I am thankful that the Planning and Conservation League and our Department can so often work together on important wildlife resource protection issues and look forward to continuing the relationship."

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.

Difficulty of field trip:

Category 1: Easy, up to 1 mile walking, smooth paths

Category 2: Moderate, 1 mile or more, possibly rough

Category 3: Difficult, extensive walking, rough terrain

Saturday, January 6, **Putah Creek**. Carpool 7:00 a.m. southwest corner of Sun Valley parking lot. Meet 7:45 a.m. at the intersection of Cherry Glen and Pleasants Valley Rds., approximately 1 mile north from I-80. Park on Cherry Glen. Dress warmly; this is a cold, windy area. Previous highlights include Osprey, Phainopepla, Canyon and Rock Wrens, Wood Ducks, and Hooded Merganser.

Leader: Florence Bennett, 689-3106

Category 1

Wednesday, January 10, **Lake Merritt**. 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. Take W. Grand Ave. exit from Hwy. 24. At the light, go straight ahead onto Northgate. Turn left onto W. Grand Ave. Park in lot between the 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. Call Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486, for information.

Category 1

Thursday, January 18, **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. Golden Eagles and other raptors are often seen. Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Dipper, and Canyon and Rock Wrens are possible.

Leader: Barbara Vaughn, 376-8732

Category 2

Wednesday, January 24, **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: Maury Stern, 284-5980

Category 1

Saturday, January 27, **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 the 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.

Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486

Category 2

Saturday and Sunday, February 10 and 11, **Los Banos and Panoche Valley**. There will be a group dinner Saturday at the Woolgrower's Restaurant in Los Banos. Call trip leader Florence Bennett, 689-3106, for information. Make your motel reservations soon; see the December *Quail* for suggestions.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

LIMANTOUR, November 5.

Twelve members spent a lovely fall day at Point Reyes in 70 degree weather under cloudless skies with no wind. In addition to the pleasant day, we saw 85 species of birds. The highlights included American White Pelican, Canada Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, an Osprey carrying a fish, Snowy Plover on the beach at Limantour, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Varied Thrush, Townsend's Warbler, and two Palm Warblers.

Maury Stern

MT. VIEW SANITARY PLANT, November 11.

Dick Bogaert, a member of MDAS and a biologist at the Mt. View Wastewater Treatment Plant again accompanied us on our visit. This is always appreciated. Our group consisted of eight members and one guest. The morning was clear and warm. Twenty-three species of birds were observed. We had excellent views of the Green-backed Heron and the Common Moorhen.

John Davis

CHARLESTON SLOUGH, November 16.

Three members and two guests enjoyed good birding along the Slough and a detour to Palo Alto after lunch at high tide (no Black Rails, one Clapper). Weather was warm and hazy. Sora, both Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, and Eurasian Wigeon were seen. The highlight of the day was the Golden Eagle which flew over Terminal Road heading across Silicon Valley. 71 species total.

Elizabeth Dickey

LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR, November 29.

A walk around the Lafayette Reservoir on a cold but sunny morning turned up 43 species for 11 members and 7 guests. The Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Yellow-rumped Warblers seemed to dominate our attention, giving the beginning birders good opportunities for studying them. Highlights included a close view of a Sharp-shinned Hawk directly above us, many Buffleheads, a Green-winged Teal, and a Townsend's Warbler.

Denise Wight

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.

- Red-throated Loon: 1 seen on 11/14 at Bodega Harbor. (H&NB)
- 7 Yellow-billed Loon: 1 on 12/3, Bolinas. (FR)
- Red-necked Grebe: 1 on 11/16 at Campbell Cove at Bodega Bay. (FB, JR)
- Cattle Egret: 2 on 11/24, Inverness. (BD)
- Tundra Swan: 2000+ seen on 11/19 north of Marysville and 12 seen on 12/4 at Sacramento NWR. (H&NB)
- Snow Goose: 2 blue phase on 11/11 at Sacramento NWR. (BD)
- "Black" Brant: 1 on 12/5 at Bodega Bay Harbor. (FB, DS)
- Eurasian Wigeon: 1 on 11/24 and on 12/2 at Bolinas Lagoon (BD); 1 on 12/5, Gray Lodge (H&NB).
- King Eider: 1 on 11/24 at the Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes. (BD)
- Harlequin Duck: 1 on 11/24 and on 12/2 at Bolinas Lagoon (BD); 1 male on 12/3, Bolinas (FR).
- Oldsquaw: 1 on 11/28 opposite Owl Canyon at Bodega Bay. (FB, JR, et al.)
- Barrow's Goldeneye: 1 on 11/24 and on 12/2, Bolinas Lagoon. (BD)
- Rough-legged Hawk: 1 on 11/3 over the hill on the east side of I-680, 1/2 mi. south of Stone Valley Rd., Alamo. The first Jean has seen in the San Ramon valley. (JR)
- Golden Eagle: 1 on 12/4 at Sacramento NWR. (H&NB)
- Virginia Rail: 1 on 12/5 at Gray Lodge. (H&NB)
- Sandhill Crane: 20+ seen on 12/5, North Butte Rd. (H&NB)
- Surfbird: 26 on 11/14 at Bodega Head. (H&NB)
- Pectoral Sandpiper: 1 on 11/7 at Stauffer Pond, Martinez (JR, et al.); 1 on 11/21 at Lodi Sewer ponds (FB, JR, et al.).
- Little Gull: 1 adult on 11/21 at Stockton sewer ponds. First report there this fall. (JR, FB, et al.)
- Marbled Murrelet: 4 on 11/16 off Bodega Head. (FB, JR)
- Ancient Murrelet: 4 on 11/16 off Bodega Head. (FB, JR)
- Cassin's Auklet: 1 on 11/16 off Bodega Head. (FB, JR)
- Red-breasted Sapsucker: 1 on 11/19 at Black Diamond Mines. (J&MJ)
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1 on 12/2 at Pine Gulch Creek, Marin Co. (BD)
- Costa's Hummingbird: 1 adult male on 11/16 (FB, JR), 3 adult males on 11/28 (FB, JR), and 2 adult males on 12/5 (FB, DS), all below Dickmann's Bay Store parking lot, Bodega.
- Allen's Hummingbird: 2 males on 12/5 at Dickmann's Store, Bodega Bay. (FB, DA)
- "Audubon's" Warbler: 1 nearly albino on 11/7 at Mountain View Sanitary District. (JR, et al.)

Observers: Hugh and Norah Bain, Florence Bennett, Bob Dunn, John and Margaret Jordan, Jean Richmond, Frankie Ross, and Donna Schluter.

CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

Norah Bain's winter field class for beginning and intermediate birders will take place on the four Tuesdays in March. Resident land birds will be observed during territory acquisition and courtship. We'll see shorebirds before their departure. Please register at Orinda Community Center, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563, 254-2445, beginning January 4. Residents \$36, non-residents \$38. Call Norah for more information, 254-4516.

Santa Clara Valley Audubon invites Audubon members to join a special benefit trip to Trinidad, June 25 through July 8, 1990, led by SCVAS members Edward and Janice Rooks. At least 10% and up to 15%, depending on the final group size, of the \$1500 land cost is a tax-deductible donation to the Santa Clara conservation fund. For the trip itinerary, call Lynn Teneffoss at the SCVAS office, (415) 329-1811, or Gail Cheeseman at (408) 741-5330, or write Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris, 20800 Kittredge Road, Saratoga, CA 95070.

Three evening bird classes sponsored by Golden Gate Audubon and offered through the San Francisco Community College will be starting January 23, 24, and 25. All classes meet 7-9:30 p.m. in Room 222, Marina Middle School, 3500 Fillmore at Bay St., in San Francisco. The classes will be taught by Joe Morlan, co-author of *Birds of Northern California* and compiler of the recorded "Northern California Rare Bird Alert." Fees are \$50 for Part A (eight week) courses and \$45.00 for Part B (seven week) courses. For information call the Community Services Office at 776-8247.

The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory is offering six classes and three tours for the coming year. The first class, in gull identification, begins in January, while the first tour, to Joshua Tree National Monument (the Thrasher Crasher Tour), is from February 17 to 19. For more information and a complete list of classes and tours, write SFBBO, P. O. Box 247, Alviso, CA 95002, or call (408) 946-6548.

Golden Gate Audubon Society is sponsoring a series of three slide-illustrated educational programs on San Francisco Bay wildlife and environmental issues. On Thursday, January 11, Lynn Stenzel, researcher at Point Reyes Bird Observatory, will discuss the Pacific Flyway Project. The program will given at the Josephine Randall Jr. Museum, 199 Museum Way, San Francisco, at 7:30 p.m. For further information, call the GGAS office at (415) 843-2222

The Point Reyes Bird Observatory is planning a complete spring shorebird census for San Francisco Bay on April 14 and 15, 1990. If you can help with the census, write to Point Reyes Bird Observatory, 4990 Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach, CA 94970. Please indicate if you prefer one day to the other and which area (north or south) of the bay you would be willing to count.

TRAVEL CORNER

Birding Southeastern Arizona's Cave Creek Canyon by Maury Stern

In July, 1988, I made my first trip to southeastern Arizona with Rich Stallcup leading 18 birders. The trip was sponsored by PRBO and was reasonable in cost. We travelled in two comfortable, air-conditioned vans and stayed in nice motels and one grand old hotel. I saw 59 life birds out of a total of 187 species for the ten days.

There were many wonderful areas for birding here, but the highlight was surely Cave Creek Canyon of the Chiricahua Mountains. Several isolated mountain areas feature Mexican birds in their northernmost ranges, making this area unique. The Chiricahuas range from 2000 to 9500 feet elevation with multiple habitats offering unique birding possibilities. Cave Creek Canyon is a beautiful wind- and water-sculpted canyon of reddish volcanic rock with a lush riparian habitat along Cave Creek. There are large sycamores, mesquite, and alders, with scrub oak and mountain mahogany close by, in addition to black walnut, cypress, and other oaks.

One can spend several productive days in this immediate area as the birding is outstanding. The Spoffords have developed a back-yard sanctuary along Cave Creek featuring hummingbirds. We saw eight species there in a short visit. These included Blue-throated, Magnificent, Lucifer, Black-chinned, Anna's, Calliope, Broad-tailed, and Rufous Hummingbirds. We added Violet-crowned Hummingbird to our list later. Walking along the trails and in the campgrounds of the area, we saw Peregrine Falcon, Greater Roadrunner, White-winged Dove, Strickland's Woodpecker, Cordilleran, Dusky-capped, Brown-crested, and Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers, Curve-billed Thrasher, Cassin's and Thick-billed Kingbirds, Grace's Warbler, Painted Redstart, Bell's Vireo, Hepatic Tanager, Scott's Oriole, Blue Grosbeak, Canyon Towhee, Varied Bunting, Black-throated Sparrow, and the very special Elegant Trogon. At higher elevations, other unusual birds are present, the Mexican Chickadee, Virginia's, Red-faced, and Olive Warblers, and Yellow-eyed Junco.

Southeastern Arizona is one of the most exciting spots for birding in the entire country. More than 300 species regularly occur here. Of these, 25 are not regularly found elsewhere in the United States. Another 30 or so are found only in this region or in parts of Texas and New Mexico. Not only is the birding exceptional, but the scenery is spectacular.... Where else in the United States would you take time out from watching such dazzling birds as the Magnificent Hummingbird, Red-faced Warbler, or Painted Redstart to look at the scenery?

James Lane, *A Birder's Guide to Southeastern Arizona*

A CHALLENGE TO MDAS

The Honorable Phil Iseberg, Assemblyman, representing the eastern part of CCC, attended the MDAS meeting on December 7. He issued a challenge to us all. The Assemblyman wants to know of any sites, locations, or areas in East County that we believe to be of value to birds and wildlife. As development continues apace in Contra Costa County, there is less and less good habitat for birds and wildlife. We must act now to ensure protection for some of the remaining areas. If you have a thought on the matter, write to the Conservation Committee, P. O. Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

1990 WILDLIFE AREA PASSES

Members can help preserve or improve vital bird and other wildlife habitats by purchasing California Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Area Passes at \$11.00 for 1990. These passes permit unlimited admission to nine wildlife areas and ecological reserves. One pass is needed for each person in a car. Alternate daily passes for 1990 are \$2.25. A further contribution would be the purchase of the Native Species Stamp, \$8.50 for 1990. This is a collector's item; the 1989 stamp, a painting of a Peregrine Falcon, is by our own Harry Adamson. With purchase of either the pass or stamp, you may also subscribe to *Outdoor-California* at the reduced rate of \$4.50. Passes and stamps are sold at the wildlife areas and at many stores that issue hunting and fishing licenses, or may be ordered directly from Save Our Wild Places, 3211 S St., Sacramento, CA 95816. Enclose check made out to California Department of Fish & Game, or call 1-800-THE-WILD for credit card purchase.

AUDUBON ADVENTURES

Hats off to all who have made this a great year for the Audubon Adventures, the bi-monthly newspaper and teacher's guide for students in third through sixth grades. This year we have 79 classes enrolled in the program, 60 classes sponsored by Dow Chemical and 19 by our members. This is a good increase since last year. Many thanks to:

Ralph Bruns
Jan Cooper
Dow Chemical Co.
Lois Foster
Mr. and Mrs R. Gallagher
Lynn Lakso
Al McNabney
Judith Mororad
Barbara Vaughn

Willa Cobe
Elizabeth Dickey
Sharyn Fernandez
Elinor Freitag
Mr. and Mrs. J. Kennedy
Edna Mass
Tara Mikesh
Susan Rohlicek
Mrs. Frank Williams

NEW MEMBERS

We extend warm greetings to these new MDAS members and hope to meet them at our activities: Jeanne Alexander, Mark Ashby, Joseph Beck, James Benney, J. Bettencourt, Sarah Blodgett, Patricia Bloodworth, Margaret Brown, Francis A. Campos, Mercedes Clark, Terrence F. Davis, Joy N. Distacio, Bill Faisst, Heidi Ferguson, Kathy French, Kris Gilbert, Jim Hail, Jill Hedgecock, Lois Henschen, Alvie Hill, Dona Hoefs, Richard Laezman, Curt Larson, Jon Linck, R. Millar, Linda Millsbaugh, Phyllis Nishimori, Linda Paravanga, Ron Parks, Bert Pate, Margaret Pierce, Victor Pinckney, Judith Preble, Stephen Quiggle, Rich Radigonda, Beth Rose, Amy and John Schade, Marylyn Simpson, Mel Smith, Gail Soldavini, Janine Squire, Matt Swatman, Karen Synowiec, Cynthia E. Trahan, Diane Trainque, Lawrence Viel, Harriet White, William Widowson, Diane Williamson, Valorie Wion, Robert Wisecarver, and Heidi Wyckoff.

RARE BIRD ALERT HELP NEEDED

Joe Morlan needs a new tape recorder/answering machine for the Northern California Rare Bird Alert. Those of you who have traveled around the country and called other rare bird alerts know what a terrific job Joe is doing with the Rare Bird Alert. However, even the best equipment wears out eventually when used as heavily as this service is. Anyone wishing to make a donation to the fund to purchase a new tape recorder may send a check to the Golden Gate Audubon Society, 1250 Addison Street, #107B, Berkeley, CA 94702. Make the check to GGAS - Rare Bird Update Fund.

DONATIONS TO MDAS

MDAS wishes to express appreciation for donations to the chapter made by Bessie and James Smyth, of Martinez, and by Eleanor Platt and Jan Hilton of Sun City, Arizona, made in memory of Netha Kinkead. Their generosity and support are greatly appreciated.

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 and senior rates available), write a check to National Audubon Society but send it, with letter or subscription card, to the Membership Chairperson, Diane Macario, 2425 Maple Ave., Concord, CA 94520. The Chapter benefits financially from membership applications it processes. Full Audubon membership is encouraged, but subscription to the Quail is available separate from membership at \$8/year. The check should be made to MDAS and mailed to the 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 the 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.

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February 1990

Vol. 36 No. 6

Next Deadline: February 1

February Program:

Quiet Places: An Endangered Habitat?

Have you ever sought quiet? Where would you go to escape the constant noise of civilization and listen to the voices of nature? Even at many of our parks and refuges, the sounds of cars, airplanes, and even other people are ever present. Our **February 1** speaker, Paul Matzner of the Natural Sounds Library at the Oakland Museum, will speak to us about sound recording, play examples of natural sounds, and examine the concept of quietude as an integral part of the definition of wilderness. Join us for this unusual presentation.

Paul Matzner has been interested in nature's sounds since his childhood in Long Island, New York. He studied molecular and cellular biology at University of Pennsylvania and animal behavior at Rutgers. He was a Ranger Naturalist in the Everglades National Park, and an educator in the Oakland Junior Center of Art and Science and in the Natural Sciences Department of the Oakland Museum. He was asked to record natural sound for the Oakland Museum in 1983 and has expanded the collection since then. He also co-founded the Nature Sounds Society in 1983.

Jim Lomax will give a slide presentation on his work with the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory for the February Bird Information.

Elizabeth Pierson, known as "the Bat Lady," will talk at the March meeting on the ecologic role of bats in the world and the importance of their preservation.

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

6:30 Doors open
7:00 Birding Info
7:30 Business Meeting
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The next board meeting will be Thursday, February 8, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Gifford and Winnie Young, 1451 Janet Ct., Benicia, (707) 745-4134. Board meetings are open to all interested members.

The National Audubon Society program of Ecology Camps and Workshops for 1990 is now available. New this year are three nature photography workshops and three ecology workshops, in southeastern Arizona, the Olympic Peninsula in Washington, and Big Bend National Park in Texas. If you would like more information about any of the Ecology Camps and Workshops, please call Education Chairman Jan Cooper, 372-8680. More information in the March issue of the *Quail*.

CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

WHITHER WILDLIFE IN THE 1990's?

Burrowing Owls were once fairly prolific in CCC, but now are seldom seen. Where have they gone? Assuredly development has raised havoc with these unobtrusive birds. Developers' bulldozers flatten hills, without regard for the creatures that have made "their" homes in such spots, so colonies of Burrowing Owls are wiped out. The Christmas Bird Count indicates the steep decline of the species.

An Environmental Impact Report is produced in connection with a proposed development in Alamo. The plan calls for wholesale elimination of native oaks. At the same time, other groups are urging the planting of MORE trees. Authorities warn of the "greenhouse" effect, which is much more likely to happen if we eliminate whole groves of trees.

Carriage Hills West, another terrible (proposed) development, calls for turning idyllic property over to the gentle care of the City of Richmond and a development project calls for wholesale elimination of hills, trees, and wildlife. The Aleutian Canada Goose, an endangered species that uses this area for nesting, breeding, and feeding, is also now in trouble. There's a sudden push on to remove it from the endangered species list. The Aleutian Canada Goose has "assertedly" had a magnificent resurgence in population and therefore should no longer be considered as endangered.

State highway funds are evidently inadequate. Even existing projects, such as the I-680/24 renovation in CCC may NOT be completed. The leadership of the state argues for NO new taxes, but supports a ballot proposition that significantly changes the division of highway funds between northern and southern California. Growth-inducing impacts of more and more freeways cannot be denied.

The Planning and Conservation League, a bright spot in our effort to look to the future, has achieved enough signatures to place a transit proposition on the ballot. The PCL proposal will call for rapid transit projects to alleviate the highway congestion and mindless construction of more and more freeways. In the meantime, an estimated 1000 people arrive in California each and every day, all seeking a new life in this state. Most of them bring at least ONE automobile with them. More growth, more hazards for birds and wildlife.

Agricultural land owners try to sell to developers, which may be OK for them, but where will people be getting their food and fibre in 20 years? If a majority of our best agricultural lands are covered with houses, shopping malls, and roads, what then? Certainly food costs will be higher if such an eventuality occurs. Again, what of our birds and wildlife if all such lands are developed?

THE CCC GENERAL PLAN IS DONE

The County has announced completion of the LONG delayed General Plan. It is too early to determine how the General Plan will protect the values and way of life people in CCC have had. As compared with rampant, almost mindless development, it is likely the new General Plan will fall far short of ideal. The last word has NOT yet been written on that subject! The impacts on open space, birdlife, and agriculture will all be severe. In cases of unacceptable development, a determined effort by THE PEOPLE has often reversed or at least softened proposed projects. People DO make a difference. Our birds and wildlife can't defend themselves from rampant, thoughtless development. It takes caring, informed people to speak for them.

Let's have a motto for the 1990's:

Be informed.
Be active.

Let the **decision makers** know you care about birds and wildlife. The welfare and future of such creatures HAS to be considered as development goes forward.

OLD GROWTH FORESTS

One thing has happened since the Spotted Owl was brought into the question as to the future of our old growth forests. The general public is "beginning" to understand. It is NOT only in Brazil that forest practices are endangering people, wildlife, and the future. Redwood forests have been a point of pride for Californians, but unless something drastic is done soon to reverse current activities, most of these gorgeous old trees will be GONE! Ross Johnson, Chief of Forest Practices Regulation, has written: "California now has over 236,000 acres in redwood parks, of which virgin old growth comprises 76,000 acres." Now isn't THAT something! Out of millions of acres of redwoods we used to have, 76,000 acres of old growth redwoods are in parks. If current trends continue, you'd better hurry if you want to see a redwood grove. There is an alternative: Get involved in the circulating of petitions, so a ballot measure can be developed to halt the logging of these magnificent trees.

ALASKAN OIL SPILL

One result of last year's HUGE Alaskan oil spill is the evident determination of Congressional leaders to firm up the rules and regulations concerning the shipping and drilling of oil. At the same time, there is an administration proposal to end studies of the spill in February. One conservation leader says: "Letting Exxon determine how badly Alaskan shores and water are damaged is like letting Count Dracula take inventory at the blood bank. The government seems oblivious to the obvious conflict of interest here." Again, YOU can make a difference! Make your thoughts known to the President and your Senators and Representative in Congress.

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.

Difficulty of field trip:

- Category 1: Easy, up to 1 mile walking, smooth paths
- Category 2: Moderate, 1 mile or more, possibly rough
- Category 3: Difficult, extensive walking, rough terrain

Thursday, February 1, **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. Hawks, Tundra Swans, Sandhill Cranes, and grassland birds. Trip will go in light rain. If questions, call the leader.

Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486

Category 1

Saturday and Sunday, February 10 and 11, **Los Banos and Panoche Valley**. There will be a group dinner Saturday at the Woolgrower's Restaurant in Los Banos. Call trip leader Florence Bennett, 689-3106, for more information. Make your motel reservations now; see December *Quail* for suggestions.

Wednesday, February 14, **Berkeley shoreline**. Carpool 8:00 a.m. on El Nido Rd. Take Acalanes Road exit from Hwy. 24; follow signs for Upper Happy Valley Rd. and park on El Nido. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot at the north end of the Emeryville Marina. Take Hwy. 24, turn north onto I-80. Take the first exit, Powell St., turn left under the freeway and follow Powell to the end. Turn right and drive along Marina Road to the turning circle at the end and park in the lot on the left. May be cold and windy. Many interesting birds turn up along this waterfront each year, including loons, grebes, and bay ducks.

Leader: Barbara Vaughn, 376-8732

Category 1

Saturday, February 24, **Bodega Bay**. Carpool 7:00 a.m., southwest corner of Sun Valley parking lot. Meet 9:00 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 Restaurant is on the left, opposite a Union station. Can be cold and windy.

Leader: Jimm Edgar, 658-2330

Category 1

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

ALTAMONT PASS, December 2.

Twelve members and guests saw 47 species on a beautiful day in east Alameda County. While hawk numbers were well down, the highlights included a Ferruginous Hawk, a Prairie Falcon, and a beautiful dark-phase Red-tailed Hawk. Other highlights included a Sage Thrasher, 70 Long-billed Curlews, 6 Mountain Bluebirds, and 5 Rock Wrens. After the trip, several members saw a Roadrunner in Del Puerto Canyon.

George Finger

NILES CANYON, December 7.

This 70 degree "winter" day was as always a very nice trip for the ten members and guests that went. The usual numbers of waterfowl and shorebirds were not present. Some loss was due to the unusually warm weather that has kept many of the birds further north; other loss is due to the loss of suitable habitat that we saw on the trip. Alameda Creek is dammed and dredged and just does not have the open water, mud flats, and riparian habitat that it once had. Still, we saw 75 species including some good looks at the expected Spotted Sandpiper, Eared and Horned Grebes, and Greater Yellowlegs. A Lincoln's Sparrow and Orange-crowned Warbler added some excitement to the land bird list. This area, because of the isolation created by fencing, creates an almost wilderness feel within an urban setting. I hope there will be a continued effort to keep this area protected so that wildlife will have their own sanctuary.

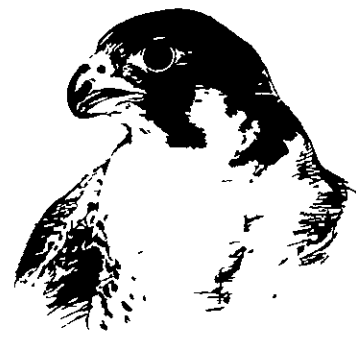
Jimm Edgar

PALO ALTO BAYLANDS, December 13.

The day was clear with a cold wind for the two observers. There were no Black Rails, despite a 7+ tide. Three Clapper Rails were well-observed. The highlight was the two Sharp-tailed Sparrows along the sewage channel. Also, Northern Shovelers were extremely abundant on all the ponds. 56 species total.

Elizabeth Dickey

THE ENDANGERED SPECIES OF CALIFORNIA



**You can help them survive
by filling in LINE 45
on your State Tax Return.**

OBSERVATIONS

By Jean Richmond

Please send observations to Jean Richmond,

125 Via Serena, Alamo, CA 94507, or call 837-2843.

Please include your telephone number with your observations.

NOTE: Next Observations deadline is February 1.

Reddish Egret: 1 dark-morph immature from 12/28-1/9 at Moss Landing. (GF, RH, MP, BR, MOB; also on RBA)

Cattle Egret: 1 on 12/19 atop the aviary at Lake Merritt. (JR, FB)

Wood Duck: 1 female on 1/9 at Palo Alto Baylands' duck pond (JR); 10 on 1/10 along Putah Creek (GF, MP).

Blue-winged Teal: 3 males on 1/2 at Arrowhead Marsh in San Leandro Bay. (JR, FB)

Eurasian Wigeon: male on 1/9 at the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin (RD, JR); 2-3 males on 1/9 at Mountain View Forebay (JA, JR).

Redhead: 33 on 12/11 off W. Frontage Rd. near Powell St., Emeryville (RH); 1 male on 12/19 at Lake Merritt (FB, JR).

Ring-necked Duck: pair on 12/27 at Hidden Lakes Park in Martinez. (FB, JR)

King Eider: 1 male, now in breeding plumage, on 1/9 at the Pt. Reyes Fish Docks. (FB, MJC)

Harlequin Duck: 1 male on 1/9 at MP 14.86 on SR 1 along Bolinas Lagoon. (FB, MJC)

Oldsquaw: 1 from 1/1-1/8 at Moss Landing harbor entrance (GF, MP, BR, CW; also on RBA); 1 on 1/9 at Pt. Reyes Fish Docks (FB, MJC).

Barrow's Goldeneye: 35-40 on 12/19 at Lake Merritt (FB, JR); 2 pair on 1/9 at Bolinas Lagoon (FB, MJC).

Osprey: 1 on 12/15 at Lafayette Reservoir. (G&MJM)

Rough-legged Hawk: 1 on 12/5 near Rock City, Mt. Diablo State Park. (EU)

Golden Eagle: 1 on 12/22 at Lafayette Reservoir. (G&MJM)

Merlin: male on 12/21 in her Martinez yard. (DW)

Heermann's Gull: 1 adult in full breeding plumage on 1/1 at Pebble Beach, San Mateo Co. (GF, KH)

Solitary Sandpiper: 1 from 1/1-1/7 at Pinto Lake near Watsonville. (BR; also on RBA)

Northern Pygmy-Owl: 1 on 1/10 along Putah Creek near Monticello Dam. (GF, MP)

Costa's Hummingbird: 1 from 12/19-12/20 at her Walnut Creek feeder. (GG)

Lewis' Woodpecker: 1 on 12/22 and 12/24 along Iron Horse Trail at Love Lane, Danville. (KA)

Red-naped Sapsucker: female on 12/26 in their south Walnut Creek yard. (L&RH)

Dusky-capped Flycatcher: 1 calling from 12/28-1/9 in Pine Lake Park, SF. (JA, GF, EH, CH, KH; also on RBA)

Canyon Wren: 1 on 12/4 and 12/31 in Pine Canyon, MDSP. (KH)

House Wren: 1 on 12/4 in Pine Canyon. (KH)

Mountain Bluebird: male on 12/4 in Pine Canyon. (KH)

Black-throated Gray Warbler: female from 12/8-1/9 in their Lafayette garden. (B&HA)

Townsend's Warbler: 1 wintering in their Lafayette garden (B&HA); 2 on 1/8 in Curry Canyon, MDSP (KH).

Summer Tanager: female on 1/1 at Pine Lake Park, SF (EH, CH); 1 from 1/1-1/7 along Corralitas Creek behind Watsonville Community Hospital (BR; also on RBA).

Swamp Sparrow: 1 on 1/1 at south end of Lake Merced. SF. (EH, CH)

White-throated Sparrow: 1 adult from 12/19-1/10 in her Alamo garden (JR); 1 on 12/24 in Gen Grave's Walnut Creek garden (KH); 1 on 1/4 at Phipps Ranch on Pescadero Rd., San Mateo Co. (GF, KH).

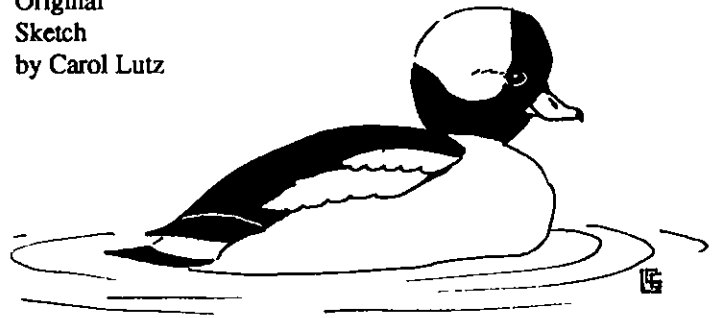
"Slate-colored" Junco: 1 from 12/31-1/10 in her Alamo garden. (JR)

Cassin's Finch: female on 12/3 at Pioneer campground, MDSP. (KH, BR)

Observers: Betty and Harry Adamson, Kamran Alavi, John Ascher, Florence Bennett, Mary Jane Culver, Ruth Dement, George Finger, Gen Graves, Ed Hase, Charlie Hines, Kevin Hintsa, Lura and Ralph Hudgins, George and Molly Jane Monheit, Many Observers, Marjorie Plant, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Everett Utterback, Chuck Wheeler, and Denise Wight. RBA = No. Cal. Rare Bird Alert, 528-0288, changed weekly, usually Tuesday morning; updates, 524-5592, changed frequently, most often daily.

Observations need not be of rarities. Please report common birds in uncommon places, at uncommon times, or doing uncommon things. Do you wonder if a sighting is unusual? Consult *Annotated Birds of Northern California*, available at Lindsay Museum, Nature Company, Natural Instincts, and other natural history outlets.

Original
Sketch
by Carol Lutz



NEW OBSERVATIONS EDITOR

Donna Peake-Klein, our Observations Editor since 1986, has resigned to return to school. As Editor, I wish to thank her for all her work in coordinating the column and wish her the best in her new endeavors. Jean Richmond has agreed to take over as the Observations Editor. Please send future observations to her at the address given above or call her at the number given.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS

The 1989 MDAS Contra Costa County Christmas Count occurred on Saturday, December 30, a generally pleasant day as compared to the last few years. 113 participants in 18 groups and 4 feeder watchers saw 158 species and 33,707 individuals birds. Two birds were seen during the count week, the 3 days before and after the count day. Everyone worked very hard to make this our most successful count. I especially want to thank the group leaders, the visiting birders from Napa-Solano and Ohlone Audubon chapters, and Barbara Vaughn and Winnie Young for their work on the pot-luck dinner.

Rare or unusual birds included Blue-winged Teal in the Pittsburg marshes seen by Ed Hase, Redhead and Tufted Duck seen at Mallard Reservoir by Bob Richmond and Bob Landfear, Lesser Yellowlegs and Short-billed Dowitcher seen by Ed Hase's group, Glaucous Gull seen by Bob Richmond, Burrowing Owl seen by Florence Bennett's group, 20 Mountain Bluebirds found in White Canyon by Kamran Alavi, Solitary Vireo seen near Curry Point on Mt. Diablo by Jim Smith, Hermit Warbler seen at Briones by John Ascher, and the Black-throated Gray Warbler at Betty and Harry Adamson's feeder and White-throated Sparrows at Jean Richmond's and Lynn Farrar's feeders.

Maury Stern, Compiler

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

NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to greet these new MDAS members and hope to meet them at our activities: Mark Amorose, Janet Benson, Barbara Brunell, Patricia Brunell, Janet Caprile, D. Copperman, Mr. Degenhardt, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Eastwood, Thom Gamble, Steven Glover, Roberta Keeble, Rod Keener, Jewel Peterson, Shirley Porter, Donna Preece, Arlene Russell, Joel Summerhill, Mr. and Mrs. P. Tanner, and Stephen Tognoli.

LOST AND FOUND

Found after the Christmas Count Potluck:

A white au gratin dish, a "Grandma" type fork, and a pint jar of dipping Sauce. Call Winnie Young, (707) 745-4134.

Found in Maury Stern's car after a field trip:

A pair of binoculars and a pair of spectacles. Call Maury, 284-5980.

MT. DIABLO SALES

The following recommended birding books are available from the MDAS Sales Manager, Gifford Young, 1451 Janet Court, Benicia, CA 94510, (707) 745-4134. Please make checks payable to MDAS.

Birding Northern California, by Jean Richmond. 72 good spots to bird, from Monterey and Los Banos to the Oregon border. \$9.98 +\$0.72 tax = \$10.70 at MDAS meetings, \$12.05 by mail.

National Geographic Society's *Field Guide to Birds of North America*, Edition II. Comprehensive identification of all birds that nest north of Mexico or migrate through, plus wanderers and exotics. 464 pages. \$14.92 plus \$1.08 tax = \$16.00 at MDAS meetings, \$17.50 by mail.

Best Birding in Napa and Solano Counties. 21 birding hot spots, with directions, time of best birding, birds of interest, rarities. Sketches, some photographs. \$4.00, including tax, at MDAS meetings, \$5.30 by mail.

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 and senior rates available), write a check to National Audubon Society but send it, with letter or subscription card, to the Membership Chairperson, Diane Macario, 2425 Maple Ave., Concord, CA 94520. The Chapter benefits financially from membership applications it processes. Full Audubon membership is encouraged, but subscription to the *Quail* is available separate from membership at \$8/year. The check should be made to MDAS and mailed to the 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 the Treasurer. C

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
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

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The QUAIL

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

President: Barbara Vaughn, 376-8732
VP Conservation: Al McNabney, 945-1785
Treasurer: Florence Bennett, 689-3106
Sales Manager: Gifford Young, (707) 745-4134
Programs: Maury Stern, 284-5980
Field Trips: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486
Membership: Diane Macario, 674-0920
Publicity: Shirley Ellis, 939-9091
Hospitality: Winifred Young, (707) 745-4134
Education: Jan Cooper, 372-8680
Secretary: Britta Cascio, 837-2895

March 1990

Vol. 36 No. 7

Next Deadline: March 8

March Program:

Bats: Myth and Reality

A whirl of wings in a night sky -- it's a bat! Bats are feared and misunderstood creatures which have been exploited, endangered and extirpated in many areas. Pictured as blood-sucking vampires, in reality bats come in diverse sizes from very small to quite large and feed from a wide variety of food sources which include fruits and nectar as well as blood.

At our **March 1** meeting, Dr. Elizabeth Pierson will talk about bats and their role in many ecosystems of the world. Dr. Pierson is an international expert and has been involved in the study and conservation of bats for the past twelve years. She has traveled to Central and South America, Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific. Come join us for new insight into the world of bats as Dr. Pierson discusses the myths, superstitions and realities of bats today.

Barbara Vaughn will show "Saving California's Life" for March Bird Information. This short video is provided by the California Endangered Species Campaign, in conjunction with the California state tax return check-off program.

The April meeting will feature Raj Singh who will speak about "Birds of India."

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

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

The next board meeting will be Thursday, March 8, 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.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

The nominating committee is conducting a search for two officers needed for the 1990-91 year, starting in September 1990. The chapter needs candidates for President and Secretary. Please think about making a contribution of your time to support the organization. Volunteers are appreciated. To volunteer or for more information, please call Shirley Ellis at 939-9091.

CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

OAKLEY - AGAIN!

The ink isn't dry on the new County General Plan. Neither has the proposed (new) General Plan been approved. Despite such "minor" details, a proposed plan to permit construction of thousands of dwellings in Oakley is now up for consideration. Those with long memories will recall that a somewhat similar plan was produced about three years ago. Reason, persuasive argument, and even a bit of pleading failed to sway those determined to see Oakley grow from a wide spot in the road to a major community. Finally, the Sierra Club and MDAS took legal action. Just over two years ago the judge ruled in favor of the people by upholding the action taken by MDAS and the Sierra Club. Finding the new Oakley Plan to be sadly deficient in dealing with problems of infrastructure, MDAS, the Sierra Club, and the Greenbelt Alliance have again taken legal action to prevent the illogical, destructive Oakley Plan from taking effect. The issues involved are traffic, clogged highways, schools, libraries, water, sewage AND a quality of life that residents of CCC have had and don't want to lose.

GENERAL PLAN MOVING ALONG!!!!!!

After MANY months of deliberation, including a couple of years of work by the General Plan Congress, the Plan has been produced. (If you want to buy a copy, it'll cost you about \$45.00.) Unfortunately, the time, effort and concern hasn't produced a Plan that is acceptable. The first public "brush" came January 30 when the County Planning Commission held a hearing on the Environmental Impact Report. MDAS was represented by Kent Fickett, who was joined by M. Perault of the Sierra Club and Mark Evanoff of the Greenbelt Alliance. The issues included projected traffic, air quality and anticipated population based on ABAG projections. Other major issues were public facilities such as schools, libraries, and hospitals, as well as sewage and water services. Inadequately described are sources of funding for roads and other services. What to do about it? MDAS will keep at it until THEY get it right!

MONARCH BUTTERFLY

Is this another tale of "we don't care"? Told 'round the world is the tale of the Monarch Butterfly. It flies thousands of miles at certain times of the year to roost in the trees around Monterey. Suddenly the "esteemed" Monterey City Council is approving development plans for six lots, which will permit removal of the VERY TREES in which the Monarchs come to visit. Who speaks for the Monarch Butterfly? At the outset, there was evidently NO one. For no one in authority raised any question as to what would happen to the butterflies if all their trees were eliminated for a development project. BUT, when the word got out, a fuss was raised and people DID become interested. Now there is some sort of united effort to undo what

the Council hath wrought. Time will tell how sincere is the effort and even more to the point, time will tell if the effort is successful. We'll keep you advised.

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT -

WHAT DEVELOPMENT MEANT TO HIM

Wright believed the guiding principle of the new city must be the harmonization of development with a respect for the land in the interest of creating a beautiful and civilized landscape. To Wright, an "organic" landscape meant more than creating a beautiful vista. It was the social effort to integrate the potentially disruptive effect of the machine in the service of a higher purpose. Robert Fishman, in *Megopolis Unbound*, wrote "The new city must now undertake the difficult task of moving democratically from its virtually unplanned pell-mell growth to planning with a concern for a balanced growth." WE need a Frank Lloyd Wright around here NOW.

THE WINDPOWER ENERGY PROVIDERS AND BIRDS

A few years ago tax breaks were provided to lure investors into creating alternative energy sources. Hills in southern CCC are now covered with "wind energy" machines (a fancy phrase for a windmill). The tax breaks have been eliminated and many of the alternative energy providers are now GONE! Not so in southern CCC. So, what is that to AUDUBON? Researchers have found that many raptors have, for one reason or another, been killed as a result of encounters with windmills. The kills are VERY important, for the numbers are so great we doubt the resident population of raptors can survive, unless something is done to protect the birds from the windmills. Studies have been undertaken, but so far there is NO decision as to what can be done to save birds from being killed by an encounter with a windmill. So far no effective solution is in sight.

MAYHEWS LANDING, A WETLAND UNDER ATTACK

A developer proposes to fill a seasonal wetland near Hayward. "Why?" you ask. The developer, according to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, wants to construct several warehouses. Question: WHY should valuable wetlands be destroyed so MORE warehouse type buildings can be constructed? Right now the proposed wetland destruction is an issue. The Corps of Engineers is giving attention to the proposal, is soliciting comment from the public, and will eventually decide. It is through such actions that remaining bay wetlands are hearing people say, going, going, GONE!!!!!!

SOME DEPRESSING STATISTICS

ICBP studies show in 1988 eleven percent (1029 species) of the world's birds are now threatened with extinction. Just over 10 years ago, a similar worldwide survey concluded 290 avian species were threatened. In 1989 the number of species on the official U.S. endangered and threatened list was 559. In 1970, the number was just 92. In 1989, there are no Dusky Seaside Sparrows. In 1970, there were close to 1000 individuals.

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.

Difficulty of field trip:

Category 1: Easy, up to 1 mile walking, smooth paths

Category 2: Moderate, 1 mile or more, possibly rough

Category 3: Difficult, extensive walking, rough terrain

Thursday, March 1, **Hayward Regional Shoreline**. Carpool 7:45 a.m. at El Cerro Blvd., west of I-680. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in parking lot at the entrance to the Hayward Shoreline Visitor's Center. Take I-680 south to I-580. From I-580, go south on I-880 (Nimitz) to SR 92. Go west toward the San Mateo Bridge and exit at Clawiter Rd. Go straight at signal, and left on Breakwater Ave, to the Visitor's Center. This is a good area for shore birds and water birds.

Leader: Florence Bennett, 689-3106

Category 2

Wednesday, March 7, **Five Brooks - Bolinas Lagoon**. Carpool 7:00 a.m. at southwest corner of Sun Valley parking lot. Meet 8:30 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.

Leader: George Finger, 933-2468

Category 2

Saturday, March 17, **Tomaes Bay State Park**. Carpool 6:30 a.m., Acalanes Ave., off Pleasant Hill Rd., just north of SR 24. Meet at 8:30 a.m. Cross San Rafael Bridge. From US 101, take San Rafael exit, go 2 blocks, turn left onto Sir Frances Drake Blvd. Follow Sir Francis Drake Blvd. through Inverness. Just over the ridge, turn right onto Pierce Pt. Rd. Meet in the parking lot at Heart's Desire Beach (entrance fee).

Leader: Maury Stern, 284-5980

Category 2

Thursday, March 22, **Briones Reservoir**. Meet 7:30 a.m. at Briones Staging area, intersection of Happy Valley and Bear Creek Roads. This is the beginning of spring migration.

Leader: Betty Gallagher, 682-2458

Category 3

Saturday, March 31, **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. Grasslands, some streamside; Grasshopper Sparrow is one possibility. Call Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486, for more information.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

PUTAH CREEK, January 6.

A wonderful day was had by the 32 birders. Highlights included 16 species of ducks including 100 Ring-necked Ducks, Wood Ducks, Common and Hooded Mergansers, Osprey, Ferruginous Hawk, Spotted Sandpiper, White-throated Swifts, Rock and Canyon Wrens, Phainopeplas, and Rufous-crowned and Lincoln's Sparrows. At the end of the trip a Great Horned Owl was heard and a Common Moorhen seen. A total of 88 species were tallied.

Florence Bennett

LAKE MERRITT, January 10.

Ten members and guests enjoyed the lake on a calm, overcast day. We saw the Ross' Goose which has been there for a few days. Three Redheads and a Cattle Egret were also present, and six to ten Barrow's Goldeneyes were seen. A total of 44 species were seen plus five species which are resident at the feeding area and semi-tame.

Elizabeth Dickey

SUNOL REGIONAL PARK, January 18.

An almost unprecedented 19 members and guests enjoyed a cool but beautifully sunny mid-week morning at this, one of the loveliest of the East Bay Regional Parks. It was generally agreed that well worth the trip was a courting display of Golden Eagles overhead, and the awed group watched their aerial ballet, which included diving with folded wings, for several minutes. Either 43 or 44 species were tallied, depending on whether we wished to count a fly-by of a large flock of gull species.

Barbara Vaughn

GRIZZLY ISLAND WILDLIFE REFUGE, January 24.

Twenty-four members and guests turned out for a tour of the refuge led by Ranger Joe Ferera. We were able to see parts of the refuge normally not open to visitors, including Joice Island.

Weather was calm, but hazy; birds were abundant. A total of 67 species were seen. Highlights were three Merlins, a Great-horned Owl, and a Sora. We had several excellent views of Rough-legged Hawks. Mammals seen included the Tule Elk, River Otters, and a Beaver.

Elizabeth Dickey

SAN MATEO COAST, January 27.

Fourteen birders had a wonderful, sunny day along the coast. 87 species of land, water, and shore birds were seen. Highlights were the Rock Sandpiper at Pebble Beach (along with many Surfbirds and eleven Oystercatchers), a Lesser Golden-Plover in Half Moon Bay, and two Oldsquaws at Princeton Harbor.

Elizabeth Dickey

OBSERVATIONS

By Jean Richmond

Please send observations to Jean Richmond,
125 Via Serena, Alamo, CA 94507, or call 837-2843.
Please include your telephone number with your observations.

Red-necked grebe: 1 on 1/10 at the Berkeley Pier at high tide (ED); 1 on 1/30 off the Pt. Reyes Fish Docks (JR).

Cattle Egret: 1 still at Lake Merritt thru 1/16. (JR)

White-faced Ibis: 75 on 1/22 on Santa Fe Grade Rd., Merced NWR and San Luis NWR. (GF, MP)

Tundra Swan: 1 on 1/21 at Pescadero Marsh. (JP)

Snow and Ross' Geese: thousands on 1/22 near the end of the Tour Loop at Merced NWR. (GF, MP)

Ross' Goose: 1 still at Lake Merritt on 1/16. (JR)

"Blue" Goose: 5 on 1/22 at Merced NWR. (GF, MP)

Blue-winged Teal: 1 male, 2 females on 1/15 at Mtn. View Sanitary District. (GF, KH)

Eurasian Wigeon: 1 male on 1/24 at Bolinas Lagoon. (GF, MP)

Tufted Duck: male returned from 1/9 to 1/28 to the old Sutro Baths ruins, SF. (JR, also on RBA)

King Eider: adult male still off the Pt. Reyes Fish Docks thru 1/20. (FB, GF, MP, JR, MOB)

Harlequin Duck: male on 1/11 at MP 14.62 on SR 1 along Bolinas Lagoon. (FB, JR)

Oldsquaw: 1 or 2 off the Pt. Reyes Fish Docks from 1/24 to 1/30. (FB, GF, MP, JR, MOB)

Barrow's Goldeneye: male on 1/11 and 1/18 at MP 15 to 15.67 on SR 1 along Bolinas Lagoon (FB, GF, JR); male on 1/15 at Clifton Court Forebay (GF, KH); female 1/13 to 1/28 at old Sutro Baths ruins (JR, also on RBA).

Ferruginous Hawk: 2 on 1/15 on Hartford Rd., Livermore, and 1 on SR 12 in San Joaquin Co. (GF, KH); 1 on 1/23 at MP 0.5 along Pleasants Valley Rd., Solano Co. (FB, JR, MOB); 1 on 1/24 on Bear Creek Rd., east of Camino Pablo (KA).

Rough-legged Hawk: 1 on 1/15 on Peltier Rd., San Joaquin Co. (GF, KH)

Peregrine Falcon: 1 on 1/18 at Pine Gulch Creek at Bolinas Lagoon. (GF)

Lesser Golden-Plover: 7 on 1/18 at Spaletta Plateau, Pt. Reyes. (GF, also on RBA)

Lesser Yellowlegs: 1 on 1/22 along the Santa Fe Grade Rd. (GF, MP)

Rock Sandpiper: 1 on 1/28 at Johnson's Landing at Hayward Regional Shoreline. (BR)

Glaucous Gull: first-year immature from 1/14 to 1/21 at the Hayward Regional Shoreline. (BR) ⁵²²

Lewis' Woodpecker: 1 on 1/5 along Alhambra Valley Rd. near the old pig farm. (DW)

Dusky-capped Flycatcher: 1 calling, still at Pine Lake Park, SF, thru 1/27. (JR, also on RBA)

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 1 on 1/5 at a water dish in his Lafayette garden. (MS)

Mountain Bluebird: 4 on 1/15 at MP 5.0 on Patterson Pass Rd. (GF, KH); male on 1/30 between the RCA Station and Abandoned Ranch, Pt. Reyes (JR).

Bendire's Thrasher: still at 333 Jahant Rd., Lodi, thru 1/15. (GF, KH)

Orange-crowned Warbler: 1 on 1/22 along with 2 Townsend's Warblers along the Lafayette-Moraga Trail. (MS)

Black-throated Gray Warbler: 1 wintering female still in their Lafayette Garden on 2/1. (B&HA)

White-throated Sparrow: 1 adult still in her Alamo garden as of 2/8. (JR)

"Slate-colored" Junco: 1 still in her Alamo garden as of 2/8. (JR)

Yellow-headed Blackbird: 6 males on 1/15 along SR 160 just north of the Antioch Bridge in a large blackbird flock, mostly Tricoloreds. (GF, KH)

Great-tailed Grackle: pair still at Aquatic Park, SF, thru 1/16. (JR, also on RBA)

Cassin's Finch: 1 photographed on 11/3 and 11/4 in their Concord garden. (B&BG)

Observers: Betty and Harry Adamson, Kamran Alavi, Florence Bennett, Elizabeth Dickey, George Finger, Betty and Bob Gallagher, Kevin Hintsa, Many Observers, Marjorie Plant, Janis Poet, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Maury Stern, and Denise Wight.

RBA = NO. Cal. Rare Bird Alert, 528-0288, changed weekly; updates 524-5592, changed frequently.

Observations need not be of rarities. Please report common birds either in uncommon places, at uncommon times, or doing uncommon things. Do you wonder if a sighting is unusual? Consult *Annotated Birds of Northern California*, available at Lindsay Museum, Nature Company, Natural Instincts, and other natural history outlets.

AUDUBON ECOLOGY CAMPS

MDAS is again sponsoring two half-scholarships for Audubon Camps and Workshops. The selected people may choose from Audubon Camp programs throughout the country. If you are interested in applying for a scholarship, please submit a letter explaining how you would benefit from such a program to Jan Cooper, 1414 Date St., Martinez, CA 94553. You may also call Jan at 372-8680 if you would like further information.

This year National Audubon Society is offering the following camps, field seminars, and workshops: Audubon Camps in Maine and in the West, ecology workshops in Connecticut, Southeastern Arizona, Big Bend National Park, and the Olympic Peninsula in Washington, nature photography field seminars in South Florida and in Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons, a field ecology camp on the Maine coast, and a field ornithology camp in Maine.

TRAVEL CORNER

Aransas National Wildlife Refuge by Vida Dawson

On December 28, 1989, we took a three hour trip south of San Antonio, Texas, to the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge near Rockport, Texas. Despite the fact that our guide said it was the worst day he'd had on the water since the Whooping Cranes arrived, we did see between twenty and thirty Whoopers during the cruise, often at fairly close range. The Whooper family consists of Mom, Pop, and one "baby." The female lays two eggs, but raises only one chick. Other bonuses on the cruise were many Little Blue Herons, Reddish Egrets, Tri-colored Herons, White Ibis, and two Roseate Spoonbills. After a drenching rainstorm, fog settled in and we spent two hours creeping through the fog. We became grounded several times, as the tide was the lowest the captain had ever experienced. The interesting land birds seen in the refuge included the Black-crested Titmouse, Golden-fronted Woodpecker, Caracara, and Brown Thrasher. We also saw alligators, white-tailed deer, and a feral hog.

PHENOMENA, COMMENT AND NOTES

by John P. Wiley jr.

Bird-watching is almost synonymous with harmless eccentricity, a passion that keeps its practitioners from more destructive vices. There is something faintly comical about a group of people, often middle-aged, standing in field or wood with binoculars raised toward a tree branch on which sits a small, mouse-colored organism of the sort a contributing editor here calls "Tweety birds." To the movers and shakers, talking into their car telephones as they race to the airport, birders are irrelevant to the real world. Yet these are the meek who may not so much inherit the Earth as change its future. Sensibly dressed kooks are banding together to save the miner's canary; if they succeed, they will ineluctably save the miner as well.

Birders tend to be low profile, and no one is sure how many there are. Only about 50,000 take part in the annual Christmas counts or subscribe to such serious journals as *American Birds*. But 600,000 field guides are sold every year, and birders spend an estimated \$4 billion traveling to where the wildlife is. The 60 million Americans who feed birds spend another \$500 million annually for more than a million tons of birdseed. Like bitterns hiding in the reeds, they are out there.

Birders have spoken up before. At the turn of the century they stopped the slaughter of egrets for their plumes. In the 1930s they saved the ducks before the last one was shot out of the sky. This time the goal is grander, however: nothing less

than to save the birds of the world, all hundred billion individuals of the 8,700 or so species known so far.

This time is different, too, because the birders are not alone. People who have zero interest in any bird that is not on a platter are taking a personal interest in what is antiseptically called the "environment": the air we breathe and the gases we have put into it that may change the climate; the water in streams and lakes; the ocean itself, no longer perceived as an infinite sink for anything we throw into it. It is not just a question of esthetics this time around: people are scared. It would be easy to see the birders as an insignificant special-interest group in the much larger campaign to keep the Earth livable. But it is the birder who bring an expertise in practical ecology to the campaign: their goals precisely delineate the things that must be done to solve the larger questions of survival.

A few years ago my friend the physicist and I went down to the coast at Chincoteague, Virginia. He saw only the energy in wind, waves and moving sand until a couple of oystercatchers finally caught his eye with their black-white-and-red color scheme. He had always belittled campaigns to save unglamorous, seemingly unimportant species (somehow the infamous snail darter always came up). But when I pointed out that saving a piece of habitat for one endangered species also meant saving that habitat for any number of other plants and animals, including all those necessary invertebrates we pay so little attention to, he brightened: "Now it makes sense."

(Reprinted from the December *Smithsonian*, submitted by Al McNabney.)

GOLF AND BIRDS?

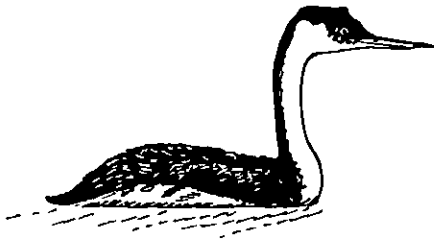
by Jimm Edgar

My good friend Paul, who is a PGA golf professional and a member of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, had an interesting experience recently that he shared with me and I thought would be fun to share with all of you. While playing one of the beautiful golf courses near Napa, California, he and his partner hit their tee shots at a par three hole. As they approached their balls in the golf cart, they saw a Red-tailed Hawk swoop down and sit on one of the balls and begin to peck at the ball with some vigor. Paul began to take photos of this event with the small camera he had and they slowly approached the bird who refused to leave its "prey." Finally, when they got about 20 feet away, the hawk picked up the ball and flew to a nearby thicket of trees. Paul and his partner, now very curious, followed the raptor to its lair and were able to look into a sheltered area and see the hawk again pecking at the ball. At its feet were perhaps a dozen other collected balls. Paul gave me the photo which was taken at about 20 feet, and even though it is taken without a telephoto lens, one can clearly make out the hawk sitting on a golf ball. I have never heard of this behavior, and can only speculate what was the motive. Perhaps the bird thought these were eggs? Or maybe the hawk thought he was playing a Titleist also.

NEW MEMBERS

We are warmly welcome these new MDAS members and hope to meet them at our meetings and field trips: Randal Arnold, Tom Castro, Gilbert Conklin, Barbara B. Corneille, Larry G. Cornell, Ann Marie C. Cowley, Deborah Dobbs, G. J. Halpin, Jamie Harris, Stanley and Velma Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Farrand Holmes, Ted Kyelberg, William Lovi, Donald Marshall, C. M. McConnell, Tamra McPherson, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Mohan, Denise and Leonard Nelson, Joan Noack, Marsha Odell, Gabi Pascher, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Phillips, Catia Saroni, Barry Springer, Andrea Staley, Ryan Stringham, J. L. Wolthausen.

Original
Sketch
by Carol Lutz



DONATIONS TO MDAS

Our society has from time to time received generous donations and bequests given in memory of friends or relatives, or as spontaneous contributions to the society's general activities. Gifts, donations, and bequests are welcomed as significant support of our goals of wildlife appreciation and conservation.

MDAS wishes to express appreciation for donations to the chapter made by Ed Hase, by Bill Chilson, and by Marie Guelld of Oakland in memory of her friend, Lila Van Zanten. Their generosity and support are greatly appreciated.

HELP ENDANGERED SPECIES

Use **LINE 45** on your State Tax Return
to conserve endangered plants and habitat

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 and senior rates available), write a check to National Audubon Society but send it, with letter or subscription card, to the Membership Chairperson, Diane Macario, 2425 Maple Ave., Concord, CA 94520. The Chapter benefits financially from membership applications it processes. Full Audubon membership is encouraged, but subscription to the Quail is available separate from membership at \$8/year. The check should be made to MDAS and mailed to the 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 the 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.

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Education: Jan Cooper, 372-8680
Secretary: Britta Cascio, 837-2895

April 1990

Vol. 36 No. 8

Next Deadline: April 12

April Program:

The Birds of India

The Indian subcontinent stretches north from the Indian Ocean to the Himalayas, and from Pakistan in the west to Bangladesh in the east. The people of India are a fascinating mixture of races, religions, languages, and cultures. Equally fascinating is the mixture of bird life in this country, with more than 1,300 species, including 150 found nowhere else in the world. This diversity results from the overlap of several biogeographical regions. India's avifauna brings together birds from tropical Southeast Asian jungles and temperate northern Eurasian climes, as well as Himalayan and wintering Siberian birds.

Sri Raj Singh leads safaris to India and Nepal for the Nature Company as a naturalist guide. For our April 5 program, he will take us on a slide tour of the Taj Mahal and the Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary, the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve, the "Pink City" of Jaipur, Srinigar and the Vale of Kashmir, the Western Himalayas and the mountain passes of Ladakh, and the Indus River. Join us for a memorable excursion.

As April Bird Information, Jimm Edgar will preview the 1990 Birdathon, with slides and a discussion of the habitats and birds of Contra Costa County.

In May, Dave Shuford from the Point Reyes Bird Observatory will discuss the Pacific Flyway Project, a census of the wetlands of the Pacific Coast.

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

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

The next board meeting will be Thursday, April 12, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Maury Stern, 939 Carol Lane, Lafayette, 284-5980. Board meetings are open to all interested members.

EARTH DAY XX

April 22, 1990

Twenty years after the first Earth Day, Earth Day XX aims to bridge the gap between environmental groups by reinvolving individuals politically and personally. Make your own contribution and commitment to the future of our world; sign and return the GREEN PLEDGE, Page 5!

CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

GARBAGE: WHERE TO PUT IT STILL AN ISSUE

Like molasses oozing from a can in midwinter, the process for establishment of a solid waste landfill for CCC garbage is moving forward. The CCC Board of Supervisors considered the issues involved AGAIN on February 27. Not unlike nervous pedigreed horses at a race starting gate, the Supervisors, with the Honorable Nancy Fahden in the Chair, listened to a staff presentation of the issues (which they probably knew by heart). Honorable Nancy handled the obligations of chair with aplomb and dexterity. Supervisor Torlakson challenged the "right" of Supervisor Schroder to vote on the issue, due to a conflict of interest. Schroder eventually voted in what he asserted did not and would not involve ANY conflict of interest. Supervisor Powers expressed concern about the "cost" of the handling of people's garbage under each proposed project. A staff report showing costs is to be in the hands of the Supes on March 13.

Based on data seen by MDAS people, it is fully expected the staff report will clearly show that costs will be substantially more if the Marsh Canyon site rather than the Keller site is eventually selected as THE site. Supervisor McPeak eventually "took the bull (no pun intended) by the horns" and moved to place the Keller and Garavanta sites on the June ballot. That action was in keeping with advice from county legal staff, as a result of a petition circulated by individuals from the City of Pittsburg. The motion carried, 3 to 2, with Torlakson and Powers voting against. Additional McPeak motions furthered the effort and finally the Supes agreed to hold off on any action regarding Marsh Canyon pending receipt of the staff-developed cost report.

Subsequently, the Sierra Club formally requested the Board to, as a matter of fairness, also place the Marsh Canyon site on the ballot. A motion proposed by Chair Fahden to place Marsh Canyon on the ballot subsequently died for lack of a second (Supervisor McPeak was absent due to the very serious illness of her father). What will be next? Stay tuned.

REGIONAL PLANNING WORKS FOR CONSENSUS ON REGIONAL ISSUES

"Can the Bay Area's unique quality of life be preserved in the face of rapid growth? Thirty-two of the region's best minds have agreed to come together for a year to address that question. Members of the Bay Vision 2020 Commission, a unique public-private partnership study to help chart the future of the Bay Area were introduced on December 14. U. C. Chancellor Ira Michael Heyman leads the new commission. The Commissioners expressed their willingness to look at the big picture rather than represent narrow interests."

(From: *Transactions*, February, 1990)

CALIFORNIA'S VANISHING WILDLIFE

Rose Bonacum, an MDAS member, directs attention to an outstanding photography exhibit. This premier exhibition is presented by Pacific Gas & Electric Company, 245 Market Street, San Francisco, from January 10 through March 30. Photography by Susan Middleton with David Littschwager.

Susan Middleton says: "The central issue of the 1990's will be the protection of the earth's natural systems, upon which all life depends. We are seeing warning signs of trouble and we can avert; endangered species are among those signs. It is time that we see ourselves as part of Nature, not separate from it. Our survival, as well as these threatened species, will depend on respect for our habitat and willingness to live in harmony with it."

TRANSPAC: A REAL ENTITY LOOKING AT TRAFFIC

Transpac is not an acronym for moving a backpack from one shoulder to the other. It is the entity which was created to watch over, review, and make decisions on the allocations of money from the 1/2 cent sales tax. An action of interest was presented by Chuck Gabrysiak at a recent meeting, to form a committee to discuss "alternative proposals for establishing a regional planning review process." Present at the meeting:

Byron Campbell, Concord
Tom Conrad, W. C.
Ann Hall, Clayton
Sunne McPeak, CCC Supervisor
Ron Mullin, Concord
Evelyn Munn, W.C.

Julie Pierce, Clayton
Phyllis Rolf, W.C.
Bob Olney, P. H.
Ward Pynn, Concord
Jeff Smith, Martinez
Terri Williamson, P. H.

More on these matters in the months to come.

THICK-BILLED PARROT PROGRAM

Formerly indiginous in Arizona, the Thick-billed Parrot was literally wiped out by hunting. Luckily the species still exists in northern Mexico, although becoming endangered due to the destruction of habitat. In the fall of 1986, 29 parrots, some wearing radio collars, were released in southern Arizona. Of these, seven birds were quickly lost, probably due to being "taken" by hawks. Eight birds were seen headed for Mexico (isn't that a switch?), and the remaining fourteen remained in Arizona. The birds stayed in the Chiricahua Mountains area, then moved to the Graham Mountains. The birds returned to the Chiricahuas about New Year's. By mid-June, 1987, the group consisted of seventeen birds. In mid-summer, the birds again flew northwest to the Mogollon Rim of central Arizona. Recent sightings indicate the birds have mated and bred. These observations indicate a number of problems exist in release of captive-bred birds. The birds have difficulty feeding, watching for predators, and seemingly do not understand the benefits of "flocking." A recent publication commented on the release program in this way: "The Thick-billed Parrot is not yet re-established in Arizona, although the release effort is so far very encouraging."

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.

Difficulty of field trip:

Category 1: Easy, up to 1 mile walking, smooth paths

Category 2: Moderate, 1 mile or more, possibly rough

Category 3: Difficult, extensive walking, rough terrain

Wednesday, April 4, North Briones Wildflower Walk. Meet at 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 5th 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. We will see grassland and woodland wild flowers as well as birds.

Leader: John Davis, 228-9516

Category 2

Thursday, April 12, 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. Both land and water birds, spring migrants. This is a good place for Pileated Woodpecker.

Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486

Category 2

Saturday, April 14, Donner Canyon. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at trail head at the end of Regency Dr. From I-680, go east on Ygnacio Valley Rd., (becomes Marsh Creek Rd. in Clayton), turn right onto Regency Dr. about 1/2 mile past the center of Clayton. Carry lunch and liquids.

Leader: Kamran Alavi, 831-0617

Category 3

Wednesday, April 18, Ida Clayton Road. Carpool 6:30 a.m. southwest corner of Sun Valley parking lot. This area is north of Calistoga in the Napa County mountains. This is a car birding trip and we will not have a meeting place in Napa County. Carpooling is important because of limited parking space on some roads. Possible Mountain Quail; wildflowers.

Leader: Florence Bennett, 689-3106

Category 1

Thursday, April 26, Del Puerto Canyon. Carpool at 7:45 a.m. at El Cerro Blvd., just west of I-680. Meet west of I-5 at Patterson Exit. Grasshopper Sparrow, Roadrunner, and Costa's Hummingbird are possible.

Leader: Florence Bennett, 689-3106

Category 1

Saturday, April 28, Mines Road. Call for reservations and carpool instructions. Because of limited turn-out 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. Can be hot; bring lunch and liquids. Roadrunner, Wild Turkey, Costa's Hummingbird, Phainopepla, Lawrence's Goldfinch, and Lewis's Woodpecker are all possibilities.

Leader: Jean Richmond, 837-2843

Category 1

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

THORNTON, February 1.

There were high clouds and a cold wind in the afternoon, but six birders had an excellent day in the Delta. Sandhill Cranes and Tundra Swans were both abundant. One Ferruginous Hawk was seen. The Bendire's Thrasher appeared promptly at Jayhant Road and sang for us. Forty species were seen through lunchtime. Another seventeen were added by the viewers in one car at the Stockton Ponds.

Elizabeth Dickey

LOS BANOS AND PANOCHE VALLEY, February 10-11.

Ideal weather was enjoyed by 30 birders. The highlights along Santa Fe Grade were 3 Bald Eagles, a Golden Eagle, a Prairie Falcon, 2 American Bitterns, a Sora, many White-faced Ibis, 1 male Yellow-headed Blackbird, and 3 Blue-winged Teal, with 25 Tundra Swans on the south section. At Merced NWR, we had many geese, Sandhill Cranes, White-faced Ibis, and 100 Long-billed Curlews. The highlights of the Panoche Valley portion of the trip were the Mountain Bluebirds, Mountain Plovers, 1 Bald Eagle, 7 Ring-necked Ducks, 75 Tri-colored Blackbirds, and a Greater Roadrunner on the BLM access road. On Panoche Pass Road we had 3 Lewis' Woodpeckers, Western Bluebird, and a Phainopepla. Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks were seen both days. Weekend total species: 112.

Florence Bennett

BERKELEY SHORELINE, February 14.

A clear but cold, WINDY day still brought forth twelve birders to find a respectable assortment of ducks and other waterfowl at the Emeryville Marina and Berkeley Aquatic Park. Eschewing the short pier at Emeryville for a more sheltered location, the group found 52 species, including a group of about eight Red-breasted Mergansers beginning their courting display.

Barbara Vaughn

BODEGA BAY, February 24.

Balmy 70 degree warmth brought out 26 people, many of whom were new members and guests. The highlight of the day, from a bird species standpoint, was the Oldsquaw that conveniently stayed right in front of where we had elected to have lunch. This gave everyone an excellent view of this rare visitor from the north. It was a life bird for many on the trip. We saw a total of 96 species including three loon species, lots of waterfowl, and good looks at Surfbird and Black Oystercatcher.

Jimm Edgar

OBSERVATIONS

By Jean Richmond

Please send observations to Jean Richmond,
125 Via Serena, Alamo, CA 94507, or call 837-2843.

Please include your telephone number with your observations.

Red-throated Loon: 1 on 2/10 at Clifton Court Forebay. (BR)
Red-necked Grebe: on 2/19, 1 off Coast Guard pier and 1 at Pt. Pinos, Monterey Co. (GF, MP)

Northern Fulmar: 20 on 2/19 off Pt. Pinos (GF, MP); 3 on 2/22 in Monterey Harbor (FB, JR).

Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel: 6 on 2/19 in Monterey Harbor (GF, MP); many on 2/22 well off Pt. Pinos (JR, FB).

Tundra Swan: many more than have been seen in several years in the Thornton area, on 2/16. (FB, JR, MOB)

Snow Goose: ~1,000 on 3/3 near SR 12 on Andrus Island. (G&WY)

Brant: 1 on 2/23 at Princeton Harbor (G&TF); 100's on 3/1 on Tomales Bay, from Millerton SP to Marshall (H&NB).

Wood Duck: pair on 2/21 along Putah Creek Rd. (MP); female on 2/24 along Chileño Valley Rd. (Bo&BG, MJC); up to 6 thru 3/4 in San Ramon Creek behind his Alamo home (JK).

Blue-winged Teal: on 2/15, 3 males at Shell Marsh and 1 male at Mountain View Sanitary District. (MP)

Eurasian Wigeon: male on 2/18 at Clifton Court Forebay (BR); female on 3/1 on Tomales Bay (H&NB).

Redhead: male on 2/10 on Marsh Creek Reservoir. (BR)

Oldsquaw: 4 on 2/19 in Moss Landing Harbor (GF, MP); 1 on 2/20 behind Johnson's Oyster Farm at Schooner Bay, Pt. Reyes (FB, JR); on 2/22, 1 off Coast Guard pier and 4 in Moss Landing Harbor (FB, JR); on 2/27, 1 at San Gregorio SB and 2 in Princeton Harbor, San Mateo Co. (FB, JR, et al)

Barrow's Goldeneye: 1 adult male, 1 imm. male, 7 females on 2/10 at Clifton Court Forebay, and 1 male, 2 females there on 2/18. (BR)

Hooded Merganser: 3 males on 2/21 along Putah Creek Rd. (MP); 6 pairs on 2/24 on a little farm pond on Chileno Valley Rd. (Bo&BG, MJC).

Bald eagle: 2 adults on 2/13 at Lake Hennessey. (GF, MP)

Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 on 2/22 atop Russian Hill, SF. (T&MP)

Ferruginous Hawk: 5 adults on 2/5 along Panoche Pass Rd. (GF, MP); 1 on 2/20 at Petaluma Rd. and Novato Blvd, Pt. Reyes. (FB, JR).

Golden Eagle: adult on 2/15 over Marina Vista exit of I-680. (MP)

Sandhill Crane: ~2,000 on 3/3 along Woodbridge Rd. (G&WY)

Lesser Golden-Plover: 1 on 2/23 at Spaletta Plateau, Pt. Reyes. (MJC)

Mountain Plover: ~200 on 2/5 along Little Panoche Rd., 3 miles north of Panoche Pass Rd. (GF, MP); 2 on 2/10 in field north of Clifton Court Rd. (BR).

Ruff: 1 from 2/24 thru 3/5 at Hayward RS, near San Lorenzo Creek. (BR, R&JR, GF, KH, MP; also on RBA)

Possible Aleutian Canada Goose at Lake Hennessey, S. Alameda Co., on 2/27 & 3/3 - G & WY.

Tufted Duck, still at old Sutter Bank ruins, SF on 2/13 FB, JR
Costa's Hummingbird, still at her WB feeder thru 2/24 - G & WY
Dusky-capped Flycatcher, still at Pichele Pt, SF, thru 3/2 - FB & JR

Glaucous Gull: imm. on 2/18 at Clifton Court Forebay. (BR)
Black-legged Kittiwake: 1 on 2/10 at Pt. Pinos (DW); 1 on 2/19 off Cannery Row, Monterey, (GF, MP); 1 on 2/22 in Monterey Harbor (JR, FB); 1 on 2/23 at Bean Hollow SB, San Mateo Co. (T&GF).

Common Murre: oiled bird picked up on 2/10 on a Monterey beach, delivered to the Monterey Aquarium. (DW)

Thick-billed Murre: 1 on 2/19 off Cannery Row. (GF, MP)

Ancient Murrelet: 1 on 2/19 off Coast Guard pier. (GF, MP)

Rhinoceros Auklet: 10 on 2/19 between Monterey Harbor and Pt. Pinos (GF, MP); 50 there on 2/22 (JR, FB); 3 on 2/29 off Pigeon Pt. (JR, FB).

Northern Pygmy-Owl: 2 on 2/13 at Lake Hennessey, one 0.2 mile up Chiles and Pope Valley Rd., the other opposite the boat ramp at the south end of the lake. (GF, MP)

Vaux's Swift: 1 on 2/13 over Great Highway at Fulton St., SF. (JR, FB)

Allen's Hummingbird: returned on 2/5 to ^{her} ~~his~~ Alamo garden. (JK)

Lewis' Woodpecker: 1 on 2/5 along Panoche Pass Rd., 8.6 miles west of Little Panoche Rd. (GF, MP)

Red-naped Sapsucker: male on 2/27 at Sunset Picnic Area, Mt. Diablo SP, (BG, MJC); still there thru 3/6 (GF, MP, R&JR, MOB)

Violet-green Swallows: returned on 2/16 to Lafayette Reservoir. (MS)

Northern Rough-winged Swallows: returned on 2/27 to I-680 at Rudgear Rd. (T&GF)

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 1 on 2/16 in her Alamo garden. (JR)

Western Bluebird: 40 on 2/5 along Panoche Pass Rd., 8.6 miles west of Little Panoche Rd. (GF, MP)

Mountain Bluebird: 4 on 2/10 along Concord Avenue near Brentwood. (BR); all along Little Panoche Rd on 2/5 - GF, MP.

Sage Thrasher: 1 on 2/5 near MP-8 on Little Panoche Rd. (GF, MP)

Phainopepla: 1 on 2/5 along Panoche Pass Rd., 8.6 miles west of Little Panoche Rd. (GF, MP); male on 2/11 at Athenian School, Danville, the first he has seen in his 13 years there (JB); a female on 2/27 on N. Gate Rd. at Mt. Diablo park boundary (MJC, BG).

White-throated Sparrow: 1 on 2/13 at Pine Lake Park (FB, JR); 1 on 2/13 behind Pescadero High School, San Mateo Co., (T&GF); 1 on 2/26 at MP-5.81 on Wooden Valley Rd. off SR-121, Napa Co., (GF, MP), 1 still in her Alamo garden thru 3/5 - JK

"Slate-colored" Junco: 1 on 2/23 in his Danville yard. (JB); 1 still in her Alamo garden thru 3/8 - JK

Previously reported birds which continue to be seen through given date: Tufted Duck (2/13), Costa's Hummingbird (2/24), Dusky-capped Flycatcher (3/2), Bendire's Thrasher (2/18), Summer Tanager (3/2), White-throated Sparrow (3/8), "Slate-colored Junco" (3/8). See February and March Quails for details.

Observers: Hugh and Norah Bain, Florence Bennett, Joe Broyles, Mary Jane Culver, George and Toni Finger, Bob and Betty Gallagher, Gen Graves, Kevin Hintsa, Jim Ketsdever, Many Observers, Ted and Marjorie Plant, Bob Richmond, Rich and Jean Richmond, Maury Stern, Denise Wight, Gifford + Winnie Young, Nucal Kare and Alex

RBA= No. Cal. Rare Bird Alert, 528-0288.

Bendire's Thrasher, 1 still on Salsbery Rd., Lodi, thru 2/18 - FB, JR, R&JR

Summer Tanager, still at Pichele Pt, SF, thru 3/2 - JR, FB, JK

Chicken, atop Russian Hill, SF, (1) - T & MJC

Consult Ads at N. Cal. - see May issue.
Habitat: Panoche, 100 off Pt. Pinos on 2/19 - GF, MP.

EARTH DAY XX

The average citizen is increasingly estranged from environmental affairs. At one end, the environmental organizations try to accumulate members, at the other end, they lobby or litigate in their members' names. There is often little for members to do but send in their dues. For many of us, that is not enough.

Dennis Hayes, a California lawyer, is hoping to change this. Hayes is trying to organize another Earth Day for April 22, 1990, twenty years after the first Earth Day. He hopes to build a lasting political coalition that will decisively change both the way we act and the way we vote on environmental questions. Hayes' idea is to build this political coalition by getting people to act within their own lives. Says Hayes, "The battle for a sustainable planet cannot be fought by mercenary armies. You must act as you would have your society act."

On Earth Day XX, participants will have the opportunity to sign pledges recognizing the magnitude of the environmental problems and promising to take steps to change their lives in such a way as to solve them. Recycle more, use less, drive less or at least drive a car that gets better gas mileage, refuse to use plastic foam containers, cut up plastic 6-pack holders, work to get local auto mechanics to recycle freon from auto air conditioners. If you're worried about the environment, there is a huge array of things you can do. Doing something concrete with your life generates a commitment and if that commitment is strong enough, the political leaders will have to honor it!!

(Exerpted from "Bridging the Gap - Can Earth Day 1990 Bring Together Greens and Mainline Conservationists," P. Steinhart, *AUDUBON Magazine*, January, 1990. Submitted by Sharyn Fernandez.)

EARTH DAY ACTIVITES

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY EARTH DAY FESTIVAL

MDAS will have a booth at the CCC Earth Day Festival on Sunday, April 22. The Festival will be from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Todos Santos Park in Concord, on Willow Pass Road, 1.5 miles east of I-680. The festival will include, among other things, music, environmental exhibits and films, an art exhibit, a zoomobile, games, and a toxics round-up for the collection of lead-acid auto batteries, used automobile oil, and household latex paint.

SAN FRANCISCO BAY DEDICATION

Members of the public are invited to a ceremony, celebrating the dedication of San Francisco Bay as a Hemishperic Reserve site in the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Game, the California Department of Parks and Recreation, the City of Mountain View, the East

Bay Regional Park District, the Mid-Peninsula Regional Park District, Point Reyes Bird observatory, and the National Audubon Society will all join together to celebrate the dedication of their lands in WHSRN. The Consul General of Peru and representatives from Canada will join in the ceremony, recognizing the link between our countries formed by shared shorebirds. The event will begin with a walk at 10:00 a.m. on April 22 at the San Leandro Bay Regional Park, at Arrowhead Marsh in San Leandro. The dedication ceremony will follow at 11:00 a.m.

NATIVE FORESTS OF THE AMERICAS CONFERENCE

MDAS is co-sponsoring a conference as part of Earth Day activities on "Native Forests of the Americas" with the Santa Clara Audubon Society and others. The conference will be held Saturday, May 5, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Stanford University. The conference will bring together leading conservationists, biologists, political strategists, and others to explore the biology and conservation of temperate and tropical forests of the Americas. Presentations will include panel discussions, keynote addresses, workshops, videos, and an art show. For more information, contact the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society at (415) 329-1811.

EARTH DAY 1990 GREEN PLEDGE

I PLEDGE TO DO MY SHARE IN SAVING THE PLANET BY LETTING MY CONCERN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT SHAPE HOW I:

ACT: I pledge to do my utmost to recycle, conserve energy, save water, use efficient transportation, and try to adopt a lifestyle as if every day were EARTH DAY.

PURCHASE: I pledge to do my utmost to buy and use those products least harmful to the environment. Moreover, I will, to the maximum extent possible, do business with corportations that promote global environmental responsibility.

VOTE: I pledge to vote and support those candidates who demonstrate an abiding concern for the environment.

SUPPORT: I pledge to support the passage of local, state, and federal laws and international treaties that protect the environment.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Complete this coupon and send to Earth Day 1990, P. O. AA, Stanford, CA 94309. The Richardson Bay Audubon Society will send them to President Bush on April 22. Join those who are letting President Bush know they are taking the GREEN PLEDGE.

NEW MEMBERS

It is with great pleasure that we greet these all new MDAS members and hope to meet them soon: Mr. and Mrs. William Almy, M. Alosi, Mr. and Mrs. Jon Amdur, Sandy Andersen, David Anglvin, Anne Babcock, Jaye Ballard, Charlotte Barr, Maria Belo, Dean Biagi, Virginia Billings, Helen Black, Mary Black, David Blount, Susan Booth, Stephen G. Boyer, Allen Boyesen, Teresa Bradshaw, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Brandt, Larry Brassea, Travis Brown, Edgar M. Buttner, Karen Carr, Jayne Cavalli, Mark Cavanaugh, Margaret Coffey, Micheal Colvin, R. M. Cooper, Mrs. Edgar Dakin, David Davis, Jr., N. De Lu, Bernice De Rojas, Roger Draper, Paul Dryor, Mrs. Donald Duncan, Chuck Eckerman, John Eckstrom, Michael Ehresman, Bonnie Eisenberg, Lori Ellis, Karl Engdahl, Mrs. W. D. Epperson, Miriam Epstein, Walter Ettlin, Donald Fisher, Steve Flitcroft, Betty Franceschi, Merry Frank, Sonia Fussell, Diane Gates, Janet and Ron Goodman, V. Gray, Robert Harding, Marian Heinrich, Ellie Higgins, Marilyn Holloway, Glenn Hori, Ann Hughes, J. Irwin, Mary and Anthony Izzi, Jr., Leon James, Georganna Johnston, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Jones, Alfred Kautzi, Lisa C. Khinoo, June Kirske, Luann

Kresevich, Salvador Lastrucci, Philip Lathrap, Richard Laton, Michele Layne, Mrs. John Leahy, Richard Lendrum, Tari Lerner, Barber Letz, Pat Madden, Steve Maron, Richard and Kathleen Marshall, Marian Mason, Mary McCormick, Phyllis McKenna, Diane Miller, Helen Mitchell, Phil and Linda Myers, Aron Myhre, Jr., Rosemary Neeley, Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Nelson, Elizabeth Neumann, Marguerite Newgarden, C. M. O'Keefe, William Patterson, Geraldine Payne, Eugene Pearson, Christina Pennes, Dorothy Peterson, Christine Phillips, Helen Ravenscroft, Frances Reimer, Peter Robertshaw, Betty Romeo, Norman Rubin, Gary Ryan, Alicia Santiago, Larry Sauers, Jeff Schletz, Terry S. Segerberg, Lela Shewry, Dan Sifter, Marianne Siino, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Smith, Cindy Smith, Pearl B. Smith, James Sofford, III, Mr. A. Spencer, Burton D. Staples, Kaye Steele, Constance Stokes, Greta Stratman, Scott Talan, Fred Thompson, Gary Thompson, John Thompson, Dorothy Tiu, Diane Tomkins, Dan Tonelli, Arelene Vaala, C. Kinney Valkevich, Gene Vassel, William Vencill, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Vrmeer, Richard Waldo, Mr. Waterbury, Kathleen Wells, Patricia Willacker, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wilson, Greta Wilson, Robert Wilson, Robert Wood, Leon Wyrick, and Mark Yoder.

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 and senior rates available), write a check to National Audubon Society but send it, with letter or subscription card, to the Membership Chairperson, Diane Macario, 2425 Maple Ave., Concord, CA 94520. The Chapter benefits financially from membership applications it processes. Full Audubon membership is encouraged, but subscription to the Quail is available separate from membership at \$8/year. The check should be made to MDAS and mailed to the 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 the 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.*

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Secretary: Britta Cascio, 837-2895

May 1990

Vol. 36 No. 9

Next Deadline: May 10

May Program:

The Pacific Flyway Project

Dave Shuford of the Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory will present our May 3 program on the Pacific Flyway Project. This major effort to census the shorebird populations from British Columbia to Baja California was begun in 1988 to document the role of North American wetlands in supporting major shorebird populations and assess the impact of disappearing wetlands. About 70% of California's coastal wetlands have already been degraded or destroyed. PRBO plans to measure shorebird use in every major wetland in the Pacific Flyway, document the threats to these critical habitats and develop a comprehensive picture of shorebirds' current status and future prospects. Information has come from the Fraser River Delta in British Columbia, the Bowerman Basin in Washington, the major California wetlands, and the estuaries of Baja California, as well as Mono Lake, the Salton Sea, and the Great Salt Lake. Locally, the Pt. Reyes/Bodega wetlands, San Francisco Bay, and Elkhorn Slough are of critical importance in supporting wintering and migratory shorebirds.

Dave Shuford has been a PRBO staff biologist in the Coastal and Estuarine Research section since 1975. He has lived for several summers among California Gulls nesting at Mono Lake. Dave is currently working on the completion of the Marin County Breeding Bird Atlas and has co-authored the recently published *Plant Communities of Marin County*. He also leads field trips for Natural Excursions.

Jan Cooper will share her bird nest collection with us for the May Bird Information.

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

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

Because of problems with theft, the door to the center is usually locked before 7:30. If the door is locked, go left around the building to the second door and knock.

The next board meeting will be Thursday, May 10, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Jean Richmond, 125 Via Serena, Alamo, 837-2843. Board meetings are open to all interested members.

Election of Board Members - Page 5

New Peterson Field Guide - Page 6

CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

OUR VANISHING SPECIES --

A DISASTER IN THE MAKING

Throughout the world, activities of man are taking a heavy toll on plants, animals and all sorts of "creatures." Because of our activities, one or two species are now being lost every day. That brings to mind the adage, "Extinction is forever." A recent, discouraging news report commented: "Some scientists estimate of the five to ten million species on earth today, one million will go by the turn of the century." Clearly we cannot continue to "do business as usual," if we intend to have an earth worthy of being lived on and worthy of being passed on to future generations. Where do we start? First we have to recognize the problems are extremely serious and are very real. We have to act, in our everyday lives, in ways that will be helpful. Decision makers have to learn the time for disregard of the consequences of major decisions about building and land uses is past. As Supervisor McPeak said at the CCC Earth Day, "Think globally, but ACT locally."

VISION FOR A BETTER CONTRA COSTA

Petitions designed to permit voters to determine the future of the county in matters such as agricultural lands, open space, wildlife habitat, and urban limit lines are now being circulated. The goal is to obtain 35,000 registered CCC voter signatures by early June. This important initiative, brought by MDAS, the Greenbelt Alliance, and the Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club, has several major objectives. Among its goals are to preserve prime agricultural land and to define, through the year 2010, the county's agricultural, intensive agricultural, open space and watershed lands. It allows for residential, commercial, industrial and other urban development in specified areas. This initiative effort will be a major factor in determining what CCC will look like and be in the next 20 years.

OAKLEY SETTLED

The legal action taken as a result of a proposal to permit major development in the Oakley area has served its purpose. The County Counsel advises there is a willingness to drop the individual proposal for implementing growth in the Oakley area. The Oakley proposal will in all likelihood be incorporated (in some form) in the new County General Plan. When that happens, the proposal for Oakley will HAVE to conform with other provisions of the Plan. Such things as traffic, open space, and agricultural land, as well as various services, will have to be provided for in the context of the new General Plan. The legal action brought by the Greenbelt Alliance, Sierra Club, and MDAS was a necessary action to bring the proposed new General Plan and all actions that SHOULD be thereunder into conformity. Contrary to assertions, the legal action was not brought to hold Oakley hostage or to prevent farmers from selling farm lands. It was brought because planning processes were not being followed.

MDAS MEETS WITH LEGISLATORS

MDAS and others interested in wetland issues met with CA Assemblymen William Baker and Phil Isenberg and Senator Dan Boatwright's main aide Barry Brokaw to discuss safeguards for remaining wetlands. An upbeat, productive session made it clear that at least these representatives of the people understand and are determined to protect remaining wetlands. Baker and Isenberg have jointly introduced several environmental bills for consideration and action by the legislators. These important proposals are:

- AJR 80 (Isenberg-Baker) North American Waterfowl Management Plan
- AB 4325 (Baker-Isenberg) Central Valley Wetlands Conservancy Program
- AF4326 (Isenberg-Baker) Survey of State-owned Wetlands in the Central Valley
- AB 4327 (Isenberg-Baker) Wetlands Mitigation
- AB 4328 (Baker-Isenberg) Reclaimed Water for Refuges

Assemblyman Isenberg was honored at the three-day Audubon Convention in Asilomar for his ecology activities.

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY EARTH DAY

CCC's Earth Day activities were kicked off on April 12, with Supervisors Nancy Fahden, Sunne Wright McPeak and Tom Torlakson center stage at the one day event. Sponsored by the CCC Board of Supervisors, the affair was attended by CCC Board of Supervisors Chairperson Nancy Fahden, Pacific Bell's Director of Environmental Policy Floyd Dean, the Mayor of San Ramon Mary Lou Oliver, and Linelle Johnson, District Aide to Congressman George Miller.

A SAD DAY

Cracker, a Sulpher Crested Cockatoo

(Galerita Galerita)

native Aussie

hatched 1970 -- expired April 4, 1990

Came to her adopted home in America in late 1981

Is now missed!

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.

Difficulty of field trip:

Category 1: Easy, up to 1 mile walking, smooth paths

Category 2: Moderate, 1 mile or more, possibly rough

Category 3: Difficult, extensive walking, rough terrain

Wednesday, May 2, **Briones Park - West**. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in parking lot on the right hand side of the west entrance road, off Bear Creek Rd. Wildflowers, spring birds. Lazuli Buntings are usually abundant. Poison oak along shaded trails. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0480. Category 2

Saturday, May 5, **Back Canyon Wildflowers**. **Note** that site has been changed on advice of co-leaders, Gen Sattler and Mary Jane Culver. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at end of Regency Drive in Clayton. From I-680, go east on Ygnacio Valley Rd., (becomes Marsh Creek Rd. in Clayton), turn right on Regency Dr., about 1/2 mile past center of Clayton. This is a bird and wildflower walk on the east side of Mt. Diablo in a new area for our group. For more information, call Mary Jane Culver, 682-0509. Category 3

Thursday, May 10, **Mt. Diablo**. Carpool 7:30 a.m. at 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. Carry liquids. Leader: Jimm Edgar, 658-2330. Category 3

Saturday, May 19, **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 left onto Cypress Rd. Possibilities include Blue Grosbeak, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Yellow-breasted Chat, flycatchers, and Burrowing Owl. Hot. For information, call Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486. Category 2

Wednesday, May 23, **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 SR 20 to US 99. Go south on US 99 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. Mosquitos, possibly poison oak. San Joaquin Valley weather. Leader: Maury Stern, 284-5980. Category 2

Thursday, May 31, **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 liquids, the area can be hot. Grasshopper Sparrows are often found as well as other grassland and oak wood birds.

Leader: Barbara Vaughn, 376-8732

Category 2

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

HAYWARD REGIONAL SHORELINE, March 1.

Highlights of our trip for the 15 birders included a pair of Black Scoters, two pair of Blue-winged Teal, and four Burrowing Owls at Arrowhead Marsh, and a Eurasian Wigeon at Hayward Regional Shoreline. Our total species for the day was 73.

Florence Bennett

FIVE BROOKS - BOLINAS LAGOON, March 7.

Twelve members enjoyed a pleasant day birding Bolinas Harbor and the Five Brooks area. Highlights included male Eurasian Wigeon and Harlequin Ducks in the harbor and Wood Ducks and Ring-necked Ducks at Five Brooks. A total 81 species were observed, including a pair of Ospreys fishing in the harbor.

George Finger

TOMALES BAY, March 17.

Thirty members and guests spent a beautiful St. Patrick's Day at Tomales Bay State Park, visiting three beaches, hiking through oak and Bishop pine forests and viewing the birds in Tomales Bay. 65 species were seen or heard but the pair of Spotted Owls thought to be there eluded us. The highlights included Peregrine Falcon, Spotted Sandpiper, adult male Rufous and Allen's Hummingbirds (worth the price of admission alone), Belted Kingfishers in courtship flight, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Tree Swallows, Pygmy Nuthatches, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Warbling Vireo, and Orange-crowned, Townsend's and Hermit Warblers.

Maury Stern

BRIONES RESERVOIR, March 22.

On a day of intermittent clouds and sunny weather, 24 guests and members enjoyed seeing 60 species of water and land birds. Highlights were the White-throated Sparrow, Yellow Warbler and Varied Thrush.

Betty Gallagher

GARIN REGIONAL PARK, March 31.

On a calm day during which the early morning low clouds and overcast cleared after 11:00, eight people had excellent birding. One of the two Prairie Falcons showed just how fast a falcon can fly. Also seen were a Common Snipe and a Lewis' Woodpecker, both unusual there, and a Rufous Hummingbird and a singing Black-headed Grosbeak, both of which had arrived early for this area. A total of 62 species were tallied on the trip.

Bob Richmond

OBSERVATIONS

By Jean Richmond

Please send observations to Jean Richmond,
125 Via Serena, Alamo, CA 94507, or call 837-2843.

Please include your telephone number with your observations.

American White Pelican: 60 on 4/1 at San Luis NWR, Merced Co. (R&JR)
Green-backed Heron: 1 on 3/13 at Lake Solano Co. Park. (H&NB)
White-faced Ibis: 35 on 4/1 at San Luis NWR. (R&JR)
Snow Goose: 1 on 3/27 at North Lake, Golden Gate Park. (JR) *et al*)
"Aleutian" Canada Goose: 1 on 3/14 at Lake Herman, Solano County. (G&WY, CO)
Garganey: imm. male 3/27 thru 4/10 at Bolinas Sewer Ponds. (KH, MOB)
Blue-winged Teal: pair on 3/13 at Arrowhead Marsh (JR, FB) *et al*); male from 3/27 thru 4/10 at Bolinas Sewer Ponds (KH, MOB).
Eurasian Wigeon: male on 4/3 at north end of Bolinas Lagoon (JR) *et al*)
Ring-necked Duck: 1 on 3/20 at Orinda Woods Pond. (H&NB)
Tufted Duck: adult male still at Stow Lake, GGP thru 3/31 (JR, MOB); moved to Lake Merced, 4/7 (GF, MOB).
Harlequin Duck: male at MP 15.32 on SR 1, Bolinas Lagoon, thru 4/7. (FB, JR, GF, MOB)
Oldsquaw: male on 4/3 off Doran Beach, Bodega Bay. (H&NB)
Black Scoter: pair at Arrowhead Marsh thru 3/13. (FB, JR) *et al*)
Barrow's Goldeneye: female at MP 15.32 on SR 1, Bolinas Lagoon, thru 4/7. (FB, JR, MOB)
Hooded Merganser: male, 2 females on 3/6 at Corte Madera Ecological Reserve (FB, JR) *et al*); 1 on 3/13 at Lake Solano (H&NB).
Common Merganser: 5 males, 25 females on 3/4 and 3/11 on Crow Canyon Country Club Lake, San Ramon. (RH)
Osprey: 1 on 3/5 at Lafayette Reservoir. (H&NB)
Swainson's Hawk: 3, including pair at nest, on 4/1 at San Luis NWR. (R&JR)
Ferruginous Hawk: 1 on 3/9 along Myrtle Dr. off Bailey Rd., Concord (KA); 1 on 3/21 over Sunset Picnic Area, Mt. Diablo SP (FB, JR, BoG); 1 on 4/2 over I-5 in Stanislaus Co. (JR).
Golden Eagle: 1 carrying a striped skunk on 3/5 over Sunol Regional Wilderness. (GF, MP)
Blue Grouse: 2 males on 3/19 along King Ridge Rd., Sonoma Co. (GF, MP, PG)
Sage Grouse: 3-4 on 4/4 at lek NE of Susanville. (T&GF)
Mountain Quail: male on 3/19 along King Ridge Rd. (GF, MP, PG)
Sora: 2 on 4/4 on Pine Canyon Pond, Mt. Diablo. (KH)
Band-tailed Pigeon: 200+ on 4/10 at Lake Lagunitas. (JR, FB) *et al*)
*Raft: 1 still at Hayward Res. near San Luis, 20
Creek thru 4/8 - FB, JR, BR, MOB
white-thr. Sparrow: 1 still in her Alamo garden
thru 4/8 - JR.
'Slate-colored' Junco: still in her Alamo garden
thru 3/19 - JR.*

Northern Pygmy-Owl: 1 on 3/23 at Rockville Park, Solano Co. (FB, MJC, BG); 1 on 3/25 at Sunol RW (H&NB).

Rufous Hummingbird: 1 on 3/4 and 3/5 in her Alamo Garden. (JR)

Red-naped Sapsucker: female on 3/9 and 3/12 in his Walnut Creek garden. (RH, GF)

Pileated Woodpecker: 2 on 4/10 at Lake Lagunitas. (JR, FB) *et al*)

Western Wood-Pewee: 1 on 4/4 (early) in Pine Canyon, MDSP. (KH)

Cassin's Kingbird: 1 on 4/1 at San Luis NWR. (JR)

Sage Thrasher: 2 on 3/3 near Susanville. (T&GF)

Phainopepla: 1 on 3/26 at Sunol RW. (H&NB)

Northern Shrike: 1 imm. on 3/6 at Corte Madera. (FB, JR) *et al*)

Solitary Vireo: 3 on 4/4 on one branch in Pine Canyon. (KH)

Warbling Vireo: 1 on 3/8 (early) in Pine Canyon. (KH)

Nashville Warbler: 1 on 4/4 in Pine Canyon (KH); 3 on 4/10 at Lake Lagunitas (JR).

Black-throated Gray Warbler: 5-6 on 4/4 in Pine Canyon (KH); 2 on 4/10 at Lake Lagunitas (JR, JD).

American Redstart: adult male on 3/27 at SE corner of Middle Lake, GGP. (JR) *et al*)

Summer Tanager: imm. male from 3/27 thru 4/7 by Angler's Lodge in GGP. (JR, MOB)

Blue Grosbeak: 2 on 4/1 (early) at San Luis NWR. (R&JR)

Rufous-crowned Sparrow: 2 on 4/1 at MP 15.32 along SR 1, Bolinas Lagoon. (BR)

Harris' Sparrow: immature from 3/17 thru 4/11 in their Concord garden. (Bo&BG, MOB)

Hooded Oriole: returned to her Alamo garden on 3/23 (JR); adult male on 4/8 in a tree by her apartment window, Concord (FB).

Previously reported birds which continue to be seen through given date: Ruff (4/8), White-throated Sparrow (4/8, JR), "Slate-colored" Junco (3/19, JR). See April Quail for details.

Observers: Kamran Alavi, Hugh and Norah Bain, Florence Bennett, Mary Jane Culver, Jane Dang, Toni and George Finger, Bob and Betty Gallagher, Peggy Gross, Keith Hansen, Kevin Hints, Ralph Hudgins, Many Observers, Chuck O'Connor, Marjorie Plant, Bob Richmond, Rich and Jean Richmond, and Gifford and Winnie Young.

Also check the Northern California Rare Bird Alert, 528-0288, changed weekly; updates 524-5592, changed frequently.

Observations need not be of rarities. Please report common birds either in uncommon places, at uncommon times, or doing uncommon things. Do you wonder if a sighting is unusual? Consult *Birds of Northern California, an Annotated Field List*, available at Nature Company and other natural history outlets, or by mail for \$7.00, *postage* paid, from Golden Gate Audubon Society, 1250 Addison St., #107B, Berkeley CA 94702.

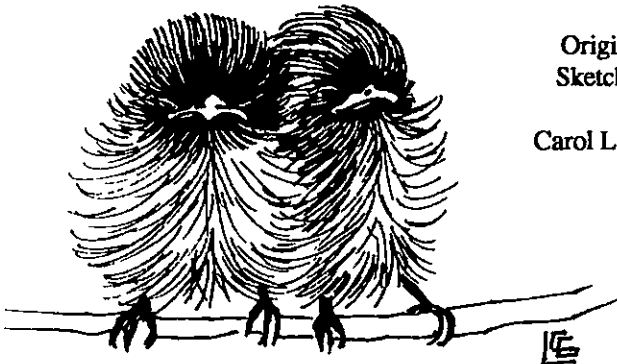
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ELECTION OF OFFICERS

At our May meeting, we will elect the new MDAS officers. The elected offices in our chapter and the current candidates are as follows:

President: Jim Lomax
 VP Conservation: Al McNabney
 Treasurer: Florence Bennett
 Secretary: Sheree Doucette

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor. All other MDAS committee chairpersons are appointed by the president. These committees need people to serve, and members who have not served are encouraged to volunteer.



Original
 Sketches
 by
 Carol Lutz

CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

Norah Bain's spring class for beginning and intermediate birders will be on Tuesdays, May 1 and 8, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and on May 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Please register now at the Orinda Community Center, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda CA 94563, 254-2445. The fee is \$36.00 for Orinda residents and \$38.00 for others. Please call Norah at 254-4516 for more information.

On Saturday, May 19, 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. Students must preregister by Tuesday, May 15, by mail or in person at the Fremont Adult School, 4700 Calaveras Rd., Fremont, CA 94538, 791-5841. Include \$18.00 fee and stamped, self-addressed envelope. The field trip will be led by Alice Hoch, a member of the Ohlone Audubon Society and SFBBO.

San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory is offering classes and tours for the rest of the year. Classes include Sparrow Identification, Taxidermic Techniques, Shorebird Identification, and Duck Identification. Tours include Spring in Arizona and Southeast Arizona. The next class and tour begin in May. For information, contact the observatory at (408) 946-6548 or write SFBBO, P. O. Box 247, Alviso, CA 95002.

MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY 1990 BIRDATHON

This year MDAS will have at least three teams of birders in the field on Saturday, May 5, and they will bird only in Contra Costa County. They will be competing for prizes for the most birds seen, the most money raised, and the most unusual bird seen.

All of the money raised will go to the Western Regional Office of National Audubon to be used directly for their efforts in three areas:

1. Mono Lake Legal Defense. To help the ongoing struggle to save this precious national resource.
2. Wetlands Protection. To preserve habitat for the migratory waterfowl and shorebirds.
3. Ancient Forests. To protect this critical old growth forest habitat.

Please help us make this day a success and send back your tax-deductible pledge.

--- PLEDGE FORM ---

YES, I WANT TO HELP MDAS AND THESE WORTHY PROJECTS!!

I pledge to sponsor one (or more) of the following teams at the rate of \$_____ per species. (Each team hopes to see in the neighborhood of 100 species.)

TEAM	CAPTAIN
____ 1. Doc's Ducks	Dr. Maury Stern
____ 2. The Hawks	Jan Cooper
____ 3. The Cadillac Kids	Jimm Edgar

EXTRA!! Those pledging \$0.50 per species will receive the winning team's itinerary plus an original sketch by Marv Reif, local Walnut Creek wildlife artist.

NAME _____

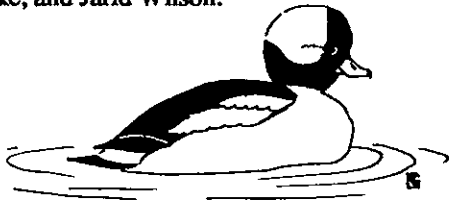
ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

Send pledge sheet to: MDAS BIRDATHON, P.O. Box 57, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to these new MDAS members and hope to meet them at our activities: Elizabeth Adair, Mary Austin, Nathan Bales, Charles Bishop, Louis Borst, Joan Bowen, William Box, Barbara Britton, Frank Currie, Donna Daly, Mr. R. Dribble, Doug Elliott, Warren Engstrom, Allen Ergo, Toni Eyestone, Lisa Ford, Joan Gardner, Joni Gardner, Kirk and Doreen Gerner, Judi Gershon, Joan Howard, Ronald Hufft, Myles Kowalczyk, Verna Kruse, Anita Lankford, Edward Leech, Christine Legler, Ruth Londahl, Jeff Miller, Cliff Mills, Anita Mykytyn, R. Neale, Claudia Nicolosi, Ellen Park, P. E. Perrault, Larry C. Perryman, Kristine Peterson, Angelas Pike, Thomas and Irene Priftis, Nancy Schaefer, Daryl K. Schawel, Shirley Shevchenko, Igor Skaredoff, Michael Slattery, Barbara Spina, Ann-Charlott Stenberg, Tom Trent, Lisa Weske, and Jarid Wilson.



MDAS SALES

NEW! Roger Tory Peterson's long-awaited third edition of *Field Guide to Western Birds* is available now. 432 pages, 165 new color paintings, 441 new color maps. Pocket size, 4 1/2 x 7 1/4 inches. \$13.99 plus \$1.01 tax = \$15.00 at MDAS meetings, \$16.25 by mail.

National Geographic Society's *Field Guide to Birds of North America*, Edition II. Comprehensive identification of all birds that nest north of Mexico or migrate through, plus wanderers and exotics. 464 pages. \$14.92 plus \$1.08 tax = \$16.00 at MDAS meetings, \$17.50 by mail.

Best Birding in Napa and Solano Counties. 21 birding hot spots, with directions, time of best birding, birds of interest, rarities. Sketches, some photographs. \$4.00, including tax, at MDAS meetings, \$5.30 by mail.

These books are available from the MDAS Sales Manager, Gifford Young, 1451 Janet Court, Benicia, CA 94510, (707) 745-4134. Please make checks payable to MDAS.

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 and senior rates available), write a check to National Audubon Society but send it, with letter or subscription card, to the Membership Chairperson, Diane Macario, 2425 Maple Ave., Concord, CA 94520. The Chapter benefits financially from membership applications it processes. Full Audubon membership is encouraged, but subscription to the *Quail* is available separate from membership at \$8/year. The check should be made to MDAS and mailed to the 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 the 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
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

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The QUAIL

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

President: Barbara Vaughn, 376-8732
VP Conservation: Al McNabney, 945-1785
Treasurer: Florence Bennett, 689-3106
Sales Manager: Gifford Young, (707) 745-4134
Programs: Maury Stern, 284-5980
Field Trips: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486
Membership: Diane Macario, 674-0920
Publicity: Shirley Ellis, 939-9091
Hospitality: Winifred Young, (707) 745-4134
Education: Jan Cooper, 372-8680
Secretary: Britta Cascio, 837-2895

June 1990

Vol. 36 No. 10

Next Deadline: June 14

June Program:

End of the Year Potluck

The next meeting of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society will be on Thursday, June 7, at 6:30 p.m., 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 Door open
7:00 Dinner

The program will be provided by the members. Do you have natural history slides or pictures. 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.

As a special bonus, our president-elect, Jim Lomax will present "Potshots for Potluck II," his annual picture collection of Bay Area birds including the Garganey, as well as King Eider, Sora, Clapper Rail, Ruff, and an enraged Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Come join us for this photographic treat.

The new MDAS officers for the 1990-1991 term were elected at the May meeting. The new President will be Jim Lomax and the new Secretary will be Sheree Doucette. Al McNabney is continuing as the Vice-President, Conservation, and Florence Bennett is continuing as Treasurer.

The next board meeting will be Thursday, June 14, 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.

Note: Due to overcrowding problems in the park, the Yosemite trip for this year has been cancelled.

A final Earth Day Note. As a measure of the distance we've come in 20 years, ponder this quote from Attorney General John Mitchell in 1970: "The conservation movement is a breeding ground of Communists and other subversives. We intend to clean them out, even if it means rounding up every bird watcher in the country."

CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

PRIMARY ELECTIONS

Audubon members have an opportunity to VOTE and in so doing make a significant contribution toward a stable Contra Costa County. WHEN? In the primary election June 5. The MAJOR LOCAL ISSUES include nomination of Congressmen, a County Supervisor for District 4 (Concord, Pleasant Hill area), and a solid waste (garbage) disposal site.

MEASURE C: Nomination of a solid waste site (garbage dump), Keller Canyon. This issue, vital to the County when passed, will quite likely determine the future location of the County garbage dump. MDAS members are urged to KNOW the issues and to VOTE.

NOTE: Measure C will be on the ballot, Marsh Canyon will NOT be on the ballot.

The Garaventa site (Measure B) is considered unacceptable because of its proximity to parks and water sources.

SOLID WASTE (garbage dump) TRANSPORTATION COSTS: A COMPARISON

Hauling garbage, i. e. transport, costs in dollars per ton:

From **WEST** County:

to KELLER ,	\$6.09
to ECC (Garaventa),	\$7.31
to MARSH,	\$11.86

From **CENTRAL** County:

to KELLER ,	\$3.33
to ECC (Garaventa),	\$4.00
to MARSH,	\$7.91

From **EAST** County:

to KELLER ,	\$2.96
to ECC (Garaventa),	\$3.11
to MARSH,	\$6.49

Total haul costs per year for each (proposed) site, from all parts of the County:

to KELLER ,	\$3,796,000
to ECC (Garaventa),	\$4,510,000
to MARSH,	\$8,229,700

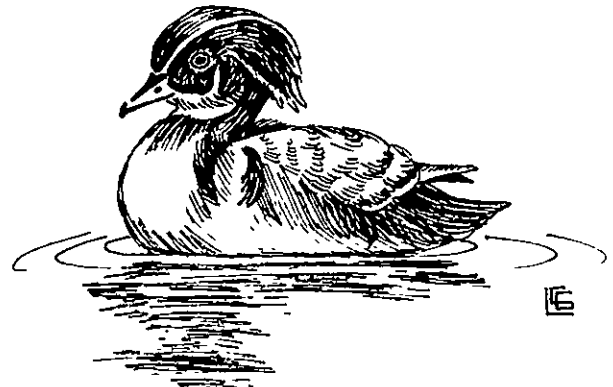
Haul costs are passed on to the public in the year in which they are incurred. Based on the above data, it is asserted to MDAS that each year the public would have to pay an extra \$714,000 to haul solid waste to ECC (Garaventa) rather than to **KELLER** or an additional \$4.5 million to haul to Marsh rather than to **KELLER**.

WETLANDS TO BE DEFINED BY COUNTY

Our wetlands need protection. A committee, chaired by the Honorable Sunne Wright McPeak, 4th District, and Honorable Tom Torlakson, 5th District, is reviewing current definitions of wetlands. Supervisor McPeak has asserted that our Contra Costa County wetlands MUST be protected from destruction and development. McPeak is in good company on this issue for the Honorable Phil Isenberg and the Honorable Bill Baker have introduced significant wetland protection measures in the California Assembly, while Congressman, the Honorable George Miller has also introduced comprehensive, important wetland protection measures in the House of Representatives.

WATER - IN SHORT SUPPLY

Every daily paper in California has now determined that Mom Nature failed to deliver adequate supplies of water to this state for the fourth year in a row. Water rationing is the rule of the day. In Los Angeles, Mayor Bradley has decreed community swimming pools will be closed (for the year) on Labor Day, to save water. San Francisco's famed Hetch Hetchy water supply system is VERY low. A 25% cutback in water use is ordered. The lack of water will likely further harm birds, animals, and fish populations throughout the state. Streams will be very low or dry. Wetlands will be endangered. Runoff, containing toxics and pesticides from farm useage, will become even more concentrated. Such situations are likely to make the problems of polluted wildlife refuges even worse than they have been; Kesterson, with all of its pollution problems, is an example. MDAS has participated in The Committee for Water Policy Consensus. Formed by Supervisor McPeak with assistance of other Bay Area leaders concerned about water useage, it is a considerable force today in the mysterious world of California water politics. When Southern California water spokesmen urge (with straight faces) sending water from the Columbia River through a series of canals to the Los Angeles area, can another urging for the Peripheral Canal be far behind? Stay tuned.



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.

Difficulty of field trip:

Category 1: Easy, up to 1 mile walking, smooth paths

Category 2: Moderate, 1 mile or more, possibly rough

Category 3: Difficult, extensive walking, rough terrain

Saturday, June 2, Outer Point Reyes. Carpool 6:00 a.m. Acalanes Ave. off Pleasant Hill Rd., just north of Hwy 24. Meet at Drake's Beach, 8:00 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. Turn right on Sir Francis Drake. 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. Weather may be unpleasantly hot or cold and windy.
Leader: Maury Stern, 284-5980 Category 2

Thursday, June 7, Annadel State Park. Carpool 6:30 a.m. southwest corner of Sun Valley parking lot. Meet 8:00 a.m. 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, MacGillivray's Warblers, and Pileated Woodpeckers.
Leader: Barbara Vaughn, 376-8732 Category 2

Saturday and Sunday, June 23-24, 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. Forest Service campgrounds at Chapman Creek and Yuba Pass.
Leader: Barbara Burek, 229-0394 Category 2

Wednesday, June 27, Bobelaine Sanctuary. Carpool 6:00 a.m. southwest corner of Sun Valley parking lot. Take I-80 east from I-680. After the Yolo Bypass, stay on I-80 to I-5, then go north on I-5 to SR 99-70. When SR 99 splits off, follow SR 99 and the signs toward Yuba City. Two miles after SR 99 crosses the Feather River, turn right on Laurel Avenue to Bobelaine Sanctuary at the end of the road on the levee. Meet 8:00 a.m. at the entrance to the sanctuary. This is riparian habitat. The target bird is the Yellow-billed Cuckoo; other possibilities include Blue Grosbeak and Swainson's Hawk.
Leader: Jimm Edgar, 658-2330 Category 2

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

NORTH BRIONES WILDFLOWER WALK, April 4.

The annual Audubon Society wildflower walk was attended by twenty-five persons. I was assisted by co-leaders Betty Smith and Jim and Bessie Smith. A flower list of 37 blooming wildflowers was furnished to each member of the group. These were pointed out by the leaders during our walk from the end of Briones Road up into the grassland area of the park. It was a beautiful morning and a joy to see so many flowers in bloom.

John Davis

LAKE LAGUNITAS, April 12.

It was a beautiful day for the ten observers, with many wild flowers and spring birds. Highlights included an Osprey, Common Mergansers, Warbling Vireo, and Orange-crowned, Townsend's and Black-throated Gray Warblers. A total of 51 species were seen.

Elizabeth Dickey

DONNER CANYON, April 14.

Eight members enjoyed a good day of birding. The highlights included Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Solitary, Hutton's and Warbling Vireos, Western Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Hairy Woodpecker, Rufous Hummingbird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Nashville, Yellow, Hermit, Black-throated Gray, Wilson's and Orange-crowned Warblers. A total of 63 species were seen.

Kamran Alavi

IDA CLAYTON ROAD, April 18.

The ten birders enjoyed the day and an opportunity to study bird song, especially the songs of the Orange-crowned, Audubon's, Black-throated Gray, and Wilson's Warblers. Two Common Loons and Wood and Ring-necked Ducks were seen. While doing the checklist at the end of the trip, we were pleased to have six Lawrence's Goldfinches land near us. Total species seen 77.

Florence Bennett

DEL PUERTO CANYON, April 26.

Strong, gusty winds on this warm day kept some of the little birds well hidden and hard to hear for the 24 birders. Highlights today included Golden Eagle, both Barn and Great Horned Owls, Costa's Hummingbird, Lewis' Woodpecker, Canyon Wren, and Phainopepla. Total species 54.

Florence Bennett

MINES ROAD, April 28.

On a clear and warm, mostly calm day, 21 members and guests found 76 species along Mines Road in Del Valle Regional Park. Highlight of the day was a pair of Wood Ducks which flew out of the creek to a bare sycamore branch and "posed" for us. Also seen were Green-backed Heron, Lewis' Woodpecker, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and several Phainopeplas and Lawrence's Goldfinches.

Jean Richmond

OBSERVATIONS

By Jean Richmond

Please send observations to Jean Richmond,
125 Via Serena, Alamo, CA 94507, or call 837-2843.

Please include your telephone number with your observations.

Green-backed Heron: 1 on 4/10 at Pine Canyon Pond in Mt. Diablo State Park (GF, KH); 1 on 4/27 on beach at Spanish Bay, Monterey (H&NB).

Wood Duck: 2 males, 1 female on 4/17 at Detert Reservoir, Lake Co. (FB, JR) *et al*)

Garganey: last seen at Bolinas sewer ponds on 4/30. (MOB)

Blue-winged Teal: pair on 4/24 at Arrowhead Marsh. (FB)

Northern Harrier: male over their Concord residences, 4/20 to 4/22. (FB, MJC)

Mountain Quail: 1 on 4/17 heard calling along Ida Clayton Rd. (JR, FB) *et al*)

Lesser Yellowlegs: 1 on 4/18 at Monterey Peninsula Reserve (H&NB)

Least Tern: 1 on 4/24 at Alameda South Shore. (JR)

Northern Pygmy-Owl: 2 on 4/13 at Las Trampas Regional Park (BR); 2 on 4/17 heard calling at northeast end of Lake Hennessey (FB, JR) *et al*)

Common Poorwill: 2 on 4/13 at Las Trampas Regional Park (BR); 3 on 4/17 in Pine Canyon (KH).

Swift flock: 2 Black, 1 Vaux's, 35 White-throated, on 4/23 migrating over her Alamo home. (JR)

Costa's Hummingbird: 1 on 4/26 along Sea View trail, Tilden Regional Park (GF, MP); 1 male on 5/1 at MP 10.4 along Del Puerto Canyon Rd. (JR) *et al*)

Calliope Hummingbird: 2 males on 4/20 along the Mitchell Canyon trail just south of White Canyon, MDSP. (GF)

Hummingbirds: 14 Anna's, 1 male Calliope, 1 probable Broad-tailed, 2 male Rufous, 5 Allen's, on 4/15 at feeders in her Alamo garden. (JR)

Western Wood-Pewee: 2 on 4/10 (very early) in Pine Canyon. (GF, KH)

Hammond's Flycatcher: 1 on 4/10 in Pine Canyon. (GF, KH)

Dusky Flycatcher: 1 on 5/1 in Pine Canyon. (GF, MP)

Common Raven: 2 on 4/22 over her Alamo home, only 2nd time in 21 years. (JR)

Canyon Wren: 1 on 4/17 in Pine Canyon (KH); 1 there again on 4/29 (JC).

Phainopepla: 1 on 5/6 in Mitchell Canyon. (SF) *et al*)

Loggerhead Shrike: 2 on 4/24 diving on a California Towhee along Mines Rd. (GF, MP, KH)

Solitary Vireo: 1 on 5/3 in their Orinda garden. (H&NB)

Nashville Warbler: 2 on 4/10 in Pine Canyon (GF, KH); 6, with 1 showing a red crown, on 4/20 in Mitchell Canyon (GF); 1 on 5/8 at Blue Oak Picnic Area, MDSP (JR); 1 on 5/8 at Toyon Picnic Area, MDSP (FB).

Yellow Warbler: 1 on 5/2 at Blue Oak Picnic Area. (H&NB)

Black-throated Gray Warbler: 1 on 4/10 in Pine Canyon (GF, KH); 3 on 4/20 in Mitchell Canyon (GF); on 5/8, 1 at Rock City and 1 at Sunset Picnic Area, MDSP (JR, FB). *et al*)

Hermit Warbler: 1 on 5/2 at Blue Oak (H&NB); several on 5/8 at Rock City and Oak Knoll, MDSP (GF, KH, MP, JR, FB, SG) *et al*)

MacGillivray's Warbler: 1 on 4/8 in Garin Regional Park (BR); 1 on 5/8 at Toyon Picnic Area (GF, KH, MP, FB, JR, SG). *et al*)

Common Yellowthroat: 1 on 4/10 in Pine Canyon. (GF, KH)

Western Tanager: 1 male on 4/30 in their Antioch garden. (B&TB)

Lark Bunting: 1 on 4/14 near Bockman Channel just south of Grant Ave., San Lorenzo. (BR)

Lincoln's Sparrow: 1 on 4/10 in wooded area of Pine Canyon. (GF, KH)

Harris' Sparrow: 1 in their Concord garden thru 4/20. (Bo&BG, MOB)

Yellow-headed Blackbird: 2 males on 4/14 in the freshwater ponds at Hayward Shoreline (BR); 1 on 4/19 in her yard near Hidden Lakes, Martinez (PR).

Lawrence's Goldfinch: heard on 4/10 in Pine Canyon (GF, KH); 1 on 4/13 in Las Trampas Regional Park (BR); several on 4/24 along Mines Road and at Raines County Park (GF, KH, MP).

Birds seen in Southern California: from 4/25 to 4/27 included Lewis' Woodpecker and Tennessee Warbler at Big Morango, MacGillivray's Warbler and Cassin's Finch in the Joshua Tree National Monument, Redhead at the Salton Sea, and Virginia's Warbler at Anza-Borrego State Park. (MS)

Horned Lizard (Horned "Toad"), very rare in MDSP, on 4/20 in White Canyon. (GF)

Correction: Phainopepla last month at Solano County Park, not Sunol; Garganey and Blue-winged Teal at Bolinas last month first found by Keith Hansen.

Observers: Hugh and Norah Bain, Florence Bennett, Brendan and Tish Brown, Jan Cooper, Mary Jane Culver, Sharyn Fernandez, George Finger, Bob and Betty Gallagher, Steve Glover, Kevin Hints, Marjorie Plant, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Pamela Ryan, Maury Stern, Many Observers.

Northern California Rare Bird Alert, 528-0288

TRAVEL TIPS

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

1990 BIRDATHON

The three teams that participated in this year's Birdathon for the Mt. Diablo chapter had great success on Saturday, May 5, both in terms of the birds seen and the money raised for important conservation projects.

Maury Stern's team saw 102 species, which was two more than Jimm Edgar's team saw. Jan Cooper's team appears to have raised the most money with nearly \$400. The goal set by this year's MDAS Birdathon of \$1000 seems to be within reach.

Though no "rare" birds were seen by any of the teams, we did find a Barn Owl nest on Jersey Island with four young fluffy owls in it. Also of interest were the two Timber Rattlesnakes that were seen on Mt. Diablo. Both were three to four feet long.

Nationally, Audubon has set a goal of \$1 million for the 1990 Birdathon. If you would still like to help, please send your check made payable to the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society to MDAS, P. O. Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

Jimm Edgar
Birdathon Chairman

CLAPPER RAIL PREDATORS

In 1984, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Office of Endangered Species estimated 4,000 Clapper Rails inhabited the San Francisco Bay shoreline. However, a winter high tide census in November and December of 1989, which covered all marshes known to harbor rails, yielded the low total of 400-500 birds. While biologists do not know all the reasons for the decline of the rails in San Francisco Bay, they do have some theories. Habitat destruction is high on the list, as Clapper Rails are found only in tidal cordgrass marshes. Contamination from toxics flowing into Bay waters is another threat. Predation by invasive, non-native predators is a third critical challenge to rail survival.

Santa Clara Valley Audubon, the seven other Audubon Society chapters around the bay, and Save San Francisco Bay Association are asking their members to report sightings of potential predators of Clapper Rails. We will help the Department of Fish and Game establish a database of predator sightings. If you see rats, red foxes, feral cats, or other predators in or near the Bay, please call the SCVAS office at (415) 329-1811, or send a written report to SCVAS, 4155 Cambridge Avenue, Suite 21, Palo Alto, CA 94306. Please include your name and address, the type of predator, the number of animals, the place the predator was sighted, the time of day or night, and whether you have seen the predator in that location before.

CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

Oakland Museum Docents Needed

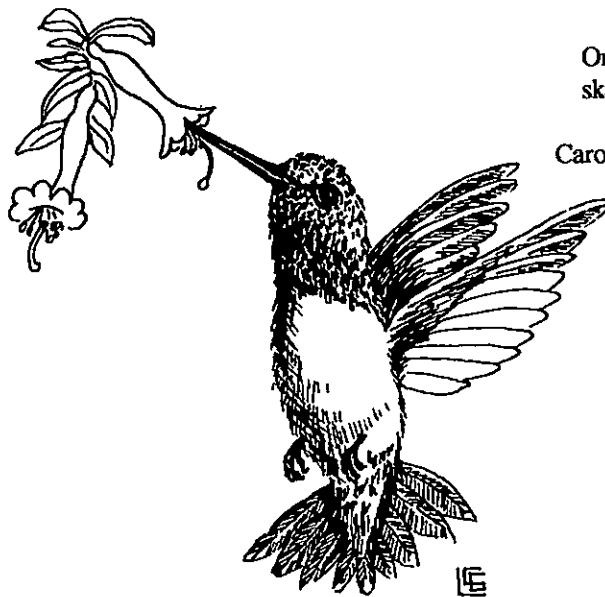
Men and women are being sought for a one-year natural sciences training course for docents at The Oakland Museum. The course will begin on September 4 and continue through June, 1991. Docents, trained volunteers who serve as museum guides for groups and individuals, enhance museum visitors' understanding and enjoyment of the exhibits and collections. The Oakland Museum has a nationally-renowned docent program with hundreds of active participants. The training class will be taught by John Luther of the College of Alameda and will meet from 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays in the Museum. Trainees will learn about California's natural communities and basic principles of ecology through lectures, field trips and study sessions in the Hall of California Ecology. No previous science background is required. For information and to request an application for the training program, call the Docent Center, 273-3514, or Ruth Gerhart, 653-0904.

Sixth Annual Field Recording Workshop

The Nature Sounds Society is conducting its sixth annual field recording workshop at the San Francisco State University field station at Yuba Pass from June 15 to 17. The registration fee is \$120 for members of the Nature Sounds Society, \$130 for non-members. The fee includes the entire program, meals, and lodging, but does not include transportation. Call 549-9364 for more information.

GGRO Field Trip Program

The Golden Gate Raptor Observatory is making its field trip program available to the general public for the first time this summer. Trips are limited to 18 people. This summer trips are being offered to Klamath Basin from July 4 through 8 and to Southeast Arizona from July 27 through August 5. For more information and detailed itineraries, call Fran McDermott at (415) 826-8459.



Original
sketches
by
Carol Lutz

NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to welcome these new members and hope to meet them in person soon: Effie Anderson, L. Banyai, Arnold Bauer, Albert Bekker, Caristy Bennett, Deborah Bond, John Bobbitt, Jay Brady, David and Laura Buck, Susan Bunstock, Jacques Caillault, B. W. Carleton, Karina F. Defago, Robert Dewell, Hendrik Dewet, Rene Eyer, Bruce Falkenstein, Vernon Fipeterson, Martha Gale, Loma Hallissy, Natalie Harnish, Dotty Hassler, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Healy, Virginia Heiderick, L. Hewitt, Joanie Hicks, Joanne B. Howard, Elaine Imoto, Kenneth Johnson, Herman P. Jongens, L. Ladner, Eileen Lorimer, Jann I. Lute, Valrie Massey, Martin Miller, Mrs. A. Morrison, Mrs. William Nelson, Gloria and Richard Newhouse, Mary Pamperin, Robert T. Pangilla, Jackie Phillips, Candice Porfirio, Derek and Janice Ransley, Richard Schaeffer, Amy Sharkey, Kim Steele, Aush Thaker, G. Tibbett, Mark Toney, Timothy Tuvell, Mary Warnken, Geoff Watkin, Susan Wood and Karenlee Zandi.

MDAS SALES

NEW! Roger Tory Peterson's long-awaited third edition of *Field Guide to Western Birds* is available now. 432 pages, 165 new color paintings, 441 new color maps. Pocket size, 4 1/2 x 7 1/4 inches. \$13.99 plus \$1.01 tax = \$15.00 at MDAS meetings, \$16.25 by mail.

National Geographic Society's *Field Guide to Birds of North America*, Edition II. Comprehensive identification of all birds that nest north of Mexico or migrate through, plus wanderers and exotics. 464 pages. \$14.92 plus \$1.08 tax = \$16.00 at MDAS meetings, \$17.50 by mail.

Best Birding in Napa and Solano Counties. 21 birding hot spots, with directions, time of best birding, birds of interest, rarities. Sketches, some photographs. \$4.00, including tax, at MDAS meetings, \$5.30 by mail.

These books are available from the MDAS Sales Manager, Gifford Young, 1451 Janet Court, Benicia, CA 94510, (707) 745-4134. Please make checks payable to MDAS.

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ADDRESS CHANGES AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: Consult Diane Macario, (415) 674-0920.

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

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WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94596
(415) AUD-UBON

President: Barbara Vaughn, 376-8732
VP Conservation: Al McNabney, 945-1785
Treasurer: Florence Bennett, 689-3106
Sales Manager: Gifford Young, (707) 745-4134
Programs: Maury Stern, 284-5980
Field Trips: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486
Membership: Diane Macario, 674-0920
Publicity: Shirley Ellis, 939-9091
Hospitality: Winifred Young, (707) 745-4134
Education: Jan Cooper, 372-8680
Secretary: Britta Cascio, 837-2895

July/August 1990

Vol. 36 No. 11

Next Deadline: August 9

Upcoming Events:

Again this year, there will be no general meeting of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society in July or August. The next general meeting will be on September 6. Details will be given in the September issue of the *Quail*. Have a good summer!

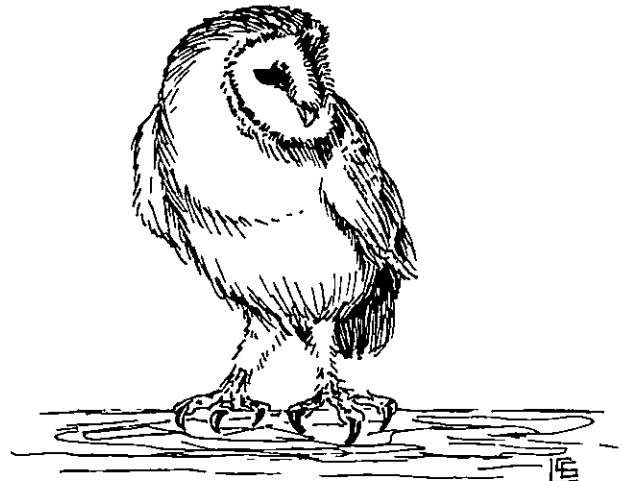
Winnie Young would like to thank all the volunteers who brought cookies to the meetings and helped set up refreshments and clean up after meetings. You made our social time fun!

The next board meeting will be on Thursday, July 12, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Shirley Ellis, 353 Westcliffe Circle, Walnut Creek, 939-9091. The August board meeting will be on Thursday, August 23, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Gifford and Winnie Young, 1451 Janet Court, Benicia, (707) 745-4134. Board meetings are open to all interested members.

The yearly Field Trip planning meeting will be on Thursday, August 2, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Elizabeth Dickey, 113 Hillcrest Drive, Orinda. If you have requests, suggestions, or special birds you are interested in, or if you would be willing to lead a field trip, call Elizabeth at 254-0486 near the end of July. Anyone interested in helping plan next year's field trips is welcome to attend.

A reminder, as you travel this summer: Please ask for an extra copy of any facility maps and bird lists or checklists when you visit refuges, sanctuaries, or parks. Pass the extras along to Jean Richmond to place in the chapter file. Also, when planning a trip, contact Jean at 837-2843. She may have information on the area you plan to visit and the birds to expect.

The ANNUAL PICNIC will be held on Friday, July 20, at 6:30 p.m., at the Old Borgess Ranch, 1035 Castle Rock Road. About 0.25 mile past the Northgate High School, look for a sign up 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. Bring your own picnic dinner and table service. After supper, we may look for owls, so bring binoculars as well as supper.



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.

Difficulty of field trip:

Category 1: Easy, up to 1 mile walking, smooth paths

Category 2: Moderate, 1 mile or more, possibly rough

Category 3: Difficult, extensive walking, rough terrain

Saturday, July 28, 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. Early shorebirds, Black Swift, Bank Swallow, Marbled Murrelet.

Leader: Maury Stern, 284-5980

Category 2

Saturday, August 11, 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. Early shorebirds, rails, waterbirds, post-breeding migrants. Call Elizabeth Dickey at 254-0486 for more information.

Category 1

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

BRIONES PARK - WEST, May 2.

The wind stopped and the day was calm and beautiful. Eight observers heard more birds than they saw. Best sightings were Dusky and Hammond's Flycatchers and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. 57 species were seen and heard.

Elizabeth Dickey

BACK CANYON, May 5.

Sixteen members gathered at Regency Drive for a walk up Back Canyon and a return via Heatherington Loop Trail. Though drought conditions and extremely warm weather have limited the wild flower display, the trip offered enough variety to delight the group. The calachortus, the endemic Mt. Diablo Globe Lily, and the Mariposa tulips seemed most enjoyable. Thirty-four species of birds and many butterflies enhanced the trip as well.

Gen Sattler and M. J. Culver

MT. DIABLO, May 10.

Twelve members and guests gathered on this rather chilly and cloudy day ready to make the ascent up Mt. Diablo. As we got out of our cars at Rock City, a Golden Eagle glided silently over, an omen of good things to come, we hoped. We could not coax a Black-chinned Sparrow out of the chapperal, so we birded around the trees at Rock City and finally located a feeding flock of mixed birds. Warblers, vireos, and tanagers seemed to be everywhere. This one flock produced about a dozen species including good looks at both Townsend's and Hermit Warblers. By lunch time we had 54 species and added four more after lunch for our total of the day of 58. The Sage Sparrow that sat 15 feet from us, waiting to go to its nest, I suspect, was a life bird for some on the trip, and as good a view of this normally shy bird as any of us had seen.

Jimm Edgar

EAST CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, May 19.

Ten observers spent a horribly windy day of impromptu yet successful birding. The highlights included two Green-backed Herons, Allen's and Black-chinned Hummingbirds, fourteen Burrowing Owls, Western Kingbird, and a male Lazuli Bunting chasing a male Blue Grosbeak. What we lacked in experience was made up for by enthusiasm, as nearly all of us had life birds. A total of 55 species were seen.

Steve Glover

CASWELL STATE PARK, May 23.

Unseasonal rains cut short our trip, attended by eight intrepid members. During the short clear periods, we saw or heard 42 species, including a Spotted Sandpiper, a pair of California Thrashers in the open, a Yellow Warbler and a wonderful view of a MacGillivray's Warbler.

Maury Stern

LAS TRAMPAS REGIONAL PARK, May 31.

Seven members slowly climbed the broad trail on a cool, partly cloudy ~~EARLY~~ morning. Due to the varied habitat (riparian, grassland, and woodland), 48 species were sighted or heard in four hours, among them one brief look at the Grasshopper Sparrow. Also of note: a single live oak in the picnic area containing FIVE Brown Creepers.

Barbara Vaughn

CONSERVATION NOTES

Al McNabney is still celebrating the defeat of Proposition B and the victory of Proposition C in the recent election, and wants to thank all of you for your support. His column will return next fall with an eye to the upcoming fall elections as well as current conservation considerations.

OBSERVATIONS

By Jean Richmond

Please send summer observations to
The Quail, P. O. Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.
 Please include your telephone number with your observations.

American White Pelican: up to 200 at many places around the Bay Area thru 6/14 (late). (FB, SE, DF, SF, Bo&BG, BR, JR, ST, MOB)

Osprey: 1 on 5/17 at Lafayette Reservoir. (DW)

Swainson's Hawk: on 5/23, 2 at Caswell Memorial State Park and 4 at Durham Ferry State Recreation Area. (GF, MP, KH)

Blue Grouse: 2 males, 1 calling, on 5/26 at Black Canyon of the Gunnison, CO, observed from 10 feet away. (G&WY)

Wilson's Phalarope: a pair on 6/9 at the Hayward Shoreline freshwater ponds. (SF, JR, DF, ST)

Red Phalarope: female on 5/12 - 5/13 at Triangle Marsh at Hayward Regional Shoreline. (BR, JR)^{el al}

Common Tern: 1 or 2 on 6/2 and 6/9 at Hayward Shoreline. (BR, JR, SF, DF, ST)

Black-chinned Hummingbird: on 5/23, a female at Caswell SP and a male at Durham Ferry SRA (GF, MP, KH); 2 males on 5/29 at Piper Slough levee, Bethel Island (JR, FB)^{el al}

Rufous Hummingbird: male on 5/25 in her Alamo garden. (JR)

Phainopepla: male on 5/25 near her Martinez home. (JC)

Nashville Warbler: male on 5/15 in Briones Regional Park. (JR)

American Redstart: first year male on 6/11 at Muddy Hollow Trail at Pt. Reyes. (GF)

Yellow-breasted Chat: singing male on 5/29 at Piper Slough levee (FB, JR)^{el al}; singing male along Lagunitas Creek at Pt. Reyes Station (GF, also on RBA)^{GF} 6/7-11.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: singing male from 6/2 thru 6/11 along Lagunitas Creek at Pt. Reyes Station. (GF, also on RBA)^{GF}

Observers: Florence Bennett, Janet Caprile, Shirley Ellis, Diane Fairchild, Sharyn Fernandez, George Finger, Bob and Betty Gallagher, Kevin Hinsa, Marjorie Plant, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Steve Tischler, Denise Wight, Gifford and Winnie Young, Many Observers.

RBA = Northern California Rare Bird Alert, 528-0288.

This column concludes Jean Richmond's term as Observations Editor. I want to thank Jean for stepping in so capably when Donna Peak-Klein resigned earlier this spring. Any summer observations should be sent to the *Quail*, as indicated above, by August 9. A new Observations Editor will be announced in the September issue.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

By Jim Lomax

I would like to thank you, the general membership, for giving me the opportunity to serve you as President. I consider this an honor as my interests in life are reflected by the Audubon Society and birding.

I emphasize the word serve, and invite each one of you to call me with any suggestions, thoughts, or problems that I might help with or bring to the board's attention. This invitation includes those of you in the silent majority who do not attend meetings for one reason or another, but are just as important to our chapter. Though I wish you would attend and participate, I would still like to hear from you.

* * * * *

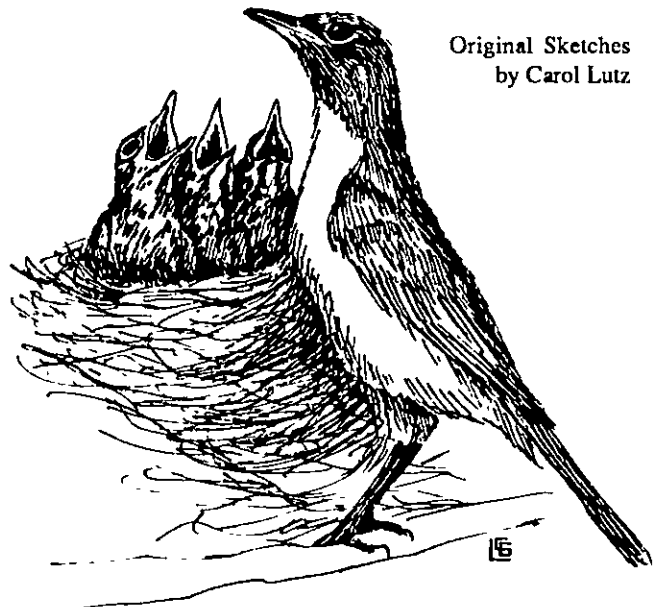
For a little insight... The Audubon Society was not founded by John James Audubon, the artist and naturalist, who died in 1951. Rather it was founded by George Grinnell, the editor of *Forest and Stream*, who wrote an editorial in his paper expressing alarm over the slaughter of birds for their feathers. He and other concerned citizens formed the Audubon Society in 1886.

By 1905, thirty-five state organizations had formed to preserve birds and stop the killing. These groups joined together and eventually became the National Audubon Society.

Today, the National Audubon Society and the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society are dedicated to the protection of wildlife and the preservation of its habitat.

* * * * *

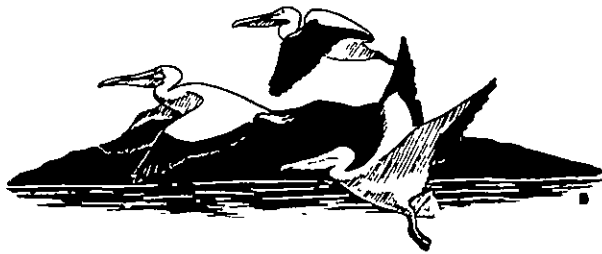
This is going to be an interesting and fun year. I hope you will get involved in some of our projects and go on some of our field trips. I look forward to seeing each of you, so please come up and introduce yourself.



Original Sketches
 by Carol Lutz

NEW MEMBERS

It is with great pleasure that we greet these all new MDAS members and hope to meet them soon: Tracey Adams, Kate Agnew, Alex Aho, Allouis Angley, Wayne Austin, Mrs. R. Beck, Scott Bullen, Lori Cannatela, Arthur Chan, Patricia Clark, Ellen Cox, Ellen Dardis, M. R. Dickerson, Mrs. Edwin Farrell, J. Foster, P. W. Galyen, John Gillette, A. Gragg, Eric Hershberger, Jane Hrdonka, Robert Justice, James Kaar, Kathy W. Kelley, Ronald D. Lefler, Phil and Virginia Molen, Erin Montalbo, Nathalie Oram, Jillene Peters, Mrs. Harvey Peterson, James and Melissa Rease, James Rhodes, Mrs. Joseph Riley, Larry Rychener, Marian Shinault, P. B. Speck, Mary A. Stadum, Terrance Starr, Eugene Surber, David S. Tucker, Mrs. Sidney Unruh, Ron Webb, J. Whitcomb, and G. Zaine.



THE LAST WORD

This completes my third year as editor of the *Quail*. At this time, I want to thank those who contribute to making this a newsletter for all the chapter. First, I want to thank Maury Stern, Al McNabney, Elizabeth Dickey and Diane Macario for their monthly contributions, and I especially want to thank our two Observations Editors, Donna Peake-Klein and Jean Richmond for their work coordinating the bird reports. These people are the backbone of the *Quail*, and the newsletter would not exist without their fine efforts. Second, thank you to all the field trip leaders for their reports, to the Travel Corner contributors who have shared their experiences, and to all those who have sent me special items of interest. You all have added to the variety and diversity of the *Quail*. Third, I want to thank Carol Lutz for her original sketches, which have graced these pages for the last three years. Finally, a special thank you to Betty Gallagher and her crew, for assembling and posting the finished *Quail* so efficiently. As for the future, I would like to encourage all of you to think about ways you can make a contribution to the *Quail*. This is your newsletter and I would like it to reflect as many opinions as possible.

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 and senior rates available), write a check to National Audubon Society but send it, with letter or subscription card, to the Membership Chairperson, Diane Macario, 2425 Maple Ave., Concord, CA 94520. The Chapter benefits financially from membership applications it processes. Full Audubon membership is encouraged, but subscription to the *Quail* is available separate from membership at \$8/year. The check should be made to MDAS and mailed to the 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 the Treasurer.

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

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Education: Jan Cooper, 372-8680
Secretary: Sheree Doucette, 682-6278

September 1990

Vol. 37 No. 1

Next Deadline: September 13

September Program:

Spotted Owl!

Welcome back! The first meeting of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society will be on **September 6**.

Dr. Steve Laymon will talk about the Spotted Owl. This relatively tame small owl of deep canyons and coniferous woods is currently the symbol of conflict between environmentalists and the logging interests, especially in the area of the coastal old growth forests of Northern California, Oregon, and Washington. Steve will discuss the basics of the life of the Spotted Owl and the controversial aspects of the ecology of this owl. He will make us all better informed about this current topic.

Steve Laymon is a well-known Northern California bird expert, having taught many classes and led many trips for organizations of this area. He did graduate work studying the subspecies of the Spotted Owl in the Sierra Nevada. He is also an expert on the Yellow-billed Cuckoo and its riparian habitat and has spent this summer studying this bird along the Kern and Sacramento Rivers.

Birding information for September will be given by Jim Lomax who will give a slide show and talk about our chapter's participation in the recently completed Peregrine Falcon Project (see "From The President's Perch", page 7).

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

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

The next board meeting will be Thursday, September 13, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Barbara Burek, 157 Mt. Kennedy Dr., Martinez, 229-0394. The board meetings are open to all interested members.

Annual Budget - Page 3

Year Field Trip Schedule - Page 4

CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

GREETINGS! It's been a LONG, HOT, DRY, **VERY BUSY** summer. Environmental issues, garbage, the CCC General Plan and wetlands, all of which have had high degrees of work, are close to the final decision stage. Garbage issues are moving, but not yet settled. Our "Land Use Initiative...", major water issues, and wetland protections are just a few of the environmental situations on the front burner. "We the people" will settle some of the issues at the ballot box. Others won't be settled without dedicated, determined effort by all of us. So welcome, once again to the world of Audubon and all its many activities.

OPEN SPACE INITIATIVE

First, the many **years** of hard work trying to develop some consensus on what the new County General Plan should look like failed. The work, meetings, discussions and ideas at the General Plan Congress produced few or no acceptable results. That failure gave impetus to filing of the "Land Use Initiative For The Unincorporated Area of Contra Costa County" (Open Space Initiative). A super effort on the part of many dedicated individuals produced over 33,000 signatures of registered CCC voters. The initiative petitions and signatures were turned in to the County Clerk for verification (we had to have more than 25,000 valid signatures). The Clerk determined the initiative fully complied with the law. The Clerk reported the matter to the Board of Supervisors, who had the final approval as to the issue being placed on the November 1990 ballot. Rumors, tall tales, and supposed "inside" information led to concerns that the Supervisors might NOT approve placement of the matter on the November Ballot.

Tuesday, August 7, was D Day (maybe we should refer to that date as B for Ballot Day). The Supervisors, also considering a proposed ballot measure developed by McPeak and Torlakson, had ordered a financial impacts study to try to determine the effects "our" initiative would have on the County, the people, etc., should it be approved by the voters. The study, completed at 7:30 a.m. on the 7th, was delivered to the Board by one of the preparing consultants. Farmers, developers, and other individuals opposed to both the proposed County Plan and our initiative filled the room. Many an oratorical "gem" of a speech was made opposing "our" initiative. At times, oratory overwhelmed the facts. At one point some proud mums produced a gaggle of little girls carrying signs urging defeat of "our" initiative as well as the Board's proposed Urban Limit Line concept. Those present who urged the Board to approve placement of "our" initiative on the November ballot were not about to win a popularity contest, no matter what presentation was made. Finally, about 1:00 p.m. came the vote, 5 to 0, approving placement of "our" initiative on the Ballot. As

matters now stand, both "our" initiative AND the Supervisor's Urban Limit Line proposal will be on the November ballot for voter consideration. The result will be highly significant, for the voters will decide what the County will be like for the next 15 to 20 years.

GARBAGE: You thought it was all settled, NOT SO!!!!

"Our" site, Keller, has been accorded a land use approval. It's still not "IN"! The Marsh site is tied up in court as a result of an action filed by Waste Management Inc. The initial hearing resulted in the judge ruling the initiative, which produced more than 44,000 signatures was NOT "entitled" to be placed on the November ballot. That decision is on appeal. In the meantime, the Friends of Marsh Canyon and Outraged Voters both circulated another petition, to FORCE placement of the use of Marsh as a garbage site on the November Ballot. These groups on August 9 turned in 45,312 signatures. If the newly filed initiative qualifies, the prospects for creation of a dump at Marsh Canyon will be in limbo until the November election. It is widely predicted that when the voters have THEIR chance, the vote AGAINST the use of Marsh Canyon for a garbage dump will win by a substantial margin.

BUDGET CUTS

In the battle of the California Budget, the Department of Fish and Game took a direct hit with a reported loss of about 200 jobs. The activities of the Department in protecting bird and wildlife will be seriously impaired. This, at a time when our State's birdlife and wildlife are being so seriously impacted by development projects. The downgrading of the Department represents a serious, and adverse, situation.

DID YOU KNOW?

The International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP) asserts more than 1,000 of the world's 9,000 bird species are NOW threatened with extinction. More than 350 of the species involved are in countries south of the United States. 60% of the birds we call our own are just on summer vacation, up from the tropics, where year by year their forest habitats are being destroyed.

ROSSMOOR TREES

Proposed destruction of an entire ecosystem in the Rossmoor area, by clear-cutting about 10,000 trees, has brought substantial protest. A legal action has been filed against the City Council of Walnut Creek for approving the proposed development. A new organization, the Walnut Creek Environmental Council, is spearheading the opposition effort. There is little difference between what is proposed for the Rossmoor trees and what we in the USA are so strenuously objecting to in South America, where the rainforests are being clear-cut at a rapid pace. If you want to help in this effort, call John Guckeen, President Pro Tempore, Walnut Creek Environmental Council, at 934-0975.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT, FY 89-90

BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD:

Operating Account:	\$2,719.00
Conservation & Education Fund:	10,344.00

INCOME:

National Audubon Society dues share	\$9,255.00
Subscriptions to <i>The Quail</i>	577.00
Sales, <i>Birding Northern California</i> (To Conservation & Education Fund)	5,500.00
Other sales, net	403.00
Donations to MDAS	130.00
Bird-a-Thon Donations	862.00
Interest earned (Home Federal) (Part to Conservation & Education Fund)	690.00

INCOME + BALANCE FORWARD:

Operating Account:	\$14,057.00
Conservation & Education Fund:	16,423.00

DISBURSEMENTS:

Production and distribution of <i>The Quail</i>	\$6,960.00
Rent, Willow Creek Center hall	158.00
Administration	340.00
Equipment	-
Conservation	1,138.00
Membership	193.00
Program presentation	550.00
Education	207.00
Field trips	-
Hospitality	164.00
Publicity	23.00
Christmas Bird Count	273.00
Sales expenses, reprinting <i>Birding Northern California</i>	3,265.00
Telephone (AUD-UBON)	164.00
Insurance	640.00
Bay Area Audubon Council	38.00

CAMPERSHIP (refund of prior year deposit):	\$<50.00>
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CONTRIBUTIONS:

Lindsay Museum, California Nature Conservancy, Richardson Bay Audubon Center, Save Mt. Diablo, Mono Lake Legal Defense Fund, Audubon Canyon Ranch, Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory, etc.	\$2,182.00
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TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS:	\$16,245.00
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BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD:

Operating Account:	\$ 3,098.00
Conservation & Education Fund:	11,137.00

1990-91 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

Thank you to all those who helped Elizabeth Dickey plan this year's interesting schedule of field trips. Also thank you to those people who will be leaders. Changes may occasionally be made in the schedule, and shifts may be made between Wednesday and Thursday to take advantage of tides or other opportunities. Please check the Field Trip schedules in *The Quail* each month for updates or changes. Weekend trips may be done either day alone.

Sept.	8	Sat.	San Mateo Coast	Mar.	2	Sat.	Bodega Bay
	20	Thur.	San Francisco Bay Refuge		7	Thur.	Hayward Regional Shoreline
	22	Sat.	Salinas River - Elkhorn Slough		16	Sat.	Tomales Bay State Park
	27	Thur.	Point Diablo - Marin Headlands		27	Wed.	Briones Reservoir
					30	Sat.	Garin Regional Park
Oct.	6	Sat.	Outer Point Reyes	Apr.	3	Wed.	Briones Park - North
	10	Wed.	Lincoln Park		10	Wed.	Lake Lagunitas
	20	Sat.	Limantour		13	Sat.	Donner Canyon <i>Sonoma</i>
	25	Thur.	Mt. View Sanitary Plant		18	Thur.	Ida Clayton Road, <i>Napa Co.</i>
Nov.	1	Thur.	Alameda South Shore		25	Thur.	Del Puerto Canyon
	3	Sat.	Abbott's Lagoon		27	Sat.	Mines Road
	14	Wed.	Lafayette Reservoir	May	1	Wed.	Briones Park - West
	17	Sat.	Carleston Slough <i>Charleston</i>		4	Sat.	East Mt. Diablo - Wildflowers
	28	Wed.	Altamont		9	Thur.	Mt. Diablo
Dec.	1	Sat.	Palo Alto Baylands		16	Thur.	East Contra Costa County
	6	Thur.	Niles Canyon		22	Wed.	Caswell State Park
	8-9	S-S	Sacramento Valley Refuges		25	Sat.	Las Trampas Regional Park
	15	Sat.	CHRISTMAS COUNT	June	1	Sat.	Outer Point Reyes
Jan.	5	Sat.	Putah Creek - Lake Solano		6	Thur.	Annadel State Park
	9	Wed.	Lake Merritt		22-23	S-S	Yuba Pass - Sierra Valley
	17	Thur.	Los Gallinos <i>Las Gallinas</i>		26	Wed.	Bobelaine Refuge
	19	Sat.	Sunol Regional Park		30	Sun.	Tilden Breakfast Walk
	23	Wed.	Grizzly Island Wildlife Refuge	July	6-7	S-S	Yosemite
Feb.	2	Sat.	San Mateo Coast		19	Fri.	Picnic
	7	Thur.	Thornton - Stockton Ponds		27	Sat.	San Mateo Coast
	13	Wed.	Berkeley shoreline	Aug.	10	Sat.	Bodega Bay
	16-17	S-S	Honey Lake (Sage Grouse)				
	23-24	S-S	Honey Lake (alternate date)				
	28	Thur.	Five Brooks - Bolinas Lagoon				

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.

Difficulty of field trip:

- Category 1: Easy, little or no walking, smooth paths
- Category 2: Moderate, 1 mile or more, possibly rough
- Category 3: Difficult, extensive walking, rough terrain

Saturday, September 8, **San Mateo Coast**. Carpool 6:30 a.m. at El Cerro Blvd., west of I-680. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in parking lot off SR1 opposite Pescadero Road. Cross the 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.
Leader: Maury Stern, 284-5980. Category 2

Thursday, September 20, **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 east of Thornton Ave.; look for people with binocs on the levee. Traffic is difficult. As an alternate route to I-880 and SR84, 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 to west (to left) on Thornton Rd. This will eventually bring you to the refuge entrance.
Leader: Steve Glover, 829-7207. Category 1

Saturday, September 22, **Salinas River and Elkhorn Slough**. Carpool 6:00 a.m. El Cerro Blvd., west of I-680. Meet 9:00 a.m. at Jetty Rd. off Highway 1 in Moss Landing. Water and shore birds, possibly vagrants.
Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486. Category 3

Thursday, September 27, **Point Diablo (Hawk Hill)**. Carpool 8:00 am, Acalanes Ave., off Pleasant Hill Rd., just north of SR24. Meet at 9:15 a.m. in parking area at upper lagoon. Take the San Rafael Bridge and US 101 south to the SECOND Sausalito exit. NOTICE!! THE TUNNEL INTO THE HEADLANDS IS PERMANENTLY CLOSED. At the stop sign, go left UP the hill. At the intersection, go right downhill. At the next stop sign, turn left and continue on to the parking lot at the upper lagoon. 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. Call Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486, for more information.

Category 2

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

OUTER PT. REYES, June 2.

On a warm, clear, calm day, 14 members spent the morning at Pt. Reyes and the afternoon along Sky Trail off Limantour Road. The only noteworthy bird at the point was a male Purple Martin flying at the Fish Docks. After lunch, the walk up Sky Trail produced better birding including a brief look at a Pileated Woodpecker and a Hammond's Flycatcher among many land-birds. A Winter Wren sang close to the trail but refused to show himself. A total of 77 species was heard and/or seen.

Jean Richmond

ANNADEL, June 7.

The seven members and a guest from Marin Audubon had a very enjoyable morning first at Annadel and then at nearby Spring Lake Park. 40 species were sighted, including excellent views of the Yellow-breasted Chat. However, highlight of the day was seeing not one but a PAIR of Pileated Woodpeckers close to the trail. Mama and Papa Pileated seemed oblivious to us while they foraged for insects on downed tree trunks.

Barbara Vaughn

YUBA PASS, June 23-24.

Twelve members enjoyed a weekend of perfect weather and good birding. Saturday highlights at the pass included Black-backed and White-headed Woodpeckers, Calliope Hummingbirds, and Williamson's Sapsuckers. Part of the group saw Blue Grouse while the rest were scoping a distant Mountain Quail. Sunday highlights down in Sierra Valley included Green-tailed Towhee, Brewer's Sparrow, Sage Thrasher, and Black Tern. Over the weekend, 96 species were seen and/or heard.

Barbara Burek

BOBELAINE, June 27.

The trip to Bobelaine sanctuary (the name comes from putting together Bob and Elaine, the two first names of the Crandell family who donated the property to Audubon) allowed most of the fourteen members and guests who had never been there a look at a beautiful stretch of riparian woodlands on the Feather River. Though our early morning walk did not find the much sought after Yellow-billed Cuckoo, we did see Swainson's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Wood Duck, Winter Wren, and many Western Kingbirds and Western Wood-pewees. After lunch we dropped by the Woodland sugar ponds where we saw breeding plumage Eared Grebe, Ruddy Duck with young, and lots of White-faced Ibis. An American Avocet lured us down the road doing its broken wing trick to get us away from its nest. Perhaps the most unusual sighting of the 65 species we saw that day was the family of Chukar at the sugar ponds. These birds probably come originally from released birds for hunting.

Jimm Edgar

(Continued on page 8)

OBSERVATIONS

by Sharyn Fernandez

Please send observations to Sharyn Fernandez,
31 David Drive, Concord, CA 94518, or call 798-4723.

Please include your telephone number with your observations.

- Red-necked Grebe: 1 on 6/16 at Pt. Reyes. (SG, GF)
Clark's Grebe: 1 on 7/9 and 7/10 at Heather Farms. (HH)
American White Pelican: 400-500 on 7/24 at Charleston Slough. (JR, FB, MJC)
Cattle Egret: 1 found on 7/20 and seen again on 7/25 on the Alameda Creek Regional Trail. (SG)
Wood Duck: pair on 6/26 at Sunol R. P. (SG); pair on 7/31 at Five Brooks (FB, JR, MJC).
Harlequin Duck: 1 male on 7/31 at Bolinas Lagoon. (FB, JR, MJC)
Osprey: 1 on 7/15 at Point Stuart area of Angel Island (MK); 1 on 7/20 along Alameda Creek Reg. Trail (SG); 16 on 7/31 at Bolinas Lagoon (FB, JR, MJC); 1 on 8/3 at Martinez Marina (DW); 1 on 8/7 over the parking lot of the Martinez entrance to Briones (DW).
Peregrine Falcon: 2 on 7/11 at Sunol R. P. (SG)
Red-tailed Hawk: 2 on 7/15 and 7/16 off Mount Livermore on Angel Island. (MK)
Lesser Yellowlegs: 2 on 7/24 at Mt. View Forebay. (JR, FB, MJC)
Baird's Sandpiper: 1 "beautiful" sandpiper on 7/31 at Bolinas sewer ponds. (JR, FB, MJC)
Canyon Wren: 1 at Sunol R. P. on 6/26, 7/14, and 7/26. (SG)
Townsend's Solitaire: 1 on 6/16 at Pt. Reyes. (GF, SG)
Phainopepla: 1 on 7/9 at Pleasanton Ridge Reg. Park. (SG)
Cape May Warbler: 1 on 6/16 at Pt. Reyes. (SG)
Lawrence's Goldfinch: 1 on 6/15 at Las Trampas Reg. Park and 1 on 6/26 at Sunol R. P. (SG)

Observers: Florence Bennett, Mary Jane Culver, George Finger, Steve Glover, Hugh Harvey, Myles Kowalczyk, Jean Richmond, and Denise Wight.

For information and updates on rare birds in the Bay Area and northern California, call the Northern California Rare Bird Alert, (415) 528-0288.

FALL CLASS

Norah Bain's fall Field Class will take place on Tuesdays between October 16 and November 13, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Beginning and intermediate birders are welcome. Please register in person or by mail on September 6 at the Orinda Community Center, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563. The cost is \$46 for Orinda residents, \$48 for non-residents. For more information, see the O. C. C. fall brochure, or call the O. C. C. at 254-2445 or Norah at 254-4516.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Field trip leaders are wanted for birdwalks in the Martinez area, such as Briones Park, Shoreline Park, and the Mt. View Water Treatment Plant. Years ago John Davis, a member of MDAS, under the promotion of the John Muir National Historic Site, initiated and then was the sole leader for these field trips. It is hoped now that others in MDAS will be willing to share leading. Birdwalks are usually held every other week, beginning at 9:00 a.m., with a duration of 2 to 3 hours. You do NOT have to be an expert birder, only a birder who is willing to share your time, enthusiasm and knowledge with an attentive group of persons. If interested and willing to lead a group, even if only on a bi-monthly basis, please contact: Alan Janzen, JOHN MUIR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, 4202 Alhambra Ave., Martinez, CA 94553, 228-8860.

The Bay Shore Studies program, which conducts elementary school field trips at Tiburon's Richardson Bay Audubon Center, announces the opening of applications for its fall guide training class. Classes begin Friday, September 14 (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.) and continue every Friday morning through January. Bay Shore Studies Guides lead small groups of school children, grades 4 - 8, on field trips to examine the intertidal zone of San Francisco Bay. This is the only program of its kind for this age group in the Bay Area. The guide training course is open to anyone who shares an interest in and respect for San Francisco's Bay environment. For more information, call Aleda Carnes, 383-7124, or Meryl Sundove, 388-2524.

AUDUBON ADVENTURES

School is approaching and it is time to think of the Audubon Adventures program. Audubon Adventures is a bi-monthly newspaper for each student, plus a teacher's guide, for third through sixth graders. Last year we had 68 classes sponsored. The newspaper covers areas of environmental education.

Won't you think about sponsoring a class? Help our young people appreciate their world. The fee is \$30.00 per class. Make checks payable to National Audubon Society and mail to Jan Cooper, 1414 Date St., Martinez, CA 94553.

SPONSOR: Name: _____
 Address: _____
 New _____ Renewal _____

SCHOOL NAME: _____
 Grade _____ No. Students _____
 Teacher's name: _____
 School Address: _____

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

by Jim Lomax

And now I fledge. Welcome back. I'm looking forward to the new season and seeing all of you again. And you new members, come to the meetings and say hello. We have a good time and we do our best to make the meetings interesting and informing. You can also get involved in our programs and projects. Just come over and talk to me and tell me what you like to do or would like to do.

The Peregrine Project that we were involved in earlier this year was a complete success. I don't know how it could have been done better. Four Peregrine chicks were placed into foster Prairie Falcon nests and all four fledged. As of July, when last seen, they were flying like they owned the sky. Several of our members participated in this project and deserve a special vote of thanks for their time, effort, and devotion. Believe me, this was a labor of love and we can all feel like proud parents. I am going to do a slide show covering the entire project at our first meeting during Birding Information and this will show how the project developed and was completed. We participated in this project with the Lindsay Museum, the California Hawking Club, East Bay Parks, Mt. Diablo State Park, and Save Mt. Diablo. Also I would like to give special thanks to fellow member Everett Udderback who gave up all his weekends during May and June to camp at the Knobcone site keeping an eye on two of our chicks, making sure no harm came to them. He volunteered his time and effort. Thank you, Everett.

The annual hawk migration started in mid-August. Now is the time to visit the Marin Headlands and the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory. If you are unsure of which hawk is which, spending a few days with Allen Fish and the GGRO will teach you hawk i.d. I will be up there at least two days a week through mid-December, and invite all of you up. Week days are best since most people come on the weekends. This month's specialty is Broad-winged Hawks. Bring the handout from last February's Bird Information and you will learn hawks, falcons, and accipiters quickly. If you need another handout, I have more.

See you September 6.



The American Peregrine Falcon
One of 252 native
California species at risk

BAY AREA SONG SPARROWS

by Sharyn Fernandez

Melospiza melodia: melo = song, spiz = finch; melodia = singing. The four main subspecies of Song Sparrows in the Bay Area can be recognized by their coloration and locality. The four types are (1) the Alameda (*M. m. pusillula*), (2) the Suisun Bay (*M. m. maxillaris*), (3) the San Pablo Bay (*M. m. samuelis*), and (4) the Marin Song Sparrows (*M. m. gouldii*).

Morphology: Coloration is the most easily distinguished field mark separating the subspecies. In general, the Alameda type is gray to yellow-gray on its back with yellowish underparts; the Suisun Bay type shows a dark red-brown cast between the black streaks on the back; the San Pablo Bay type exhibits a blackish-olive brown back. The Marin Song Sparrow's coloration is said to range from red-brown for individuals north of the bay, to brown with gray edges in individuals along the Peninsula, and "plain" brown in East Bay birds. In addition, the Marin Song Sparrow has a slightly larger body size (+7%) than its salt marsh relatives.

Habitat: The first three, (Alameda, Suisun Bay, and San Pablo Bay) are found at salt marsh edges, while the fourth, the Marin type, is found along fresh-water habitats. The Alameda type is found where the salinity of the bay's waters is at the highest concentration, in the South Bay (from Alameda and comparable regions on the opposite shore, to the south). The Suisun and San Pablo Bay Song Sparrows exist where the salinity is not quite as high as their South Bay counterpart, in and around the marsh areas as denoted by their common names (i. e., Grizzly Island and Napa Slough, respectively). The fourth type, and the most wide-spread of the subspecies, the Marin Song Sparrow, is found primarily in fresh water tributaries that surround the bay.

Biogeography: It is thought that dispersal of these subspecies is not directly affected by their tolerance of brackish water, but by the insect larvae and particular types of plants present, e. g., cattails in brackish water vs. tules in fresh water. One reason it is thought that the subspecies stay in their own areas from year to year is because of a sufficient supply of food.

Other subspecies: *M. m. morphna*, a winter migrant from coastal Washington and Oregon, is said to be seen in the Suisun marsh area. It is rufous on the back, with brown, rather than black, streaking. Several other Song Sparrow subspecies are to be found throughout California. A good reference is *The Distribution of the Birds of California* by J. Grinnell and A. Miller.

I happened to be at Hayward Regional Shoreline after having read this information for participation in the Napa-Solano Breeding Bird Count, and found that in good lighting I could detect the yellowish wash on the Alameda Song Sparrow (not to be confused with the yellow brow on the Savannah Sparrow also found there). If you are out at the bayshore and see a Song Sparrow, it might be worth noting your locality and the Song Sparrow's coloration to see if it matches these descriptions.

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome these new MDAS members and hope to meet them at our activities: Edith Argento, the Arterberry family, Joselito Asuncion, Russell Barnes, Mrs. K. H. Bick, Bette Boman, Timothy and Donna Bonnel, C. L. Boyle, A. N. Bremner, Leah Brunstein, Gus Buma, Charles Carlson, Ernie Carroll, Robert Carter, Sarah Chastain, Verna Christian, Sean Collier, Elizabeth Corby, Howard Corley, Julie Cummings, Valentin Dahlin, Marlea Draney, Daniel Driscoll, Lisa Dunkel, Wilma Echols, Mary Jane Erb, Lora Finnegan, R. L. Ford, Jaque Forrest, Jewel Foster, Florita Frost, Ann Gannon, Mrs. Burma Grandt, Larry Harmon, William Hatfield, Warner Isaac, Scott Jacques, Mary Lou Kauftheil, J. King, Leonard Kolowski, Douglas and Sandra Landin, Julie Lazarre, Mary Beth Lilly, Maryann McGlibery, Dr. and Mrs. Alvin Medvin, Dee Meyers, Mildred G. Mico, Mr. and Mrs. J. Mitchell, Bruce and Judith Moorad, Jeffrey Morgensen, Gretchen Murphy, Marjorie Overland, Ron and Kathy Perisho, Gail Peto, Mr. and Mrs. William Pierson, George Platt, C. D. Prescott,

L. B. Pruner, Martha Red, N. Riley, Richard Rockwell, Mabel Ruble, Louis Sarrica, Pat Shelton, Larry Sligar, Joyce and Doug Snyder, Blair Sparks, Jr., A. Stoia, Royce Summers, Mike Szymanski, S. Tancredy, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Tassell, Lynette Toney, Doris West, Mike West, Halbert White, Jane Wilson, Sally Winnington, Jerry Wood, J. V. Wyland, and Donald Yoder.

Field Trip Reports, *continued from page 5*

SAN MATEO COAST, July 28.

A bright, overcast, warm and windless day yielded a nice mix of sea, shore and land birds for a total of 75 species. The two rarities, the Grasshopper Sparrow and the Eastern Kingbird, eluded us, but to balance that disappointment were viewings of many shorebirds still wearing breeding plumage as well as blue-billed russet-backed Ruddy Ducks on the pond at Afio Nuevo.

Barbara Vaughn

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 and senior rates available), write a check to National Audubon Society but send it, with letter or subscription card, to the Membership Chairperson, Diane Macario, 2425 Maple Ave., Concord, CA 94520. The Chapter benefits financially from membership applications it processes. Full Audubon membership is encouraged, but subscription to the Quail is available separate from membership at \$8/year. The check should be made to MDAS and mailed to the 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 the 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.

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Education: Jan Cooper, 372-8680
Secretary: Sheree Doucette, 682-6278

October 1990

Vol. 37 No. 2

Next Deadline: October 11

October Program:

Birds of the Marianas Islands

At our October 4 meeting, Jim Lomax, the current president of MDAS, will show slides and talk about his trip to the Marianas Islands last April. Located in the western Pacific about 1,500 miles due east of the Philippines, the Marianas Islands consist of Guam, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. They were formerly called the Ladrone Islands. Jim spent six years growing up there and has seen many ecologic changes over the last 30 years. (See "From the President's Perch," Page 5.)

Those of you who have seen Jim's slides will know we are in for a treat. He has photographed all the land birds and some of the migratory and sea birds on the four islands. Among the birds to be seen are Great Frigatebird, Pacific Reef Heron, Golden White-eye, Tinian Monarch, Marianas Fruit Dove, Nightingale Reed Warbler, Collared Kingfisher, Guam Rail, Rufous Fantail, and breeding-plumaged Mongolian Plover. Unless you intend to go to the Marianas, you will see birds that you will not otherwise see. Jim will also show pictures of Guam taken by his father in the 1950's and pictures of the same locations taken last April. Join us for this interesting and entertaining program!

Birding information for October will be presented by George Finger. He will share with us reliable places to find uncommon birds around the bay area, and how to keep a year bird list.

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

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

The next board meeting will be Thursday, October 11, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Al McNabney, 1161 Leisure Lane, #7, Walnut Creek, 945-1785. The board meetings are open to all interested members.

Keith Hansen, bird artist and illustrator, will talk about wildlife artists who have influenced his art at our November meeting.

**AUDUBON ADVENTURES
NEEDS
YOU!**

Page 4

CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

CALL IN THE TEXAS RANGERS:

WILL WE HAVE THE RULE OF LAW, OR
LIKE THE EARLY DAYS, FORGET THE LAW
AND GO WITH THE BIG GUN MONEY!

Bethel Island is known to most Auduboners as an important part of the Delta. The high quality, tillable land is generally about 18 feet below the water level of the River/Estuary. In years past, (non-drought) when lots of water ran through the waterways, the water level was generally even farther above the island level than that. The levees protecting Bethel Island are old, in poor repair and have given way, during flood times, causing substantial damage. Despite all these problems, a Specific Plan for development of Bethel Island was submitted to the CCC Board of Supervisors. On July 10, the Supervisors approved the proposed Plan, with substantial modifications. The County has not YET completed a new general plan so that the proposed Specific Plan does not, in the opinion of most experts, conform with the law. The Plan proposes intensive residential and commercial development in the Bethel Island planning area. One project calls for 3000 waterfront (marina type) dwellings. It appears the County again failed to update the General Plan before attempting to approve a far-reaching Specific Plan such as has been proposed.

In view of the fact the area is in the 120-year flood zone and has been designated under the California Environmental Quality Act as a critical environmentally sensitive area, MDAS, the Sierra Club, and Greenbelt Alliance believed an important principle was involved. After giving due and careful consideration to all the factors, including the obvious impact on the County resources, the three organizations filed suit on August 14 in Superior Court. The suit urges that the proposed Bethel Island Plan be rejected. If the Court agrees, the proposed Plan would be on hold, at least until such time as the General Plan has been completed. The issues are similar, if not identical to those at Oakley. The three organizations were forced to take legal action on two occasions in the past two years so the planning processes required by law would be complied with.

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE,
BUT IS IT FIT TO DRINK,
or IS EPA DOING ITS JOB?

Major water issues are involved in hearings dealing with future allocations of water for the San Francisco Bay, the Delta, and environs. The State Water Resources Control Board is holding hearings at key locations around the State. Public testimony has been given as to WHY no more water should be diverted from Bay/Delta areas to the San Joaquin Valley/Los Angeles areas. There is substantial belief the Environmental Protection Agency is NOT carrying out its mandate. That means protections for the Bay/Delta, as now being considered, are probably

inadequate. MDAS and 14 other organizations, through the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, have agreed to serve a sixty day notice on the EPA of intent to sue the EPA Administrator for failure to promulgate water quality standards to protect the beneficial uses of the San Francisco Bay/Delta.

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT NEWS

Kay Peterson, long time member of the EBRPD Board, tells us land acquisition for parks is progressing according to the General Plan. Monies from the AA bond issue, passed by the voters in 1988 is being used to good purpose. Peterson states "Public participation is increasing in all aspects of the parks and trails." More public participation is good, unless the users are not "caring." Those who have particular concerns about habitat, its use and/or abuse. If you have a problem about such, give Kay Peterson a call at 531-9300. July 17, the Park District Board voted to spend \$1,326,250 to purchase an undivided 11/16 interest in a 265-acre parcel at the northern boundary of the Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve in Antioch.

ROSSMOOR TREES

The long simmering issue involving a proposed development in the Rossmoor area which would destroy some 10,000 oak and other trees is moving. A court action filed by the Sierra Club brought the proposed project to a halt, pending a court hearing and decision. The Walnut Creek Environmental Council, a new organization, is supporting the effort and solicits help. MDAS is an active proponent of WCEC.

THE OPEN SPACE INITIATIVE MEASURE "F"

HOORAY! Despite serious efforts by the Building Industry Council to keep the initiative (official title, "Land Use Initiative for the Unincorporated Area of Contra Costa County") MEASURE "F" off the ballot, the initiative WILL be ON the ballot in November. MDAS, the Sierra Club, and Greenbelt Alliance sponsored the initiative after efforts to conclude a new County General Plan failed.

Lee Stetson, famed for his portrayals of John Muir, will do four live one-man shows to raise funds and bring the issue to the attention of the voters:

Tuesday, October 16, "Stickeen" at Stanley JHS, Lafayette
Wednesday, October 17, "Evening with Muir" at the
Presbyterian Grace Church, Walnut Creek
Thursday, October 18, "Stickeen" at Lutheran Faith Church,
Pleasant Hill
Friday, October 19, "Evening with Muir" at Monte Vista
HS, Danville

ADVANCE reservations a must. Donation \$22.00

Call Cathy Ciarlo at (415) 653-6127 or Mark Evanoff at (415) 543-4292. Funds are needed to assist in telling our story. The donations (checks) should be made payable to: Vision for a Better Contra Costa. Send check to P. O. Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

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.

Difficulty of field trip:

- Category 1: Easy, little or no walking, smooth paths
- Category 2: Moderate, 1 mile or more, possibly rough
- Category 3: Difficult, extensive walking, rough terrain

Saturday, October 6, **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 US 101, take San Rafael exit, go 2 blocks, turn left onto 3rd St. In San Anselmo, turn right onto Sir Francis Drake Blvd. At SR1, turn right 0.25 mile, then 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. Call Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486, for more information.

Category 2

Wednesday, October 10, **Lincoln Park**. Carpool 7:45 a.m. at Acalanes Ave., off Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of SR24. Meet at 9:00 a.m. along 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 vagrants. Leader: Barbara Vaughn, 376-8732

Category 2

Saturday, October 20, **Limantour**. Carpool 7:00 a.m. at Acalanes Avenue, off Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of SR24. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at headquarters of Pt. Reyes National Seashore. Cross the San Rafael Bridge. From US 101, take San Rafael exit, go 2 blocks, turn left onto 3rd St. In San Anselmo, turn right onto Sir Francis Drake Blvd. At SR1, turn right 0.25 mile, left onto Bear Valley and left again into Visitor's Center. Shore birds, seabirds, and waterfowl, as well as land birds on the ridge. Trails may be muddy. For more information, call Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486.

Category 2

Thursday, October 25, **Mt. 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. Trails may be muddy.

Leader: Shirley Ellis, 939-9091

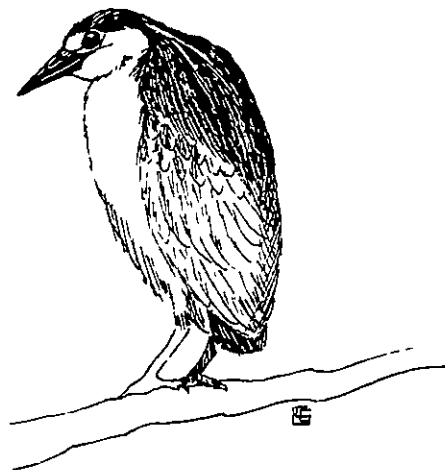
Category 1

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

BODEGA BAY, August 11.

Fifteen members and guests enjoyed a birding day in pleasant weather. 56 species were seen and/or heard. Virginia Rails were seen at the Rail Pond, and Common Murres, Pigeon Guillemots, and Marbled Murrelets were spotted off the cliff overlooking the ocean. A varied group of Black-crowned Night-herons is living at the Hole in the Head. It was also fun to have enthusiastic beginners included in the group!

Shirley Ellis and Barbara Vaughn



Original sketch by Carol Lutz

FIELD TRIP CLASSIFICATIONS

by Elizabeth Dickey

The following explanations are offered in an attempt to help clarify the categories for our field trips:

Category 1: Very easy trips. Many are car birding where the most strenuous exercise is getting in and out of cars. Others are short walks on surfaced paths. Exceptions are Palo Alto Baylands and Mt. View Sanitary where trails are unsurfaced and often muddy.

Category 2: Longer walks, on trails rather than surfaced paths. Certain trails may be very primitive, but the trips are organized so that an individual could wait at the trail head while others do this portion of the trip. Outer Pt. Reyes is such a trip - New Willows is a short but very difficult walk, but those not going can bird near the parking lot.

Category 3: Longer walking, difficult trails. Round trip walks with the only choice to continue on or to go back to the trail head alone. Donner Canyon is our most difficult hike.

If anyone has specific questions, call the trip leader or Elizabeth Dickey at 254-0486.

OBSERVATIONS

by Sharyn Fernandez

Please send observations to Sharyn Fernandez,

31 David Drive, Concord, CA 94518, or call 798-4723.

Please include your telephone number with your observations.

American White Pelican: many on 8/8 at Bodega Bay (W&GY); 12 on 8/31 in a "V" formation over Lafayette (KB).

Tufted Duck: 1 male found 7/4 still there on 8/25 (JR, MJC, FB) and on 8/26 (CW, SF) at Hayward Regional Shoreline.

Common Merganser: 10 on 9/9 at Lake Solano. (W&GY)

Sora: 1 on 8/15 at Pine Canyon Pond, Mt. Diablo (KH); 1 on 9/6 at Cypress Grove Preserve Marsh (H&NB).

Lesser Yellowlegs: 4 on 8/20 (GF, MP), 5 on 8/28 (JR, MJC, FB, MOB) and 1 on 9/2 (MW), all at Bolinas sewage ponds.

Solitary Sandpiper: 1 on 8/27 at Salinas sewage ponds. (GF, MP)

Wandering Tattler: 2 on 9/4 at Harbor Bay Pkwy. pond, Bay Farm Island in Alameda. (FB)

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 1 on 8/28 at Spaletta Ranch ponds, Pt. Reyes (JR, MJC, FB, MOB); 1 on 9/2 at Bolinas sewage ponds (MW).

Baird's Sandpiper: 1 on 8/20 at Bolinas sewage ponds (GF, MP); 1 on 8/20 at Abbott's Lagoon (GF, MP); 2 on 8/27 at the Moon Glow Dairy (GF, MP); 6 on 8/28 at Marin Headlands lagoon (H&NB); 1 on 8/28 at Drake's Beach, Pt. Reyes (JR, MJC, FB, MOB).

Pectoral Sandpiper: 1 on 8/25 at Abbott's Lagoon (MW); 1 on 8/25 at Moon Glow Dairy (GF, MP); 1 on 9/2 at Spaletta Ranch ponds (MW); 1 on 9/4 at Salinas sewage ponds (GF, KH); 2 on 9/11 at Spaletta Ranch (FB, JR, MJC, BG).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 3 on 8/25 (BR, JR, GF, EH) and 2 on 8/26 (CW, SF) at Hayward RS ; 1 on 8/27 (GF, MP) and 1 on 9/2 (Bo&BG) at Moon Glow Dairy ; 2 on 9/2 at Spaletta Ranch Ponds (MW).

Red-necked Phalarope: 1 on 8/24 at Pine Canyon pond (GF); several on 8/28 at Marin Headlands lagoon (H&NB).

Parasitic Jaeger: 1 dark juvenile on 9/4 at Alameda South Shore. (FB, MOB)

Sabine Gull: several on 9/2 on Monterey pelagic trip. (Bo&BG)

Elegant Tern: 2 on 8/28 at Drake's Beach and 30 on 9/11 at Drake's Bay. (FB, JR, MJC, BG)

Common Tern: 1 on 9/3 at Alameda South Shore. (GF)

Least Tern: 3 on 8/23 at Lake Merritt. (BB)

Black Tern: 1 on 8/15 (BR, CW) and 1 on 8/21 in winter plumage (JR, MJC, FB, GF), all at Hayward RS.

Thick-billed Murre: 1 on 8/26 in the ocean off Cannery Row in Monterey. (KH)

Ancient Murrelet: 1 on 8/25 in the ocean off Abbott's Lagoon. (MW)

Barn Owl: 1 on 9/7 in a classroom at Martinez Jr. High with a window left open at night. (SE)

Western Screech-Owl: 1 on 9/2 in a bird house on La Vista Way, Walnut Creek. (SE)

Common Poorwill: 1 on 8/26 at twilight at Pine Canyon pond. (KH)

Pileated Woodpecker: 1 on 9/9 at Bothe-Napa State Park. (JC)

Willow Flycatcher: 1 on 8/22 at Pine Canyon pond. (KH)

Purple Martin: 6 on 8/20 at Five Brooks. (GF, MP)

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 1 on 8/15 at Pine Canyon pond. (KH)

Red-eyed Vireo: 1 on 9/11 at New Willows, Pt. Reyes. (JR, BG, MJC, FB)

Chestnut-sided Warbler: 1 on 9/11 at New Willows. (FB)

Black-throated Gray Warbler: 3 on 9/5 at Mt. Diablo SP. (CVV, BG, FB)

Hermit Warbler: 1 on 9/5 at Mt. Diablo SP. (FB, CVV, BG)

Sage Sparrow: 1 on 9/5 at Mt. Diablo SP. (FB, BG, CVV)

Gray Whales: 2 on 8/8 for over an hour at Marin Headlands, quite close in, breaching close enough so that barnacles could be seen on them. (W&GY)

Observers: Hugh and Norah Bain, Kristen Baker, Florence Bennett, Burt Bream, Jan Cooper, Mary Jane Culver, Shirley Ellis, Sharyn Fernandez, George Finger, Bob and Betty Gallagher, Ed Hase, Scott Hein, Kevin Hintsa, Marjorie Plante, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Carole Vande Vorrde, Mike Williams, and Gifford and Winnie Young. *Cam Wolff*

For information and updates on rare birds in the Bay Area and northern California, call the Northern California Rare Bird Alert, (415) 528-0288.

AUDUBON ADVENTURES

The school year has started, but it's not too late to support the Audubon Adventures program. The Audubon Adventures is a bi-monthly newspaper for each student, plus a teacher's guide, for third through sixth graders, covering areas of environmental education. Last year we had 68 classes sponsored; this year we have very few classes signed up. Don't let this important part of the education of the future protectors of our world and its wildlife lapse! Send a check today! The fee is \$30.00 per class. Make checks payable to National Audubon Society and mail to Jan Cooper, 1414 Date St., Martinez, CA 94553.

SPONSOR: Name: _____
Address: _____
New _____ Renewal _____

SCHOOL NAME: _____
Grade _____ No. Students _____
Teacher's name: _____
School Address: _____

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

"Extinction on Guam"

by *Jim Lomax*

I first saw the Marianas Islands in February of 1955, when I was taken to Guam on an old steamship at age ten. As Guam appeared off the horizon on that early February morning, I could see a low lush green island and from that distance no buildings. I thought for sure it was like Roger and Hammerstein's "South Pacific" and as close to Bali Ha'i as one could get. Upon closer approach, I saw white strips of beaches and dense forests of coconut trees, smelled the humid vegetation, and heard the pounding of the surf of the reefs. Here I grew up in the years 1955 to 1961. Guam was a primitive, slow-paced, tropical island where one had to have a Navy security clearance just to be there.

I have been back several times since then and in April of this year I went out to Guam, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to photograph the birds I knew as a kid. Only there weren't any. I mean none. I say this for impact, for at this time, only Guam has no native birds. But...the extinction clock is ticking. I went into the jungle on Guam in places where 35 years ago I would hear many birds and a simple "kissing" sound would bring lots of response from birds like Bridled White-eyes and Rufous Fantails. Now, standing there, I could only hear the wind in the trees. Then, in the gardens of our yard, bright red Micronesian Honeyeaters would hang onto the stems of the hibiscus flowers and go for the nectar. Now, just bees. Also, it is estimated that there were approximately 70,000 Guam Rails then. Now, only 161 exist in the the world, all in captivity, and only 60+ on Guam.

The reasons for these mass extinctions are the introduction of the Philippine Tree Snake, huge island-wide developments which are destroying vast areas of native habitat, and a totally unresponsive and uncaring population. To be honest, some people there care. There is a local Audubon chapter, the Marianas Audubon Society. They are fighting a rear guard action against great odds and deserve our prayers. I believe it's only a matter of time before these snakes get to the other islands, and on Saipan, development is moving at a very fast pace, while it's just beginning on Tinian and Rota.

There are some birds on Guam. There are migratory shore birds and some introduced species. But brown Eurasian Sparrows alone are a poor replacement for the extinct native birds. And they are extinct. Saipan, Tinian, and Rota do have Bridled White-eyes, Rufous Fantails, and other birds similar to the Guam species, but these are sub-species of the Guam varieties. Guam was an isolated island in the Pacific Ocean with its own ecology until man arrived. It doesn't take much reasoning to see a parallel with Earth.

MARIN AUDUBON FUND DRIVE

Hérons of San Francisco Bay need donations to help purchase and permanently protect their major San Francisco Bay nesting colony off the bayfront of San Rafael. Approximately 1800 herons nest annually on the three-acre West Marin Island. West Marin Island, the ten-acre East Marin Island, and 325 acres of adjacent tidelands will be acquired and managed as habitat by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, if sufficient private funds (\$1.9 million are needed) are raised. Matching public funds from the Marin County Open Space District, the State Lands Commission, and the federal government are already committed. Marin Audubon has committed to raising \$100,000 to help with the purchase. Please send your donation to the Marin Audubon Society at Box 599, Mill Valley, CA 94942. Make check out to MAS and mark MARIN ISLANDS on the envelope. Thank you for your generosity. All donations are tax deductible.

NORTHERN BAY COUNTIES HERON AND EGRET PROJECT

The breeding colony of egrets and Great Blue Herons at Audubon Canyon Ranch in Marin County has been studied in depth since 1968. In March 1990, colonies in Napa, Sonoma, Marin, and Solano Counties were included in the study. The goal is to assess and monitor heron and egret colonies throughout the San Francisco Bay area. Audubon Canyon Ranch biologist John Kelly would like to know of any egret or Great Blue Heron nesting colonies in Contra Costa County. If you know of such a colony, please call or write Norah Bain, 32 Via Farallon, Orinda, CA 94563, (415) 254-4516, or John Kelly at Cypress Grove Preserve, (415) 663-8203. Volunteer field observers are now being recruited. Please let us know if you are interested in participating.

SCOPE AND BINOCULAR SHOW

The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory and the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory announce their Second Annual Scope and Binocular Show to be held on Sunday, October 14, 1990, at Ft. Mason in San Francisco. It will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and will feature all the major manufacturers as well as ongoing lectures and workshops on gull, shorebird, and hawk identification and the care, feeding, and selection of optical equipment. The show is open to the public, with an entrance fee of \$3.00. There will also be a drawing with door prizes for which you need not be present to win. For more details, please call SFBBO at (408) 946-6548 or GGRO at (415) 331-0730.

NEW MEMBERS

We warmly greet these new MDAS members we hope to meet in person at meetings and trips: William H. Albee, Robert Alward, Bryan M. Andersen, Bruce Babcock, Elizabeth Bishop, J. W. Boyce, Janell Caruso, Mrs. L. B. Curtis, P. W. Davi, Robannie Davis, Siubhan Dewar, J. Dick, Michael Epperson, Alexia Exarchos, Frank R. Frisch, Ann Gittelson, Barbara Graham, John S. Gregg, Helen E. Hampton, Bruce Hokanson, D. Humphrey, David Jesus, Beth Johnke, Pamela A. Keiser, Nancy Kelly, Jane Langford, Kenneth Lavin, Donald M. Linn, Susan Lowell, Joyce Mason, Tomi Matthews, Kathleen McKelvie, Fred McLean, R. McNutt, Patricia Miller, Cosette Mitchell, John Pierotti, Marya Porter, Robert Powell, Michael Resburg, H. Richter, Joseph Romelfanger, Jay Ryon, Barbara Sandkuhl, Jack Seidman, Gary Shapiro, Carol Stoffel, Janet Sullivan, Susan Taylor, Eric Thompson, Laverne Uhte, Gwen Warren, Herschel Weber, Burt Weinstein, Robin Wetering, and Sandra Zwemmer.

MDAS SALES

Roger Tory Peterson's new, long-awaited third edition of *Field Guide to Western Birds* is now available. 432 pages, 165 new color paintings, 441 new color maps. Pocket size, 4 1/2 x 7 1/4 inches. \$13.99 plus \$1.01 tax = \$15.00 at MDAS meetings, \$16.25 by mail.

National Geographic Society's *Field Guide to Birds of North America*, Edition II. Comprehensive identification of all birds that nest north of Mexico or migrate through, plus wanderers and exotics. 464 pages. \$14.92 plus \$1.08 tax = \$16.00 at MDAS meetings, \$17.50 by mail.

Best Birding in Napa and Solano Counties. 21 birding hot spots, with directions, time of best birding, birds of interest, rarities. Sketches, some photographs. \$4.00, including tax, at MDAS meetings, \$5.30 by mail.

These books are available from the MDAS Sales Manager, Gifford Young, 1451 Janet Court, Benicia, CA 94510, (707) 745-4134. Please make checks payable to MDAS.

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 and senior rates available), write a check to National Audubon Society but send it, with letter or subscription card, to the Membership Chairperson, Diane Macario, 2425 Maple Ave., Concord, CA 94520. The Chapter benefits financially from membership applications it processes. Full Audubon membership is encouraged, but subscription to the *Quail* is available separate from membership at \$8/year. The check should be made to MDAS and mailed to the 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 the Treasurer.

ADDRESS CHANGES AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: Consult Diane Macario, (415) 229-0920.

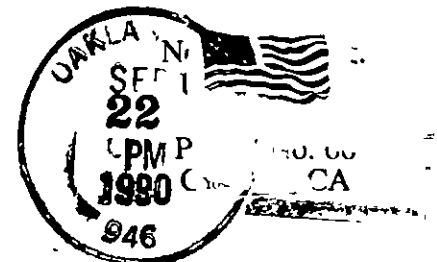
Barbara Burek, Editor, 157 Mt. Kennedy Dr., Martinez, CA 94553 (415) 229-0394

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

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

9102 M FC AUD

RICH & JEAN RICHMOND
125 VIA SERENA
ALAMO CA 94507



TIME VALUE MAIL



The QUAIL

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

President: Jim Lomax, 825-1513
VP Conservation: Al McNabney, 945-1785
Treasurer: Florence Bennett, 689-3106
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Programs: Maury Stern, 284-5980
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Publicity: Shirley Ellis, 939-9091
Hospitality: Winifred Young, (707) 745-4124
Education: Jan Cooper, 372-8680
Secretary: Sheree Doucette, 682-6278

November 1990

Vol. 37 No. 3

Next Deadline: November 8

November Program:

Birds and the Artist

At our **November 1** program, Keith Hansen, noted bird artist and illustrator, will present a most unusual show. Keith grew up in Fresno in a family of artists and illustrators and is largely self-taught. He will discuss the development of his art, using his own drawings and paintings, as well as works from other artists who have influenced him. He now lives in Bolinas.

Keith's art is used in the following books: *Birds of Yosemite* by David Gaines, *Birds for Real* by Rich Stallcup, *Natural History of the Pt. Reyes Peninsula* by Jules Evans, *Discovering Sierra Birds* from the Yosemite Association, and *California Wild Lands*. He also does many illustrations for the Point Reyes Bird Observatory newsletter and has published his own *Birds of the Sierra* coloring book. Keith will bring some of his art work for sale and viewing.

Birding information for November will be presented by Jean Richmond, who will talk about wildfowl and places to look for them.

At our December program, Don Roberson will speak on pelagic birds of the tropical Pacific.

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

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

The next board meeting will be Thursday, November 8, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Florence Bennett, 689-3106. Please call for directions. The board meetings are open to all interested members.

SAVE THE DATE!

December 15

1990 MDAS Christmas Count

CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

Do you know what "F" stand for?
READ ON.

ROSSMOOR TREES

The issue of the Rossmoor Trees hasn't gone away. It is awaiting a date with the judge. A required "settlement" conference brought agreement to expedite the process. Also agreed, that no effort would be made to start axing trees until the court has ruled on the issues. In the meantime, citizens of Walnut Creek, concerned about issues such as building on hillsides, tree removal, and land use in ecologically sensitive areas have formed the Walnut Creek Environmental Council. Any concerned citizen can join. Call 934-0957 for more information. The exact number of trees proposed to be cut appears to have become an issue. Figures used in this column were based on data produced by experts. When first announced, assertions were made that "so many" trees would be cut. That figure, as we understand it, was based on trees of a certain girth. Many other trees, smaller in size, were not included in the statistics. Whether that statistic has been changed is not presently known to us. What we do know is that the proposal involves the complete destruction of an entire ecosystem. Knowing what we do of our natural world such destruction should NOT be permitted.

Read on for "F"!!!!

WETLANDS

Contra Costa Country is moving slowly but inevitably toward the establishment of a wetland policy to be included in the upcoming (NEW) General Plan. As now planned, enforcement provisions will permit (require) County forces to ACT should a wetland area be misused. Audubon has been asked to review wetland areas in the county to be certain all are covered by the policy, when and if adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

"F" - still looking? Read on.

THEY ARE AT IT AGAIN,

or OLD GROWTH FORESTS STILL IN DIRE TROUBLE
Old growth forests in California, Oregon, and Washington are still in great peril. Logging in Oregon is taking place at the rate of 2000 acres per week. Oregon's Senator Packwood plans to introduce an action that would remove the biological expertise of the Fish and Wildlife Service from the decision-making process, leaving such to the tender mercies of administration appointees in the President's cabinet. Reasonable alternatives to full-pace logging could not be examined under Packwood's proposals. National Audubon asserts that Senator Packwood will again attempt to preclude citizens from challenging logging issues in the U. S. Courts. Also involved is the setting aside of the Endangered Species Act, already signaled as a goal

by Interior Secretary Lujan. Where, oh, where is our environmental president on this issue? You should know that NOT ONE of the more than 700 timber sales from the areas involved in this fiscal year has been halted by requirements of the Endangered Species act or by the threatened Spotted Owl. Senators Cranston and Wilson are considered "swing" votes on this critical issue. Please call the senators, either at their local office or at (202) 224-3121 and deliver THIS MESSAGE:

1. Oppose ANY efforts by Senator Packwood or others to amend the Endangered Species act, and
2. Oppose ANY limitations on citizen access to the courts in these sort of matters.

HERE IS IT - MEASURE "F"

OPEN SPACE: WILL WE HAVE ANY LEFT?

Years of hard work, discussion and consideration will be before the voters on November 6. MEASURE "F" will be YOUR opportunity to vote FOR open space in Contra Costa County. Michelle Perault of the Sierra Club says, "It protects farmlands and open space, and gives the cities control of development as called for by the CCC Grand Jury." Measure "C", placed on the ballot by the Supervisors in competition with Measure "F", would, as many observers see it, allow business as usual. A well-known Contra Costan states, "'Business as usual' promises more traffic, more congestion, creation of more COSTLY infrastructure where none now exists and financial woes for the County. (It) pays NO attention to CCC Grand Jury recommendations." Measure "E" involves the long-standing issue of use of Marsh Canyon for a solid waste landfill. David Tam, Sierra Club expert on solid waste matters, says, "A YES on "E" should ensure that Marsh Canyon will NOT become a garbage dump."

GOING, GOING, WILL THEY BE GONE?

As of May, 1990, 21 California endemics are extinct. Sixteen other California species have been extirpated. Thirty-seven mammals, fifty-seven species of birds, plus a number of fish and reptiles are deemed "species of special concern." All this data comes from a new book produced jointly by the California Academy of Sciences, the California Department of Fish and Game, and the Sierra Club. Written by Peter Steinhart, the book, *California's Wild Heritage*, is an outstanding, if worrisome, production. Audubon has written to the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and all of the city councils of the cities in the county, bringing attention to the dire predictions for the future of our natural heritage, if rampant and unguided development continues.

Robert Bowerman provided these words for our consideration:

The people of California have inherited the richest gift of nature, biodiversity. Let us hope that we will prove ourselves worthy of the gift.

DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT "F"???????

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.

Difficulty of field trip:

- Category 1: Easy, little or no walking, smooth paths
- Category 2: Moderate, 1 mile or more, possibly rough
- Category 3: Difficult, extensive walking, rough terrain

Thursday, November 1, **Alameda South Shore**. Carpool 8:00 a.m., Acalanes Ave., off Pleasant Hill Rd., just north of SR24. Meet at 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. We should see a wide variety of shorebirds, and Clapper Rails are possible.

Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486 Category 1

Saturday, November 3, **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, and 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 the Visitor's Center. We should see waterfowl, shorebirds, and possibly hawks or eagles. Carry lunch and liquids.

Leader: Maury Stern, 284-5980 Category 3

Wednesday, November 14, **Lafayette Reservoir**. Meet 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot at the top of the dam. Parking costs \$3.00 and is prohibited at the bottom of the hill. A good place to learn local birds, and always a chance of a surprise on the lake.

Leader: Steve Glover, 829-7207 Category 2

Saturday, November 17, **Charleston Slough**. Carpool 7:00 a.m. El Cerro Blvd., just west of I-680. Meet at the 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 may be muddy.

Leader: Steve Glover, 829-7207 Category 2

Wednesday, November 28, **Altamont**. 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: Steve Glover, 829-7207 Category 1

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

SAN MATEO COAST, September 8.

Fourteen members spent a lovely day, clear, cloudless, and 75° at Año Nuevo and points north to Pescadero Marsh. At Año Nuevo, the elephant seals were in small numbers, so we were able to visit more of the beach than in previous years. There we saw Brant, Snowy Plover, Wandering Tattler, Ruddy and Black Turnstones, Surfbird, Pectoral Sandpiper, and Western Kingbird. In the willows and pines bordering the fresh-water pond were Western Flycatcher and Orange-crowned and Yellow Warblers. At Pigeon Point, Pigeon Guillemot, Common Murre, and Marbled Murrelet were seen. At Lake Lucerne, along Bean Hollow Road, were Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Virginia Rail, Pectoral Sandpiper, and Wilson's Phalarope. 81 species were seen in total.

Maury Stern

SAN FRANCISCO BAY REFUGE, September 20.

Ten birders spent a beautiful day seeing summer friends off on their long journey to the tropics and welcoming our returning winter friends. The trip highlights included Snowy Plover, Common Moorhen, and several Yellow Warblers. The early fall arrivals included Hermit Thrush, Lincoln's Sparrow, and three bathing Fox Sparrows. 70 species total were seen.

Steve Glover

SALINAS RIVER - ELKHORN SLOUGH, September 22.

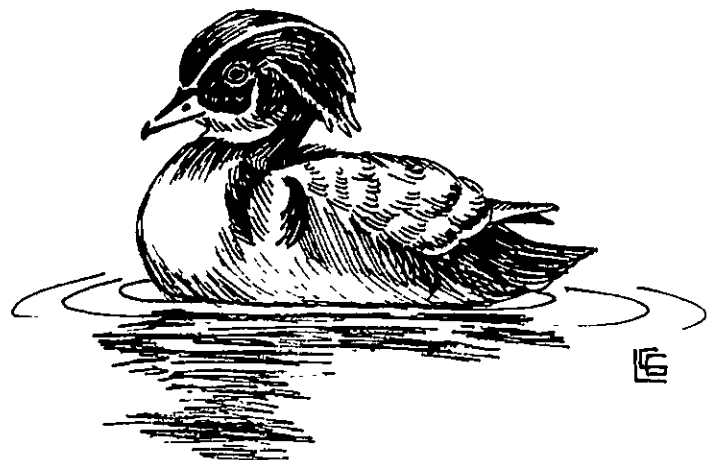
The day began sunny but ended up with a drive home through a thunderstorm for eight observers on this trip. At the Salinas Water Treatment Plant, we found both Solitary and Pectoral Sandpipers and an American Bittern. 88 species were seen.

Elizabeth Dickey

POINT DIABLO - MARIN HEADLANDS, September 27.

Eighteen members began a frustrating day hawk-watching through intermittent fog on top of the hill. A few Cooper's, Sharp-shinned, and Red-tailed Hawks were seen, but there was not much migration activity. Down at Rodeo Lagoon, the best birds were the Green-winged Teal and Elegant Terns. 52 species were seen for the day.

Jim Lomax



OBSERVATIONS

by Sharyn Fernandez

Please send observations to Sharyn Fernandez,
31 David Drive, Concord, CA 94518, or call 798-4723.

Please include your telephone number with your observations.

- Mute Swan: 1 on 9/24 flying over their Orinda home. (H&NB)
- Blue-winged Teal: 4 on 10/2 at Novato sewer ponds. (JR, FB, BG)
- White-winged Scoter: 1 on 9/30 at Abbott's Lagoon, Pt. Reyes. (H&NB)
- Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 on 9/16 at the summit of Mt. Diablo (SF); 1 on 9/27 at Middle Lake, Golden Gate Park (JE).
- Cooper's Hawk: pair on 10/6 flying over her Lafayette house. (BS)
- Ferruginous Hawk: 1 on 9/25 at the New Willows, Pt. Reyes. (JR, DW, MJC, FB)
- Golden Eagle: immature on 9/6 at upper San Leandro Reservoir. (SS)
- Prairie Falcon: 1 on 9/27 at Pt. Reyes. (JE)
- Sora: 1 on 10/3 at Roemer Refuge, Alameda. (H&NB)
- Common Moorhen: 13 on 10/7 in pond near Montezuma Slough, Grizzly Island. (W&GY)
- Black-bellied Plover: 70 on 10/3 at Alameda. (H&NB)
- Black Oystercatcher: 4 on 9/25 at the Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes. (FB)
- Lesser Yellowlegs: 2 on 10/2 at Novato sewer ponds. (JR, FB, BG)
- Whimbrel: 3 on 10/3 at Alameda. (H&NB)
- Long-billed Curlew: 26 on 10/3 at Alameda. (H&NB)
- Pectoral Sandpiper: 1 on 10/2 at Spaletta Ranch ponds, Pt. Reyes. (SG, RL, JR, FB, BG)
- Dunlin: 4 on 10/3 at Alameda. (H&NB)
- Common Snipe: 4 on 9/19 at Carmel River Beach. (H&NB)
- Parasitic Jaeger: 1 on 9/25 at the Fish Docks (FB); 2 on 9/25 off Drake's Beach, Pt. Reyes (JR, FB, MJC, BG); 1 on 9/25 off the New Willows (FB).
- Elegant Tern: 1 on 9/19 at Carmel River Beach (H&NB); 25 on 9/30 on rock offshore Fanshell Beach, Monterey (W&GY).
- Common Tern: 2 on 9/25 off the New Willows. (JR, FB, BG)
- Arctic Tern: 1 on 10/2 at Novato sewer ponds. (JR, FB, BG)
- Great Horned Owl: male on 9/2 in Walnut Creek (MT, BS); 1 on 10/1 in their backyard in Lafayette (M&SS).
- Western Wood-pewee: 1 on 9/27 at Middle Lake. (JE)
- Pacific-slope Flycatcher: 1 on 9/27 at Middle Lake. (JE)
- Tropical Kingbird: 1 on 9/21 at the Salinas River. (H&NB)
- Swainson's Thrush: 1 on 9/27 at Middle Lake. (JE)
- Hermit Thrush: 1 on 9/27 at Middle Lake. (JE)
- Phainopepla: 1 on 9/4 outside MDSP on Mitchell Canyon Rd. (GS)
- Hutton's Vireo: 1 on 9/27 at Middle Lake. (JE)
- Townsend's Warbler: 1 on 9/27 at Middle Lake. (JE)
- Black-throated Gray Warbler: 1 on 9/18 in a flock of "western" warblers at Rodeo Lagoon HQ. (JR)

- Wilson's Warbler: 1 on 9/27 at Middle Lake. (JE)
- Western Tanager: 1 on 9/27 at Middle Lake. (JE)
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 1 on 9/27 at Middle Lake. (JE)
- Sage Sparrow: 1 on 9/4 at White Canyon, MDSP. (GS)
- Fox Sparrow: 1 on 9/4 in his backyard along Ida Rd. (CG)
- Smith's Longspur: 1 on 9/14 (KH), 9/15 (JE), 9/16 (R&JR), and 9/17 (H&NB), all at the Moonglow Dairy, Monterey.
- Hooded Oriole: 1 on 9/9 at her backyard feeder in Alamo. (JR)
- Northern Oriole: 1 on 9/27 at Middle Lake. (JE)

Observers: Hugh and Norah Bain, Florence Bennett, Mary Jane Culver, Jimm Edgar, Sharyn Fernandez, Betty Gallagher, Steve Glover, Clyde Griffith, Kevin Hintsa, Ron Lindeman, Rich and Jean Richmond, Barbara Sandkuhl, George Scheffel, Susan and Maury Stern, Marian Tranes, Diane Williams, and Gifford and Winnie Young.

No. Cal. Rare Bird Alert: (415) 528-0288

STORAGE SPACE NEEDED

MDAS needs more storage space for its growing assembly of chapter records and papers. Any member who has space which could be used by the chapter should contact the President, Jim Lomax, 825-1513. The space should be weatherproof, with temperature and humidity control preferable.

BATEMAN

Robert Bateman, the well-known wildlife artist, will appear at Pacific Wildlife Galleries, 3420 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 17 and from noon to 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 18. There will also be a slide show of his works at the Regional Center for Performing Arts in Walnut Creek from 10:00 a.m. to noon on Sunday. Tickets are \$10.00 and available at the Galleries. For more information, call Dennis Salvo at 283-2977.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Mt. Diablo Interpretive Association is looking for volunteers to help staff its new Museum scheduled to open later this fall. MDIA volunteers staff the visitor center desk, providing information, directions, and sale of MDIA brochures, maps and books. As a volunteer you become eligible for the Incentive Program, which includes such things as a District Pass. The museum is staffed on weekends from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The next training session is scheduled for Saturday, November 10. For more information, call their Docent Coordinator at 837-3965.

TRAVEL CORNER

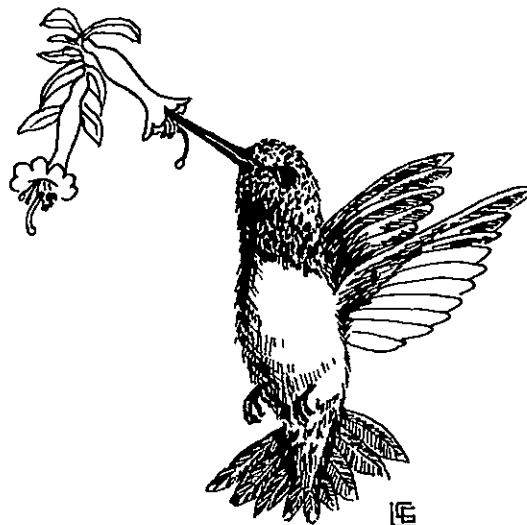
Venezuela
by Fred Safier

If you're like me, you must have paged through foreign field guides, looking longingly at the luscious illustrations and wishing you could see those birds in life. The Venezuela guide, for example, by Rodolfe Meyer de Schauensee (what a moniker!) and plain Mr. Phelps? Savor the gaudy parrots, the hummingbirds, or the trogons. Puffbirds, jacamars, toucans, cotingas, one more colorful than the other. Or do you only rise to a challenge, sorting out Empidonaxes, for example? Well, have they got an offer for you! Three whole pages of flycatchers, each not quite indistinguishable in the field from the other thirty or so crowding next to it. Or are you maybe a word freak; do Jabirus, Jacamars, and Jacobins sound interesting? How about a Guttulated Foliage-gleaner, or a Handsome Fruiteater, or perhaps a Yellow-bellied Bristle-tyrant?

After years of savoring all of these pictures and words, I finally took the trip! Last July I flew with Victor Emanuel's Short Venezuela Tour for a week of relaxed birding in the lush llanos of Hato Pifero, in north central Venezuela, followed by a week of more strenuous forest birding in the northern coastal cordillera of the country, mostly in Henri Pittier National Park. We flew to Caracas, a huge modern city of concrete and traffic, and stayed at the luxurious Hotel Tamanaco. The next morning, before our charter flight left, we birded the parking lot of the hotel, which has a little piece of green hill behind it. Bingo! Thirteen life birds in one hour, including the Black-throated Mango, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, and Ultramarine Grosbeak. The flight took us to Hato Pifero, a half-million acre cattle ranch where the owners, the Branger family, have allowed no hunting for 40 years. As a result, species which are terribly difficult to observe anywhere else in South America are protected and very visible: Scarlet Macaws and Jabirus, for example, the latter a huge stork which thoughtfully stood next to a Wood Stork the first time I saw it, dwarfing its poor cousin. Our days quickly settled into a routine of birding from 6 to 12, lunch and siesta, then birding from 4 to 9, followed by dinner. The food was traditional Venezuelan, and delicious. We were driven around the ranch in a comfortable open truck, from which we could see Black-capped Donacobiuses duetting, a Great Potoo sitting on her tree stump nest, Hoatzins, Yellow-knobbed Curassows, Russet-backed Oropendolas, Rufescent Tiger-herons, Masked Yellowthroats, Yellow Orioles, Glittering-throated Emeralds, and Red-billed Scythebills. And raptors! What raptors, from the Aplomado and Laughing Falcons to the Slender-billed Kite and the Black-collared Hawk, and plenty more! Twice we took boat rides on the streams of the ranch, seeing every New World Kingfisher except the Belted, including the rare Green-and-rufous. At night the truck's beams were turned on and we would see White-tailed Nightjars, Striped Owls and Boat-billed Herons, not to mention the more familiar Pauraques and Barn Owls. There were mammals, too, ocelots, bats, and tayras, and plenty of monkeys.

The second week we stayed in a pleasant hotel in Maracay, a couple of hours by freeway west of Caracas. Two paved roads lead up from Maracay over the mountains to steamy Caribbean lowlands, passing through Henri Pittier National Park, known also as Rancho Grande because that's what the scientific research station, located in the ruins of a former dictator's hideaway, is called. The birds were different and the birding more challenging. We walked up and down the roads whenever there seemed to be flock activity, practicing telling White-collared from White-tipped Swifts as we went. There were Blood-eared and Scarlet-fronted Parakeets to be distinguished, Moustached Puffbirds, and the songs of Nightingale and Gray-breasted Wood Wrens. The real spectaculars were the tanagers: we had to tell Beryl-spangled from Speckled, White-lined from White-winged, Bay-headed (green body) from Gray-headed (follows ant-swarms), and Blue-capped from my favorite, the exquisite Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager. Also not to be sneezed at was the Ochre-breasted Brush Finch, and its shy congener, the Chestnut-capped Brush Finch. But the top bird of the trip for me was not the most beautiful perhaps, but the one that I discovered. Perched under a small canopy of leaves, oblivious to the flock mobbing it, was the Rufescent Screech-Owl, a bird so rare that it isn't even pictured in the guide. We studied it long and carefully, noting the dark iris that distinguishes it from the Tropical and the Tawny-bellied Screech-Owls. If accepted by whoever is in charge, this will be the first record for Henri Pittier National Park – my own footnote to Venezuelan ornithology.

Fellow listers, please take note – I saw 325 species of birds in 52 families, of which 248 were life birds for me. Ten different woodcreepers, eight different woodpeckers, 46 (!) different tyrant flycatchers – I could go on and on. It was definitely the most intense birding experience of my life, and I would enthusiastically recommend the trip and the leader (Dale Delaney, a world-class birder) to anyone who wants to see Neotropical birds in relatively undisturbed habitat.



Original sketches
by Carol Lutz

NEW MEMBERS

It is a pleasure to welcome all these new MDAS members and we hope to meet them soon: Howie Adams, Dean Aldrich, Tricia Allen, Evelyn Arendt, Corliss Beisheim, Joseph Brazie, Theresa Brennan, J. Bridgman, Lynn Bryan, Diana Burke, Diane Carter, Evelyn E. Casaurang, Nancy Clancy, Leon Clontz, William Collier, Carol Colwell, Martha N. Conant, Ruth Cooper, Danielle Crockett, Frank Cuzzillo, Stephen Daniels, Dan Danner, Jean Downing, Jill Duckworth, Mrs. Herbert Ellern, Mrs. George Ely, Marylee Engelhart, Susan Fewlass, Sue Filbert, Gene Fiscarelli, Phoebe Force, Judy Foster, Stephen Foster, Sharon Fox, Mr. and Mrs. V. A. Gates, Ernest Gerke, Gretchen K. Givens, Lori Granit, E. T. Gregory, George Harrington, Roger Hawkinson, Sherwood Hayden, Cheri Hazeltine, Catherine Henke, Lois Hochenauer, Herb Hollander, L. Hornickel, Jacqueline Jacobson, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kalbaugh, Mr. and Mrs. David Kindorf, Thomas R. Lambert, Dr. and Mrs. Edward Larkin, Jennifer Lehtinen, Ernest Lengyel, H. L. Little, Kathleen Ludolph, Stella Main, J. J. Mauro, Lori M. McGahey, John G. Mendoza, Charles

Morehouse, George Morton, Ann Nielsen, Lisa Okawa, Eric W. Olcott, Elizabeth Olsen, Kathleen Pahl, Jerry L. Paulazo, William A. Riley, Jr., Dennis E. Roby, Jean Sammons, P. Sheehan, Bette Shepherd, Esther Smith, Mrs. Harold Stevens, R. Stoner, Laurie Stout, Denise Sykes, Judith Toomajian, Paula Tunprawat, Karen Vetterli, Ralph Walters, Ronald and Laura Weston, Sam Whiteside, Lou Whitley, Bob Wilcox, Mrs. Harold Wise, and Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Woolley.

AUDUBON ADVENTURES

Twelve classes of Audubon Adventures have been sponsored by MDAS members. We wish to thank the following people for their support:

Ralph Brum
Elinor Freitag
Julie Ginocehis
Barbara Hall
Yvonne and Jerrold Hanson

Daisy Ray
Barbara Vaughn
Denise Wight
Betty Ann Williams

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 and senior rates available), write a check to National Audubon Society but send it, with letter or subscription card, to the Membership Chairperson, Diane Macario, 2425 Maple Ave., Concord, CA 94520. The Chapter benefits financially from membership applications it processes. Full Audubon membership is encouraged, but subscription to the Quail is available separate from membership at \$8/year. The check should be made to MDAS and mailed to the 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 the 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

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The QUAIL

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

President: Jim Lomax, 825-1513
VP Conservation: Al McNabney, 945-1785
Treasurer: Florence Bennett, 689-3106
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Programs: Maury Stern, 284-5980
Field Trips: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486
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Publicity: Shirley Ellis, 939-9091
Hospitality: Winifred Young, (707) 745-4124
Education: Jan Cooper, 372-8680
Secretary: Sheree Doucette, 682-6278

December 1990

Vol. 37 No. 4

Next Deadline: December 13

December Program:

Pelagic Birding in the Tropical Pacific

Don Roberson, our December 6 speaker, spent four months last year on a boat in the eastern tropical Pacific waters, doing a bird survey as part of a larger survey of porpoises caught in tuna nets. He will tell us about his adventures during that time. Don's talks are always interesting and entertaining as many may remember from his visit to our chapter several years ago talking about the "Big Day" record attempt in California.

Don Roberson lives in Pacific Grove and practices law in Monterey. He is an expert birder who is on the California Rare Bird Committee. Years ago while attending law school in Berkeley, Don ran the observations and rare bird tape for the Golden Gate Audubon Society. He is the author of three books: *Birder's California*, *Rare Birds of the West Coast*, and *Monterey Birds*.

Birding information for December will be presented by Jimm Edgar on the **1990 Christmas Count**. More information on Page 5.

The next board meeting will be Thursday, December 13, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Barbara Vaughn, 59 Donna Maria Way, Orinda, 376-8732. The board meetings are open to all interested members.

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

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

MISPLACED

After presenting our November program, Keith Hansen discovered his copy of *Birds of Yosemite* by David Gaines, for which he did the illustrations, had been misplaced. The book was autographed by Sally Gaines to Keith after her husband's death and has great sentimental value to him. If you inadvertently walked off with this book, please call or mail it to Maury Stern, 939 Carol Lane, Lafayette, CA 94549, 284-5980. He will see that the book is returned to Keith with the apologies of the chapter.

CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

OPEN SPACE: IS IT A DEAD ISSUE?

On November 6th, voters in Contra Costa County rejected Measure F, but approved Measure C. A quick look at voting totals indicates "about" 2/3 of the registered voters opted FOR some limitation on development to conserve open space. Measure C was proposed by the Supervisors after the initiative which resulted in Measure F qualified for the ballot. It was "sold" by asserting 65% of the County would be maintained as open space. It is now the responsibility of the Supervisors to carry out by ACTION the limitations on development projects that they have promised. NO! THE DEMAND (and NEED) FOR RETENTION OF OPEN SPACE IS NOT DEAD!!!!!!!

EDITORIAL

ARE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS NO LONGER ISSUES?

In the wake of Tuesday's debacle, which saw the loss of all the statewide environmental ballot issues, some pundits (who often seem to know little to nothing about such) are attempting to say the environmental movement is dead, or at the very least, has lost credibility.

Does anyone think the clear-cutting of old growth forests will cease? Does anyone seriously believe that if clear-cutting old growth forests continues, the fate of extinction does not face the Spotted Owl? Does anyone seriously question that the loss of the remaining 5% of our old growth forests will be a national tragedy and scandal? To those who understand such issues, the answer has to be a resounding NO.

Has industry learned a lesson? That remains to be seen.

Why were the environmental issues on the ballot in the first place? For the most part, they were there because the political process appeared to be unwilling or unable to deal with the issues and those who understand the seriousness of the matters believed ACTION HAD TO BE TAKEN.

Once industry leaders found that there was major support for environmental issues, action was taken in the usual industry manner, not to solve the real problem but to permit "business as usual." Industry and public relation teams prepared ballot measures that, if passed, would have given particular industries the almost complete right to do whatever they wanted to do to make a profit, without regard for the serious environmental damages involved. Such measures were bought and paid for by industry and through the use of the initiative process were placed on the ballot for voter consideration.

Then literally millions of dollars were spent for slick advertising. "Weasel worded" statements which appeared to be saying one thing while really meaning another became the rule of the day. A travesty. Clearly these industry tactics didn't work for NOT ONE of the industry-sponsored measures even came close to passing.

Had the affected industries spent such sums of money on trying to find ways to solve the environmental problems they were creating, "we the people" could probably breathe a sigh of relief, knowing things were going to get better. Unfortunately there was no evidence of enlightened industry leadership, so that is not the case. Unfortunately, the environmental issues that gave rise to the concerns are still with us.

Now it will be the responsibility of our political process to so act as to resolve the issues through appropriate legislation or for industry to begin to act in a responsible manner to resolve the problems themselves. Failure of one or both of these sources of solution ensures there will be more contention. If such takes place, "we the people" and not just a few so-called environmentalists will act through the political process and/or such legal means as are available to protect ourselves, future generations, our wildlife, AND the planet.

It is MOST unfortunate that industry leaders are so ill-informed about what is happening to our world.

DO SOMETHING!

Gordan and Jutta Frankie are doing something many of us would like to do: they are saving a huge tract of tropical dry forest in Costa Rica. They have convinced the Costa Rican government and the parks and reserves department to set up a reserve at Lomas Barbudal. This riparian habitat is fantastic, with permanent streams running through it and a rich variety of plant, animal and bird species. However, the Costa Rican Parks Department does not put any money into the reserve to maintain it. Poachers set fires to drive out the animals. If this continues, the reserve will not survive. People who wish to help can join a conservation group called "Friends of Lomas Barbudal." The \$25 annual dues go directly to protecting Lomas Barbudal. Send your check to Friends of Lomas Barbudal, c/o Jutta Frankie, 691 Colusa Ave., Berkeley, CA 94707.

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society is sponsoring a wildlife tour to Costa Rica for ten people from March 30 through April 14, organized by Gail Cheeseman. The tour will be led by ornithologist Rafael Campos, who compiled the bird list for Lomas. The proceeds from the trip are designated for "Friends of Lomas Barbudal." The cost of the tour is \$1905 per person. For an itinerary and more information, call Cecily Harris at the SCVAS office, (415) 329-1811, or Gail Cheeseman in Saratoga, (408) 741-5330.

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.

Difficulty of field trip:

Category 1: Easy, little or no walking, smooth paths

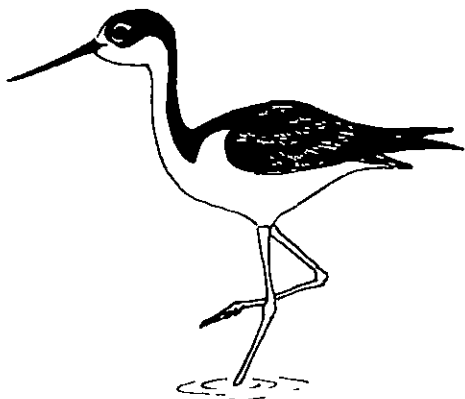
Category 2: Moderate, 1 mile or more, possibly rough

Category 3: Difficult, extensive walking, rough terrain

Saturday, December 1, **Palo Alto Baylands**. Carpool 7:30 a.m. at Acalanes Ave., off Pleasant Hill Rd., north of Hwy. 24. Meet in parking lot near Nature Center at Baylands. From Bayshore, take Embarcadero exit and go east on Embarcadero to stop sign. Go left toward Yacht Harbor, follow road to end in parking lot on right. This is a high tide day and we should see Clapper Rails and possibly Black Rails. Prepare for muddy conditions, cool breezes. There is a lot of waiting for the rails. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486 Category 1

Thursday, December 6, **Niles Canyon Gravel Pits**. Carpool 8:00 a.m., El Cerro Blvd., just west of I-680. Meet at Vallejo Mill Historical Park in Fremont. Take I-680 south through Dublin to SR 84; go west 7 miles to park entrance on the left. Varied habitats; Green-backed Heron, Ring-necked Duck, Spotted Sandpiper, many land birds often found. Leader: Jimm Edgar, 658-2330 Category 2

Saturday and Sunday, December 8 - 9, **Sacramento Valley Refuges**. Saturday, Gray Lodge, 9:00 a.m. There is a \$5.00 entrance fee. Meet at the first parking lot beyond Headquarters. Sunday, meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Sacramento Refuge in the parking lot at visitor's center. To get to Gray Lodge, take I-80 to SR113. At Tudor, take US 99 north to Pennington Rd. Follow Pennington Rd. to 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 frontage road to the refuge. Leader: Harry Adamson, 283-2164 Category 1



FIELD TRIP REPORTS

OUTER POINT REYES, October 6.

On a clear, warm day with mostly gentle wind, 14 members and guests birded the outer point. Among the 95 species seen and/or heard were Black Scoter, 8 Lesser Golden-Plovers, Pectoral Sandpiper, Tropical Kingbird, Golden-crowned Kinglets all over, and a Black-throated Gray Warbler. Two Clay-colored Sparrows were seen by only part of the group. The great variety of birds and the congenial group of people created a most enjoyable outing despite the lack of vagrant warblers.

Jean Richmond

LINCOLN and GOLDEN GATE PARKS, October 10.

A small group of four carpooled at Acalanes Avenue but was met in San Francisco by an additional ten people, including two surgeons spending a free morning away from a convention meeting in town. Despite sneering comments from one of the guests on our enthusiasm for beautiful but common birds, the group enjoyed seeing many nuthatches, ALMOST got views of crossbills flitting from tree to tree, and welcomed back for the winter the early ducks. 45 species were seen.

Barbara Vaughn

LIMANTOUR, October 20.

16 members and guests had a full day of birding Limantour Spit and Pond, Inverness Ridge, and Pt. Reyes HQ. 108 species were recorded, including five species seen at Binford Rd. Marsh near Novato by those departing from Acalanes. The highlights included a Red-necked Grebe seen off the beach, three Eurasian Wigeons and a Redhead at Limantour Pond, a Peregrine Falcon harassing a Red-tailed Hawk (seen by a few) near the parking lot at Limantour, Pileated Woodpeckers heard and seen flying off on Inverness Ridge, and Red Crossbills at the park headquarters.

George Finger

MT. VIEW SANITARY PLANT, October 25.

Twenty-four members and guests enjoyed a productive two hours of birding in pleasant weather. Long looks, from several angles, of birds, mostly at close range, provided a good viewing experience. 38 species were seen, including Mew Gulls, a pair of Blue-winged Teal, Sora, and numerous moorhens.

Shirley Ellis

"EJECTED"

by George Lear
Germantown, Pennsylvania

A bluebird in a bird-box sat,
Warbling and contented,
When in flew Jenny Wren and cried,
"Get out, this house is wrented."

from *Bird Lore*, May-June, 1928; official organ of the
Audubon Societies. Submitted by Bert Bream.

OBSERVATIONS

by Sharyn Fernandez

Please send observations to Sharyn Fernandez,

31 David Drive, Concord, CA 94518, or call 798-4723.

Please include your telephone number with your observations.

Pacific Loon: 1 on 10/30 at Rodeo Beach, Marin Headlands. (H&NB)

Red-necked Grebe: 1 on 10/23 at Alameda South Shore. (JR)

Black-vented Shearwater: 250 on 10/9 at Pigeon Point. (JR, FB, MJC)

Wood Stork: 1 on 10/26 at Seven Mile Slough, extreme southwestern Sacramento Co. (JR, GF; also on RBA)

Tundra Swan: 10 on 11/6 at Limantour Estero, Pt. Reyes. (FB, MOB)

Wood Duck: male on 11/6 at Five Brooks Pond, Pt. Reyes. (FB)

Garganey: male in eclipse plumage on 10/30 at Bolinas Sewer Ponds. (GF, JR, FB; also on RBA)

Blue-winged Teal: male in eclipse plumage on 10/30 at Bolinas Sewer Ponds. (JR, GF, FB; also on RBA)

Eurasian Wigeon: 1 male on 10/14 west of Hayward Shoreline Visitor Center (SG, JR); 1 male on 11/6 at Muddy Hollow Pond at Limantour (FB, MOB).

Ring-necked Duck: 50 on 11/6 at Muddy Hollow Pond. (FB, MOB)

Ferruginous Hawk: 1 on 10/16 near Drake's Beach turnoff, Pt. Reyes. (FB, JR, MJC)

Cooper's Hawk: 1 on 11/1 at Broadway and Bay Streets in Alameda. (ML)

Peregrine Falcon: 1 on 10/23 at Hayward Shoreline. (H&NB)

Sandhill Crane: 100's on 10/27 at Woodbridge Road. (S&MS)

Lesser Golden-Plover: 4 on 10/16 across road from Spaletta Plateau, Pt. Reyes. (FB, MJC, JR)

Lesser Yellowlegs: 1 on 10/14 in freshwater ponds at Hayward Shoreline (JR, SG); 12 on 10/16 in marshes at Binford Rd., Novato (JR, FB, MJC).

Red Knot: 1 on 10/23 at Alameda South Shore. (JR)

Ruff: 1 on 10/16 in Binford Rd. marshes. (FB, JR, MJC)

Elegant Tern: 1 on 10/23 at Alameda South Shore (JR); 2 on 10/30 at Rodeo Lagoon, Marin Headlands (H&NB).

South Polar Skua: 1 on 10/26 at Elkhorn Slough. (J&BH)

Common Murre: "2000 on 10/9 in ocean off Pigeon Point. (JR, MJC, FB)

Tufted Puffin: 2 on 10/16 in ocean off Pt. Reyes lighthouse. (JR)

Great Horned Owl: 3 on 10/18 in his Lafayette back yard (MS); a pair from 10/27 to 11/1 on a hillside in trees of her yard in Lafayette (BS).

Lewis' Woodpecker: 1 on 10/30 at Pt. Reyes Headquarters (FB, JR; also on RBA); 1 immature on 11/6 along Earthquake Trail, Pt. Reyes Headquarters. (FB, MOB)

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 1 on 9/24 on her block in Martinez (DW); 1 from 10/25-26 in his Walnut Creek backyard (RW); 1 since 10/8 along Tioga Rd., Concord (SF).

Golden-crowned Kinglets: several on 10/30 at Rodeo Lagoon (H&NB)

California Thrasher: 1 on 10/13 in her Lafayette backyard. (BS)

Prairie Warbler: 1 on 10/30 at milepost 14.37 on Hwy. 1 along Bolinas Lagoon. (FB, JR; also on RBA)

Palm Warbler: 1 on 10/16 at Mendoza Ranch, Pt. Reyes. (FB, JR)

Clay-colored Sparrow: 1 on 10/16 at Nunes Ranch, Pt. Reyes. (FB, JR)

Fox Sparrows: 5 or 6 continuously since October in his Lafayette backyard. (MS)

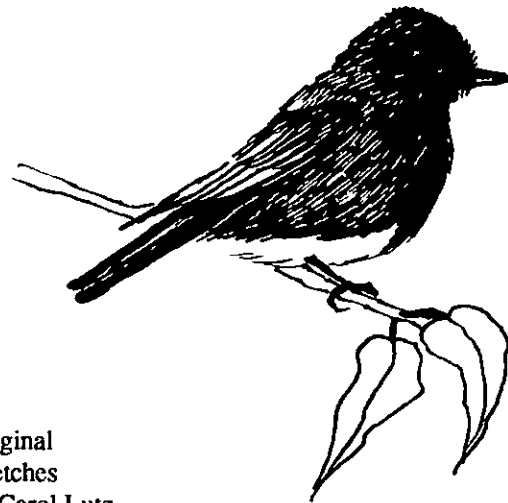
White-throated Sparrow: 3 on 10/16 at the Nunes Ranch (FB, JR); 1 on 11/8 in her Martinez backyard (DW); 1 on 11/10 in her Martinez backyard (BB).

"Slate-colored" Junco: 1 on 10/7 at Pt. Reyes fish docks (DS); 1 on 10/30 at his house in Lafayette (MS).

Red Crossbill: 100 on 10/30 at Pt. Reyes Headquarters (FB, JR); 3-4 on 10/30 at Five Brooks Pond, Pt. Reyes (FB, JR); 100 on 11/6 in area of Pt. Reyes Headquarters. (FB, MOB).

Observers: Hugh and Norah Bain, Florence Bennett, Barbara Burek, Mary Jane Culver, Sharyn Fernandez, Steve Glover, Bob and Janet Harrison, Margaret Lacrampe, Many Observers, Jean Richmond, Barbara Sandkuhl, Doreen Stadler, Susan and Maury Stern, Denise Wight, and R. Wisecarver.

No. Cal. Rare Bird Alert: (415) 528-0288



Original
Sketches
by Carol Lutz

AUDUBON ADVENTURES

In addition to the ten sponsors of twelve classes of Audubon Adventures which were acknowledged last month, Lynn Lakso has also sponsored a class and Dow Chemical has sponsored 53 classes. We wish to thank all these people for their generosity and support of this important program for the education of our young people.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

by Jim Lomax

"Wishing"

Most of us human types, and undoubtedly some of our earth-bound cohabitants, have looked up and wished we could soar like those hawks above, free, wild, elusive, and proud, asking for nothing, expecting nothing, and needing nothing from the rest of us.

Of course, hawks and other raptors live and die governed by the whims of nature.

On many occasions though, much too many, these raptors are killed or injured by humans or human influence. Thus, some of them wind up at the Alexander Lindsay Museum in Walnut Creek. Most of these raptors are healed and returned to the wild. But some of these birds can never be returned and this becomes a living hell for once free raptors, confined forever to a life of captivity.

Several years ago, Barbara Robinson and Diana Granados, both of whom work at the Alexander Lindsay Museum, decided that these non-releasable birds needed and deserved more than just being confined to a cage, so they developed a program to bring volunteers in for feeding and exercising these raptors on a daily basis. These people became part of the Raptor Team.

I had the great fortune to meet Diana last January during the Peregrine Falcon Project and eventually take her class on the Raptor Feeding Program and become a team member. This has opened a whole new world to me. After watching these raptors for years from a distance, suddenly to hold one is awe-inspiring and humbling. These raptors are proud birds and each has his own personality. They are not nor can ever be "pets." They tolerate our human presence but do not prefer it. They are "loners" in the wild and "loners" in their minds and hearts.

Fate has brought us together, but I have watched them look up into the sky while outside being fed, and seen a wistful, eager, excited, "wishing" gleam come to their eye as they crouch to spring into the air and soar again. But one cannot soar with one wing because someone shot the other one off. And one cannot soar with wings crippled by rickets from being fed improperly as a captured baby. Or being imprinted, or tamed so they cannot take care of themselves in the wild. This then is their world now.

(First of 3 parts; next month: "Existing/Living?")

91ST CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The 1990 MDAS Christmas Bird Count will be on Saturday, December 15. All members and interested guests are invited to participate. Every pair of eyes can be helpful in seeing birds; you do not need to be an expert birder to participate. Last year we had 117 participants who tallied 33,707 individual birds of 158 species.

Nationally, there are about 1500 counts each year. Valuable bird population knowledge has been learned over the years. Our count will cover the 15-mile diameter circle centered near Treat and Cowell; this includes most of Mt. Diablo, Black Diamond Mines, the Pittsburg marshes, some of Briones park, Heather Farms, the suburban creeks of Alamo, Lafayette, and Walnut Creek, and many other green places in Contra Costa County. We also need feeder and home garden watchers.

A pot-luck dinner will follow at the San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church, 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo. The church is 1.3 miles south of Stone Valley Road. All members and guests are invited to attend. Please bring your own table service and a salad, main dish, or dessert for 8 to 10 people, plus any serving utensils needed. Please call Barbara Vaughn, 376-8732, for more information about the potluck.

Jimm Edgar is this year's compiler. To participate, please sign up at the December meeting, call Jimm at 658-2330, or return this form to Jimm at 4614 Jacobson Ave., Oakland, CA 94618. The cost is \$4.00 to cover the expense of publishing the annual Christmas Count issue of *American Birds*. Feeder watchers have no charge.

_____ I would prefer to bird with one of the field groups on Christmas Bird Count Day, December 15, 1990.

_____ I would prefer a hiking area.

_____ I would prefer a less strenuous area.

_____ I can monitor a feeder or garden.

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Address: _____

NEW MEMBERS

Season's greetings to these new MDAS members whom we hope to meet soon: Seth Adams, Lola Alvarez, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Andresen, Gloria Austin, Eleanor F. Badger, Leslie Benson, Phyllis Benucci, Sandra Brislain, Gene Carroll, C. Christensen, Tracy Cohen, Jerold Collins, Marilyn Cover, Wendy Curtis, Marilyn Davis, Sara Eisenlohr, Kevin Erickson, G. A. Fensie, Phyllis Ford, A. Gadsby, Vickie Germany, Richard Hadley, Sigrid Halvorsen, Walt Hammontree, William Henning, Elinor Honey, Val Hulbert, Ernest Katler, Eric Kleinfelter, Lisa Koffinke, Sharon Kwiat, Arline Lawrence, Fernande Leger, R. L. Miller, Nancy Myers, Robert Oyler, Elizabeth Perez, Marilyn Placial, Mrs. L. M. Preston, Krista Redmond, J. Remis, Allison Ridenhour, Geneva Robinson, Joaquin Romero, Marilyn Rosenlof, Robert Rowell, C. S. Ryerson, Henry Scott, Mr. and Mrs. William Smith, Kenneth Souza, Rick Thompson, Erica Triebel, Karen Wilson, Vera Wold, Alfred Wood, and Debbie Wright.

YULE SUGGESTIONS

A must for every Bay Area Birder! *Birding at the Bottom of the Bay, Second Edition*, by Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society. 124 pages, 40 birding sites. \$10.00 plus \$0.72 tax = \$10.72 at MDAS meetings, \$12.00 by mail. Complements Jean Richmond's *Birding Northern California*, also available at the same price.

Roger Tory Peterson's new third edition of *Field Guide to Western Birds*. 432 pages, 165 color paintings, 441 color maps. \$13.99 plus \$1.01 tax = \$15.00 at MDAS meetings, \$16.25 by mail.

National Geographic Society's *Field Guide to Birds of North America, Edition II*. Identifies all birds that nest north of Mexico or migrate through. 464 pages. \$14.92 plus \$1.08 tax = \$16.00 at MDAS meetings, \$17.50 by mail.

These books are available at meetings or from Sales Manager Gifford Young, 1451 Janet Court, Benicia, CA 94510, (707) 745-4134. Please make checks payable to MDAS.

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 and senior rates available), write a check to National Audubon Society but send it, with letter or subscription card, to the Membership Chairperson, Diane Macario, 2425 Maple Ave., Concord, CA 94520. The Chapter benefits financially from membership applications it processes. Full Audubon membership is encouraged, but subscription to the *Quail* is available separate from membership at \$8/year. The check should be made to MDAS and mailed to the 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 the 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.

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